

# KC HISPANIC NEWS

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**Disgusted and outrage is how some feel about former Sheriff Joe Arpaio's pardon.**  
See page 6.  
**Disgustado e indignado es cómo algunos se sienten sobre el perdon del ex Sheriff Joe Arpaio.**  
Ver página 7.



YOUR LATINO CONNECTION SINCE 1996

TÚ CONEXIÓN LATINA DESDE 1996

## "It needs to stop ... Dear God"

by Joe Arce

Hurricane Harvey is and has taken its toll of the people of Texas. The residents and their families across the country are worried sick about them and their safety. Rita Garcia formerly from Kansas City told Hispanic News that her cell phone has been ringing non-stop. "Family and friends have been calling checking to see if we are ok. ... I told them we are fine because

we live outside of Houston. Garcia had planned a big birthday party for her husband Johnny Rey for this past weekend, but due to the impact of the hurricane and flooding those plans had to be canceled. That party will have to wait because she said, "My son Johnny Jr.'s home had flooded." So her concern turned to trying to help him out but couldn't go directly to him because of non-stop rain and the roads and highways were either closed or filled with rainwater. This interview

MEXICO OFFERS ... / PAGE 5



Hurricane Harvey has done so much damage to people and their properties, officials say it will take years for some of these cities to come back full force.

## Police work is in the blood for mother & daughter police officers

Para madre e hija, el trabajo policial lo llevan en la sangre



Sophia Barajas (right) retired in 2015 after a 30 year career with the KCK police department. Her daughter Jackie Krulic (left) has followed in her mother's footsteps and recently graduated from the Kansas City, Missouri police academy.

Sophia Barajas (derecha) se retiró en 2015 después de una carrera de 30 años con el departamento de policía de KCK. Su hija Jackie Krulic (izquierda) ha seguido los pasos de su madre y recientemente se graduó de la academia de policía de Kansas City, Missouri.

by Debra DeCoster

Sophia Barajas is a mother and a retired Kansas City, Kansas's police officer. When her daughter Jackie Krulic followed her mother's footsteps and recently graduated from the Kansas City, Missouri police academy, Barajas had mixed emotions. She is very proud

"WE NEED PEOPLE ... / PAGE 2

traduce Gemma Tornado

Sophia Barajas, de Kansas City, Kansas, es madre y oficial de policía jubilada. Cuando su hija Jackie Krulic siguió los pasos de su madre y recientemente se graduó de la Academia de Policía de Kansas City, Missouri, Barajas tuvo una mezcla de emociones. Está muy orgullosa de

"NECESITAMOS QUE ... / PÁGINA 3

## New police chief seeks to engage community in fight against crime

Nuevo jefe de policía busca involucrar a la comunidad en la lucha contra el crimen



Richard "Rick" Smith was sworn in as the new Police Chief of KCMO in mid-August. The Chief is no stranger to the department working his way up to the chain of command. "It's really an honor to lead an organization where I grew up," said Smith. Richard "Rick" Smith fue juramentado como nuevo Jefe de Policía de KCMO a mediados de agosto. El jefe no es ajeno al departamento ya que ha seguido su camino hasta la cadena de mando. "Es realmente un honor liderar una organización donde crecí", dijo Smith.

by Joe Arce & Corbin Crable

Kansas City criminals, be warned – there's a new police chief in town.

Rick Smith, a nearly 30-year veteran of the Kansas City Police Department, was sworn in Aug. 15 to replace former Police Chief Darryl Forte, who retired in May after serving the department for 32 years.

"It's really an honor to lead an organization where I grew up," said

FUNDING ISSUES ... / PAGE 5

traduce Gemma Tornado

Criminales de Kansas City, sean conscientes - hay un nuevo jefe de policía en la ciudad.

Rick Smith, un veterano de casi 30 años del Departamento de Policía de Kansas City, fue juramentado el 15 de agosto para reemplazar al ex jefe de policía Darryl Forte, quien se retiró en mayo después de servir al departamento durante 32 años.

LOS FONDOS ... / PÁGINA 6

## "Police work is a calling"

## "El trabajo policial es una vocación"

by Joe Arce & Corbin Crable

If you're searching for a career that will allow you to make a difference in the lives of others and give back to your community, if you've been called to serve your community and your fellow citizens, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department wants you.

