

NEWS RELEASE

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January 17, 2012

Domestic Violence Team tries one defendant, seven plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Domestic Violence Team for the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office held court in Courtroom 5170 for the week of January 9, 2012. The Superior Court Judge presiding was The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III.

Jeffvory Hughey, 31, was charged with assault on a female. The defendant pled not guilty and was tried in front of a jury. The jury was unable to reach a verdict, after which Judge Caldwell declared a mistrial.

Seven defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Reginald Anderson, 21, pled guilty to assault on a female. Anderson was sentenced by Judge Caldwell to 75 days in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Robert Coleman, 44, pled guilty to assault on a female. Coleman was sentenced by Judge Caldwell to 150 days in prison.

Thaddeus McFadden, 48, pled guilty to assault on a female. McFadden was sentenced by Judge Caldwell to 150 days in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months supervised probation.

Edward Harris, 31, pled guilty to assault on a female. Harris was sentenced by Judge Caldwell to 75 days in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months supervised probation.

Claude Williams, 41, pled guilty to assault on a female. Williams was sentenced by Judge Caldwell to 60 days in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months supervised probation.

DeAngelo Redfearn, 24, pled guilty to assault on a female. Redfearn was sentenced by Judge Caldwell to 14 days in prison.

Raymond Inkpen, 23, pled guilty to assault on a female. Inkpen was sentenced by Judge Caldwell to 75 days in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months supervised probation.

Note: Misdemeanors and infractions are originally prosecuted in district court in North Carolina. In criminal district court, a judge determines guilt, not a jury; this is commonly referred to as a “bench trial.” However, defendants have a right to appeal a conviction from the district court to the superior court for a trial de novo. The new trial in superior court must be a jury trial, not a bench trial. In a de novo trial, the jury cannot be informed that a district court judge previously found the defendant guilty; further, a record of any evidence, including testimony, from district court may not be introduced. While the DA’s Office prosecutes nearly 225,000 misdemeanors and infractions each year in district court in Mecklenburg County, each defendant is entitled to exercise his/her right to appeal to the superior court. When a misdemeanor or infraction occupies the limited time available in our superior courtrooms, it the intent of the DA’s Office to keep the public informed of the results through news releases like this one. Due to the volume of misdemeanors and infractions prosecuted in district court each day, reports like this are not possible for all of those cases.

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