

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY

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Rise Media Group, LLC

334-625-8416



a publication of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County, Alabama

A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM

Fall is a very busy time of year for the MCSO. With schools back in session, cooler weather in the future, our organization has many community events scheduled during autumn. Public safety remains my primary focus. I am steadily working on opening the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC)



in the Carnegie Building located at 131 S. Perry St. (next door to the administrative offices of the MCSO). This location is convenient for our emergency communications center, investigators and our senior administrative personnel. Our present RTCC, located on the fourth floor of our building at the courthouse, has been instrumental in identifying and locating criminal activity, providing our deputies with the relevant real-time information, and permitting a swift response to apprehending criminal suspects. This successful, rapidly evolving and growing technology has challenged our organization in securing a location that will allow us to expand our future operations in the technology front to meet the needs of delivering modern and effective public safety to Montgomery County citizens.



I am grateful to the members of the Montgomery County Commission for allowing the MCSO to use the Carnegie Building for the RTCC. In 1901, the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie provided funding to build the structure, to be used as a library. It was completed in 1904 and is now designated a historical building. We are currently improving irrigation on the grounds, removing nuisance vegetation and renovating the inside for offices, computers and communication's equipment to facilitate an expansion of the center. The RTCC offices will include 2 crime analysts, and the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) analyst, as well as supervisory and administrative personnel.

The goal of the RTCC is to form a cooperative partnership with real time criminal activity information, crime analysis and forensic examination in order to streamline investigations in a streamlined process. Crime analysts review crime data, reports, forensic evidence, RTCC information and in turn forwards relevant and real time information to deputies in the field and investigators following leads on criminal cases. The NIBIN analyst examines cartridges and bullets recovered from crime scenes, recovered firearms, placing evidence and information into a national database that tracks weapons used in the commission of a crime. Many prosecutions have been successful using these methods that augment one another.

This past July we held another jail management course at our training facility located on Janet Warner Road. The MCSO sponsors this training to all law enforcement agencies that operate a jail or detention facility. Correctional officers from throughout the state attend a three-week course on constitutional and state law applicable to corrections, policies and procedures for jails, administration, operations, use of force law and practical training, de-escalation techniques, first aid, and dealing with mental health consumers. Our curriculum is focused on improving standards and training in the correctional field and reducing the liability in managing inmate populations. We regularly schedule jail management courses throughout the year and quickly fill these slots with correctional officers from agencies eager to participate in this beneficial training.



July 25, 2025 - MCSO Jail Management Graduation - Class 25-2B

The second of two semi-annual MCSO Citizen's Academy ran this past summer that graduated on September 29th. Montgomery County citizens from different backgrounds enjoyed a seven-week course on the functions, operations and administration of the MCSO. They learned of each division within the MCSO and their responsibilities, toured the detention facility, and met and became good friends with members from our agency. If you would like to learn more about your sheriff's office, I encourage you to sign up for the next citizen's academy to be held in early 2026. You may call 334-832-2515 for more information.



Sheriff Cunningham and Sergeant Garner congratulate the graduating members of the MCSO Citizen's Academy, Class 2025-02

On the topic of detention facilities, it was an honor and privilege to join Shelby County Sheriff John Samaniego in the launching of their I.G.N.I.T.E. program. I was joined by Sheriff John Shearon, Sheriff Heath Jackson, Alabama Sheriff's Association President Sheriff Billy Murray, and ASA Executive Director Hoss Mack at this event. As most of you are aware, the MCSO was one of the first law enforcement agencies in Alabama that provided an I.G.N.I.T.E. program to our inmates. It offers trade and skills training, counseling and substance abuse classes, and pathways to employment (post-incarceration). Many sheriff's offices in Alabama are introducing this important initiative to those incarcerated in the hopes of reducing recidivism, providing employment opportunities and building strong



*Shelby County Sheriff's Office I.G.N.I.T.E. Launch
(L-R) Chilton County Sheriff John Shearon, Escambia County Sheriff Heath Jackson, ASA Executive Director Hoss Mack, Shelby County Sheriff John Samaniego, Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and St. Clair County Sheriff Billy Murray*

and productive family relationships. It is important to my administration that we offer solutions to our community that solve problems, encourage growth, and not merely exist as an institution that [only] incarcerates. I have enjoyed hearing the many successful stories of former inmates, after graduating from the I.G.N.I.T.E. program, who had secured gainful employment, found affordable housing and transportation, and rebuilt their lives. We intend on expanding the I.G.N.I.T.E. program with more curriculum and opportunities in the future.

As many of you are aware, last year we placed MCSO deputies at the Shoppes at Eastchase in order to increase public safety. During that period of time, we have seen a reduction in traffic violations and retail theft in this area. Our deputies regularly walk through the open mall areas, interact with shoppers and have built strong relationships with the owners, managers, and employees of the retail stores. Our success has led to the property owners and the MCSO creating a substation at Eastchase. This location will not be staffed full time, however, will allow any law enforcement officer, state, county and city, to frequent the area, go inside and complete reports, interact with citizens, or to take a short break. In the future, we plan on holding muster/roll calls with our deputies and scheduling community events at this location. The substation is at 7070 Eastchase Pkwy., Montgomery, AL, 36117 (two doors down from Books-a-Million). Another exciting announcement about our partnership with Eastchase is the first "Montgomery Night Out" to be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Aldi parking lot. This event is sponsored by the MCSO Foundation and is a great opportunity for our citizens to interact with our agency members and various community organizations. It is co-sponsored by the Shoppes at Eastchase, Montgomery County Commission and the City of Montgomery. We are looking forward to the cooler weather and an outstanding setting for this worthwhile occasion. Please see the flyer for this event in this edition of MSQ and join us on the 16th.



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Eastchase Substation

Montgomery County Sheriff's Foundation

"Montgomery Night Out"

hosted by

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Thursday ~ October 16, 2025 ~ 5 pm ~ 7 pm

Aldi Parking Lot ~ Eastchase Pkwy @ Berryhill Rd.



