



## LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 1



## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

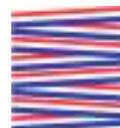
MON, SEP 15, 2025 – WED, OCT 15, 2025



## INT'L PEACE DAY 9 21



## REMEMBER 9-11-01



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**Mission:** The Challenger Street Newspaper advocates, informs, and connects diverse people from all walks of life. We empower street dependent campers with economic opportunity and get their viewpoints heard.



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Our partners:

Mobile Loaves & Fishes  
Treasure City Thrift  
Austin Public Library  
T.O.O.F.  
JP's P.L.H. Fndn  
Hogg Foundation  
Richard R. Troxell-N.H.C.



95% Street Reporters

Leslie Cochran wrote for the Challenger our first 6 months.

Clip Art used from MS Publisher  
We use century gothic font cause it uses least amount of ink.



To subscribe or make a donation  
www.challengernewspaper.org  
Venmo Cash app Square or



THANKS TO ALL OUR  
ADVERTIZERS,  
DONORS,  
CONTRIBUTORS AND  
DISTRIBUTORS  
YOU MEAN A LOT!

Editorial Policy

Material in the paper reflects the opinion of the author. Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published. We ask you to proof read your article. Grammar is edited only for understanding. Editor doesn't edit your voice.

Deadline is 2nd Sunday or the 15th.

Should you come into contact with an individual you believe could benefit from outreach, call the Sunrise Hotline

512-522-1097  
M-F 8a-8p

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is a good time to get ride of old koozies, freeze a bottle of water and stuff it in a koozie or carry water in a small cooler. Hand them out the window at corners.

Labor Day Monday, September 1, is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday of September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements in the United States.

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Spanish: Mes nacional de la herencia hispana) is annually observed from September 15 to October 15 in the United States for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic culture to the nation's achievements, culture, and history

## WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON BUS PASSES???

By CTOSH email & Val Romness

Paper passes with a magstripe on the back will continue to work on the fareboxes, which are not changing. Participants will receive paper passes throughout 2025. (Local fare only) Once paper passes run out, it will move to the **new reloadable passes**; There are enough paper passes for the year, change coming most likely in 2026.



Thank you Hogg Foundation for thinking of our mental health through cooling kits!

## Time for a discussion Challenger Will Visit Your Org/Hood

Zoom or in person

Understanding Homelessness and building empathy.

### Goals

- 1 See the whole person
- 2 Meet them where they are
- 3 Recognize that there may be invisible disabilities
- 4 Use cultural competence
- 5 Never take your eyes off the person's humanity



Contact 512 560 4735 or challengernewspaper@yahoo.com



**Thanks so much to  
Amber, Allen and all our  
friends in Austin  
working to help our  
unhoused neighbors.**

**John Paul DeJoria**



# 30 MINUTE REST

BY CLAUDIA

The "No Sit/No Lie" ordinance in Travis County, specifically refers to regulations related to sitting, lying, and camping in public spaces, and panhandling. In Austin, this was largely addressed by Proposition B, which voters passed in 2021. It made sitting, lying, or camping in public areas a criminal offense, specifically a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine. The ordinance also restricts solicitation of money or other things of value at certain times and locations. (Except for the Challenger Street Newspaper sales, no permit required with non profit charitable donations)

As the nation catches on to the continued oppression of poor people, punishing un-housed people, with minimum wage at \$7.25.

**Please know you may have a 30 minute rest for your health.** (See flyers to the right)

From INSP articles:

## New executive order could reshape US response to homelessness

19 August 2025

By Franziska Wild

The White House announced a new executive order, aimed at addressing homelessness, on 24 July. The order, titled "Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets", reverses support for longstanding federal policies like housing first, and pushes local governments to remove people living outside by forcing them into institutional settings.

The order also encourages localities to enforce bans on camping, following last year's Supreme Court ruling that made it legal for jurisdictions to arrest or otherwise punish people for sleeping outside. Experts and advocates for people experiencing homelessness warn that the order will make it harder for local governments to solve homelessness and will harm people in the process...



House the Homeless, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2312

[www.HouseTheHomeless.org](http://www.HouseTheHomeless.org)

Starting May 1, 2011, the **No Sit/No Lie Ordinance** will be amended to protect people with **physical and mental** disabilities.

You can have a **30 minute rest** to "catch your breath" if you are disabled and you are feeling (but not limited to):

- weakness,**
- shortness of breath,**
- heart problems,**
- light headed,**
- pain**
- migraine headache, etc.**

So, if you need to sit or lie down because you are disabled... You **MUST** tell the police officer that you are **disabled** because you suffer from:

- diabetes
- congestive heart failure
- schizophrenia
- bipolar disorder
- depression
- cerebral palsy
- or any other disability**

**If a police officer approaches you** and asks why you are sitting down, Tell him you are disabled, "I have diabetes (etc)-see above, I'm feeling dizzy (or whatever-see above). I just need a minute or two." The officer should ask if you need emergency care and if not, he should tell you: "OK, I'll be back in about 30 minutes. (You may be issued a warning ticket at this point). If after the 30 minutes you're still there and having a problem, you'll again be checked for emergency medical care.

(over)

cont. from front.

If you don't need the emergency medical care, you'll be asked to move on, **immediately**. If you don't move, you'll be ticketed. If a ticket is issued, the case will go before a judge.

### Documents you can show the police officer or use in court:

- Mobility Impaired Bus Pass
- Social Security Disability Award Letter
- Food Stamp Work Exemption
- Any Letter from a Doctor or Hospital
- Any Letter from MHMR/Integral Care
- Letter from David Powell Clinic
- V.A Disability card/letter
- or other

You should also **NOT** get a ticket if:

- You are:
  - viewing a parade, demonstration, rally or the like.
  - in a bus stop area waiting to use transportation.
  - in line waiting for goods, services or public event.
  - on a chair or bench provided by a public agency or the abutting private property owner.

Or when Austin is experiencing *extreme weather* e.g. heat /cold/ Ozone Action Day etc.

