



Austin Police Association
"Serving Those Who Serve"

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Press Release:

The two elected prosecutors for Travis County, Delia Garza (County Attorney) and José Garza (District Attorney) are trying to publicly deflect the negative attention recently focused on them due to a lack of successful prosecutions by their respective offices. Recently local news affiliates KVUE and FOX covered stories highlighting the concerns with both offices dropping hundreds of criminal cases. Most of the cases were presented to the prosecutor's offices by Austin Police officers.

Delia Garza and José Garza are now making unsubstantiated claims that officers are declining to investigate crimes in some conspiratorial manner to make the elected officials look bad. They are both taking a page out of the anti-police movement to point to unidentified officers and make generalized allegations of improper conduct. It is my understanding Department officials asked both Delia and José for specific incident numbers and-or officers names and neither one of them responded with responsive material. The lack of credible information or evidence is extremely concerning and questionable when they both wrote similar letters to Austin City Manager, Spencer Cronk. One would have expected specific instances to support their position, instead of false baseless claims.

Our officers are working under extremely difficult conditions with the crisis level of defunded staffing. Our patrol resources are drastically reduced, our investigative staff are impacted, and the overall morale is taking a beating. To add more salt to the wound, we have two inexperienced elected prosecutors who are having questionable success in their positions and want to use the men and women of the Austin Police Department as a scapegoats for their failures.

The County and District Attorneys lack of acceptance of criminal charges by our officers is a primary factor for the existence of an atmosphere of a reactive model of policing in Austin. When the prosecutor's office uses the system as a revolving door, allowing suspected criminals out at an alarming rate it is an ineffective use of limited police resources. The negative impact and ramification for the victims is a real and serious concern. The victims deserve a well-functioning justice system.

It is not surprising to many of our members that the County and District Attorney are working together in a coordinated effort to tarnish our officer's reputations and trust within the community.

Our officers continue to go out and professionally serve our community with the limited resources provided by the city. Delia Garza was part of the Austin City Council that voted to defund the police, cut staffing, and eliminate cadet classes. Now she wants to point her finger out into the general area of the police officers and blame them for the rise in crime and her lack of prosecutorial success. What a shame, talk about eroding public confidence in our justice system.

I am confident the community will be able to evaluate both Delia and José's effectiveness as prosecutors by the evaluation of their records and see through the facade they are creating with deflecting and trying to make the officers out as the source of concern.