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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2024

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Mecklenburg County Detention Officer Arrested and Terminated for Providing Contraband to Resident; Sheriff McFadden Responds to Recent Staff Terminations

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) announced today that Detention Officer Melissa Gordon was arrested for providing contraband to a resident in the Mecklenburg County Detention Center-Central (MCDCC). Ms. Gordon’s employment with MCSO began January 21, 2020, and ended on March 21, 2024.

MCSO opened an investigation into allegations against Ms. Gordon and found that her actions were in violation of North Carolina General Statute § 14-258.1. She was charged with and arrested on that offense this afternoon.

Said Sheriff McFadden: *“The operation of a facility like Detention Center-Central presents innumerable challenges on the best of days. Almost all of these are challenges we accept and embrace at MCSO. But when a staff member violates their oath and the trust I placed in them, it creates a challenge that is unacceptable and intolerable. I must acknowledge that Ms. Gordon is not alone, as within the past year I have been required to terminate additional Detention Center-Central staff for engaging in inappropriate conduct with residents. The public should know, however, that the vast majority of those hundreds of detention officers and civilians who work, day-in and day-out at Detention Center-Central are dedicated public servants who take their oaths and that trust seriously and to heart, and of whom I am immeasurably proud. Their commitment to MCSO and to our community should not be tarnished by the criminal conduct of a few. MCSO remains committed to upholding the safety and security of Detention Center-Central, and to protecting the well-being of those in our care.”*

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