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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Announces Launch of Its Own Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Program

Charlotte, N.C. - Sheriff Garry McFadden and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) are proud to announce that the agency has been approved to launch its own Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program, creating a direct path for current detention officers and staff members to transition into the role of deputy sheriff.

Sixteen cadets were chosen to participate in the first class of this comprehensive, 23-week training program. The selection process includes a reading comprehension exam, the Police Officer Physical Abilities Test, and a structured interview. The Sheriff's Office will fully cover all program expenses, such as books, tuition, equipment, and uniforms.

To mark this milestone, MCSO will host a BLET Meet and Greet on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Training Center.

The event will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony and opportunities to meet MCSO training staff and learn more about the BLET program. During the opening, Sheriff McFadden will honor Detention Officer Aaron Tindall, who died while off duty in August. Several of the late officer's family members will also be in attendance.

Members of the public and media are invited to attend. RSVP is required.

In addition to the BLET program, MCSO is now an official, regional testing site for the State of North Carolina under the Department of Justice's Criminal Justice Training & Standards Commission. The agency's new computer lab at the MCSO Training Center meets all state requirements, enabling law enforcement agencies from across the region to utilize the facility for a variety of tests, including general instructor tests, BLET tests, and more, all with their own proctors.

The Training Center's testing site will be operational at the end of October 2025 once state-required software and equipment installations are complete. This initiative will provide MCSO and participating agencies with greater flexibility, increased exposure, and stronger relationships across the law enforcement community.

"I am incredibly proud of my agency and how much we've achieved together. Our accomplishments mark just the beginning of our commitment to serving the community. We are dedicated to preparing the next generation of deputies to protect Mecklenburg County with honor, integrity, skill, and compassion," Sheriff McFadden said. "But we are building more than deputies. We're building trust, service, safety for our community and even your neighbors."

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