

South Piedmont Regional Autopsy Center (SPRAC)

December 16, 2024



UNIONCOUNTY
north carolina

Regional Autopsy Center

- South Piedmont Regional Autopsy Center – nine counties
 - Union (asap)
 - Anson/Cabarrus (3/2025)
 - Montgomery/Rowan/Stanly (6/2025)
 - Moore/Richmond (11/2025)
 - Gaston (6/2026)

Background

- Mecklenburg County's ME Office provided regional autopsy services for 20 years
- Volume in Mecklenburg's Office required a reduction in the number of counties served – Anson, Cabarrus and Union were realigned to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Raleigh (2022)
- Immediate work began to identify a local solution – included as part of 2023 legislative goals and delegation members very supportive of idea, but unsure of how this would work
- Successful in getting a regional office in Union County – funding provided from the state
 - \$20,000,000 capital funding
 - \$2,000,000 operational funding
- Long road to getting things started
 - BOCC approved final needed contract with the state at December 2 meeting

Autopsies for Union County start – Tuesday 5pm!!

2022 Data

County	Population	Appx # Autopsies	Total Deaths
Anson	21,326	16	204
Cabarrus	250,522	89	2368
Gaston	245,067	153	3010
Montgomery	25,738	18	210
Moore	111,848	33	1945
Richmond	41,754	31	617
Rowan	152,016	52	1800
Stanly	63,346	18	734
Union	262,980	70	1803

Are we Ready?

- What do we need to start?
 - - location/facility
 - - forensic pathologist
- Location/Facility
 - - short term location at Atrium-Union
 - - long term location identified by staff/CM at Risk approved, process starting
- Forensic Pathologist
 - - Dr. Jonathan Privette

What's Next?

Outreach and Coordination

- Union County
- Other counties

Additional staff/resource capacity

Facility Coordination

Required Reporting



Discussion/Questions?



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