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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Reaches Settlement Over Alleged Delays in Processing Concealed Handgun Permits

(Charlotte, N.C.) The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) announces a settlement was reached between MCSO and 7 Plaintiffs, Sarah Beth Williams, Bruce Kane, Jason Yepko, Gun Owners of America, Gun Owners Foundation, Grass Roots North Carolina, and Rights Watch International in a lawsuit which was filed in federal court on November 28, 2022, over alleged delays in processing concealed handgun permits. The lawsuit did not allege that MCSO violated the North Carolina statutory timeframes for issuing permits, but only claimed that there were delays which violated the United States Supreme Court's 2022 ruling in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*.

On August 1, 2023, United States District Court Judge Max Cogburn denied Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction and dismissed Plaintiffs' due process and equal protection claims.

On August 29, 2024, MCSO resolved the remaining claim in this lawsuit on the following material terms:

1. MCSO will pay a total of \$5000 toward Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees.
2. MCSO will pay no damages to Plaintiffs.
3. MCSO will inquire of each applicant whether the applicant has sought mental health treatment, require the applicant to list the provider, and issue or deny the permit within 45 days of review of any relevant records.

The settlement ends this lawsuit and allows MCSO better to serve the citizens of Mecklenburg County. It remains MCSO's intention and Sheriff McFadden's expectation that MCSO continue to comply with all statutory obligations related to concealed handgun permitting. Sheriff McFadden wishes to commend his hard-working staff for remaining in compliance with all statutory requirements regarding concealed handgun permitting.

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