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Sheriff McFadden Highlights (R)IGNITE Progress and Receives Triple Crown Award during National Sheriff's Association Conference

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – On Monday, June 27, 2022, Sheriff Garry L. McFadden addressed the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) during this year's annual NSA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Sheriff McFadden highlighted the implementation and progress of the (R)IGNITE: Residents Individually Growing Naturally and Intentionally Through Education program at Mecklenburg County Detention Center – Central (MCDCC).

Sheriff McFadden is one of six sheriffs invited to speak during the conference about the environment of MCDCC prior to (R)IGNITE and post-(R)IGNITE. "While adult program housing units have been in place at MCDCC for several years, the goal of (R)IGNITE is to extend programs to additional general housing units and duplicate the environment of the program housing units. Corrections is changing and so is resident behavior. Residents have verbally expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate and are eager for more programs," said Sheriff McFadden.

Since implementing (R)IGNITE in April, the number of overall residents interested in programs has increased, there have been no assaults on detention officers in the program housing units, and detention officers are involved beyond supervision.

(R)IGNITE classes consist of 12 students in each session. Mental Health 101, In2Me and the Transformational Life Skills classes have had the most success thus far.

On Tuesday, June 28, 2022, Sheriff McFadden, Chief Rodney Collins, and Sgt. Jonathan Whitmore were officially awarded the Triple Crown from the NSA. The Triple Crown Award recognizes sheriff's offices that achieve

simultaneous accreditation from the CALEA, ACA and NCCHC. It is such a rare and prestigious accomplishment that only 71 of 3,081 sheriff's offices in the United States have ever received it and only 51 have retained the Triple Crown status. MCSO is one of two sheriff's offices to receive it for the first time this year.

