

Joe Frank Martinez

MAY 8, 2024



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CONFLICTING COMMENTS ON OPERATION LONE STAR

- In December 2021, Martinez said Operation Lone Star had placed a strain on his jail's resources. (*Newsweek*, 12/7/21)
- In March 2022, however, Martinez identified that the extra resources applied by Operation Lone Star Had helped "keep our community safe." (*Fox San Antonio*, 3/28/22)

CONFLICTING CLAIMS OF MILITIA SUPPORT

- In December 2021, Martinez said he would not give a formal letter of support for militia members to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border. (*The 830 Times*, 12/22/21)
- In January 2024, however, a member of the Patriots for America militia which patrols the border identified that Martinez was one of their "good contacts and good friends" and "he supports us." (*Newsweek*, 1/19/24)

CRIME COMMENTS

- In March 2021, Martinez said there has been no increase in crime related to the recent surge in immigrant numbers, saying "they have been very peaceful." (*The 830 Times*, 3/28/21)
- In August 2021, however, Martinez said he believed crimes being committed in his county were Mexican immigrants crossing the border, committing crimes, and then returning to Mexico. (TX Day 2: Val Verde Co. Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez IOTA, *Ali Bradley*, 8/24/21) Minute 46:05-47:25

OPEN CARRY LAW COMMENTS

- In October 2015, Martinez raised concerns about the implementation of new legislation allowing public open carry in Texas, saying "I think for a little while it will make life difficult for law enforcement." (*The Washington Times*, 10/28/15)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name	Joe Frank Martinez
Date of Birth	July 1956
Primary Address	
Spouse	
Education	Del Rio High School, 1975
Current Employment	Sheriff, Val Verde County



Social Media

NOTE: No social media accounts connected to Martinez could be identified.

TIMELINE

July 1956: Born. (Nexis Records, Accessed 5/7/24)

1975: Graduated From Del Rio High School. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

1977 – 1982: Served In The Del Rio Police Department. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

1982 – 1984: Served In The Texas Department Of Public Safety Stationed In Sonora, Texas. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

1984 – 1997: Served In The Texas Department Of Public Safety's Highway Patrol Division. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

1997 – 1998: Served In The Texas Department Of Public Safety's Criminal Law Enforcement Division. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

1998 – 2007: Served In The Texas Department Of Public Safety's Narcotics Investigations Department. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

2008: First Elected To The Office Of Sheriff For Val Verde County Sheriff. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

2012: Re-elected To The Office Of Sheriff For Val Verde County Sheriff. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

2016: Re-elected To The Office Of Sheriff For Val Verde County Sheriff. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

2020: Re-elected To The Office Of Sheriff For Val Verde County Sheriff. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

February 2024: Announced His Candidacy For Re-election To The Office Of Sheriff For Val Verde County Sheriff. (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

EDUCATION AND CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Martinez Is A Life-Long Texas Resident, Having Served In Law Enforcement Since 1977 And As Sheriff Of Val Verde County Since 2008

Martinez Was Born And Raised In Del Rio, Attended High School In Del Rio And Joined The Del Rio Police Department In 1977

Martinez Was Born And Raised In Del Rio, Attended High School In Del Rio And Joined The Del Rio Police Department In 1977. “Martinez was born and raised in Del Rio, attended Del Rio schools and graduated from Del Rio High School in 1975. He joined the Del Rio Police Department in 1977 and served as a Del Rio police officer for four-and-a-half years.” (Karen Gleason, “Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff,” [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

Martinez Served In The Texas Department Of Public Safety From 1982 Through 2007

In June 1982, Martinez Joined The Texas Department Of Public Safety Attending And Graduating From The DPS Academy Before Returning To DPS Del Rio Station In 1984. “Martinez then joined the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), attending the DPS Academy in June 1982 and graduating in October of that year. He first served as a trooper stationed in Sonora, Texas, then returned to the DPS Del Rio station in 1984.” (Karen Gleason, “Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff,” [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

Martinez Served In DPS Highway Patrol Division From 1984 To 1997, In The Criminal Law Enforcement Division From 1997 To 1998, And Worked In The Narcotics Department Till 2007. “Martinez worked in the DPS highway patrol division, then as a trooper in license and weights from 1984 to 1997, where he was responsible for Kinney, Val Verde and Maverick counties. He served in the agency’s criminal law enforcement division in 1997 and worked there until 1998, when he was promoted to DPS narcotics investigations. Martinez retired from the DPS as a sergeant investigator in 2007.” (Karen Gleason, “Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff,” [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

