

NEWS RELEASE

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Robbery defendant flees before jury reaches guilty verdict

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Tahj Wilson, 24, was convicted today by a jury for a robbery involving undercover police officers. But before he could be sentenced, Wilson fled.

The trial began December 9, 2013, in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judge. Wilson was tried for 1) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) felony possession of cocaine. Today, the jury found him *guilty* of one of the robbery offenses, as well as the conspiracy and cocaine possession charges. The jury found Wilson *not guilty* of the second robbery offense.

Wilson was not present when the jury returned its verdicts because he failed to return to the courtroom following a recess. Judge Ervin has issued an order for his arrest. Police are searching for his whereabouts. He will be sentenced once he is apprehended.

In October 2011, Huntersville and Pineville police were involved in a joint operation. As part of that operation, undercover officers made arrangements to buy marijuana from Wilson. Two undercover officers – one from the Huntersville Police Department and one from the Pineville Police Department – went to a restaurant parking lot in Huntersville to meet Wilson. While they were speaking with Wilson, co-conspirator Garnett Taylor approached, pulled out a gun and said, “You know what time it is.” Then, Wilson demanded the undercover officers’ belongings. The officers gave up a cellphone, cash and car keys. Other officers, who were nearby to conduct surveillance of the drug transaction, quickly arrived and took both Wilson and Taylor into custody.

Taylor previously pled guilty in connection with the case.

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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Tahj Wilson