### If you get a ticket,

**Fight it! Ask the Judge for a jury trial, they will hear your case.**

# GONE HOME

BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Please let the paper know if someone has passed;  
We want to remember them. A picture is nice  
Call 512-560-4735 challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

## RIP KAREN JOHNSON

DIED IN HER SLEEP IN EARLY AUGUST  
@ 8TH STREET SHELTER FOR WOMEN

**R.I.P. THOSE WHO ARE UNCOUNTED**

### Indoor/Outdoor Code of Conduct

#### For Businesses & Housed People

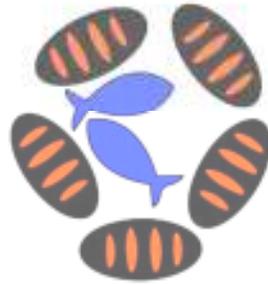
- ◇ Choose to practice empathy over fear
- ◇ Give compassion
- ◇ Don't hate
- ◇ **Safety:** Don't provoke street people, you will cause them to behave like you. You get back how you treat people.
- ◇ Smile, but say, "sorry, no cash"
- ◇ Give cold water, burgers, protein snacks, socks or a Challenger
- ◇ Donate to a charity of your choice, ie. Challenger Newspaper, Community First! Village, Foundation Communities.
- ◇ Don't quawk as you drive by
- ◇ Give a blanket or tent out your car window
- ◇ Don't call their stuff trash, just becuz it's in a trash bag: It may have family photos, meds, import papers, etc.
- ◇ Stop worrying about their pets; they are well cared for. Puppies learn early how to behave. They have more dog food than people food! Everyone deserves unconditional love!



#### For Campers

- ⇒ Respect the rules. No troublemakers.
- ⇒ Each is responsible for their own belongings
- ⇒ No display of products or substances that are socially unacceptable. (If you come back in a socially unacceptable state - Go to bed or leave! No talking!)
- ⇒ No display of weapons. Watch out for children!
- ⇒ Self-monitor behavior or you get probation or 24 hrs out or 1 week out. (can be left up to group)
- ⇒ Pets if allowed must be controlled (with or without leash)
- ⇒ Volunteer 10 hours/week or what group consensus.
- ⇒ No bad isms ( sexism, classism, racism, religiousism, ageism)
- ⇒ Prevent frenzy (rushing) (No monopolizing)
- ⇒ Use composting toilets or cardboard (Don't shit where you sleep)
- ⇒ No fires. Cook with a small campstove
- ⇒ Clean up after yourself! Take your trash out
- ⇒ Listen to each other. Respect quiet time.
- ⇒ Use consensus to be fair; do a gather in to deal with baggage.
- ⇒ Check your ego at the street!

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**



# Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Serving Goodness.™

Empowering communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless since 1998.

**WE PROUDLY SUPPORT**

*The Challenger Street Newspaper*



[mlf.org](http://mlf.org) | [@mobileloaves](https://twitter.com/mobileloaves) | [#ServingGoodness](https://twitter.com/ServingGoodness)

PLEASE DONATE TO MLF'S *Community First! Village* PROJECT



# TOUGH TIMES BY JOHN CURRAN

And so the dank dull darkness descending, over the land of the living, the land of light. And all was silent.

All and everyone was retreated to wherever inside happened to be. Strange now it was to hear a voice. The laughter, the sounds of the children. The cats and

dogs, running frolicking in meadows lush and green.

No, all that was gone now and even the moon seemed shy, ashamed somehow and would hide his face, before the gloom.



# INDEED DID, DID BY JOHN CURRAN

So the big 'ol fat next door neighbor comes huffing up to the porch, my dad's got me there, I got the squirtgun in my hand. The old fat neighbor's coming up the sidewalk like he hardly ever does. He's hollering 'n bellowing. "Don't believe a word he says" he's yelling, the whole damn street can hear. "He's squirted me, he damn sure did. Im all wet now look 'a here. I



tell ya the damn punk squirted me he did' 'n huffing 'n a puffing up here he comes. My old man been sitting out there playing his banjo in his rocking chair with 'ol bird dog Mike 'n he'd seen all this coming up, but hadn't been paying no mind. But now I clomp up 'n gotta play it off, the old fart neighbor is making noise. "Hey hey" he's waving and gesticulating to each and all, people are coming out to see what the f... 'n I'm playing it off. " Oh no you don't kid" the big oaf , now he's almost at our house. " What up kid" my dad, he knows there's something. " Nothing Dad" I say. "Did you squirt 'ol Dithers again" says Dad. "Cut it out Dad I never squirted him the first time" That was like a joke 'cause Dd couldn't stand him either but now, here he was, sort

of in our face. "Well Dithers" says Dad. Dithers was standing there now, on the sidewalk, sorta enraged, angry, pissed, belligerent, and he's saying " He really did it now, look, it's my new cashmere sweater. And he's puffed out his chest in his new cashmere sweater and it was soaked pretty good in a diagonal line like you would gut a hog or something.

And suree 'nuff he sure said the lawyer thing before turning away again in a most unneighborly way. So I was called on the carpet by Dad. " Son" he says " Did you indeed douse the Dithers, or no?" "Why hell no Dad" says I, sorta uneasily like. Well Dad, the Dude, he let that slide. All he said was... " Well whatever. Look, and hear me. I'll say it one time, even if ya stuck a stiff of dynamite up his keester, way up, ya say yeah, I did it, 'n it went off good, well , ok, but, never, ever lie about it, ever, ok? And one day you'll find out why I'm telling you this." Well, nothing ever came of Dithers, but much later in my life I was to know, what the old man was talking about, how important he felt that I understood, this much.

# Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

## Distributors Wanted!

**BE YOUR OWN BOSS \* CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!**



**We're a quick, no barrier income**

*get paid the same day*

**Start with a free paper, sell it to get a \$1.00 starter kit.**

**The kit comes with ID Badge & 10 papers to sell on a donation basis**

We meet

**Sundays 1-3 pm**

Outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez) or  
Central Library Rm 471

Strike up a conversation & offer our paper on a donation basis. After you sell the 10, future papers costs you \$1 each and YOU keep the profits.

The Challenger is written & published monthly by 95 % un-housed people. The paper operates from a mobile office with 2 suitcases & a backpack. Our Director/Editor, Val, prints the paper at home, then we fold them when we meet.

We take Venmo, Cash app & PayPal. Make sure they put your name or badge number. It might take a couple weeks to build your business. We are also digital online,

If you submit an article, poem or art, you get 10 copies of the issue that you're published in.

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengenewspaper@yahoo.com  
www.Challengenewspaper.org

Challenger Newspaper  
PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715  
512-560-4735

**It Works!**

## JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

We want you, and anyone you know who is incarcerated, to write your voice in our paper. You should write neatly so we can type or any writing, art or drawings send by email. Yes, we will publish you!

We don't have free subscriptions, but if you're published we will send a copy.

