



PSA  
For Immediate Release

Contact: C. Maria Macon  
980-202-9149  
[coexpunge@gmail.com](mailto:coexpunge@gmail.com)

**Mecklenburg Council of Elder's  
END-OF-THE-YEAR CELEBRATION  
&  
Annual Award Recipients Presentations**

Mecklenburg Council of Elder's (MCOE) will host its annual End-of-the-Year Celebration Dec. 16, 2022 featuring the winners of the three annual awards for 2023 – **Media, Legal Person of Interest and Community Service.**

The Media Award is presented to a media person involved in crime prevention through their safe-Charlotte reporting. Previous years have been Tyrell Scott - Final Cut Multi-Media (2020) and Fran Ferrer – Publisher of the County Newspaper (2021). This year's awardee is presented to **Kallie Cox**, a reporter for the Charlotte Observer. The Person of Interest Award is presented to an attorney in the legal community that has worked with MCOE in the field of Criminal Record Expunction. The first award of this type was presented to Attorney Timothy Ermy (2021) This year's awardee is presented to **Simone Noonan**, a member of the Mecklenburg Bar Association. The third award is an inter-board annual traveling trophy presented to an MCOE member that has gone beyond and above the call of duty in service to the organization and the Charlotte community. Previously presented to The M.E.N., Inc. (2020) and Eviction is Real! (2021) This Traveling award is presented to **Lorenzo Steele, Jr.** – “Behind These Prison Walls” a Traveling Museum.

The End-of-the-Year Celebration is a way of saying thank you to the many volunteers, service providers, sponsors, court and legal community and supporters who have been the wind under our wings this passing year.

Mecklenburg Council of Elders is a criminal Justice community based nonprofit organization. “The intergenerational and intercultural board of directors are the lifeblood of our organization” says **Maria Macon**, founder/executive director to the organization.

Ms. Macon says that “the mission of the organization is to serve as a legal service agency; promoting criminal justice to create a sense of safety, trust and justice within Charlotte and Mecklenburg communities, by providing programs and educational awareness that serves as an alternative to arrest of youth, young adults and adults of all ages”. “We implement community services with goals and objectives toward three (3) primary concerns: **Prevention, Intervention and Post Incarceration**, which addresses the areas of Law, Justice and Community Outreach” quipped Macon.

Other members and board of directors to be in attendance are: **Camille Stephens** director of Locked Out Love, Inc.; **Coach Alvin Simpson**, **Clarence Crawford**, **Belinda ‘Hollywood’ Houston**, **Attorney Ismaail**, **Dr. Blanche Penn & LaNile James El**, **Corey Muhammad** Student Minister for the Nation of Islam – Mosque #36; **Fredy Romero** founder of Colombo American Foundation; **Terry Stokes** founder of Inspire Higher & Eviction is Real!; **Thomas Townsend** President of Colombo American Foundation; **Dr. Vanessa Stuart** founder of Human Capital Investment, Inc. **Sylvia L. Grier & Earl Owens III** - Genesis Project 1; **Catherine Kennedy** Treasurer of Mecklenburg Council of Elders; **Aker El Bey**- Community Participation Revitalization, **Lorenzo Steele, Jr. & Norman Muhammad** – President Charlotte Area PeaceKeepers, and **Nimish Bhatt & Family** representing the Hindu Center Hall.

If you are interested in supporting this organization contact the founder and executive director Maria Macon at 980/202-9149 you can also email the organization at [coexpunge@gmail.com](mailto:coexpunge@gmail.com) or for more information visit their website at [www.mecklenburgcoe.org](http://www.mecklenburgcoe.org)

- END -