

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY

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A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM



Welcome to 2024. I am eager to start a new year and the exciting challenges that await us all in building Montgomery County into a great community to live, work and play. The MCSO has several

projects on the horizon that will enhance public safety and community relations. The technology that we have invested in, with the state-of-the-art Axon body camera system, has improved our preparation and presentation in court cases. Recently, a Montgomery police officer was shot while attempting to arrest someone for robbery. He received a bullet wound to his arm. MCSO deputies responded to assist the MPD. MCSO Major Joshua Douglass rendered first aid to the injured officer, applied a tourniquet and transported him in his county vehicle to the hospital. He is expected to make a full recovery and return to work soon.

The drones we have purchased with grant money have provided us with continuing success at crime scenes and apprehending criminals. The suspect who shot the MPD officer fled to a convenience store and barricaded himself in the building. Captain Robert Whitmore, the patrol commander and supervisor of our drone unit, responded to the scene as well. He deployed an MCSO drone and was able to assist in quickly locating the wanted felon. The MPD and MCSO worked together to apprehend the suspect, who was found to be suffering from a bullet wound to the leg which occurred during the shootout with MPD officers. I am very pleased with the swift respond of my deputies, assisting the MPD, and the cooperation our agencies enjoy, the utilization of vital law enforcement resources and technology and the swift apprehension of a dangerous criminal.

Sheriff's Message continues on page 2

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The tools and expertise we have at the MCSO is the finest that a law enforcement agency can have. It provides our deputies with safer alternatives, as in this instance searching with a drone was a far safer alternative than using personnel, as this assault suspect had already shown his proclivity for deadly violence against a law enforcement officer. It is my top priority as your Sheriff to ensure my personnel have the tools and resources to keep them as safe as possible, which affords greater public safety to the citizens of Montgomery County.

In the spirit of those going beyond the call of duty, the MCSO recently recognized citizens in Montgomery County that saved the life of a small child. This occurred this past summer at a Montgomery County Town of Pike Road residential neighborhood community pool. A toddler was discovered at the bottom of the neighborhood pool. The child was quickly retrieved from

the water by citizens and lifesaving CPR was administered. Jon Patton, Samantha McCall, Melody Patterson and young Outin Washington (who alerted the adults to the child) all received citizen's awards at a recent Montgomery County Commission meeting. I am happy to report the toddler has made a full recovery.



Sheriff Cunningham presents citizen's awards to Pike Road residents who rescued a small child from drowning and performed lifesaving measures. (L-R) Mayor Gordon Stone, Jon Patton (with son), Samantha McCall, Melody Patterson and Oustin Washington. (Back Row, L-R) Montgomery County Commissioners Dan Harris, Carmen Moore-Zeigler, Rhonda Walker, Isaiah Sankey and Doug Singleton.

In the last quarter of MSQ, we included a publication on the efforts the MCSO has implemented to strengthen our ties with the Asian community in Montgomery County. With the construction of Hyundai Motor Manufacturing in 2005, the Korean population grew substantially. MCSO Sergeant Steven Wallace, a second generation Korean-American, has allowed us to create a strong relationship in the Korean and greater Asian community in Montgomery County.

We are equally proud of the bonds we are forging in the Montgomery County Latino community. In this MSQ publication you will find an article on the great strides we are making in building trust and a continuing

dialogue with Hispanic citizens in Montgomery County. Deputy Nayobi Tea, a school resource officer with our agency, has done a remarkable job in reaching out to this growing population. The MCSO has done an outstanding job of recruiting Latino deputies in the past few years. They are some of the most dedicated and hard-working public servants we have in our agency. The bilingual skills most all of them possess are a great asset to our organization and greatly assist us in community relations and investigating crimes.

Many of the cultural issues within the Latino community often cause hesitation with interaction with law enforcement. Our Latino deputies have educated our members in understanding the fears many Latinos have when dealing with government authority. Unfortunately, many Latinos are victims of theft and violent crime. Montgomery County is no exception. However, when they encounter a Latino deputy who can speak Spanish, many of the trepidations disappear. As I shared with you in the last MSQ publication, Deputy Tea was instrumental in this last summer's MCSO Camp Show-n-Tell. We saw a greater number of Latino children attending the camp. When their parents participated with me, my staff and the children on "Parent's Night" I saw firsthand many of the obstacles we once encountered with the Latino community are beginning to diminish. It is my hope that these efforts will continue to bolster the bonds we have with this important part of Montgomery County.

The MCSO annual Halloween Spooktacular this year was also a great success. We made some changes this year by creating two lanes of traffic in the Coliseum parking

lot, and stationing our partners and vendors in the center, allowing twice the traffic to flow through the event. As you are aware, safety is our utmost concern at Halloween. MCSO staff and deputies thoroughly plan and coordinate the event and provide the traffic direction in and around Garrett Coliseum. Many of our deputies volunteer for the Spooktacular, as they understand the great importance it plays in our relationship with our community, parents and children. The 2023 Spooktacular aerial photo included in this edition of MSQ illustrates the enormity of the event, and the participation of our partners and citizens is most appreciated.



The MCSO Explorer Unit members were some of the many volunteers that participated in the 2023 Spooktacular. I am very pleased with the strides we have made since restructuring our explorer program in 2022. We have increased our explorer numbers and involved them in a great number of MCSO community activities. This past September we held the second open enrollment for the program and received a great turnout. We presently have 18 explorers in Explorer Unit 2590. Corporal LyTonya Haywood does an outstanding job

of supervising and providing education and training to the explorer unit. Her leadership in guiding these young men and women is displayed in their conduct and the example they set in our community.

