



## Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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Irwin H. Carmichael  
Sheriff

Rodney M. Collins  
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Chief Deputy Sheriff

May 4, 2018

In response to the onslaught of recent misleading, false and defamatory information regarding Mecklenburg County Jail (Jail) operations and hardworking Jail employees recently published by various entities and individuals, including the Exodus Foundation and the ACLU, I feel compelled to publicly respond. I made my position known to the Charlotte Observer in response to their request for me to comment on these allegations. Unfortunately, the Charlotte Observer elected to print only a few sentences from my response in today's paper, reserving the vast majority of allocated space to continually repeat and focus on the misleading and false information published by certain individuals and groups.

MCSO Jail employees work hard every day to do their difficult jobs ethically and with integrity. MCSO does not tolerate unprofessional or unethical conduct of MCSO employees, and it is our policy to investigate any and all allegations of employee misconduct. As Sheriff, I expect a certain amount of disagreement with my policies from time to time. My job is law enforcement, and not everyone agrees with enforcing the laws of this state and country. Some prefer to pick and choose which laws they want enforced based solely upon what is convenient for them personally; whether that be to garner votes, or a promise of a job, or they need a convenient excuse for overlooking certain laws they do not personally like. ***However, I draw the line and cannot begin to tell you how angry it makes me that hardworking MCSO Jail employees' job performance is now being unjustly impugned and maligned by unsubstantiated, misleading, uninformed and defamatory attacks.*** The recent actions of certain individuals and groups in spreading defamatory and false information regarding MCSO Jail employees' job performance is not only extremely irresponsible and a disservice to this community, it is an intolerable and intentional maligning of all MCSO employees who work in the Jail and elsewhere in the community to keep all Mecklenburg County citizens safe. MCSO employees are our neighbors and fellow citizens-the very people these individuals and groups who are now defaming them *purport/pretend* to care about.

MCSO Administration continues to believe this shamefully false and misleading information is promulgated by a few individuals and entities who have their own personal agendas and who, despite all of our efforts, adamantly refuse to listen to and acknowledge the true facts about anything, because the true facts do not fit their individual agendas for personal gain. Unfortunately, these individuals and entities prey upon citizens who blindly trust whatever they

are told by these misinformed individuals/groups. The Jail is one of the few jails in the nation that is accredited by the prestigious American Corrections Association (ACA); a nationally recognized licensed and *unbiased* detention facility examiner. The ACA has stringent standards for inmate care, and consistently audits MCJ operations in minute detail. MCJ ACA scores during this MCSO Administration have been consistently outstanding, which we are proud to release to the public. The Jail is also routinely examined by other *unbiased* entities such as the NC Department of Health and Human Services State Jail Inspector, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, The County Health Inspector, The County Fire Marshall and the US Marshals Service. The Jail has been found in laudatory compliance with every level of inmate care promulgated by each of these entities. Our Jail medical care provider has doctors, nurses and mental health professionals on staff who tend to all inmate medical and mental health needs on a daily basis. Our Youthful Offenders have the only fully accredited high school contained in a Jail in the state.

As Sheriff, I expect personal criticism on occasion, and know that goes with the job. I understand that especially in today's environment, individuals such as myself and my fine staff who dedicate their life to law enforcement professions have their detractors. However, I refuse to remain silent when my exemplary staff is the subject of misleading, false, defamatory information, published by individuals who have absolutely no qualifications or experience in running and maintaining an orderly detention facility- one of the most dangerous jobs in this country.

It is important to me that all MCSO employees feel secure in knowing that I fully support and defend the outstanding job that they do for this agency and this community every day, and the tremendous pride I take in having the honor of being your Sheriff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irwin Carmichael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Irwin" and last name "Carmichael" clearly distinguishable.

Irwin Carmichael, Sheriff of Mecklenburg County