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### A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM

The beginning of 2023 has seen a lot of activity at the MCSO. Two veteran law enforcement officers with our agency retired, Assistant Chief Deputy (Colonel) Jon Briggs and Corporal Steve Smith. Colonel Briggs joined the MCSO in 1995 after a distinguished career in the United States Air Force. He rose through the ranks and was the MCSO Assistant Chief Deputy for the last several years, supervising the senior staff and assisting in projects and community initiatives. Corporal Steve Smith retired after 21 years of service and will soon return as a part-time deputy with the MCSO. Corporal Smith had previously served and retired with the Montgomery Police Department. Early in our careers, we worked closely together in the MPD Detective Division as evidence technicians. When I became the Chief Deputy with the MCSO in 1999, it was my vision to create a state-of-the-art crime scene unit. Corporal Smith was an integral part of the formation of our present-day Crime Scene Bureau.



Colonel Jon. G. Briggs  
Dates of Service: August 28,  
1985 - March 12, 2023



Corporal Steve Smith  
Dates of Service: October 1,  
2001 to February 1, 2023

These recent retirements have brought great opportunities at the MCSO. In the first quarter of 2023, there have been 17 promotions. Gayle Atchison, who has 46 years of experience with the MCSO, has been

Assistant Chief Deputy  
Gayle Atchison

Major Joshua Douglass, Sr.



Captain Fred Johnson



Captain Randy Pollard

promoted as the new Assistant Chief Deputy. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her new position. Colonel Atchison started with the MCSO in 1977 and has seen a lot of changes and advancements in law enforcement. For the first time in the history of our agency both colonels are female; Sonja Pritchett is the Director of Detention. I am very proud of the progressive movement the MCSO has achieved in providing career opportunities for all.

Joshua B. Douglass, Sr. has been promoted to the rank of major. Major Douglass is the Commander of the Patrol Division. He is a former Marine and presently an officer in the Alabama National Guard. Frederick Johnson has been promoted to captain. Captain Johnson is the new Commander of the Civil Division and will supervise the daily responsibilities of the serving of civil papers, probate orders, courthouse and county annex building security, the warrant office and the issuance of pistol permits. Randy Pollard has also been promoted to captain. Captain Pollard has been in the Investigation Division since 1999, with experience in narcotics, homicide and general investigations. He has been the bureau commander lieutenant since 2013. He has been a member of the SWAT team for 24 years, and the SWAT Commander for 10 years. Captain Pollard will assume the commander's position of investigations in the near future as more retirements occur at the MCSO.

Included in this publication are photos of the other promotions to lieutenant, sergeant and corporal. In addition to these promotions, the MCSO has recently recruited 10 deputy sheriffs and three correctional officers. Six of the deputies have previous law enforcement experience and four recently graduated from the police academy. We are very proud of the new promotions, deputies correctional officers and look forward to the future.

In 2022 the MCSO/Montgomery County Detention Facility, through a cooperative partnership with Harvard University, sought accreditation with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). This organization's mission is to support and improve the quality of health care in jails, prisons and juvenile facilities. The comprehensive audit conducted by NCCHC involved governance and administration, safety, personnel training, health care services and support, inmate care and treatment, health promotion, special needs and services, health records and medical-legal issues. I am pleased to report that

received its accreditation in March of this year. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office wishes to thank Melissa Peak, Risk Control Administrator for the Montgomery County Commission for her support during this process, the research team of Harvard University, NCCHC staff, NaphCare, our inmate health care provider, and the dedicated employees of the MCDF who made this valuable accreditation possible.



Sheriff Cunningham and Montgomery County Commissioners presenting NaphCare and the detention facility staff with the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare certification.

While speaking on the issue of healthcare, it is one of my administration's priorities to stay focused on the needs of the public as it relates to mental health. As everyone knows, the MCSO is tasked with the responsibility of involuntary mental health commitments from the Montgomery County Probate Office. A probate order can be one of the most difficult issues that a deputy sheriff deals with. Someone suffering from a mental health crisis is often misunderstood and unfortunately negatively stigmatized. With that in mind, I am deeply invested in the education and training of our personnel in crisis intervention and de-escalation training. You will find more information on this subject in this publication of MSQ regarding Virtra and Virtual Reality that educates and trains our personnel on the interactive methods and positive measures that are used when dealing with citizens undergoing a mental health crisis.

It is a goal of mine to educate and erase the stigma of mental illness with the members of the MCSO and the public. Carastar (formerly Montgomery Area Mental Health) is officially opening their Crisis Diversion Center located at 5915 Carmichael Rd, Montgomery, AL 36117 on April 6, 2023. This facility offers a more welcoming and comfortable environment for those experiencing a mental health crisis. The crisis center is the result of an extensive amount of dialogue, planning and development between mental health caregivers, law enforcement, clinicians, and consumers. I encourage Montgomery County citizens to choose this alternative method in dealing with and treating family members who are suffering from a mental health crisis. It is a voluntary program where patients agree to and consent to be treated. The crisis center can often times treat a patient without the lengthy process of an emergency room visit and long-term inpatient care. The Carastar Crisis Diversion Center's phone number is 800-408-4197.