In November 2008, Martinez Was Elected Val Verde County Sheriff And Has Since Been Elected To Four Terms


In November 2008, Martinez Was Elected Val Verde County Sheriff And Has Since Been Elected To Four Terms. “Martinez was elected Val Verde County Sheriff in 2008 and began serving his first term in January 2009. He has been the county sheriff ever since and is currently serving his fourth term.” (Karen Gleason, “Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff,” [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

Martinez Is The Democratic Party Nominee For Sheriff Of Val Verde County. “Jose Francisco ‘Joe Frank’ Martinez is seeking re-election as Val Verde County Sheriff. Martinez will first seek the Democratic Party nomination for the office. He will run unopposed in the March 5 Democratic Party Primary Election.” (Karen Gleason, “Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff,” [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

In February 2024, Martinez Announced His Intent To Run For A Fifth Term As Sheriff

In February 2024, Martinez Announced His Intent To Run For A Fifth Term As Sheriff. “‘Martinez said he decided to run again because he believes his work at the sheriff’s office is not over. ‘We’re up to 48 commissioned positions, to include myself. Over the years, we’ve added 12 to 16 additional positions to the office, had positions added to the criminal investigations division, patrol, the bailiffs, so we’ve added those positions over the years,’ Martinez said.” (Karen Gleason, “Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff,” [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

When He Announced His Candidacy, Martinez Called The Past Few Years “Difficult” And “I Think We Did A Great Job Managing Issues” Including COVID Pandemic And The Border Crisis. “‘I think I’ve still got a lot to offer the community. The main thing is serving our citizens, and I think we’ve done a good job to this point in time. It is a calling, to serve,’ Martinez said. ‘I think that over the years we’ve done a lot of great things in getting to where we’re at today. These last three years have been difficult. They’ve been a challenge in many ways. We



were faced with the Haitian crisis. We were faced with the winter storm. We dealt with the COVID pandemic, and we were there, ready to meet those difficulties, every step of the way,' Martinez said. 'I think we did a great job managing all those things and rose to the challenges as they came. I'm not saying we're perfect, but I feel that we've come a long way, and we're better than we were five, eight, 10 years ago. We're in a better place, and my goal is to eventually leave this office in a better place than I found it for the citizens of Val Verde County. I truly believe we're making strides toward that,' Martinez said." (Karen Gleason, "Martinez Seeks Re-Election As County Sheriff," [The 830 Times](#), 2/9/24)

PUBLIC RECORDS

CRIMINAL RECORDS & LAWSUITS

NOTE: A review of federal legal records produced several cases where Martinez was identified as a party in his capacity as Sheriff. As a result, a review of these records was conducted but not included as they did not include specific issues with Martinez's performance as Sheriff.

PROPERTY RECORDS



Listed Owner	Confidential
Address	
Appraised Value	\$255,748 (2023)
Zillow Estimate	\$411,700
Square Feet	2,600
Bed / Bath	3 bed / 2 bath
Source	Val Verde County Appraisal District



According To Nexis Public Records, Martinez Owns The Property At 78840. (Nexis Public Records, Accessed 5/7/24)

TX

NO.	ADDRESS	STATUS	TO-FROM	PHONE	ACTIONS
1.	(Residential)	Current	02/1993 - 05/2024 (Current Residence)		Get Property History Report Get Location Report
Possible Household Members			Neighborhood Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average Age: 30 Median Household Income: \$38,900 Median Home Value: \$53,861 Average Years of Education: 12 		

According To The Val Verde County Appraisal District, The Owner Of This Property Is Confidential And Owns This Property 100% With A Homestead Exemption. (Property 36169, [Val Verde County Appraisal District](#), Accessed 5/7/24)

ACCOUNT	OWNER
Property ID: 36169	Name: CONFIDENTIAL OWNER
Agent: GARCIA FERNA	Secondary Name:
Geographic: 6780-1370-002	Mailing Address:
ID: 5	
Type: R	
Legal: LAKERIDGE ESTATES BLOCK 137 LOT N/2-2	Owner ID: 63499
Description: ACRES 5.0	% Ownership: 100.00 %
Property Use:	Exemptions: HS - Homestead, OTHER
	State Code: A1

