



## Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff

Rodney M. Collins  
Chief Deputy Sheriff

Telisa E. White  
Chief of Detention

Jason R. Beebe  
Chief Deputy Sheriff

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

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### **Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Remains Committed to Residents, Families and Friends Staying Connected During the Pandemic**

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry L. McFadden is committed to residents maintaining their connections with families and friends while housed at the Detention Centers during the pandemic.

Recently, the current telecom provider, GTL, notified Sheriff McFadden they have implemented a permanent program that will allow residents to contact their loved ones via one free five-minute phone call per week. The residents at the Juvenile Detention Center will continue to make phone calls free of charge.

Additionally, since April 30, 2020, residents have been able to receive two free ten-minute internet video calls per week. As you may recall, Sheriff McFadden announced a reduction to the rates for internet video calls effective last November 1, 2019. The charge per visit was reduced from \$4.00 to \$2.50 for a 10-minute visit and from \$10.00 to \$6.25 for a 25-minute visit. Connecting families is a critical component of integrating back into the community.

Sheriff McFadden continues to encourage residents and their families to stay connected during these unprecedented times and says; "I care deeply for the women and men working in our detention centers as well as for our residents in our care. As Sheriff; detention operations are one the most important responsibilities of my Office and one I'm adamantly passionate about. Providing good healthcare, programming, and even supplies didn't just start because of the pandemic. The very foundation of my administration has been predicated on taking the best possible care of those in my custody and preparing them for reentry into our community. That will not change even amid this pandemic."

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