



## 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

**CELESTE D. YOUNGBLOOD**  
CHIEF OF DETENTION

**VALERIE M. FIELDS**  
CHIEF OF STAFF

**SHELBY JONES**  
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT DIRECTOR

### **MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 24, 2026

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

### **Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Celebrates BLET Class 2501 Graduation Following Six-Month Training Program**

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is proud to announce the successful completion of its first in-agency Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) class under Sheriff Garry McFadden. The class passed the final exam on Monday, March 23, 2026. This milestone marks the culmination of a six-month training program designed to prepare new deputies for full-time law enforcement duties within the Sheriff's Office.

The BLET curriculum includes state-mandated instruction in constitutional and criminal law, firearms, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations, arrest procedures, ethics, report writing, and community-oriented policing. Trainees met the standards set by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, ensuring they are equipped to serve the citizens of Mecklenburg County with professionalism and integrity.

*“Graduating this BLET class is a proud moment for the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and our community,”* said Sheriff Garry L. McFadden. *“These men and women have invested six months of rigorous training, discipline, and teamwork to earn this achievement. The BLET program is not just about passing an exam. It's about building ethical, knowledgeable, and service-driven deputies who are ready to protect and serve Mecklenburg County with honor and accountability.”*

*“I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the BLET class and to everyone who supported them through the process,” said V. M. Fields, Chief of Staff. “From the planning phase to the successful exam, this program has demonstrated what happens when we align training, operations, and leadership around a shared mission. The BLET program is an investment in our future workforce and a clear sign that our agency is committed to professional development, accountability, and strong community policing.”*

*“This BLET class has met and exceeded the rigorous standards expected of new law enforcement officers,” said C. D. Youngblood, Chief of Detention. “Over the last six months, these trainees have shown resilience, professionalism, and a commitment to learning. Their performance on the final exam reflects the hard work they’ve put in, and we are confident they will be assets to the Sheriff’s Office and the citizens they are sworn to serve.”*

The BLET program is an 868-hour, state-sanctioned course that prepares entry-level individuals to become certified law enforcement officers in North Carolina. The curriculum includes legal instruction, firearms training, driver training, use-of-force scenarios, and extensive ethics training.

MCSO will continue to make plans to host additional classes in the future to continue building a strong, well-trained workforce.

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