

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY

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A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM



The new year has brought a lot of opportunities and challenges to our agency and the law enforcement community nationwide and in Alabama. I am encouraged with the present legislation making its way through the Alabama House of Representatives and Senate. There are several bills, some of which have already been passed and signed into law by Governor Ivey, that are part of a public safety proposals called the "Safe Alabama Package" that stands behind law enforcement. These bills are very encouraging to the law enforcement profession, and I am most grateful to the state legislators and Governor Ivey in their support of law enforcement.

One particular bill, now a law, bans the possession of an automatic "switch" device that allows a semi-automatic pistol to be converted into a fully automatic weapon. A federal law (already) prohibits this; however, it was necessary to provide local law enforcement with the tools necessary to address this growing problem. Seeking a federal warrant is often times too cumbersome and time consuming. Local law enforcement officials needed a state law to enforce.

Pistols with "switch" devices, are types of dangerous illegal automatic weapons that are becoming too common in large cities. Birmingham, Montgomery and Mobile are no exception, but smaller communities are affected too. Homicides with multiple victims are occurring due to the deadly capacity of these "switch" devices. Hundreds, or perhaps thousands of rounds may be fired at one scene. The results are often quite tragic, with multiple casualties. A deadly mass shooting in Tuskegee, Alabama that occurred last November injured 16 and killed one person during the homecoming celebration for Tuskegee University. A "switch" device was used in the

shooting. Four suspects have been charged. This new state law will allow local law enforcement to quickly act, arresting the perpetrators of these crimes and removing these dangerous weapons from our streets.

The Back the Blue Protection Act signed by Governor Ivey shields a law enforcement officer from lawsuits while in the performance of their duty unless he or she was acting “recklessly without law enforcement justification.” This law augments the qualified immunity legal doctrine that protects law enforcement officers while engaging in official acts. The Officer Impersonation Prevention Act was also signed into law that broadened the existing crime of “impersonating a peace officer” to include those ineligible to serve in law enforcement, knowing that their Alabama Peace Officers’ Standards and Training Commission certification has been revoked or suspended. The new law [now] makes it a felony for a former law enforcement official (that has lost their APOSTC certification) to engage in peace officer activity.

The Law Enforcement Dependent Scholarship is designed to boost recruitment and retention in law enforcement by providing financial assistance for college tuition and associated expenses to eligible dependents of long-serving law enforcement officers. The Inner-City Gun Violence Act expands the “certain persons forbidden” law to include any individuals with any prior felony conviction unless they have their gun rights restored by a pardon. This law has provisions for pretrial diversion, increases the penalties for shooting into occupied dwellings and parole/probation revocation.

Further legislation this year is Aniah’s Law Enhancement Constitutional Amendment that aligns with the changes in the Inner-City Violence Gun Violence Act. The Juvenile Accountability and Monitoring Act will provide electronic monitoring of high-risk juveniles released by a juvenile court. The Metro Area Crime Suppression Budget Proposal includes \$3 million in recurring appropriations supporting a permanent, 24-man suppression unit (this will greatly support the efforts of the MCSO and the local Metro Area Crime Suppression Unit).

It is my desire that these laws will give all law enforcement officers the tools needed to make our communities safer in combating crime, providing a deterrence, and instilling accountability toward offenders by increased prisons terms (for the most violent criminals). During each legislative session, I frequently travel to the Alabama Statehouse discussing bills with our elected lawmakers. I attend committee meetings and have testified on numerous occasions regarding important legislative matters facing our state. The Alabama Sheriff’s Association and National Sheriff’s Association, of which I am very involved with, are a positive presence in

shaping the laws of our state and nation. The strength the Alabama sheriffs share in our unity with these organizations ensures that law enforcement has a voice during the legislative process and ensures public safety is a priority for state and federal legislatures and our communities.

Speaking of the Alabama Sheriff’s Association, I was honored at this past ASA winter conference in Birmingham with an unexpected award, in recognition of exemplary service and dedication as an Aide-de-Camp. My longtime friend and retired Sheriff Huey “Hoss” Mack, now the executive director of the ASA, honored me with this



designation. I have been involved with the ASA for many years and have taken every opportunity to volunteer and participate in leadership efforts to promote the office of sheriff in Alabama. I am humbled by this acknowledgment, but honestly, I don't do it for recognition; it is a labor of love for me to serve my fellow sheriffs.

Last month the 60th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March was celebrated. This historic moment in our nation's history was precipitated by an Alabama state trooper fatally shooting Jimmie Lee Jackson, a member of a group of peaceful protestors attempting to register voters in Marion, Alabama in February 1965. The following month, in response to Jackson's death, an assembly of 600 people, including civil rights icon John Lewis, attempted to march to Montgomery, and were stopped and attacked by law enforcement, an event that would be known as "Bloody Sunday." A few weeks later, Dr. Martin Luther King led more than 2,000 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, walking 54 miles to Montgomery to advocate voting rights and highlight the racial injustice occurring at that time. Days later, nearly 50,000 supporters gathered with the group at the Alabama Capitol. These events culminated in the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As we all know, Montgomery is the birthplace of Civil Rights due to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Freedom Riders, to name a few events that shaped our nation. Montgomery has a rich legacy in celebrating the struggle for civil rights, and has an abundance of landmarks, museums and historical monuments. Montgomery is home to the Southern Poverty Law Center Civil Rights Memorial Center, Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum, and the Equal Justice Initiative the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park.

Recently I had a conversation with a member of the local media on the impact the MCSO had during the turbulent civil rights era. Many years ago, when I was the chief deputy, I explored our organization's records and discovered many important historical items, to include mugshots and arrest records of icons such as Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Attorney Fred Gray, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and E.D. Nixon, as well as countless other brave men and women that fought for the many freedoms we enjoy today. I have included in this publication of MSQ the photos of some of these items and a historical picture of the 1960 Alabama State University student protest sit in at the Montgomery County Courthouse Café, with the protestors interacting with then Montgomery County Sheriff Mac Sim Butler. The ASU faculty and student body was instrumental during this period, bringing attention to their plight during the civil rights movement. It is my desire that someday a production company will compile these historical records and tell the story of everyday citizens that, although not famous, fought and sacrificed in order to make our world a better place.

