Overview

The month of April was also dominated by the COVID-19 virus and steps taken to ensure the health and well-being of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) staff, residents and visitors.

- Sheriff Garry L. McFadden made many visits in the community to lend a hand of support by feeding local residents at the St. Luke's Food Pantry, as well as feeding the staff at The Park Church.
- A young resident of the Juvenile Detention Center was released after participating and completing the Digital Literacy Program and received a laptop computer and a suit upon his exit.
- Through the month of April, the MCSO was still complying with the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners "Stay-at-Home Order." MCSO closed its doors to the public on Thursday March 26, 2020.
- Screening continues for all MCSO staff and visitors to the detention centers and includes specific questions and temperature checks. Wellpath, MCSO's medical contractor, is also continuing a supplemental screening protocol for arrestees entering through the Arrest Processing Center.
- There has been a heavy emphasize on continuing additional screenings and facility cleaning protocols in order to prevent the introduction or spread of COVID-19 in the detention centers. The screening protocols and handling of those persons suspected of having or being exposed to COVID-19 have been effective.

Agency Collaboration

- The MCSO is coordinating with both Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) and the Parks and Recreation Department to assist with managing public expectations set forth with regards to the Governors Orders and COVID-19.
- The MCSO and the other law enforcement agencies within the county are committed to sharing resources and guidance through weekly conversations, ensuring orders and enforcement practices are defined and fairly enforced.
- The MCSO is in daily communications with Wellpath to assess and identify any gaps in medical service and care for detention residents, as well as looking to best practices that have been implemented.
- Daily communications are also made between the MCSO and the County Manager for overall assessment of workflow, compliance and general operations through the COVID-19 issues.

Courts

- There have been ongoing conversations with the County Clerk's Office and other court officials on the management of COVID precautions to include the wearing of masks, sanitizing high-traffic and high-touch areas, and social distancing.

MCSO in the Community

Each month the MCSO highlights selected events attended by the Sheriff and/or members of the MCSO Community Engagement Team (CET). Normal monthly activities were cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 virus. The CET continued to support those impacted by the virus by continuing to work with Communities In Schools, delivering meals to CMS students who are either homeless, live in hotels, or lack transportation to pick up meals.

Key Performance Indicators (April)

MCSO Court Security

- Number of contraband items recovered/turned back 106

Detention

- Average daily population 1,411
- Number of inmates booked 779

Field Operations/Civil Process

- Number of civil papers served 2,305

Registration

- Number of gun purchase permit requests received..... 6,253

Inmate Programs

- Number of inmate program class completions 593

Context for Key Performance Indicators

In the month of April, MCSO Key Performance Indicators have continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 virus response throughout the entire department.

A few notable highlights include:

1. A 39% increase in the number of Inmate Program class completions can be attributed to classes being offered via virtual classrooms due to contractors not being able to enter the facilities.
2. While there was a decrease in gun purchase permit requests from 8,276 in March to 6,253 in April, this is still an increase of 225% over the average number of 2,773 requests monthly.
3. The number of civil process papers served fell from 5,586 in March to 2,305 in April, a 41% reduction. This decrease was due to COVID-19 and in part the suspension of Writs of Possession (evictions) until June 1.
4. A 57% decrease in the number of inmates booked was due to a reduction in the number of arrests and actions taken by the court system in response to Covid-19.