Sheriff Cunningham, Corporal Derrick Riego and Deputy Skylar Campbell

MCSO Deputy Sheriff Corporal Derrick Riego was recently awarded the National Sheriff’s Association Merit Award for his lifesaving efforts in rescuing Deputy Skylar Campbell from a potentially fatal fentanyl exposure in April 2022. Deputy Campbell had incidental contact with the drug during a traffic stop. Corporal Riego acted swiftly and administered first aid medical treatment (Narcan) and rushed him to the hospital. He was also the 2022 MCSO Deputy of the Year.

In the past several months I have attended numerous community and neighborhood association meetings. This is one of my favorite parts of being your sheriff, attending these gatherings and listening to your concerns and ideas. I enjoy solving problems and engaging

our citizens. One concern I frequently hear from citizens is the operation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and golf carts in neighborhoods and communities located in Montgomery County. A particular concern is when they are driven by young people. The enjoyment of driving these types of vehicles has a long history in rural areas; Montgomery County is no exception. As our communities grow and the population increases, the number of these vehicles present on streets and roadways rise too. As I have expressed in the meetings I have attended, the law enforcement approach to this is a “spirit of the law” vs. the “letter of the law” dilemma. ATVs can be particularly hazardous due to their tendency to overturn at high speeds. With that in mind, many law enforcement officers have to weigh the danger when pursuing an ATV rider and must use their discretion in the liability of possibly pursuing someone. I encourage Montgomery County citizens to contact their legislative representatives at the state and local levels and voice your concerns on such activity in our rural communities, and perhaps develop legislation to keep our citizens safe.

Another community engagement the MCSO has the pleasure of being involved in is the annual Leadership Montgomery Legacy Class Public Service Day. Recently LM Class XXXVIII the MCSO staff at the Montgomery County Detention Facility for a morning with guest speakers from the district attorney’s office and other county offices. There were presentations on MCSO administration, organization, operations, mental health, law enforcement technology, and MCSO programs. Leadership Montgomery is a worthwhile program, and I would encourage our citizens to participate in this educational and community building organization.



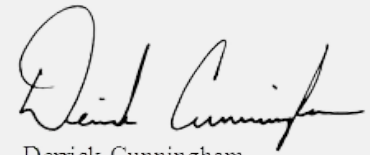
Sheriff Cunningham with members of the Leadership Montgomery Legacy Class XXXVIII Public Service Day.

The MCSO Citizen's Academy started on February 27th with 16 people attending. The citizen's academy encompasses 6 one-hour Monday evening classes and a Saturday graduation. Participants learn about the MCSO, the functions of the different divisions, forensics, SWAT, K-9, law enforcement technology, firearms demonstrations, how citizens can protect themselves, assisting law enforcement in crime prevention (the apprehension of criminals by calling 911) and reporting accurate and timely information when witnessing a crime. Unfortunately, gun violence has increased nationwide in the past few years. This grave concern is plaguing our major cities in the United States. Many large metropolitan police departments are suffering severe staffing shortages, only exacerbating the problem. For citizens to learn and understand the role law enforcement has in a community is critical. Obtaining knowledge through our citizens academy is helpful for those wishing to learn more about crime prevention and security. I encourage Montgomery County citizens to become more involved in public safety. A good way to participate is to attend the MCSO Citizen's Academy. If the public interest is strong, we will have more sessions in the future. Through knowledge and understanding we can bring our communities back to a safer time.

In this publication you will see flyers on our annual MCSO Deputy in the Park, and Camp Show-n-Tell. These are a few among many successful MCSO programs and community events that have been held for almost two decades. Unfortunately, some of the MCSO community events have had to be cancelled or greatly reduced due to a lack of funding. When the Alabama Legislature and governor changed the law on the requiring of pistol permits in Alabama (Constitutional carry) the revenue from the issuing of pistol permits with Alabama sheriff's offices fell drastically. The MCSO was no exception to this. Our community programs depend solely on this revenue, and regrettably due to the shortfall of funds, some will have to end, and many others will be significantly reduced in size and occurrence.

The Deputy in the Park Day will be held in Grady, Alabama. We will have a cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs, refreshments along with games and fellowship with deputies where people can learn about their communities. We are now accepting applications of our summer Camp Show-n-Tell this year. We have reduced the attendance and will accept the first 65 qualified children to attend. Due to the reduced money available for summer camp, we are unable to staff medical personnel to attend this year. The first aid station will remain open. With no medical staff present, children taking prescribed medications will most likely not be accepted. As your sheriff, I remain committed to the many community programs that allow us to remain connected to one another. It is my hope that in the future a financial solution can be discovered that will permit the MCSO outreach initiatives to once again reach their full potential.

