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Travis County Sheriff's Office

NEWSLETTER

Serving Our Community with Integrity & Professionalism

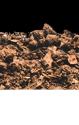
In the Community



MLK MARCH + CELEBRATION

On January 19, TCSO was represented by dozens of officers at the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration at the Texas Capitol and subsequent march to Huston-Tillotson University. After two years of cancellations due to weather, the energy of the crowd was high as thousands gathered in gorgeous weather to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

TCSO was honored to join local elected officials, student organizations, church leaders and more for this year's celebration. Their impassioned speeches and performances, as well as Dr. King's historic teachings of equality and community, will always be remembered.



NOTICE REGARDING ELECTRIC MOTORBIKES



Did you know state law prohibits the use of **electric dirt bikes, pocket bikes** or **mini motorbikes** on streets, highways, bike paths and sidewalks? Failure to limit their use to private property and off-roading can result in costly citations or worse – tragedy.

BIKES INCLUDED

- Motor wattage of 750 or higher
- Piston displacement under 55 cc
- Maximum speed of 28 mph or higher
- Note: Mopeds, motorcycles and electric bicycles follow separate usage guidelines



JAIL RENOVATIONS

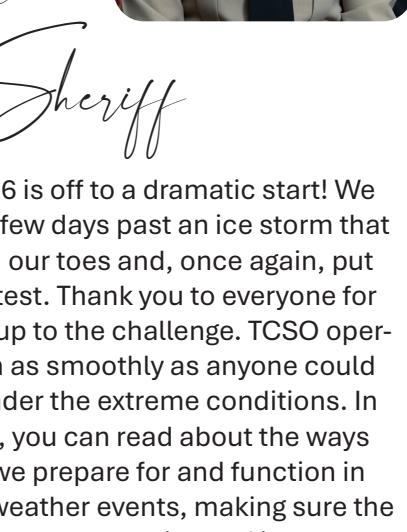
Great progress was made this month as renovations to the lobby at the Travis County Jail in Downtown Austin continue. Months of planning along with staff input went into creating the blue-prints for the new lobby, addressing problems such as old and worn tile, in-lab facilities, a shortage of adequate lighting.

Renovations include a covered awning, more open square footage for visitors, updated flooring and new paint colors. The wait is almost over, and it will be worth it to have this space transformed to better serve the public. Late February is the anticipated completion date.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

On January 28, Sheriff Hernandez was honored to join the Public Safety Commission for its board meeting at The Headliners Club, where she shared an integral way TCSO is serving the law enforcement community, local school districts and Travis County as a whole.

She emphasized building strong partnerships, focusing on the work TCSO has done to bring ALERT training to all agencies in Travis County, assuring consistent response techniques among them. She also updated the board on the county in accordance with HB 33 – the Uvalde Strong Act. TCSO values the opportunity to connect with stakeholders and looks forward to continuing collaboration throughout the year.



From the Sheriff

Wow, 2026 is off to a dramatic start! We are just a few days past an ice storm that had us on our toes and, once again, put us to the test. Thank you to everyone for stepping up to the challenge. TCSO operations ran as smoothly as anyone could expect under the extreme conditions. In this issue, you can read about the ways in which we prepare for and function in extreme weather events, making sure the people in our community, and in our care and custody, are protected and served.

Are you one of those people who gets the urge to purge when a new year begins? Do you clean out your closets, overhaul the garage, or maybe purge the pantry of all the things you have promised yourself you won't eat this year?

I love a fresh start. I look back at the accomplishments and victories of the year before in gratitude. From that place of gratitude, I start setting goals for the year to come. Once again, I asked the leaders of our agency's bureaus to do the same. The result is a vision for the year ahead; things I look forward to being grateful for this time next year.

In 2026, We have set our sights on approaching physical fitness and readiness in ways that appeal to sworn and civilian staff, and are designed to meet them where they are. We plan to implement mentorship opportunities to give younger corrections employees real-world experiential support and encouragement. Career ladders and increased cross-training opportunities aim to make field training officer standards consistent and build resilience in courthouse operations. In law enforcement, we're poised to increase the frequency of crime and traffic initiatives and see all of our field training officer positions filled.

TCSO will continue to amplify the voice of victims, focusing on more touchpoints with both victims and the community. We will strengthen and develop partnerships with faith-based communities, local advocates and assistance organizations.

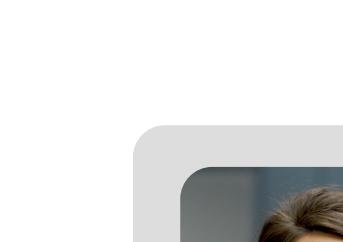
Employee wellness will become more robust as chaplain services expand across all bureaus and physical and financial wellness resources increase. The procedural elements of our support systems will get stronger and nimbler with the implementation of faster medical triage, streamlined background and hiring processes and a 24/7 IT platform.

2026 is already proving to be fast-paced and challenging. TCSO is a team of talented professionals who thrive on doing things that others consider too daunting. They are why I get up every single day, grateful to serve as Travis County Sheriff.



WELLNESS CONNECTION

As we kick off the new year, the TCSO Fitness Committee and the Wellness & Peer Support Team remain committed to connecting employees with fitness, wellness and nutrition resources to support a healthy, balanced start to 2026. Whether you're setting new goals or building on existing habits, our programs are here to help you stay energized, supported and strong – mind and body. By investing in wellness and a culture of care, TCSO is better equipped to serve the Travis County community with professionalism, balance and care.



WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS

Ahead of the January 24-27 ice storm, TCSO staff from across its three bureaus were hard at work to make sure those in the Travis County jail system and residents across Travis County remained safe. A huge thank you is in order!

- The Maintenance and Marketable Skills teams, some of whom stayed overnight at the Travis County Correctional Complex (TCCC) to make sure operations ran smoothly. Their response to HVAC issues, weatherizing internal systems, and protecting plumbing to prevent freezing did not go unnoticed.

- The Finance, Hospital Visitation, Courthouse Operations and Corrections teams, who joined forces and worked tirelessly to make sure any employees who needed transportation and hotel accommodations received them. Their skilled and meticulous driving and planning ensured employees were able to make it between the TCCC, Travis County Jail and their hotels safely.

- Dispatch and Law Enforcement remained diligent, answering an influx of weather-related calls and braving the elements to respond to those who needed aid. Treacherous conditions across the county resulted in over 300 emergency calls that were resolved with warmth and kindness.

Thanks to great planning and hard work, TCSO once again weathered the storm!



CORRECTIONS
OFFICERS

NOW
HIRING

Excellent
Benefits

Career Growth
Opportunities

\$58,000
Starting Salary

JOIN OUR TEAM