Co-hosted by:

THE SHOPPES AT
EASTCHASE



CITY OF
MONTGOMERY
ALABAMA

Partnering Agencies

ALEA Aviation ◇ Montgomery Humane Society
Montgomery County Commission ◇ Carastar Crisis Center
Alabama Department of Mental Health ◇ One Place/Star Center
Montgomery County District Attorney ◇ County Cottage Assisted Living
Montgomery Fire & Rescue ◇ Town of Pike Road
ALEA Driver License Manager (Star ID) ◇ Montgomery Police Department
Alabama State University Police Department ◇ U.S. Attorney's Office
American Red Cross ◇ Alabama Fish & Game
Alabama Department of Corrections ◇ Gulf States Distributors
Alabama National Guard ◇ Signs Now Montgomery
Cease Fire Fiber ◇ Montgomery County Election Center
Auburn-Montgomery University Police Department

The commemoration of 9/11 recently marked the 24th anniversary of that horrific day in the United States where terrorists struck the World Trade Centers in New York, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and the downing of Flight 93 in rural Pennsylvania. The members of the MCSO are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support toward law enforcement, not only on this day, but throughout the year. Many MCSO members attended a prayer service at Frazer Church on the eve of 9/11 and enjoyed fellowship and prayer with the Frazer family. We also thank Andrea McCain and Barry Harp of CB&S Bank for their continued annual support in providing snacks and drinks to our personnel and recognizing first responders. The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa honored first responders with an appreciation breakfast on September 30th. MCSO members brought several of our patrol and specialty vehicles (SWAT and the mobile command post) and enjoyed good food and fellowship with the staff of the hotel.



Sheriff Cunningham speaks at Frazer Church during a service that honored first responders.



Andrea McCain and Barry Harp from CB&S Bank donated snacks and drinks in appreciation of our first responders on the anniversary of 9/11.



(L-R) MCSO Patrol, SWAT, K-9 and the MCSO Mobile Command Post on display at the Renaissance Hotel First Responders Appreciation Breakfast

The Alabama Sheriffs Youth Ranches recently held a charity golf tournament at the Arrowhead Country Club. The MCSO foundation co-sponsored the event and provided food and beverages for this worthy cause. THE ALSYR provides Christian family-style residential homes for Alabama's at-risk children and youth in an atmosphere where they may grow spiritually and physically into productive, responsible and healthy adults. I am an advisory members of the ALSYR and am strongly committed to support and development of our youth, particularly the at-risk young people in our state.



Alabama Sheriff's Youth Ranch Charity Golf Tournament at the Arrowhead Country Club

This past July the MCSO Foundation held its annual Camp Show-n-Tell at Camp Chandler. Over 30 children from Montgomery County spent a week with MCSO staff (camp counselors) enjoying outside activities, swimming, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, campfires and great food. Later this summer we focused on our senior citizens. The MCSO Foundation sponsored the Senior Fishing Rodeo on September 16th at the Montgomery County Ponds off of U.S. Hwy. 231. It was a tremendous success with a large turnout. Our seniors caught many fish and enjoyed a cookout and a relaxing day outdoors.



Annual MCSO Senior Fishing Rodeo at the Montgomery County Ponds off 231 South.



Sheriff Cunningham with MCSO staff and children at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation Camp Show-n-Tell

Another organization I have the pleasure of serving with that helps our youth is the Alabama National Fair Board sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery. The ANF will be held this year from October 3rd – 13th. I am a past president of the ANF Board and am very proud of the thousands of dollars in grants to worthy organizations in the River Region provided by the proceeds of this annual event.

Training is very important for the improvement of any law enforcement agency. Law enforcement officers are required to maintain a minimum of 12 hours of continuing education annually. Most all of our sworn personnel exceed this each year. It is equally important that the clerical and administrative staff receive regular training as well. These civilians are an important component to the everyday running of our agency. The Alabama Sheriff's Association held training for clerks in August that was well attended through the state. The courses covered deeds, evictions, guardian and conservatorships, audits from examiners of public accounts, bid laws and the Alabama Justice Information Services. Three of our members attended this significant training course in order to remain proficient in their roles with the MCSO. We will continue to strive for the continued training of other administrative personnel in the future.



(L-R) Administrative Service Manager Myrtle Singleton, Special Assistant to the Sheriff Janice Jones, and Account Clerk Sue Hicks attend ASA clerk training in Orange Beach, Alabama.



The MCSO is committed to the safety and welfare of our children. I have taken great steps in providing school resource officers at all Montgomery Public Schools located in Montgomery County, as well as Pike Road Schools. There is a full-time deputy assigned to each of these schools (two SROs at the Pike Road High School). Each SRO deputy has received specific training as a school resource officer. They also attend refresher courses from time to time. MCSO SRO deputies attend after-hours activities on campuses, athletic competitions, and other school sponsored events. The SRO deputies are very committed to their schools, students, teachers and parents. The MCSO is presently putting graphics on the SRO's patrol vehicles that designate the particular school there are assigned by placing the school logo on their patrol vehicles. MCSO Corporal Demetrius Deupree's photo with his vehicle in front of Pike Road High School is in this edition of MSQ. It is a personal touch that displays the commitment our agency has in protecting the children of Montgomery County and focusing on school safety.



*Pike Road High School
School Resource Officer Corporal Demetrius Dupree*

I am proud to say we are fully staffed for the position deputy sheriff, something that in my 36 years in law enforcement, I have never had the pleasure of being a part of. We have a waiting list of over 100 applicants, many of them APOSTC certified experienced law enforcement officers, and others awaiting an opportunity to start their careers. A leadership paradigm we enjoy at the MCSO is treating our members professionally, and finding opportunities to teach, mentor and help them in their personal career growth. It starts on their first day; we never miss a chance to develop our members in any stage of their career and development, even our senior members. I am currently working on becoming fully staffed with our correctional and detention officer staffing. The Montgomery County Commission has supported pay raises and benefits for our entire agency, including detention staff, making them some of the best compensated in the state. Our recruiting efforts continue and with hard work, we will achieve our goal of becoming fully staffed with correctional and detention officers in the near future.

In closing, as fall has arrived and this year's closing quickly approaching, I wish you and all of you, your families and friends a joyful and safe holiday season. This edition of MSQ has multiple flyers of fall and seasonal holiday activities, e.g., MCSO Spooktacular, Christmas Toy Drive and Christmas Angel Tree gift giving, for all of our citizens to enjoy and participate in. Blessings to each of you.

