District Attorney's Office

State of North Carolina 26th Prosecutorial District Mecklenburg County CHARMECKDA.COM

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Habitual Felon Team sends 20 defendants to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team recently convicted 23 defendants. Of those convicted, 20 were sent to prison; some were not habitual felons under North Carolina law. The defendants entered their guilty pleas during the week of January 5, 2015, in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Willie Bernard Walker, 47, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) being a habitual felon. Walker was sentenced to 87-117 months in prison. Some of Walker's prior convictions include felony breaking or entering, felony larceny and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

John Junior Harvey, 55, pled guilty to 1) attempted common law robbery and 2) being a habitual felon. Harvey was sentenced to 77-105 months in prison. Some of Harvey's prior convictions include felony breaking or entering, discharging a firearm into occupied property and aggravated assault in another state.

Kenneth Elliot, 43, pled guilty to 1) breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) being a habitual felon. Elliot was sentenced to 60-84 months in prison. Elliot has a prior conviction for common law robbery, as well as multiple prior convictions for misdemeanor larceny.

Richard Allen Wager, 53, pled guilty to 1) attempted common law robbery and 2) being a habitual felon. Wager was sentenced to 58-82 months in prison.

Derrick Koontz, 43, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. Koontz was sentenced to 51-74 months in prison. He has multiple prior convictions for breaking or entering and larceny after breaking or entering.

Lavander Sinclair, 23, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) being a habitual felon. Sinclair was sentenced to 50-72 months in prison. Some of Sinclair's prior convictions include felony breaking or entering and larceny after breaking or entering.

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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