

NEWS RELEASE

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March 12, 2010

Crimes Against Property Team convicts a Habitual Felon at trial, others plead guilty

The week of March 1 to March 5, 2010, the Crimes Against Property Team conducted three jury trials in Mecklenburg County Superior Court.

The first trial was of Michael Ford, age 48, for breaking or entering a motor vehicle and for his status as a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* to the breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Following the guilt phase, the State presented evidence to the same jury supporting that Ford was a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict finding that Ford was a habitual felon. The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Ford to 115-147 months in prison.

The second trial was of Byron Chapman, age 24, for failure to register as a sex offender. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

The third trial was of Kyle Ralston, age 20, for attempted breaking or entering. The jury returned a verdict of guilty to attempted breaking or entering and The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Ralston to 6-8 months in the North Carolina Department of Correction; this sentence was suspended upon 24 months of supervised probation.

Daniel Blakney, age 30, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Blakney pled guilty to breaking or entering and larceny after breaking or entering. Blakney also admitted his habitual status. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy sentenced Blakney to 70-93 months in the North Carolina Department of Correction.

Joshua Bradley, age 19, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Bradley pled guilty to three counts of breaking or entering. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy sentenced Bradley to 6-8 months in North Carolina Department of Correction.

Nicholas Brown, age 20, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Brown pled guilty to possession of stolen motor vehicle and resisting a public officer. The Honorable Calvin

E. Murphy sentenced Brown to 4-5 months in North Carolina Department of Correction, suspended with 12 months probation.

Garry Gaston, age 20, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Gaston pled guilty to attempted breaking or entering and possession of burglary tools. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy sentenced Gaston to 6-8 months in North Carolina Department of Correction, suspended with 24 months probation.

William Moran, age 43, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Moran pled guilty to breaking or entering. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy sentenced Moran to 6-8 months in the North Carolina Department of Correction, suspended with 24 months probation.

Eric Pantaleon, age 18, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Pantaleon pled guilty to breaking or entering and larceny after breaking or entering. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy sentenced Pantaleon to 5-6 months in the North Carolina Department of Correction, suspended with 24 months probation and 90 days of house arrest.

Andrew Reid, age 23, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Reid pled guilty to breaking or entering and larceny after breaking or entering. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy sentenced Reid to 8-10 months in the North Carolina Department of Correction, suspended with 30 months probation and a 60 active sentence.

Ben Thompson, age 47, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Thompson pled guilty to misdemeanor conversion by bailee. The Honorable Eric L. Levinson sentenced Thompson to 15 days active time in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Wesley Truesdale, age 22, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Truesdale pled guilty to failure to register as a sex offender. The Honorable Eric L. Levinson sentenced Truesdale to 14-17 months in the North Carolina Department of Correction, suspended with 24 months probation and a 50 day active sentence.

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