



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

700 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

T (704) 336-2543 • F (704) 336-6118

www.mecksheriff.com

GARRY L. MCFADDEN
SHERIFF

TELISA E. WHITE
CHIEF OF DETENTION

MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2024

CONTACT: Bradley Smith
MCSO Public Information Office
Bradley.Smith@mecklenburgcountync.gov
O: (980) 314-5008

In-Custody Death of Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Resident

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is currently investigating the death of 43-year-old male resident, George Wesley Benfield (PID 213721), who was housed at the Mecklenburg County Detention Center-Central (801 E. Fourth Street).

On Saturday, January 20, 2024, at approximately 3:09 am, a medical emergency was called by a detention officer in the housing unit where Mr. Benfield was assigned after he was discovered to be unresponsive. Lifesaving measures were administered and continued until emergency medical personnel arrived. At approximately 3:21 am, the Charlotte Fire Department and Mecklenburg EMS (MEDIC) arrived and continued lifesaving efforts as they transported Mr. Benfield to Atrium Main, where he was pronounced deceased at approximately 4:06 am.

Requests for Mr. Benfield's health information may not be disclosed as it is protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

"Announcing the news of a resident's passing is always a challenge and remains a consistently difficult task," said Sheriff McFadden. *"Our hearts go out to Mr. Benfield's family. May they find strength and comfort during this difficult time."*

George Benfield was brought into MCSO Arrest Processing on Friday, January 19, 2024, at 8:17 pm. After being processed, he was then moved to Detention Center-Central on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 1:45 am. The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) will also conduct a thorough in-custody death investigation as the medical examiner determines the cause of death.

###