The Concerned Citizens Organized for Police Support cCOPs, an organization designed to bring awareness, recognition and support of local and state law enforcement, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery, recently recognized MCSO Corporal Kyle Sage for his digital forensic case work. Corporal Sage has worked closely with federal, state and local agencies in human trafficking cases, and was instrumental in assisting the Alabama Attorney General's office in identifying a suspect that placed an IED explosive device at their office building, and

detonating it in February 2024. Kyle Benjamin Douglas Calvert was convicted in both state and federal court and sentenced to 9 years for malicious use of an explosive device. Corporal Sage is also a member of the National Computer Forensic Institute, the nation's premier law enforcement training on conducting cyber and electronic crime and related threat investigations; computer and mobile device forensic examinations; and network intrusion incidents. Corporal Sage is an asset to our organization and to the law enforcement profession, and as one can see, he is called upon for his expertise in numerous criminal investigations.



ALABAMA

21 - Baycot

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Surname: Given Name: Middle Name: Classification: **21 8 29 W mom 12**
Alias: **2 2 8 W mom**

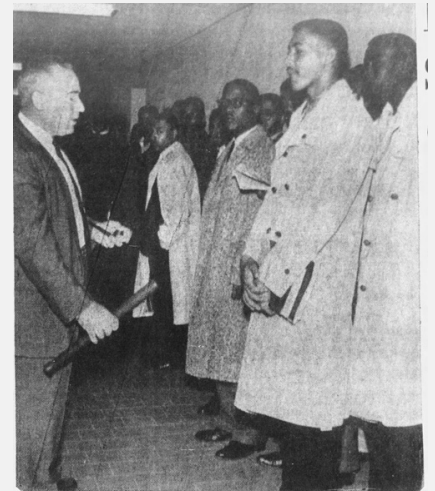
No. **7053** Color: **Negro** Sex: **Female** Reference: **PHOTO**

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Impression taken by: **City of Birmingham** (signature of official taking prints)
Date impression taken: **2-22-56**
Note: **Impressions**
Signature of person fingerprinted: **Rosa Parks**

Four fingers taken simultaneously
Left Hand:
Right Hand:

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD



SHERIFF MAC SIM BUTLER ORDERS NEGROES INTO SINGLE FILE. Students Remained in Hall Outside Courthouse Shack Bar After It Closed.

Rosa Parks arrest photo and finger prints. Alabama State University student protesters interacting with then Montgomery County Sheriff Mac Sim Butler.



January 28, 2025

Sheriff Cunningham speaking at the Montgomery Kiwanis Club



01/28/25

Sheriff Cunningham and Kiwanis Club of Montgomery President Billy Irvine present to Corporal Kyle Sage (center) an award from the Concerned Citizens Organized for Police Support (cCOPs)

I am the past president of the fair board for the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery (Montgomery County Commission Chairman Doug Singleton is the president this year). I have spoken many times of the annual charitable fundraising that our organization provides to nonprofits and civic organizations in Montgomery. Our main fundraiser, and perhaps the largest in the River Region, is the Alabama National Fair, held every year in October. In 2023, the Kiwanis Club raised \$339,000 for local charities. This past year we saw an increase of 1.77%, or \$345,000. I am very proud of my fellow Kiwanians for the hard work and dedication they have shown over the years in this worthwhile effort, and for the citizens that support the Alabama National Fair and the charities that particularly support our children. It is our goal to continue to grow our fundraising in order to give back to our communities.

The Montgomery County Commission recently gave a proclamation to first responders for their efforts during the past two recent serious weather incidents, the snowstorm on January 21st and a tornado that hit south Montgomery County on February 14th. The Montgomery County Engineering Department was also recognized for their efforts in clearing the roadways and assisting citizens impacted by the bad weather. The MCSO works in a cooperative partnership with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, Alabama Department of Transportation, and Alabama Power during serious



01/28/25

The Montgomery County Commission presents a proclamation thanking first responders from the MCSO for their work during the recent tornado and winter snow storms

weather incidents. With this in mind, the MCSO is currently in the development of organizing a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) which educates volunteers about disaster preparedness, specifically for hazards that may occur where they live (for example, a west coast CERT training would prioritize earthquake response, in Alabama, tornado preparedness). CERT training is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is an invaluable asset to communities, particularly in rural settings with volunteer rescue and fire departments that have limited resources and equipment. I will share more with you on the CERT initiative in the near future.

In February we hosted the Leadership Montgomery Legacy Class XLI for Public Service Day. LM President Cheryl Johnson is a great supporter of the MCSO. We presented static displays of law enforcement equipment, discussed how deputies are trained to interact with individuals suffering from mental illness, and advances and developments in law enforcement technology. We also partnered with



February 13, 2025

Sheriff Cunningham gives a presentation to the Leadership Montgomery Legacy Class XLI on Public Service Day

Montgomery County District Attorney Azzie Oliver, who discussed criminal justice issues in Montgomery, and the benefits of the pre-trial program facilitated by her agency. LM guests also toured the Montgomery County Detention Facility and observed a demonstration of the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) restraining a combative inmate (role played by a correctional officer). The LM members were very engaged and asked a lot of questions for a better understanding of the challenges and complexities facing law enforcement. They interacted with many outstanding members of the MCSO and gained new friendships.

Three new MCSO deputies recently graduated from the Montgomery Police Academy after attending the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission minimum standards training course (Class 24-C/3). This is "basic training" for law enforcement officers. In the past few years, the MCSO has been fortunate to hire many APOSTC certified law enforcement officers, however, it is equally important for me to provide young men and women their start in a law enforcement career. The MCSO consistently hires applicants beginning their law enforcement careers and have been blessed with outstanding candidates. Our deputy recruits/students often graduate in the top academic portion of their academy classes and are frequently elected as class leaders. New Deputy Sheriff Michael Harvey was the class president of this most recent session. I was privileged to be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony and spoke to the new members of the law enforcement profession, their families and friends, about the many challenges that await them, and that perseverance, ethics and dedication that will be necessary for them to succeed in their new careers.



