



PRESS RELEASE

**Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
SHERIFF ERIC FAGAN**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 23, 2024

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office and Fire Marshal Conduct Parallel Investigation Into Group Home Operation

(FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS) – Fort Bend County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samatha Renee Morris, 51, for operating a boarding house without a permit.

On February 23, 2024, at approximately 6:45 am, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office responded to the 13700 block of New Village Lane, Sugar Land, Fort Bend County, Texas, regarding a call about an aggressive loose dog in the area.

Upon making location, deputies encountered individuals inside a residence requesting law enforcement assistance. During their investigation, deputies discovered 9 individuals inside the residence with obvious signs of neglect and possible injuries, 5 of which were transported to medical facilities for further evaluation and treatment.

The owner / operator of the group home, Samatha Renee Morris, 51, later arrived on scene and was placed in custody by a Fire Marshal Investigator. She was transported to the Fort Bend County Jail where she was booked for Operating a Boarding House Without a Permit.

This remains an active investigation. The Fire Marshal's Office and the FBCSO are both working a parallel investigation. The Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the operation of the group home without a permit and the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is

conducting an investigation regarding the neglect and/or possible injuries to the group home residents.

"The operation of a group home without a permit is not just a violation of the law; it's a betrayal of trust, neglecting the well-being of residents who deserve safety, care, and dignity" says Sheriff Eric Fagan. "We will ensure that those responsible face the consequences for compromising the welfare of vulnerable individuals."



Samatha Renee Morris, 51

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About the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office was founded in 1837 and is the largest and most diverse law enforcement agency in Fort Bend County. The Sheriff's Office has over 900 employees, including 615 sworn peace officers and 22 reserve volunteer deputies dedicated to protecting and serving nearly 900,000 Fort Bend County residents. Among the 10 fastest-growing counties in the nation, Fort Bend covers 885 square miles and includes 21 unincorporated communities.

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