They meet twice a month and interact with deputies from the MCSO and become familiarized with the various specializations of our profession, from crime scene investigation, K-9, SWAT, traffic enforcement (motors), the detention facilities, just to name a few. In this edition of MSQ there are stories highlighting two of the explorer leaders in our unit, Cadets Kenyada Hampton and Dannon Morgan. What makes me very proud is the fact both of these young men have set a goal and wish to become MCSO deputies one day. I have always been a big proponent of recruiting people at an early age so they may develop an interest, as I did, in law enforcement. Some of our present deputies, Lieutenant David Alford and Corporal Jordan Ivey were MCSO explorers many years ago. It is my hope that the MCSO Explorer Unit will continue to serve as a conduit to career-minded young people to join the MCSO.

This past November we held a three-week jail management course at the MCSO training facility. Several law enforcement agencies from throughout the State of Alabama attended the course, taught by members of the Montgomery County Detention Facility staff. The State of Alabama presently requires 10 weeks of training for state correctional officers employed in state correctional facilities, however, there is no similar mandatory training requirement for county or municipal jail correctional officers. Implementing comprehensive correctional training for local law enforcement agencies

in the correctional profession is one of the next great challenges facing the law enforcement profession. Jail operations can be one of the most challenging concerns for an agency leader. Most all of my colleagues in law enforcement leadership would agree. The enrollment in the MCSO jail management course has greatly increased. We have scheduled three course for 2024. I plan on addressing and educating the public more about this important issue in future MSQ publications.



Correctional officers from throughout the state graduating from the MCSO Jail Management Course

In the final quarter of 2023, the MCSO implemented an incentive for inmates to practice good conduct by allowing them visitation with their children at Christmas. Many inmates successfully participated in the program. As a reward for good conduct, and during this special visitation, the MCSO provided stuffed toys for the visiting children and coffee mugs for the accompanying adults. In the near future the detention facility will implement a program incorporated from the National Sheriff's Association called I.G.N.I.T.E. - Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education. My staff is currently undergoing training and planning for this program, which offers inmates comprehensive education, job certification and post-incarceration work opportunities. We will be sharing more with you on this initiative when it launches in 2024. It is one of my

administration goals to reduce recidivism and provide opportunities for inmates reentering our community.

The upcoming 2024 Alabama legislative session, as all gatherings by our state lawmakers, will be an important one. Many of the recent guns laws in Alabama are beginning to create questions and concerns within the law enforcement community. Presently, there is no Alabama law prohibiting the possession of a firearm on the campus of a school in Alabama. Recently I challenged my colleagues with this dilemma (numerous law enforcement officials and district attorneys). They, like me, were amazed at the fact that an armed citizen could enter a school in Alabama, public or private, and cannot be charged with a crime. To pardon a cliché, but it is my fear that the ‘law of unintended consequences’ may fall upon us if the gun laws aren’t improved or modified in Alabama. If this does not occur, unfortunately, it has been my experience that the larger counties and municipalities (populations) will be the first to suffer.

This past holiday season was a very busy time for us. On Thanksgiving Day, the MCSO sponsored two traditional holiday meals for the Friendship Mission’s men and women’s shelters. The food was prepared and served by members of the MCSO staff. We were honored to have Judge Johnny Harwick, the presiding judge for the Alabama 15th Judicial Circuit, and Montgomery County Commissioner Carmen Moore-Ziegler, her husband and daughter, and Chairman Doug Singleton help serve the residents of the men’s shelter. We had great food and fellowship. It was an honor and a privilege to take time out of our holiday to bring some comfort and cheer to those less fortunate. Christmas was an equally rewarding time for those of us at the MCSO.

This past annual MCSO Christmas Angel Tree was a tremendous success. Many Montgomery County and MCSO employees selected over 40 ornaments with requests for clothing, gifts and hygiene products for those residents with Aid to Inmate Mothers, Abner House, and Friendship Mission. We also accepted monetary donations to the MCSO Foundation that assisted in providing Christmas gifts and needs for those individuals who are rebuilding their lives. AIM, Aid to Inmate Mothers, is an Alabama organization that provides services to incarcerated women, provides opportunities for child visitation, and a post-prison resident system that helps mothers reunite with their children after incarceration. You can learn more about it at their website: <https://inmatemoms.org/>.



Sheriff Cunningham and the MCSO staff with Aid to Inmate Mothers providing Christmas gifts during the holiday season.



Sheriff Cunningham and members of the MCSO volunteer to provide a traditional Thanksgiving meal to residents of the Faith Rescue Mission Men’s Shelter in Montgomery. The ladies shelter also participated. Funding was provided by the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office Foundation, a non-profit that provides programs and outreach for citizens of Montgomery County



Sheriff Cunningham and members of the MCSO staff serve a Christmas dinner to the residents of the Friendship Mission Men's Shelter. The food was funded with the MCSO Foundation. The residents were also provided gifts from the Montgomery County employees who donated clothing and other items throughout the annual MCSO Christmas Angel Tree charity.

The Abner House founder is Ms. Buena Browder, a well-known Montgomery County resident. Ms. Browder's vision was to provide a shelter for female military veterans. The home, started in 2021, is named in honor of her father, Abner F. White, a World War I veteran. Ms. Browder's family has a long history of military service; two brothers served in the U.S. Navy and Air Force, her sister was one of the last members of the U.S. Army Women's Army Corps (WACs) and her son was also a U.S. Army veteran. We were very honored for the MCSO Christmas Angel Tree to host these fine organizations this past holiday season. I was also able to stop by the Kershaw YMCA on Christmas Eve day as Santa Clause and enjoy time with children and their families excited about the big day! It is one of the most enjoyable things I do.

In this publication you will see a photograph of when I hosted a gathering of business and government leaders to tour our training facility and experience the technology the MCSO invests in. My guests were part of the group I spent quite a bit of

time with throughout 2022 when I attended Leadership Alabama. At the end of the session, the members agreed to maintain contact with one another in the future. I believe the strong relationships that we forge should be maintained throughout our lifetime. Members of my Leadership Alabama session have agreed to stay in touch and meet regularly.



Sheriff Cunningham meets with business and government leaders from throughout Alabama to discuss law enforcement technology and educational programs and the funding required to properly train deputies and officers in advanced and modern day techniques.