In closing, I wish to express to all Montgomery County citizens that there is great power in numbers, and in growing and staying connected as a community. It is important that the members of the MCSO communicate effectively with the citizens we serve. We strive as an organization that communication is the key to problem solving and relationships. As sheriff, I am always available to answer any questions you may have, to listen to your concerns, and offer solutions to issues and challenges facing our communities.



Derrick Cunningham  
Sheriff

## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES PROMOTE SAFETY

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is always seeking to improve in the field of technology. The MCSO understands that technology is rapidly evolving and strives to remain current on the latest advancements in the law enforcement profession. The sheriff's office is proud to partner with AXON Enterprises Inc. (AXON) that produces state-of-the-art body worn and car cameras. AXON is based in Scottsdale, Arizona, and is one of the industry leaders in the field of video technology. The partnership with AXON provides the MCSO with multiple tools to record, store and secure video evidence.



The AXON body worn camera purchased by the MCSO is the Body 3 model. It is the latest product in the line of body worn cameras produced by AXON. The ease of use of the camera is one of the best features. The field of view and video quality is outstanding. The Body 3 camera is equipped with four microphones for enhanced audio recording. The body worn camera is LTE-connected and has an embedded GPS in the unit. The data on the body

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office



Deputy in the Park Day

Sponsored by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Saturday, May 6, 2023

10 AM to 1 PM

Montgomery County Activity Center

147 Old School House Road

Grady, AL 36036

Please join us for a family friendly event. There will be a cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs, refreshments, along with games for children and fellowship with deputies to learn more about our community. For further information, please Call 334-832-2515



## *Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation Camp Show-n-Tell*

*Hosted by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham*

*Week-long camp held July 31 - August 4, 2023 at YMCA  
Camp Chandler. For Montgomery County youth ages 9 - 11.  
Activities include canoeing, archery, arts, crafts, swimming, and  
outdoor survival skills and a big dance! Applications available April  
1-29, 2023 at 100 S. Lawrence St., Montgomery, AL 36104.  
For more information, please call MCSO Support Services at  
334-832-2515.*

*Join Us  
For Fun!*





worn camera is encrypted and Bluetooth compatible. It is designed to conduct rapid recharges and quick offloads of videos to ensure the camera is in service when needed.

The AXON car camera systems that will be installed in MCSO vehicles in the latter part of 2023 will be the Fleet 3 model. It is the latest version of car cameras AXON is producing. The car camera offers clear panoramic views while recording. Every car with a camera system will be equipped with an interior rear seat camera which will record a “knee to head” occupant view. The camera footage will have color and infrared illumination capabilities. The car camera system is equipped with a wireless mic which can capture clear audio up to 1,000 feet away from the vehicle. The car camera can live stream video footage and provide a GPS location of the vehicle.



The partnership with AXON comes with access to evidence.com which is AXON’s website for all video footage and evidence storage. The website is easy to navigate and streamlines the process of housing and storing all evidence for review or court. All video files and documents are housed in AXON’s cloud-based storage service. The website is an integral part of leading law enforcement into the forefront of the video technology world.

AXON View is a phone app and computer-based program that allows a deputy to view their videos, add applicable case numbers, and add a category or type of video. This application works via Bluetooth with the phone or through an access computer cable. The video and information can be reviewed and updated immediately following the end of a recording. The MCSO strives for 100% video categorization which allows us to manage our video storage and retention. In the coming months, the MCSO will be integrating our dispatch center where the videos will automatically be categorized by information entered into the system by our dispatchers.

AXON Capture is a phone app which allows deputies to upload photos, audio clips, and other videos that may be obtained from citizens during calls for service. This allows the evidence or information to be uploaded immediately to AXON’s website. The app also features a citizen portal that allows deputies to send a text message or email to a citizen which gives them access to upload videos directly to AXON’s website. The information is then reviewed in the system to ensure it is properly labeled and categorized.

AXON Respond is a phone app or computer application which discloses the GPS location of law enforcement personnel with AXON cameras. This allows dispatchers and deputies the ability to determine the location of MCSO members in the field in the event of an emergency or to ensure that adequate coverage is maintained during a critical incident. AXON Respond comes with a “live view” feature that allows select personnel to remotely access a camera that is recording. This feature gives the personnel the ability to actively monitor an evolving scene or the ability to check on a deputy if they were involved in a critical incident.

The MCSO has capitalized on the evolving technology offered by AXON. Signal sensors have been installed on weapon and less-lethal holsters. The sensors are designed to emit a signal to activate all Axon cameras in the immediate area when a firearm or less-lethal weapon is drawn from a holster. The Tasers currently carried by deputies have a battery system installed that emits a signal to activate all cameras in the immediate area when the Taser is activated. When the AXON Fleet car camera systems are installed, it will also emit a signal to activate all cameras in the immediate area when the emergency lights are activated on an equipped vehicle. This can help our agency preserve and document video evidence of a critical incident.