Challenger Newspaper PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715 [challengenewspaper@yahoo.com](mailto:challengenewspaper@yahoo.com)



**Tues-Thurs 1-7 PM**  
**Fri-S-S-Mon 11am-7pm**

**Moving this fall**  
**5201 Cameron Rd**



**Treasure City Thrift**  
Clothes, Housewares,  
Books and more!  
5201 Cameron Rd.  
[www.TreasureCityThrift.org](http://www.TreasureCityThrift.org)

**REALLY REALLY**  
**FREE MARKET**  
**LAST SUNDAY**  
**2-5 PM**

# Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 9/2025

## Please notify

**Challengernewspaper**  
**@yahoo.com**

**if you notice changes to the directory**

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Call 988

## DOMESTIC / SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

LASSA TX Hotline: 844-303-7233

SAFE 512.267.7233 [www.safeaustin.org](http://www.safeaustin.org)

VINE 512-936-1200 [www.vineline.com](http://www.vineline.com)

Kind Clinic .833.937.5463 [www.kindclinic.org](http://www.kindclinic.org)

If this is insufficient or you need help reporting or treating an event, email Challenger ATTN: Jenny

**NAT'L SEX ASSAULT HOTLINE** 1-800-656-HOPE

**HUMAN TRAFFICING** 1 (888) 373-7888

**NAT'L HUMAN TRAFFICKING** Resource Center  
Text "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733 English, Spanish and 200 more, [traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://traffickingresourcecenter.org)  
<http://stopthetrafficking.org>

## NAVIGATIONS CENTERS:

**Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center** (M-F 9-1) .  
4430 Menchaca (Ben White) Hot meal, mail, showers, hygiene, ltd clothing, laundry, computer lab, triage referral/navigation: Service Point ID, Coordinated Assessment, MAP/Food stamp sign-up; Medical clinic (Th only), Integral Care; job resources, recovery support. **Hotline:** 512-522-1097 NARCAN VENDING MACHINE [sunrisenavigationcenter.org](http://sunrisenavigationcenter.org)

**Trinity Center:** 304 E. 7th St. Navigation/service ctr, meals, case mgmt, ID docs, Coordinated Assessment; MAP, SNAP, Food Stamp sign-up; bus passes, ltd travel assistance, clothes/showers (women only on Mondays), mail, phone, computer access, housing referrals. M-F 9a-1p, Sun. 3-4:30p Come in person/ no appts. [TrinityCenterAustin.org](http://TrinityCenterAustin.org)

**Charlie Center-Mosaic Church Navigation Cntr**  
2675 Research Blvd. (McNeil/183) 512-922-8954  
Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. ID's, Social Security Cards, Vital Records, Meal Served Daily, SNAP Sign-Up, Coordinated Assessments, Housing Info & Referrals, Case Management, Mail, Packages, Medication, Secure Document Storage [theCharlieCenter.org](http://theCharlieCenter.org)

## First Austin Baptist

Case management, Resource navigation, Call for appt. 512-476-2635, 901 Trinity St. [fbcaustin.org](http://fbcaustin.org)

## BATHROOMS:

-Public Restroom 4th & Trinity

-Public Restroom 6th & Brazos

-Portapotti 7th & Trinity

-Portapotti 6th & IH35

-Downtown Austin Community Court / 505 Barton Springs Rd / 8-5 Monday -- Friday

-Libraries

-Near city trails

## Shower and bathroom:

Rec Centers

Mon-Sat, 10a -3pm:

Bartholomew Pool  
1800 E. 51st St East

Barton Springs Pool  
2131 William Barton Dr Central

Springwoods Pool  
13320 Lyndhurst St. Northwest

Balcones Pool /closed for season  
12017 Amherst Dr. North

## Showers:

M-F Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center 8:30 -11am

M-F-- 7th & I-35 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

M-F-- Burnet and Hwy 183 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

**The Other Ones Foundation** A mobile hygiene truck (showers, sink and toilet)

## Barton Springs Pool

Shwrs available/Bath House will finish this summer.

Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily

8 am to 8 p (fee charged)

Closed Mondays & Thurs

VETERANS are always in free

## LAUNDRY:

### Mission Accomplished

Mobile laundry, (must have voucher) care packages and connections to assist in transitioning to stable, self-sufficient and healthy lifestyles.

Each location 9am-12N

Unscented soap available.

M-- Sunrise Navigation Ctr--4430 Menchaca Rd

Tu-Violet Storage--700 E.. 7 St (parking lot)

W, F, Sat-The Other Ones - 780 S. Hwy 183

W-The Charlie Center at the Mosaic Church

12675 Research Blvd.

## FOOD:

**Angel House / Austin Baptist Chapel** Soup Kitchen  
Food Pantry/breakfast/lunch - daily 9:30-10a, 11a-12:30p, 512-643-2327, 908 E.

Cesar Chavez St

**Bread For All: Food Bank** Faith Presbyterian Church at 1314 E Oltorf St, 5-6:30 pm Mondays. We also sponsor a mobile distribution with the food bank at Parker Lane United Methodist (2105 Parker Lane) second Monday of the month from 9-10 am. All are welcome. <https://austincitylutherans.org/food/>

**Caritas of Austin:** Housing, food, educ, employment, veterans assistance. Housing programs require referral via Coordinated Entry system. Daily Lunch 11a. CENTRAL: 611 Neches NORTH: 9027 Northgate Blvd. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11:45AM [caritasofaustin.org](http://caritasofaustin.org)

**Central Presbyterian** (200 E. 8th, corner of 8th and Brazos) Breakfast Thursdays 8-9 am, limited space, clothes and toiletries. 512-472-2445 [cpcaustin.org](http://cpcaustin.org)

## El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission:

Community Health Worker Training, Adult Educ, Youth Progs, Vaccines and Health Literacy. Office

hours: M-F 9a-5p, Food Help: T/Th 8a-10a 7000 Woodhue Dr, 512-439-8900, [ElBuen.org](http://ElBuen.org)

**Foundation Communities'** Prosper Health Coverage program provides FREE help for all people to find and use affordable health insurance or other health coverage programs. We have phone and in-person advice available. Call 512-381-4520, email [enroll@foundcom.org](mailto:enroll@foundcom.org), book an appointment online (<http://prosperhealthcoverage.org/>), or visit one of our community Prosper Centers at 5900 Airport Blvd. or 2900 South IH-35 from 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday

## Foundation for the Homeless / Feed My People

Tuesday/Thursday breakfast 5:30-7 am.. First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Showers, AA meetings, a clothing closet (Thursday only), showers, and haircuts (every other Thursday).

