



MECKLENBURG COUNTY SHERIFF

GARRY L. MCFADDEN

*Working to influence change by being...
"the difference"*



ICE Agents Make Arrest on Courthouse Property, Sheriff In Talks With ICE Regarding Safety And Collaboration

Charlotte, N.C. - I would like to address an incident involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that took place at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse on Wednesday, April 23.

Around noon, a concerned citizen alerted me that there were three individuals - who were not clearly identified as ICE agents or law enforcement - handcuffing a man and escorting him to an unmarked vehicle.

Upon arriving at the scene, I personally witnessed the encounter and immediately initiated a conversation with ICE officials. This discussion focused on the need for clear communication to minimize disruptions of court proceedings and ensure the safety of everyone involved. This includes undocumented individuals, courthouse staff, guests, and the ICE agents themselves.

I even provided the ICE agents my personal cell number in an effort to strengthen collaboration. This is something I've been asking for and talking about all along. The situation that occurred on Wednesday, April 23 is a great example of why it's so crucial ICE and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) work together.

While the MCSO fully respects and recognizes the authority of ICE to carry out its duties, it is also the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office to make certain that all law enforcement actions conducted on courthouse property are done safely, transparently, and in coordination with our office.

To that end, I am working to develop a formal directive outlining policies and procedures for any future apprehensions on courthouse grounds. I am committed to creating a safer and more coordinated approach to these situations moving forward.

On behalf of MCSO, I would like to thank the public for their vigilance and assure the community that their safety and rights remain a top priority.