Sheriff Cunningham and the MCSO staff and Abner House helping provide Christmas gifts for military veterans during the holiday season.

Another worthy organization that the MCSO members support and volunteer their own time to assist with is Habitat for Humanity Montgomery. As you are aware, Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for home ownership to low-income families. This past month several MCSO members helped paint and rehabilitate a home for a new homeowner. Mr. Mark Hall, the Executive Director, and Mr. Cedric Varner, the Community Outreach Coordinator, supplied the paint, materials and breakfast! We were able to complete the indoor painting of the entire home in one morning due to the abundant MCSO volunteers. The new soon-to-be homeowner stopped by and was most appreciative of our contribution and time.



Sheriff Cunningham and the MCSO staff assist Montgomery Habitat for Humanity with home renovations for a future Montgomery County homeowner. (Photo courtesy of the Montgomery Independent)

The many programs highlighted in this publication of MSQ, from the Halloween Spooktacular, holiday meals and gift giving, are all possible through the charitable foundation that I created a few years ago. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation supports a wide range of community programs throughout the year; fishing rodeos, deputy in the park day, youth summer camp, in addition to supporting our employees. The support we

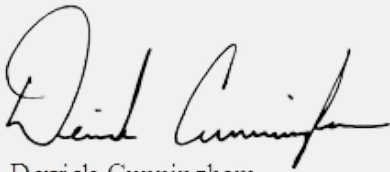
have received from corporations and individuals in the community has been very encouraging. As we move forward, and the popularity of the foundation grows, we will need even more community support in order to grow the programs we sponsor. As the chairman of the board, I am fortunate to have outstanding partners and fellow board members; Representative Reed Ingram, Commissioner Dan Harris, Councilman Oronde K. Mitchell, Mr. Ashley Aaron, Mr. Brad Armagost, Captain James Dill and Corporal Issac Forbes. If you are interested in contributing to this worthwhile effort that gives back to our community, you may send a donation to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation at 115 S. Perry St., Montgomery, AL 36104. Your contributions are tax deductible.



Sheriff Cunningham as Santa Clause stops by the Kershaw YMCA on Christmas Eve day. The Sheriff makes several stops throughout Montgomery County during the Christmas season visiting children and their families.

In closing, I wish you, your family and friends a safe and prosperous new year. As always, my office is always open to you and your needs. Thank you for instilling the confidence in me to continue providing public safety for the citizens of Montgomery County. It is an enduring and passionate goal of mine to serve each and every one of you.

Sincerely,



Derrick Cunningham
Sheriff



BRIDGING THE GAP IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

DEPUTY NAYOBI TEA

In a society characterized by diversity, the presence of Latino law enforcement officers who actively listen and validate the concerns of the Latino community holds immense significance. I am grateful for the opportunity to be making a difference as a Latina officer, in the representation, cultural understanding, and bridging the gap between law enforcement and marginalized communities.

Representation and cultural empowerment play a pivotal role in Hispanic communities when Latino law enforcement officers are present—it sends a powerful message to the community that their voices, experience, and concerns are valued and respected. To see individuals from their own background in positions of authority within law enforcement instills a sense of pride, trust, and confidence. It empowers community members to come forward, report crimes and seek assistance, knowing that their concerns will not be overlooked or disregarded.

Latino law enforcement officers bring a profound advantage with their cultural understanding and relatability in the way they understand cultural differences. They possess an inherent understanding of the challenges, traditions, and nuances of the Latino community, allowing for effective communication and empathy. This cultural connection enables Latino officers to recognize and address the specific concerns faced by the community, such as language barriers, immigration issues, and cultural sensitivities. By actively listening and being aware of these concerns, Latino officers can foster an environment where community members feel understood, respected, and supported.

Historically, law enforcement agencies have faced significant challenges in building trust within the Latino community due to negative experiences such as racial profiling and abuse of power, sometimes resulting in mistrust with law enforcement. However, the presence of Latino law enforcement officers offers an opportunity to break down these stereotypes and build bridges of trust. The positive benefits of Latino officers serving as ambassadors, role models, and advocates to establish positive relationships between the community and law enforcement is immeasurable. This can be accomplished by engaging in respectful interactions, addressing community concerns, and teaching colleagues the importance of these encounters. Latino officers can help dismantle negative perceptions and promote a more inclusive and trusting relationship between law enforcement and the Latino community.

The importance of enhancing communication and community policing is vital to law enforcement efforts. Latino law enforcement officers can play a crucial role in facilitating communications between law enforcement agencies and the Latino community. Their language skills enable them to communicate directly with community members in their native tongue, eliminating language barriers which ensure understanding and accurate reporting. The ability to effectively communicate fosters an open dialogue which encourages community members to come forward with information on crimes and neighborhood activity and facilitates the exchange of valuable interaction. Through community policing initiatives, Latino officers can work collaboratively with citizens to address concerns, educate the public about their rights, and develop proactive strategies to enhance public safety.

The presence of Latino law enforcement officers who listen to the concerns of the Hispanic community is catalyst for positive change through representation, cultural understanding, and effective communication. Latino officers help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community by amplifying their voices and building a lasting trust. By embracing diversity within law enforcement agencies, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society where all communities can feel heard, valued, and protected.





CADET CAPTAIN KENYADA HAMPTON: JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Kenyada Hampton, a respected Cadet Captain within the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Cadet Unit #2590, stands as an example of leadership and dedication. Currently a junior at Dr. Percy Julian High School, Kenyada actively participates in the Air Force JROTC program. The journey into the realm of military ideals commenced through digital platforms like YouTube and TikTok, offering a preliminary glimpse into the world of service and discipline.

The path within the JROTC program was not without its challenges. The competitive environment posed initial hurdles, making it arduous for Kenyada to distinguish himself. However, perseverance and an unwavering commitment to growth and excellence caught the eye of an instructor who recognized his potential. This recognition led to his induction into the prestigious KHAS honor society, starting a series of significant achievements. Kenyada assumed pivotal roles as a JROTC co-commander and earned distinctions within the unit, solidifying his position as a leader with remarkable promise.

