

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY

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A MESSAGE FROM

SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM

Public safety is our main priority at the MCSO. Our law enforcement operations are always being measured and reviewed, depending on the needs of our community. I will outline several updates on these endeavors throughout this article. Community service is also a focus of our organization. Several years ago I spoke



to several law enforcement executives throughout the United States on how we could improve the funding of our community outreach programs, many that have existed for over 25 years. These programs uplift and support many facets of Montgomery County; the youth, elderly, neighborhoods, cooperative partnerships with businesses, and MCSO employees, just to name a few.

Citizen tax dollars have never been used to sponsor these initiatives. In 2021 we created the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization to further enhance giving back to our citizens. During the COVID pandemic, a surge in community

service demands surfaced, and a severe drop in donations and traditional funding struck most organizations in the non-profit community. The MCSO faced similar challenges in maintaining our community-based programs. The MCSO Foundation was created to fulfill this important need.



Since that time, we have enjoyed elected officials, community leaders, and business owners that have been a part of the MCSOF board, donating their time and leadership to this worthy cause. I chair the foundation, along with board members Commissioner Dan Harris, Councilman Oronde K. Mitchell, Ms. Jennfier Adkins, Mr. Brad Armagost, Captain James Dill, Lieutenant Ricky Thompson, and Corporal Issac Forbes. I am most appreciative of the service our board

members provide to our foundation and the dedication they display in serving our programs, community outreach and fellow citizens.



*MCSO Foundation Charity Golf Tournament
at Arrowhead Country Club*

In early May we held our annual MCSOF Charity Golf Tournament at the Arrowhead Country Club. Many thanks to our sponsors, the Alabama Sheriff's Youth Ranch, ASE Credit Union, Alfa Insurance, Baptist Health, Beasley-Alan law firm, CB&S Bank, Cumulus Radio/95.1 The Fox, Dixie Electric Cooperative, Dixie Electric Company, First Guard, Genesis Allied Health Services, Hyundai Power Transformers, Kimble Commissary/Team Solutions, Naphcare, Scott Patterson, Off-Duty Management, Petrey Wholesale, PH&J Architects, River Bank, The Shoppes at EastChase, Summit Food Service, LLC, Tito's, WAKA, Wind Creek Casino, Town of Pike Road, and Ms. Jennifer Adkins. Many thanks to all of

the participant golfers that showed up after a rainy start to our day and then braved the Alabama heat and humidity. It was an outstanding day that raised money for our foundation and the many great causes we support.



HD Hyundai Power Transformers USA Donates to the MCSO Founaation

(L -R) HR Manager David R. Chris, Chief Deputy Kevin Murphy, Chief Human Resource Officer Tony Wojciechowski, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham, President Jinho Kang, Assistant Chief Deputy Wesley Richerson, Sergeant Steven Wallace.

I was very honored to have a visit and special presentation by HD Hyundai Power Transformers USA President Jinho Kang who donated to the MCSO foundation. President Kang took time out of his busy schedule and personally came to my office and presented their donation. He was accompanied by Chief Human Resource Officer Tony Wojciechowski and HR Manager David R. Chris. As many of you are aware, Hyundai Group has strong commitments to our community and donates often to numerous local charities and nonprofit organizations. Once again, I am most grateful to President Kang for his generosity and time in personally presenting me with his donation.

The MCSO foundation funds our citizens' academies held three times a year. The MCSO Citizen Academy introduces individuals to the purpose, mission and goals of our agency. The citizen's academy is held on Monday evenings for seven weeks. Students receive classroom and practical exercises related to each division; patrol, legal services, administrative, youth facility, detention facility, training, and investigations. They receive demonstrations on forensics, the criminal intelligence center, K-9, drone operators and training simulators, just to name a few. We recently held a graduation on May 19th of our first citizen academy for 2026. Eleven citizens graduated after successfully completing the course. A great benefit of establishing these relationships is often our attendees become future volunteers at our many community events. The foundation also supports our two annual fishing rodeos, one for our youth and in the fall, for our senior citizens. Our youth rodeo was held in early June. Many people came out to enjoy a day of fishing, good food, and friendship. The annual senior fishing rodeo will be held this September. Please see our flyer in this edition of MSQ for more information.



Annual MCSO Foundation Youth Fishing Rodeo

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOUNDATION 2026 ANNUAL SENIOR FISHING RODEO



hosted by
SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 – 6 A.M. TO 12 NOON

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PONDS – HWY. 231 SOUTH
ACROSS FROM SWEET CREEK FARM MARKET
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 334 - 832 - 2515**

The MCSO Foundation also supports initiatives that benefit the morale and well-being of our employees. In April we hosted administrative assistant's appreciation day for all county employees, in honor of National Administrative Professional's Day. Administrative assistants from all county departments enjoyed a cookout at the MCSO training facility, shot firearms at our range, and participated in the VIRTRA firearms training simulator. The MCSO administrative assistants are a crucial part of our organization and ensure the smooth operation of our agency. Whether it is payroll, purchasing, budget management, fleet maintenance, travel and



MCSO Administrative Assistant's Appreciation Day

training, gun permit applications, identification and background checks, warrants, detention clerks, or uniform tailoring, our administrative staff work tirelessly to see our mission is successful. The sworn and correctional staff members simply could not perform their duties without the strong support and commitment of our administrative staff.

