

NEWS RELEASE

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Crimes Against Property Team convicts four at trial and another pleads guilty

The week of October 12 to October 16, 2009, the Crimes Against Property Team conducted four jury trials in Mecklenburg County Superior Court.

The first trial was of Christopher Fortson, age 18, for (1) larceny of a motor vehicle and (2) possession of stolen motor vehicle. The jury returned a verdict of guilty to both counts. The Honorable Albert Diaz, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Fortson to 6-8 months in prison, suspended with a 30-day active time split followed by 30 months probation with the first 6 months intensive.

The second trial was of Nickson Kragan, age 18, for (1) possession of stolen firearm and (2) carrying a concealed weapon. The jury returned a verdict of guilty on the carrying a concealed weapon charge, but was unable to return a verdict on the possession of stolen firearm charge resulting in a hung jury. Judge Diaz sentenced Kragan to a 30 day jail term, suspended and 18 months of probation.

The third trial was of Jonathan Ramsey, age 21, for (1) breaking or entering and (2) larceny after breaking or entering. The jury returned a verdict of guilty to the breaking or entering charge and not guilty on the larceny after breaking or entering charge. The Honorable Beverly T. Beal, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Ramsey to 11-14 months in prison.

The fourth trial was of Tarolus Sanders, age 30, for (1) breaking or entering and (2) ethnic intimidation. The jury returned a verdict of guilty on the breaking or entering charge and not guilty on the ethnic intimidation charge. Judge Beal sentenced Sanders to 6-8 months in prison.

One defendant, Mark Wallace, age 45, entered a guilty plea prior to his trial. Wallace pled guilty to possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Judge Beal sentenced Wallace to 8-10 months in prison, suspended, with a 25 day active split sentence followed by 36 months probation with the first 6 months intensive.

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