



## Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

August 9, 2022

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### Mecklenburg County Detention Center Officer Arrested for Bringing Illegal Items to a Detention Center Resident

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)** – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) announced today that Detention Officer Goodwin Stuppard was arrested for providing a cellphone and smuggling tobacco products to a resident in the Mecklenburg County Detention Center. Mr. Stuppard's employment with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office began December 9, 2015, and he was terminated August 9, 2022.

MCSO opened an investigation after receiving a tip alleging that Stuppard was smuggling illegal items into the detention center. During the investigation, Stuppard admitted to furnishing tobacco products as well as charging a cellular phone and giving it back to a resident detained in the Mecklenburg County Detention Center.

State law prohibits tobacco products on the premises of local confinement facilities, and it is a Class 1 misdemeanor for a person to give tobacco products to any person in the custody of a local confinement facility. Cellular phones are also illegal in a detention center; the law prohibits those in custody from possessing cellular phones and it is a Class H felony for a person to provide a mobile telephone or any other communications device to any person during their confinement in a detention center.

"We take all allegations of employee misconduct seriously," said Sheriff McFadden. "Mr. Stuppard's actions are a violation of the law he swore to uphold. Terminating a staff member is never an easy decision but all employees of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office are required to demonstrate professional and ethical conduct."

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