

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Crimes Against Persons Team convicts 38 felons of violent crimes**

Thirty-eight defendants pled guilty to felonies last week in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in administrative court from Monday, August 17, to Friday, August 28, 2009. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to some of the active prison sentences noted below. The Honorable W. Robert Bell and The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judges, presided over courtroom 5310.

Michael Watson, age 35, pled guilty to two counts first degree sex offense, two counts first degree kidnapping, and two counts of armed robbery and received a total sentence of 216-269 months in prison.

Juan Antonio, age 28, pled guilty to second degree rape and first degree burglary and received a total sentence of 90-117 months in prison.

Jason Sawyer, age 24, pled guilty to three counts of attempted armed robbery and received a total sentence of 92-120 months in prison.

James Carter, age 25, pled guilty to three counts of indecent liberties with a child and was sentenced to 63-85 months in prison.

Christopher Rush, age 36, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury (ADWIKISI), assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury (ADWISI) & discharging a weapon into occupied property and received a total sentence of 62-84 months in prison.

Earl Heyward, age 20, pled guilty to armed robbery and was sentenced to 38-55 months in prison.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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