



### MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

Your Travis County Jail facilities run exceptionally well thanks to the hard work and dedication of over a thousand men and women who commit themselves to excellence. It's fair to compare the operations within the secure walls to a small town. Nearly every aspect of everyday life is present. Meal preparation, laundry, maintenance, safety, custodial, medical care, pharmacy, chapel, transportation, job readiness and education are all running at a scripted pace and under the watchful eye of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS).

This month, several inspectors from the TCJS spent three days evaluating our entire operation, verifying compliance with their standards for construction, equipment, maintenance, operation of jail facilities, the custody, care and treatment of inmates as well as programs of rehabilitation, education, and recreation.

An annual inspection is unannounced, so it's imperative our jails always be ready. Our employees work year-round, keeping us in top form and the inspection is our report card to prove it. Inspectors are jail experts and they not only evaluate compliance, but also offer thoughtful advice regarding best practices. We learn from them every time they're here.

This year, inspectors joined us on our daily briefing calls and got a taste of how we use the briefs to provide situational awareness to all TCSO employees.

Perhaps the greatest compliment we received through-

out the inspection process was that the TCJS uses TCSO as a model for counties in need of assistance or improvement. I was informed that if a jail in the state of Texas is struggling to battle the COVID-19 virus, the TCJS advises them to call us and implement the COVID-19 protocols we put in place. I've said it before, but it bears repeating that the exceptional work of our Corrections Officers, Medical, Life Safety, Emergency Management and Classifications teams, to name a few, has literally spread lives by limiting the opportunity for COVID-19 to proceed in our facilities.

It is my honor to tell you about the incredible work happening here and to let you know we once again passed this annual audit. Well done, everyone!




On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the state accepted a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity from Michael Egwuagu. Egwuagu stabbed his pregnant sister to death on December 27, 2019. Click on the icon button below to learn more about the case.



### MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING



During the week of July 13<sup>th</sup>, TCSO hosted a Mental Health Officer course on behalf of the [Capital Area Council of Governments](#). Sheriff Hernandez had the opportunity to address the class on their opening day, and thank them for making mental health awareness and training a top priority. AISD Police Officer Wayne Sneed led the class, which also was attended by police officers from Manor PD, Hutto ISD, Manor ISD, Liberty Hill ISD, and TCSO.

### INMATE TRANSPORTATION



For several months, inmates who received prison sentences, and were ready on paper for transport to the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC), have not been able to leave our custody due to COVID-19. This month, some restrictions were lifted, and we were able to begin transporting them ourselves.

Our Transportation Unit has made several trips this month, including the transport of 30 inmates to TDC in Beeville, TX. These transports are carefully planned and consider the security classification of each individual as well as medical conditions and other security factors.

Our strict COVID-19 precautions were carefully followed. The buses were sanitized before and after the trips. Inmates were seated in compliance with social distancing. Masks were issued to all passengers and officers wore personal protective equipment.

The transfers have been successful, and we commend our officers for their excellent efforts.

### WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT



When we began experiencing changes due to COVID-19, TCSO Chaplain Tommy McIntosh created encouragement videos for our staff - a perfect way for him to share inspiration during this crisis.

The videos discuss the reality of life and the hope that comes from God. Chaplain McIntosh's intent behind the messages is to help someone on their day of doubt, and provide some inspiration and support. He says, "It is an honor to do this as a ministry to the hearts, minds and souls of our beloved TCSO Staff."

We're all grateful to have his guidance and support during this time. If you're in need of an uplift today, you can play the video above. Thank you, Chaplain!

### K-9 STEELE RETIRES & TWO NEW K-9s COME ABOARD



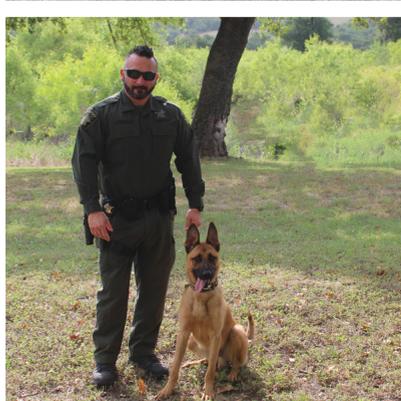
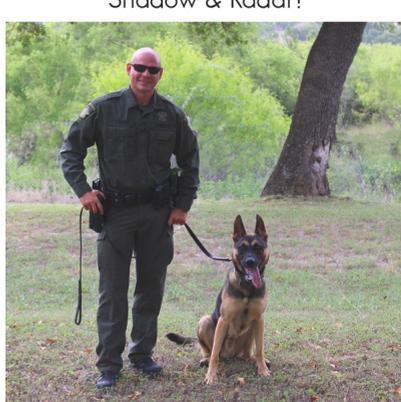
After seven years of faithful service to Travis County, we said farewell to K-9 Steele. Steele's duties included narcotics detection, suspect apprehension and tracking. He aided in missing person searches and served on both patrol and SWAT. He was a local celebrity at schools, National Night Out, HOA events and many other community activities. Due to his age, it's time for him to retire. Steele had two handlers during his service and will happily be living his retirement years in the home of his original handler.

We're happy to welcome two new K-9s to the unit. Shadow is an 18-month-old Shepherd/Malinois (MAL-in-wah) aka: Maliherd and Radar is a 14-month-old Belgian Malinois. The Malinois breed works well for law enforcement because they have a strong protective instinct, are fiercely loyal to their owners and have a strong drive (motivation to pursue a task).

Shadow and Radar are currently in basic training and will be serving on patrol soon. Shadow will fill the vacancy left by Steele and Radar will fill another open position. With the addition of Shadow and Radar, TCSO now has six K-9s assigned to patrol (two for each shift).



Welcome Shadow & Radar!



### ABOVE & BEYOND



Officer Charles Roberts usually serves in our Community Outreach Unit. We consistently receive compliments about his joyful influence from schools, neighborhood groups, organizations and residents throughout the county. COVID-19 has required many of us to pick up additional duties in response to the pandemic.

Charles has been assigned to work one of our checkpoints where temperature screenings are conducted. He's earned a reputation for being the guy who will put a smile on your face as you start the day. One employee put it like this, "Just like anyone can have a bad day, anyone can have a good day. Officer Roberts makes every day a good day."

He's quick to volunteer his assistance whenever and wherever a fellow employee has need. No task is beneath him. Rather than grumble when the going gets tough, he turns every assignment into a party and we all benefit from being around him.

### VIDEO PATROL BRIEFINGS



Since most in-person meetings have been off limits during the pandemic, Sheriff Hernandez has been connecting with deputies by video conference. In the last few weeks, she's been logging into patrol "show-up" briefings, which are regular events where deputies working the same area of the county, on the same shift, get together to be briefed by their chain of command on recent happenings, situational awareness and goals. We all look forward to being able to have in-person meetings again soon, but video chat definitely helps in the meantime.

### SHOUT OUT



"I would like to recognize Deputy Drew Small. Yesterday my daughter had a flat out in Bee Caves! He called out to get a jack from Constable Holman and changed it himself in the heat! He had us escorted to a nearby Discount Tire by him and got us in & out! Wow! I really want to thank him and let his boss know how much we appreciate him and his kind deed. He really made our day!"  
- Crystal and Jade