The department will host a community recruitment fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Guadalupe Centers, 5123 E. Truman Road in Kansas City, Mo. In addition to needing police officers, the KCPD has a variety of positions available, including openings for dispatchers, mechanics, patrol desk clerks, detention officers, and building maintenance crew members.

In the three years since the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown, an African-American teenager, by a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo., tensions between police officers and members of minority communities – especially those in lower-income areas – have increased. One of the

KCPD TO HOST ... / PAGE 8

traduce Gemma Tornado

Si estás buscando una carrera que te permita hacer una diferencia en la vida de otros y retribuirle a tu comunidad; si has sentido el llamado para servir a tu comunidad y a tus conciudadanos, el Departamento de Policía de Kansas City, Missouri, te está buscando a usted.

El departamento llevará a cabo una feria comunitaria de reclutamiento de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m., el sábado, 9 de septiembre, en los Centros Guadalupe, ubicados en el 5123 E Truman Road, en Kansas City, Mo. Además de necesitar a policías, KCPD tiene una variedad de puestos disponibles, incluyendo vacantes para despachadores, mecánicos, empleado administrativo de patrullaje, oficiales de detención y personal de mantenimiento de edificios.

En los tres años transcurridos desde el tiroteo de Michael Brown, un adolescente afroamericano, en 2014,

KCPD LLEVA A CABO ... / PÁGINA 8



Officer Damon Harold, recruiter for the KCPD, knows firsthand the power of that positive change. He worked hard to recruit men and women for a career in law enforcement with KCPD.

El oficial Damon Harold, reclutador para el KCPD, sabe de primera mano el poder de ese cambio positivo. El trabajó duro para reclutar hombres y mujeres para una carrera en aplicación de ley con KCPD.

# Mexico offers their help to Texas

# Funding issues continue to restrict staffing levels at KCPD

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Smith, he added he still finds it "unbelievable" to bear the title of the department's top law enforcement official.

Smith's career with the KCPD began in 1988; he rose quickly through the department's ranks, working in three different patrol divisions, Robbery and Homicide units, Tactical Response teams, the Planning and Research Division, and as commander of the East and Central Patrol divisions, according to a press release from the department.

The year he was brought on the force, the West Side neighborhood was a very different place.

"In 1988, the West Side was just abandoned homes," he recalled. "And look what we have now - a thriving community."

That growth, while positive and continuous, still requires a little more of the police department's resources, funding, and manpower with each passing year. Smith said his challenge throughout his tenure as police chief will be having to do more with less.

"I can only make do with the budget we have," Smith said. "When you're looking at adding people - it's an added cost. ... We have officers who are running call to call, all day long. The department has made cuts already. What do we do? We're going to have to make some decisions."

Added aggressive recruitment is one goal Smith has in the battle against shortages of officers on the streets. An upcoming recruitment fair on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Guadalupe Centers will hopefully attract some applicants as the industry grapples with a general distrust of law enforcement officials around the country.

"We have issues when we run into recruiting," Smith explained. "Right now, policing nationally can't find enough recruits. After some of the events that happened over the course of several years, protests against police departments - if you're a young person, a lot of people are evaluating whether that's what they want, to face that kind of scrutiny. We've always tried to take an extra step in minority recruiting, and you'll see some different things coming from us. ... We've got to get those applicants in the door."

Kansas City residents regularly approach Smith with pleas for more officers on foot and on patrol in their neighborhood. Smith said he continues to try and make that happen.

"They want to see more uniforms on the streets. That's a budgetary issue. We can look at redeploying some people to the streets, and that will help in the short term. In the long term, it's looking at funding issues," he said.

When it comes to community policing, Smith said that programs such as the



**Kansas City residents regularly approach KCMO Police Chief Smith with pleas. "They want to see more uniforms on the streets."**

Los residentes de Kansas City se acercan regularmente al Jefe de Policía de KCMO, Smith, con súplicas. "Quieren ver más uniformes en las calles".

Community Action Network (CAN) continues to be in high demand among Kansas City's 475,000 residents, but that again, its growth is contingent on funding as well.

"If you look at the West Side CAN Center, it's been very successful," said Smith, who added that the center is fully staffed, a luxury that other locations don't possess. "There's potential to duplicate that throughout the city, but we don't have the staff for it. We just don't have the manpower. Everyone would like to have a CAN Center, but we just can't afford it."