Lastly, the MCSO Foundation funds a college scholarship program for Montgomery County graduating high school students. The scholarship program is called the MCSO Foundation Commissioner Carmen Moore-Zeigler Scholarship Award. Commissioner Moore-Zeigler helped start the scholarship program two years ago. Interested students are considered and evaluated for their academic performance, civic activities, and a written essay when applying for the scholarship. Eight students from Montgomery County high schools were awarded this year. All of them are bound for outstanding universities in the fall, with some financial assistance from our foundation and Commissioner Zeigler. This worthwhile program is one of the main reasons the MCSO Foundation exists, to support and lift up young people in our community, and to give them the opportunity for a brighter future. Needless to say, it brings a great deal of relief to the parents of these students. As the father of two daughters who both attended college, I am fully aware of the financial challenges that come with higher education. Best of luck to our scholarship awardees.



MCSO Foundation/Commissioner Carmen-Moore Zeigler Scholarship Award Recipients

(L -R) Sheriff Derrick Cunningham, Commissioner Carmen Moore-Zeigler, Shaniya Alexander-Stokes, Rachel Douglass, Tori Fuller, Michael Thomas Gibbs, Amiryia Howard, Hayden Jackson, Kennedy Johnson, Omari Tucker, and Commissioner Doug Singleton.

Carastar Health, formerly Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority, is a nonprofit corporation providing comprehensive services to support evolving mental health needs across four counties in central Alabama: Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore and Lowndes. The MCSO has partnered with Carastar in many initiatives in the past. Our deputies have received Crisis Intervention Team training which helps them to identify someone experiencing a mental health crisis and respond accordingly. We have provided CIT training to Carastar personnel as well. Deputies often transport mental health consumers to the Carastar Crisis Center located at 5915 Carmichael Rd. This is an outpatient treatment center that eases the number of consumers that would otherwise end up in the local hospital emergency rooms. It has proven to be a great asset to our county. Carastar held a fundraiser gala in May. On behalf of Carastar, Executive Director Donna Leslie presented me with an appreciation plaque for our many years of dedicated service and the law enforcement programs that have benefited the local mental health community. I am very grateful to her and the Carastar staff for their continued partnership.



Caraster Fundraiser Gala

Sheriff Cunningham receives an appreciation plaque from Executive Director Donna Leslie of Caraster Health for his years of dedicated service and the many law enforcement programs he has instituted for the benefit of mental health consumers in the river region.



MCSO Crisis Intervention Team Training

Two new developments with employees of the MCSO. Captain Carlos Parks recently graduated from the Leadership Montgomery Legacy Class XLII. Leadership Montgomery unites leaders across racial, professional and social lines through immersive site visits, expert panels, interactive sessions and courageous conversations. The MCSO has sponsored several members through the years to participate in both the LM Legacy and Torchbearers programs. Also, Lieutenant Kirk Harbin recently retired after 25 years of service. I am happy to announce he will not be gone for long, as he will return as a part-time deputy assisting the administrative division in technical aspects of fleet management, communications, and support services.



Leadership Montgomery - Legacy Class Graduation



Sheriff Cunningham congratulates Lieutenant Kirk Harbin on his retirement.



Lieutenant Kirk Harbin

In last publication of MSQ an article was written on the Alabama Justice Information Commission of which I serve as the chairman. I was one of several speakers at the 50th anniversary celebration at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama on April 17th. The speakers gave a history lesson on the humble beginnings of the commission, the organization's growth through the many years, and what the future holds (Artificial Intelligence). AJIC provides a critical need to the law enforcement community, ensuring that important criminal databases and access to these systems remain consistent.



**Alabama Justice Information Commission 50th Anniversary Celebration
U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama**

(L-R) Attorney General Steve Marshall, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham, ALEA Secretary Hal Taylor and State Crime Information Director Maury Mitchell

I wish to give my sincere gratitude to everyone who took part in nominating me and congratulating me on receiving the National Sheriff's Association Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year award for 2026. I received official recognition at the NSA Annual Summer Conference held in Omaha, Nebraska in June. There are presently 3,081 sheriffs serving as the elected heads of county sheriff's offices across the United States. To be considered for such an acknowledgment was beyond any professional expectation I've ever had. I was pleasantly surprised that Montgomery County Commissioners Doug Singleton and Carmen Moore-Zeigler, Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone, Pike Road Town Councilmembers Mim Whatley and Marcus Robinson, Assistant County Administrator Regina Walker, and Cedric Campbell (Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, Inc.) and his wife Kanoschu, made the trip to Omaha to support me and the MCSO for the award ceremony.



