

Public Safety Spotlight



NATIONAL SHERIFFS CONFERENCE

Earlier this month, Sheriff Hernandez attended the 2026 Major County Sheriffs of America Annual Conference in Milwaukee, joining sheriffs and public safety leaders from across the country. The conference provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss emerging challenges and learn about strategies and innovations that can strengthen law enforcement operations and service to the Travis County community.



FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

National Forensic Science Week takes place annually from September 20–26, recognizing the critical work forensic scientists do to help solve crimes and bring justice to victims. This year, TCSO detectives took a moment to share a special message of gratitude for the Forensic Services Division and the important work they do every day. We invite you to watch the video above to hear their message!



CRIME SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS

On September 10 and 11, East Command conducted crime suppression operations in several neighborhoods where crime statistics were higher than others. Evening-shift and night-shift deputies worked with Auto Crimes detectives, K9 and DWI to saturate the area with traffic initiatives. They also worked with Auto Crimes to conduct surveillance of key areas known for vehicle thefts and stolen property. The two-day initiative resulted in 91 traffic stops, 11 felony arrests and five misdemeanor arrests.



COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

On September 10, TCSO hosted a community town hall in Steiner Ranch, bringing residents together with deputies and Travis County partners to discuss local concerns, share resources and learn more about public safety initiatives. The event provided an opportunity to connect with the community and strengthen partnerships throughout the area. TCSO welcomes communities interested in hosting a town hall to reach out to the [Community Outreach Unit](#).



LABOR DAY INITIATIVE

Over the Labor Day weekend, TCSO West Special Operations conducted an initiative to help ensure safety in the area around Lake Travis, in anticipation of the holiday crowds. The initiative resulted in:

- 39 Traffic Citations
- 141 Traffic Warnings
- 22 Lake Inspections
- 15 Lake Safety Violations

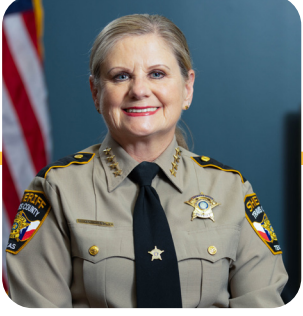
Deputies worked six traffic collisions and two boat collisions.



WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

In honor of National Police Woman's Day, TCSO partnered with ACC's Public Safety Division to host an event to honor female professionals in law enforcement and criminal justice and to mentor local college students seeking that career path. Participants enjoyed meals generously provided by Central Texas Public Safety Commission and prizes provided by Richard Suttle of Armbrust & Brown, PLLC.

The highlight of the event was a panel discussion that included Sheriff Hernandez, Judge Dayna Blazey, APD Chief Lisa Davis, Judge Brandy Mueller and ACC PD Chief Gizette Disher. Their stories of determination and triumph were well received and appreciated by all in attendance.



From the Sheriff

In January, I started thinking about how much I've enjoyed my career over the years. It got me thinking about the women of grit and grace who came before me. In March of 1918, Texas allowed women to vote in primary elections. Just 3.5 months later, Emma Banister was appointed to be Texas's first female sheriff. Many historians believe she was the first female sheriff in our nation.

Care to take a guess when Texas saw its first female police chief?

It was in 1990. Elizabeth Watson became Chief of the Houston Police Department, and in 1992, Chief of the Austin Police Department.

Women have come a long way in the field of law enforcement, especially in the last 30 years, but I believe we still have a long way to go.

On that January day, I started thinking about how to honor women in law enforcement, and how to encourage and mentor the next generation who will forge the pathways ahead. With the help of my team, TCSO held its first Women in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice event on September 10 in honor of National Police Woman's Day.

Judge Dayna Blazey, APD Chief Lisa Davis, Judge Brandy Mueller, ACC PD Chief Gizette Disher and I had the honor of speaking to over 100 professionals and students about our personal journeys and lessons learned.

I was captivated by the sight of so many bright, tenacious, smart women with heads for learning and hearts for service. We made new friends and shared meaningful time in support of one another. I could never have imagined that a thought would become a dream, then that dream would become a goal that would come to life in a matter of months in such an amazing way.

It could not have happened without the Central Texas Public Safety Commission, Richard Suttle of Armbrust & Brown PLLC and ACC's Public Safety Division. I'm deeply grateful for their support.

We've started something special and I look forward to many more events in the years to come!

In the Community



9/11 MEMORIAL CLIMB

On September 11, TCSO joined fellow first responders and community members at Circuit of the Americas for [Samaritan Center's](#) 9/11 Memorial Tower Climb. More than 400 participants climbed the observation tower in remembrance of those who lost their lives 25 years ago, and to support first responders who serve our community today. Generous donations from participants and friends of TCSO make it possible for Samaritan Center to support the mental wellness of TCSO employees through the [POWR Program](#).



CITIZENS ACADEMY

TCSO hosted the 38th Citizens Academy in September. Over the course of two weekends, participants gained an inside look at TCSO operations, services and the many roles that support public safety in Travis County. We appreciate all the deputies and units who shared their knowledge, as well as the participants for their time and commitment to learning more about their Sheriff's Office and the community we serve. Congratulations to the graduating class!



Looking Ahead



[Travis County Sheriff's Brown Santa](#) will begin accepting applications from families on October 1. Volunteer opportunities will also open that day for those who would like to help make the holiday season brighter for local families. Additionally, [donations](#) are accepted year-round to help continue this meaningful community tradition.