Similarly, the MCSO cadet program offered Kenyada a transformative perspective on law enforcement. Initially unsure of his capacity to lead, the unexpected appointment as a captain challenged him personally. Nevertheless, the trust placed in Kenyada by the MCSO cadet unit advisors provided the impetus to embrace responsibilities wholeheartedly. This journey fostered personal growth and a profound sense of belonging within the cadet unit, evolving into a familial bond among colleagues.

Looking ahead, Kenyada's aspirations post-high school reflect a clear alignment with service and dedication. His ambition to serve at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office as a full-time employee cadet, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Alabama State University, underscores a commitment to professional and educational growth. This educational foundation will set the stage for plans, including attendance at the police academy and the eventual realization of becoming a sworn deputy for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Amidst the achievements and aspirations, Kenyada's journey has not been devoid of challenges. The clash between personal values and peer pressure has sometimes led to feelings of isolation. Maintaining principled standards also brought about instances of verbal harassment, yet Kenyada stood firm, refusing to compromise his character for the sake of conformity.

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The initial attraction with the MCSO cadet unit stemmed from exposure to a flyer circulated by an AFJROTC instructor. This ignited his interest that blossomed during orientation, fostering a passion for the program and the law enforcement profession.

Remaining committed to the cadet program was largely influenced by the unwavering support of instructors, fellow cadets, and the staff of the MCSO. This consistent support network not only offered guidance but also instilled a sense of belonging and security within the unit.

Amidst numerous interactions and relationships within the MCSO cadet program, one figure stands out: Corporal L. Haywood, the cadet unit head advisor. Kenyada deeply admires Corporal Haywood's unwavering dedication and astute management of the cadet unit. Beyond professional duties, Corporal Haywood's readiness to offer support and guidance, even beyond the call of duty, left an indelible mark on Kenyada, solidifying a profound and enduring connection.

In summary, Kenyada Hampton's journey through the JROTC and MCSO cadet programs stands as a testament to resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to service. His aspirations for a future career in law enforcement, complemented by a strong educational foundation, reflects a clear trajectory toward making a meaningful contribution to his community and society at large.



CADET LIEUTENANT DANNON MANGUM:

A RISING LEADER

Dannon Mangum is a Cadet Lieutenant with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Cadet Unit #2590. He is a senior at Dr. Percy Julian High School, where he has excelled not only academically, but also in his roles within the school community. As a member of the JROTC program, he has embraced the responsibilities and challenges that come with being a leader in this prestigious organization. He is different from any other

average high school student. While many students are focused on academics and social activities, he has set himself apart as a young person with a clear vision and a strong sense of purpose.

His journey to becoming a leader in the JROTC program was not without its challenges. Like many teenagers, he initially struggled with self-doubt and uncertainty about his capabilities. However, through the encouragement of his peers and mentors, he found the confidence to step into leadership roles and make a positive impact within the unit. His determination and perseverance have been key qualities that have propelled me forward in his journey as a leader.

In the JROTC program, he has taken on various roles, each of which has contributed to his growth and development as a leader. These roles have given him a sense of purpose and belonging within the JROTC program, allowing him to hone his leadership skills in a structured and supportive environment.

In October of 2022, Dannon decided to join the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Cadet Unit #2590. He was promoted to a leadership position because of how well he conducted himself. He is a young man who is well-known for his integrity and creativity. As a cadet, he has been responsible for organizing and leading drills, mentoring junior cadets, and representing the unit at various school events.

He was initially attracted to the MCSO Cadet Unit #2590 because of its reputation for fostering leadership, discipline, and camaraderie among its members. The unit's focus on law enforcement and instilling core values such as integrity and accountability resonated with him, drawing him to become a part of this esteemed organization. The structured environment and the opportunity to develop essential life skills were what initially drew him to the MCSO Cadet Unit #2590.

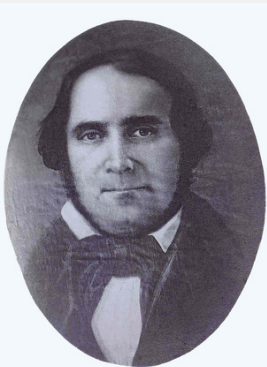
Once Dannon became a part of the MCSO Cadet Unit #2590, he found himself immersed in a community of like-minded individuals who shared his passion for service and leadership. The camaraderie and shared sense of purpose within the unit were instrumental in solidifying his commitment to staying involved and making a meaningful contribution. The sense of belonging and the opportunity for personal growth energized him, motivating him to remain an active member of the MCSO Cadet Unit #2590.

The relationships Dannon has formed with his fellow cadets, advisors, staff members, and even command staff including those at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, have been a cornerstone of his experience in the program. These relationships have provided invaluable support, mentorship, and guidance as he navigates the challenges and opportunities within the program. The bond of camaraderie among the cadets and the guidance from the staff members have been essential in shaping his journey as a leader and a young person with a clear vision for his future.

His dedication, leadership, and aspirations set him apart as a remarkable young individual within the community. His journey as a leader in the JROTC program and in the MCSO Cadet Unit #2590 has not only shaped his character and aspirations but also served as an inspiration to his peers and those around him. As he looks ahead to the future, his unwavering commitment to service and leadership will undoubtedly propel him toward achieving his goals and making a positive impact in the world.

Looking beyond high school, he has set ambitious goals for himself. He aspires to enlist part-time in the United States Air Force National Guard and pursue a full-time career in Law Enforcement as a Deputy Sheriff for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. His experience in the JROTC program and the MCSO Cadet Unit #2590 has solidified his passion for serving his country and county.

