

Terrell County Sheriff's Office End of the Month Report September 2021

The month of September began with the recording of the 14th deceased illegal alien for Terrell County. The subject was a female from Mexico she was located at the Val Verde / Terrel County Line east of Sanderson and north of Highway 90. Our office responded to the scene in the late-night hours, and with assistance from Border Patrol units were able to locate the deceased. The scene was processed and photographed Terrell County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) Deputies as well as Justice of the Peace were on scene until sun rise, all the necessary arrangements were made with the funeral home to receive the deceased. The Mexican Consulate in Del Rio, Texas was notified of the deceased subject so they could make all the necessary family notifications. We will remind the court that this is the highest number to date of deceased illegal aliens for Terrell County, and that as hunting season approaches our office expects to receive more such calls. As area hunters begin to arrive to their properties and begin to walk out draws and canyons to scout for deer to hunt, we anticipate them locating remains that may have been unaccounted for due to their remote location.

The Sheriff's Office continues to support and assist our local Border Patrol and Department of Public Safety (DPS) Troopers with apprehensions, vehicle encounters and transport of illegal aliens. On September 4, 2021 our office assisted DPS with a smuggling encounter here in town at a local business. The illegal aliens were being dropped off at a local business to purchase food and drinks for their continued travels. DPS noticed what was occurring and contacted TCSO for assistance, and all the illegals were apprehended as well as the vehicle and driver. The case will be presented for prosecution by DPS for Alien Smuggling. On September 6, 2021 TCSO had a Failure to Yield in Sanderson, the vehicle, loaded with several illegals, travelled into town from west Hwy 90 and took a wrong turn on one of the sides streets. TCSO Deputies noticed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed through the town side streets and attempted to make contact. The vehicle ignored stopped signs and kept going eventually the illegal aliens bailed out on one of the streets as the vehicle continued. The vehicle finally was stopped near the Hwy 285 intersection, the driver and passenger were identifies as being from Houston. Both subjects were turned over to Border Patrol

and their vehicle impounded. TCSO and Border Patrol searched town for the bailed-out group locating one subject and later in the day one more subject. TCSO assisted local Border Patrol in the apprehension of two subjects that were in the area to pick up a group of illegal aliens, both subjects were taken into custody by Border Patrol for further interview, and their vehicle was impounded. On September 14, 2021 TCSO, while working a traffic accident on a north county highway, encountered a small passenger vehicle waiting in line to be allowed through the scene. Deputies noticed the driver and passengers appeared nervous, and were dressed in work clothing. Driver and passengers were questioned as to where they were working and it was discovered that they were all illegal aliens. The illegal aliens were turned over to Border Patrol and their vehicle was impounded. TCSO continues to assist Border Patrol and DPS with transporting illegal aliens from the field to the Border Patrol Station. At times the Border Patrol is busy processing apprehended groups and cannot respond. During those times TCSO will respond and pick up the illegal aliens, sometimes it is DPS Troopers that encounter these individuals and will call for transport, TCSO has responded to those calls also. TCSO and DPS continue to encounter gang members as vehicle drivers for these smuggling attempts, most from the Houston or Dallas, Texas area. Weapons continue to be recovered by DPS or Border Patrol during traffic stops encounters of these smuggling load drivers, and some of these drivers are convicted felons.

For the month of September TCSO Dispatchers had more than usual 911 calls from lost or injured illegal aliens. During the week from the 18th to 23rd of September TCSO dispatch had approximately more than 30 to 35 calls for lost illegal aliens. Each call that was received the information was passed on to TCSO Deputies and Border Patrol for response. Several calls resulted in subjects being located, with help of the 911 GPS System, and first aid being rendered. Most illegal aliens were suffering from dehydration or exhaustion, but I will inform the court that not all the calls were pinged by the 911 system. Some of these calls took a few hours to not only figure out by phone where the person or group of people were located, but then for TCSO Deputies and Border Patrol to drive out to a particular area were based on description we hope the person or persons are actually still there, because the people tend to move or continue walking. It is a time-consuming task being performed by those responding as well as the

Dispatchers trying to figure out what is being described to them or if this person or persons are even in Terrell County or in a neighboring county. TCSO also suspects that Alien Smugglers are beginning to use 911 as a distraction for their illegal activities. TCSO Dispatchers have received 911 calls of people claiming to be lost or have a lost relative out in the brush, and when TCSO or Border Patrol respond there is no sign of anybody, or tracks to indicate there was anybody in the area. Sometimes specific GPS coordinates will be provided and again no one is present at the locations. This leads us to believe that smugglers are using the 911 to get law enforcement to respond to areas away from load up spots or from areas where groups of illegals are staged and ready to be picked up. Neighboring counties have also reported this occurring in their area.

For the month of September Border Patrol showed approximately 600 apprehensions, approximately 900 Got A ways for the month of September, and for the fiscal year 2021 approximately 5000 apprehensions for the station. It was noted that for the month of September Terrell County experienced a significant increase in illegal alien traffic along the river crossings. Most were located south of Dryden and Five Mile area. The large increase was possibly due to the Haitian situation happening in Del Rio, TX. Val Verde County. It is believed that the increase in groups of illegal aliens crossing was due to groups of illegals believing that law enforcement, as well as Border Patrol, were all focused on the Haitian crisis and were unable to patrol the remote areas of the Rio Grande River. Sanderson Border Patrol experience an increase in apprehensions during this time as well as TCSO receiving an increase in 911 assistance calls from illegal aliens. TCSO put out an advisory to the county residents, land owners and ranchers to beware of their immediate surroundings and take precautionary measures for vehicles and residence.

DPS continues to make a difference in the county with their presence on the highways. They continue to encounter vehicles attempting to pick up groups of illegal aliens, identify smuggling vehicles and drivers, and apprehend smuggling loads. During the Haitian crisis in Del Rio DPS assigned to Terrell County were re deployed to Del Rio to assist with security at the Port of Entry. After the sudden increase of illegal crossers in the county they were assigned back to Terrell County.

During month of September Terrell County received a visit from State Representative Tony Gonzalez, the Congressman met with area law enforcement (DPS, TCSO and U.S. Border Patrol) to discuss the illegal alien crisis and how it has affected our county. The Congressman also met with area ranchers to discuss the property damages happening in the county due to all the groups of illegal aliens crossing. The Congressman was driven south of Dryden to experience a first hand look at the damages, and to see the rough terrain that illegal aliens walk through. He also saw the vast amount of area that is covered by area law enforcement, the remoteness and distances that have to be driven to reach ranch properties that may call for assistance. The visit from the Congressman was made possible by the County Judge, who reached out to his office for assistance regarding the illegal alien crisis. The Terrell County Judge and Justice of the Peace also accompanied the Congressman on the tour of the county south of Dryden.