



Office of Commissioner
Dr. Michelle Cohen

HAYS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

A note from Commissioner Dr. Cohen

It's hard to believe that it's already been a year since I was sworn in as the County Commissioner of Precinct 2. Looking back, I can confidently say that it has been a challenging, yet fulfilling experience.

One of the significant achievements during my tenure was leading the effort to improve the county's internal infrastructure. We created the county's first procurement department and appointed a new Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2. It is important for us to strengthen our internal processes in order for our forward facing services to the public to be strong.

Furthermore, we successfully secured a new Mobile Vaccine Van for the Public Health Department, scheduled to be completed in 2024. In partnership with my fellow commissioners, we also allocated thousands of ARPA funding to nonprofits to assist our residents in times of need and support non-profits with their initiatives. These improvements are just a few of what was accomplished throughout this year.

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For instance, the Rental Relief program was a partnership among my fellow commissioners aimed at helping those with rent challenges. I had the opportunity to work on initiatives focused on improving economic development in the City of Kyle and county road infrastructure.

Over the year, I have had to make very tough votes that didn't please everyone. However, I strive to remain fair and transparent in my decision-making process. It's natural to face obstacles and setbacks when taking on a new role, especially in government and politics, where complex issues and competing interests are involved.

I have encountered many challenges such as navigating policy and procedures, managing conflicts, and addressing the needs of diverse constituents. I have always acknowledged what I inherited as a new commissioner and am determined to make things right for the community.



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By reflecting on these challenges and identifying areas for improvement, I continue to grow and develop as a public service leader to serve you better. Throughout the past year, I have learned a great deal about my own leadership style, teamwork, and public service. The accomplishments of this year would not have been possible without the support of our county departments and I thank them for the dedication to their jobs and to the people of this county.

Lastly, I am thankful for the chance to represent my community and I am eager to continue working toward making our county a more livable, workable, and family-friendly place.

Happy New Year!

Dr. Michelle Cohen





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Collaborations and Partnerships

Commissioner Dr. Cohen has been appointed to the following committees to work together on issues that affect our community:

- CARTS
- Kyle TIRZ 2
- Hays County Food bank
- Judicial Review Board
- Capital Area Housing Finance Corporation
- Kyle TIRZ 5
- Kyle Sportsplex Taskforce

ARPA 2023 Funding Disbursements (*commissioner partnership)


- Hays County's first Mobile Vaccine Van*
- New ambulance for ESD #2*
- Rental Relief Program*
- Additional Mental Health Counselor for Hays CISD*
- Funding to PALS, Southside Community Center, Council for Indigenous & Tejano Comm, Forever 15 project, Hays Co Mental Health Court Incentives and Hays County Health Dept.*

Transportation

We continue to work closely with Transportation on ongoing projects and to identify opportunities for funding. Over the year, we have conducted speed studies for safety concerns, added 3-4 way stop signs and created a no dumping zone in one area of concern.

Other Initiatives

Approval of a needs assessment to build a new precinct 1 and 2 complex



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Our office had a mission this year to serve the public with honesty and integrity while providing essential services. We aimed to be accountable to the constituents of Precinct 2. We achieved this goal through various collaborative and partnership efforts with the offices of Hays County, the City of Buda and the City of Kyle.



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Around the Community of Precinct 2



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Resources provided from our office to the community of Pct. 2



We hosted two Open Houses in the spring and fall for the Pct. 2 community, where county offices were present to introduce residents to their local government and give them an opportunity to learn about county services:

- Judge Becerra's Office
- Hays Veterans Service Office
- Public Defenders Office
- Sheriff's Office
- Transportation
- Hays Public Health
- Developmental Services
- Commissioner Smith Pct. 4



Meet and Greet from
Commissioner Dr. Michelle Cohen, Judge Beth Smith,
Judge JR Mendoza and Constable Michael Torres



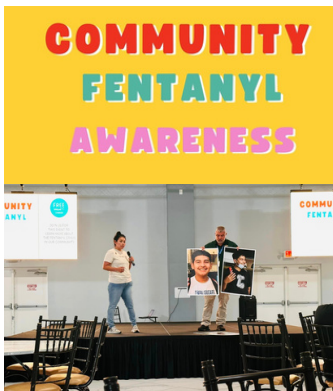
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Throughout the year, we provided free at-home COVID-19 tests and masks for pickup provided by Hays Health Dept and Emergency Management.

We partnered with the Hays County Food Bank to provide resources for our community. We became a drop-off location for the Hays County Food Bank when there was a high need for baby formula.



We hosted a Community Fentanyl Awareness event to learn more about the fentanyl crisis in our community. We had presentations from Deputy Anthony Hipolito of the Hays County Sheriff's Office, Janel Rodriquez from FOREVER 15 PROJECT, Marina Solis, MA. LMFT and Alex Villalobos, Judge Becerra's Chief of Staff.

During the summer heat wave, we opened the Pct. as a cooling center for those in need of a place with AC. We also held a summer fan drive to collect new box fans.



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We hosted a successful microchipping clinic with Pet Prevent a Litter - PALS and Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra's Office. Fifty-two cats and dogs received free microchips.



In August, we celebrated the completion of the Pct. 2 parking lot expansion project. The project added 74 new parking spots for visitors conducting business in our building.



This past fall, we welcomed a new Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2 Place 2 - JR Mendoza. He was officially sworn in on October 1, 2023. This was a collaborative effort by Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe, Judge Beth Smith, Judge Sandra Bryant, and Judge Andrew Cable.



During Halloween, we invited families from our community to Trick or Treating at the Pct. All Hays County offices in the building were fully stocked with candy, making it a fun-filled day.



Stay in touch with
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If you're interested in having Commissioner Dr. Cohen speak at your upcoming event, whether it be a school function, community gathering, or public meeting, please don't hesitate to email us. We'll be happy to arrange it for you.



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