As Of 2023, This Property Was Appraised To Be Worth \$255,748. (Property 36169, [Val Verde County Appraisal District](#), Accessed 5/7/24)

Year	Land Market	Improvement	Special Use Exclusion (-)	Appraised	Value Limitation Adj (-)	Net Appraised
2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	15,000	240,748	0	255,748	0	255,748
2022	15,000	232,539	0	247,539	5,210	242,329
2021	15,000	205,299	0	220,299	0	220,299
2020	15,000	194,974	0	209,974	0	209,974
2019	15,000	178,720	0	193,720	0	193,720
2018	15,000	173,830	0	188,830	0	188,830

POLITICAL RECORDS

Campaign Contributions

Since 2012, Martinez's Campaign Has Contributed At Least \$125 To Texas Democratic Party. ([Federal Election Commission](#), Accessed 5/7/24)

Recipient	Contributor	Date	Amount
Texas Democratic Party	Joe Frank Martinez Campaign (Val Verde County Sheriff)	9/13/12	\$125
TOTAL			\$125

NOTABLE COMMENTS

COMMENTS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INCREASE

Martinez Has Made Multiple Comments Identifying That Illegal Immigration Has Increased In Recent Years

In April 2021, Martinez Wrote An Article For USA Today Titled “I’m A Texas Sheriff With 4 Deputies Patrolling 110 Miles. We Need Help”

In April 2021, Martinez Wrote An Article For USA Today Titled “I’m A Texas Sheriff With 4 Deputies Patrolling 110 Miles. We Need Help.” “I don’t know whether to laugh or to cry when I hear Washington politicians arguing whether or not the number of migrants crossing our southern border has reached the point of ‘crisis.’ I know there’s a crisis. We are living it, every single day. By way of introduction, I have served as the elected sheriff of Val Verde County, Texas, for the past 12 years. Before that, I served in local law enforcement for 30 years, mostly in Val Verde County. For the record — not that it matters — I am a proud Democrat.” (Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, “Border Crisis: I’m A Texas Sheriff With 4 Deputies Patrolling 110 Miles. We Need Help.,” [USA Today](#), 4/7/21)

- **Martinez: “For the record — not that it matters — I am a proud Democrat.”** (Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, “Border Crisis: I’m A Texas Sheriff With 4 Deputies Patrolling 110 Miles. We Need Help.,” [USA Today](#), 4/7/21)

Martinez: “In All My 42 Years Here, I Have Never Seen So Many Migrants Risking Their Lives To Cross The Rio Grande As In The Past Couple Of Months.” “In all my 42 years here, I have never seen so many migrants risking their lives to cross the Rio Grande as in the past couple of months. Our sheriff’s office generally consists of just four patrol deputies per shift — for all 2 million acres and all 110 miles of border. It can become overwhelming pretty quick. ITEM: My deputies fished the body of a young Cuban male out of the Rio Grande, identifying him by the passport in his pocket. He likely traveled with another person, but that individual has yet to turn up.” (Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, “Border Crisis: I’m A Texas Sheriff With 4 Deputies Patrolling 110 Miles. We Need Help.,” [USA Today](#), 4/7/21)

In His Article, Martinez Highlighted That Individuals From Central And South America Turn Themselves In For Asylum Claims, With Mexican Nationals Immediately Deported But “Are More Likely To Evade Capture”

In His Article, Martinez Highlighted That Individuals From Central And South America Turn Themselves In For Asylum Claims, With Mexican Nationals Immediately Deported But “Are More Likely To Evade Capture.” “ITEM: Unlike those from Central and South America who turn themselves in with hopes of proving claims of asylum, Mexican nationals are subject to immediate deportation at the nearest point of entry and so are more likely to evade capture. Earlier this month, a Mexican national was killed when the driver of the vehicle failed to yield, rolling the vehicle over and ejecting the deceased. A week later, eight Mexican nationals were killed in a high-speed chase that ended in a head-on collision, leaving two U.S. citizens in critical but stable condition, one being an 11-year-old girl.” (Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, “Border Crisis: I’m A Texas Sheriff With 4 Deputies Patrolling 110 Miles. We Need Help.,” [USA Today](#), 4/7/21)

