

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Habitual Felon Team takes guilty pleas on 11/20/09**

On November 20, 2009, in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable J. Gentry Caudill, Superior Court Judge, the DA's Habitual Felon Team took the following guilty pleas. This was the first superior court arraignment date for defendants prosecuted by the DA's new unit charged with prosecuting habitual felons. In addition to the guilty pleas, five defendants pled *not guilty* and were scheduled for a jury trial in January or February of 2010.

Curtis Chalk, 41 years old

110-141 months in prison for two counts of breaking or entering and being a habitual felon

Jason Goodman, 24 years old

103-133 months in prison for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, assault with a deadly weapon, and being a habitual felon

Neil Harris, 45 years old

107-138 months in prison for financial card theft, two counts of misdemeanor larceny, and being a habitual felon

Ronald Mathis, 28 years old

80-105 months in prison for breaking or entering a motor vehicle, financial card theft, and being a habitual felon

Clarence Collins, 45 years old

35-42 months in prison for trafficking in cocaine

Richard Walker, 35 years old

11-14 months in prison to be followed by an additional 11-14 month sentence that is suspended while the defendant is on supervised probation for 36 months; convicted of selling marijuana and possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana

Edward Craig, 51 years old

10-12 months in prison for breaking or entering (a vacant building), possession of cocaine, and possession of drug paraphernalia

Rodney Saunders, 41 years old

15-18 months in prison for breaking or entering, possession of burglary tools, and larceny after breaking or entering

In addition, two defendants that were not habitual felons, but acted as co-defendants with habitual felons, pled guilty and were given probationary sentences due to their prior record and North Carolina's structured sentencing laws.

*Note: Almost all guilty pleas entered in criminal administrative court are the result of an agreed upon plea arrangement between the State and the defendant, which is then approved by the sentencing judge. For more information about why most cases must be resolved by plea negotiation instead of jury trial, please visit the "Understanding Criminal Court" section of the DA's website at [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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