**Gateway Church** - Feed the Community Food Pantry, 7104 McNeil Dr. Wednesdays 9-11am

**Green Doors'** veterans (transitional housing) and affordable housing residents (affordable rental or PSH with vouchers) until capacity is full. They may require a brief hotel stay for folks seeking to join the transitional housing program (and Green Doors would cover the cost); affordable rentals are immediate admission because they are single occupancy. [info@greendoors.org](mailto:info@greendoors.org) or 512-469-9130 for information or applications.

**Mobile Loaves & Fishes** For locations and schedules, visit <http://www.mlf.org/truck-schedules>.

**The Other Ones Foundation** Work opportunities, out of town transportation assistance, emergency shelter. 512-568-7557 780 S. Hwy 183. [toofound.org](http://toofound.org)

**University Presbyterian Church/Micah 6** Food Pantry Thursdays at 5:30-7 pm and Saturdays at 9:30-11 am. 2203 SanAntonio St., [micah6austin.org](http://micah6austin.org)

**University United Methodist Church/ Open Door Ministry:** breakfast & clothing every Saturday from 8-9 am. 2409 Guadalupe St.

**Victory Ministries** (2300 Canterbury St) supplies are VERY LOW. People being served outside only. If able, PLEASE CALL 512-480-9628 to check status before coming.

**Westover Hills Church of Christ** Providing food (non-perishable groceries) for everyone Saturdays 9-11 am. Drive-thru style. Located at 8332 Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78759. Food for Seniors

**Meals on Wheels and More [Main Office]**  
3227 E. 5th Street, Austin, TX 78702

## STORAGE/LOCKERS:

**Violet KeepSafe Storage** 700 E 7th St. (Indoors/ bathroom available) 96 gal barrel with long-shank lock. 7 days 7 am - 7 pm. To apply for a storage bin, call first to check bin availability. If you have a Photo ID, that will help. 512-974-1294

Resource Directory con't

Updated 9/2025

**EMPLOYMENT:**

**Challenger Street Newspaper**

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez) or Rm 471 Central Library.. Low barrier self employment. Make money today and every day you work. Distribute the paper on a donation basis, you keep all profits. [Challengernewspaper.org](http://Challengernewspaper.org)

**Workforce First:** Offers individuals experiencing homelessness opportunity to work cleaning parks. Also offers case management. The program is on a waitlist that can take several months to get through. Must be 18+ and currently unhoued. Call 512-568-7557 or email [brian@toofound.org](mailto:brian@toofound.org)

**Skillpointalliance.org** Job training: plumbing, HVAC, electrical, manufacturing. Women & Men 512-729-4922

**Hungry Hill Foundation.org**  
Jobs, clothing, meals 2xday.  
East Austin-12th & Springdale Rd

**Fair Living Wage Calculator:** enter zip code  
[www.universallivingwage.org](http://www.universallivingwage.org)

**City Resources App:**  
<https://opennow.maps.austintexas.gov/>

**REFERRALS:**

**First Call for Help :** 211 or 988  
Free, bilingual information & referral service about food, clothing, housing, child and youth services, job placement assistance, education, recreation, support groups and other programs and services.

**Arcilinc.org**  
CASE MANAGEMENT 512-832-6349



**American Veterans Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 Text to 838255

**Texas Veterans Commission** [www.tvc.texas.gov](http://www.tvc.texas.gov)

**V. A.** 512-823-4100 7901 Metropolis Dr) 78744  
Outpatient Clinic: Primary healthcare, specialty care and hospitalization. Contact Andrew Miller  
Transitional housing for single veterans.

**Caritas of Austin:** 7th & Neches. Community Kitchen is serving lunch Monday-Friday 11 AM-12:30PM. Our clients receive case management/housing stability services and groceries through our food pantry. The lobby has public access to water, bathrooms, phones and info on community resources. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 -11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11AM

**Green Doors** 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35  
Housing First- Transitional, affordable, permanent housing.

**Strike Force** Help with VA benefit claim, denial or appeal, call 254-299-9950. See [www.tvc.state.tx.us](http://www.tvc.state.tx.us) for even more resources and links. 877-4AID-VET

**Center Point Texas Veterans Program** 512-297-2990 out-

reach, assessment of needs, vocational readiness training, housing assistance, job placement and referrals to job skills training programs for homeless Veterans . 2101 S. Interstate 35 Suite 219 Austin, TX 78741 Up to \$800 housing/car repair

**Barton Springs Pool**

VETERANS are always in free  
Shwrs available/**Bath House will finish this summer.**  
Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily  
8 am to 8 p. Closed Mondays & Thurs

**SHELTER:**

**ARCH** Austin Resource Center for Homeless  
500 E. 7th St. 512-978-9920

**8th Street Shelter-** Emergency shelter for single women & transwomen 501 E. 8th St ( Neches ) (referral only) Contact Sunrise Navigation Cntr 512-522-1097 8am-8 pm M-F On site case management

**Marshaling Yard:** Appointment only.  
**Esperanza** is expanding, they got more land adjacent.

**Esperanza Community** 780 S US Hwy 183 (Old Bastrop Hwy) between Briggs Equipment and Palm Harbor Homes. Contact the Other Ones Foundation for a space (512) 568-7557. Pets are welcome. Charging station, . Shower trailer Bus Route #217

**The Safe Alliance** Call for locations, 512-267-SAFE (7233) Emergency shelter, counseling, transitional housing and case managers for women escaping domestic & sexual violence. children & men also accepted.

**YOUTH:**

**Lifeworks** Under 27 yrs. 835 N. Pleasant Valley Rd. Mon-Thurs 12-4 pm Bus routes 300 & 493. Food, hygiene, bus passes, Wifi, gear, charging, mailing address, coordinated assessment.

**American Youth Works** 216 E. 4th St.  
High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20  
Also has a first-time home buyer program.

**Street Youth Ministry** 2008 Justin Ln

**SAFE CARES** a program of The SAFE Alliance, YOUTH 12-22 experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking. Case management, advocacy, therapy, and Drop-In services. Call 512.267.7233(SAFE)

**SENIORS/ELDERS:**

**Family Eldercare** Outreach and in-home care for those over 60 years old. M-Th 8-4, Fri 8-12  
Call for locations, 512-450-0844

**Safelink** for 60 yrs+ FREE cell phones and service 1-800-Safelink (1-800-723-3546)

**MEDICAL, DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH:**

**Dell Seton Medical Center at UT** (formerly Brackenridge ) 512-324-7000 1500 Red River St. Emergency care-911

**ARCH Clinic-Community Care**  
500 E. 7th St. 512-978-9920 Mon-Fri 7-11 am & 12-4 pm. walk-ins and appointments

**MAP cards** 512-978-8130 1313 Red River Ste. 217A  
Mon. - Fri. 8am or 1 pm Homeless get right in.  
Screening and enrollment done on a walk in basis. appts preferred. Full coverage medical services with reduced or no copay. Must meet a set criteria.

