

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Defendants charged with break-ins among 28 convicted

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team convicted 28 defendants September 8-11, 2015. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included breaking or entering, larceny of a motor vehicle and hit and run. Court was not held on September 7, 2015, in observance of Labor Day.

Among the defendants sent to prison were:

Qkanze McDonald, 23, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) possession of a stolen motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison. McDonald was charged in connection with two separate incidents that occurred on the same day. In March 2015, McDonald broke into a relative's home by smashing a bathroom window, and then he took a jar containing about \$70 worth of quarters, as well as car keys. That evening, he stole another victim's vehicle from a parking lot. The next day, a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer saw McDonald sitting in the vehicle at a convenience store. When the vehicle's alarm began to sound, the officer checked the vehicle's information and discovered that it had been reported stolen. McDonald was arrested and then confessed to breaking into his relative's home and stealing the vehicle.

Kenneth Swan, 21, pled guilty to three counts of felony breaking or entering. For these charges and for violating his probation for a previous conviction, Swan was sentenced to a total of 18-51 months in prison.

William Thompson, 35, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) possession of heroin. He was sentenced to 7-18 months in prison.

Monwazee Watts, 19, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after 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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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