

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Crimes Against Persons Team convicts violent criminals at trial**

The week of February 22 to February 26, 2010, the Crime Against Persons Team conducted five jury trials in Mecklenburg County Superior Court in three courtrooms.

The first trial was of Victor Vasquez, age 29, for (1) attempted first degree murder and (2) assault with a firearm on a law enforcement officer. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* on both charges. The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Vasquez to 213 – 273 months in prison.

The second trial was of Demario Simms, age 22, for robbery with a dangerous weapon. While the state was presenting evidence at trial, the defendant decided to plead guilty as charged. The Honorable W. Erwin Spainhour, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Simms to 42-60 months in prison.

The third trial was of Bobby Edwards, age 33, for (1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and (2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury was unable to reach a verdict and the Honorable Christopher M. Collier, Superior Court Judge, declared a mistrial. The defendant entered a guilty plea to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and Judge Collier sentenced Edwards to 27-42 months in prison.

The fourth trial was of Darren Ross, age 24, (1) for common law robbery and (2) conspiracy to commit common law robbery and (3) felony breaking or entering. The jury returned verdicts of *guilty* on conspiracy to commit common law robbery and felony breaking or entering. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty* on the common law robbery charge. Judge Collier, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Ross to 10-12 months in prison.

The fifth trial was of Timothy Dukes, age 27, for felony carrying a concealed weapon. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty*. Judge Spainhour sentenced Dukes to a 6-8 month sentence, suspended for 36 months of supervised probation with 60 days in jail.

Robert Johnson, age 39, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Johnson pled guilty to common law robbery and felony breaking & entering. Judge Collier sentenced Johnson to 61-74 months in prison.

Phillip King, age 31, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. King pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a felon. Judge Spainhour sentenced King to 10-12 months in prison.

Obadiah Doctor, age 24, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Doctor pled guilty to robbery with a dangerous weapon, conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, possession of a firearm by a felon and felony flee to elude. Judge Spainhour sentenced Doctor to 96-125 months in prison.

Anthony Graham, age 27, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Graham pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a felon and possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana. Judge Spainhour sentenced Graham to a 16-20 month sentence suspended for 36 months of supervised probation with 150 days active time in jail.

Y'Thim Kpor, age 19, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Kpor pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Collier sentenced Kpor to 25-39 months in prison.

Belair Blackmon, age 19, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Blackmon pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Collier sentenced Blackmon to a 29-44 month sentence, suspended for 36 months of supervised probation.

Juan Rodriguez, age 16, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Rodriguez pled guilty to possession of a weapon of mass destruction. Judge Spainhour sentenced Rodriguez to a 16-20 month sentence, suspended for 36 months of supervised probation with 150 days in jail.

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