



**TARRANT COUNTY**  
OFFICE OF THE  
SHERIFF

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Chairman Mark E. Green, MD

U.S. House of Representatives

Homeland Security Committee

Hearing: "Biden and Mayorkas' Open Border: Advancing Cartel Crime in America," July 19, 2023

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office saw a 1000% increase in the amount of drugs seized in a short two-year span. In 2020, we seized \$3 million worth of drugs. In 2022, it was \$35 million.

Tarrant County witnessed a 1000% increase in fentanyl poisonings over a four-year period. There were 10 victims of fentanyl poisoning between 2018-2019. That number jumped to 113 between 2020-2021.

TCSO intelligence collection shows that Mexican cartels have weaponized drugs with the intent to harm Texas residents and destabilize our communities. In fact, cartel members have before expressed to our team that "they will send whatever kills the gringo [Americans, irrespective of race]."

The Mexican Cartels are seditious and conspiratorial in nature – they are organized for the express purpose of destabilizing governments and increasing their power. They undermine the authority of local and state government, harm residents, and overwhelm services.

These organizations also traffick in people. An open border has led to hundreds of contacts with victims, traffickers, and predators by TCSO officers. Our department has arrested numerous smugglers, traffickers, and predators since 2021 and have participated in joint operations where victims were found in cages and cells, crammed into dangerous conditions inside stash houses.

These traffickers also capitalize on the vulnerable inmate population by identifying females who are incarcerated and bond them out of jail for the strict purpose of sex trafficking. They will also force uncooperative females, sometimes those who were smuggled over the border, to engage in petty criminal activity to ensure they are arrested and jailed. These criminal organizations are using the jail system – a taxpayer funded public safety system -- to both capitalize on their victims and identify new ones.

The cascading effect of weak border enforcement leads to more crime, more violence, and more death in our communities. We need a secure border.

At your service,

BILL E. WAYBOURN  
SHERIFF  
TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS