



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 ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Janet Parker

Public Information Manager

Janet.Parker@mecklenburgcountync.gov

O: (980) 314-5170

M: (704) 564-3234

Sheriff McFadden Responds to Senate Bill 101

(CHARLOTTE, NC) - As Sheriff of Mecklenburg County I took the initiative to travel to Raleigh Tuesday morning to oppose SB101. I was very displeased to learn the bill was removed from the docket and another portion of the bill was amended.

Like its predecessor HB370, SB101 seeks to *force* every duly elected Sheriff in North Carolina to honor heretofore *voluntary* ICE detainers, even if most of the Sheriff's community – and the Sheriff himself with the community in mind – is wholly opposed to such cooperation with ICE. As I said when HB370 was before the legislature and I opposed it: my decades of experience in law enforcement consistently demonstrate a commitment to making my community safer, without dividing any persons or groups of persons within that community.

I was elected with a clear mandate to stop honoring voluntary ICE detainers, and my reasons for endorsing and embracing that mandate are unequivocally on the record. I firmly believe that Mecklenburg County is a safer community when local law enforcement does not do ICE's job, and *all* members of our community can trust and engage with local law enforcement without fear of repercussions so severe as deportation.

Again, as I said when HB370 was proposed, I recognize that other Sheriffs may have differing views and adopt differing policies about immigration and cooperating with ICE. I respect those Sheriffs' positions just as I know they respect mine. But just as HB370 tried to before, SB101 would usurp the power of every Sheriff and local community to set its own policies. Whereas it remains my firm belief that the people of each county, as reflected by the decisions of the Sheriff whom they elected, should retain the

ability to decide, within the clear confines of the law, to what extent local law enforcement might cooperate with federal immigration authorities.