In One Instance, Martinez Identified That 75% Of His Office Resources Were Spent On Half A Workday Detaining “ITEM: Three of my four deputies spent more than half of their workday detaining 54 South Americans who had turned themselves in. They held the group until Border Patrol arrived, leaving just one deputy to serve the entire county for several hours. On this event, 75% of my resources were used to support the United States Border Patrol.” (Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, “Border Crisis: I’m A Texas Sheriff With 4 Deputies Patrolling 110 Miles. We Need Help.,” [USA Today](#), 4/7/21)

Martinez Identified That The Immigration Surge Began Days Prior To President Biden Assuming The Office Of President, Due To The Presumption Of Lax Immigration Policies

Martinez Identified That The Immigration Surge Began Days Prior To President Biden Assuming The Office Of President, Saying That It Was Due To The Perception The U.S. Would Become Lax With Immigration Policy. “This unprecedented tide of migration started just a few days before Jan. 20, when migrants, along with everybody else, realized that the United States was about to become lax with the immigration policy. Prior to

the beginning of the year, our deputies were involved in assisting Border Patrol two or three times a month. Now, it happens four or five times a day, around the clock.” (Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, “Border Crisis: I’m A Texas Sheriff With 4 Deputies Patrolling 110 Miles. We Need Help.,” [USA Today](#), 4/7/21)

COMMENTS ON THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

In March 2021, Martinez Claimed The Biden Administration Was To Blame For The Increase Of Illegal Border Crossings

In March 2021, Martinez Claimed The Biden Administration Was To Blame For The Increase Of Illegal Border Crossings. “Standing 6’ 3 tall, Sheriff Martinez is an imposing figure, wearing Wrangler jeans, cowboy boots with a circa 1932 Colt. 45 pistol strapped to his side. He says the Biden administration is to blame for the increase of illegal crossings. Martinez, a democrat, says there was poor planning on the part of the current administration. ‘They just wiped out the old policy under the Trump administration and when they took over, the Biden administration didn’t have a plan to put their new policy in place. ‘These people who are coming across are telling us the Biden administration was going to be more lax than the previous one, and that’s why they are crossing. That’s why they are coming and it’s only going to get worse.’ Sheriff Martinez said this smuggling route is no longer a local secret. ‘The word is getting out that this particular area is a good, safe place to cross for immigrants who want to surrender and claim political asylum.’” (Alan Butterfield, “EXCLUSIVE: ‘It’s The Easiest Illegal Border Crossing Along The Rio Grande!’ Texas Sheriff Tells How His Small Town Is Being Overrun By Migrants Who Wait Until The River Reaches Its Lowest Point And Wade Across Within Five Minutes,” [MailOnline](#), 3/29/21)

- **Martinez: “They Just Wiped Out The Old Policy Under The Trump Administration And When They Took Over, The Biden Administration Didn’t Have A Plan To Put Their New Policy In Place.”** (Alan Butterfield, “EXCLUSIVE: ‘It’s The Easiest Illegal Border Crossing Along The Rio Grande!’ Texas Sheriff Tells How His Small Town Is Being Overrun By Migrants Who Wait Until The River Reaches Its Lowest Point And Wade Across Within Five Minutes,” [MailOnline](#), 3/29/21)
- **Martinez: “These People Who Are Coming Across Are Telling Us The Biden Administration Was Going To Be More Lax Than The Previous One, And That’s Why They Are Crossing. That’s Why They Are Coming And It’s Only Going To Get Worse.”** (Alan Butterfield, “EXCLUSIVE: ‘It’s The Easiest Illegal Border Crossing Along The Rio Grande!’ Texas Sheriff Tells How His Small Town Is Being Overrun By Migrants Who Wait Until The River Reaches Its Lowest Point And Wade Across Within Five Minutes,” [MailOnline](#), 3/29/21)

In November 2021, Martinez Criticized DHS Secretary Mayorkas Saying “I See He Does A Lot Of Talking In Some Of These Meetings, But There’s No Action”

In November 2021, Martinez Criticized DHS Secretary Mayorkas Saying “I See He Does A Lot Of Talking In Some Of These Meetings, But There’s No Action.” “Like Owens, the sheriff had harsh words for Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, with whom Martinez has met numerous times, often via Zoom. ‘I see he does a lot of talking in some of these meetings, but there’s no action . . . I don’t believe that Mayorkas is doing everything that he can, but I think the upper level, right above him, the policymakers, are basically controlling everything in D.C.,’ Martinez said.” (Karen Gleason, “Val Verde County Sheriff Addresses Border Forum,” [The 830 Times](#), 11/22/21)

