

# Leadership Program – Know your Local Government

## County Clerk, Treasurer and Law Enforcement

By Adelaide Clemence



Clemence Youth Foundation was founded in May of 2021 and serves as an outreach for youth to help build character, take ownership in striving to pursue their dreams, and provide them with the necessary tools to become a person valuable to society. On Monday, October 31, members of the Clemence Youth Foundation got the opportunity to meet different types of law enforcement and visit the county clerk's and treasurer's offices. The various gadgets showcased by law enforcement and the information attained at the county clerk's office were unforgettable.



First, we started the day by visiting the county clerk's and treasurer's offices. The friendly staff greeted us with donuts and drinks, which we all enjoyed. The Fort Bend County Clerk, Laura

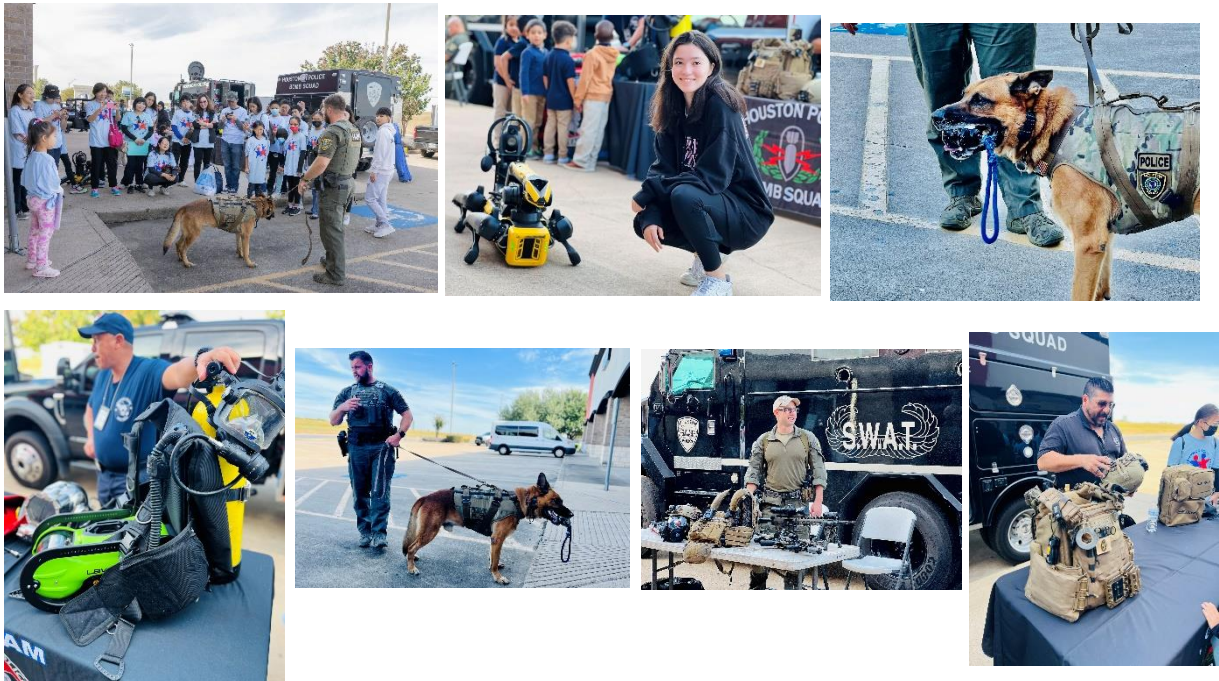


Next, we listened to the Fort Bend County Treasurer, Bill Rickert, explain his job. He explained that the treasurer manages the money in Fort Bend. His office's job is crucial because they keep records of transactions and distribute money. During the tour of the treasurer's office, the staff showed us the essential tools and explained their functions. They had many machines to ensure time efficiency. One of the staff told us that even during Hurricane Harvey, they were still working. Their hard work is crucial to keeping Fort Bend functioning. The CYF members learned the functions of the county clerk and treasurer.



After both tours, CYF left the county clerk and treasurer's office and went to the Tajweed Institute. There, we saw many branches of law enforcement, from national to local. We saw Houston SWAT, Houston Bomb Squad, Houston Dive Team, Harris County K9 unit, Harris County Constable, Game Warden, and Secret Service. SWAT showed us the many tools they use to catch bad guys and let us in their daunting SWAT car. For many members, this was the first time they had seen SWAT other than in a movie. Their presence alone was intimidating and made me glad that I am a law-abiding citizen. The Bomb squad also showed us their tools and in

their arsenal was a robot. This robot keeps the bomb squad members safe. It goes in before the bomb squad to scout out any potential threats and can assist the members. The robot functions like a dog and can even dance. There was also the Houston Dive team that specializes in diving. This diving team helps with the coast guard and helps in search and rescue cases. They also had imposing diving equipment. The K9 unit came with a cute dog and told us about the prowess of these dogs. Not only do these dogs catch bad guys, but they also can help in a lot of different situations. The Harris County Constable showed up with their cool motorcycles. Many people have seen these motorcycles on the road but seeing them up close was very cool. The Game Warden also came, and she brought a large boat with her. She showed it to us and told us that it works on land and water. Lastly, the White House Secret Service came and told us about their job. Their job is tremendously important as they protect the president and foreign officials. They also gave us an identification paper just in case. Seeing all those branches of law enforcement made me feel safe and well-protected.







After waving bye to law enforcement, we went to the Galleria to skate. Our youth leaders coached other members how to skate, and everyone had a great time. Youth teaching each other is one of the key functions at CYF, where each member takes turns to become leaders in the group. The skating excursion and coaching experience taught our members leadership and responsibility and patience. This trip was a great learning experience for CYF and one that will not be easily forgotten.



In summary, this experience was a great learning opportunity for the youth. The kids learned so much about our County Clerk, Treasurer and Law Enforcement functionalities! We would like to give a special thank you to J.J. Clemence, along with all the Clemence Youth Foundation leaders and volunteers, for arranging this wonderful trip. A special thank you to Fort Bend County Clerk Laura Richard and her staff, Fort Bend County Treasurer Bill Ricker and his staff, Mo Nehad

for organizing the Law Enforcement, Houston Fire Department, Harris County Pct 5 Constable, Fort Bend County Pct4 Constable, Texas Department of Public Safety, White House Secret Department!