February 27, 2025

Sheriff Cunningham administers the oath of office to new Deputy Sheriffs (L-R) Joshua Reid, Seth Crider and Michael Harvey



February 27, 2025

Sheriff Cunningham receives an appreciation award from the MPD Academy staff. (L-R) Chief James Graboys, Sheriff Cunningham, Chief of Staff Jerime Reid, Sergeant K. L. Jacks and Corporal D. I. Deberry

The training of future law enforcement officials also includes our correctional staff. The MCSO recently held a three-week jail management class, Class 25A1 where 28 correctional officers from agencies throughout Alabama attended classes on jail standards, operations, law, administration, ethics, mitigating emergencies, and critical incidents, developing effective strategies, inmate relations, mental health awareness, de-escalation and self-defense tactics.



March 14, 2025 - Jail Management Graduation - Class 25A1

April 13 – 19, 2025 is National Public Safety Telecommunicator’s Week. I wish to recognize the dedication and hard work of the staff in the MCSO Emergency 911 Center. Emergency Communications Operators (ECO) are most often the first person a citizen speaks to when calling for help. ECOs are the critical link between the public and deputies in the field. They have to multitask with answering emergency 911 and administrative calls, receiving and sending radio/dispatch calls, computer entries and inquiries, tracking automated vehicle locator and GIS mapping of units in the field, dispatching volunteer fire department and EMS, coordination of federal, state and local response to major events, just to name just a few of the numerous responsibilities ECOs perform.



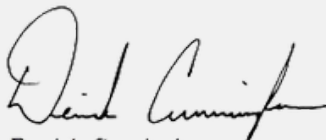
My staff conducts periodic reviews and analysis of agency operations in order to measure the performance and efficiency throughout the MCSO. Our leaders speak to members throughout the organization on ways make improvements and better serve the public. Recently the MCSO Administrative Division Commander, Major Joshua Douglass, conducted a study of the E911 Center for fiscal year 2024. During that time, our Emergency Communication Operators (ECO) answered 19,358 911 calls, and approximately 26,000 administrative calls. Of the 911 calls, only 18 calls (.092%) rang for thirty seconds or more, and only two rang for longer than one minute. The MCSO E911 average answer time is less than three seconds (the National Emergency Number Association’s standard for 911 calls that should be answered is within 20 seconds). I am very proud of the ECO staff and am grateful for the dedication and commitment they provide for our citizens and law enforcement officers.

May 11 – 17 is National Police Week in the United States. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week. A delegation from the MCSO will be traveling to Washington D.C. with the family of fallen Deputy Sheriff Jermyus Young to attend his dedication on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (NLEOM). As we all remember, Deputy Young lost his life last

April in a motor vehicle accident while responding to the aid of his fellow deputies. Currently there are 24,067 names engraved on the walls of the NLEOM. Jermyius will join his fellow law enforcement officers this year. The Alabama Fraternal Order of Police will also be honoring Deputy Young and other fallen Alabama law enforcement officers in a memorial service on the Alabama Capitol grounds on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. I encourage all citizens to attend this solemn occasion and support the families and survivors of these brave heroes.

In closing, I wish to express once again my appreciation to all Montgomery County citizens for the privilege of serving as your sheriff. It is an obligation I take very seriously. I am frequently reminded of events on the national and state level the decisions that are made on a daily basis have lasting effects on our communities. I am humbled to be given the awesome responsibility of providing public safety for the community and people of Montgomery County and fully understand the impact and importance of my role in government. I am at your service.

Sincerely,


Derrick Cunningham
Sheriff

I.G.N.I.T.E. PROGRAM SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS

In early 2024, the MCSO introduced a new program, Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education (I.G.N.I.T.E.) in order to provide inmates in the Montgomery County Detention Facility with opportunities to enroll in vocational courses, financial literacy, job readiness, and several self-improvement programs related to substance abuse, mental health awareness, critical thinking and problem-solving techniques.

The MCSO is very proud that the I.G.N.I.T.E. program has seen success. Mr. Michael Powell was one of the first participants in the initiative. After graduating from the course, and following his release, Mr. Powell reached out to the MCSO to share his uplifting story and express his appreciation for the help we provided him.

Mr. Powell shared the great success he has achieved, and the positive impact I.G.N.I.T.E. has had on his life. He started by saying it was his desire to use his time to better himself while in the MCDF. He was intrigued by the many I.G.N.I.T.E. courses and self-improvement opportunities. It allowed him to use technology (smart tablets) while furthering his knowledge of different topics and becoming more self-aware. The numerous achievements and



certificates helped him greatly with his court case. Mr. Powell stated the Council on Substance Abuse, Hope Inspired Ministries and Anger Management classes have given him tools and coping mechanisms to lead a more fulfilling life.

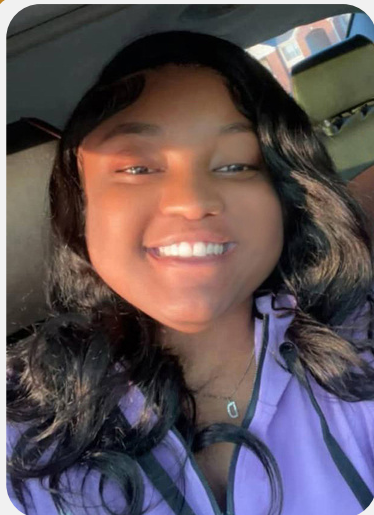


Mr. Michael Powell

Mr. Powell remains committed to the efforts he began with I.G.N.I.T.E. and regularly attends meetings with the organizations he was introduced to in the MCDF that assisted him in becoming a more productive citizen. Since his release, he has resumed his home renovation/improvement contracting business, where he has received an abundance of requests from homeowners and businesses. He recently purchased a new truck and is enjoying time with his family.

