

Texas Prisons Air-Conditioning Advocates'

# **"BEAT THE HEAT" AWARENESS EVENT**

**March 12, 2019**

**Exhibit 9:30 am - 3:00 pm**

**Speakers and Question and Answer Panel 11:00 am -3:00 pm**

**Reagan Building, Room 120**

**Mock Cell 11:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Parking meters on Colorado St between 12th and 13th street.**



**Support**

**SB321 & HB936**

Did you know that temperatures in Texas Prisons have been reported **as high as 149°F?** Texas has 76 prison units without Air-Conditioning. During the **Hot and Humid summer** months. These Extreme Temperatures are **Cruel and Inhumane** for the staff working in these conditions as well as the ones living in these conditions.

***If we have laws to maintain temperatures for animals, why not for humans?***

This is why we need your support for Senate Bill (SB321) & House Bill (HB936) requiring TDCJ to maintain reasonable and humane temperatures between 65° and 85° degrees within all Texas Prison Facilities.

Check out our Exhibit and interact with our volunteers, hear from the experts and from those who have experienced this torture, and take our 3-minute "Mock Cell" challenge.

### **Guest Speakers**

**11:00 am -3:00 pm Various Speakers and a Question & Answer Panel**

**Attorney Tanika Solomon** of the Prison Show will be the MC for the event.

**Casey Phillips** – Texas Prisons Air Conditioning Advocates (TPAA), Founder & President

**Lauren Johnson** – American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Criminal Justice Outreach Coordinator

**Sybille Hamilton**- Director of Families and Incarcerated together Healing (FAITH)

**Lysa Mendez**- Ex-Correctional Officer & Family member

**Jose Flores** – Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) & Formally Incarcerated

**Linda Loudon** - Family Member

**Ken Bottoms** – Veterans Helping Other Veterans - works with incarcerated veterans inside TDCJ

**Savanah Eldrige** - Family Member

**Douglas Smith, M.S.S.W.**- Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC), Senior Policy Analyst &

**Danny Sneed** – Veteran, Returning Citizen Formally Incarcerated & Motivational speaker

**Officer Cheri Siegelin** – AFSCME Union, Huntsville Region

**Professor Ariel Dulitzky** - University of Texas at Austin

**Steven Price** – Voices of the Veterans

**Steph Kingery and Steven McCullum** – Children of deceased inmate Larry McCullum

**1:00 pm** – Address by Representative Terry Canales

**1:15 pm** – Address by Representative Carl Sherman Sr.

**1:30 pm** – Address by Representative James White

**1:45 pm** – Address by Senator José Menéndez

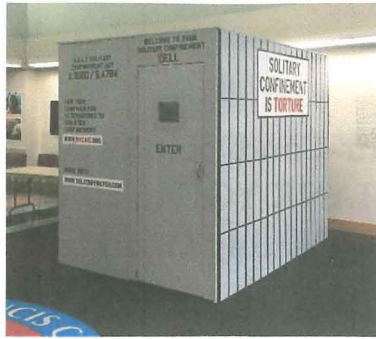
**Immediately following officials - Question and answer Panel (30-45mins)**

**We dare you to spend just 3 minutes inside our Mock Cell.**

*Anytime between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. Located outside the Capital at the parking meters on Colorado St between 12th and 13th street.*

### **Quotes and Facts:**

*Coffield unit. "My husband had a heat stroke on weds and was transported to the Palestine Hospital. Because of heat-related medical, medication for high blood pressure and congestive heart failure the unit did render aid after the other offenders around him had to get loud to get someone in there. Seg. No CO sits on the pod. They get 2 cool cups of water every 12 hours. The water for the showers is still set on hot. Wellness checks are supposed to be every 30 minutes they are lucky if they check on them every 2 hours."*



Mock Cell

*"Omg, I just got a phone call from my husband. He is at a medical unit and no a/c, but the bad thing is they just ordered them to close all windows. Omg, they are going to cook in this heat."*

*Ellis. "G5 guys get lukewarm water maybe once a day. They do get a shower on most days but not all. Water has been turned off several times the last few weeks and is frequently dirty when it's on. Zero access to respite areas. No ice. No rec for the last week. Over the last three weeks at least seven inmates have passed out and each time it takes the other inmates yelling for help for at least half an hour, usually longer, before help arrives. A few were still unconscious when they were taken out of the cell."*

*Coffield unit "...an auditor today and they were taking the temperatures in the cells. They were reading over 130!!!" 7.19.2018*

*"I'm an ex Parole Officer in Texas so I know TDCJ ...You have inmates and COs passing out and getting sick. This is inhumane. My cousin is at Coffield and we talked yesterday and he said it was 130 degrees in there. Unacceptable!!!!"2018*

*"In 22 years, I have walked down through areas for two units to get to their chapels for ceremonies with my son. Those are Coffield and Darrington. Both of those units had huge fans mounted on the walls and running full force in the Chapel. Yet walking through the areas where CO's sat watching the runs, was hot with the larger industrial fans aimed at the center of the runs and not reaching inside the cells."*

*"The water at Ellis Unit has bits of metal in it due to their galvanized pipe supply lines. They keep shutting the water off and turning it back on. My inmates, my husband included, are sick with the same symptoms that point to metal poisoning. Other inmates are not drinking enough water because they don't want to drink it. This is very dangerous without triple digits temps. My husband requested to see medical a week ago and has still not been able to see a doctor. I am not sure if anyone here can help with this but I wanted to share to see if anyone here was having similar issues."*

*"I pray for a much-needed relief from the Heat in the Palestine area this week. My Heart broke today as he told me it was hot but he was ok....his eyes told a different story. The CO's at the gate looked exhausted both mentally and physically at 5 pm.... these heat waves are getting worse each year. I pray for all our loved ones and everyone who has someone locked up. Please keep your hand on us God. We need you."*

**Texas Prisons Air-Conditioning Advocates would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of our Speakers and participating Organizations!!**

**Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC)**

**Big Homie**

**Brown Berets**

**End Mass Incarceration**

**All of Us or None**

**Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)**

**National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)**

**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**

**Families and Incarcerated together Healing (FAITH)**

**Bridges to Life**

**Voices of the Veterans**

**NY Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (NYCAIC)**

**Veterans Helping Other Veterans**

**Texas Advocates for Justice (TAJ)**