



## Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff

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Chief of Detention

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Chief Deputy Sheriff

### **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 18, 2020

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### **In-Custody Death of Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Resident**

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)** - The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating the death of 45-year old Willie Frank Burks (PID # 465598), a resident housed at Detention Center – Central (801 E. Fourth Street). Burks was found unresponsive in his cell at approximately 10:30 a.m. this morning. After CPR was performed by staff and first responders, Burks was transported to Atrium Hospital where he was pronounced deceased at approximately 11:09 a.m. this morning on Wednesday, March 18.

“We are hurt, our staff is grieving, this is a very emotional time for our agency,” stated Sheriff McFadden, “I have personally spoken to Mr. Burks’ family regarding his passing and mourn with them during this difficult time.”

Burks has been in custody at Detention Center - Central since June 6, 2019 and was last seen jovial and vibrant according to staff. There were no signs of foul play and no signs of a fever. The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) will conduct a thorough investigation as the medical examiner determines the cause of death.