- **Martinez: “I Don’t Believe That Mayorkas Is Doing Everything That He Can, But I Think The Upper Level, Right Above Him, The Policymakers, Are Basically Controlling Everything In D.C.”** Martinez said.” (Karen Gleason, “Val Verde County Sheriff Addresses Border Forum,” [The 830 Times](#), 11/22/21)

In November 2021, Martinez Expressed Frustration With U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz After He Expressed That His Officers Felt Like They Were On Their Own

In November 2021, Martinez Expressed Frustration With U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz After He Expressed That His Officers Felt Like They Were On Their Own. “The sheriff said he also saw the frustration of U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz, whose statements to the media first had to be vetted by his superiors. ‘The decisions that are made up in D.C., they’re not going to filter down here, so in March, I made a statement to some reporters that we’re on our own, so my goal at that time became to keep my community safe, my citizens safe, by whatever means.’ Martinez said. ‘I know I’ve been criticized for helping people out of the river, but because, you know, it was established early on where they were crossing, and if I could get there and get them

to Border Patrol, they won't be walking the neighborhoods, and that was the goal. They weren't walking our neighborhoods,' he added." (Karen Gleason, "Val Verde County Sheriff Addresses Border Forum," [The 830 Times](#), 11/22/21)

- **Martinez: "I Know I've Been Criticized For Helping People Out Of The River, But Because, You Know, It Was Established Early On Where They Were Crossing, And If I Could Get There And Get Them To Border Patrol, They Won't Be Walking The Neighborhoods, And That Was The Goal."** (Karen Gleason, "Val Verde County Sheriff Addresses Border Forum," [The 830 Times](#), 11/22/21)

In November 2021, Martinez Identified That The Number Of Immigrants Who Were "Got Aways" Could Be 200,000 "Very Easily"

In November 2021, Martinez Identified That The Number Of Immigrants Who Were "Got Aways" Could Be 200,000 "Very Easily." "Martinez talked for some time about Border Patrol numbers for the Del Rio Sector, showing the huge increases in the number of immigrants flooding across the border. The sheriff cautioned, however, that the number of immigrants reported by the sector doesn't include those not encountered by Border Patrol, termed 'got-aways.' 'The got-aways for this sector could be 200,000, very easily . . . We don't know what we don't know,' Martinez said." (Karen Gleason, "Val Verde County Sheriff Addresses Border Forum," [The 830 Times](#), 11/22/21)

In March 2022, Martinez Identified That Local And Federal Resources Were Overwhelmed And That Federal Law And Policy Changes Were Needed To Address The Issue

In March 2022, Martinez Identified That Local And Federal Resources Were Overwhelmed And That Federal Law And Policy Changes Were Needed To Address The Issue. "Our federal partners are overwhelmed. Now, they're doing everything they can with the resources that they have, and they're not even putting a dent in it,' Martinez said. The sheriff once again said the immigrant situation could only be remedied by federal law and policy changes. 'We haven't had an administration – on either side – who has attempted to truly fix the immigration issue, the immigration laws. They're broken, and I don't care what side, those are just empty promises. They're just words that are spoken, "We're going to fix immigration statutes," but nothing's ever done. There's an old statute that doesn't allow, for lack of a better term, a smooth process to be in this country legally. It doesn't. I talked to a Venezuelan man in New York on a phone call last September, and he'd been waiting six or seven years on his immigration hearing. He's an architect, working in New York, and to me, that's not reasonable.'" (Karen Gleason, "News-Sheriff Warns Immigrant Numbers May Skyrocket," [The 830 Times](#), 3/27/22)

- **Martinez: "We Haven't Had An Administration – On Either Side – Who Has Attempted To Truly Fix The Immigration Issue, The Immigration Laws. They're Broken, And I Don't Care What Side, Those Are Just Empty Promises."** (Karen Gleason, "News-Sheriff Warns Immigrant Numbers May Skyrocket," [The 830 Times](#), 3/27/22)

STANCE ON MILITIA ACTIVITY ON THE BORDER

While Denying Official Approval To Militia Members Operating On The Border, Militia Members Have Claimed Martinez's Support For Their Action