Evidence.com permits the MCSO the ability to conduct performance reviews using camera footage and associated data. This feature allows supervisors to review video of deputies on calls to ensure our they are meeting the professional performance standards, policies and procedures outlined by our agency. The performance system generates random video reviews that are completed by supervisory staff at each level up to the Patrol Division Commander. This is just another way our agency capitalizes on the new technology.

The MCSO is at the forefront of video technology with the advent of Axon equipment and software. This new records and evidence feature promotes safety, professionalism, and accountability within our agency and members.

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## VIRTRA SIMULATORS OFFER REAL-WORLD TOOLS



VirTra Training Simulators are in use throughout the law enforcement community at the Federal, State and local level. They use immersive, research-based scenarios and the latest technology to prepare officers for real-life incidents. The systems are comprised typically of a dedicated room with up to 5 screens,

offering a 280-degree panoramic immersion within a scenario. The officers are equipped with a real firearm (modified to be non-firing), Taser, Chemical Irritant, and other law enforcement accoutrements so that all of their “real-world” tools are available to utilize within the simulation. Additionally, the officers wear a “threat pack” that provides an electrical shock under threat, adding to the realism.

The scenarios are interactive and have branching options to increase realism, allowing the scenarios to unfold based on the trainee’s input. The scenarios are developed using real actors, and are constructed with a methodology that considers cognitive neuroscience and human physiology to maximize the officer’s ability to make real-world de-escalation or use of force decisions.

Scenarios vary and cover a wide spectrum of law enforcement related challenges. They are designed to teach critical concepts such as: officer presence, de-escalation, verbal and non-verbal cues, active listening skills (ALS), less lethal options and use of force. One of the biggest advantages is the ability to debrief or have an “after action review” so the officer gets immediate feedback on performance and suggestions for improvement.

Around 2010, the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office obtained a federal grant to purchase two of VirTra Police Training Simulators. A dedicated 280 degree, 5 screen simulator was installed at the DT Marshall Firearms and Training Facility and is utilized as a “home base” for instruction. This simulator has been used to train thousands of law enforcement officers over

the past decade. Additionally, a single screen simulator was purchased and installed in a mobile trailer. Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office trainers have deployed this mobile unit throughout Alabama so that agencies with budget or travel limitations could benefit from the training. This training is provided at no cost to the outside agency, whether at the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office facilities or in a remote setting.

In 2022, both MCSO VirTra simulators received an upgrade that included new hardware and software, and additional training scenarios. These upgrades greatly expanded the abilities and subject matter that the simulators can cover. This also allowed the agency to record and set up its’ own scenarios using actual locations within Montgomery County, and tailor the training to the specific needs of our community.

These newly expanded abilities also allowed the VirTra simulators to be incorporated into the existing Crisis Intervention and De-Escalation training being offered by the Sheriff’s Office. VirTra simulators, along with AXON VR goggles, effectively augment and enhance the training experience. Along with existing classroom instruction and role-play with live actors, crisis intervention/de-escalation training can now incorporate the latest immersive technology to re-enforce de-escalation concepts or strategies, increase the ability to recognize people experiencing a mental health crisis, and further develop empathy or understanding for those with mental illness.

During the last week of February 2023, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office fully incorporated the VirTra simulator into the crisis intervention and de-escalation training. Placing students into the environment allowed the instructors to see that the student(s) had learned from the instruction. Reinforcement of positive techniques and discussions with the students regarding missed cues or better ways to have handled situations allowed for as close to a real scenario as possible. Every student left the scenarios with a better understanding having applied the techniques learned and reinforced with them the need to be compassionate and understanding of those who are in crisis.

When combining this virtual reality simulator with the Axon VR and live student actors, the training received by students from around the State of Alabama is priceless. Our focus is to ensure a compassionate response by all law enforcement, fire service, medics and others who deal with the public on a regular basis. We believe that a combination of classroom instruction, actors and virtual reality has given us the tools we need to provide the very best service to our citizens that we can. The old adage of "To Protect and Serve" has had no greater meaning than that which we have worked tirelessly to provide.

## THE REALITIES OF VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



When you think of Virtual Reality, you probably imagine your kids' wearing headsets and playing video games. VR based games do make up a significant amount of the industry. But, over the past decade the technological advancement of virtual reality simulators has progressed at a breathtaking pace. So, what is Virtual Reality and how does it apply to real world professions like law enforcement? Virtual Reality or VR is a 3D, computer-generated environment that can replace a student's field of vision and immerse the user visually into a scenario. VR experiences fabricate a level of realism that engages a user's senses and provide true-to-life interactions.