Sincerely,


Derrick Cunningham
Sheriff

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOUNDATION
2025 ANNUAL HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR
HOSTED BY SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM**



FRIDAY — OCTOBER 31, 2025 — BEGINS AT 5:30 P.M.

GARRETT COLISEUM — 1555 FEDERAL DRIVE

(ENTER AT THE REAR ENTRANCE OF THE COLISEUM — OFF COLISEUM BLVD.

DRIVE-THRU TRICK-OR-TREAT



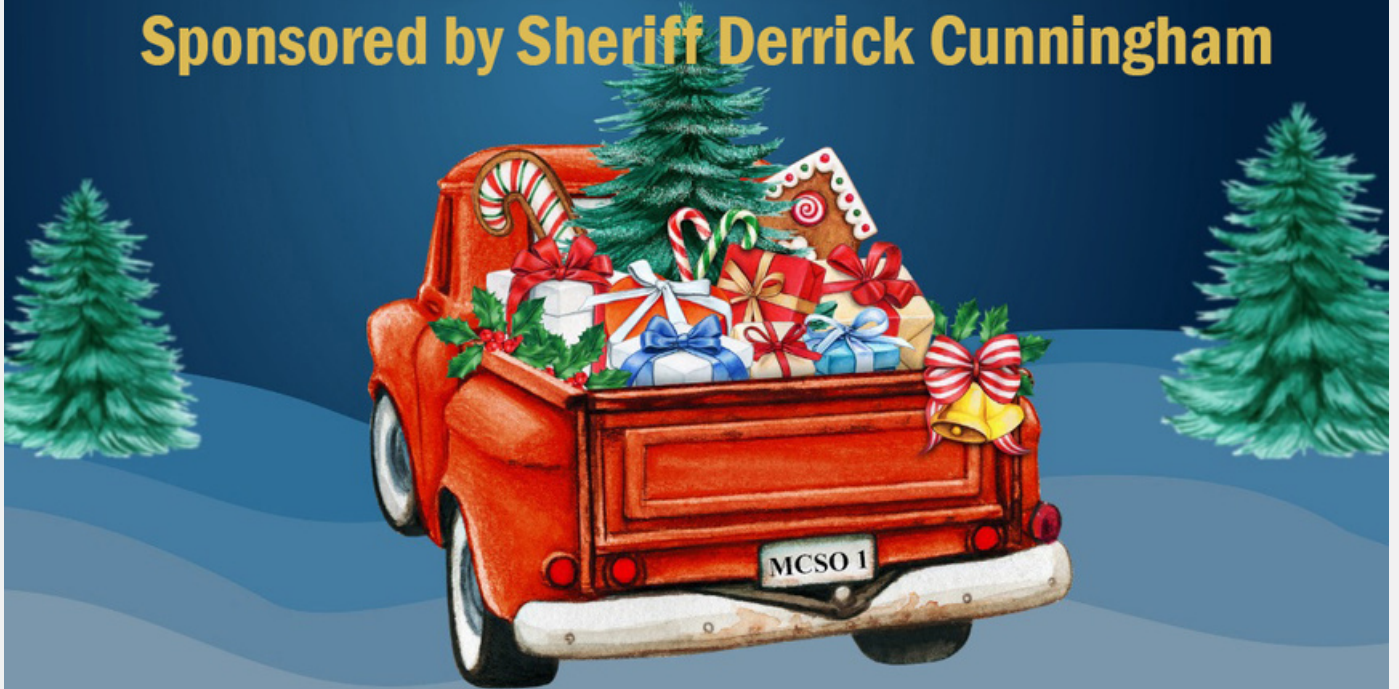
INTERESTED PARTNERS PLEASE CALL 334-832-2515 TO PARTICIPATE

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Sponsored by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Saturday, December 6, 2025 - 8 a.m. to Noon

Walmart ✨

10710 Chantilly Pkwy. - Montgomery

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOUNDATION 2025 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

SPONSORED BY



DERRICK CUNNINGHAM



PLEASE JOIN US BY DONATING NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS FOR THE HOMELESS OR A MONETARY DONATION TO THE MCSO FOUNDATION. EACH ANGEL TREE ORNAMENT HAS A LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED. WE ARE LOCATED AT 100 S. LAWRENCE ST. ALL ITEMS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH. WE CAN ARRANGE TO PICK UP YOUR DONATIONS. MONETARY GIFTS MAY BE MAILED TO 115 S. PERRY ST., MONTGOMERY, AL 36104. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 334-832-2515. THANK YOU FOR HELPING THOSE IN NEED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.



SIR ROBERT PEEL : FATHER OF MODERN POLICING

Montgomery Sheriff Quarterly is continuing its series on the history and origins of the criminal justice system and modern policing, and how it has shaped our profession. In the previous publication, we discussed Cesare Beccaria, considered one of the greatest thinkers of the Age of Enlightenment, and his contributions of modernizing criminal law and justice.

Sir Robert Peel is considered the “Father of Modern Policing” due to his efforts in establishing the London Metropolitan Police Force. Peel was born in the United Kingdom in 1788, the son of a wealthy textile manufacturer and politician. He was educated at Christ Church (a constituent college of the University of Oxford, England) and entered the House of Commons in 1809 and became a rising star in the Tory Party (which later transformed into the Conservative Party). Peel was the United Kingdom’s Home Secretary twice. The Home Secretary is responsible for law enforcement in England and Wales. Through time, later responsibilities include national security and counterterrorism, immigration and border security and oversight of the Security Service (MI5).

Early policing in Britain was based on ancient laws which relied heavily on all subjects of the crown having a responsibility to assist in maintaining law and order. Watchmen and constables were often used “for better regulating the Night Watch” of the City of London. In the early 1800s London had a population of nearly a million and a half people but was policed by only 450 constables and 4,500 night watchmen. Soon a movement was underway to replace the existing fragmented system of parish constables and night watchmen with a more organized and effective approach to law enforcement.