A HISTORICAL REFLECTION: SHERIFF CAFFEY



Hugh Patrick Caffey was the seventh sheriff of Montgomery County, Alabama. He was quite young, 27 years old, when he was elected sheriff in 1835. Caffey was born October 27, 1807 in Guilford County, North Carolina. At a young age he moved to Georgia. In 1817, his family moved to Montgomery County, Alabama, and then relocated to Lowndesboro in 1822. His father, Thomas Caffey, who eventually settled in Ramer, Alabama, was a farmer who lived to be 94 years old.

Caffey married Jane Caroline Dunklin in 1830. They had six children. Records show that he was the coroner in Hayneville, Alabama in 1832,

and at one time a deputy sheriff in Lowndes County, Alabama. Around 1835 he moved his family to Montgomery, where he was elected sheriff. He served one term (at that time, under the Alabama Constitution, Section 138, Alabama sheriffs could not serve consecutive terms. In 1938 this was ratified by Amendment 35, which allowed sheriffs to be their successors).

Sheriff Caffey is listed in historical records as a “planter and sheriff.” In 1847, he died when he was only 39 years old, and is buried in the Masonic section of Oakwood Cemetery in Montgomery.

Present historical records during the early years of Montgomery County are quite scarce. The MCSO is committed to finding historical information on our agency and the sheriffs that have served the citizens of Montgomery County. If our readers are aware of historical biographical facts of past Montgomery County sheriffs, please contact Chief Deputy Kevin Murphy at kmurphy@mc-ala.org.

PROMOTIONS



Sheriff Cunningham presents Captain Robbie Whitmore with his promotion. Captain Whitmore will assume command of the MCSO Patrol Division.



Sheriff Cunningham with new Lieutenant Jeffery D. Gourline



Sheriff Cunningham presents Lieutenant David Alford with his promotion.



Sheriff Cunningham with new MCDF Sergeant Shaquille Johnson.

NEW DEPUTIES SWORN IN

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham administered the oath of office to new Deputy Sheriffs
(L-R) Eric L. Dunn, Jermyius O. Young, Leon V. McCord, IV



COSA OFFERS SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICES AT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH DETENTION FACILITY

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has had excellent working partnership with the Council on Substance Abuse Substance (COSA) for several years. COSA has provided services to inmate in the Montgomery County Detention Facility for several years. The drug education and awareness program has made many strides with inmates and has reduced recidivism and assisted individuals in obtaining employment and turning their lives around.

COSA also serves juveniles in the Montgomery County Youth Detention Facility. Youth who receive these intervention services are provided with The Seven Challenges – Brief Therapy model. The Seven Challenges – Brief, also known as Brief Challenges, is the brief therapy version of The Seven Challenges, which is listed on SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.

The Seven Challenges is a comprehensive counseling program for young people that incorporates work on alcohol and other drug problems. It is designed to motivate youth to evaluate their lives, consider changes they may wish to make, and then succeed in implementing the desired changes. It supports them in taking power over their own lives.

In The Seven Challenges, young people address their drug problems, their co-occurring life skill deficits, and their

situational and psychological problems. Although counselors in the program provide a structure for groups and a framework for individual sessions, the content of each session is exceptionally flexible, in response to the immediate needs of youth. It is not pre-scripted.

Youth who receive these treatment services are provided with The Seven Challenges treatment curriculum, which is designed specifically for adolescents with drug problems, to motivate a decision and commitment to change and to support success in implementing the desired changes. The Seven Challenges program simultaneously helps young people address their drug problems as well as their co-occurring life skill deficits, situational problems, and psychological problems.

Brief Challenges is designed to serve three functions:

- Assessment of drug and co-occurring problems, with feedback to youth
- Brief treatment for drug problems
- Support in responding to external pressures for abstinence.

These sessions can stand alone or serve as an entry point to more services for youth who may want, or need, to receive additional counseling once committed to the Alabama Department of Youth Services, or in a clinical private setting if

placed on probation. As one can see, the MCSO encourages treatment and education programs in our detention facilities in order to reduce reoffending and building pathways inspiring individuals to a more productive and lawful abiding lifestyle.



**COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE
ABUSE-NCADD**
828 FOREST AVENUE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36106

**HOPE RECOVERY
COMMUNITY CENTER**
3447 MCGEEHILL ROAD, SUITE F
MONTGOMERY, AL 36111

PHONE: (334) 262-1629
Recovery Support: (334) 262-7477
E-MAIL: info@cosancadd.org



*Sheriff Cunningham and Captain
Whitmore with Deputy Fernandus
Edwards*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2023 DEPUTY OF THE 4TH QUARTER DEPUTY FERNANDUS EDWARDS

On November 15, 2023, at approximately 0609 hours, Deputy Fernandus Edwards was leaving an off-duty job. While traveling on Day Street, he noticed a red model Ford F-350 that matched the description of a stolen vehicle. Deputy Edwards conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle was occupied by three individuals. Numerous stolen lawn equipment items were located in plain sight. It was later determined that all three suspects were involved in the thefts and were charged accordingly. Several located in the vehicle were confirmed to have been stolen during a

burglary in Lowndes County. Due to Deputy Edwards' vigilance and attention to detail, several felony crimes were solved. Deputy Edwards is the 2023 MCSO Deputy of the 4th Quarter.



*Sheriff Cunningham and Captain Persky
with Deputy Nygeon Thomas.*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2023 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR DEPUTY NYGEON THOMAS

On May 18, 2023, Deputy Nygeon Thomas, a school resource officer at Pike Road High School, noticed a student who appeared depressed and was remaining separated from their peers. Deputy Thomas was compelled to interact with the student, eventually gaining the student's trust. Deputy Thomas reached out to the school counselor regarding the situation, and after obtaining

background information, was able to convince the student to open up to him and the school staff about a possible assault that occurred in another jurisdiction. Deputy Thomas was insightful, recognizing that the student was having trouble and taking the initiative to ensure the student's wellbeing. This resulted in the student receiving the help and attention needed. For his care and attention to his students, and going beyond the call of duty, Deputy Thomas is the 2023 MCSO Deputy of the Year.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
2023 CIVILIAN OF THE 4TH QUARTER
CRIME GUN ANALYST CARRIE WATTS

Crime Gun Analyst Carrie Watts has shown exemplary performance and dedication in her role as an analyst for the MCSO. Her commitment to excellence has contributed to the success of our efforts in solving and preventing violent crimes. This past year Carrie successfully completed her certification in her field of study with the Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and graduated in the top of her class.



