



NEWS RELEASE

Proudly Serving Texas' Finest

Contact:

CLEAT Public Affairs

P: 512.609.7770

P: 512.384.1756

E: news@cleat.org

**ATTN: All Texas Media Outlets
For Immediate Release**

July 7, 2021

State's largest police union exposes secret Standing Court Order issued in Travis County releasing hundreds of criminals, endangering the public, upending Texas law

AUSTIN — The Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas released a document today proving the evidence it has long sought demonstrating the sudden reversal of the Texas Penal Code by Travis County District Attorney Jose Garza.

“Jose Garza has misused his official position of elected office. Taxpayers are unknowingly funding his whimsical journey of reimagining a Texas with criminals roaming the neighborhoods magically rehabilitating themselves and morphing from home invaders, armed robbers, drug offenders, and mass shooters.” Said Charley Wilkison, Executive Director of CLEAT.

The Standing Order states it shall be transmitted to the sheriff of Travis County and become effective immediately. The order was filed with the Travis County Clerk's Office on March 15, 2021.

The document outlines that for all persons arrested for felony crimes, the Travis County District Courts determined that if the prosecuting agency responsible for pursuing felony criminal charges against arrested persons does not wish to prosecute, the arrested persons shall be released from the Travis County Booking Facility as described in the order.

The order states that if the assistant district attorney reviews the affidavit and determines at their discretion to reject the charges, they will notify Travis County Sheriff's Office personnel. The order states that an arrestee who meets the above criteria “shall be released on any charge.....the order functions as a release card in all cases where the prosecutor has submitted the rejection of charges.

This order actively circumvents state law and the checks and balances of the criminal justice system.

“Jose Garza and the liberal lemmings inhabiting the benches of Travis County are on a mission to undermine the legislative process and create a criminal sanctuary in Austin,” said Wilkison.

This order has put law enforcement officers and jailers in situations in which a suspect arrested for a felony is released back into the public before the arresting officer has even made it back into their assigned area after leaving the jail.

Prior to DA Jose Garza taking office, the common protocol was for an assistant district attorney, if available, to review an affidavit for sufficient probable cause, and reject only based on insufficient probable cause. The arrested person would later face a magistrate, where again, the affidavit would be reviewed for probable cause and bond would be set. This order allows for the arrestee to be released without being magistrate and regardless of sufficient probable cause that they did commit the felony offense.

“Jose Garza has unhitched himself from the two touchstones required to be an ethical prosecutor,” said Wilkison. “In his current political dream state, he no longer needs facts or the law. The public’s safety is endangered.”

Texas’ reputation for safe communities is drawing people from all over the world to come here and make this their new home. That reputation of safe streets exists because the Texas state legislature enacts laws reflective of the citizens. No district attorney has the right to blanketly rewrite Texas laws, especially felony crimes that endanger the citizens,” said Wilkison.

The Travis County district attorney has invited lawlessness, violence, and criminals into Travis County and has jeopardized public safety.

CLEAT intends to ask the governor to add this public safety crisis to the special session call, and we will be asking individual legislators to address this issue as well.

D-1-GN-61-121012

STATE OF TEXAS)	IN THE
)	
AND)	DISTRICT COURTS
)	
COUNTY OF TRAVIS COUNTY)	HANDLING CRIMINAL CASES

**STANDING ORDER TO RELEASE ARRESTEES
AFTER DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REJECTS CHARGES**

In the interest of justice and fairness for all persons arrested for felony crimes, the Travis County District Court Judges have determined that if the prosecuting agency responsible for pursuing felony criminal charges against arrested persons does not wish to prosecute, the arrested persons shall be released from the Travis County Central Booking Facility ("CBF") as described in this Standing Order.

The Travis County District Attorney's Office, the agency responsible for prosecuting felonies in Travis County, has established a method to review probable cause affidavits, and in certain cases, reject charges. After notification of that rejection occurs, the Travis County Sheriff's Office should no longer hold the arrestees.

The Travis County District Attorney's Office will review probable cause affidavits for felony charges brought to the CBF by arresting agencies in Travis County. After conducting a thorough review, if the Assistant District Attorney determines, in their discretion, to reject the charge(s) listed in the affidavit, indicating that the prosecutor does not wish to pursue criminal charges against the arrested person, the Assistant District Attorney will provide notice of rejection to the Travis County Sheriff's Office personnel.

IT IS ORDERED by the undersigned judges that all persons in custody on felony charges rejected by the Travis County District Attorney's Office, and meeting the above conditions, shall be released on any charge the State has rejected from the CBF by Travis County Sheriff's Office personnel immediately upon notification of the rejection. This Order functions as a release card in all cases where the prosecutor has submitted their rejection of charges.

A copy of this Standing Order shall be transmitted to the Sheriff of Travis County. This Order is effective immediately.



Filed on
Monday, March 15, 2021 10:50 AM
Travis County District Clerk
Criminal Division
Velva L. Price **BP**

SIGNED AND ORDERED AND ENTERED THE 11th day of March, 2021

DocuSigned by:
Brenda P. Kennedy
42052774CCC44CC...
JUDGE BRENDA KENNEDY
Presiding Judge for the Criminal Courts/403rd District Court

DocuSigned by:
Clifford Brown
1F597F5020F9474...
JUDGE CLIFF BROWN
147th District Court

DocuSigned by:
Dayna Blazej
484EBB4282EB49D...
JUDGE DAYNA BLAZEY
167th District Court

DocuSigned by:
Karen Sage
99ADDE0122AF43E...
JUDGE KAREN SAGE
299th District Court

DocuSigned by:
Chantal Eldridge
A8D776BF000441C...
JUDGE CHANTAL ELDRIDGE
331st District Court

DocuSigned by:
Julie Kocurek
89714AA67E1D458...
JUDGE JULIE KOCUREK
390th District Court

DocuSigned by:
Tamara Needles
6DEABF1C7D5E4A2...
JUDGE TAMARA NEEDLES
427th District Court

DocuSigned by:
Brad Urrutia
C61754271395478...
JUDGE BRAD URRUTIA
450th District Court

DocuSigned by:
Selena Alvarenga
839A5F3F95724F1...
JUDGE SELENA ALVARENGA
460th District Court