



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
CELESTE D. YOUNGBLOOD
CHIEF OF DETENTION
VALERIE M. FIELDS
CHIEF OF STAFF
SHELBY JONES
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT DIRECTOR

MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2026

CONTACT: Sarah Mastouri
Public Information Manager
Sarah.Mastouri@mecklenburgcountync.gov
O: (980)-314-5170

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Announces Launch of New Traffic Unit

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is excited to announce the launch of its newly reformed Traffic Unit, expanding its capacity to focus exclusively on traffic enforcement and crash investigations throughout the county.

The MCSO Traffic Unit was officially established on Oct. 16, 2024, creating a dedicated team of field deputies focused exclusively on traffic stops. Since its formation, the unit has demonstrated significant impact. In 2025 alone, our deputies conducted more than 3,500 traffic stops and made 31 arrests, several of which led to drug charges and the seizure of firearms.

In August of last year, seven deputies began specialized training on how to conduct crash investigations. Additionally, they became certified in operating the state's Traffic Records and Crash System (TraCS), a North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) application used by law enforcement agencies to document crash data. The intensive, week-long training program, led by state troopers, included both classroom instruction and hands-on exercises, from marking accident scenes to using distance-measuring tools in simulated crash environments.

The Traffic Unit was given the green light to use the TraCS system on Jan. 2, 2026. The assigned deputies are now able to complete crash investigations and report on-site, significantly reducing call response times, alleviating workload pressures, and minimizing reliance on other agencies, such as the North Carolina State Highway Patrol or Charlotte-

Mecklenburg Police Department, for assistance. As of today, the unit has completed five crash investigations.

“Creating a dedicated traffic unit allows us to better serve our community and our law enforcement partners,” said Sheriff Garry McFadden. “Our deputies already respond to traffic incidents daily, but this specialized unit will ensure we have trained, equipped personnel dedicated to keeping our roadways safer, responding faster when crashes occur, and supporting crime-reduction efforts. I anticipate the MCSO traffic team will continue to grow as this initiative evolves.”

Sheriff McFadden will formally announce the Traffic Unit’s launch during a press event on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, at 10 A.M. at the Juvenile Detention Center (Jail North) Circle, 5235 Spector Drive, Charlotte, N.C., 28269. The MCSO will be joined by representatives from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. RSVP is required.

Here is a [LINK](#) to our media kit for your use. Please credit Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office.

###