

NEWS RELEASE

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Crimes Against Persons Team tries two defendants for serious felonies

The week of July 6 to July 10, 2009, the Crimes Against Persons Team conducted two jury trials in Mecklenburg County before The Honorable Timothy S. Kincaid, Superior Court Judge. Neither jury convicted the defendant as charged.

The first trial was of Latonius Lockhart, age 19, for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, and 3) second-degree kidnapping. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of the lesser-included offense of common law robbery and a verdict of guilty of kidnapping. Judge Kincaid consolidated the two convictions for sentencing and sentenced the defendant to one prison sentence of 25-39 months. The defendant was eligible to be sentenced to 25-39 months in prison for the kidnapping and an additional 13-16 months in prison for the common law robbery.

The second trial was of Lawrence Blount, age 25, for 1) assault with a firearm on a law enforcement officer and 2) assault with a deadly weapon on a law enforcement officer. Judge Kincaid dismissed the assault with a firearm on law enforcement officer before the jury began deliberations. The jury was left to consider the felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon on a law enforcement officer and returned a verdict of guilty on the lesser-included offense of assault on a government official, a misdemeanor. The defendant was sentenced to 75 days in jail, for which the defendant already had credit. Blount had a prior conviction for assault on a government official from 2006.

In addition to the two trials, two defendants pled guilty before their trials began:

Harry Clark, Jr., age 38, pled guilty to 1) driving while impaired, 2) felony fleeing to elude, and 3) being a habitual felon. Clark was sentenced by Judge Kincaid to 168-211 months in prison for being a habitual felon and an additional 24 months in prison for driving while impaired.

Norman Walker, age 51, was charged with two counts of indecent liberties with a child. Walker pled guilty to both charges and was sentenced by The Honorable Kevin Bridges, Superior Court Judge, to 13-16 months in prison.

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