

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team convicts 3 during trial week, another pleads guilty days later

The week of October 4, 2010, the Habitual Felon Team held trial court in one courtroom (5150) after a jury trial from the previous week concluded on Monday.

Joseph Cooney, 25, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) obtaining property by false pretense. Cooney was sentenced to 42-51 months in prison by Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge.

The State next called the case of Rodrickiou Davis, 33, for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession, 2) trafficking in cocaine by delivery, 3) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 4) felony possession of marijuana, and 5) being a habitual felon. The defense filed a motion to suppress evidence. After a pre-trial hearing and arguments from both sides, the defense's motion was denied by Judge Levinson. Davis then pled guilty as charged and was sentenced to 87-114 months in prison.

Finally, the State called the case of John D. Matthews, 52, for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering, 3) felony larceny of a firearm, and 4) being a habitual felon. The State also gave notice of its intent to prove aggravating factors to the jury. Matthews was found *guilty* of all charges except larceny of a firearm. The jury also found, beyond a reasonable doubt, that an aggravating factor existed for sentencing purposes. Judge Levinson continued sentencing until October 13, 2010, and sentenced Matthews to a total of 220-282 months in prison.

The State did not reach the trial of Thomas Sayalath before the week expired and his trial was continued to November. However, on October 13, the defendant decided to enter a guilty plea in lieu of having a jury trial. Sayalath, age 29, pled guilty to 1) three counts of felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) being a habitual felon; he was sentenced to 84-110 months in prison.

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