



# Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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[www.mecksheriff.com](http://www.mecksheriff.com)

GARRY L. MCFADDEN  
SHERIFF

TELISA E. WHITE  
CHIEF OF DETENTION

KEVIN D. CANTY  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF

To: Rachel Vanhoy

From: Captain Rusty Cuthbertson

Ref: K-9 JoJo Retirement and Adoption by Deputy James Sage

Date: March 14, 2024

I am respectfully requesting the official retirement of our beloved K-9 JoJo. JoJo has been in service with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office for almost 8 years. JoJo was born on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and is a trained explosives detection K-9.

Deputy James Sage has requested to adopt K9 JoJo upon his retirement. K9 JoJo has been partnered with Deputy Sage since January 2018. JoJo has become a member of the Sage family and greatly cherished by everyone. Deputy Sage has been the only handler for K9 JoJo.

K9 JoJo is aging out and has served the county well. At 9 years old, it is time for K9 JoJo to retire. I am requesting the Board to allow JoJo's retirement so she can enjoy a peaceful life with the Sage family for the remaining time he has.

cc: Sheriff Garry McFadden

cc: Chief of Detention Telisa White

cc: Chief Deputy Kevin Canty

cc: Major Bryan Adams

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR  
TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINE**

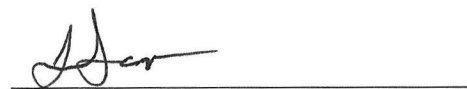
Retiring Canine Officer JoJo, a member of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) canine force, is of retirement age and no longer useful for law enforcement purposes. Due to his specialized training, Canine Officer JoJo is a danger to public health and safety if adopted by or sold to a member of the general public who is unfamiliar with Canine Officer JoJo's law enforcement training. Therefore, Canine Officer JoJo is of no economic value to Mecklenburg County, NC (the "County"). Pursuant to a Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners Resolution adopted on September 15, 2009, ownership and possession of Canine Officer JoJo is hereby transferred to MCSO Deputy James Sage in consideration of his agreement to the following conditions:

1. Deputy Sage assumes full responsibility for JoJo's welfare, including but not limited to providing adequate shelter, food, grooming and veterinary care; and
2. Deputy Sage hereby acknowledges that he is aware of the general background, training and utilization of Canine Officer JoJo by MCSO and, being so informed, is fully cognizant of any and all risks associated with assuming ownership and possession of Canine Officer JoJo. Deputy Sage does hereby release, forever discharge and covenant not to sue MCSO or the County and all past, present and future employees, elected and appointed officials, contractors, agents and representatives of MCSO and/or the County as a result of any actions of Canine Officer JoJo or arising out of or attributable to Canine Officer JoJo's physical and mental condition or training.
3. Deputy Sage does hereby indemnify and hold harmless MCSO and the County from any and all claims, demands, damages, causes of action, liabilities judgments, costs and expenses (including legal costs and attorneys' fees) arising from or related in any way to the ownership, possession, use, condition, actions or activities of Canine Officer JoJo, effective June 5, 2024.

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE**

  
Garry L. McFadden  
Sheriff of Mecklenburg County

**DEPUTY JAMES SAGE**

  
Deputy James Sage

3.27.2024  
Date

3-22-2024  
Date