Similarly, Smith said another goal is to increase the visibility of the police department's Community Interaction Officer, a liaison between the KCPD and the neighborhoods it serves.

"I want to get more responsive to community needs," he explained. "I want to get that done right away."

Smith's positive outlook for Kansas City will only come to fruition when both officers and civilians work together to continue reducing crime and taking an active interest in where they live.

"Growing up, we were taught to take care of our neighbors, of our community," Smith said. "Kansas City has a lot of good-hearted, bright people. If we all come together about how we work on crime in the city, we'll get good results."



**Johnny Rey and Rita Garcia can count their blessings because they were not hurt nor did they have to leave their home. But the non-stop rain was taking its toll on Rita Garcia.**

Johnny Rey y Rita García pueden contar sus bendiciones porque no sufrieron daño ni tuvieron que abandonar su hogar. Pero la lluvia sin parar le esta cobrando a Rita García.

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was Sunday morning. By Tuesday morning around 12:45 a.m. she had posted on Facebook, "It's storming hard rain just pouring and windy. I just heard something fall on my roof. It needs to stop. ... Dear God." The flooding and rain continued to pour at record high levels this week.

Topeka, Kansas native Tony Balandran returned to his home state from Victoria, Texas this past week for a little R&R with his family and friends while on vacation. Balandran is the City Editor for the Victoria Advocate newspaper a town that was hit hard by hurricane Harvey. "I was in Topeka to see the eclipse. It's ironic that we see a great display of mother nature in the sky, and then within a week see her awesome destructive force hitting the Texas coastline. The journalist inside of me wanted to be in Victoria to witness the story unfold, but another part of me is glad that I was not there. I know my family is glad I was not there."

Balandran told Hispanic News, "I worried about the safety of my friends and co-workers first. My colleagues at the Victoria Advocate are a dedicated group of journalists who care about their community. This was a deadly storm and anyone in its path would be in danger. The images were horrible, and I could only imagine what they were going through."

Asked if he had been in contact with any of his co-worker, "Yes. They said it was really, really bad. Some are native Texans and have been through hurricanes before, but they said this one was one of the worst. I have seen many pictures of the widespread destruction through emails, and the damage will take a long time to repair in almost every community in the region."

Balandran has lived in Victoria for nearly 7 years. He was not sure if his apartment unit was hit by Harvey. "I really don't know. I've only heard of a couple apartment complexes being damaged. Mine wasn't one of them. But I will know only for sure when I get there."

Hurricane Harvey hit the coast with all it might. "I know it's going to take

a long time, possibly years, before everything really returns to normal in that area. But the people of the Texas Gulf Bend are really tough and resilient, so they will definitely move forward. Several times I have talked to colleagues born in Texas who say they prefer hurricanes over tornadoes, but I disagree. I still would rather go through a tornado rather than a hurricane. I'll always be a Kansas native" said Balandran.

As people see the images across the world of the devastation of Hurricane Harvey they are also seeing how people are coming together to help one another. People are coming from other states to help with boats, food, clothing, water, medical supplies and the list go on. Every possible agency of city, state and federal are coming to lend a helping hand, including the Red Cross National Guard. People are rescuing families from the flood waters and taking them to safety from their flooded homes and businesses.

Garcia added, "A furniture store owner in Houston opened up one of his stores for a shelter for people that are flooded out of their homes. He's feeding them and comforting them from what they are dealing with. God bless you Jim (Mattress Mac) and the people you are sheltering. ... What a huge heart this man has."

According to HuffPost, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray spoke with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott by telephone on Sunday evening to offer his country's support. The Republican governor told reporters on Monday that his staff would communicate with Mexican government officials about specific needs.

"Our offering is open and permanent," Carlos Sada, Mexico's undersecretary for North America, told HuffPost on Monday evening. The Mexican government is waiting for Abbott to send a list specifying both the immediate and long-term needs of hurricane victims in Texas, Sada said.

The people and victims that have been effective by Hurricane Harvey know it will take years to recover from this catastrophe and to rebuild their lives.

**Fiesta Hispana**  
La que estabas esperando.

Viernes 15 (5:00 p.m. a 11:00 p.m.)  
Sábado 16 (12:00 p.m. a 11:00 p.m.)  
Domingo 17 (12:00 p.m. a 10:00 p.m.)