Sheriff Cunningham and Captain Pollard with Crime Gun Analyst Carrie Watts

Her meticulous examination of ballistic evidence, particularly in identifying patterns and connections between cases, has proven instrumental in advancing our criminal investigations. Carrie's attention to detail, technical proficiency, and ability to utilize the capabilities of the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) program have not only facilitated the resolution of numerous cases but have also enhanced our overall capacity to address firearm-related crimes effectively.

Her work has had a positive impact on the safety and well-being of our community. CGA Carrie Watts is the 2023 MCSO Civilian of the 4th Quarter.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
2023 CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR KYRIUS SCOTT

On June 5, 2023, at 4:56 pm, ECO Kyrius Scott received a 911 call from an address in Cecil, Alabama. The complainant advised that his son was on some type of narcotic and was acting as if he would harm himself and others. Dispatcher Scott was able to get the name and information of the subject, who had an active felony murder warrant with the Montgomery Police Department. Dispatcher Scott was able to notify units of the information and obtain a copy of the warrant. After getting the complainant back on the

telephone, Dispatcher Scott was able to notify the units on the scene of what the suspect was wearing and his movements in the area. This information helped the law enforcement officers with an operational plan. While this was occurring, Dispatcher Scott was also handling multiple 911 calls from a major traffic accident on Troy Highway which involved several injured and entrapped occupants. With all the activity, Dispatcher Scott was able to remain calm and focused on the task at hand. Dispatcher Scott's attention to detail and ability to multitask during several serious incidents while under stress shows her commitment to serving the citizens of Montgomery County. Dispatcher Scott's actions assisted law enforcement in taking a dangerous individual into custody. Dispatcher Kyrius Scott is the 2023 MCSO Civilian of the Year.



*Sheriff Cunningham and Major
Douglass with Emergency
Communications Operator
Kyrius Scott*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY 2023 CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE 4TH QUARTER OFFICER KYLIA EMERSON



Officer Kylia Emerson joined THE MCDF in November 2020. Kylia has proven to be a dedicated officer with a strong ethical stance toward providing “100%” of herself each time she reports for duty. With a no-nonsense demeanor, Officer Emerson works in her assigned areas with maintaining order as her main focus. She meets the challenges every time and volunteers for tours of duty when a squad is short-staffed. Being attentive while working overtime, Officer Emerson discovered several inmates attempting to assault an individual by using others to shield the incident. Officer Emerson was able to announce the code and identify the culprits involved. Eager

to assist, Officer Emerson reports to booking frequently to aid supervisors in processing individuals. Officer Carter is the 2023 Officer of the 4th Quarter.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY
2023 CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ASSISTANT PAKETA MAYS**

Administrative Support Assistant Paketa Mays is the MCDF 2023 Civilian of the Year. She has worked for the detention facility for 13 years and has consistently exhibited a positive outlook each day she reports for work. She greets each civilian visiting the facility with professional courtesy and always asked if there is anything else needed before she departs from work. Regardless of where she is assigned, Clerk Mays has the ability to work front reception, booking, mailroom and the administrative detail if needed. Clerk Mays is vital to ensuring the day-to-day business is conducted without delay. Clerks Mays is a exemplary example of professionalism and is the MCDF 2023 Civilian of the Year.



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY
2023 CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR
SERGEANT PORSHYLYNN REED**

In August 2016 Porshylynn Reed joined the Montgomery County Detention Facility. With hard work and diligence, she became Sergeant Porshylynn Reed. On April 22, 2023, with the same diligence, Sergeant Reed conducted a search of a housing unit after fellow officers reported the strong smell of tobacco in one of the housing areas. Sergeant Reed, along with several correctional officers, reported to the housing unit to conduct a cell search. While tracing the tobacco odor, not only did the officers discover the individuals smoking but Sergeant Reed discovered three shanks (weapons) inside a cell. Sergeant Reed continued to search and found medication an inmate was hoarding inside of a mattress.



*Sheriff Cunningham and Colonel
Pritchett with Sergeant
Porshylynn Reed*

Sergeant Reed represents a true example of diligence and dedication to getting the job done. Sergeant Reed strong work ethics is visibly displayed each day she reports for duty. She is the 2023 MCDF Correctional Officer of the Year.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY
2023 CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR
JUVENILE DETENTION OFFICER VICTOR BLACK**

Juvenile Detention Officer Victor Black is a 17-year veteran with the Montgomery County Youth Detention Facility. He is dedicated to training new officers and has developed the admiration of his peers. Due to his extensive experience with the Department of Youth Services, he directly contributes his experience, skills and knowledge in juvenile justice by offering suggestions and strategies in operational practices for the MCJDF.

Aside from his willingness to train, JDO Black is an extremely hardworking and dedicated officer. He completes all necessary tasks given with the most logical conclusions. Furthermore, his negotiation and crisis de-escalation

techniques have proven to be effective, as evidenced by a recent security breach where he was instrumental in returning several juveniles back to their cells without the use of force. It is without reservation that he deserves to be awarded the recognition of the 2023 MCSO Juvenile Detention Officer of the Year.



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY
2023 CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
FOOD SERVICE MANAGER VIDA WILSON**

Food Service Manager Vida Wilson has served in the culinary division for the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention Facility for approximately 10 years. Throughout her tenure, she has been instrumental in upgrading daily menus, making sure the facility is in compliance with child nutrition laws, not to mention maintaining a facility kitchen score of 100 with the Alabama Department of Public Health for over a decade.

