



PRESS RELEASE

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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 24, 2024

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Make An Arrest For Campaign Sign Vandalism

(FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS) – Fort Bend County Sheriff's deputies arrested Axel Banegas, 22, for campaign sign vandalism.

On February 24, 2024, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office made an arrest for the recent reports of campaign sign vandalism. FBCSO investigators have been working on cases where candidate political signs have been vandalized.

Investigators followed leads identifying a suspect driving a yellow Chevrolet Camaro who was seen on surveillance footage damaging candidate signs in Fort Bend County on February 13, 2024, at the shopping center located at 11315 S. Texas Hwy 6 in Sugar Land, Fort Bend County, Texas.

Banegas was taken into custody on February 24, 2024, on an arrest warrant for Criminal Mischief which is a Class A misdemeanor. During his interview, Banegas admitted to damaging candidate signs. His bond was set at \$7,500.

The investigation into additional suspects involved in vandalism of candidate signs continues. The first reported incidents of campaign sign vandalism began January 4, 2024.

"We condemn the unlawful act of damaging political campaign signs," says Sheriff Eric Fagan. "Every candidate has the right to campaign, and it is against the law for individuals to vandalize these signs. We take this matter seriously, and the investigation will continue, following up on other leads and suspects to ensure accountability for these actions."



Axel Banegas, 22

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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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