



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff McFadden Responds to 'Release of Violent Criminals from County Jail (Detention Center)' Comments

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – As Sheriff of Mecklenburg County, it is my honor and duty to serve this community, to actively enforce the laws and to safely operate our detention facilities. I don't want sources to provide the public misleading information regarding the role of the Sheriff, in an attempt to undermine my authority while overstating my responsibility.

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office does not set bond for individuals being released from the Mecklenburg County Detention Center, that is a decision made by the courts. Once a person has met the court ordered conditions of release, the Sheriff **cannot** continue to detain that person. This is a violation of the individual's constitutional rights and can expose the Sheriff to legal action. When a Judge or Magistrate orders that an individual shall be released upon fulfilling certain terms and conditions including payment of a bond, I abide by that court order as I am required to do so by law and by my oath of office.

I have a great working relationship with both the Cabarrus County Sheriff and Concord Police Chief. I understand and echo their concerns about the current judicial process. Mecklenburg County's Criminal Justice Services assists the courts in making release-and-detention decisions. The updated [bail policy](#) for the 26th Judicial District, which took effect March 1, 2019, was drafted without the input of Law Enforcement.

As a former homicide detective and now progressive Sheriff, I have clearly demonstrated that I am a strong advocate for stronger criminal justice reform that will address racial profiling, over criminalization and recidivism. Criminal justice reform must consider the safety of citizens in every city and county

across this nation. It needs to be well balanced and allow Law Enforcement to have a voice when critical policies are being discussed.

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