National Sheriff's Association Conference in Omaha, Nebraska
Sheriff Derrick Cunningham receives the Ferris E. Lucas National Sheriff's Association 2026 Sheriff of the Year Award.
(L-R) Paul D. Laney (PDL Connect Consulting), Sheriff Cunningham, Chris Sailors (Elevatus Architecture) and NSA President Sheriff Chris West.



National Sheriff's Association
Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year Award for 2026
"The Sheriff Always Vigilant"

I would like to thank the NSA awards committee for selecting me, the support of my fellow sheriffs nationwide, the Executive Director of the Alabama Sheriff's Association, Sheriff Huey "Hoss" Mack and his staff, and particularly my fellow sheriffs from Alabama that have helped me for these many years. Lastly, none of this would have been possible without the dedication and loyalty of my senior staff, the hard working and the selfless men and women of the MCSO. Our administrative staff and sworn personnel fulfill the mission that is of the utmost importance in our society; public safety. All other human endeavors, education, commercial prosperity, individual growth, start with our citizens' ability to live, work and play in a safe community. Modern day law enforcement is far more complex than when I began my career nearly 40 years ago. Technology, use of force and community development have evolved. My main focus every day is to constantly strive to create innovative ways to deliver the most efficient and effective ways to provide public safety to our citizens.

In closing, I wish to thank the voters for their continued support of my candidacy as your sheriff. After the filing deadline passed for the primary election this past winter, I was the only candidate that qualified in the election for the office of sheriff in Montgomery County. Therefore, I will be unopposed in the general election this November. This will certainly not be the last time I express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your continued support and confidence in me to serve as your sheriff. I am truly grateful for the opportunities you have given me and will remain dedicated in your service in my upcoming 4th term and your sheriff.

Sincerely,


Derrick Cunningham
Sheriff

YOUTH COURTS VS. ADULT COURTS: WHY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM WORKS BETTER

*Dr. Scott Holmes, LPC-S, NCC
Juvenile Detention Director
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office*



Despite their many flaws, juvenile courts are better for youth who break the law than are adult courts. Contrary to critics' beliefs, juvenile courts regularly address serious and violent crimes. Juvenile courts do not offer a "slap on the wrist;" they often issue harsh punishments. The frequent alternative, sending youth to adult courts, is a dangerous and counterproductive response. Understanding the differences between the juvenile and adult court systems helps us see how society responds differently to youth and adult offenders.

List of Key Terms

- **Adjudication** refers to the juvenile court's process that determines guilt.
- **Delinquency offense** is the juvenile justice system's equivalent of a criminal act.
- **Delinquent** refers to youth who are convicted in juvenile court. Juvenile courts do not find youth to be "guilty" or "innocent," nor are they termed "criminal" upon their adjudication.
- **Detention** refers to youth confined upon arrest and before their court disposition. Some youth in detention have completed their judicial proceedings and are awaiting the location of their long-term incarceration. Such youth are generally held in facilities called juvenile detention centers. Youth in detention are suspected of delinquent acts or status offenses (such as incorrigibility, truancy or running away) or are awaiting the result of their court hearings.
- **Commitment (NOT SENTENCING)** refers to youth confined in residential facilities after their adjudication. Commitment facilities often have ambiguous names such as training schools, residential treatment centers, or academies. The largest of these commitment facilities, typically state-run, are sometimes informally called "youth prisons." Youth can also be committed to non-carceral facilities, such as group homes, wilderness camps or residential treatment centers.
- **Placement** can refer to the status of a committed youth as well as other kinds of out-of-home settings. This can be a confusing term because placement refers to post-adjudication placement as well as all placements, including detained youth.
- **Referral** to juvenile court equates to arrest. Juvenile court cases begin with a referral.
- **Status offense** is an act that is illegal for underage individuals, but not for adults. Examples of status offenses include truancy, running away from home, incorrigibility/ungovernability.

Public understanding of both crime trends and what follows a teenager's arrest is battered by misinformation, anecdotes, and ignorance. Moreover, the juvenile justice system values confidentiality and utilizes a vocabulary that masks its purposes and outcomes. It's easy to be confused.

The juvenile justice system aims to address both the young person and the harm they caused. The court's flexibility allows tailored approaches. A pervasive cliché defines juvenile justice as an ineffectual "slap on the wrist." Media, especially television news, overstate the role of youth offending in overall public safety, leading some to desire crackdowns on teenagers. But the evidence rebuts the narrative: youth typically age out of their risky behaviors, including lawbreaking. In fact, for roughly two in three youth (63%) referred to juvenile court, their first visit will be their only visit. Harsh responses are more likely to lead to deeper levels of reoffending because those responses do not confront the underlying behaviors and conditions that led to lawbreaking.

