

TEXAS DEFENDER

AN AFFILIATE OF THE TEXAS COUNCIL OF CLUBS AND INDEPENDENTS

REPORTED DISCRIMINATION OF MCs AT VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUES

Edition #2

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As if the motorcycle community needed another reason to stand-up and resist an increasingly common attack on our civil liberties; on January 19, 2020, members of the TCOC&I were informed of another resolution proposed by unnamed members of the American Legion to eliminate the patronage of motorcycle club members and those supporting their events from their properties. This attempt still lies in the wake of the successful conversation between TCOC&I and the VFW that resulted in a reversal of this overarching policy originally recorded in their October 2019 General Orders and the continuance of successful events across the State that followed.

Upon hearing of this proposed resolution, TCOC&I representatives sent a certified letter to State leadership requesting a meeting to discuss any concerns they may have or at the very least, so we may better understand the events that may have led to any Division or District Commander to feel that wholesale, statewide discriminations was the best possible way to resolve any concerns. We received no response. Fortunately, our letter was sent in tandem with our sources lawyer's request for additional information, including a copy of the written resolution, the author(s) of the resolution, the names of any committee members assigned to hear such a resolution, or when such a resolution may be heard for "re-work" or edits. Our sources informed us that the proposed resolution was to be heard and voted on during the Mid-Winter Conference in Austin, TX during the week of February 5-9, 2020 by the Department Executive Committee, composed of the Division and District Commanders

During the Mid-Winter Conference, our sources reported that the resolution to prohibit MCs was discussed and "tabled" for further potential discussion during the July Department Convention. ***No formal decision has been made to discriminate against any MC at any American Legion Post as of now.*** We continue to stay in touch with our sources within the Central Texas American Legions and their representation and they have reported continued, successful discussions with State leadership

TCOC&I Regions Working Together Get Out the Pro 1A & 2A Message

Sunday, February 23, 2020, Regions 3 and 9 held a joint rally in Tyler, TX to spread the word that bikers across the State stand in solidarity against the assault on our First and Second Amendment Rights. Courts have settled the debate, it is not illegal to be a part of any motorcycle club and the first amendment expression we wear on our back and the morale patches we wear on the front are an extension of that guaranteed and confirmed liberty.

A welcomed surprise was the quest speaker representing Gun Owners of America, Leyla Pirnie, whose recent story of being evicted from her residence in Boston due to her Pro-2A and political beliefs have landed her on national media outlets sharing the details of her outrageous story rooted in an invasion of privacy and perpetually increasing occurrences of profiling groups

regarding the matter.

The most recent report highlights the commendable intention of the American Legion Department of Texas Commander, Jeff Perkins, that any vote on such a resolution should be voted on by Legion membership and not by Legion leadership. In addition, the resolution will be tabled and referred to the Americanism Committee for further consideration. To date, there is no confirmation that this resolution will be re-presented during the July Department Convention but the time and location of the Americanism Committee meeting at the July Convention will be published, and the meeting can be attended by any American Legionnaire. It was also agreed to send a copy of the resolution to our source and his representation. This remains pending. Finally, it was confirmed that the resolution originated out of one location and the details surrounding the motivation of the resolution still have not been aired. Regardless, these are certainly steps towards stifling potential discriminatory actions and we will continue to monitor the progress.

What now?

The position of the Texas Council of Clubs & Independents regarding these discriminatory tactics is clear although managing future instances may not be. How do we prevent this from happening again? We encourage every Veteran in this community to become a member of their local American Legion and VFW (if applicable). Be active, cast a vote. Have a beer. Tell a story at the bar and build camaraderie in a location where some are looking for enemies where there are none. Forty percent of this community are Veterans and you should have a louder voice in the affairs of those organizations originally created for you! If you are experiencing discrimination based on club affiliation or support, send an email to texasdefenders@txcoci.com so we can better track the events.

those in power deem offense of dangerous.

If you would like to be more involved in the work Gun Owners of America is doing in Texas join the GOA Texas Facebook group. There is a constant stream of legislative updates and opportunities to speak at hearings seeking more information from constituents regarding 2A concerns. Click the link below to get connected.

www.facebook.com/groups/txgoa



2020 NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE PROFILING SURVEY

It is that time again. We absolutely need everyone's participation. 2020 starts a new year where the information collected strengthens our fight at the Capitol for the 2021 Legislative Session. Battles are won through information, planning, and skilled follow through. The fight we face in 2021 is no different. We challenge each club, each club member, and every independent to take 30 seconds and complete this survey. Even if you have completed it in years past, each year is its own. Even if you have never been profiled, your contributions offer validity. If you have been profiled, your voice needs to be heard. Currently, Texas leads the nation in total responses. Preliminary results show that over 85% over respondents believe there should be some legislation passed protecting motorcyclists from being targeted based on what they are wearing, what meetings they attend, or their affiliation. In addition, it is the highest percentage of independent respondents, 100% completion rate, and number of 1%ers completing. Complete it and share it. We cannot do this without you.



Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020nmps>

Motorcycle Profiling Project: www.motorcycleprofilingproject.com/

ATTENTION

Houston & San Antonio

Continued efforts are needed with a focused effort on Houston & San Antonio



A message from the MRF regarding House Resolution 255: Anti-Motorcycle Profiling Resolution

We are still working on driving cosponsors to H. Res. 255 – the motorcyclist profiling resolution on Capitol Hill. Currently, we have four cosponsors from Texas (3-Republicans & 1-Democrat) Reps. Burgess, Brady, Crenshaw and Cuellar. So far, during the 116th Congress, we have met with 18 out of 36 U.S. House of Representatives from Texas. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation is still meeting with members of the Texas delegation, and last week met with two Democratic offices, Rep. Castro from the San Antonio area and Rep. Green from the Houston area. Any cosponsor is important regardless of party affiliation, but both offices seemed receptive and it would be beneficial to have some follow up emails sent from constituents in those areas.

How can you help?

You can take action and ask your elected official to cosponsor H. Res. 255 by clicking the link below. All you need to do is type in your information and the system will match you with your member of Congress: <https://tinyurl.com/TXhres255>

A message from Texas Council of Clubs & Independents regarding Motorcycle Riders Foundation

Over the years the Texas Council of Clubs & Independents have proceeded with caution when moving forward with legislative partnerships. We as a community can be understandably cautious who we offer our energy, our time, and sometimes, our hard-earned money to in the name of protecting our rights. Over the past few years, we have witnessed the dedication of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation volunteers and lobbying partners to properly represent the needs of not just motorcyclists, but bikers on Capitol Hill. They currently serve as our only direct voice in D.C. when it comes to protecting bikers' rights. Because of that we, encourage each club and independent rider who reads this to visit their website and become an organizational or individual sustaining member. We will continue to work closely with them in the future and are excited to see how Texas can help advance the rights of bikers nationwide.

<https://mrf.org/join-the-mrf/>

A Sincere thank you from
Texas Council of Clubs & Independents,
Texas Defenders,
Coalition of Independent Riders,
Motorcycle Safety & Awareness.



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY & AWARENESS

REMEMBER: May is Motorcycle Awareness month! Make sure you are reaching out to your local City Councils and getting on a council meeting schedule for the month of May to confirm that your city recognizes motorcycle awareness and is vested in your safety.

The main goal of the Safety and Awareness team is to SAVE LIVES within our community by educating the public and encouraging broader motorist safety and awareness. As the year continues, we will continue to work on several different campaigns. One of those campaigns is asking motorcycle clubs, riding clubs, social clubs, motorcycle ministries, and independents to host a proclamation with their local city council proclaiming the month of May as **Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month**. Few know that this is a nationally recognized designation and we are determined to change that. If you are new to this community or new to riding, you may be wondering what a proclamation is? A proclamation is an official document signed by your local Mayor that officially declares May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. By hosting a proclamation, it helps build a relationship with your local city government and goes one step further towards establishing a positive relationship with our city leaders as an invested partner in decreasing motorcycle injuries and fatalities.

The second campaign we are focused on for the early portion of the year is installing permanent "Share the Road" signs within city limits. By establishing the previously mentioned positive partnership, it enables us to work with city council when we request the permanent installation of "Share the Road" signs along our city streets.

The third campaign for TCOC&I's Motorcycle Safety & Awareness program will be utilizing the month of May to EDUCATE the public by writing articles to our local cities' newspaper. Many people have limited knowledge about motorcycles and why we ride the way we do. It is up to us to educate as many people as we can about motorcycle safety and awareness. Our dedication is to remind the public that the lives they may be saving could be their family, their child's favorite teacher, their neighbor or even their pastor. We need your help to stop, strike the phrase "... *But I Didn't See the Motorcycle*", out of our local news cycle.

