

# NEWS RELEASE

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**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**January 13, 2015**

## **Quarterly Homicide Team report for October-December 2014**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team had another record year in 2014 as prosecutors worked to seek justice for victims.

In early 2014, District Attorney Andrew Murray announced a homicide trial initiative that involved securing additional courtrooms and judges from the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts and then partnering Homicide Team prosecutors with experienced prosecutors from other teams within the DA's Office. The initiative was the culmination of an effort DA Murray began in 2011 to more quickly bring closure to victims' families by addressing a backlog of homicide cases that had amassed before he took office.

In 2014, the DA's Homicide Team tried 14 cases, and homicide prosecutors spent a total of 36 weeks in trial.

[Click here](#) to read the Homicide Team's previous quarterly reports. The following defendants were convicted by the Homicide Team between October and December 2014:

### **October 2014**

Demontre Rice, 28, pled guilty to second-degree murder for the 2013 killing of Stanley Taylor, 17. He was sentenced to 285-354 months in prison.

Keith Cureton, 20, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon in connection with the 2012 murder of Zachary Pittman, 25. He was sentenced to a total of 203-268 months in prison.

### **November 2014**

[Arthur Lee Givens](#), 41, was tried for first-degree murder for the killing of Donald Everett Gist, Jr., 38. A jury found Givens *guilty* of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

[Keith Henderson](#), 35, was tried for second-degree murder for the 2013 death of Eric Stokes, 35. The jury found him *guilty* of voluntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to 97-129 months in prison.

Ramses Ratcliff, 32, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder, 2) being a habitual felon and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in connection with the 2011 murder of Singbay Mulbah, 32. He was sentenced to 324-408 months in prison.

Brandon Newkirk, 23, pled guilty to robbery with a dangerous weapon in connection with the 2012 death of Zachary Pittman, 25. He was sentenced to 51-74 months in prison.

Trellis Rogers, 19, pled guilty to robbery with a dangerous weapon in connection with the 2012 death of Zachary Pittman, 25. He was sentenced to 51-74 months in prison.

Arthur Blake, Jr., 58, pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter in connection with the 1985 death of Tony Baucom. He was sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Wendy Johnson, 34, pled guilty to felony child abuse in connection with the 2013 death of Kamdyn Johnson. She was sentenced to 25-42 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of her probation, Johnson must serve 300 days in custody.

Charlene Workman, 50, pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter for the 2013 death of Kaleb Lowery. She was sentenced to 16-29 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of her probation, Workman must serve 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Jonathan Shaver, 39, pled guilty to 1) felony hit and run causing serious injury or death and 2) driving while impaired. He was sentenced to 15-27 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Shaver must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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