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MCSO Awarded Grant to Fund Peer Support Program

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office was recently awarded a grant as part of the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act. The grant totaling more than \$105,000 will be used to launch the MCSO Peer Support Program.

“Our staff has faced several challenges over the past few years, particularly with the COVID-19 Pandemic creating staff shortages. Out of concern for the toll those challenges can take on their mental health, we wanted to implement a resource that can positively impact their overall well-being,” said Sheriff Garry L. McFadden.

The MCSO Peer Support Program will offer voluntary and confidential support and assistance to employees dealing with stress, emotional difficulties, or other personal and professional crises. The funding will also be used for the psychological screenings and the required training for the personnel selected as MCSO Peer Support Team members.

Sheriff McFadden adds, “these team members are not licensed therapists and when problems are severe or require professional assistance, professional referral resources will be provided. The overall goal here is to provide additional support to our employees who may be in need.”

The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act was signed into law in January 2018, recognizing that law enforcement agencies need and deserve support in their ongoing efforts to protect the mental health and well being of their employees. Good mental and psychological health are just as essential as good physical health for law enforcement officers to be effective in keeping our communities safe.

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