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# KCPD to host recruitment fair Sept. 9

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event's organizers, Victor Lopez, says he is acutely aware of the distrust many in African-American and Hispanic communities feel toward members of law enforcement, and that one of the ways to combat such division is for civilians to see their communities represented in the makeup of a city's police force.

"We have to come together and change the mindset ... that being a police officer isn't admirable or honorable," says Lopez, director of workforce development and adult education for the Guadalupe Centers. "Within the U.S., the only way to change negative perceptions is to have an open mind. It has to come from you. It's telling the younger generation that, 'Hey, this is the (opportunity) for you to change things from the inside and give back to the community. You can make that positive change.'"

Officer Damon

Harold, recruiter for the KCPD, knows firsthand the power of that positive change. As an African-American male, he says he realizes that civilians respond positively when they see members of their own community working with others who look and think as they do.

"This is important because we serve a diverse group of people. We can relate to and understand the needs of those community groups," says Harold, a lifelong Kansas City resident born and raised in a housing community at 12th and Paseo. "If you have problems, the way to solve them is to be a part of the solution."

As a conduit between Kansas City residents and law enforcement, Harold says he knew early on in his career that he wanted to be part of that solution himself.

"I wanted to bridge the gap between the community and the police department," he recalls. "I think the KCPD does a good job

of that, and it shows in our recruitment efforts."

Another image problem that continues to plague the police department is the misconception that working in law enforcement isn't 'cool' - an opinion held by many younger people, according to KCPD Officer Rich Salzman, a 14-year veteran of the department.

"I can see why some in impoverished areas might think differently of you - you could be enforcing laws that are seen as unjust due to your race," Salzman says.

But the ability to bridge that gap between two communities is a calling, he says, and he knows there are others in the community who might share that desire but be unsure of where to begin.

"They have to have the heart. Police work is a calling," Salzman explains. "It's not a job. It's a career."

Harold echoed Salzman's sentiment,

adding that those who come to the recruitment fair should be ready to have an open mind and immerse themselves in all that comes with working in law enforcement.

"A career is a commitment. It's not about going somewhere for eight hours and getting a paycheck. It's more than just going in and punching a clock," he notes. "If that's what you want, this isn't the place for you."

Those who do embrace law enforcement as a career, however, will be able to enjoy both financial security and job security, he adds. There are opportunities for advancement in the field, he says, and those applicants who are bilingual will even receive incentive pay.

The department seeks both men and women from a variety of racial and socioeconomic backgrounds to join its team, Harold says, and Lopez adds that though the application and training process will surely be long and



KCPD officers Chato Villalobos (forefront) and Rich Salzman believe it is important to visit with the community young and old alike. They both say they enjoy being a part of the Westside community.

Los oficiales de KCPD Chato Villalobos (primer plano) y Rich Salzman creen que es importante visitar a la comunidad tanto a jóvenes como mayores. Ambos dicen que les gusta ser parte de la comunidad del Westside.

rigorous, the outcome could be life-changing - and community changing, too.

"You don't know what you qualify for unless you try. You don't know

whether you're right or wrong unless you ask," Lopez says. "You've got to go out there and try. If it's something you're passionate about, just keep pushing at it."

# KCPD lleva a cabo una feria de reclutamiento el 9 de septiembre

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por un oficial de policía blanco en Ferguson, Mo., las tensiones entre policías e integrantes de comunidades minoritarias - especialmente aquellas en áreas de bajos ingresos - han aumentado. Uno de los organizadores del evento, Víctor López, dice que es muy consciente de la desconfianza que muchas de las comunidades afro-americanas e hispanas sienten hacia los integrantes de la policía y que una de las formas de combatir esta división es que los civiles vean a sus comunidades representadas en la composición de la policía de una ciudad.

"Tenemos que unirnos y cambiar la mentalidad ... que ser un oficial de policía no es admirable o honorable", dice López, director de desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y educación de adultos de los Centros Guadalupe. "Dentro de los Estados Unidos, la única manera de cambiar las percepciones negativas es tener una

mente abierta. Tiene que venir de usted. Se le está diciendo a la generación más joven, 'Hey, esta es la oportunidad (para ti) de cambiar las cosas desde adentro y retribuirle a la comunidad. Puedes hacer ese cambio positivo'."

