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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCSO Announces Devastating Loss of Staff Member, Reaffirms Commitment to Mental Health

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is deeply saddened to announce the tragic loss of one of our very own, Detention Officer Richard Hardy, (DOB: 11/1/1987).

Around 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department was called to a residence in South Charlotte. Medic arrived shortly after and confirmed that Officer Hardy was deceased. The incident has been determined to be the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Officer Hardy had been a member of the MCSO since July of 2023.

"This tragedy reminds us that the work we do carries emotional and psychological burdens that can affect any member of our staff. It also underscores the urgent need for continued mental health support, early intervention, and a culture where seeking help is not seen as weakness, but responsibility," said Sheriff Garry McFadden. *"This is the very reason why I was and still am so committed to mental health, both for our residents and the staff who work with our residents."*

The MCSO encourages anyone experiencing emotional distress or thoughts of self-harm to seek immediate help. The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 by calling or texting 988.

No further details are available at this time.

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