When Mr. Powell graduated from high school, Mr. Powell joined the United States Navy and served as a boiler technician. He is very proud of his military service and was able to see the world. Mr. Powell has extended an offer to share his success story with others in the MCDF, in hopes it will inspire others to take advantage of the I.G.N.I.T.E. program and its many benefits. He expressed his experience has allowed him to value his freedom

and remain committed to remaining positive on his future. We are very proud of Mr. Powell and the uplifting story he shares to others. We wish for his future success.



*Juvenile Detention Officer
Alexia Murray-Delbridge*

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JDO ALEXIA MURRAY-DELBIDGE

On January 19, 2025, The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office gathered to celebrate the memory of our dear colleague, Juvenile Detention Officer Alexia Murray-Delbridge. She was a genuinely warm individual, more importantly a loving wife and mother of two. While we mourned the loss of our colleague, we rejoiced and celebrated her life that was well lived. A life committed to serving her country in the United States Air Force, her church, as well as the youth detained at the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention Facility.

Alexia was a hard worker and was well respected by her colleagues. Even through her illness, she never complained. She always maintained a posture of gratitude, even when her strength was weakened by her medical procedures.

Alexia leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Daniel Delbridge, her sons Aiden Murry and Brylan Delbridge, mother Sundrea Murry, father, Corey Smoke, many brothers, sisters, family, friends, fellow military service members and her extended MCSO family. Her absence is very felt.

SHERIFF WILLIAM DAVID WESTCOTT 25TH SHERIFF OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

William David Westcott was born in Montgomery County, Alabama on May 5, 1843. He was educated in Montgomery and at Irvine College in Warren County, Tennessee. He entered the Confederate service in April 1861 as a member of the Montgomery True Blues. Westcott held the rank of private and was a sharpshooter in the regiment. He fought in several major battles during the American Civil War, including the Battles of Bull Run, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He was wounded by gunfire on a couple of occasions.



After the war Westcott began life as a farmer in Montgomery County until 1875. In 1877, he was appointed as a deputy sheriff for the MCSO. In 1885 he was appointed as a deputy U.S. Marshal for the middle and southern districts of Alabama. In 1888 he became the 25th sheriff of Montgomery County, elected without opposition to that office.

Sheriff Westcott married Mary Ellen Young. They had four children, Annie, Samuel, Emma Kate and William. He died in Montgomery on May 26, 1908, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF

There are presently 3,083 sheriffs in the United States. Approximately 98% are elected by citizens of their counties or parishes. The first of two important characteristics that distinguish the Office of Sheriff from other law enforcement agencies is its historical roots. In England, the sheriff came into existence around the 9th century. This makes the sheriff the oldest continuing, non-military, law enforcement entity in history.

In early England the land was divided into geographic areas between a few individual kings. These geographic areas were called shires.



Depiction of a shire reeve during the middle ages

Within each shire there was an individual called a reeve, which meant guardian. This individual was originally selected by the serfs (a servant or laborer) to be their informal social and governmental leader. The kings observed how influential this individual was within the serf community and soon incorporated that position into the governmental structure. The reeve soon became the king's appointed representative to protect the king's interest and act as mediator with people of his particular shire (county). Through time and usage, the words shire and reeve came together to be shire-reeve, guardian of the shire and eventually the word sheriff as we know it today.

The Office of Sheriff grew in importance with increasing responsibilities up to and through the Norman conquest of England in 1066 by William the Conqueror. The duties of the sheriff included keeping the peace, collecting taxes, maintaining jails, arresting fugitives, maintaining a list of wanted criminals, and serving orders and writs for the King's Court. Most of those duties are still the foundation of the sheriff's responsibilities in the United States. Over time the tasks of the office of the sheriff in England ebbed and flowed, depending on the mood and needs of kings and the government. In 1215 the great document of freedom, the Magna Carta, was reluctantly signed by King John, who was quite unpopular with many of the barons. This document had 63 clauses, 27 of which are related to the restrictions upon, as well as the responsibilities of the office of the sheriff. Through the passage of time, the English sheriff began to lose responsibility and power, and by the early 1800's it became largely ceremonial, as it remains today. This is not the case for sheriffs in the United States.

The concept of sheriff, because of the vast expansion of the British Empire from the 16th century to the 18th century, was exported to places such as Canada, Australia, India, and, of course, the American Colonies. In America, the office was modified over a period of time to fit democratic ideals. The Dutch settled the area called New Amsterdam (what is now New York City) in 1626. The Dutch version of the sheriff was called a "schout." When the English claimed the land in 1664, the schout became the sheriff. In the other American colonies, following the pattern of English government, sheriffs were appointed. The first sheriff in America is believed to be Captain William Stone, appointed in 1634 for the Shire of Northampton in the colony of Virginia. The first elected sheriff was William Waters in 1652 in the same Virginia shire (shire was used in many of the colonies at that time, before the word county replaced it).

During its inception, the sheriff's office in America was much less social, had less judicial influence, and was much more responsive to individuals (citizens) than the English Sheriff. The duties of the early American sheriff were similar in many ways to its English forerunner, centering on court related duties such as security and warrants, protection of citizens, maintaining the jail, and collecting taxes. As the nation expanded westward, the office of sheriff continued to be a significant part of law enforcement in a growing nation. Today the elected sheriff is part of America's democratic fabric. In 1776 Pennsylvania and New Jersey adopted the office of sheriff in their Constitution. The Ohio Constitution called for the election of the county sheriff in 1802, and then, state-by-state, the democratic election of sheriff became not only a tradition, but in most states a constitutional requirement, as in Alabama.

The early American Sheriff was important to the security of the people and was granted much power. Along the early frontier sheriffs administered punishment, not only conventional as we know it now, but also flogging, banishment, or execution by choking.