Robert Peel introduced the Metropolitan Police Act of 1829 which established a full-time, professional and centrally organized police force for the greater London areas known as the Metropolitan Police. In an effort to separate any likeness between the police and a military force, the new police were not armed. The constables employed were affectionately nicknamed ‘bobbies’ or, somewhat less affectionately, as ‘peelers.’ Although unpopular at first, they proved very successful in cutting crime in London. By 1857, all cities in Britain were obliged to form their own police forces. The advent of modern policing was born. The origins of U.S. law enforcement are deeply rooted in this foundation.

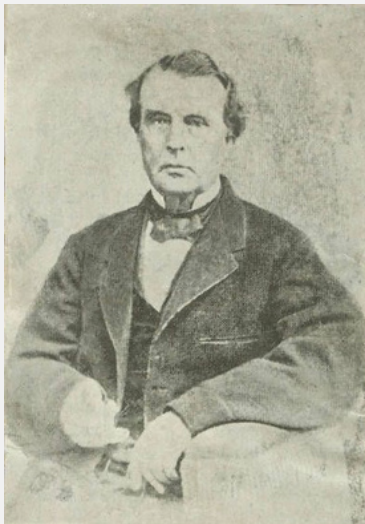
Peelian Principles as often attributed to Robert Peel. His philosophy defined an ethical police force, which states, “Whether the police are effective is not measured on the number of arrests, but on the lack of crime”

and “above all else, an effective authority figure knows trust and accountability are paramount.” “The police are the public and the public are the police.” The nine principles of policing are to (1) Prevent crime and disorder, (2) Public approval (3) Public cooperation, (4) Public cooperation diminishes force, (5) Impartial service, (6) Minimum force, (7) Public as police, (8) Judicial powers, and (9) Efficiency. These principles highlight the importance of community engagement, trust-building, and ethical conduct in law enforcement, and they continue to influence policing strategies today.

Police organization and administration, a college course that is taught in most entry level criminal justice programs, is fundamentally structured on many of the ideologies of the Metropolitan Police Act of 1829. These paradigms exist in all local, state and federal law enforcement organizations in the United States.

Sir Robert Peel left an indelible mark on the structure, organization and administration of law enforcement in our country and throughout the world today.

CHARLES TEED POLLARD II 22ND SHERIFF OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Sheriff Charles Teed Pollard II, the 22nd sheriff of Montgomery County, was the son of prominent citizen Charles Teed Pollard, Sr., the founder of the Montgomery West Point Railroad. The Pollard family dates back to Colonial Virginia. Pollard Sr. arrived in Montgomery in the 1820s and joined the board of a railroad company. He grew the railroad that eventually went from Georgia through Montgomery and southward. The destruction wrought by the civil war affected the tycoon, as many railway systems were destroyed, however he was able to recover. Sheriff Pollard’s mother was Emily Virginia Scott Pollard, the daughter of General John Scott, one of the original founders of Montgomery.

Sheriff Pollard was born in 1842. He enlisted at 19 years of age as a private in the Confederate States of America 3rd Alabama Infantry, Mobile Cadets, at the outbreak of the war. He fought in several civil war campaigns and was wounded at the Battle of Malvern Hill. After recovering from his injuries, he was a member of General William Wirt Allen’s staff (General Allen would later become the 2nd police chief for the City of Montgomery Police Department and then was appointed the U.S. Marshal for the southern district of Alabama).

The two must have been very close; General Allen named a son, born in 1877, Charles Pollard Allen (Sr.) after Sheriff Pollard.

Sheriff Pollard returned to Montgomery after the war and became a planter. He and his wife, Rebecca Marks Pollard, had four children. He served as sheriff of Montgomery County from 1878-1881 in the aftermath of Reconstruction.

“CHILDREN, VIOLENCE, AND TRAUMA-INNOVATIONS”

DR SCOTT HOLMES, LPC-S, NCC, CCFE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION DIRECTOR

Violence and trauma are highly prevalent among youth involved with the juvenile justice system. Many of these young people have experienced abuse, neglect, or other adverse events, which increases their risk for mental health issues and re-offending. The juvenile justice system itself can be retraumatizing through practices like confinement and restraint, making a trauma-informed approach essential for effective interventions and for addressing the underlying causes of a youth’s behavior. Due to this increased risk, the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention Facilities staff is currently preparing to implement Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), to its regimen of services offered to our at-risk youth in custody.

Trauma Focused, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) is an evidence-based psychotherapy specifically designed to treat children and adolescents who have experienced traumatic events. It aims to help them cope with the emotional, behavioral, and cognitive effects of trauma. The Benefits of TF-CBT are, it reduces symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Improves emotional regulation, decreases anxiety and avoidance, enhances coping skills, and strengthens family relationships.



TF-CBT was originally geared toward helping children who were the victims of sexual abuse, but its scope has widened to include children and adolescents who have experienced single or repeated experience sexual, physical, or mental abuse or who have developed post traumatic symptoms, depression, or anxiety. If a child or adolescent also exhibits serious behavioral, substance abuse, or suicidal ideation, other forms of treatment, such as dialectical behavior therapy, may be more appropriate as an initial intervention and can be followed up with a trauma-sensitive approach.

Early trauma can lead to guilt, anger, feelings of powerlessness, self-harm acting out, depression, and anxiety. Post-traumatic stress disorder, which affects children and adults, can manifest in several ways, such as negative recurring thoughts about the traumatic experience, emotional numbness, sleep problems, difficulty concentrating, and extreme physical and emotional responses to anything that triggers a memory of the trauma.

By integrating the theories and techniques of several therapeutic interventions, TF-CBT can address and improve the symptoms of post-traumatic stress in youth. Core features of TF-CBT treatment include:

- **Psychoeducation:** Educating parents and children about trauma and its effects.
- **Safety Planning:** Developing strategies to protect children from further harm.
- **Trauma Narrative:** Helping children to tell their story and process their experiences.
- **Cognitive Restructuring:** Challenging negative thoughts and beliefs related to the trauma.
- **Exposure Therapy:** Gradually exposing children to trauma-related memories and situations in a safe and supportive environment.
- **Behavioral Management:** Teaching coping skills to manage anxiety, depression, and other symptoms.
- **Parent/Caregiver Training:** Equipping parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to support their children.

