

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts habitual felon; 5 other defendants plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team tried two defendants during the week of February 15, 2016, and another five defendants pled guilty. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5110 and 5370 before The Honorable R. Gregory Horne and The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judges.

Charles Bernard Robinson, 34, was tried for 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 3) being a habitual felon. A jury found Robinson *guilty* as charged. Upon the jury's verdict, Robinson admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Horne sentenced Robinson to 83-112 months in prison. Some of Robinson's prior convictions include identity theft and multiple counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine.

Michael Maurice Wade, 43, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine, 2) possession of drug paraphernalia and 3) being a habitual felon. A jury found Wade *not guilty*. The State was unable to proceed on the habitual felon charge due to the verdict.

Tardra Eterell Bouknight, 31, filed a motion to suppress certain evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Bridges, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, denied the motion. Bouknight then pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 3) being a habitual felon. Bouknight was sentenced to 60-84 months in prison. Some of Bouknight's prior convictions include felony possession of stolen goods and several counts of felony breaking or entering.

Shaka Holden, 24, was called for trial and then pled guilty as charged to 1) larceny from the person, 2) misdemeanor financial transaction card theft, 3) financial transaction card fraud, 4) resisting a public officer and 5) being a habitual felon. Judge Bridges sentenced Holden to 51-74 months in prison. Some of Holden's priors include felony breaking or entering, breaking or entering a motor vehicle and felony conspiracy.

James Calvin Bennett, 47, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Judge Bridges sentenced Bennett to 38-58 months in prison.

Thomas Edward Hoover, 33, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) possession with the intent to manufacture, sell and deliver hydromorphone and 3) assault on a female. Judge Bridges sentenced Hoover to 30-55 months in prison.

Randall Vernon Tarlton, 42, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. Judge Horne sentenced Tarlton to 16-29 months in prison.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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