Virtual Reality learning platforms are being integrated into professions that require critical thinking skills and practice complex procedures. BMW, Peugeot, and Volkswagen have used VR for safety training, logistics, design, and production. Bennett Medical Center in Stamford, Connecticut was the first to successfully complete spine surgeries with the use of VR and AR technology. In aviation, Airbus and Boeing are training pilots in VR simulators, everything from takeoff to landing to addressing critical mechanical failures. Recent studies have shown this form of learning is 570 percent faster than traditional classroom and textbook learning. It also reduces risk and increases safety, allowing learners to train

and textbook learning. It also reduces risk and increases safety, allowing learners to train and practice more frequently under conditions that were previously only possible in real-world scenarios.

Hee Yun Lee, professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Alabama, is currently leading a research team on how to improve police responses to people with serious mental illnesses. This includes the development of various training methodologies including online learning and reality-based simulators. In a recent interview with AL.com, Professor Lee said she believes virtual reality creates a “really good environment” for researchers to examine improvements by individual officers in how to approach people dealing with mental illness. Lee went on to say, “If used in an appropriate situation, (virtual reality) is a good tool in a police officer

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In January 2023, Sheriff Cunningham announced the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office Virtual Reality for De-escalation and Crisis Intervention Program. MCSO had acquired six HTC Vive headsets with the Axon VR Community Engagement Training and Simulation Module. The Axon VR CET has been fully integrated into the current MCSO’s Crisis Intervention and De-Escalation Course that includes presentations from mental health professionals, interactive role-play scenarios and use of the Vir-Tra Live Simulator.

The Axon VR Community Engagement is a series of scenarios designed to train officers on learning de-escalation techniques, and the development of critical thinking skills in dealing with people suffering from a crisis. The scenarios used in the VR program will allow the deputy to experience, in an immersive setting, the perspectives of the deputy responding and of the person experiencing a crisis. Deputies will be guided in learning the optimal decisions in attempting to de-escalate to have a positive outcome. Deputies will be immersed in scenarios in the VR environment that include Depression, Anxiety, Suicide,

The Axon VR Program would also be part of a new de-Escalation module that is mobile and available to any law enforcement agency in Alabama. In recent years, many agencies have seen their budgets and training funds reduced or reallocated. Smaller agencies are hurt the most with departments being underfunded and with higher levels of turnover. Sheriff Cunningham is providing this training program to any agency in the state, on-site, at no-cost to the requesting agency. One of the benefits of this program is that the training is not

site-specific. The units can be set-up within 20-30 minutes and scenarios can last between 3-6 minutes. This makes the VR program a viable alternative to traditional training. Which can be both expensive and difficult to obtain for agencies that do not have the budget to send personnel or are short-staffed.

The landscape of law enforcement has greatly changed over the last several years. As society changes with every age, so must those who police their communities. The time of “checking a box” of law enforcement to receive a couple of hours of crisis de-escalation training during their career is over. Continually training personnel in crisis de-escalation may be one of the most important investments a police agency can make. Forward-looking agencies will understand this change and will take advantage of this valuable training.

For our citizens, this program will ensure that MCSO deputies will respond effectively and compassionately to anyone that is experiencing a mental health crisis. Deputies will be better prepared to adapt their approach to a person in a crisis and have a positive impact on the community they serve. Sheriff Cunningham understands what this investment means. It tells the community that the Montgomery County Sheriff Office values the life of both the deputies’ and those suffering a mental health crisis.

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## **MCDF OFFERS ADULT GED PROGRAM**

Most all jobs require a high school diploma. Attending a traditional school is not an option for individuals in the Montgomery County Detention Facility. Earning a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) can provide employment and educational opportunities that would not normally be available for the inmate population. The MCDF is partnered with Trenholm State Community College to provide GED preparation and testing for detainees. Trenholm College has been operating in Montgomery since the 1960s. They offer diverse programs of study across multiple campuses, and online learning for the inmates in the detention facility. The coursework includes computer literacy skills which can be applied to technology and online research.

Other subjects like math, social studies, science, and oral communication skills

courses that help individuals communicate ideas and topics clearly to others, as well as improving written communication skills will help students create documents that are clear and articulate are taught in the GED classes. The MCDF also has continuing education for those in our population who are under the age of 18.

Many high paid jobs in today’s economy require a GED. Examples are landscaper, dental assistant, sheet metal worker, boiler mechanic, and power plant operator, to name a few. The MCDF, in a cooperative partnership with Trenholm College, provides this foundation so that student can proceed to their next career goals. There are several local corporations in Montgomery that are hiring entry-level positions and having a GED can eventually lead to higher income job opportunities.

Hyundai, Glovis, and Rheem are presently hiring for entry level positions.

The GED test is only available online in the State of Alabama. Trenholm College has provided laptops for the inmates in the MCDF. There is no need for the inmates to leave the facility. The detention facility classroom has tables, chairs, and a large monitor that the instructor can use as well as a traditional dry erase board. It is a traditional classroom setting. The individuals in the classroom are closely monitored by the MCDF staff to ensure that there are no disruptions or misuse of computers. The MCDF is also a certified GED testing center. The dedicated instructors work to prepare each individual for the GED test. A GED Instructor works at the MCDF weekdays with our (under 18) population. It is mandatory for these individuals to attend classes.