In conclusion, the goal of the treatment is to help the patient develop a sense of safety and security, to repair or develop healthy social skills, and for the caregiver to feel more confident in their ability to help the child in a productive manner.

In conclusion, the goal of the treatment is to help the patient develop a sense of safety and security, to repair or develop healthy social skills, and for the caregiver to feel more confident in their ability to help the child in a productive manner.

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Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy National Therapist Certification Program website



RESTORING HOPE FOR 43 YEARS: VOCAL SUPPORTS ALABAMA'S VIOLENT CRIME SURVIVORS

BY WANDA MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VOCAL (VICTIMS OF CRIME AND LENIENCY)

It was a unique inflection point in history: A small group of devastated but determined crime victims came together and organized. They had learned firsthand that the criminal justice system was profoundly out-of-balance in favor of offenders and discovered that crime victims were often ignored.

Led by Miriam Shehane, Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL) was established as a nonprofit organization in 1982 – initially with crime victims assisting other crime victims and advocating for victims' rights. Now 43 years later, with a small professional staff, VOCAL has served thousands of families/survivors affected by homicide, sexual assault, attempted murder, domestic violence, elder and child abuse, robbery, burglary – practically any violent crime.

Headquartered in Montgomery but with chapters and members across the state, VOCAL provides essential services to survivors of violence, including counseling, victim advocacy, assistance navigating the criminal justice system, accompaniment to court/hearings, referral to other services as needed, and assistance filing for State Crime Victims Compensation (reimbursement of crime-related expenses). Also, VOCAL strives to make more crime victims aware of the rights afforded to them by law.

The vast and far-reaching impact violent crime has on its victims is undeniable. Also undeniable is the impact that effective and readily available victim services can have on crime victims to restore hope and regain a quality of life. But unfortunately, too many victims are unaware of the services available to them that can be pivotal as they struggle to survive.

According to the US DOJ, a mere 9% of victims who survive violent crime (nationwide) actually receive some form of victim assistance. And less than 45% of non-fatal violent crimes are actually reported to police each year. [See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cv22-sum.pdf>.] These are numbers we hope to change.

VOCAL is engaged in community outreach in hopes of connecting with additional crime victims, to assure them that when their world is falling to pieces, they are NOT alone.

Recently VOCAL has been organizing and hosting “fun” events/activities for families affected by violence, particularly to help children build a sense of community and connection and break down barriers to make VOCAL's services more accessible to them. VOCAL is grateful for our partnerships with Montgomery Sheriff's Dept, Montgomery Police Department, Montgomery DA's office and the many victim service agencies in Central Alabama in assisting with these activities – which will include a night at the State Fair, a Christmas Party for children affected by crime (and a night at the Biscuits Ballpark was recently held).

It's also important to amplify the victim's voice; subsequently VOCAL has produced a series of "Significant Voices: Crime Victims Speak" podcasts, which feature Alabama survivors sharing their unique stories, as well as observations of the justice system. These can be accessed on VOCAL's website by visiting <https://vocalonline.org/>. Also, please follow VOCAL's important work at <https://www.facebook.com/victimsofcrimeandleniency>.

Author bio:

Wanda Jones Miller is the Executive Director of VOCAL, and previously served 18 years as the director of victim services for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept., and has assisted a wide variety of crime victims and families over the past 30 years.



ADVOCACY FOR CRIME VICTIMS SINCE 1982

CERT VOLUNTEERS EMPOWER COMMUNITIES WITH LIFESAVING SKILLS

A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsored volunteer program that trains community members in basic disaster preparedness and response skills to assist themselves, their families neighbors and first responders during and after an emergency. CERT volunteers learn skills like fire safety, light search and rescue, basic medical operations, and emergency communications. They provide support by helping with

things like traffic control, information dissemination, and community cleanup until professional help arrives.

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs.

CERT became a national program in 1993. There are now CERT programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories. Each is unique to its community, and all are essential to building a culture of preparedness in the United States. There are more than 3,200 local CERT programs nationwide and more than 600,000 people have trained since CERT became a national program.



From September 8th to September 13th, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office hosted its first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training class for Montgomery County volunteers. It was sponsored by the Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency.

CERT training fosters a team effort among first responders, emergency services, and the communities they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills to be integrated into the area's emergency response capability. Following a major disaster, first responders who provide public safety, fire, and medical services may struggle to meet the immediate demand for these services.



(L) Lieutenant Rick Thompson and * Sergeant Marshawn Garner with the new members of the MCSO Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).



CERT Training

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will initially be on their own and where their actions can make a difference. Through basic CERT training, citizens can organize themselves and utilize spontaneous volunteers to manage utilities, extinguish small fires, provide basic first aid, and search for survivors.

CERT training will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, if a community wants to supplement its response capabilities with auxiliary teams of responders, citizens can be recruited, trained, and organized to target specific audiences.

The training consists of the following elements: *Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, Emergency Medical Operations (First Aid), Light Search and Rescue Operations, CERT Organizations, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism and CERT, Disaster Simulations*

The MCSO encourages Montgomery County citizens to get involved in their community. There is no greater need or greater honor than to serve our neighbors during moments of crisis, natural disaster, or emergency. If you are interested in joining the MCSO CERT and attend future training, you may call MCSO Support Services at 334-832-2515.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ADVANCES 911 WITH NEXT-GEN TECH

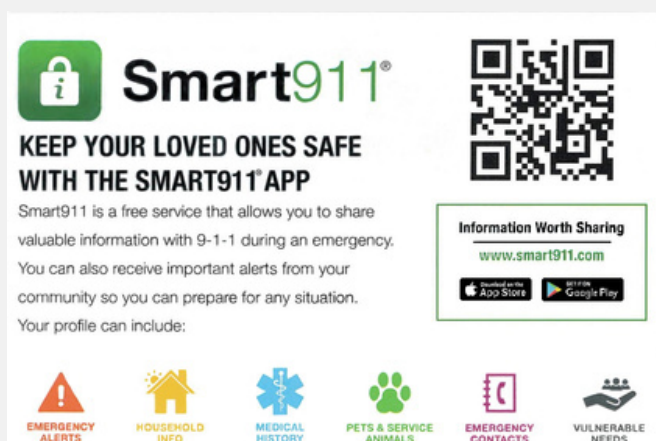
The well-known three-digit telephone number “9-1-1” has been in existence in the United States for over 50 years. Upon its implementation, it was designated as the “Universal Emergency Number” for citizens throughout our country. It is a critical lifeline for people facing medical emergencies, danger, and uncertainty.

