



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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November 5, 2020

TO: Purchase and Concealed Handgun Permit Applicants

FROM: The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

REF: **Surge in Purchase Permit and New Concealed Carry Applications**

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office is aware of our customer's concerns relative to the delays we are currently experiencing processing purchase and concealed handgun permits. We have reported unprecedented increases in purchase permit and concealed handgun permit applications since March. Prior to March 2020, purchase permit applications averaged 1,506 per month for fiscal year 2020 and 1,130 for fiscal year 2019. Since March, the average climbed to 4,698 which included an all-time high of 6,425 in June. On October 26, 2020 the Office registered the highest number of outstanding applications ever with 13,005 applications. Currently staff are working hard to process applications and are processing applications as of July 5, 2020.

Sheriff McFadden has authorized additional overtime and has approved staff from other divisions to assist in the effort to meet the demand. Although our offices were required to close at the onset of the pandemic, our staff continued to work in the office processing purchase permits and concealed handgun renewals. Since July our staff have worked a total of 1,447 overtime hours and we have utilized other division staff for another 1,497 hours for fingerprinting and administrative functions which allows our trained staff to focus exclusively on processing purchase and concealed permits.

The Division reopened on June 1st for new concealed handgun permit applicants. Since reopening there has been an 125% increase in the monthly average of applicants for new and renewal concealed handgun permit (CHP) applications for July – October 2020 compared to the same period last year. Staff are currently processing and issuing CHP applications as of July 7, 2020, and appointments are booked already into February 2021.

As we notified customers beginning on March 19, 2020, we continue to mail approved pistol purchase permits and concealed handgun permits to reduce the number of customers entering our office. We are also sending out weekly notifications to all pending applicants advising them of their application status.

The Sheriff's Office is committed to ensuring we continue to provide this service to the citizens of Mecklenburg County during this unprecedented crisis and appreciate everyone's understanding and patience while we strive to process all applications ensuring the safety of the public. We have a team of sixteen employees that are working hard everyday (including weekends) to process the "tsunami" of applications. Please contact the Division at 704-336-3665 should you have any questions we can answer.