**CARE CONNECTIONS CLINIC** Walk in. 3706 S. First St.  
**Tuberculosis Elimination Clinic** 15 Waller St., TB testing. Also Community Care-Hancock Cntr

**BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY AWARENESS CENTER**  
1704 EAST 12TH ST 78702 512-965-6950  
[drduncan924@gmail.com](mailto:drduncan924@gmail.com)

**KIND CLINIC** Austin-Koenig Suite 200 Free HIV/STI walk-in testing No appt Mon-Fri 9 am-12pm & 1:30-4:30pm 1-833-WE-R-KIND (1-833-937-5463) [kindclinic.org](http://kindclinic.org)

**THRA TX Harm Reduction Alliance** 512-893-3237  
Drop in 1803 E. Cesar Chavez St. Mon-Thurs 11:30-2:30 pm Wed 3-5 pm. We offer support for people who use drugs, including tools, resources, and overdose prevention.

**RecoveryATX.org** Peer recovery/support 512-553-2683

**Manos de Cristo Dental Clinic** (wait in line or appt)  
4911 Harmon Av 78751 512-477-2319  
Emergency dental care for people who are working and don't qualify for city, state, or federal programs. [Manosdecristo.org](http://Manosdecristo.org)

**STD Clinic** 15 Waller St., 512-972-5430  
not anonymous, but confidential STD testing. Must have photo ID.

**AIDS Services of Austin** 7215 Cameron Rd., 512-458-2437 case management, testing, & a variety of financial services available. The Jack Sansing Dental Clinic is a part of AIDS services of Austin and operates on a sliding scale for all HIV positive clients.

**Integral Care.org** Crisis Helpline 512-472-4357 (HELP) 24/7 Immediate emotional support. 24 hr/day, 7 days/week. or you may call them and an outreach worker will come to you.

**Austin Mental Health Community (S.H.A.C.)**  
Self Help and Advocacy Center Drop in.  
M & Tu 11:30-4:30 W-F 9-4  
3205 S 1st St. 512-442-3366

**Austin Clubhouse** community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses [www.austinclubhouse.org](http://www.austinclubhouse.org) An applicant must: Be at least 18 yrs, have a mental health diagnosis, be following a treatment plan (doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, case worker, peer specialist, etc.). We do not require a referral letter from a health professional. To become a member call 512-925-5877 to schedule a tour. 610 E. 45th Street, Austin, TX 78751 (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)

**MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES::**

Call 988 For Police w/mental health training, don't call 911, call 512-472-HELP.

**Mental Health Information HelpLine**  
1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), Mon— Fri, 9.– 5, CST

**Healthcare for Homeless HUB** *co-located with Lonestar Circle of Care* 3000 Oak 512-532-9961 for appt.

**Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)**  
1165 Airport Blvd Walk in M-F 8a-10p and Saturday/Sunday and holidays from 10a-8p.

## Directory continued

East 2nd Street Clinic (Central Austin)  
1631 E 2nd Walk in M-F 8-5

Stonegate Clinic (So. Austin) 2501 W. William  
Cannon Dr, Bldg 4 Walk in M-F 8-5

St. John Clinic – (North Austin)  
6937 N. IH 35 Walk in M-F 8-5

Www.aayhf.org  
**African American Youth Harvest Foundation**  
6633 Hwy 290 E. Ste 307 (512) 428-4480  
ContactUs@aayhf.org

**H.O.S.T** Homeless Outreach Street Team  
512-804-3720

**We CanNow** Street Outreach  
**Sunrise Navigation** Outreach

**Suicide Lifeline** 800-273-TALK  
(8255) IF YOU TEXT 741741 WHEN YOU  
ARE FEELING DEPRESSED OR SUICIDAL, A  
CRISIS WORKER WILL TEXT YOU BACK  
IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUE TO TEXT  
WITH YOU!

**Coalition of Texans with Disabilities** is at the  
corner of 18th & San Antonio, 1716 San Anto-  
nio St. Austin, Tx

**LEGAL:**

**Legal Aid Survivors of Sexual Assault**  
**1-844-303-SAFE** free legal assistance to  
survivors of sexual assault.

**Austin Tenants Council** 512-474-1961 (M-F  
9-12 and M-Th 1-4 PM)

**Camp Ban Tickets** TX Fair Defense Project  
512-637-5220 Press 0 Mon 12-5 pm & Thurs  
10 am-1pm or if in jail: Austin Lawyers Guild  
hotline 512-817-4254

**Community Court** 505 Barton Springs Rd first  
floor. Bus 1, 3, 7, 10, 20, 801

(1700 Guadalupe St) is the current,  
Travis County Civil Law Court House, which  
gets confused with old courthouse, 11th &  
Guadalupe & causes tardiness if you're not in  
the know. At the Current & old Court houses  
the cops do mag wand & scan your bag, coat, &  
belt & there's barriers to leaving the building  
too. But, at new courthouse they have a law  
library on 2nd floor, where law books & comput-  
ers with internet access, and law clerk librarians  
can help you research forms & methods for  
filing legal & business forms. All available for  
anyone wanting to study law or research what  
are common civic expectations, not taught or  
explained in public school.

**UTILITIES:**

Baptist Community Center Mission 2000  
E. 2nd St Elect, water, gas, meds, birth  
cert, food

**CLOTHING:**

Mobile Clothing TRUCK:  
Thrift-ish.org Contact for your group to  
have a free shopping experience

Really Really Free Market  
Last Sunday 2-5 PM  
Treasure City Thrift 2242 E. 7th St

**FREE HAIRCUTS:**  
Supercuts Training Academy call  
ahead 512-481-8900.

Ron King Academy call ahead 512-  
596-5000. (tip expected)

**Foundation for the Homeless-** hair-  
cuts (every other Thursday). First  
United Methodist Church, Family Life  
Center, 1300 Lavaca St.

**FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES,  
MEDICAID:**

Texas Dept. of Human Services  
Moved to Capital Plaza 512-929-7330  
Women, infants & Children (WIC)  
Call for closest location, 1-800-942-3678

**HOUSING**

VA 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744 (512) 823-  
4000  
Transitional housing for single veterans.

Blackland Community Development Corp.  
2005 Salina St., (512) 220-8751  
Transitional housing for families and single  
persons.

American Youth Works 216 E. 4th St.  
High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20  
Also has a first-time home buyer program.