The first use of a national emergency telephone number began in the United Kingdom in 1937 using the number 999 (which continues to this day). During World War II, American military personnel were introduced to this system while stationed in England. In the early sixties, discussions emerged on a similar technology in the United States. In 1967 the President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended the creation of a single number that could be used nationwide for reporting emergencies.

In 1968, a number was agreed upon. AT&T chose the number 911, which was simple, easy to use, and dialed quickly (999, with a rotary phone, would take longer). At the time, this announcement only affected the Bell System telephone companies; independent phone companies were not included in the emergency telephone plan. Alabama Telephone Company decided to implement the first 911 system ahead of AT&T, choosing Haleyville, Alabama, as the location.

The first 911 call was made in Haleyville, Alabama on February 16, 1968. Six days later, a second 911 call was placed in Nome, Alaska. By 1979, 911 coverage in the U.S. had grown as 26% of the population could dial the number. This increased to 50% by 1987 and 93% by 2000. As of March of 2022, 98.9% of the U.S. population has 911 access.

Enhanced 911 (E911) began development in the early 1970s and started to appear in 1980. This increased the capability of 911 to automatically provide dispatchers with a caller’s location. This information is gathered by mapping the calling phone number to an address in the database, an Automatic Location Identification (ALI). In order to locate a mobile telephone geographically, there are two general approaches, some form of radiolocation from a cellular network or the use of a Global Positioning System built into the phone itself. As of 2018, about 80% of 911 calls come from cellular phones. Another further development was the Text-to-911 function, which was first used in Iowa in 2009. Presently only a small portion of 911 centers have this ability (about 4%). Federal, state and local governments are constantly examining the 911 system in order to increase efficiency and safety in emergency notification.



Smart911®

KEEP YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE WITH THE SMART911® APP

Smart911 is a free service that allows you to share valuable information with 9-1-1 during an emergency. You can also receive important alerts from your community so you can prepare for any situation. Your profile can include:

- EMERGENCY ALERTS
- HOUSEHOLD INFO
- MEDICAL HISTORY
- PETS & SERVICE ANIMALS
- EMERGENCY CONTACTS
- VULNERABLE NEEDS

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The current 911 infrastructure, largely based on older analog technology, needs updating to handle the demands of modern communication. The Next Generation 911 Act of 2023, officially known as H.R.1784, aims to modernize 911 services by transitioning to a digital, internet protocol (IP)-based system, often referred to as NG911. It will enable the public to send more than just voice calls to 911 centers, as it will enhance emergency number services to create a faster, more resilient system, allowing for the transmission of text messages, photos and videos. NG911 will also improve public safety answering points' ability to help manage call overload, natural disasters and transfer of 911 calls based on caller location. This enhanced functionality will improve emergency response times, especially for individuals who may have difficulty communicating verbally or who are in situations where visual information is critical.

Montgomery County citizens will be pleased to know that the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has remained focused and in the implementation of all emergency communication technology. Our Emergency Communications Center (ECC) is equipped with the newest NG911 systems and can accept Text-to-911. We use a system called "Prepared" that accepts text, photographs and video to 911. The system will also contact a hang-up 911 call asking the recipient if they have an emergency and ask them permission to share their location. The software can identify many different (text) languages, interpret and translate the text into English and vice versa. Citizens may assist law enforcement, their families, friends and neighbors by participating in a program designed to assist them in emergencies. It is always better to prepare ahead of time before such an event occurs.

The MCSO encourages Montgomery County citizens to use the Smart911 app. This app allows users to complete a safety profile that is free, private and secure. Participants may include their address, occupants, household, health/medical information, and opt to share as much or little about pets, service animals, vehicles and special notes that they would want first responders to be aware of. Having vehicle information readily available on the app can assist victims when their car is stolen or broken into. This is quite beneficial if theft occurs while the citizen is out of town. Please see the accompanying photo with this article that provides our readers with a QR code (or visit www.smart911.com) to learn more and sign up for this important and lifesaving service.

Next Generation 911 represents a significant upgrade to the current 911 system, offering a more reliable, efficient, and effective way to connect people with emergency services. It will provide a modern digital system able to sustain the large and complex communications systems in the future. This is one of many initiatives the MCSO currently utilizes in providing Montgomery County citizens with the most advanced public safety technology available.



MCDF CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE 3RD QUARTER 2025

The Montgomery County Detention Officer of the 3rd Quarter 2025 is Sergeant Marcus Townsend. He has been employed with the MCSO since September 27, 2004. During his 20 years of service with our agency, he excelled in the ranks, reaching his current position of sergeant and a member of the extraction team.

On August 1, 2025, an inmate attempted to smuggle contraband into the MCDF. The inmate had cleverly sewn tobacco into the lining of his underwear and socks. Due to Sergeant Townsend's experience and dedication, he was able to find the contraband items and successfully stop the illicit substances from entering the facility.



Sergeant Marcus Townsend

MCSO DEPUTY OF THE 3RD QUARTER 2025

(This commendation was written by Sergeant Joshua Henry.) On June 27, 2025, I attended a Montgomery Biscuits baseball game with other colleagues from the MCSO. While watching the game, I noticed that Deputy William Hendrix was working an overtime assignment at this location. From a distance, I noticed that he was interacting with patrons and speaking with children while on foot patrol in the area. He then approached my group and spoke with us for a moment. During this conversation I learned that Deputy Hendrix purchased Montgomery Biscuits merchandise with his own money and was passing these items out to children in attendance. I personally observed him give away a Montgomery Biscuits baseball that was still in the wrapper that he purchased from the gift shop. Not only did he do this at this game, but he expressed that he typically does this each time he works this detail. Dep. Hendrix was not asked to do this, nor did he feel obligated, he simply did this because he wanted to. This is a true reflection of his kindness, character, and willingness to serve his community. Dep. Hendrix was perfectly content with his actions going unnoticed, but I believe he should be recognized and commended.



