

NEWS RELEASE

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Crimes Against Property Team convicts 9 during trial week

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team convicted nine defendants during the week of June 10, 2013. The team convicted one defendant at trial, and another eight pled guilty before or when their cases were called for trial. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5170 and 5150 before The Honorable Jeffery P. Hunt and The Honorable Julia Lynn Gullett, Superior Court Judges.

Michael Cook, 30, was tried for 1) felony larceny and 2) conspiracy to commit felony larceny. The jury found him guilty as charged. Judge Hunt sentenced Cook to a total of 16-38 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Cook must serve 120 days in the Mecklenburg County jail. In February 2012, Cook loaded up his truck with more than \$7,500 worth of steel from a roadside construction site off of Interstate 485. He was apprehended by officers before he could leave the scene.

When the State called Jorge Louis Sosa, 22, for trial, he pled guilty to 1) breaking or entering a motor vehicle, 2) misdemeanor larceny, 3) misdemeanor possession of stolen goods and 4) misdemeanor resisting a public officer. Judge Hunt sentenced Sosa to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As some of the conditions of his probation, Sosa must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail and pay the victim \$456.53 in restitution.

Craig Bennett, 23, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) conspiracy to commit felony breaking or entering and 3) felony larceny after breaking or entering. Judge Hunt declared a mistrial when the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

An additional seven defendants pled guilty:

Dajuan Fleming, 21, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) felony larceny and 3) conspiracy to commit felony larceny. Judge Gullett sentenced Fleming to 8-19 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

Merlin Fornels, 17, pled guilty to 1) five counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) six counts of conspiracy to commit felony breaking or entering. Judge Gullett sentenced Fornels to a total of 18-51 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. Fornels was also ordered to serve 135 days

in the Mecklenburg County jail, be placed on electronic monitoring for the first 12 months of his probation and pay a \$200 fine.

Joshua Garcia, 17, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) three counts of conspiracy to commit felony breaking or entering. Judge Gullett sentenced Garcia to a total of 12-34 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. Judge Gullett also ordered that Garcia serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County jail, be placed on electronic monitoring for the first 12 months of his probation and pay a \$200 fine.

Tabari Grant, 30, pled guilty to 1) felony larceny from the person, 2) felony breaking or entering and 3) two counts of felony larceny. Judge Gullett sentenced Grant to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As some of the conditions of his probation, Grant must serve 45 days in the Mecklenburg County jail and pay \$2,099 in restitution.

Brian Martinez, 17, pled guilty to 1) five counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) six counts of conspiracy to commit felony breaking or entering. Judge Gullett sentenced Martinez to a total of 18-51 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. Judge Gullett also ordered that Martinez serve 135 days in the Mecklenburg County jail, be placed on electronic monitoring for the first 12 months of his probation and pay a \$200 fine.

Jeremy Moody, 20, pled guilty to 1) felony larceny of a motor vehicle and 2) two counts of felony breaking or entering. Judge Gullett sentenced Moody to 16-38 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As one of his conditions of probation, Moody must serve 60 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Thomas Rearick, 22, pled guilty to failing to register as a sex offender. Judge Gullett sentenced Rearick to 17-30 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Rearick must serve 12 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

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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