

For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greetings:

The district has been bustling with activities as traditional schools are gearing up to re-open. Session and committee meetings have resumed.

Joyce Waddell

Emergency Order

North Carolina's state of emergency giving extraordinary powers to state government to address the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. Last week, the emergency order was lifted, citing provisions in the latest state budget bill that signed that would allow health care providers and regulators to keep responding robustly to the virus.

The executive orders issued during the emergency was aimed at protecting public health and helped save lives and livelihoods.

The initial emergency order, issued on March 10, 2020, and subsequent orders based on that declaration, led to public school closings, mask requirements, and restrictions on commerce and restaurants.

As the pandemic's intensity waned, nearly all of the restrictive statewide mandates were lifted by last summer, but the emergency order remained in place. The Governor said early this year that the order was necessary in part to help get coronavirus vaccinations to the public and assist health care providers should cases surge.

Among the provisions that the health department successfully sought this year that led to a recent action is one giving the state health director authority through the end of 2023 to issue standing orders for COVID-19 vaccinations, tests, or other treatments. Health regulators also now have the authority to waive certain provider rules or increase bed capacity at hospitals, adult care homes, and elsewhere during an emergency.

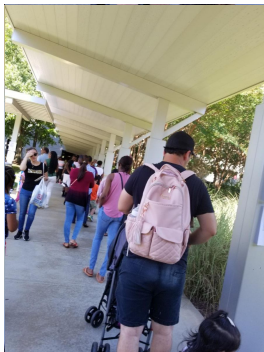
Laptop Giveaway

E2D, a Charlotte-based organization aims to close the digital divide, particularly serving low-income students and their families in Mecklenburg County.

Through E2D's multi-year partnership with the Spectrum Digital Education Grant program, E2D has focused on serving homeless youth in the CMS McKinney-Vento program.

On Saturday, August 27, 2022, 30-35 volunteers, including Spectrum employees, distributed 600 laptops to members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community ahead of back-to-school, ensuring families have access to the digital resources needed to compete in today's world.

The community really came out. The giveaway was well attended as you can see by the long lines.



Sen. Waddell, by a volunteer request, helps to prepare laptops for the giveaway.



Move Over Law

It has been reported that two state first responder professions are facing the same, major problem. The Move Over Law requires drivers to change lanes when passing a stopped emergency vehicle with flashing lights, but drivers are not always adhering to the law and that can cause life-altering situations.

You have to move over, if you are unable to move over because of the traffic conditions you have to significantly reduce your speed. Together, NCDOT and NCSHP have a simple message: move over.

Safety, for our most vulnerable employees is the most important goal. We could avoid many mishaps, accidents, and deaths if we practice moving over or reducing speeds.

Congratulations

*Senator Waddell congratulates
Mecklenburg County ABC Board CEO, Keva
Walton on a job well done for the county.
Mr. Walton was acknowledged at the
August Hospitality*



COVID Approaches

As thousands of college students are flooding campuses across North Carolina for the start of a new semester, universities are scaling back some of their COVID-19 operations and safety measures — even as the virus is spreading more easily than ever. Many of North Carolina's college students did not have to send in proof of vaccination or get a negative test result before moving into their campus dorms.

But campus health facilities will still offer free COVID-19 tests, vaccines and booster shots. The continued shift in universities' plans shows campuses are learning to live with the virus and are confident in prevention tactics and treatment options.

I hope we continue to maintain some important protocols at our colleges and universities. Many of our younger groups are so excited to be away from home and on their own that safety is not their first priority. It will be up to us to put protocols in place for their safety.

Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Many of her precincts have changed which makes the election much more competitive. In November she will have an opponent running against her. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

[CLICK HERE TO](#)

**DONATE \$25; \$50; \$100; \$250
OTHER AMOUNT \$ _____**

Please pay attention to speeds, as schools re-open and our children are heading back to school. If possible, strongly encourage our students to be more vigilant in washing their hands to prevent the spread of germs. Many back to school events are being held to provide our students with supplies. I hope my constituents donate to these events, as this pandemic created financial deficits throughout the community.

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