



### MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

As we endure the hottest September on record, it seems odd to think about flood season but believe it or not, it's that time of year. I want to take this opportunity to remind you that October frequently brings torrential rains to Travis County. Who can forget last October when the [LCRA](#) almost had to open eight Mansfield Dam flood gates as Lake Travis crept dangerously toward the spill-over point, or images of the Kingsland Bridge collapsing, or the devastating impact of silt in our water supply? Most of us also remember the devastating "Halloween Floods" of 2013 and 2015.

In crisis situations, your Travis County Sheriff's Office kicks into high gear. We execute emergency operations in a systematic manner, designed to make us nimble and effective in an effort to save lives. Years of training and experience come together as various divisions of our agency band together.

I wish we'd never face the devastation of a catastrophic flood event in Travis County again, but the reality is that flash flooding is part of life here. With that being

said, please remember that if you receive an evacuation notice via a reverse 911 call or a deputy knocking on your door, the situation is serious and life threatening. Please evacuate immediately for your safety. Property can be replaced. Your life cannot.

Remember also, "Turn Around, Don't Drive." Just a few inches of rushing flood waters can carry a vehicle off the roadway. It's not worth your life or the lives of first responders to take a chance at crossing a flooded roadway. It's illegal to drive around a barricaded roadway and our deputies will enforce the law.

Hopefully we'll see much needed rain soon and hopefully it won't result in flash flooding, but if it does, you can count on us to bring our best efforts in response.



### NAMIWALKS AUSTIN



On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Team TCSO Cares participated in the 2019 NAMIWALKS Austin 5K. We've always been a proud supporter of the great work [NAMI Central Texas](#) does for our community. This year our team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in fundraising with \$11,855 and Sheriff Hernandez led our efforts as a top fund raiser with \$7,280.

The hero in the middle, NAMI Executive Director Karen Ranus, walked with our team to the capitol. This is NAMI Central Texas' largest fund raiser which supports their no-cost classes and support group programs for people affected by mental illness and their loved ones as well as education and training for law enforcement, schools, workplaces, faith communities and neighborhoods.



### NIC LARGE JAIL NETWORK



September 9 - 10, Sheriff Hernandez and Administration & Support Major Wes Priddy attended this year's National Institute of Corrections Large Jail Network Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. The event offered many instructional sessions and a unique opportunity to network and share ideas with Sheriffs and Jail Administrators from across the United States who operate facilities similar to ours.

Sheriff Hernandez is pictured above (left to right) with Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Limestone County Sheriff Dennis Wilson, Franklin County Sheriff Dallas Baldwin, Newport News Sheriff Gabriel Morgan and Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb.

### COBRA GRADUATION #93

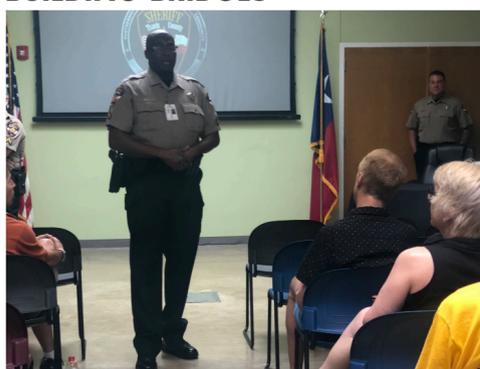


The TCSO Training Academy offers a Corrections Officers Basic Recruit Academy (COBRA) for all new-hire Corrections Officers. Corrections Officers attend the COBRA course while on-duty within the first year of employment; Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) provides a one year, temporary Corrections Officer license. COBRA is 360 hours of very educational, detailed and supportive instruction that consists of the following:

- PHASE 1: Course satisfies TCOLE requirements for the Basic County Corrections course; topics include booking, identification, inmate rights, head-counts, emergency procedures, searches, classifications, health services, etc.
- PHASE 2: Course highlights those areas that are fundamental to normal and emergency operations of the Travis County Correctional system; topics include defensive tactics, firearms training, CPR, smoke-house safety, departmental policies, interpersonal communication, wellness, etc.

Congratulations to the following officers of COBRA Class #93 that graduated on September 20<sup>th</sup>: Vincent Acevez, Mark Arce, Michael Archer, Tracy Brewster, Andrew Cabello, Morgan Call, Roger Culp, Jose Esquivel, Rodolfo Loredo-Diaz, Mark Maycumber, Vanessa Rios, Chistopher Santeanez, Kenesha Saygo, Shane Schmidt, Robert Tiedemann, Armando Trevino-Rivera, Roy Vargas, Alec Villalobos and Arnold Wilson.

### BUILDING BRIDGES



At this month's Building Bridges Town Hall, we educated community members regarding our sexual assault investigation process, explained the [Prison Rape Elimination Act](#) and how we comply with it in our jails and walked through the results of our recent Wells Branch area Crime Initiative.



### TEXAS TRIBUNE FESTIVAL



Our Jail Administrator, Corrections Major Sally Peña, spoke on a prestigious panel at the Texas Tribune Festival on September 27<sup>th</sup>. She joined LBJ School of Public Affairs Senior Lecturer Michele Deitch, Criminal Justice Reform Activist and *Orange Is the New Black* Author Piper Kerman and Houston Chronicle Reporter Keri Blakinger in a discussion titled Gendered Justice. Panelists looked at the unique needs of female inmates and explored ways in which reform is possible.



### MADD WALK & RECOGNITION



On September 7<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the Central Texas Walk Like [MADD](#) event in an effort to raise awareness and funds to eliminate drunk and drugged driving. We had a great time at the family-friendly event.

Representatives from the Austin Bell 5K benefiting [MADD](#) came to our office September 25<sup>th</sup> to offer their thanks and recognition to the TCSO Motors and HEAT deputies who supervise traffic at the annual run/walk. It's a pleasure to partner with such a great organization!



### LEADERSHIP COURSE



TCSO's Travis County's Leadership Education Achieving Developmental Success (TC LEADS) course contains 120 hours of class/homework over a three month period. Participants, both civilian and sworn, are required to attend all three weeks and complete the final project/group presentation in order to obtain credit for the course.

TC LEADS concentrates on multiple levels of leadership and how to improve employee motivation, satisfaction, and performance. The first week of class focuses on understanding the individual, along with leadership theories and principles. The second week moves on to understanding the group. The course concludes with a Leadership Round Table where local leaders share their advice and experiences with students.

Thank you to Round Rock P.D. Chief Allen Banks, Cedar Park P.D. Chief Sean Mannix, Pflugerville P.D. Chief Jessica Robledo, Westlake P.D. Chief Scott Gill, Travis County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Hernandez, and Jail Standards Executive Director Brandon Wood for being on our panel.



@TravisCoSheriff I've been meaning to sing the praises of your Dep. Ludecke (I'm sure that's misspelled). Was impressed with his professionalism and terrific, positive attitude. Please pass along my thanks.

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