Instead of addressing the real needs of teenagers or recognizing how juvenile courts work, some legislators seek to send more youth cases to courts built for adults, a strategy that harms public safety and youth development. The question for the public and policymakers is how best to respond when teenagers do break the law.

The public still views the juvenile court as a weak and inadequate response to juvenile crime. As always, the most popular response to this perception is to send more juveniles to adult criminal court.

Not because criminal courts have been found to be more effective than juvenile courts, but because the adult system offers a more potent symbol of crime control than the juvenile court does.

In conclusion, none of which is to say that youth are without challenges. In 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found depression and anxiety common among teens, along with more emergency room visits for mental health issues. The interplay of mental health challenges along with the prevalence of other adverse childhood experiences among the justice-involved population points to the opportunity to address youth well-being outside of the justice system in ways that will benefit public safety and positive adolescent development. Unaddressed mental health challenges and substance use disorders can lead to higher rates of reoffending. Investing in public health remedies is an investment in public safety.

Juvenile courts have the capacity to address teen misbehavior, but no one should expect a 100% success rate. Despite their many flaws (particularly when courts choose to incarcerate), juvenile courts still have better outcomes than adult courts for youth who break the law. Localities can minimize court involvement by funding and expanding the use of diversion programs, which have shown excellent outcomes for those who do encounter the police.

Cases involving people under 18 do not belong in adult courts. States should raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include all people under 18, regardless of the initial charge. Moreover, the decision to transfer to adult court should never lie solely in the hands of prosecutors. Juvenile justice systems are a deeply flawed model, but a necessary alternative to adult courts.

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BAIL BONDS

The idea of money or property being put up for individuals to be released from jail dates back to biblical times. The earliest recorded is from 2750 B.C. on Sumerian clay tablets, which describe agreements where a third party pledged property to release someone from jail. The Old Testament talks of Joseph offering security for his brothers. The Romans were among the first to formally organize surety bonding, frequently using property or friends as security.

Bail has long been a feature of the American justice system, meant to keep people out of jail before trial while ensuring they return to court. Rooted in medieval England, it began as a way to avoid unnecessary pretrial imprisonment. By the Founding Era (1790–1810), American bail procedures were based largely on English practices and followed a predictable process. The U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment, ratified in 1791, states: "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."

By the late 19th century, the bail system shifted with the rise of commercial bail bondsmen. The first known bail bond company was founded in San Francisco in 1898 by the McDonough brothers.

The definition of bail bonding is a business or bondsman that acts a surety, pledging money or property to have an individual released from jail while they are awaiting their trial, also to guarantee that the individual will return for the appointed court date or the bondsman is responsible for bringing them back to the jail.

Bonding companies in Alabama are governed by the Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board Law, created by Title 15 of the Code of Alabama. Bonding agents are required to be licensed and attend continuing educational courses. Professional bondsmen must furnish a \$25,000 surety bond. Populations of 200,000 or more require a \$50,000 surety bond or escrow.

Bail bond companies must register yearly with the circuit clerk and they must have insurance. When an individual is provided a bond, the bondsmen must present a power of attorney that is equal to or more than the bond they are posting. The MCSO currently accepts bonds from 14 bonding agencies located in Montgomery County.

Bonding Companies are beneficial to jails because they reduce overcrowding. When an individual is allowed to make bond, it helps

the living conditions for individuals in the detention facility and reduces strain on the correctional staff. Bail bonds can help ensure the defendants maintain their personal and professional lives while their cases are pending. They can continue to work, support their families, and contribute economically to the community. This can lessen the financial burden on social services that might be required to support those who are incarcerated. They are more able to communicate with their attorneys, gather evidence, and prepare their defense. Many bail bond companies provide additional services, such as reminders for court dates. This can encourage individuals to fulfill their legal obligations.

While bail bonds can have positive impacts, they can also have negative impacts on the community. It can disproportionately affect low-income individuals. The cost of bail bonds is typically a non-refundable fee. This can be a significant financial burden for low-income individuals and families, leading to financial instability in an already difficult time. The reliance on cash bail can lead to individuals being detained pretrial simply because they cannot afford to pay bail, even for minor offenses. In some cases, the bail system may allow individuals who are considered a danger to the community to be released if they can afford bail, this is one of the main reasons that the Aniyah Law is so important. It provides judges the ability to deny bail for individuals charged with certain violent crimes.

As of 2026, several US states have eliminated or heavily restricted the for-profit commercial bail bond system. The primary states without a for-profit bail bonds systems include Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Oregon, Wisconsin and Washinton DC. This phenomenon has been scrutinized as a danger to public safety, as many violent offenders released on their own recognizance are frequently reoffended while released on previous charges. President Trump signed an executive order in August 2025 that restricts federal resources for jurisdictions with cashless bail policies.

When administered properly, bonding companies are an important component to the criminal justice system. It provides a level of accountability so that individuals required to appear in court follow the law or face consequences.



