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Sheriff McFadden Begins Test Fitting Outer Carrier Vests, Stands Committed to Addressing Officer Concerns

(Charlotte, N.C.) - Sheriff Garry McFadden is pleased to announce that Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office is taking significant steps to enhance the safety and well-being of its deputies by test fitting outer carrier vests for select personnel.

After careful consideration and consultation with staff, the sheriff has begun evaluating the use of outer carrier vests. These vests, costing roughly \$300 each, are being tested on two deputies. This initiative stems from the concerns of working conditions.

The decision to pursue these vests is driven by feedback from our deputies, who have expressed these vests provide crucial peace of mind and increased security in the field. The tragic officer shooting this past April has emphasized the need for enhanced protection measures.

In addition to safety, some deputies have reported chronic back pain and other physical issues, resulting from years of carrying up to 20 pounds of equipment on their belts. The outer carrier vests are designed to distribute weight more evenly and alleviate pressure on their lower bodies, addressing long-standing pain and reducing the need for physical therapy, surgery and time away from work.

At MCSO, Sheriff McFadden focuses on what is best for his agency, rather than maintaining a particular public image, citing fears that the new vests could appear militaristic, leading to further mistrust within the community.

As of now, there is no set timeline for the acquisition of these vests, but the sheriff hopes to roll these out in the coming weeks, pending the budget cycle and processing of measurements.

“We believe these vests will empower our deputies to perform their duties more effectively and with greater comfort,” said Sheriff Garry McFadden. *“I remain dedicated to listening to and addressing the needs of my staff. The introduction of outer carrier vests represents a proactive step towards ensuring our deputies can continue to serve our community with excellence.”*

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