



## **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**

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

### **Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office to Hold Upcoming Panel: Setting The Record Straight On Former Juvenile Detention Center**

**(Charlotte, N.C.)** – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) will host a panel discussion featuring Sheriff Garry McFadden and North Carolina Department of Public Safety's William Lassiter, that's centered around the former Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), commonly known as Jail North. The event will be held at the Valerie C. Woodard Community Resource Center off Freedom Drive on Jan. 6, 2026. Media, key stakeholders, and the public are invited to attend.

MCSO is convening this panel to address and correct ongoing misconceptions about the closure of the JDC and inform the public with a clear understanding of the real needs and conditions for reopening the facility. Specifically, there has been confusion about MCSO's role and responsibility in the facility not being open. For this reason, we want to engage in a transparent discussion with state leaders regarding the potential reopening of the JDC and emphasize that closing the facility was not our preference.

The JDC opened in 2019 and closed in 2022. At the time of its closure, circumstances beyond our control required decisive action. Following a jail inspection, staffing resources at the JDC had to be reassigned to the Mecklenburg County Detention Center - Central (MCDCC), and our 3-year contract with the state had ended. It is also important to clarify that MCSO is not statutorily responsible for housing juveniles. That is the responsibility of the state.

There has been public speculation that the JDC is an unused, fully operational facility that could easily be reopened to house juveniles or serve as overflow for adult residents. This narrative

overlooks a critical reality. Operating the facility requires adequate staffing, which currently, MCSO does not have the staffing capacity to reopen the JDC. Retaining the building remains necessary, as it is currently used for training, community initiatives, and future operational needs, should it ever be considered for adult housing.

Furthermore, with the recent implementation of House Bill 307, MCSO is already experiencing a large influx of individuals being booked into MCDCC. The current population sits right at 1,600, but that number is expected to continually rise. Given these current pressures, MCSO is not in a position to reallocate staff or resources to support the reopening of Jail North.

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