Blessings,
Red & Ronnie
Motorcycle Safety & Awareness
Team - Region 1

Proclamation Talking Points

"EDUCATE TO SAVE LIVES"

1. At stop lights, motorcycles will sometimes pull to the side of a car when traffic is stopped to avoid being hit from behind and to allow a way out quickly if needed.
2. Motorcycles can DOWN SHIFT like "standard cars" as they are slowing down, so you may not see a brake light come on.
3. Motorcyclist might use hand signals. Left and Right turn hand signals (show example of a HAND SIGNAL).

4. Failure to yield the right of way while turning left – when turning left always look further down the road as motorcycles are smaller and look further away. Over **THIRTY PERCENT** of crashes occur this way. **LOOK TWICE BEFORE TURNING LEFT.**
5. Motorcycles often ride in groups for their safety, so please **DO NOT** split up the riding group.
6. Do not follow too closely. Allow motorcycles plenty of space for the rider to react to what might be happening ahead on the road. A motorcyclist's riding patterns are different from a car (we may need to swerve to miss debris on the road or to navigate around the pothole). We need our whole lane to navigate, to what might be on the road ahead of us.
7. Turn your head to look for motorcycles in your blind spots.
8. Motorcycles are closer than they appear. **LOOK TWICE FOR MOTORCYCLES!** It's hard to judge our speed and distance from you, as our motorcycles are smaller than your vehicles.

LOOK TWICE FOR MOTORCYCLES

RIDERS NEEDED!
May 7, 2020 – Round Rock, TX

Show your support for riders who died on Texas roadways.

Join us to launch the 2020 *Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles* safety campaign.

WHO: Texas motorcycle clubs and riders

WHAT: Press conference to launch the statewide *Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles* safety campaign

WHEN: Thursday, May 7, 2020
 • 12:00 p.m. Arrival by motorcyclists
 • 12:30 p.m. Setup and press photos
 • 1:00 p.m. Press conference

WHERE: Dell Diamond
 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd.
 Round Rock, TX 78665

WHY: To show solidarity for riders who lost their lives in 2019 and to raise motorists' awareness of the importance of looking twice for motorcycles

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Register your group by April 16, 2020.
 To register, email Lauren Karasek at lkarasek@sherrymatthews.com.
 Be safe and be sure to wear your safety gear.
 #EndTheStreakTX

Share the Road. TX

The life you may be saving could be your child's favorite teacher, your neighbor or even your pastor. Bikers are in all professions, there is NO EXCUSE for "I didn't see the motorcycle!"



CHRISTIAN UNITY

Many may ask "Why take part in Christian Unity?" Simple, when it comes to taking care of down bikers or even biker's and their families down on their luck or in bad health, this is where the Christian community is instructed to be at our best. Serving the community should be as natural as breathing, so this mission fits.

Who qualifies to be a part of our Christian Unity groups? Do you have to be a member of a group or club with a Christian back patch? Absolutely not! Some of our best groups are attended by 1%ers, support clubs, traditional MCs, children-focused clubs, and on and on. For more information on how to get a Christian Unity group started in your TCOC&I or meeting schedules, send an email with your contact information duane@txcoci.com .

C.O.I.R

One person, whispering alone in the forest, makes very little noise. An army, a legion of men and women, standing in the forest raising their voices in united cacophony, can be heard across the nation. The Coalition of Independent Riders is not a membership funded organization. It is not a motorcycle club or riding club. It is a grass roots political organization which is “of the people, by the people and for the people.” C.O.I.R. unites independent riders with all other motorcycle organizations to become a battalion of voices which will be heard all the way to The People’s House in Austin, Texas, our State Capitol.



Independent riders registered with C.O.I.R. are from all walks of life. We welcome cruisers, sport bikes, dirt bike riders, back seat riders and even non-riders. We are defined by our love of riding and united by our passion to protect our constitutional right to ride free.

I personally wish to welcome you and your independent friends to register with Texas C.O.I.R., attend a training session or meeting, join our C.O.I.R. mailing list, participate in the Call to Actions and become an active participant in our legislative work. I ask each of you to step up and add your voice to our family of Freedom Fighters. One heart, one voice, joined in a quest to defend our freedom.

Respectfully,
Tonya Gonzales,
Texas C.O.I.R.

The Coalition of Independent Riders Program was put together with an independent mind set; to serve as a way for independent riders to contribute in their region, state, and nation. Efforts to place extra effort on doing their part to advance the rights of motorcycle riders. In that, having an understanding of how the judicial and legislative system works is important. As independent riders, we need to educate ourselves and our elected politicians on how to work together to preserve our freedom.