When the county is in need of her services, “Ms. Vida” (as she is affectionately known) happily provides food for most major events. Additionally, Ms. Wilson volunteers with community related events sponsored by the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, where she serves with a smile and with integrity. It is without reservation that she deserves to be awarded this recognition of the 2023 MCSO Juvenile Detention Civilian of the Year.



Sheriff Cunningham and Dr. Holmes with Food Service Manager Vida Wilson



SHERIFF'S AWARD: CORPORAL ISSAC FORBES

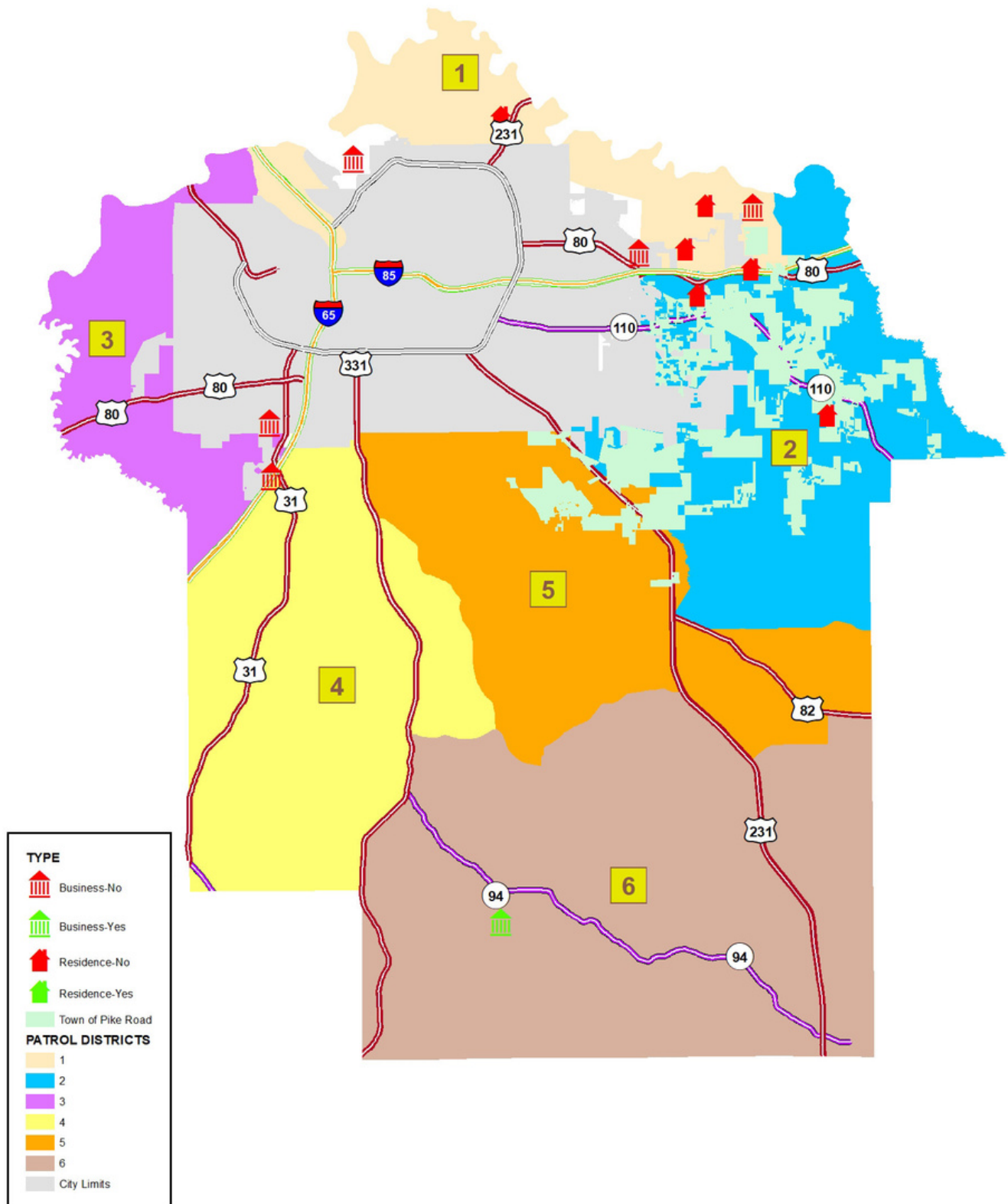
Sheriff Cunningham and Major Douglass with Corporal Issac Forbes, recipient of the Sheriff's Award for Continued Dedication and Exemplary Service



UNIT CITATION AWARD: MCDF EXTRACTION TEAM

Sheriff Cunningham with members of the MCDF Extraction Team (L-R) Sergeant Shaquille Johnson, Captain Carlos Parks and Corporal Nekia Key. The E-Team received a unit citation for their numerous efforts in locating contraband in the detention facility.

MCSO Burglary Statistics 4th Quarter 2023



2023 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 4TH QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS



Denard, Saquavion W
S.McDonough St.
Promot. Prison Cntrbn/Asslt2



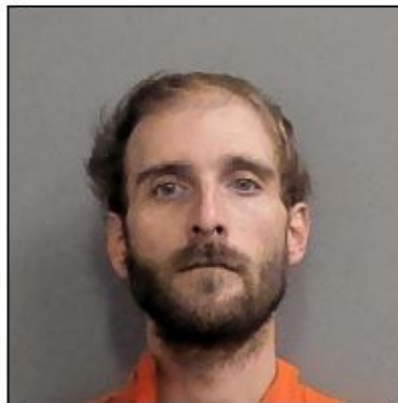
Dudley, Terell
Day St.
Obst. Just. False I.D.



