

NEWS RELEASE

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Defendant pleads guilty mid-trial; codefendants convicted in armed robbery

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — One defendant being prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team pled guilty mid-trial, and several others were also convicted during the week of June 8, 2015. These matters were held in courtrooms 5150 and 5370 before The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges.

After a jury was selected and the State began to present evidence, Derek Lamonte Nelson, 37, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Caldwell sentenced Nelson to 13-25 months in prison. Some of Nelson's prior convictions include common law robbery and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Elijah Matthew Linker, 38, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 3) being a habitual felon. Judge Caldwell sentenced Linker to 29-47 months in prison.

Four codefendants pled guilty to charges related to an armed robbery. In June 2013, Kevin Powell, Elijah Powell and Anthony Jones arrived at party in Charlotte. These three codefendants soon left the party, and later returned with another codefendant, Damion Jenkins. Jones and Jenkins brandished guns, demanding property from partygoers. Jones pistol-whipped several victims with his gun while the other defendants took cellphones, cash, watches, clothing, shoes, a laptop and other property from the victims. When some of the victims ran out the back door, Jones fired two shots. Then, all of the defendants fled the scene. While an additional codefendant will be sentenced at a later date, four of the codefendants pled guilty as described below:

Anthony L. Jones, 28, pled guilty to 1) three counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Caldwell sentenced Jones to 60-84 months in prison.

Damion Jenkins, 34, who was originally scheduled for trial during the week of June 8, 2015, pled guilty on June 5, 2015, to robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Bell sentenced Jenkins to 58-82 months in prison. Some of Jenkins' prior convictions include assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, felonious restraint and fleeing to elude arrest in a motor vehicle.

Kevin Powell, 25, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Bell sentenced Powell to 25-42 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

In February 2014, Elijah Powell, 23, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. During the week of June 8, 2015, he was sentenced to 18-34 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

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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