El Oficial Damon Harold, reclutador para KCPD, sabe de primera mano el poder de ese cambio positivo. Como un hombre afroamericano, dice que se da cuenta de que los civiles responden positivamente cuando ven a integrantes de su propia comunidad trabajando con otros que lucen y piensan como ellos lo hacen.

"Esto es importante porque servimos a un grupo diverso de personas. Podemos relacionarnos y entender las necesidades de esos grupos comunitarios", dice Harold, residente de toda la vida de Kansas City, nacido y criado en una comunidad de viviendas ubicadas en las calles 12 y Paseo. "Si tienes problemas, la forma de

resolverlos es ser parte de la solución".

Como conducto entre los residentes de Kansas City y la policía, Harold dice que sabía desde el principio de su carrera que él quería ser parte de esa solución.

"Quería cerrar la brecha entre la comunidad y el departamento de policía", recuerda. "Creo que el KCPD hace un buen trabajo en eso, y lo demuestra en nuestros esfuerzos de reclutamiento".

Otro problema de imagen que sigue afectando al departamento de policía, es el concepto erróneo de que el trabajo en la aplicación de la ley no es "cool" - una opinión sostenida por muchos jóvenes, según el oficial de KCPD, Rich Salzman, un veterano del departamento por 14 años.

"Puedo ver el por qué algunas áreas empobrecidas podrían pensar diferente de uno - y que se podrían estar aplicando leyes que se consideran injustas debido a su raza", dice

Salzman.

Pero la capacidad de salvar esa brecha entre dos comunidades es un llamado, dice, y sabe que hay otros en la comunidad que podrían compartir ese deseo, pero no estar seguros de por dónde empezar.

"Tienen que tener el corazón. El trabajo policial es una vocación", explica Salzman. "No es un trabajo. Es una carrera".

Harold hizo eco del sentimiento de Salzman, agregando que aquellos que acuden a la feria de reclutamiento deben estar listos para tener una mente abierta y sumergirse en todo lo que viene con el trabajo en la

aplicación de la ley.

"Una carrera es un compromiso. No se trata de ir a algún lugar durante ocho horas y conseguir un sueldo. Es más que ir y perforar la tarjeta de salida", señala. "Si eso es lo que quieres, este no es el lugar para ti".

Aquellos que toman la aplicación de la ley (el ser policía) como una carrera, sin embargo, serán capaces de disfrutar de seguridad financiera y seguridad en el empleo, añade. Hay oportunidades de progreso en el campo, dice, y los solicitantes que son bilingües, incluso recibirán un incentivo de pago.

El departamento busca a hombres y mujeres de diferentes orígenes raciales y socioeconómicos para unirse a su equipo, dice Harold; y López agrega que, aunque el proceso de aplicación y capacitación será seguramente largo y riguroso, el resultado podría cambiarle la vida y también cambiar a la comunidad.

"No sabes a qué calificas si no lo intentas. No sabes si estás bien o mal a menos que lo preguntes", dice López. "Tienes que ir e intentarlo. Si es algo que te apasiona, sigue esforzándote".

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For several months after ringing the Victory Bell, I complained of severe fatigue. My primary doctor ran several extensive labs and I was sent to a Hematology specialist. My diagnosis came back as Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) cancer. I would require a stem cell transplant.

My prognosis was not good and I was told that this cancer was caused from the chemo and radiation from my first cancer. We were able to find a donor from the international donor community, a 100% match. I received my transplant on August 2, 2017. It has been a very hard battle for me, but I am recovering.

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[gmunoz@hccgkc.com](mailto:gmunoz@hccgkc.com)  
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## BLANCO Y NEGRO

Awards Gala



**September 15, 2017 at the Arvest Bank Theater at the Midland**  
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**Cocktails 5:30pm**  
**Dinner & Awards 7:00pm**  
**Dance 9:00pm**  
Formal Attire Optional

*The Guadalupe Centers Blanco y Negro Awards Gala, our annual black tie event kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month festivities in Kansas City.*

The gala provides the Guadalupe Centers and its supporters an opportunity to honor outstanding individuals and institutions who have contributed to the growth and development of both the Guadalupe Centers and the local Latino community. In addition the event raises much needed funding for one of Kansas City's most critical nonprofits, which last year alone served over 9,000 individuals and families through a wide array of programs and services in areas including Education, Health, Social Services and Youth Development.


[www.GuadalupeCenters.org](http://www.GuadalupeCenters.org)

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