Dukes, Jordan A.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



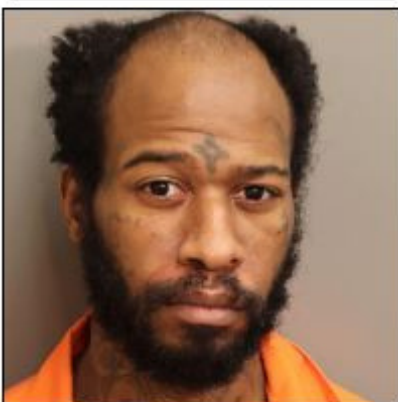
Edwards, Christopher
Federal Dr.
Certain Persons Forb. Firearm



Ellis, James E.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Frost, Jarvis T.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



German, Jaimie Q.
S.McDonough St.
Assault 2



Harris, Flanzzy Jr.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Hawkins, Reginald Jr.
S. McDonough St.
Assault 2

2023 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 4TH QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS



Adams, Brandon Keith
Butler Mill Rd
Certain Persons Forb. Firearm



Alkire, William M.
Lower Hanche Mill Rd.
Burg 3 / Crim. Mis. 1st



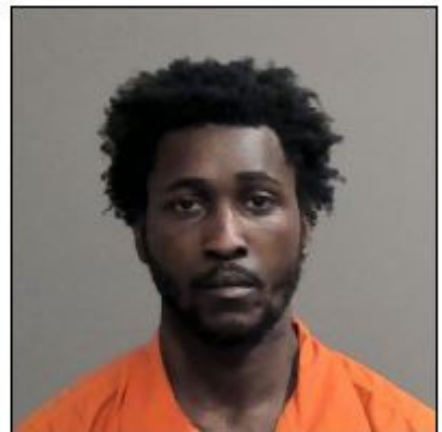
Allen, Anthony D.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Baker, Noah Jr.,
Cedar Creek
U.B.E.V. / TOP 1



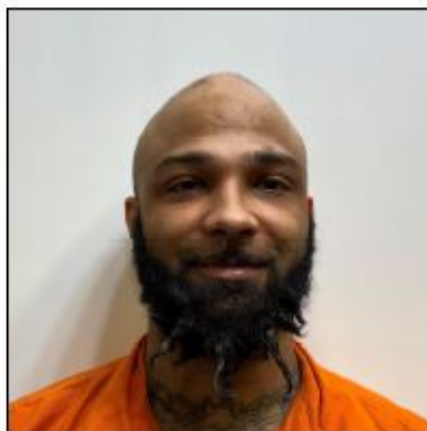
Brown, Thomas IV
Gibbs / Antioch
Attempt. Elude



Coley, Key Darine
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Colvin, Arthur
S. McDonough St.
Prom. Prison Cntrnd/Asslt2

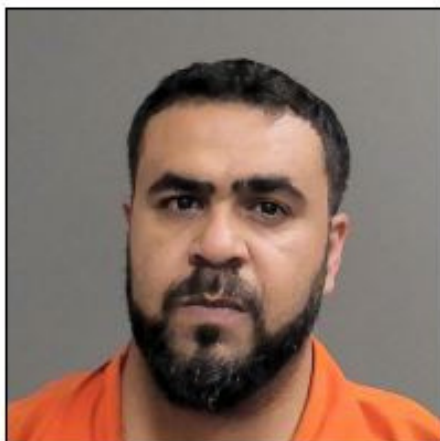


Conway, Michael T.
S.McDonough St.
Assault 2



Cortese, Hannah M.
Lower Hanche Mill Rd.
Burg 3 / Crim. Mis. 1st

2023 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 4TH QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS



Hazama, Malik R.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Johnson, Leon B.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Jones, Quentin L.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Jordan, Matthew O
E.S. Blvd.
Certain Persons Forb. Firearm



Lopez-Vicente, Jesus Alejan.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Lusco, Robert A
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Matthews, Charveon M.
I-85
R.S.P. 1/Att. Elude



Miller, Jalen K
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Savage, Altwan J.
S. McDonough St.
Assault 2nd

2023 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 4TH QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS



Smith, Andre C.
Ingleside Way
Certain Persons Forb. Firearm



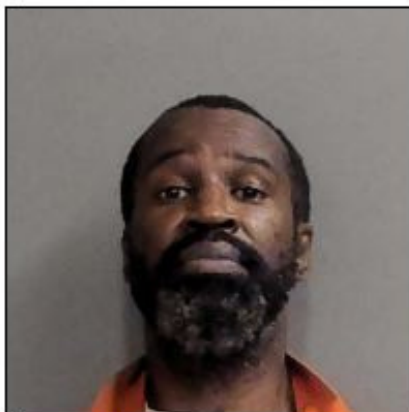
Sowell, Jeffrey L.
Williams Dr.
D.V. Strangulation



Thronton, Dexter H
Troy Hwy.
Attempt to Elude



Timmons, Johnny L.
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Walker, Dwight L. Jr.
S. McDonough St.
Dest. Property / Inmate



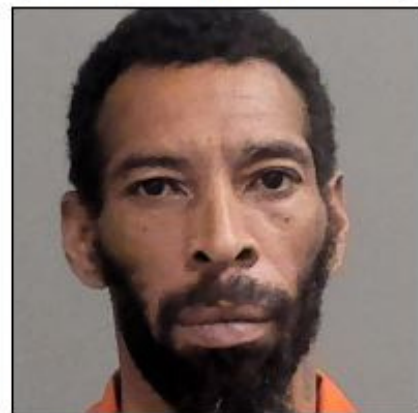
Walker, Al'Shon T
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child



Warren, Jermery D.
Mitchell Young Rd.
Attemp. Elude/Poss. Con. Sub



West, Jerry D.
Wares Ferry Rd.
Certain Persons Forb. Firearm



West, Earnest Jr.
Day St.
R.S.P. 1

2023 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 4TH QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS



Whisenant, Tyeshia L.
S. McDonough St.
Dest. Property / Inmate



Willis, Jonderrius Q.
S. McDonough St.
Dest. Property / Inmate



Wright, Charity
Mont Hotel
H.T 1st/Elec Child/Trvl Child

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To:

Place
Postage
Here

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

