



## Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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### MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry L. McFadden's Response to Proposed Second Amendment Sanctuary County Designation**

(CHARLOTTE, NC) - I have recently received a number of inquiries from concerned members of our community, seeking to know my position on whether Mecklenburg County should join others, in North Carolina and beyond, by proclaiming itself to be a "Second Amendment Sanctuary County," opposed to any restrictions on an individual's constitutional rights to keep and bear arms. In response I offer the following:

The term "sanctuary," used as an adjective in reference to a city, a county, a state or even a community, has become ubiquitous and too often twisted and abused by politicians and political interest groups of late. And so I choose not to engage in the debate over such labels or designations. Rather, I choose to focus on my obligations to enforce the law and support and maintain the Constitution. As chief law enforcement officer of Mecklenburg County, it is my job and thus the collective job of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, in significant part, to preserve the peace and public order, and to enforce the laws of the state. Further I have taken an oath to "support and maintain the Constitution and the laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith." True to my duty and my oath, and consistent with my commitment to the people of Mecklenburg County, I support the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Indeed, one of the responsibilities of every Sheriff in North Carolina is to administer the issuance of handgun purchase permits and permits to carry a concealed handgun.

I and my office will continue to uphold, apply, and enforce the gun laws of North Carolina, consistent with the Second Amendment. These laws allow the vast majority of our citizens to possess firearms of various sorts, while requiring a permit to purchase or conceal a handgun. Certain members of our community, however – individuals, for example, previously convicted of a felony or currently under a domestic violence protective order – are prohibited by law from

possessing a firearm. I and my office will continue to uphold, apply and enforce those laws *restricting* gun possession which are also not inconsistent with the second Amendment.

In sum, whether the Charlotte (or any other) City Council, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, or any private citizen for that matter, proclaims Mecklenburg County to be some sort of “sanctuary” jurisdiction, in reference to the Second Amendment or otherwise, will not impact my commitment to my duty and my oath. But for the sake of steering clear of the potential twisted connotations of the term, I will not engage in the debate over whether Mecklenburg County should be referred to as a “Second Amendment Sanctuary County.”

