



TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



FEB 2024 ISSUE 02

WORDS FROM THE SHERIFF



On September 1, 2023, Senate Bill 1852 took effect. This law requires sworn peace officers to have a minimum of 16 hours of Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) or a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement approved equivalent.

In active-shooter situations, multiple law enforcement agencies from the area respond, and it just makes sense to me that we would do better in that intense scenario if we train for it together. That's why TCSO has decided to not only offer ALERRT classes, but to make them available to all law enforcement agencies throughout Travis County.

I'm so pleased that the Austin Independent School District has partnered with us in this endeavor. With the approval of the Commissioners Court, TCSO is renting the Rosedale School on 49th Street in Austin for a year. The school has been unoccupied for several years and is the perfect training ground. Clearing a school is similar to clearing an office building, church, or hospital.

The men and women who serve as peace officers in Travis County are extremely valuable to our community, and a tangible way to express it is to offer them the best training possible. TCSO's ALERRT classes will go beyond the 16-hour requirement and provide 20 hours of training, including what to do when arriving on scene, breaching, clearing, proper movement, communications, incident command, medical intervention, scenario-based exercises and much more.

So far, we have registrants from Constable Precincts 1, 4 and 5, the District Attorney's Office, Travis District Parkers, Austin ISD PD, Elgin PD, Jonestown PD, Mustang Ridge PD, Sunset Valley PD and Pflugerville PD. Our priority is to provide ALERRT training to any and every officer in the county who doesn't have access to it. We look forward to expanding this model of various agencies training together to much more than just ALERRT in the long term.

I've been in law enforcement for many years, and I've seen a lot of changes. It pains me that we're in a day and time in which we need training like this. Since we have the need, we want to step up and offer the best.

SPREADING LOVE



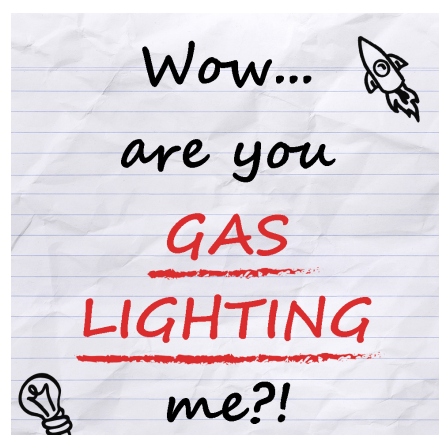
TCSO celebrated Valentine's Day with seniors from around the community. Our Community Outreach Unit (COU) delivered 200 teddy bears and Valentine's cards to residents of the South Austin Senior Activity Center and Affinity at Wells Branch. Additionally, COU and West Patrol Deputies spread the love at Longhorn Village by hosting our version of The Price Is Right. It was hard to tell who had more fun - the residents or us! We'd like to extend a big thanks to our sponsors HEB, Randall's, AARP and Ally Medical for making this holiday event so memorable.

VIEW MORE



LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

On February 8, TCSO began its journey to become a more trauma-informed agency by launching a culture-change framework dubbed League of Champions. 36 Champions were nominated by their supervisors from across the agency and have made a 3-year commitment to serve as agents of change and help drive our efforts to be more trauma informed. The Champions will meet every other month, and a separate League of Advisors, comprised of members of the TCSO Command Staff, will meet quarterly. TCSO is committed to serve the community in a holistic manner that understands, recognizes and addresses trauma.

