

NEWS RELEASE

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28 defendants convicted; habitual breaking or entering offenders sent to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty-eight defendants were convicted of property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of August 8, 2016. The defendants, who were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team, entered guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Kevin M. Bridges, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included breaking or entering, possession of stolen goods, breaking or entering a motor vehicle, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a stolen firearm and possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Among the defendants who pled guilty were:

Derontrez Coleman, 24, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. He was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison. In October 2015, a woman called police as she witnessed two people kicking in the rear door to a Charlotte apartment. Officers responding to the report saw two men run from the apartment, and they apprehended the suspects. Coleman, one of the men apprehended, initially told police that the apartment belonged to a family member and that he went inside to inspect the home after noticing that the rear door was damaged. But when this family member arrived at the scene, he informed police that Coleman did not have permission to be inside his residence. Police then found the victim's gold chain in Coleman's pocket.

Deshawn Crawford, 27, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. He was sentenced to 20-36 months in prison.

Jacobi Whitley, 24, pled guilty to larceny of a motor vehicle, and he also admitted to violating his probation for a previous conviction. He was sentenced to a total of 19-42 months in prison.

Kevin Calderon, 22, pled guilty to two counts of felony breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Deondre Hill, 17, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) felony attempted breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Marcos Lopez, 18, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 5-15 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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