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Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and Department of Public Safety Relocating Juvenile Residents to Assist with Staffing Shortages

(CHARLOTTE, NC) –This week, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, will relocate 23 juveniles currently held at the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Detention Center who are facing criminal charges in counties other than Mecklenburg.

The relocation would decrease the juvenile detention population in Mecklenburg County by a third and allow for an additional 29 officers to work at Mecklenburg County Detention Center-Central (MCDCC), where there is a dire staffing need. There have been significant impacts to staffing due to vacancies, ongoing training, COVID-19 and increased cases of employees utilizing the Family Medical Leave Act.

Sheriff McFadden said, "This decision was made with careful thought and consideration. Since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, our staff has worked tirelessly for 20 months to continue operations and ensure the safety of our detention centers. Mandatory overtime has been implemented and resources have been committed from other areas of MCSO to assist with staffing shortages at Mecklenburg County Detention Center Central specifically. Every sector of this agency has been impacted. Trials have been delayed, resulting in some residents remaining in our facility longer than anticipated. While this is not a permanent solution, it will provide temporary relief and resources where they are currently needed most."

"The Department of Public Safety – Juvenile Justice Division is appreciative of the partnership we have created with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office to operate the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Detention Center," stated William Lassiter, Deputy Secretary over Juvenile Justice for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. "As the Sheriff's Office has helped us in times of need in the past, we are glad to assist them now by removing all non-Mecklenburg County Juveniles from their facility and placing them in our state operated facilities. As we do in every case, we will place these juveniles in facilities that best meet their needs and allow for safety and security to be maintained."

Per North Carolina general statute, juvenile information is confidential and is not public information (see G.S. 7B-3000, 3001, 3100). Also, due to safety and security concerns, we will not name any specific facility where the juveniles will be temporarily housed.

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