The second characteristic that sets the sheriff's office apart from other law enforcement agencies is its direct accountability to citizens through the election of the sheriff. The office of the sheriff is not a department of county government; it is the independent office through which the sheriff exercises the powers of the public trust. No individual or small group hires or fires the sheriff or has the authority to interfere with the operations of the office. Elected sheriffs are accountable directly to the constitution of their state, the United States Constitution, statutes, and the citizens of their county. The sheriff must work with all segments of government to serve and protect the citizens of the county.

Alabama sheriffs are Constitutional officers. The Alabama Constitution (1901) Article V: Executive Department, Section 112 states: “The executive department shall consist of a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state auditor, secretary of state, state treasurer, superintendent of education, commissioner of agriculture and industries, and a sheriff for each county.” Under Alabama law, sheriffs are state, and not county, officers. “Alabama sheriffs, when executing their law enforcement duties, represent the State of Alabama, not their counties.” (McMillian v. Monroe County, 520 U.S. 781, 793 (1997)).

As one can see, the office of sheriff in Alabama has a unique and unapparelled presence in government. Montgomery County is no exception. Montgomery County was founded in 1816. The office of sheriff for Montgomery County began in 1817 (before Alabama became a state) when Sheriff Philips Fitzpatrick was appointed as the sheriff of the Montgomery Territory. Two other territorial sheriffs were appointed, Jacob Pickett House (1818) and John Martin (1819-) who later became the first elected Sheriff of Montgomery County (after Alabama was admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819). Sheriff Martin served two terms, although not consecutively, due to the Alabama Constitution prohibiting it until the Alabama Legislature (in 1943) ratified the Alabama Constitution with Amendment 35 allowing Alabama sheriffs to be eligible to be their own successor. Throughout the years, other Montgomery County sheriff’s served multiple inconsecutive terms as well.

Sheriffs of Montgomery County, Alabama



Number	Year (s)	Appointed/Elected	Term Number (s)	Sheriff	Born/Died
1	1817	Appointed	1	Territorial #1 — Philips Fitzpatrick	1788/1835
2	1818	Appointed	2	Territorial #2 — Jacob Pickett House	1788/1861
3	1819-20	Appointed	3	Territorial #3 — John Martin	1793/1844
	1820-23	Elected	4	John Martin	1793/1844
4	1823-26	Elected	5	Walter Raleigh Ross	1793/1850
	1826-29	Elected	6	John Martin	1793/1844
5	1829-32	Elected	7	Bushrod W. Bell	1796/1845
6	1832-35	Elected	8	William Buck Gregory	1805/1835
	1834-36	Elected	9	Bushrod W. Bell	1796/1845
7	1835-38	Elected	10	Hugh Patrick Caffey	1807/1847
8	1838-41	Elected	11	John W. Templeton “Temp” Reid	1815/1851
	1841-44	Elected	12	Bushrod W. Bell	1796/1845
9	1844-47	Elected	13	Samuel “Sam” Quarles Hale, Sr.	1806/1883
10	1847-50	Elected	14	James M. Newman	1802/1974
11	1850-53	Elected	15	Jones James Stewart	1806/1860
12	1853-54	Elected	16	Henry Peebles	1820/1854
13	1854-56	Appointed	Finished Out 16 th	Peter Blackwell Mastin	1811/1864
14	1856-59	Elected	17	James Y. Brame	1818/1891
15	1859-62	Elected	18	William G. Waller	1806/1872
	1862-65	Elected	19	James Y. Brame	1818/1891
16	1865	Elected	20	Bernard Washington Young	1815/1887
	1865-67	Appointed	Finished Out 20 th	William G. Waller	1806/1872
17	1867-69	Elected	21	Augustus H. Johnson	1830/1884
18	1869-71	Elected	22	Robert Barber	1840/1906
19	1871-72	Appointed	Finished Out 22 nd	James H. Taylor, Jr.	1824/1885
20	1872-75	Elected	23	Paul Strobach	1831/1908
21	1875-78	Elected	24	John N. Murphy	1829/1897
22	1878-81	Elected	25	Charles Teed Pollard, Sr.	1842/1917
23	1881-85	Elected	26	William Bellinger	1846/1888
24	1885-89	Elected	27	Thomas Sharpe Herbert	1836/1899
25	1889-93	Elected	28	William D. Westcott	1843/1908
26	1893-97	Elected	29	William Riley Waller	1852/1928
27	1897-00	Elected	30	Charles Evans Parks	1848/1910
	1900-07	Elected	31	William Riley Waller	1852/1928
28	1907	Elected	32	Samuel S. Belser	1850/1907
29	1907-10	Elected	Finished Out 32 nd	Horace Hood, Sr.	1853/1924
	1910-15	Elected	33	Horace Hood, Sr.	1853/1924
	1915-19	Elected	34	William Riley Waller	1852/1928
30	1919-23	Elected	35	Jonathan “John” Lester Scroggins	1870/1954
31	1923-27	Elected	36	Robert Chafee Phelps	1887/1964
	1927-31	Elected	37	Jonathan “John” Lester Scroggins	1870/1954
32	1931-34	Elected	38	Samuel “Sam” D. Sterns	1881/1948
33	1934-35	Appointed	Finished Out 38 th	Joseph “Joe” Frank Partin	1879/1936
34	1935-39	Elected	39	John Haygood Paterson	1885/1954
35	1939-55	Elected	40 — 43	George Adkin “Addie” Mosley	1893/1963
36	1955-91	Elected	44 — 52	Maxwell “Mac” Sim Butler	1917/2001
37	1991-99	Elected	53, 54	James Daniel “Dan” Jones, Jr.	1939/2024
38	1999-15	Elected	55 — 58	David Thompson “D.T.” Marshall	1950/2016
39	2015-	Elected	59, 60, 61	Derrick Cunningham	1967/

Interestingly enough, since 1943, Montgomery County residents have enjoyed the continuity of sheriffs remaining in office and serving their constituents for multiple terms. George Adkin “Addie” Mosely, 1939–1955 (4 terms), Maxwell “Mac” Sim Butler, 1955–1991 (9 terms), James Daniel “Dan” Jones, Jr., 1991–1999 (2 terms), David Thompson “D.T.” Marshall, 1999–2015 (4 terms) and presently Sheriff Derrick Cunningham, sworn in as the 39th sheriff of Montgomery County in 2015, who is presently serving his 3rd term as sheriff for Montgomery County.

