

## **Naming of Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Training Complex Buildings and Surfaces**

After careful thought and research as to meaningful and memorialized names for public facilities, Sheriff Eric Fagan proposes the following names for new buildings at the training complex:

### **1. Walter Moses Burton Auditorium**

Walter Moses Burton's legacy as the first Black Sheriff in Texas (1869-1873) and the U.S., his election to Texas Senator (1874-1883) and his advocacy for higher education (Prairie View Normal School, now known as Prairie View A & M University) is appropriate for the Auditorium. History testifies as to his reliance, courage, and unwavering commitment to justice in a time of significant challenges and shifts in American society during Reconstruction.

### **2. Gus George Academy – Training Building**

During the tenure of Fort Bend County Gus George (1985-1989), the Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Academy gained its status as a regional training provider (May 1, 1985). In 1989, shortly before his death, the Academy was named after Sheriff George, whose leadership led to "hands on" regional training. The new training complex carries this training approach to the building where classrooms, the gym, cafeteria, dining room, and skills-based training is offered to first responders in this region.

### **3. Sheriff Eric Fagan Firearms Range**

Sheriff Eric Fagan was elected in 2020, becoming the first Black Sheriff to be elected since Reconstruction. During his review of policies and procedures and skills qualifications, he noticed the Sheriff's Office to be the largest department in Fort Bend County, and when compared to other similar departments throughout Texas and the U.S., was the only large department not to own or control their own firearms qualification range. Through his dedication and research, he led Commissioners to approve the largest single law enforcement improvement over the Sheriff's Office 188-year history, - the design, approval, and construction of an indoor firearms range. The new facility is comprised of 40 lanes of fire, including 100 yard rifle range, a SWAT building, a SIMS building, a 2-story training complex with an entire second level for the 9-1-1- Communications Center, K9 training area, and a ¼ mile driving track with 3 large concrete pads for obstacles, backing, and braking exercises.

### **4. SIMS – Patrick's Alley**

The SIMS building is a non-lethal training center with overhead observatory catwalks for instructors and observers to evaluate and assess tactical training exercises in a set of constructed and variable scenarios and building layouts. The entire layout can be reconfigured to create adaptive and flexible spaces to suit close-quarters to mid-size quarter engagement to optimize the space for various training scenarios.

Patrick primarily means "nobleman," or "patrician," and its origin is linked to distinction and honor. Patrick adds several layers of symbolism, such as Christianity and Conversion, and overcoming evil/paganism. In Ireland, for example, this is interpreted symbolically as the triumph of Christianity over pagan beliefs.

### **5. Sergeant Carlos Castillo SWAT Building**

Sergeant Carlos Castillo served Fort Bend County with honor and distinction for over 25 years, retiring in 2024. He first promoted the idea of a new firearms range to Sheriff Eric Fagan during the Sheriff's 2021

assessment of the Office's programs, projects, initiatives, and needs. Sergeant Castillo served as a SWAT member and an instructor for defensive tactics and firearms qualification.

#### **6. Deputy J.D. Norsworthy Driving Track**

Deputy John David Norsworthy, Jr. was fatally injured in the line of duty after a December 27, 2010, crash when striking debris on a roadway while responding to a backup request from another deputy. He lost control of his vehicle near FM 762 and Benton Rd. and succumbed to his injuries on January 4, 2011. The loss of Deputy Norsworthy will always be remembered as a legacy of his willingness to serve his brothers and sisters, but also as a symbol of his sacrifice and courage.

#### **7. Communications Center**

At the present time, a name is not being recommended.