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35  
Housing First-Transitional, affordable,  
permanent housing.

Project Transitions-Roosevelt Gardens  
HIV Housing Complex  
5606 Roosevelt Avenue  
The 40-unit homeless or unstably housed

Austin Housing Authority 1124 S. IH-35  
ATX, 78704. 512-477-4488 6 month to 2  
year; waiting list depends heavily on indi-  
vidual circumstance. [www.hacanet.org](http://www.hacanet.org)

Travis County Housing Authority 2200 E.  
MLK Jr. Blvd. 512-480-8245 Similar to  
Austin Housing Authority.

Foundation Communities  
Affordable housing for individuals and  
families with low to moderate incomes: 512-  
447-2026

Community First! Village Micro homes,  
trailers, canvas tents. [mf.org](http://mf.org) Hogeye Rd

Victory Homes Austin Greater Austin area  
as well as the surrounding cities. Lodging,  
food, and clothing is provided. Majority of  
people providing assistance are former  
addicts and gang members who at one time  
found themselves trapped in the same  
cycle.

For more info: Director Gus Celaya (512)  
920-8708 or Admin office 512-822-9182

**Excellence & Advancement Foundation**  
(EAF) provides programs, services and  
advocacy to break the school-to-prison  
pipeline by coordinating prevention and  
intervention programs to support children at  
risk of becoming involved in the criminal  
justice system. Below are some of  
the programs. For more info:  
<https://breakthepipeline.org/programs/>

Awesome Activist Leadership Program, Black  
Leadership Academy, SPARK change, The Wrap  
up, The Excellence Resource Center (this is the  
advocacy, case management program), Parent-  
ing with a purpose

**ART FROM THE STREETS STUDIO**

"Canopy" 916 Springdale Rd Bldg 2 Rm105  
Mon & Tues 10am-1pm Thurs 12-3PM  
(Women Only: Wed 12-3 PM)  
Art supplies provided for FREE! Participation  
allows each artist to be in the annual show in  
October!

**PET CARE:** [www.emancipet.org](http://www.emancipet.org) offers free  
days for pet care

**COOLING CENTERS:**

OASIS: behind ARCH, shade, bathrooms &  
water, pets ok on leash 8 am-7pm

Regular hours at Rec Centers &  
Public Libraries. Sorry, no pets.

**NO FREEZE SHELTER:**

**NEW THRESHOLD: 35' Dry, wet or windy.**  
**24 hr notice. HOT meal! Call for status**  
512-972-5055 Free bus

Single adult men and women, pets wel-  
come, please arrive at 505 Barton Springs  
Rd for registration, 6-8 PM or till flow stops.  
Rides to locations. Families with children,  
arrive by 6pm. **Pets now welcome!!**  
They'll stay in a crate near you.

**Notify [Challengernewspaper](mailto:Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com)**  
**@yahoo.com if you notice**  
**changes to the directory**

**City Resources App:**

<https://opennow.maps.austintexas.gov/>

Government phones:  
<https://lifewireless.com/>

## CODE OF CONDUCT

# Challenger Newspaper

1. Distributors must wear  
their badges in a clear  
and visible way when  
pitching the  
paper.

2. Distributors must be  
sober and drug free  
when they pitch the  
paper.

3. Distributors are re-  
sponsible for their pa-  
pers once they pur-  
chase them.

**4. Distributors are not  
permitted to fight over  
territory, use abusive  
language, or exhibit  
aggressive behavior.**

5. Distributors can't  
pitch in doorways,  
directly in front of busi-  
nesses, or near ATM ma-  
chines.

6. Distributors must not  
give the "hard sell" to  
customers.

7. Stepping off the curb  
may get you a ticket.

8. Stay back 20 ft from  
marked crosswalks.

**Distributors who violate our  
code will be warned and  
suspended if it continues.**

**We need to  
police ourselves or the  
police will.**



## Homer The Homeless Goose's Demands

By Challenger Newspaper

- More mental health care. TX is 47th in spending on mental health.
- Stop scraping camps and stop throwing all of ppl's things away!
- Pay social workers a living wage!
- Women's shelter: Current one has appointments only. Must be able to walk in for safety.
- Phones easier to get
- *End oppressive ordinances. No more criminalizing the poor!*
- *Increase funding for homeless services*
- *Austin Living Wage*
- *Pets must be allowed at shelters—better mental and physical health (get brief orientation for socialization of pets)*
- *Get past Moral Bankruptcy and be fiscally responsible. It can cost 17 to 35 thousand/year/person to ticket, court, jail, police, hospitalize, ER, ambulance rides. When a person is housed (w/a social workers guidance) they stand up and walk back into society.*
- *Take the boards off vacant homes.*
- *Cooling/heat Center: behind ARCH— Oasis has shade, water and bathrooms*
- *Find me! Get me on public display!*

## RELENTLESS: "THE SOUL THAT WOULDN'T QUIT"

BY GREGORY A BORDELON

There once was a soul,  
a tired little spark,  
that lived in the shadows,  
alone in the dark.

The walls had all crumbled,  
the roof had blown wide,  
the world turned its back,  
so the soul turned inside.

But rubble, you see,  
can still hold a gem—  
and truth can be found  
in the wreckage of men.

So piece by piece,  
with hands that were sore,  
the soul began building  
a heart once more.

Brick made from pain,  
and mortar from grace,  
it built up a tower  
in the loneliest place.

"No labels," it whispered,  
"No shame, and no lies—  
just windows of honesty  
open to skies."

The winds still howled,  
the nights stayed cold,  
but **hope doesn't flinch—  
it learns to hold.**

And every day  
the soul would rise,  
plant something true  
beneath the lies.

It planted **kindness**,  
planted **light**,  
planted "**I'm still here**"  
in the blackest night.

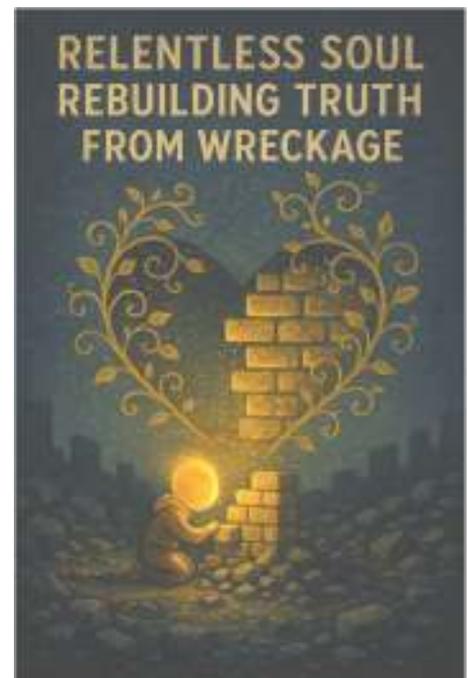
"Relentless," they said,  
"Why don't you rest?"  
But the soul just smiled—  
"I build with what's left."