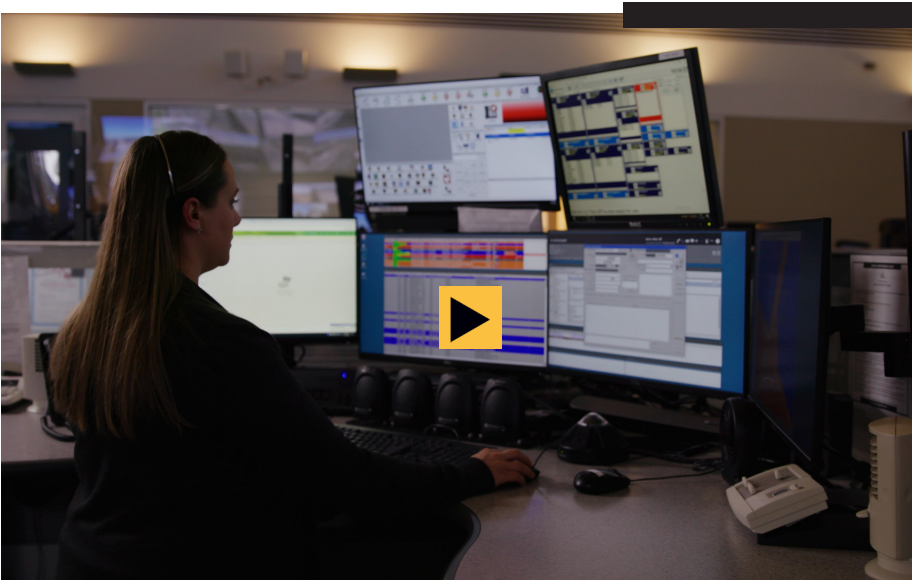


TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

To promote Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, TCSO worked with the [Texas Advocacy Project](#) to release a series of videos teaching youth about the early warning signs of dating violence, as well as sharing resources and tips to help parents start these difficult conversations. The video series aims to educate teens and their parents about what an unhealthy or abusive relationship may look like. We hope you'll check them out on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)!

If you would like to speak with a TCSO expert for more information, feel free to contact our [Victim Services Unit](#) | 512-854-9709.

911 POCKET DIALS



Did you know that around 31% of the calls coming in to TCSO dispatch are cell phone hangups? That's right, about one-third of 911 calls are currently due to accidental dials. This month, TCSO released a social media video offering tips for storing/handling cell phones as well as settings that protect against accidental 911 calls. TCSO call takers always call back to make sure each 911 hang-up is not related to a crisis. Reducing accidental 911 calls will allow call takers to focus their efforts on actual emergencies.



COBRA 107 GRADUATION



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, headcounts, 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 107 who graduated on February 20: Marcus Arroyo, Jose Cobra, Rici Brown, Leslie Chapa, Drew Daniels, Airiana Earl, Gary Eliano, Manuel Guillopo, Jose M. Hernandez, Tovah Lewis, Alexander Luna, Kristen Miranda, Alexis Montemayor, Jonathan Perez, Precious Primm, Patt Shelley, Dominique Shima, Reuben Sunday, Branden Tapley, Adolfo Torrez, Tevin Washington, Neriah Watts and Frederique Wilkins.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO AUSTIN



On February 5, Sheriff Hernandez and TCSO command staff had the pleasure of meeting with the [Consulate General of Mexico Austin](#). Through our partnership with the Consulate, we are always working to develop ways to foster trust within the community and serve victims of crime or abuse.



BREAKFAST WITH CHAMPIONS

On February 9, TCSO had the privilege of attending the [Special Olympics Of Texas](#) (SOTX) Breakfast with Champions. The event brings together "change-makers" in our area to network and be inspired by the SOTX athletes' stories. Community partners and Law Enforcement Torch Run officers come together to raise awareness and funds for SOTX athletes.



ISSUES & EGGS

On February 7, the [Downtown Austin Alliance](#) hosted a panel discussion about Mental Health Jail Diversion at its Issues & Eggs event. Panelists Parnell Smith and Andy Brown, Commissioner Ann Howard, Sheriff Sally Hernandez and moderator Judge Tamara Needles engaged in a discussion about county plans to build a mental health diversion center. The event drew a good crowd and offered the audience an opportunity to ask questions and present their concerns.

LEARN MORE

EMPLOYEE MASTHEAD (L TO R): Sr. Corrections Officer Daniel Marion, Inmate Mental Health & CES Director Danny Smith & Security Coordinator Melinda Garcia-Moore



WWW.TCSHERIFF.ORG