

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual felons plead guilty, go to prison

CHARLOTTE, NC – Eighteen defendants pled guilty in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judge. The defendants were prosecuted by the DA's Habitual Felon Team and entered their guilty pleas in administrative courtroom 5350 on Tuesday, August 2, and Wednesday, August 3, 2011.

All eighteen defendants received active prison sentences; among them were:

Lawrence Black, 34, pled guilty to 1) possessing, with intent to sell or deliver, cocaine, 2) assault on a female, and 3) being a habitual felon. Black was sentenced to 76-101 months in prison.

Leroy Harlee, 49, pled guilty to 1) selling or delivering a controlled substance within 1000 feet of a school and 2) being a habitual felon. Harlee was sentenced to 76-101 months in prison.

Samuel Gilchrist, 44, pled guilty to 1) failure to register as a sex offender and 2) felony possession of stolen goods. Gilchrist was sentenced to 66-80 months in prison.

Jeshaiah Brown, 32, pled guilty to 1) possessing, with intent to sell or deliver, cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Brown was sentenced to 50-69 months.

Dorothea Blakeney, 47, pled guilty to 1) three counts of financial card theft and 2) breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Blakeney was sentenced to 48-60 months in prison.

Justin Hill, 22, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) conspiracy, and 3) possessing stolen goods. Hill was sentenced to 38-48 months in prison.

Alberta White, 57, pled guilty to 1) possessing, with intent to sell or deliver, cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. White was sentenced to 101-131 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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