

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

January 13, 2016

Juries convict 2 defendants of property crimes; 3 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of January 4, 2016, juries convicted two defendants who were tried by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team. Another three defendants entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5150 and 5370 before The Honorable Julia L. Gullett and The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judges.

Malielk Ellison, 18, was tried for felony breaking or entering. The jury found Ellison *guilty*. Judge Gullett sentenced Ellison to 10-21 months in prison.

Adrienne Brand, 50, was tried for 1) obtaining property by false pretense, 2) felony worthless check and 3) misdemeanor worthless check. The jury found Brand *guilty* as charged. Judge Archie sentenced Brand to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Brand's successful completion of 12 months of unsupervised probation.

Ron Neal, 18, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. At the close of all of the evidence, Judge Gullett dismissed the case following a motion from the defense.

Travoscia Brown, 24, was tried for 1) breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) misdemeanor larceny. The jury found Brown *not guilty*.

Joseph Gonzalez, 21, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. Judge Gullett sentenced Gonzalez to 6-17 months in prison. At the time he committed these crimes, Gonzalez was on supervised probation. As a result of this conviction, his probation was revoked, and he was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison. Judge Gullett ordered that the sentences run concurrently.

Jesus Rodriguez, 24, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Archie sentenced Rodriguez to 14-26 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Rodriguez must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Kevin Wright, 22, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, 3) felony possession of stolen goods, 4) two counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 5) two counts of misdemeanor larceny. Judge Archie sentenced him to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of

supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Wright must wear an electronic monitor for 6 months.

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.

// End //