The GED test is only available online in the State of Alabama. Trenholm College has provided laptops for the inmates in the MCDF. There is no need for the inmates to leave the facility. The detention facility classroom has tables, chairs, and a large monitor that the instructor can use as well as a traditional dry erase board. It is a traditional classroom setting. The individuals in the classroom are closely monitored by the MCDF staff to ensure that there are no disruptions or misuse of computers. The MCDF is also a certified

GED testing center. The dedicated instructors work to prepare each individual for the GED test. A GED Instructor works at the MCDF weekdays with our (under 18) population. It is mandatory for these individuals to attend classes.

When an individual gains their GED, it creates a great sense of accomplishment. This is carried out to the workforce. So far, the MCDF has had 3 individuals obtain their GED. The time spent in the facility is utilized to a great potential. An individual can grow and plan for their future. The MCDF incentivizes individuals who gain their GED with added privileges. Using these motivational encouragements, we hope to others will take advantage of this opportunity.

It is the goal of the MCDF to encourage people while incarcerated to earn their GED. The program is free and available to all that wish to participate. This is a program started by the Montgomery County Sheriff's office in an effort to curb the cycle of reoffending, and to encourage detainees to become productive and contributing members of society.



## JUVENILE DETENTION'S IMPACT ON YOUTH

Every day, thousands of young people in the United States are held in juvenile detention facilities while their cases are handled in court. With so many young people moving in and out of detention centers as they await legal actions on their cases, it's worth asking. What exactly is juvenile detention and how can being detained affect a young person?

Juvenile detention is short-term confinement, primarily used after a youth has been arrested, but before a court has determined the youth's innocence or guilt. Pretrial detention is appropriate only when a court believes a youth to be at risk of committing crimes or fleeing during court processing. Generally they are a secure facility operated by local authorities or the state. According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, "In all states, secure detention space is primarily used for temporarily holding juveniles while they await adjudication, disposition or placement elsewhere."

The terms youth detention center and youth correctional center often are used interchangeably to describe residential facilities, but there is a clear distinction between them. Young people held in detention are presumed innocent unless and until they are adjudicated in court. The purpose of a detention center is temporary confinement while a young person's case is being handled in court. By contrast, correctional facilities are longer-term placements for youth who have been adjudicated as delinquent and then ordered by a judge to be confined rather than supervised in the community.



Youth Detention Hall

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correctional facilities are longer-term placements for youth who have been adjudicated as delinquent and then ordered by a judge to be confined rather than supervised in the community.

To complete the picture, youth could be confined in detention centers for these reasons, as well:



- Their case has been adjudicated, but they haven't been sentenced yet (in other words, awaiting disposition).
- They have been sentenced to out-of-home placement, but haven't been transferred yet to that placement (i.e., Alabama Department of Youth Services, or a Certified DYS Group Home)
- They are awaiting a court hearing for allegedly violating the terms of their probation in the community.

What happens in juvenile detention centers day-to-day varies by facility, but school-age youth must attend school for a total of six hours per day. Youth are entitled to go outdoors regularly, engage in physical exercise, participate in a range of recreational activities and practice their religion. The right of youth in detention, such as the right to education; medical and mental health care; due process; access to families, counsel and the courts; and safe and humane treatment, are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, federal laws, state constitutions and laws and case law determined by the courts.

We know that youth disconnection has a negative impact on a community's ability to expand access to opportunity. The lower the rate of youth disconnection, as measured by the Opportunity Index. When our youth do well, our communities do well.

One of the groups most at risk for disconnection from critically important education and career pathways are the millions of young adults who have spent time in the juvenile or adult justice systems. Each day in the United States, 2.2 million people are incarcerated, including one million young Americans under the age of 30. An estimated 200,000 youth under the age of 18 are sent into the adult criminal justice system each year, often for misdemeanor offenses. Approximately 60,000 teens are held in juvenile detention facilities on any given day in this country.

Research shows that young adults involved in the juvenile justice system are disproportionately low income and minority, are diagnosed with learning disabilities, and have experienced abuse and other forms of hardship. This issue affects all of us. Our communities and businesses all pay the price for youth disconnection in wasted talent, diminished communities, lost earnings and tax revenues, and increased social services.

Therefore, it will take all sectors coming together to reform our system. We are seeing cross-sector collaboration play out across the country every day. Policymakers, educators, law enforcement, and community organizations are more focused than ever on changing laws to prevent juveniles from entering the adult justice system, ensuring that post-adjudicated youth get the chance to gain skills, reforming outdated sentencing guidelines, and assisting young adults with re-entry into their communities after confinement.

Needless to say, this work is not easy. Recidivism rates for youth involved in the system have remained persistently high. Teen violence has escalated, and many are already traveling through the School to Prison Pipeline. However, reforming the system would prevent youthful mistakes from becoming lifelong barriers to opportunity and help young adults get back on track.