In December 2021, Martinez Said He Would Not Give A Formal Letter Of Support For Militia Members To Patrol The Border

In December 2021, Martinez Said He Would Not Give A Formal Letter Of Support For Militia Members To Patrol The Border. "Martinez said after Tuesday's meeting he has spoken with a number of Val Verde County property owners and ranchers who don't want the militia members on their land. As for formal endorsement or a letter of support, the sheriff said, 'I'm not going to give one.' Martinez said it's up to individual landowners if they want one to meet and talk to the militia members, 'but I'm not going to endorse them.' 'Some of the people I've talked to didn't even want to talk to them. The people I've spoken with don't want them on their land. They feel we have enough law enforcement in Val Verde County,' Martinez said." (Karen Gleason, "Val-Verde County Leaders Deny Militia's Request For Endorsement," [The 830 Times](#), 12/22/21)

In January 2024, Militia Member Samuel Hall With The Patriots For America Militia Said They Had The Support Of Martinez In Their Mission To Protect The Border

In January 2024, Militia Member Samuel Hall With The Patriots For America Militia Said They Had The Support Of Martinez In Their Mission To Protect The Border. “The Patriots for America (PFA) militia came about in 2015, but it was all very informal back then. We were just helping people get to their cars at rallies. It was a violent, intense political atmosphere when Donald Trump was running against Hillary Clinton. When we saw people getting attacked just for attending political rallies, we wanted to protect them. Left or right, Republican or Democrat, I believe you should be able to attend your own political rallies without fear for your safety. ... Then the big border missions started in October 2021 when we received a phone call to say Kinney County Sheriff Brad Coe needed help down there. I thought we were going to have a few days or maybe a week to get prepared, but it ended up as 24 hours' notice. All of us went to our wives—imagine having that conversation—to say we're leaving at 4:30 in the morning to go into an entirely unknown situation and we don't know when or if we'll come back. Two years later, we've been blessed to sustain that mission and grow it to four border counties. We've made good contacts and good friends with the sheriffs down there, including Val Verde County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, who's a Democrat. He supports us.” (Samuel Hall, “I Lead A Militia Patrolling The U.S. Border,” Newsweek, 1/19/24)

- **Samuel Hall: “Two Years Later, We've Been Blessed To Sustain That Mission And Grow It To Four Border Counties. We've Made Good Contacts And Good Friends With The Sheriffs Down There, Including Val Verde County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, Who's A Democrat. He Supports Us.”** (Samuel Hall, “I Lead A Militia Patrolling The U.S. Border,” Newsweek, 1/19/24)

CRIME RELATED TO IMMIGRATION SURGE

In March 2021, Martinez Said There Has Been No Increase In Crime Related To The Recent Surge In Immigrant Numbers, Saying “They Have Been Very Peaceful”

In March 2021, Martinez Said There Has Been No Increase In Crime Related To The Recent Surge In Immigrant Numbers. “Val Verde County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez said Friday the country’s federal elected leaders in both parties must work together to solve the nation’s immigration crisis. The sheriff said his office has encountered more than 300 migrants so far this month. Typically, Martinez said, the deputies see the migrants along the vega area near the Rio Grande and stay with them until Border Patrol is able to transport them for processing. Martinez said so far, there has been no increase in crime related to the recent surge in immigrant numbers. ‘They have been very peaceful,’ Martinez told the 830 Times.” (Karen Gleason, “Sheriff Calls For Bipartisan Fix To Immigration Dilemma,” [The 830 Times](#), 3/28/21)

- **Martinez: “They Have Been Very Peaceful.”** (Karen Gleason, “Sheriff Calls For Bipartisan Fix To Immigration Dilemma,” [The 830 Times](#), 3/28/21)

In August 2021, Martinez said That He Believed Criminals In The Local Area Were Mexican Immigrants Crossing The Border, Committing Crimes, And Then Returning To Mexico