GEORGE ADKIN “ADDIE” MOSLEY 35TH SHERIFF OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

George Adkin Mosley was born February 27, 1893, in Pintlala, Alabama. His nickname was “Addie.” He went to Barnes School for Boys in Montgomery, and attended Auburn University for one year, and then returned to Pintlala to help his father with the family farm.

Sheriff Mosley married Blanche Luckie and had four children. He was in charge of transportation for the Pintlala School System. In 1922 he was hired by the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office as a night jailer and eventually, a deputy sheriff. The following year he moved to Capitol Heights in Montgomery.



He served under five sheriffs and became the chief deputy (during this period the sheriff could not succeed himself). The law was changed and Sheriff Mosley was the first Montgomery County Sheriff to serve multiple consecutive terms. He was elected in 1939 and served four terms as sheriff until 1955. He was instrumental in obtaining the first two-way radios in the MCSO vehicles and influential in the passage of legislation to create a fingerprint and identification office.

During the period of Sheriff Mosley’s time in office, most of the law enforcement functions in the City of Montgomery were provided by the 21 employees of the MCSO. After leaving office in 1955, he became a bailiff for the circuit court. He retired in 1960 after 38 years of county service.

Sheriff Mosley passed away from a medical episode in 1963 while on a hunting trip with his family in Georgiana, Alabama. He was remembered as a man “that conducted himself with fairness and equity, and possessed the necessary firmness required by his office.”

Since Sheriff Mosley’s time in office, every subsequent sheriff has served consecutive terms in office, a testament to the citizens’ desire for continuity in the public safety for Montgomery County.

MCSO BIKE PATROL/DOWNTOWN SUBSTATION

The MCSO recently launched a new public safety and community policing initiative; a downtown bike patrol unit and substation located at the Renaissance Hotel. The new substation will allow our deputies who patrol downtown Montgomery to utilize a central location to complete reports, take a short break, and engage with community members and tourists. Many thanks to Mr. Jim Buckalew, Chairman/CEO of PCH Hotels & Resorts and Mr. Chris Townsley, General Manager for providing the space and parking for our deputies at the hotel.

Law enforcement bike units maximize community engagement and mobility and are cost-effective in bridging the gap between law enforcement and citizens. Bike officers have a higher approachability and result in more than twice as many contacts with the public than vehicle patrols. They can easily cut through gridlock, traffic jams and crowded pedestrian spaces, narrow alleys, boardwalks, staircases and public parks inaccessible to patrol vehicles. In highly congested areas like crowded festivals, bike units reach emergencies quicker than officers on foot or in vehicles. They can also cover a larger geographic territory than traditional foot patrols.

Bike patrols operate silently, allowing officers to locate perpetrators many times unnoticed. They also serve as an effective physical barrier like mobile shields during protests and public events. Also, lacking the physical barrier of a patrol car window, bike officers often instantly hear or can detect localized criminal activity.

The cost-effectiveness of bike patrols saves tax dollars. Law enforcement bike costs are a small fraction of a standard patrol vehicle, and eliminate fuel and maintenance costs. A well-maintained bike can last for many years. Bike assignments keep officers in excellent, active physical condition to handle demanding fields tasks. Many studies have shown it is a desirable assignment, boosting morale, job satisfaction and reducing workforce stress. The number of MCSO deputies that volunteered for the new bike unit was outstanding.

MCSO bike officers will engage with citizens, business owners and employees and tourist visiting our capitol city. In addition to regular patrols, they will augment patrols during special Montgomery downtown events. We are looking forward to this new initiative and the enhanced public safety it will provide for the Montgomery downtown area.



The new MCSO Central District Substation located at the Renaissance Hotel, 201 Tallapoosa Street



Sheriff Cunningham announces the MCSO Central Substation at the Renaissance Hotel in addition to the new deputy bike patrol unit for downtown Montgomery.

BEYOND THE CRISIS: WHY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS MATTER FOR SURVIVORS

Sometimes it starts with a phone call in the middle of the night.

Someone is scared. Someone is trying to make a decision they never thought they would have to make. Someone is asking what their options are and whether it is even possible to be safe.

Helping that person requires more than a single agency. It requires a network of organizations working together to provide safety, support, and resources during a crisis. That's why partnerships between law enforcement and victim service organizations, like Family Sunshine Center (FSC), matter.



Every day, first responders, advocates, healthcare providers, educators, and court personnel encounter people who are seeking safety from abusive partners, recovering from sexual assault, or trying to rebuild their lives after being trafficked. Each organization plays a different role, but all are working toward the same goal: helping people move from crisis to safety and stability.

When community partners understand each other's work and are willing to learn from one another, people in crisis are more likely to receive the support they need when they need it most.

Over the past several years, Family Sunshine Center (FSC) and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office have built a strong partnership focused on better supporting survivors. At the Montgomery Sheriff's Office's Crisis

Intervention Training (CIT), FSC provides its expertise on domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, trauma, and victim-centered responses, helping first responders better understand the realities survivors face and the resources available to support them.

