



VOL 6: ISSUE 6



**MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ**

We recently celebrated our annual awards ceremony, and it was so good to be back together. We once again applauded acts of incredible bravery and self-sacrifice. I was deeply moved by the accounts of so many lives saved due to the swift actions of deputies and corrections officers. Some of them risked their lives while on duty to protect our community. Others performed lifesaving acts during their off-duty hours. They saw emergency situations happen before their eyes and immediately took action.

We also awarded the efforts of employees who went above and beyond the expectations of their job descriptions. They went out of their way to innovate new systems, help in times of crisis, or serve in a manner that brought honor to the agency. TCSO made great strides forward thanks to their drive and determination.

I have the privilege of awarding the Wayne Barton Award to civilians, employees, or volunteers, at my discretion. This year, we honored several recipients. Among them were Kevin Donaldson, who ran into a burning trailer before first responders arrived on scene, and pulled a man out of the flames, saving his life. Coworkers Jerry Garcia, Adrian Varela and Mike Lopez acted on a hunch when they saw debris on a county road at 4:00 in the morning. Turning their car around and searching in the dark, they

traversed steep terrain to offer life-saving assistance to a man who had been ejected from a single-vehicle accident.

In these days when hatred, divisiveness and anger are so prevalent in discourse and in actions, it does my heart good to be reminded of the positive acts that prevail each and every day. I want you to know that your Travis County Sheriff's Office is staffed with exceptional men and women. They're my heroes because they're content to remain out of the spotlight. They don't seek fame or applause. They gain satisfaction by coming to work every day and doing the right things for the right reasons. They serve with integrity and I'm so proud to know them and serve as Sheriff along side them.



**JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS**



Juneteenth, also known as "Freedom Day" or "Emancipation Day," is the oldest known African American celebration commemorating the end of slavery. Earlier this month, we had the pleasure of participating in the annual Historical Central Texas Juneteenth Celebration that features a 2K walk/run, parade floats and entertainment at Rosewood Park. Additionally, we joined fellow Travis County agencies at the 2022 Travis County "Homecoming: Meet Us at the Gathering Spot" event. We had so much fun and look forward to next year's events!



**COBRA GRADUATION #102**



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 their first year of employment; Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) provides a one year, temporary Corrections Officer license. COBRA is 360 hours of specialized 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 #102 that graduated on March 18<sup>th</sup>: Kathryn Darby, Meagan Gonzalez, Brandon Hart, Johnny Icaro, Alexis Johnson, Efrain Lopez, Albert Loureiro, Christopher Meredith, Luis Negrete, Luis Sanchez, Gregory Satterlee, Daniel Waldock and Tony Wojnarek.

**ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**



June is [Elder Abuse Awareness Month](#). Our Special Crimes Detectives investigate the physical and sexual abuse of children, the elderly and disabled. With elderly groups, there are many special needs that must be considered when doing these investigations. The elderly are defined as 65 years of age or older. We also investigate sexual abuse or assault involving the elderly regardless of relationship issues between victim and suspect (family member, caretaker, boyfriend/girlfriend, stranger, etc).

Our Detectives and Law Enforcement Specialist work closely with [Adult Protective Services](#) to triage cases that may need more in-depth investigation.

**REPORT ELDER ABUSE** at the [Texas Abuse Hotline](#) or call 1-800-252-5400.

**WE ARE BLOOD | BLOOD DRIVE**



We're excited to announce that [We Are Blood's Battle of the Badges](#) is back this year. From June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup>, TCSO, APD, AFD & Austin-Travis County EMS will be going head to head to see who can donate the most blood. We invite you to join us and cast your "vote" by scheduling an appointment at any of the [We Are Blood Donor Centers](#). When you check-in for your appointment you will vote for SHERIFF. We hope to earn this year's trophy and bragging rights for the next year, but more importantly, help save lives in our community!

[Sign-up & use code B390](#)

**BASIC PEACE OFFICER COURSE GRADUATION #24**



Class #24 graduated from the Basic Peace Officer Course on June 24<sup>th</sup>. We would like to congratulate the following TCSO employees on this well-earned recognition: Kaleb Burroughs, Johel Castro-Pinales, Andrew Davis, George Frazer, Tyler Jennings, Stephen Pena, Orlando Rodriguez, Salomon Santillan and Ryan Trammell.



Congratulations to those who retired from TCSO this quarter! Thank you for your dedicated service to this agency and the citizens of Travis County. We wish you the best of luck in your new adventures.

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Porfirio Rios   33 yrs. of service   | Robert Dubois   21 yrs. of service    |
| Dale Walls   32 yrs. of service      | Tanya Metoyer   19 yrs. of service    |
| James Diekmann   28 yrs. of service  | Mark Smith   15 yrs. of service       |
| Paul Jennings   25 yrs. of service   | Nolan Nurse   14 yrs. of service      |
| Tambra Somerset   25 yrs. of service | Diane Russell   10 yrs. of service    |
| Alvis Prince   22 yrs. of service    | Rosemary Fioritta   8 yrs. of service |
| Chris Wallace   22 yrs. of service   | Sharon Alexander   7 yrs. of service  |
| Norman Henson   21 yrs. of service   |                                       |

**VICE UNIT RECOGNITION**



This month, the Austin DEA Tactical Diversion Task Force received the regional and national [High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas](#) (HIDTA) Outstanding Community Impact Investigative Effort Award. TCSO's VICE Unit serves as part of this specialized team. The award recognized the task force for targeting the sale of fake pharmaceutical drugs to local college students and military personnel.

The operation resulted in multiple arrests and the seizure of large quantities of illegal drugs. It was one of the first investigations in the greater Austin area that discovered counterfeit pharmaceuticals laced with Fentanyl.