

MEDIA ADVISORY October 22, 2021

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MCSO Trunk or Treat: A Safe Halloween Alternative

(CHARLOTTE, NC)-Soon neighborhoods across Mecklenburg County will be scattered with trickor-treaters for Halloween. The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office invites families to a safe yet fun alternative and an opportunity to positively engage with law enforcement.

WHAT: Trunk or Treat Drive Thru WHEN: Saturday, October 30, 2021 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. WHERE: 5225 Spector Drive, Charlotte, NC 28269

"We look forward to this event and we want moms and dads to feel safe especially with COVID-19 still impacting our community. Our deputies and staff have been collecting candy to ensure everyone walks away with a treat this Halloween," said Sheriff McFadden.

The Sheriff reminds all Mecklenburg County residents to follow these safety tips:

COVID-19:

- Follow State and County health policies.
- Promote the use of hand sanitizer by trick-or-treaters and their families.
- Encourage social distancing.
- Halloween costume masks are not suitable to provide COVID-19 protection.

• Avoid going to indoor activities where people may be crowded together. Outdoor activities, with good ventilation, are better alternatives.

Motorists:

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians, and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Parents:

- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Check the sex offender registry at <u>www.NCSBI.gov</u> when planning your child's trick-or-treat route. You can view maps that pinpoint registered offenders' addresses in your neighborhood and sign up to get email alerts when an offender moves nearby.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Make sure older kids trick-or-treat in a group.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and **never** to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.

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