



# Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

700 East Fourth Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202

T (704) 336-2543 • F (704) 336-6118

[www.mecksheriff.com](http://www.mecksheriff.com)

Garry L. McFadden  
Sheriff

Rodney M. Collins  
Chief Deputy Sheriff

Telisa E. White  
Chief of Detention

Jason R. Beebe  
Chief Deputy Sheriff

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

April 4, 2022

**CONTACT:** Janet Parker

Public Information Manager

[Janet.Parker@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Janet.Parker@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

O: (980) 314-5170

## **Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Awarded National Accreditation by CALEA®**

**(Orlando, FL)** – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office was awarded national accreditation on Saturday, April 2, 2022 by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) in the Law Enforcement Accreditation program.

Following a multi-year self-assessment phase and a meticulous site-based assessment of community engagement, policy, procedures, equipment, and facilities by CALEA assessors, Sheriff Garry L. McFadden, Chief Rodney Collins, and Sgt. Johnathan Whitmore attended the CALEA conference to be formally reviewed and awarded. On Saturday, April 2, 2022, the CALEA Commission voted to approve MCSO for CALEA Accredited Status, signifying excellence in public safety and commitment to community. Each agency being reviewed, goes before CALEA's 21-member Board of Commissioners where the commission reviews all findings and determines the agencies' accreditation status.

Sheriff McFadden said, "As Sheriff, this is truly an honor and testament of the standard of excellence set by MCSO. Now that we have acquired this accreditation, we will be awarded what's known as The Triple Crown Award, recognizing sheriff's offices that achieve simultaneous accreditation from the CALEA, ACA and NCCHC. Only two of 100 sheriff's offices in North Carolina have received this distinct honor, Durham and New Hanover, now Mecklenburg will be added to the list."

"This award of accreditation does not come easy," said CALEA President Anthony Purcell, Chief of Police, University of Alabama at Birmingham Police Department. "Agencies must go through a rigorous review and evaluation of their organization and then implement the necessary policy and procedure changes. The process does not stop at that point. By voluntarily choosing to seek CALEA accreditation, the agency commits to an

ongoing review of adherence to CALEA's standards. Each community with CALEA accredited agencies should feel confident that their public safety organization is going above and beyond and operating under the highest standards in public safety."

### **Benefits of Accreditation**

*Controlled Liability Insurance Costs* - Accredited status makes it easier for agencies to purchase liability insurance; allows agencies to increase the limit of their insurance coverage more easily; and, in many cases, results in lower premiums.

*Stronger Defense Against Lawsuits and Citizen Complaints* - Accredited agencies are better able to defend themselves against lawsuits and citizen complaints. Many agencies report a decline in legal actions against them once they become accredited.

*Greater Accountability Within the Agency* - Accreditation standards give the Chief Executive Officer a proven management system of written directives, sound training, clearly defined lines of authority, and routine reports that support decision making and resource allocation.

*Staunch Support from Government Officials* - Accreditation provides objective evidence of an agency's commitment to excellence in leadership, resource management, and service-delivery. Thus, government officials are more confident in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and meet community needs.

*Increases Community Advocacy* - Accreditation embodies the precepts of community-oriented policing. It creates a forum in which police and citizens work together to prevent and control crime. This partnership helps citizens understand the challenges confronting law enforcement and gives law enforcement clear direction about community expectations.

*Improved Employee Morale* - Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. It requires written directives and training to inform employees about policies and practices; facilities and equipment to ensure employee safety; and processes to safeguard employee rights. Employees take pride in their agency, knowing it represents the very best in public safety.

**\*Photo courtesy: Event Work Photography LLC**

