



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

Here at the Sheriff's Office, we're always looking for exceptional men and women to serve on our work force. To that end, we have a dedicated team of recruiters who seek out the best of the best. They go to community events, job fairs, college campuses and military bases, just to name a few, in search of qualified candidates. Their dedication has once again resulted in a strong new group of Corrections Officer Basic Recruit Academy (COBRA) cadets.

COBRA is a course offered at our Training Academy to all new-hire Corrections Officers. It consists of 360 hours of instruction and covers booking, identification, inmate rights, emergency procedures, classifications, health services, policies and CPR, among many other skills. Graduates meet all the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) requirements to be a licensed Corrections Officer.

I'm sure you often see our deputies on the streets of Travis County, but most of you will never see our Corrections

Officers. They number in the hundreds and work day and night in our correctional facilities. Their job is to ensure safety and security within the walls of these facilities, while being mindful that, for a time, the jail is a place of residence for inmates. It is a job that balances security with humanity. Our Corrections Officers are expected to set a positive example and offer a sense of calmness and order to people who are in crisis. They do a tremendous job in an environment unknown to most and they make me proud.

In the coming months, I look forward to telling you about other employees and units in our agency you might not be familiar with. There are many facets to TCSO!



VETERAN'S DAY



This month, TCSO had the honor of showing our support and appreciation for all that have served our country in the Armed Forces through various Veteran's Day activities.

On Veteran's Day, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, we joined other community members in placing flags at the Texas State Cemetery veteran grave sites. We also celebrated our very own heroes here at TCSO by presenting them with cake, all thanks to Captain Xavier Montalvo.

Lastly, on November 29th, the TCSO Peer Support Team held a Veteran Meet & Greet to provide our employee veterans an opportunity to connect with each other.

Additionally, the event kicked off a larger TCSO wellness goal of addressing the specific needs of our military veterans; to have group meetings throughout the year that will be informative and supportive to our veterans.



ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES



The TCSO Environmental Crimes Unit has been in existence for over 16 years and is unique as it is the sole Law Enforcement Detective position in all of Travis County to include municipalities devoted to environmental crimes. Detective Ava Reyna has held the position for the past three years and is tirelessly active in the community investigating these crimes. TCSO currently investigates everything from illegal dumping to corporations disposing of hazardous waste.

To learn more about environmental crimes and the penalties associated as well as how to properly dispose of waste, please review the [Illegal Dumping brochure](#).

Thank You!

I wanted to thank Deputy Kim Richards for meeting with me and signing my flag. I run half marathons while carrying the flag to show support for police. I've traveled all over Texas meeting with different departments and meeting this deputy was truly special. As was very happy to meet me and kept telling me how much it was appreciated.

- Josh Taylor "The Blue Runner"

TRAVIS COUNTY BROWN SANTA



[Travis County Brown Santa](#) started in 1981 with a few deputies helping about 25 families in the unincorporated areas of Travis County. This program provides assistance to underprivileged children and their families and senior residents of local retirement centers in Travis County. Brown Santa has kicked off their 37th Holiday season of helping and giving to children and families. For more information about donating, volunteering or applying for assistance, please visit their [website](#).

READING TO THE KIDDOS



Earlier this month, several TCSO Corrections Officers had the pleasure of reading to students at Oak Springs Elementary School. As you'll see in the photos and hilarious video, it's hard to tell who had more fun!

SCHOOL VISITS WEST COMMAND



On November 9th, students from the IDEA Bluff Springs Academy paid a visit to our West Command to learn about the different roles in law enforcement. The students from the life skills class R.I.S.E. had a blast checking out all the deputies' cars, motorcycles and more - truth be told, our deputies had an even better time hosting them!

BEARDS FOR CHARITY



As you encounter our deputies and corrections officers, you may notice that some of them aren't clean-shaven. In an effort to raise funds for [NAMI Austin](#) and the [Sheriff's Memorial & Benevolent Society of Travis County](#), officers may pay for the privilege of wearing a beard until the new year. They enjoy a break from shaving and we enjoy supporting a great cause!

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

TCSO had a busy month participating in a variety of mental health events. On November 28th, Sheriff Hernandez joined Integral Care Board Member Emmitt Hayes (co-chairs of the Children's Mental Health Crisis Task Force) at the 3rd [Annual Children's Mental Health Leadership Summit](#). The summit highlighted how we can improve children's crisis services in our community, helping children and families not just survive, but thrive and reach their full potential.

Later that evening, Sheriff Hernandez attended the 2018 NAMI's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. She was the recipient of the John & Kitty Holman Award, which recognizes a person/organization serving families or individuals with mental illness in extraordinary measure by providing or promoting a safe environment in which to live.

On behalf of TCSO, Sheriff Hernandez also presented a donation check to NAMI Austin in the amount of \$7,000. The funds were raised by our officers who participated in Beards for Charity during the month of November.



FAMILY VIOLENCE TRAINING



TCSO in collaboration with the Travis County Attorney's Office and the Travis County District Attorney's (DA) Office is hosting a series of training seminars designed specifically for training deputies with tools to help them better investigate incidents involving intimate Partner Violence.

The first of eight 10-hour sessions kicked off in October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and will extend through December. Student feedback thus far has consistently appreciated the attendee's ability to receive direct instruction from and interact with prosecutors.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION



The Starbucks at Southpark Meadows invited officers from TCSO and the Austin Police Department for coffee and conversation with the community. We had a great time connecting with so many, learning how we can better serve our citizens. A big thanks to Starbucks for hosting us and keeping us warm on a cold morning!

You can visit our [website](#) to learn more about our Community Outreach Unit and other community events on our calendar.

READ MORE