

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team sends 17 to prison

Twenty defendants pled guilty to felonies in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy, Superior Court Judge. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in administrative courtroom 5310 on Tuesday, August 24, Wednesday, August 25, and Friday, August 27, 2010. Seventeen of the twenty defendants were habitual felons and were given active prison sentences; among them were:

James Cooper, 41, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering. Cooper was sentenced to 30-36 months in prison.

Antoine Davis, 43, pled guilty to 1) felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle and 2) felony breaking or entering. Davis was sentenced to 75-90 months in prison.

Derrick Rankin, 42, pled guilty to 1) felony possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Rankin was sentenced to 90-117 months in prison.

Willie Collins, 46, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering; Collins was sentenced to 24-30 months in prison.

Adrian Smith, 41, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) being a habitual felon. Smith was sentenced to 102-132 months in prison. This is Smith's second time being sentenced as a habitual felon in North Carolina.

Cedric Dobie, 54, pled guilty to 1) selling cocaine within 1000 feet of a school and 2) being a habitual felon. Dobie was sentenced to 50-69 months in prison.

John Strother, 43, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) felony uttering a forged instrument, and 3) being a habitual felon. Strother was sentenced to 111-143 months in prison.

Johnny Wilson, 34, pled guilty to possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine within 1000 feet of a school and was sentenced to 46-65 months in prison.

This news release was posted by the District Attorney at www.charmeckda.com/districtattorney/news.html.

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.

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