Deputy William Hendrix

MCJDF DETENTION OFFICER OF THE 3RD QUARTER 2025

This letter of commendation is to recognize Juvenile Detention Officer Nekia Simo'ne Grace for Officer of the 3rd Quarter 2025. Her outstanding work performance, and her willingness to always go the extra mile has postured her to receive this recognition. JDO Grace has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and an outstanding commitment to achieving team goals. She is punctual, organized, and works very closely with her colleagues. Due to staff shortage, JDO Grace has taken the responsibility of 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, she assists and supports her supervisors with extra tasks. JDO Grace is truly a dedicated officer with a team approach attitude, and it is without reservation that she deserves this auspicious honor.



Juvenile Detention Officer Nekia Simo'ne Grace

MCDF CIVILIAN OF THE 3RD QUARTER 2025

We are pleased to submit Deborah Oliver as MCDF Civilian of the 3rd Quarter 2025. Deborah has been assigned to the detention facility since August 2024. Originally, she joined our finance team; however, she transferred to the MCDF after assisting the accounts manager. Although her expertise is in finance, Deborah has excelled in her current role as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Director of Detention.

Her skill set and knowledge in budgeting and customer service has permitted our department to fill an enormous void. Deborah has taken her role seriously and is passionate about achieving top results. Her electric personality is contagious. It should go without saying that she has remarkable talent but never stops seeking an opportunity to grow and expand her skills.



*Executive Administrative Assistant
Deborah Oliver*

MCSO CIVILIAN OF THE 3RD QUARTER 2025

On July 20, 2025, at approximately 12:11 AM, Deputy Riego advised that an Alabama State Trooper (MACS Unit) was in pursuit of a vehicle on I-85 northbound near the 15-mile marker. The vehicle eventually exited in Shorter and continued along U.S. Highway 80 toward Tuskegee. During this active pursuit, the State Trooper lost radio communication with his dispatch center. Deputy Riego was able to locate the trooper at the intersection of Cross Keys Road and U.S. Highway 80 where he had been involved in a motor vehicle accident with injuries. He was unable to communicate with his radio due to the severity of the accident.

Dispatcher Michael Hamner promptly contacted Macon County Sheriff's Office dispatch and requested EMS response. Upon receiving uncertain information from Macon County Dispatch regarding EMS status, Dispatcher Hamner waited for an appropriate period, then proactively

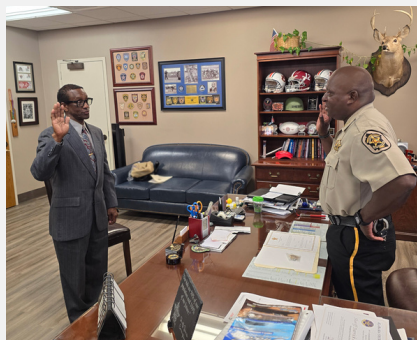
reestablished contact and requested Haynes LifeFlight to respond to the scene due to the critical nature of the trooper's injuries. When it became apparent that the Macon County dispatcher was unfamiliar with LifeFlight procedures, Dispatcher Hamner used his training, judgment, and presence of mind to contact Haynes LifeFlight directly. As a result of his actions, the injured Trooper was successfully airlifted from the scene and transported to Baptist South Hospital for emergency medical care.

Dispatcher Hamner's professionalism, situational awareness, and ability to remain calm under pressure were critical in ensuring the timely dispatch of life-saving resources. His swift actions exemplify the highest standards of service in emergency communications and reflect great credit upon himself and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.



*Emergency Communications Operator
Michael Hamner*

NEW DEPUTIES SWORN IN



Sheriff Cunningham administers oath of office to Deputy Sheriff Gregory Ocampo, Deputy Sheriff Ronnie Felder and Deputy Sheriff Stephen Ziglar

PROMOTION



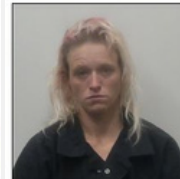
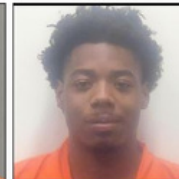
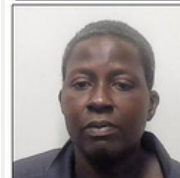
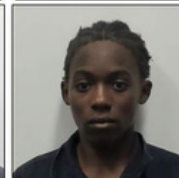
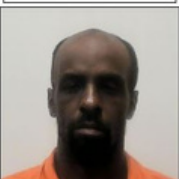
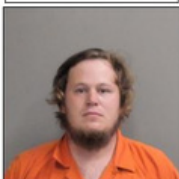
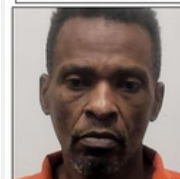
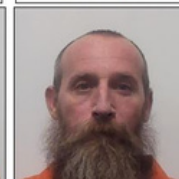
Sheriff Cunningham congratulates Corporal Jekeila Goldsmith on her promotion

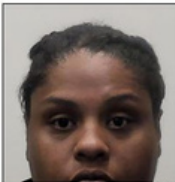
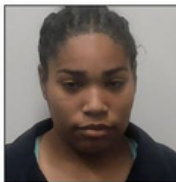
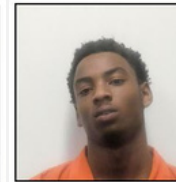
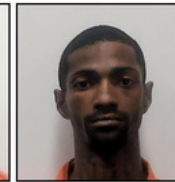
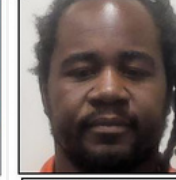
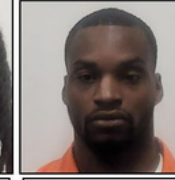
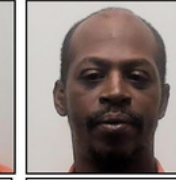
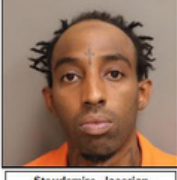
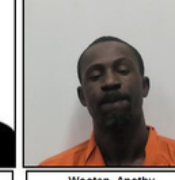
OPTIMIST CLUB HONORS DEPUTY



Ms. Francis Baker, President of the Central Montgomery Optimist Club, presents Deputy Sheriff Tae'lon Harris with the Optimist Club "Respect for Law" award for her outstanding dedication and service to Montgomery County Citizens.

