



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

KEVIN D. CANTY
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF

MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Sarah Mastouri
MCSO Communication Specialist | Public Information
Sarah.Mastouri@mecklenburgcountync.gov
O: (980)-314-5170

Sheriff Garry McFadden Sends Letters to North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Governor's Office Asking for Clarity in Jail Inspection Process

(CHARLOTTE, N.C.) – Sheriff Garry McFadden is taking proactive steps to ensure transparency and fairness in the inspection process of the Mecklenburg County Detention Center – Central (MCDCC). In a series of letters addressed to key officials within the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Sheriff McFadden expressed concerns regarding the recent semi-annual inspection conducted by Engineering Jail Inspector Charles Brown.

During the inspection on April 9, Sheriff McFadden and his staff were taken aback when Inspector Brown requested an unprecedented amount of data regarding supervision rounds at MCDCC. When questioned about the basis for such a request, Brown's response raised eyebrows as he admitted to fabricating information about similar requests made to other facilities. This discovery has cast doubt on the integrity and fairness of the review process, prompting the Sheriff McFadden to seek clarification and action from state authorities.

In separate letters sent to Chief Jail Inspector Chris Woods, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley, Governor Roy Cooper, and Attorney General Josh Stein, Sheriff McFadden emphasized the need for a thorough investigation into the motivations of the jail inspector and stressed the importance of ensuring that the evaluation process for MCDCC is balanced, just, open, and fair.

Sheriff McFadden also invited Secretary Kinsley to participate in a board of county commissioners meeting, where they can discuss the detention center review process and address concerns directly with the community.

In response, senior advisors with the Governor's Office assured additional conversation with Sheriff McFadden going forward. The Attorney General's Office acknowledged it received the letters via email and this afternoon, NCDHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley spoke directly with Sheriff McFadden on the details of the inspection.

"No detention center is perfect. Our detention center is not perfect, but we always strive to be," said Sheriff McFadden. *"It is, however, imperative that the inspection process is conducted fairly and without bias to maintain public trust and ensure the safety and well-being of both staff and residents."*

See the letters attached to this email.

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