



## 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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 1, 2021

**CONTACT:** Janet Parker

Public Information Manager

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

O: (980) 314-5170

### **Sheriff McFadden Invited to Address the National Sheriff's Association**

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)**-On Monday, June 21, 2021 Sheriff Garry L. McFadden addressed the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) Board of Directors and Executive Board during this year's annual NSA Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Sheriff McFadden is the first Sheriff to receive such an invitation to address the NSA Boards to engage in conversation regarding law enforcement and people of color.

According to the National Sheriffs' Association, a series of events involving law enforcement and people of color has put a strain on police and community relationships; often where these relationships are needed most. Even if your agency gets it right, you could be one incident away from becoming the next news headline. Sadly the perception and reality have become interchangeable and there are many in African American communities who perceive law enforcement as abusive at best. The questions posed during the 2021 NSA National Convention were: How do we change this perception? What is our obligation to those whom we took an oath to serve and protect?

“As the 45<sup>th</sup> and first African American Sheriff of Mecklenburg County, I was honored to receive the invitation to address the NSA Boards but I was also saddened to see only one person of color represented and only one gender. The change we want to see in law enforcement must begin at the board table,” says Sheriff McFadden. “During the 2018 election, I ran my campaign on being progressive and influencing change by being the difference. It is my hope that my very candid and passionate conversation with the NSA Board of Directors and the Executive Board will be the catalyst for real action and transformation in law enforcement offices across the nation.”

Sheriff McFadden challenged both boards to take a look in the mirror and ask themselves “Are we truly the ‘voice of law enforcement today?’ If we are, the room can not continue to look the way it does today!”



Photos courtesy: National Sheriffs' Association