



Sheriff McFadden Responds To Criticism Over Meeting With DaBaby, Says He'll Engage with Anyone Seeking Positive Change

(CHARLOTTE, N.C.) – As the Sheriff of Mecklenburg County in Charlotte, N.C., I have dedicated four decades of law enforcement service while interacting with individuals who have been marginalized or impacted by the criminal justice system. As Sheriff, my primary responsibility is to engage not only with those housed in our detention center but also with members of the broader community, particularly those seeking to make a positive difference after their personal struggles and life experiences.

Rapper Jonathan Kirk, professionally known as DaBaby, has been one such individual. Over the years, DaBaby has demonstrated a genuine commitment to assisting others, whether it's providing meals to those in need during the Thanksgiving holiday, donating thousands of toys and iPads to children, or organizing voter engagement through his Vote Baby Vote campaign several years ago. The rapper has also offered financial assistance to families in crisis and supported efforts to combat homelessness in our community.

Recently, DaBaby has expressed a sincere interest in addressing issues that now heavily affect our community, such as mental health, substance abuse, suicide prevention, reentry, community violence, and even officer wellness. I was open to hearing his ideas and collaborating to find meaningful solutions to these challenges.

I understand that some may criticize my decision to meet with individuals who have had prior involvement with the criminal justice system. However, I firmly believe that everyone deserves a chance to contribute positively to society, especially as we are faced with the ongoing challenges with little to no support, resources, or valid solutions to combat these issues. My door is open, and it is not my role to judge someone based on their past but to hold them accountable for their present actions and willingness to create change within our community.

Numerous inquiries have been raised regarding any possible Sheriff's Office involvement in the video related to the incident on the light rail. To be very clear, the Sheriff's Office had no involvement or influence in any video or media project associated with the incident.

Once again, I will meet with anyone, regardless of their position, such as a president, a pastor, a homeless individual, or a community member, even critics with ideas to better serve others. I do not discriminate and will never turn away those seeking support for the needs and well-being of our community.

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