FSC has participated in 10 CIT classes, educating 268 first responders in the past 2 years. More importantly, these trainings have created opportunities for advocates and law enforcement officers to learn from one another, strengthen relationships, and deepen their understanding of each other's work. Those connections help ensure that survivors receive informed, compassionate support and can be connected to resources when they need them most.

To learn more about this partnership and its impact, read FSC's Quarterly Newsletter at <https://familysunshine.org/montgomery-county-sheriffs-office-crisis-intervention-training/>

Collaborating has been valuable for both organizations and has extended far beyond the classroom. Last year, FSC welcomed Training Division Captain James Smith to the Board of Directors. The Sheriff's Office has provided specialized training for FSC staff, allowing advocates to better understand law enforcement's perspective, challenges, and response. Relationships built through training have strengthened communication, increased collaboration, and helped both organizations better serve survivors when they need support.

While our roles may be different, our goal is the same: helping people find safety, stability, and support during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Since 1981, Family Sunshine Center has provided free, confidential, voluntary services

to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking throughout Central Alabama. Through our 24-hour Crisis Resource Hotline, emergency shelter, advocacy, legal assistance, and supportive services, we help survivors navigate some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

While many people still refer to FSC as a women's shelter, our services are available to survivors of all genders, whether or not they need emergency housing. We meet survivors where they are and tailor services to their individual needs because there is no single path to safety or healing.

For more than four decades, Family Sunshine Center has worked alongside the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and countless other community partners to support survivors and strengthen our communities. As the needs of survivors continue to evolve, partnerships like these remain essential.

Every day, survivors in our community make the difficult decision to reach out for help. When they do, they need more than a hotline number or a place to stay. They need a network of people and organizations who respect each other's work and are prepared to respond.

Because when survivors can find safety, healing, and stability, our entire community is stronger.

FSC's Crisis Resource Hotline (334) 263-0218 is available 24/7. Call to learn more or visit FSC at FamilySunshine.org.



DEPUTY KEANE SEALS: DEPUTY OF THE 2ND QUARTER 2026

Late at night on January 29, 2026, Deputy Keane Seals responded to a call for service at a Hotel on Troy Highway in Montgomery County. Deputy Seals encountered a family in distress who were experiencing difficulties with hotel management and were in the process of being removed from the premises late at night. The weather conditions were very cold.

During what began as a routine call, Deputy Seals demonstrated exceptional compassion, professionalism, and dedication to service. He went above and beyond his basic duties to assist this family during a difficult and uncertain time, ensuring they were treated with dignity and care.

Deputy Seals did not seek recognition for his actions, and in fact, was content to allow his efforts to go unnoticed. However, his selfless service deserves acknowledgment. His conduct exemplifies the highest standards of public service and reflects great credit upon himself and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Keane Seals is truly an asset to this agency and the community he serves.



Deputy Sheriff Keane Seals

CORPORAL EDMOND COOPER: CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE 2ND QUARTER 2026

Corporal Edmond Cooper conducted an investigation into contraband entering the Montgomery County Detention Facility. While gathering information and evidence, he was able to disclose contraband entering the facility and located where it was hidden.

Corporal Cooper is assigned as the gang intelligence officer and gives tireless effort into the safety and security of the facility.



Corporal Edmond Cooper

JUVENILE DETENTION OFFICER JEVONTE MCGHEE: JUVENILE DETENTION OFFICER OF THE 2ND QUARTER 2026



Juvenile Detention Officer Jevonte McGhee

JDO Jevonte McGhee works with youthful offenders' unit, where his calm and consistent manner has diffused many tense situations, according to the colleagues that work with him, as well as observations by supervisors. He has an excellent work ethic, as evidenced by his willingness to work extra shifts to assist other shifts that are short-staffed. Outside of work, he enjoys playing basketball, being with family, and working on community events, truck shows, and traveling abroad. It is without reservation that he deserves this prestigious honor.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT KATHY THOMPSON: MCSO CIVILIAN OF THE 2ND QUARTER 2026

Kathy Thompson serves as the administrative assistant for the new Sheriff Derrick Cunningham Criminal Intelligence Center. Her contributions extend far beyond her title. She is consistently the first to arrive each day, ensuring every visitor is welcomed with a warm smile. Mrs. Thompson's friendly and professional demeanor has been repeatedly praised by our state and federal partners who visit the facility regularly. She goes above and beyond to maintain the facility's smooth operation, promptly addressing any issues that arise. When a problem is beyond her ability to resolve, she ensures the appropriate personnel are notified without delay. For example, after a severe rainstorm in downtown Montgomery one day in May, Mrs. Thompson discovered the water standing on the building's bottom floor. She immediately informed county maintenance and Captain Pollard, enabling a swift response and uninterrupted operations. Kathy Thompson's proactive attitude and dedication set a standard for excellence.