VIDEO: In August 2021, Martinez said That He Believed Criminals In The Local Area Were Mexican Immigrants Crossing The Border, Committing Crimes, And Then Returning To Mexico. MARTINEZ: “We've also had in my opinion criminals that masked themselves within the the immigrants.” HOST: “so we are we talking like ms-13 or are we talking just the run-of-the-mill” MARTINEZ: “No. Run of the mill criminal, burglar. Okay so, we had two burglaries on the other side of town up here about a mile, weeks apart and one of them they took a gun, they took some clothes, they drank some beer, and they did their business on the floor. Well, you know and then a week or two later we have the same M.O. and they want the people to believe that this is the immigrants doing this. In this case i think we got a crook in del rio, you know, masking themselves within, okay, hoping, you know, the blame, they're going to blame the immigrants, okay? You know, that guy in my opinion the guy's probably from Mexico, and he probably came across did, what he's going to do, burglarized what he did, took

a gun, took a camera, took some clothes, he went back to Mexico.” (TX Day 2: Val Verde Co. Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez IOTA, [Ali Bradley](#), 8/24/21) Minute 46:05-47:25

In June 2017, Martinez Has Criticized The Claims That His County Is Crime-Ridden Due To Illegal Immigration

In June 2017, Martinez Has Criticized The Claims That His County Is Crime-Ridden Due To Illegal Immigration. “And they push back at Trump’s characterization of the border as a ‘tremendous danger,’ as he described it while visiting Texas in 2015, or as Attorney General Jeff Sessions called it in April, ‘ground zero’ and ‘where we first take our stand.’ ‘Life here is very peaceful. It’s very quiet,’ said Val Verde County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, whose county includes Amistad and nearby Del Rio, Texas, a town of nearly 40,000 people. Martinez, whose county sheriff deputies work closely with Border Patrol, Park Rangers and local police to maintain public safety in the border county, bristled at any suggestion the area is crime-ridden. ‘It is not a war zone in Val Verde County,’ Martinez said. ‘Is there an illegal immigration problem? Is there a drug-smuggling problem? Yes there is, but I don’t think it is to the extent that is made out throughout the country. It’s not a war zone.’” (Tal Kopan, “Where Trump’s Border Rhetoric Meets Reality,” CNN, 6/2/17)

- **Martinez: “Is There An Illegal Immigration Problem? Is There A Drug-Smuggling Problem? Yes There Is, But I Don’t Think It Is To The Extent That Is Made Out Throughout The Country. It’s Not A War Zone.”** (Tal Kopan, “Where Trump’s Border Rhetoric Meets Reality,” CNN, 6/2/17)

OPERATION LONE STAR

In December 2021, Martinez Said That Operation Lone Star Had Placed A Strain On His Jail’s Resources

In December 2021, Martinez Said That Operation Lone Star Had Placed A Strain On His Jail’s Resources. “Del Rio, Texas, has seen has over 1,400 arrests since the operation went into effect on November 7. Local officials said these arrests have led to some level of deterrence but has mostly they have put a strain on the community’s jail. ‘Since Operation Lone Star came in and started arresting all these individuals for human smuggling, now the county incurred a loss of revenue from the jail of almost a quarter-million dollars,’ Val Verde County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez told KXAN-TV, the NBC affiliate in Austin.” (Alex J. Rouhandeh, “Texas Using Boats Lined Up On Rio Grande To Stop Flow Of Migrants,” Newsweek, 12/7/21)

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In March 2022, Martinez Said That Operation Lone Star Was Helping To Address People Smuggling. “Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez of Val Verde County says it leaves a lot of people loitering. ‘Starting to look like a homeless community,’ says Sheriff Martinez. Something that the Sheriff says no one is used to. Martinez believes Operation Lone Star, which was launched last year in March by Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of Public Safety to fight the smuggling of people into the State, is helping. ‘There are some troopers here and what it benefits us is that there’s added law enforcement personnel to our community, to help keep our community safe,’ says Sheriff Martinez.” (Yami Virgin, “Immigration Crisis Will Soon Become A Disaster Says Val Verde County Sheriff,” [Fox San Antonio](#), 3/28/22)

- **Martinez: “There Are Some Troopers Here And What It Benefits Us Is That There’s Added Law Enforcement Personnel To Our Community, To Help Keep Our Community Safe.”** (Yami Virgin, “Immigration Crisis Will Soon Become A Disaster Says Val Verde County Sheriff,” [Fox San Antonio](#), 3/28/22)

COMMENTS ON FAMILY UNITS

In July 2021, A 61-Year-Old Venezuelan Man Who Came To The U.S. Was Wrongfully Arrested Due To Confusion With Overlapping Border Agencies After He Sought Asylum But Found Himself On A Private Dirt Road In The Border Town Of Del Rio

