



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff McFadden Addresses Superior Court Judge's Order Granting Preliminary Injunction

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) was surprised by the recent Order Granting Preliminary Injunction from Superior Court Judge Eady-Williams in response to a lawsuit brought last October 14, 2021, by a gun rights group. As communicated March 11, 2022, through the efforts of our dedicated staff, MCSO has brought our processing of pistol purchase permit and concealed handgun permit (CHP) applications into compliance with North Carolina General Statutes and we remain in compliance. It has always been and will continue to be our commitment to comply with all laws that govern these processes. Since July of 2020 almost 19,000 overtime hours have been expended. An additional two positions were added to the Permitting Division last fall to meet the demand and the agency utilized other staff for fingerprinting and administrative functions as well.

In terms of the Preliminary Injunction, the MCSO has **never failed** to request mental health records within the required ten days of receipt of a completed application for a CHP. Our office has consistently sent requests for all mental health records no later than the day after receiving a CHP application and this will continue to be our standard.

In order to comply with Judge Eady-Williams' Order that MCSO provide fingerprinting for CHP applicants within five days of receiving their applications, effective tomorrow, May 12, 2022, we will communicate to the over 1,300 current customers that have pending appointments for fingerprint services, including non-CHP appointments, that we must cancel all previously scheduled fingerprinting appointments and instead provide fingerprinting services on a first-come, first-served basis. Our office will continue to serve our customers from 8 am until 5 pm but will have to stop accepting fingerprint customers at 4:30 pm to ensure we can accommodate what we anticipate being long lines and increased wait times since we will no longer be able to accept appointments given the Judge's Order.

Although disappointed with this new requirement to provide fingerprinting for CHP applicants within five days of an application and the inconvenience that this will result in for so many of our customers, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office will continue to serve our customers as best we can. We appreciate the patience our customers have shown as we, like so many during the pandemic, were faced with staffing challenges and unprecedented applications for pistol purchase and concealed handgun permit applications. Our staff were never afforded the opportunity to work from home and we continued to process all applications and implemented processes that allowed customers to continue to apply for purchase permits and concealed handgun permit renewals throughout the pandemic.

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office is unable to provide any further information on the pending litigation.

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