

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual thief among 28 defendants convicted of property crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty-eight defendants pled guilty to property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of April 11, 2016. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Gregory R. Hayes and The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judges. The convictions were for crimes that included breaking or entering, larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and financial transaction card theft.

Among the defendants who pled guilty were:

Joseph Bellamy, 35, pled guilty to felony habitual misdemeanor larceny. Bellamy was sentenced to 16-29 months in prison. In July 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police were patrolling Northlake Mall in Charlotte when they were notified that a man had concealed a shirt near the exit of the H&M store. When the officers arrived at the scene, they saw a loss prevention officer chasing Bellamy, who refused to stop running upon command. Bellamy was chased outside the mall and was seen throwing the stolen shirt in the parking lot. Bellamy had previously been convicted of more than a dozen counts of misdemeanor larceny.

Michael Brown, 31, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Brown was sentenced to 26-44 months in prison.

Juan Olguin, 24, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Olguin also admitted to violating his probation for a previous conviction. He was sentenced to a total of 14-26 months in prison.

Jonathan Burke, 27, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

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.

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