The Montgomery County Sheriff Office has a rich history and has played a pivotal part in many significant events that have impacted the county, state and country. In future publications, *The Montgomery Sheriff Quarterly* will continue to highlight these historical events and the MCSO involvement in them.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REAL TIME CRIME CENTER

In the previous publication of MSQ, Sheriff Cunningham wrote about the development of the MCSO Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). We are proud to announce that Phase I of our project is complete. The center has begun full-time operations.

RTCCs are complex and integrate multiple systems into a central hub that reviews, categorizes, and disseminates information and intelligence, and coordinates emergency response operations in the field for leaders and law enforcement personnel to effectively provide public safety to the citizens we serve.



Phase I on the RTCC involved the procurement of funding through federal grants, the planning and logistical preparation of the center, purchasing of hardware and software, and the initial training of law enforcement personnel. The traffic cameras located throughout Montgomery County are now online, in addition to our access to those cameras located within the city limits of Montgomery. The MCSO has partnered with the Montgomery Police Department, and through a mutual cooperative agreement, has access to their STAR (Strategic Technology and Resource) Center. The combined systems allow businesses, residents, schools and neighborhoods to share their camera feeds with the MPD STAR Center and the MCSO RTCC. Any web-based camera system that has a web viewer is compatible. It is completely voluntary.

The RTCC has quickly proven to be a valuable asset. Recently, a vehicle pursuit from another jurisdiction entered Montgomery County. The personnel in the RTCC were able to track the vehicle pursuit on the numerous roadways by utilizing the various cameras in the city and county. Aided by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Aviation Unit helicopter, a minimal number of law enforcement vehicles were required to assist in the pursuit. The suspects were taken into custody a short time later.

Phase II will integrate additional cameras and license plate readers and expand the system even further. We anticipate more business partnering with the RTCC to make Montgomery County safer.

The final phase (III) of the initiative will be the hiring of 2 full-time crime analysts in order to conduct analysis of criminal activity throughout the River Region, central Alabama, working with the ALEA Fusion Center, and our federal partners, by linking multiple law enforcement jurisdictions and alerting them to similar criminal patterns, thereby successfully identifying suspects.



The advanced technology the MCSO is implementing in the RTCC is critical to maintaining a strong law enforcement response in the field, more comprehensive investigations, information sharing and enhanced community partnerships in Montgomery County.

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

The women of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office recently attended the 2nd Annual Women in Law Enforcement Luncheon, hosted by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Birmingham, AL. This empowering event brought together women from various law enforcement agencies to celebrate their contributions, share experiences, and uplift one another in a profession where female representation continues to grow. The highlight of the luncheon was the keynote speech delivered by Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis. Chief Davis, a trailblazer in law enforcement, shared her personal journey, highlighting the challenges she has faced and overcome throughout her career. She spoke passionately about perseverance, leadership, and breaking barriers in a traditionally male-dominated field.

Her message resonated deeply with attendees, offering inspiration and motivation to continue striving for excellence in their roles. As they listened to Chief Davis speak, she reminded them that no matter the obstacles, women have the strength and ability to overcome difficulties and make a lasting impact in our communities. In addition to the powerful keynote address, the luncheon provided an opportunity for networking and camaraderie among women in law enforcement. Officers, deputies, and leaders from various agencies shared insights, experiences, and encouragement, fostering a sense of unity and support. Events like the Women in Law Enforcement Luncheon serve as an



March 14, 2025

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

2nd Annual Ladies in Law Enforcement Luncheon

MCSO members (L-R) Cpl. Felicia Calhoun, Dep. Jasmine Woodard, Cpl. Tyshana Freeman, Dep. Delena Perry, Cpl. Sheena Tarver, Sgt. Nina Knapp, Dep. Jekila Goldsmith, Cpl. LyTonya Haywood, Cpl. Lydia Hasselbring and Dep. Merrie Peoples.

important platform for professional development and mentorship. They highlight the progress being made in diversifying law enforcement leadership while also reinforcing the need for continued growth and inclusion.

This event was not just a celebration of achievements but a reminder of the ongoing journey toward equality and excellence in law enforcement. As the luncheon concluded, attendees left feeling inspired, motivated, and ready to apply the wisdom shared by Chief Davis to their own careers. The event served as a powerful reminder that through determination, resilience, and support, women in law enforcement can continue to break barriers and pave the way for future generations.

PROMOTIONS



Sheriff Cunningham congratulates Corporal Demetrius Dupree (l), and Sergeant Nina Knapp (r), on their promotions

NEW DEPUTIES TAKE OATH OF OFFICE



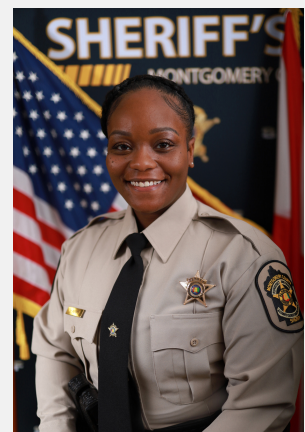
Sheriff Cunningham administers the oath of office to Deputy Sheriff Bobby Thomas (l), and Deputy Sheriff William Guilford

DEPUTY OF THE 1ST QUARTER 2025

On February 6th, 2025, Investigator Delena Perry was working an off-duty job at a local department store. She observed a female wearing a mask and carrying a machete enter the building. Without hesitation, Investigator Perry immediately confronted the armed and dangerous suspect. The suspect was non-compliant and highly agitated. She screamed threats while brandishing the machete.

