



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

700 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

T (704) 336-2543 • F (704) 336-6118

www.mecksheriff.com

GARRY L. MCFADDEN
SHERIFF

RODNEY M. COLLINS
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF

TELISA E. WHITE
CHIEF OF DETENTION

MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Bradley Smith
MCSO Public Information Office
Bradley.Smith@mecklenburgcountync.gov
O: (980) 314-5008

Sheriff McFadden's Response to House Bill 10 and Senate Bill 50

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – As the elected Sheriff of Mecklenburg County, I feel compelled to address House Bill 10 (HB10) and Senate Bill 50 (SB50), which I strongly oppose. Like its predecessors HB370 and SB101, HB10 and SB50 seeks to force every duly elected Sheriff in North Carolina to honor voluntary Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers, even if the Sheriff and the respective communities they serve oppose to such cooperation with ICE. These bills are another attempt to diminish the power of Sheriff and doesn't allow local communities to set their own policies.

I remain steadfast in my belief that the people of each county as reflected by the decisions of the Sheriff whom they elected should retain the ability to decide within the clear confines of the law as to what extent local law enforcement might cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

North Carolina General Statute § 162-62 mandates all Sheriffs in North Carolina to make a query and notify ICE regarding undocumented persons, therefore, all Sheriffs by law are already required to cooperate with ICE with or without HB10 and SB50 in place.

Again, I stand firmly against HB10 and SB50, and believe that Mecklenburg County is safer when *all* members of our community can trust and engage with local law enforcement without fear of repercussions as it pertains to their federal immigration status.

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