*Sources:*

*1 University of Florida, Levin College of Law*

*2 Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

*3 The Judicial Branch of California*

*4 The Annie E. Casey Foundation*

*5 Prison Policy Initiative*

*6 The Journal of the American Medical Association*

*7 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

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## JUVENILE DEPUTY CORRECTION OFFICER OF THE FIRST QUARTER

### OFFICER COREY BEAN

JDO Officer Corey Bean has worked with the Montgomery County Juvenile Facility for four years. Officer Bean works untiredly with our youth by deescalating conflicts with his “calm and consistent” demeanor. Officer Bean has diffused many tense situations at the facility without the use of excessive force. Outside of work, he can be found coaching little league football, along with spending time with his two young sons.



In addition to the aforementioned, his coworkers who nominated him describe him as reliable and knowledgeable. They also say he encourages staff members and communicates well with new incoming juvenile detainees during intake, which reduces their propensity of being further traumatized. JDO Bean is currently enrolled as a Senior at South University in Montgomery, AL, where he will be graduating this summer with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Public Safety. It goes without saying, he is a great asset to the Montgomery County Youth Detention Facility.

## DEPUTY OFFICER OF THE FIRST QUARTER OFFICER SHARONE IVEY

On March 30, 2023, Officer Sharone Ivey was conducting a security check in a housing dorm. During the security check she noticed an inmate had tied a bed linen to the gated door leading out to a velour window. Following protocol, Officer Ivey ordered an inmate to remove the bed linen in her presence and remained in the area until the task was completed. Officer Ivey discovered the inmates had caused significant damage to the door and was using the bed linen to hide their destruction of county property. Officer Ivey's attention to detail likely prevented contraband from entering the MCDF.



## CIVILIAN OF THE FIRST QUARTER BUILDING SECURITY OFFICER JOE SULLEN RECOGNIZED

Mr. Joe Sullen has been employed as a Building Security Officer with the MCSO since April 15, 2002. Along with his normal duties, SO Sullen routinely assists his coworkers by covering their shifts even if he is contacted with little notice. He also helps in ensuring the parking deck on Scott Street is open and safe while Baldwin School has its evening events throughout the year. Anytime there has been a problem with one of the buildings, he notifies the proper personnel quickly to get the issue resolved and stays at that location to ensure that any work that needs to be done is completed.



He has often been tasked with completing duties outside of his normal daily routine. One such example is when he found the air conditioning not functioning in the Information Systems server room. He assisted in checking the area until the final repairs could be completed. Any time SO Sullen has encountered someone trespassing or a homeless person on any of county properties, he has handled the situation professionally and without any complaints. SO Sullen's peers hold him in high regard because of his professionalism and dedication to helping each one of them. This type of work ethic and dedication to the team is commendable.

## SERGEANT WESLEY GLOVER COMMENDED

In the early morning hours of December 12, 2022, MCSO dispatch received a call to assist medics in the eastern portion of Montgomery County. Sergeant Wesley Glover responded to the call, finding a person unresponsive in the residence. Sgt. Glover took prompt action by utilizing his issued AED and starting CPR prior to medics arriving on scene.



This occurred while there was an active vehicle pursuit ongoing and Sergeant Glover was the only supervisor on duty, splitting his attention between the task at hand as well as his supervisory duties. Sergeant Glover kept his cool and continued to perform CPR on Mrs. Watson until Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department arrived on the scene.

The medics advised that the individual had a good heartbeat when transported and had been released from the hospital after receiving further treatment. Sergeant Glover's quick response and adherence to his training saved the life of a Montgomery County citizen.

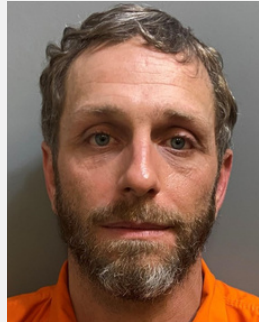
## LOCAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS GRADUATE FROM THE MCSO JAIL MANAGEMENT COURSE IN MARCH



## 2023 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 1ST QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS



Blocker, Ann  
Domestic Violence 2nd  
Copeland Road



Cumbie, Terry Brandon  
Capital Murder  
Hope Hull



Gardener, Daryle  
Riheem  
Poss. Altered Firearm  
Old Atlanta Hwy.



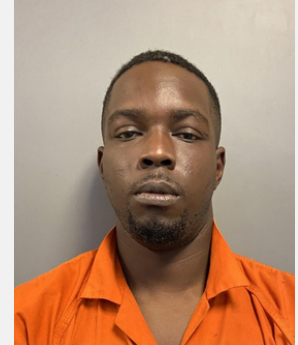
Harris, Morris Donzell  
Kidnapping 1 / Rape 1  
Troy Hwy



Kenmore, Christopher  
Vail  
D.V. 2 / Robbery 3rd  
U.S. Hwy 31



McWilliams, Jason Quan  
Assault 2nd  
S. McDonought



Perry, Cadarius Dajuan  
U.B.E.V. / TOP 2  
Vaughn Rd.