Through a high level of command and control, Investigator Perry was able to de-escalate the encounter without the use of deadly force. She remained calm while instructing the suspect to drop the machete, eventually disarming her. Investigator Perry did this while

communicating the details to MCSO dispatch, selflessly placing herself between the suspect and innocent citizens. Investigator Perry consistently displays a high level of professionalism. Her calm and forceful nature shows through the work she delivers in the Investigation Division. She is an invaluable asset to this agency.



Deputy Sheriff Delana Perry

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE 1ST QUARTER 2025

On January 17, 2025, Sergeant Michael Lane proceeded to the MCDF booking intake to receive an arrestee. Following procedure, Sergeant Lane questioned the subject about having any weapons or sharp items. After the subject denied having any weapons, Sergeant Lane conducted a search, discovering he had concealed a gun.

With diligence and devotion to completing each task, Sergeant Lane prevented a dangerous situation from occurring inside the facility. Sergeant Lane's performance exemplifies the core values of the MCDF and his ability to remain calm when confronted with a threat. Sergeant Lane is Correctional Officer of the 1st Quarter 2025.



Sergeant Michael Lane

JUVENILE DETENTION OFFICER OF THE 1ST QUARTER 2025

Juvenile Detention Officer Destiny Griffin has an outstanding work performance. Her willingness to always go the extra mile is recognized by her supervisors and coworkers. JDO Griffin has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and an excellent commitment to achieving team goals. She is punctual, organized, and works very closely with her colleagues. Due to staff shortage, JDO Griffin has taken responsibility for ensuring laundry details are completed for all wings (A, B and C). She writes daily affirmations to the detainees, reminding them that their current situation is not permanent. This not only gives these detainees hope but also helps build their character. Additionally, JDO Griffin assists and supports her supervisors by volunteering for added tasks. JDO Griffin is truly a dedicated officer with a team approach and is the Juvenile Detention Officer of the 1st Quarter 2025.



Juvenile Detention Officer Destiny Griffin

CIVILIAN OF THE 1ST QUARTER 2025

Mrs. Mekdes Abebe is the payroll clerk for the MCSO. She has consistently gone above and beyond expectations of her role. As a critical member of our team, she plays a key part in processing payroll, leave, overtime, and various other payroll-related functions for all employees of the MCSO. In an office that serves the agency in numerous capacities, Mrs. Abebe's work directly impacts on our personnel's ability to perform their duties. She ensures that each staff member receives their compensation and benefits accurately and on time.

Throughout her tenure, Mrs. Abebe has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary attention to detail and professionalism. She meticulously processes payroll data, ensuring that all overtime hours, leave balances, and deductions are accurately calculated, regardless of the complexity involved. Her deep understanding of payroll systems, local and state regulations, and the MCSO's unique needs has allowed her to handle even the most challenging payroll issues with confidence and expertise.

Her reliability cannot be overstated. Mrs. Abebe always meets deadlines, whether it be monthly payroll runs, periodic reports, or responding to time-sensitive payroll inquiries. She communicates clearly and efficiently making sure that everyone is informed and that all issues are addressed promptly. Her ability to work under pressure, particularly during peak times, ensures that our department remains on schedule.



Payroll Clerk Mekdes Abebe

Mrs. Abebe's dedication goes beyond just her daily tasks. She approaches every aspect of her work with a level of commitment that ensures our staff's needs are met and that the department operates as efficiently as possible. She has become an integral part of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and her hard work is truly deserving of recognition.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOUNDATION

EASTER EGG HUNT

HOSTED BY
SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025 AT 2:00 PM

AUBURN UNIVERSITY MONTGOMERY
(NEAR THE GYMNASIUM)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 334-832-2515

WWW.MONTGOMERYSHERIFF.COM

For Children
1 - 11



CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

ARROWHEAD
COUNTRY CLUB

MAY 8TH, 2025
9AM SHOTGUN START

FREE
BREAKFAST & LUNCH
DOOR PRIZES

REGISTRATION
4-PERSON TEAM \$500
SPONSORSHIPS START
AT \$1000



FOR REGISTRATION CONTACT
LIEUTENANT RICK THOMPSON (334) 850-8688
MAJOR JOSHUA DOUGLASS (334) 320-9939

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation



Deputy in the Park Day

Hosted by

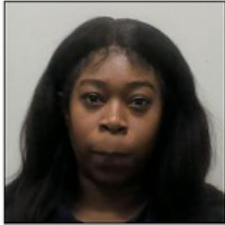
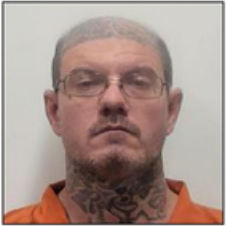
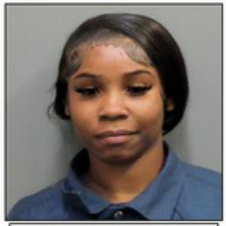
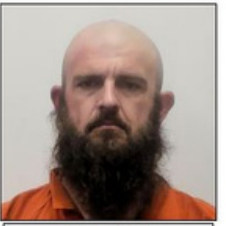
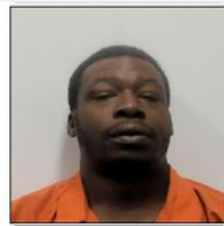
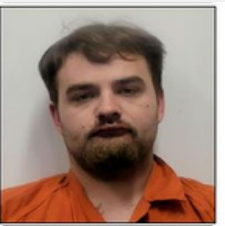
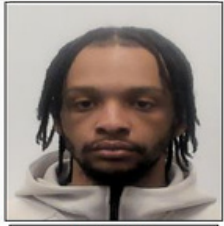
Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