A spine of sorrow,  
a laugh from the mud,  
a heart that still beats  
through betrayal and blood.

So if you feel broken,  
if your fire feels gone,  
just know some souls  
were built to burn on.

Built to take wreckage  
and make something new—  
a castle, a cradle,  
a ladder for you.

Because sometimes the strongest  
aren't shining or whole—  
they're just someone rebuilding  
the truth of their soul.



# OUR TEAM

## SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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Photo by Val Romness



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Photo by selfie



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Badge # 434  
Photo by Val Romness



**LIFT FROM THE  
BOTTOM  
EVERYBODY  
RISES**

Nihil de nobis,  
sine nobis.

Nothing about us  
without us

# CARTOONS BY ANDY STECKEL



# GAZA

BY JOHN CURRAN

I heard of this mythical country where the only problem seems to be the ancient peoples who have lived on this land for centuries. Only fairly recently has a new country showed up here with a mandate for a chunk of this land. This mandate was based on a world mandate allowed after this new country's own peoples had been through their own modern day horror show, the Holocaust. And so, with this, and feeling rightly justified in at last having their own much deserved homeland for their peoples, since then this new country has been growing increasingly irritated and put out at having to share this land with these much older ancient peoples. Now this new kid on the block so to speak, has over this recent time of seventy years or so, been getting armed to the teeth, in fact has created the most powerful military force in this mythical part of the world with the substantial assistance of the victorious Western powers. In this any and all collective guilt; lets face it, the Holo-



caust was no small change; is assuaged. Tons and tons of weaponry continually being delivered to new kid because "nobody kicks us around anymore. It is us now who do the kicking" And this seems to be the new style of play. The team captain, Bibi, quite the player, somehow never draws the 'go directly to jail' card wherever he plays Monopoly. Nobody knows how he gets away with it but, in interview,

surrounded by all those generals, you can maybe figure. And be assured by Bibi that there is no starvation of the ancient peoples, no sad choice between a slow death or a fast one, that none of this is actually happening. Bibi says what these ancient peoples need to do is just quit complaining and trade in that damn donkey cart for a nice red Tesla. I mean gotta figure, lot of real estate potential in that beachside strip, what's it called, I only hear it every day. But I don't believe it. They shoot them in the head? Chhildren?

# CHINAMAN

BY JOHN CURRAN

Me and the kids built that snowman 'n it lasted for three days. It was unprecedented, a significant snowfall in April? It was nice clean snow too. And it was gonna set a record for the date, for this area. It started in the afternoon and really got going with the early dark. Serious big fluffy flakes, the accumulation on the ground and everywhere was really rapid. I opened back up my big picture window and opened my door and stepped out on to the landing. I'm on the first floor so it was right there. I could reach out my hand. And the kids came running up. It was a grassy area out front of my Apt. with enough space so that plenty of snow was there already being made to order for these kids that were right quick all over it, rolling snowballs to make a snowman. I went out there and helped them with it. We piled a big snowball on top with a little snowball 'n I stuck a broomstick in to it, hung a lampshade for a hat and an old sport coat for the weather and there all of a sudden



it looked like a little Chinaman. Everyone was so excited, it was great. Who'd a thought, a snowfall like this in April. But later, after everyone had left, I walked back out there, and the little Chinaman lay there face down in the snow, the lamp shade scattered, off to the side. And standing over there, the only other prson out, was the young father, who I did not know too well, he had a kid and a nice wife. They were both young.

He worked construction I believe, a good father, the provider, the caretaker. And when he saw me he said "Someone knocked over your snowman" but when I asked him who that maybe coulda' been he wouldn't say nothing. So, solid snowballs they were, I put it back together again, stuck that broomstick back down the chute, put back on the lampshade for a hat, 'n he was the Chinaman again, and stood there for three days, and was the last bit of that April snowstorm to melt, at the end a last square foot or so of snow on the grass, and Chinaman was gone.

# HOW A DRAGON & COMPANION SUED THE POLICE & WON!

BY JULIAN REYES

(COMPLETE ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND IN GOOGLE DOCS-HOW A DRAGON & COMPANION SUED THE POLICE & WON!)



This is the story of how I proceeded to sue and eventually defeated the City of Austin, City Legal and Austin Police department in Court. And how I filed suit and won or settled those federal Civil Rights cases.

I. Intro, pro se Hello, First off I need to tell you that I am not an attorney of law. I am simply like you, just a pro se litigant, and this is my quest for justice. One which has proven a success for me. When it seems now there is so little justice available to us all. With Liberty and Justice for All was the promise. This is just an outline of my experiences in court and in the process of suing the City of Austin, Incorporated and Austin Police for violations of my/our Constitutional Rights and police abuse and retaliation for my police accountability and transparency. My Press work, as an investigative documentarist, videographer and journalist.

I have represented myself pro se in Courts from Community Court, Municipal Court, Justice of the Peace Court, to County Court and in Federal Court. I was pro se in many cases. In all my suits I began pro se like you. I have also been represented by attorneys in many cases. Together we have won over 24 cases APD had filed against me in a row against the City of Austin and Austin Police Department. All these cases were bogus, retaliatory and unlawful charges. These cases definitely show how the police lie and commit crimes as 'uniformed criminal gang members.'

This is what the crafters of the Constitutions warned us about. Even as much as filing false warrants and false felony charges against me which did not work in Court. Tell it to a Judge and Jury, bad cops. To date I have filed several Civil Rights suits against the City of Austin, APD and other criminal uniformed gangs like DPS. As I witness and hear increasingly about targeted violence and deprivations of rights by agents of 'the State' it makes me want to help others in ways that I was not helped when beginning my lawsuit(s).

That is why I am writing this presently. Also people have asked me to spell it out for them how and what I did to seek justice. For many people the laws and path to justice are so obscure and ominous to get started and get Justice to work for them.

When the Courts will allow, or even to simply hear and allow it. It's not impossible, but it takes some effort, I hope this makes it easier hearing and seeing what we did in my cases.

## II. First suit, Shiner Bock case

Shiner Bock dog shooting by APD Civil Rights case  
Reyes v City of Austin, et al case number 1:15-cv-00327-RP  
Settlement August 23, 2017

Filed pro se, in April 2015 while living in my car on the streets.  
Out of my trunk!