Pitts, Valerie Grant-Vinson  
Child Abuse x2  
Stone Park Blvd.



Sanders, Timothy Jr.  
Disch. Firearm Occ  
Residence  
Marler Road

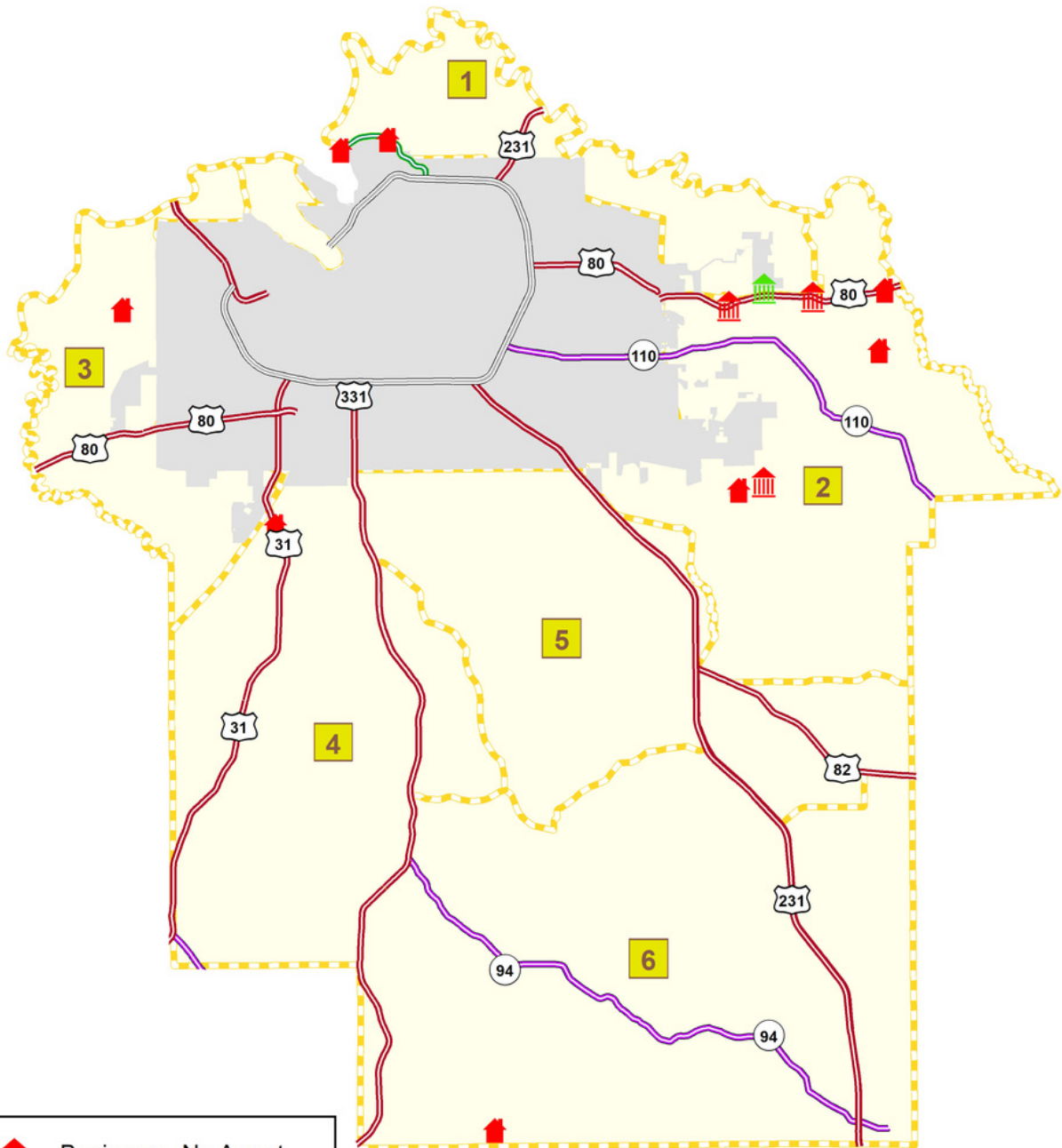


Smith, Dustin Wayne  
D.V. 2nd  
100 Blk Perry St.

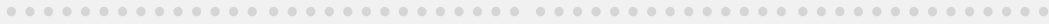


Vinson, Raymond Demond  
Promote. Prison Contraband  
S. McDonough St.

# MCSO Crime Map 2023 1st Quarter



	Residential - No Arrest
	Residential - Yes Arrest
	Business - No Arrest
	Business, Yes Arrest



To:

Place  
Postage  
Here

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
115 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