MCSO ARREST REPORT 3RD QUARTER 2025

 Griffin, Aarinton Retail Theft 1st WARRANTS	 Harris, Aaron Fraud, Use Credit Card x2 N. Ripley Street	 Harris, Nicolas Destruction of State Property S. McDonough Street	 Abbot, Kayla Obstructing Justice False ID US Highway 231	 Bell, Jamorian Promoting Prison Contra. 1st S. McDonough Street	 Bennet, Pedro Jr. Attempted Murder, DFIOV Atlanta Highway
 Henderson, Shawn Theft of Property 1st Vaughn Road	 Hernandez, Jose DV Strangulation Wedgewood Avenue	 Jackson, Donald Jr. Kidnapping 1st, DV 2nd Barnes Road	 Bosley, Denise Obstructing Justice False ID Eastern Boulevard	 Burns, Daviona Robbery 3rd, Retail Theft 1st WARRANTS	 Caffey, Byron Theft of Property 1st US Highway 80E
 Jenkins, Donald Receiving Stolen Property 1st Atlanta Highway	 Langley, Darrin Attempting to Elude (Felony) Dozier Road	 Lemley, William DV Strangulation Ashwood Circle	 Carlis, Lynn Obstructing Justice False ID WARRANTS	 Dickerson, Correll Promoting Prison Contra. 1st S. McDonough Street	 Graham, Sean Criminal Mischief 1st Riverside Road

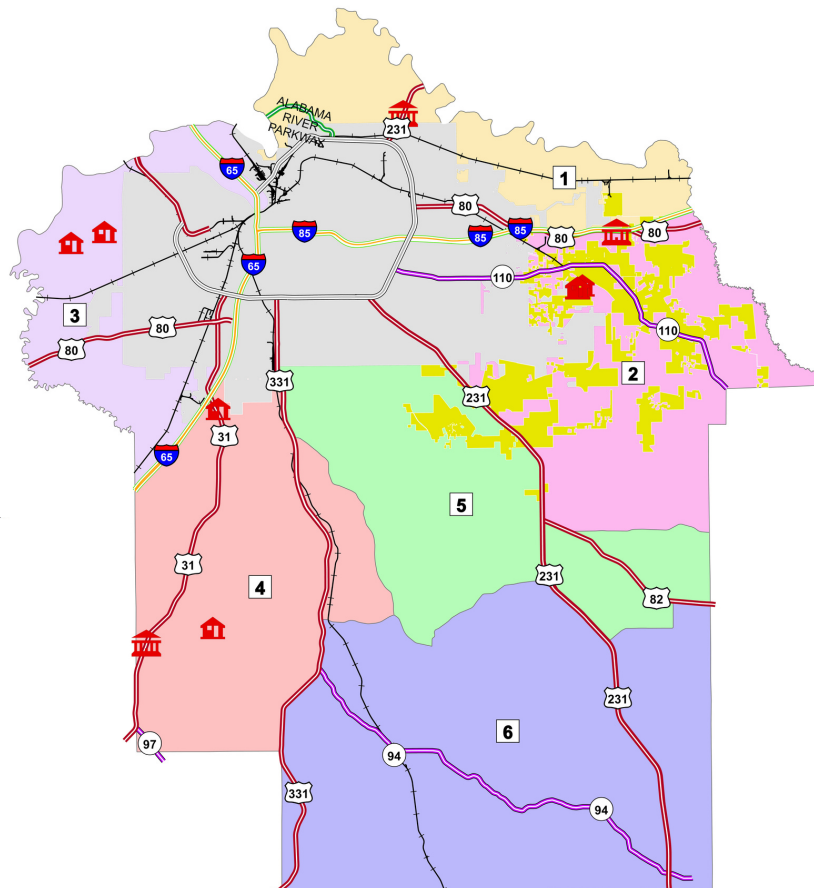
					
Lott, Chelsea Retail Theft 1st Vaughn Road	Lysdale, Robert Theft of Property 1st Bonn Terre Boulevard	McCall, Timia Retail Theft 1st Vaughn Road	Walker, King Attempted Murder, DFIOB Atlanta Highway	Ware, Tedarius Theft of Property 1st & 2nd Vaughn Road	Washington, Derek Unlawful B&E Vehicle, Theft of Property 2nd & 3rd
					
Mosley, Bryon Theft of Property 1st & 2nd Mobile Highway	Pinkston, Quinton Retail Theft 1st Vaughn Road	Vanchristopher Robinson Theft of Property 1st, CPF 3rd WARRANTS	Washington, Oscar DV Strangulation Child Abuse Stableway Road	Washington, Tacques Promoting Prison Contra. 3rd S. McDonough Street	White, Trent Obstructing Justice False ID Placid Drive
					
Scott, Jason Attempting to Elude (Felony) Mobile Highway	Stoudenire, Jacorian Retail Theft 1st WARRANT	Turner, Quintin Destruction of State Property S. McDonough Steet	Wingard, William Attempted Murder, DFIOB WARRANTS	Wooten, Anothly Assault 1st Vista Del Verde Drive	

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Burglary Map - 3rd Quarter 2025

Investigation Points

Type, Arrest

-  Business, No
-  Residential, No
-  City of Montgomery
-  Town of Pike Road



MCSO Mourns the Loss of Corporal "Lee" Griffin



Corporal Fred Griffin and his wife, April

The MCSO family lost a cherished member this past summer. Corporal Fred "Lee" Griffin passed away on July 5, 2025, after a long battle with cancer. Corporal Griffin was a veteran law enforcement officer with over 17 years of experience. Everyone will remember Lee as a dedicated husband and father, always eager to lend a hand to his friends and coworkers. He leaves behind his wife, April and twelve-year-old son, Leo. April is also part of the MCSO family and is in administration at the county fleet maintenance shop.

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To:

Place
Postage
Here

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

