

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Habitual Felon Team convicts 2 at trial; 5 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted two defendants at trial, argued a motion filed by a defendant and convicted five others who pled guilty April 7-14, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5150 and 5370 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans and The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judges. Some defendants were not habitual felons under North Carolina law.

Steven Stitt, 44, was tried for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 3) being a habitual felon. The jury found Stitt *guilty* as charged, and he admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Bridges sentenced him to 127-165 months in prison.

Willie Johnson, 51, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. At the conclusion of the State's evidence, Judge Evans dismissed the charge of larceny after breaking or entering. The jury found Johnson *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor breaking or entering. As a result, the habitual felon phase of the trial could not proceed. Judge Evans sentenced Johnson to 120 days in prison.

Antonio Patterson, 23, filed a motion to suppress evidence obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Evans granted the defendant's motion. As a result, there was insufficient evidence to proceed to trial, and the State dismissed Patterson's charges of first-degree burglary and being a habitual felon.

The following defendants pled guilty before or when their cases were called for trial:

Darryl Mayhew, 40, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) possession of drug paraphernalia, 3) possession of marijuana, 4) speeding and 5) being a habitual felon. Mayhew was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison. In addition to other prior convictions, Mayhew has multiple convictions for felony breaking or entering.

Carlise Dixon, 53, pled guilty to sale of cocaine. Dixon was sentenced to 25-39 months in prison. Dixon has previously been convicted of multiple counts of possession with intent to sell or deliver counterfeit controlled substances.

Tonia Gaddy, 39, pled guilty to breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Gaddy was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Quentin Carr, 41, pled guilty to manufacturing marijuana. Carr was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison.

Milton Branch, 49, pled guilty to 1) possession of a stolen motor vehicle and 2) obtaining property by false pretense. Branch was sentenced to 10-21 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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