Administrative Assistant Kathy Thompson

CLERK MICHELLE MOCK MCDF CIVILIAN OF THE 2ND QUARTER 2026

Clerk Michelle Mock has been employed with the MCSO since February of 2026. In that short time, she has been a driven and highly professional individual with strong integrity, accountability, and a commitment to excellence. She demonstrates excellent communication, teamwork, and interpersonal skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively across diverse teams. Ms. Mock has strong organizational and time-management abilities and ensures deadlines and objectives are consistently met. She is committed to maintaining high ethical standards while delivering quality results and contributing positively to organizational success.



Clerk Michelle Mock

ANSWERING THE CALL: MEET OUR NEW DEPUTY SHERIFFS



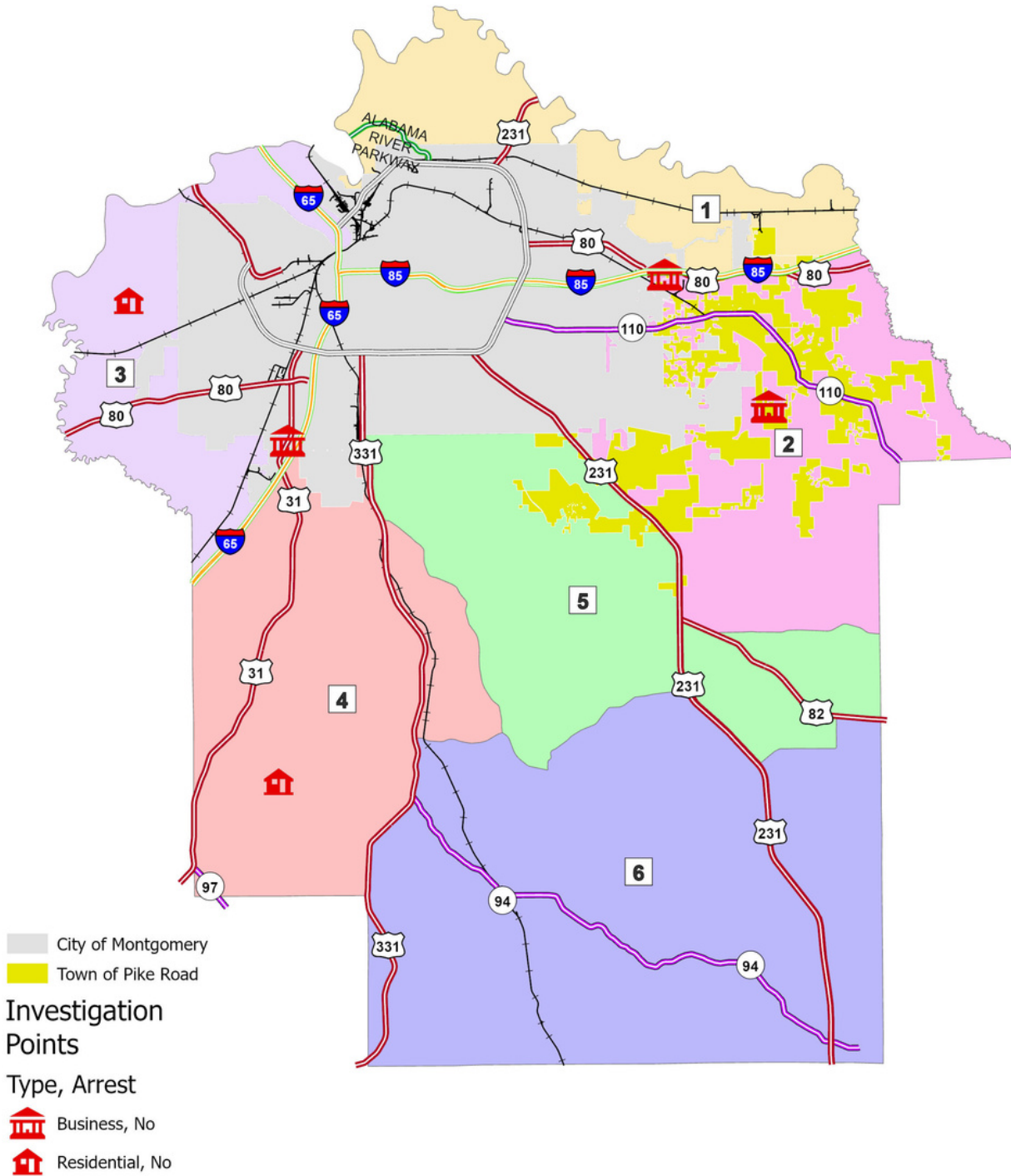
(L-R) Sheriff Cunningham administers the oath of office to new Deputy Sheriffs Jeremy Peterson, Caleb Jeffers, Regina Gordon, Daniel Williams and Adam Burns

