



# Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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Garry L. McFadden  
Sheriff

Rodney M. Collins  
Chief Deputy Sheriff

Telisa E. White  
Chief of Detention

Jason R. Beebe  
Chief Deputy Sheriff

## **MEDIA ALERT**

October 5, 2021

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## **Sheriff Garry L. McFadden Terminates Detention Officer Following Criminal Sex Charges**

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)** – Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) announced today that former Detention Officer Karen Payton has been criminally charged with engaging in a sexual act with a male resident and providing a tobacco product to a resident in custody at Mecklenburg County Detention Center-Central.

Karen Payton's employment with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office began August 14, 2019 and she was terminated today October 5, 2021 after warrants were issued for her arrest.

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office opened an investigation into allegations against Officer Payton and found that her actions were a violation of North Carolina General Statutes § 14-27.31 (b) and 14-258 (c).

"There is no place for this type of conduct or behavior in our detention facilities or agency. We face too many daily challenges here at MCSO to allow such behavior and activity to continue that could compromise the safety and security of our staff and our residents. Officer Payton's actions are not a reflection of the professionalism and high standards required by all staff at MCSO," said Sheriff McFadden.

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office is unable to provide any further information on the criminal investigation or the pending charges.

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