Attorney assigned after requesting: Pirkey Barber and lead attorney Travis Wimberly, Corporate Law lawyers, not Civil Rights specialists.

My first case was when APD came up to my dog and I on private property, in the middle of the night with their guns out. There was no crime or warrant, just shoot to kill mentality and training. Because my dog alerted me by barking, the bad cop, Daniel Walsh, then shot and murdered my companion dog. The cop was a coward. He lied about the details, and his partner and 11 other cops covered for him. All at the way up the command to a Lieutenant.

Fact: APD shot 21 dogs that year. Shame on APD!

This tragedy occurred in April of 2013, I filed suit in April 2015

**SUE** cont on pg 18

**SUE** cont from pg 17

and we settled in August of 2017 with the City. The City settled with me on a case that I started pro se after the Court granted appointment of Counsel, under special circumstances, which we will discuss later, as this is not a right we have of counsel in Civil cases. Only in Criminal cases do you have a right to appointment of counsel. That case was quite a win, considering the barriers that I had to overcome being pro se and pro pauperis. That case (case number 1:15-cv-00327-RP) can be looked up online on various sites. Also on the official case lookup site pacer.gov but you will need to sign up and may have to pay a small fee if you exceed like \$15/month in lookups. They charge anywhere from .10 to .50 for each search, from my experiences with Pacer case searching. Usually you do not get a bill you have to pay. Usually I don't exceed or even come close to the free search limit. But if you have the money, go ahead and find and hire a great Civil Rights attorney.

Other than the settlement amount, we were able to get the City of Austin, City Legal, and the Chief of Austin Police to all sign and agree to more transparency, changes to policy and even an apology from Chief Manley for the shooting of Shiner Bock.

There is still a lot to do to protect our dogs from police. Still more good people need to build on the case law and sue for puppycide by cops. We have saved countless dogs' lives through our justice work for the dogs that have no other voice but us. That is a BIG WIN! In the end I'm glad that I stood up and do this difficult and dangerous work against police state corruption of power and use of lethal force against our rights and our dog's rights. Dogs are our family too.

### III. Complaints Process

Using the following the process to file suit and fight for our rights I first filed police complaints with the City of Austin's contracted police oversight departments (first was the OPM Office of Police Monitor, now OPO Office of Police Oversight). And I also spoke several times to City Council about Puppycide by cops and how it was an issue. They all ignored the complaints and my voice,, tried to silence me and the police cleared themselves. As

usual.

A good next step was for me to try and get it in front of a Judge in a higher Court, the Federal Court oversees Civil Rights law across the U.S.A. This is the proper venue. So under the United States Code 42 Section 1983 the Klu Klux Klan Act (anti-Jim Crow law solution) of the US Congress and also called "The Civil Rights Act " I filed for a what is termed a 'redress of grievances' for police depriving me and my dog of our rights. I simply filed a 1983 Civil Rights suit. I filed as pro se which means a person representing themselves to the Court. The City of Austin spends good money on an entire team of lawyers to fight and hide their injustices. That fact alone tells you how corrupt, unjust, and racist they are and the system itself. But that's a longer conversation.



This is still the story of how I proceed to sue and eventually defeated the City of Austin, City Legal and Austin Police department in Court. And how I filed suit and won or settled my Federal Civil Rights suit cases. I am in the jurisdiction of the Austin Division of the Federal Western District of Texas. If you live outside this District, you will need to use the information, rules and procedures, and forms from your Federal District Court's web site. The best first step for filing suit, I think, is to visit and bookmark the Federal Court page with several of the docs you will need. Most of the docs I used are listed below and also on the Pro Se Guide page and link and there are others you may find on the Court's page or online searches. Get familiar with the Court's page and return to it when needed. The one I looked at is [www.txwd.uscourts.gov](http://www.txwd.uscourts.gov) for the Austin Western District Court.

(COMPLETE ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND IN GOOGLE DOCS-  
HOW A DRAGON & COMPANION SUED THE POLICE & WON!)

# ARBOR TERRACE: WHERE TREES GROW

BY VIKTORIA

I am 33yrs old now! I can barely believe it. I look young, feel young, and yet I ache with chronic pain for miles walked in Portland Or, Tucson AZ, and Seattle WA. My kankles give away sometimes and my cranio sacral diffusion of my skull and tailbone tug and tote my morbid obese body into a somatic pain. My chronic pain doesn't rest although I do.

I chose to get clean from "g" a year ago after being housed with my Utmost Highest Lover who lived with chronic depression and tried to self medicate with unregulated substances.

I lost his love to the battle of this class act. I watched him suffer unable to equip himself with the lifeskills to face his battle with his past trauma and his depression. My beloved I still believe in you. Go to therapy like I did please. I was blessed with 8yrs of CBT and DBT. I found many opportunities to speak, write, publish and participate in Lifeworks, Catholic community services, and other non profits.

Participation in these programs gave me a sense that my childhood raised by extended family gatherings and community love was still a virtue to pursue. It did not change the housing instability that took me away from my family, dehumanized me, and defrancized me.

Here in Arbor Terrace I have neighbors to talk to everyday and at any moment! I can go to the garden to dance, sing, play cards, drink and smoke. We are able to have card games and coffee days together. We do arts and crafts and go on outings together too! I have a family here!

I can always talk to Hannah or Zandra if I feel misunderstood, isolated, or stuck. I can get help with financial issues, tech issues and more! I have Asia and Jania from Integral care to help me strategize and set goals to move me forward. They listen and then give suggestions.

We plan together with no pressure, which allows me to reach further in my understanding of myself in my community. I am allowed to try and make mistakes.

I don't trust that housing will be here for as many years that some older folks here have lived, so I keep my bags ready. I live simple and try to make due with as little as possible. I go to open mics to see and

share in art, story telling, and entrepreneurship. I go to Vocal TX, ECHO meetings and now sell The Challenger newspaper so I can try to make income. I want to start teaching classes and gathering more people with lived experience to aid in



Photo By Anderson England

passing National Best Rental Protections to omit the housing crisis that has me "on my knees". I bear my cross in objective poverty like a saint. I will forever fight for my right that caused DHS to take my daughter from me. I deserve housing and the right to motherhood. One day soon I may find a man who believes that too!

Faith Hill inspired me to get down and dirty in my youth with my love for belly dance and yoga as a child and all through me life! If you get a chance to listen to the song "The Secret of Life" please enjoy it!

I hope you Dance- Lee Anna Womac

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Martin Luther King Jr.  
August 13, 1967



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