

Public Comments, Commissioners Court, June 13, 2023

Good morning, gentlemen, Claire Nybro here. Before my 2 minutes starts, I'd like to enter into the public record 2 press releases and a letter to which I referred in my public comments at the last Commissioners Court meeting on May 23rd. I understand from Mrs. Stafford, the County Clerk, that I must hand those items to you in order for them to be included with the public record. I've already mailed copies to all of you and Mrs. Stafford, but I include a copy today to refresh your memory.

I also have copies of news articles for each of you, which I would like entered into the public record for today. Thank you.

So this morning, I would like to talk a little about what seems to be growing crime in our community. We now are seeing an uptick in more serious crimes like homicide, rape and human smuggling.

This past Saturday, 2 bodies were found floating in the Llano River at the Kingsland slab & are being investigated as homicides. Yes, I know that's in Llano County, but it's still close enough to be considered "our community".

This past April, a non-US citizen was arrested in Bertram on kidnapping charges, as part of what law enforcement believes is an illegal immigrant smuggling operation, that the Sheriff's Department did not even know was in operation.

Last October, 2 Burnet County men in their 40's were arrested for sexually assaulting two young girls, one 13 and the other 16.

This past February, there was a man in my neighborhood, in Oak Vista, who stood 10 feet from my front door, then turned around & proceeded to leave. My husband, a retired law enforcement officer, confronted the man - who put his hands on his head when he turned to face my husband, & who did not have a plausible reason why he was in our neighborhood, so my husband asked him to leave. I later found out some of my other neighbors saw this man near their home as well, and they were shaken, as was I.

I worked for 10 years in a prosecutor's office, so I have a pretty good idea that Highway 281 is a well-used drug and human trafficking route from the Rio Grande Valley, especially now that the border is wide open. I am sure our Sheriff's Department has their hands full.

Since the Sheriff's Dept is already over budget this year, & you all are trying to find ways to fund the department's overtime problem, and since hardcore crime seems to be on the rise, I strenuously object to the County paying \$52,000 this fiscal year on licensing & support fees to fascist corporations & the government for elections equipment. I would rather that money be included in the Sheriff's Department budget for overtime, so that Sheriff Boyd doesn't have to beg for funding in the interest of public safety.

Thank you for your time today.