In July 2021, A 61-Year-Old Venezuelan Man Who Came To The U.S. Was Wrongfully Arrested Due To Confusion With Overlapping Border Agencies After He Sought Asylum But Found Himself On A Private Dirt Road In The Border Town Of Del Rio. “Nerio stepped out of the Rio Grande with his wife last week, put his feet on the sandy Texas ground and quickly found himself in handcuffs. He should not have been arrested. But law enforcement on the Texas border has become a blur of overlapping agencies as Gov. Greg Abbott floods the region with state troopers and Texas National Guard personnel in an unprecedented state effort to arrest migrants after they enter the country illegally. So the 61-year-old Venezuelan man who came seeking asylum found himself on a private dirt road in the border town of Del Rio, kissing his wife goodbye and walking blank-faced to the awaiting SUV of a state trooper. His wife sobbed quietly, wiping away tears with trembling fingers flecked with purple nail polish.” (Jolie McCullough, “Gov. Greg Abbott’s Border Security Initiative Rolls Out With Confusion, Missteps And A Whole Lot Of State Troopers In Val Verde County,” [The Texas Tribune](#), 7/30/21)

- **The Man Was One Of The First To Be Arrested Under A New Gov. Abbott Border Security Initiative Meant To Jail Migrants On State Criminal Charges, Such As Trespassing.** “Nerio was one of the first to be arrested under Abbott’s new border security initiative meant to jail migrants on state criminal charges, like trespassing. Instead of approaching the wrought-iron gates where county officials said a large majority of migrants turn themselves in to federal authorities, the couple had entered the country onto a private company’s stretch of land.” (Jolie McCullough, “Gov. Greg Abbott’s Border Security Initiative Rolls Out With Confusion, Missteps And A Whole Lot Of State Troopers In Val Verde County,” [The Texas Tribune](#), 7/30/21)
- **However, Texas Department Of Public Safety Officers Deployed To The Region Were Only Supposed To Arrest Unaccompanied Men For Trespassing If They Cross The Texas-Mexico Border Onto Private Property, While Families And Children Are Supposed To Be Handed Over To U.S. Border Patrol Agents.** “As the trooper’s SUV took off down the dusty road, Nerio was presumably off to be booked at a just-erected processing tent outside the local jail, have bail set over Zoom by a retired judge from elsewhere in the state, then sent more than 100 miles away to a Texas prison recently converted into a jail for migrants. Left behind, his wife would be taken to the federal immigration processing center, to begin deportation or asylum proceedings. But the hundreds of Texas Department of Public Safety officers deployed to the region are only supposed to arrest unaccompanied men for trespassing if they cross the Texas-Mexico border onto private property, the Val Verde County sheriff said. Families and children are supposed to be handed over to U.S. Border Patrol agents.” (Jolie McCullough, “Gov. Greg Abbott’s Border Security Initiative Rolls Out With Confusion, Missteps And A Whole Lot Of State Troopers In Val Verde County,” [The Texas Tribune](#), 7/30/21)

Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, Weighed In On The Matter, Saying DPS Should Not Have Separated The Husband And Wife Because They Are A Family Unit

Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, Weighed In On The Matter, Saying DPS Should Not Have Separated The Husband And Wife Because They Are A Family Unit. “‘DPS should not have separated the husband and wife. That’s a family unit,’ Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez said, minutes after witnessing the arrest.” (Jolie McCullough, “Gov. Greg Abbott’s Border Security Initiative Rolls Out With Confusion, Missteps And A Whole Lot Of State Troopers In Val Verde County,” [The Texas Tribune](#), 7/30/21)

OPEN CARRY LAWS

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In October 2015, Martinez Raised Concerns About The Possibility Of Issues With Texas Open Carry Laws, Saying “I Think For A Little While It Will Make Life Difficult For Law Enforcement.” “Although open carry laws are hardly new, law enforcement officials say they believe more people may be tempted to carry publicly in Texas at first because of the novelty. ‘I think for a little while it will make life difficult for law enforcement. At the end, when everything washes out, I think it will be much like it is today,’ said Val Verde County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez, who oversees a rural county that borders Mexico. ‘I don’t think there will be many people out there carrying a weapon in a holster, but only time will tell. We’ll see what happens on Jan. 1.’” (Andrea Noble, “Texas Police Prepare For open Carry Of Handguns In January 2016,” [The Washington Times](#), 10/28/15)