STEPPING INTO LEADERSHIP: PROMOTIONS

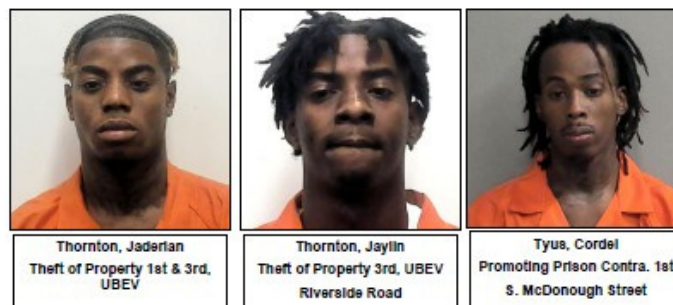
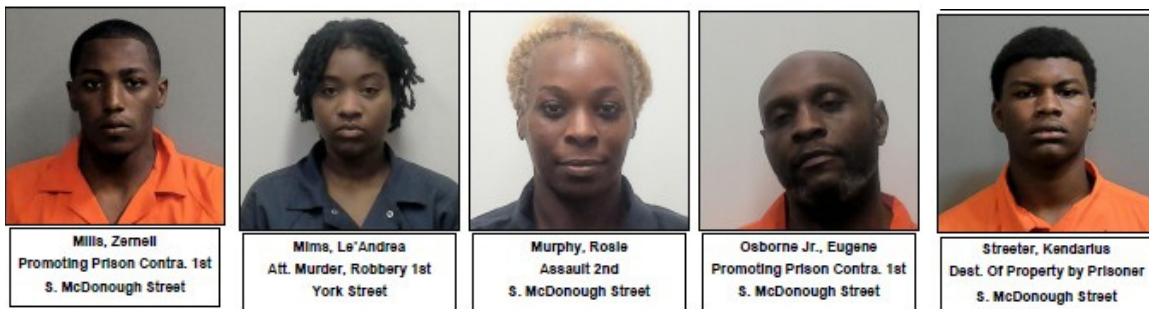
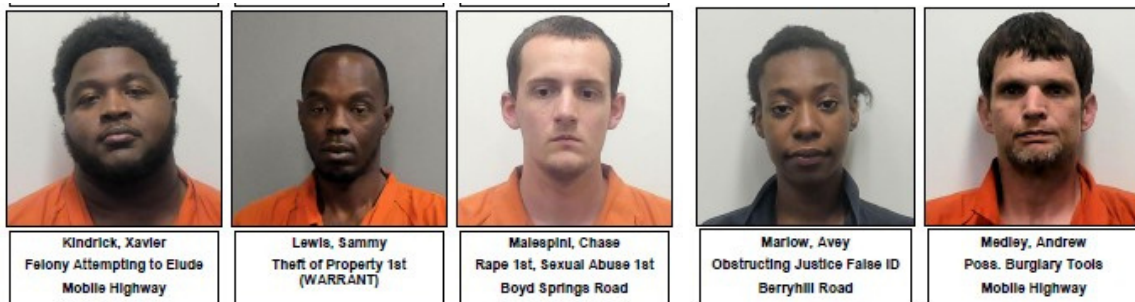
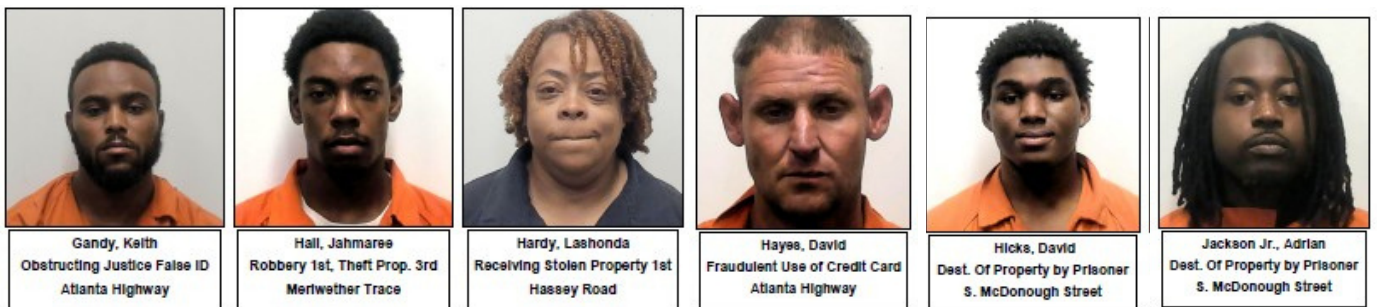


Sheriff Cunningham congratulates (L-R) Sergeant Shundra Rowe, Lieutenant Brian Fullard, Sergeant Jessica De'Andrea and Lieutenant Jarrad Dixon on their promotions.

M.C.S.O. 2nd Quarter Burglary Statistics



MCSO ARREST REPORT 2ND QUARTER 2026





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Here

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

