

Ending Regulatory Stops | Policy Model from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

In North Carolina and across the United States, police response can have deadly consequences, particularly for Black and brown people. There are many processes police are involved in that do not require the response of an armed officer. Ending regulatory stops is just one item on Emancipate NC's policy menu for local policing reform in an effort to divert civil processes away from the police. View the full menu of local policy models [here](#).



[E]xercising appropriate discretion in the enforcement of our laws is one of the greatest challenges and one of the greatest responsibilities of any law enforcement officer."

- Sheriff Garry McFadden, MCSO

Changes to MCSO Traffic Stops

Regulatory stops include stops related to expired tags, malfunctioning tail lights, window tints, etc.

The new policy that keeps police from stopping driver's initially for these reasons is a response to the fact that Black and brown drivers are disproportionately pulled over for non-moving regulatory offenses.

Some sheriff's offices across the state have expressed opposition to the policy, stating that these types of stops are crucial for safety. But, advocates are saying that this is an important step to minimize unnecessary and potentially harmful interactions.

September 2022

Mecklenburg County's Sheriff's Office (MCSO) announces it will no longer make regulatory stops for non-moving violations

95% greater chance

Black drivers are subject to traffic stops than white drivers in Mecklenburg County

5 out of 10

Most charged offenses in Mecklenburg County are regulatory

10 categories

Regulatory offenses that do not warrant a stop under the county's policy

Tips on how to Adopt Policy

- Look at the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Policy instructions on how to craft a sample policy.
- Check out data from the UNC School of Government Criminal Justice Innovation Lab to get information on regulatory stops in your county. On the left-hand side of the dashboard, click on "Citation v. Arrest" and select "Traffic" in the bottom right-hand corner under the map. You click on the "Race" tab above the map to see racial disparities in enforcement.
- Check out data from NCCopWatch.org which collects data from the NC State Bureau of Investigations on traffic stops in each NC county.
- Reach out to Forward Justice, a legal organization working to advance racial, economic, and social justice in the South. They drafted the new policy in Mecklenburg County.