Sincerely,
Richard Wells
Texas C.O.I.R.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2021 Legislative Session is fast approaching. This the time To get to know your local politicians. Get involved in their campaigns and get to know their staff. As far as our legislative agenda is concerned, we are 300 days ahead of schedule and our success will be based on the political capital we can raise ahead of January 25, 2021.



TEXAS GANG INTELLIGENCE INDEX (TXGANG)

Heading into the 2021 Legislative session, members in the Texas Council of Clubs, Texas Defenders, and legal counsel have already completed proposed legislation holding Texas DPS and submitting authorities accountable for how members of our community are entered into the database and clarifies a path to getting off. Over the next few months we will discuss the details of this proposed legislation at regional meetings. Currently we have knowledge of seven members of the community in various parts of the State that should not be listed and are. One member has challenged his inclusion in federal court and has received a favorable response from the judge, a couple of others are in the process of challenging, and we wait to hear how the others plan to fight.

If you have been pulled over and had pictures taken of your tattoos, your bike, and of your clothing; or know of someone who has, please reach out to us via the TCOC&I website and complete an incident report <http://txcocinews.org/incident-report.html>. We may be able to request camera footage via the Public Information Request process. Secondly, all members of this community submit a formal request to see if you are indeed included in the Texas Gang Intelligence Index (TXGANG). Based on the criteria required to be submitted to the database, the information requested during the process will not place you in the database simply for asking. Follow the steps below to request that information.

1. Go to this web address: dps.texas.gov/GeneralCounsel/contact/index.htm.
2. Now you should be on a very simple page that says, "Public Information Request" and has a drop-down box in which you scroll all the way to the bottom and choose "Other."
3. This will bring up a page in which you will enter your name and other contact information, as well as a description of the requested information. In the box about the requested information, type the following: *"This request is to determine whether I am listed on the TX Gang or Criminal Intelligence database. If I am listed in the database, I would like to know which agency submitted my name to the database and when they submitted it."*
4. After you submit this, someone from DPS will contact you and ask a few questions to confirm your identity. This is because the information cannot be released to anyone but you.
 - Complete Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Race/Sex
 - Driver's License Number or ID Number
 - Relationship to the subject of the record (if not self)
5. The response will read one of two ways:
 - a. *"Based on the personal descriptors provided, the Department conducted a search of the TX Gang database on [DATE], and found a record matching the identifiers provided in your request below."*
OR
 - b. *"In response to your request below, the Department conducted a search on the personal descriptors provided within that request. As of [DATE], there were no records found within the TXGang database matching the information provided."*

**IF YOU OR A CLUB MEMBER HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AS INCLUDED
IN THE DATABASE PLEASE REACH OUT TO US AT**

TEXASDEFENDERS@TXCOCI.COM

GET READY TO RALLY

Add it to your calendar, the 2020 Texas COC&I State Rally will be hosted by Region 2 in Lake Worth, TX from April 17-19, 2020 with the COC&I meeting held on Saturday at 2:00pm

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

This will launch the new Texas Defender training program and will give each Texas Defender the tools to not only be a biker rights advocate but better yet simply a *RIGHTS ADVOCATE*. This will include the appropriate way to use the Texas Legislative website to fine tune your search parameters to look for those proposed bills and amendments that might strip our rights away while we are not paying attention; best practices for meeting with state and local politicians, and the proper way to best use the Call To Action system.



2020 TEXAS COC&I STATE RALLY
April 17-19, 2020

Neumann's
9600 Watercress
Lake Worth, TX 76135
Admission \$10.00 at the gate

Primitive Camping Available
Live Music
Food Trucks
Vendors

Friday
Meet & Greet

Saturday
11:00 am Chairperson's Meeting
1:00 pm Texas Defenders Meeting
2:00 pm General Meeting

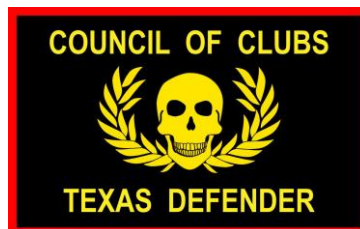
Sunday
House of Nam Bikers Church

Additional Information
Wolverines MC "Iron Mike"
mdrutter@earthlink.net
214-649-3290
Hosted by Region 2 - DFW

Texas Council of Clubs & Independents

Newsletter brought to you by:



Texas Motorcycle Safety & Awareness

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