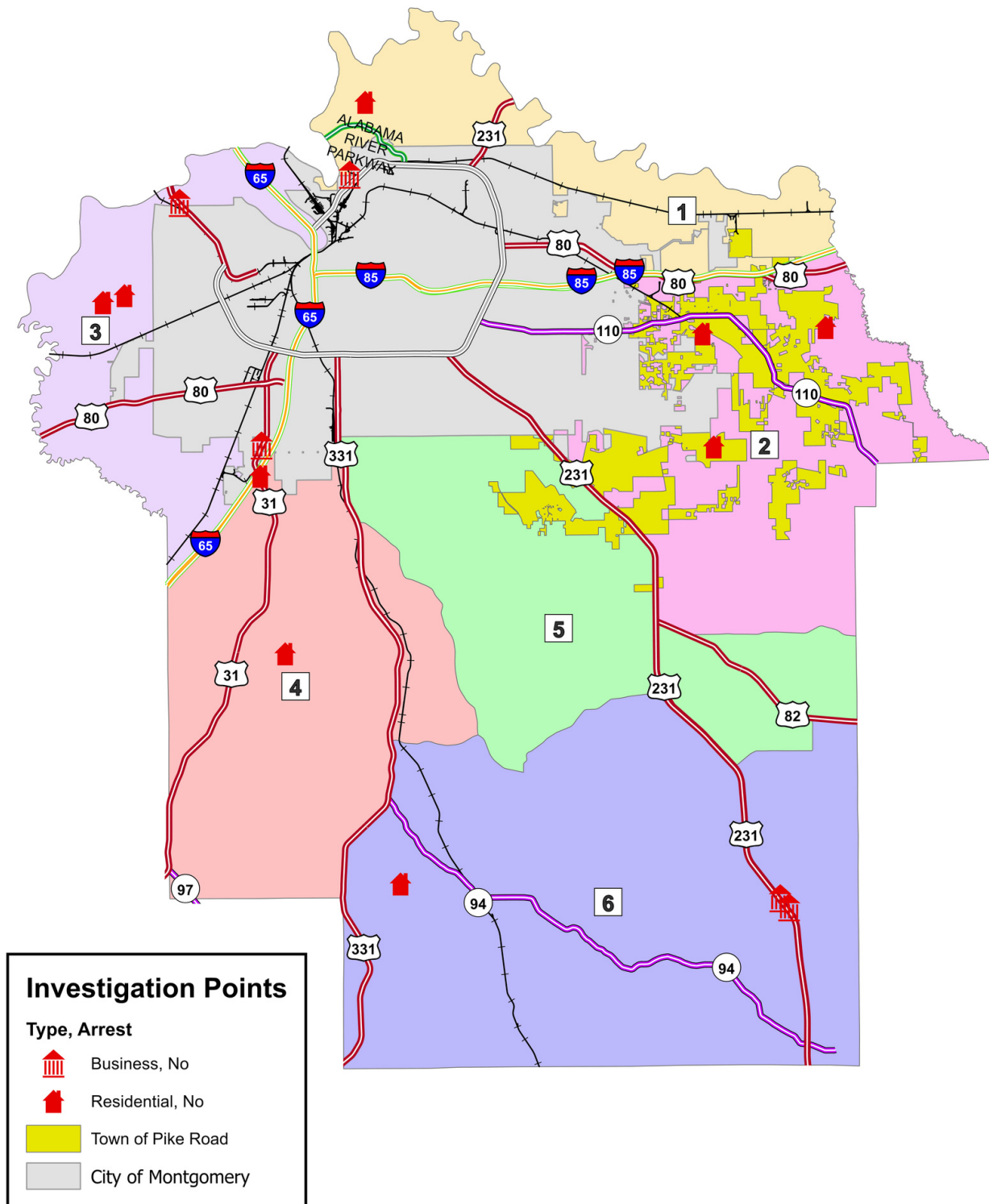
Saturday, May 3, 2025 - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
56 Naftel Ramer Rd., Ramer, AL 36069

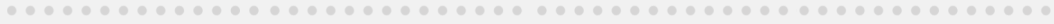
Please join the MCSO to meet our members,
learn about your community, enjoy a cookout,
refreshments, static displays and games for
children. For more information, please call
334-832-2515

MCSO ARREST REPORT 1ST Q 2025

					
Blackmon, Canishia Theft of Property 1st Wetumpka Highway	Duong, Thai Theft of Property 1st, UBEVx2 Troy Highway	Edwards, William Receiving Stolen Prop. 2nd Chantilly Parkway	Harvest, Mathew WARRANTS Theft of Property 2nd, CPFI3	Harvey, Gregory DV Strangulation Rosemil Road	Hatten, Ronald WARRANTS Identity Theft
					
Fitzpatrick, Tracy Trafficking in Stolen IDs Vaughn Road	Gillum, J'Hance Promoting Prison Contra. 1st S. McDonough Street	Graaf, Samuel Theft of Property 1st, UBEV Wax Myrtle Court	Hooks, Jordan Theft of Prop. 2nd x2, UBEVx2 Stone Park Boulevard	Johnson, Gerald Jr. Receiving Stolen Prop. 2nd, Felony Att. To Elude	Jones, Nedvin Promoting Prison Contra. 1st S. McDonough Street
					
Green, Willie Jr. Retail Theft 2nd Peake Road	Hampton, Shemar WARRANT Theft of Property 3rd	Harris, Nicolas Promoting Prison Contra. 1st S. McDonough Street	Jones, Shermirror Theft of Property 3rd Warehouse Court	Lomax, Roderick Destruction of State Property S. McDonough Street	Mack, Melvin DV 2nd Burglary, DV Strang. Vista Del Verde Drive
					
Marshall, TyJuan Promoting Prison Contra. 3rd S. McDonough Street	Mitchell, Charmyia Retail Theft 2nd Vaughn Road	Parker, Elijah Theft of Prop. 1st CPFI 3x2 Crescent Lodge Circle	Pinkston, Quinton Obstructing Justice False ID Carmichael Road	Sanders, Jaquan Retail Theft 2nd Peake Road	Warrington, Michael Sexual Extortion, Distribution Private Image State Highway 94
					
Wells, Robert Jr. Destruction of State Property S. McDonough Street	Westry, Kelby Theft of Property 2ndx2, UBEVx2 Stone Park Boulevard				

M.C.S.O. 1st Quarter Burglary Statistics 2025





To:

Place
Postage
Here

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

