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Sheriff McFadden Offers Safety Tips for Back to School

(CHARLOTTE, NC)-Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry L. McFadden is dedicated to the safety of every citizen of our community. As many students will be walking back and forth to school this year, he offers the following tips to make Mecklenburg County safer for all:

- ★ While walking, remember to always travel with a friend. Two heads are better than one, especially if there's an emergency.
- ★ A stranger is anyone you or your parents don't know well.
- ★ You or your friend must never take candy, money, medicine, or anything else from a stranger.
- ★ If a stranger in a car asks you questions, don't get close to the car (you could get pulled in) – and never get in the car.
- ★ Strangers can be very tricky – they can ask you to walk with them to “show” them something; they can offer to pay for your video game or ask you to help them find a lost dog or cat. Don't be fooled!
- ★ Don't tell anyone your name or address when you're walking and don't think that because someone knows your name that they know you – they may just be looking at your name printed on your lunch box, school bag or T-shirt.
- ★ If you think you're in any danger, yell, and run to the nearest store or “safe house” or back to school.
- ★ Always tell your parents or teacher if a stranger has approached you.

“Parents, by taking the time to carefully prepare your child on how to handle these situations, you can ensure your child’s safety whether they are on their way to school or home, playing on a playground or riding their bikes,” said Sheriff McFadden, “Drivers should also be extra vigilant this time of year as more are children walking back and forth to school.”

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