



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

700 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

T (704) 336-2543 • F (704) 336-6118

www.mecksheriff.com

Garry L. McFadden
Sheriff

Rodney M. Collins
Chief Deputy Sheriff

Telisa E. White
Chief of Detention

Jason R. Beebe
Chief Deputy Sheriff

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT: Janet Parker

Public Information Manager

Janet.Parker@mecklenburgcountync.gov

O: (980) 314-5170

Mecklenburg County Detention Center Officers Assaulted by Resident

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office is investigating what contributed to the assault of three detention center officers. On Tuesday, November 2, 2021, two Direct Action Response Team (D.A.R.T) Officers and a Detention Sergeant at Mecklenburg County Detention Center-Central (MCDCC) were injured during an incident with 39-year-old Eric Henderson (PID# 229460), a resident housed at MCDCC.

At approximately 8:45 p.m., D.A.R.T Officers Simpson, Huff and Sergeant Clyburn attempted to move Henderson to a disciplinary detention unit, but he refused to comply with commands and stabbed Officer Simpson with “homemade weapons”. Officer Simpson was treated by detention facility medical staff before being transported to a local hospital and released. Officer Simpson’s injuries were not life-threatening, and he is expected to be okay. D.A.R.T Officer Huff and Sgt. Clyburn received minor injuries during the incident.

“As soon as I was alerted of the incident, I went to the hospital and stayed with two of the officers until they were released. Both are in good spirits and eager to return to work,” says Sheriff Garry L. McFadden. “I do not take these incidents lightly and will continue to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of detention center staff and residents who are housed in our care.”

Sheriff McFadden called a mandatory meeting with detention staff Wednesday morning in response to the assault. It was determined during the meeting a breakdown in communication and lack of adhering to protocol could have contributed to the assault.

“We have experienced staffing shortages due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and our detention officers have been tasked with working overtime,” says Sheriff McFadden. “Many residents

have not seen their family members in-person since 2019, in addition to missing court dates and minimal movement inside the housing unit. These factors have put a strain on the agency and its operations, but we will continue to address and adjust our operations as we have done since the onset of the pandemic.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, Sheriff McFadden issued a directive for detention Captains to create an updated standard operating procedure for moving residents to disciplinary detention units.

On Friday, October 29, 2021, MCDCC staff committed more than 80 staff members to conduct a 12-hour safety and security check of the detention facility.

“Unfortunately, we know that no matter how swiftly we act to search our facilities for weapons or contraband, residents can recreate these items in less than 24 hours,” said Sheriff McFadden.

The MCSO Investigative Unit has initiated charges for resident Henderson.



(Photo: Homemade weapons used during November 2nd assault on MCSO detention officers)

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