

NEWS RELEASE

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Domestic Violence Team's trials, guilty pleas lead to assault convictions

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – In Mecklenburg County Superior Court, the District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team recently convicted nine defendants of charges such as assault on a female and communicating threats. On January 6, 2016, three defendants entered guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Then, during the week of January 11, 2016, the team tried two defendants, and six others pled guilty. Those proceedings were held in courtrooms 5170 and 5370 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans and The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judges.

The following defendants pled guilty to domestic violence crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court on January 6, 2016:

Robert Hankins, 33, pled guilty to 1) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and 2) assault by strangulation. Hankins was sentenced to 36-56 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 9-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Hankins must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Nathan Roberts, 34, pled guilty to 1) second-degree kidnapping and 2) assault on a female. Roberts was sentenced to 23-40 months in prison.

Mario Cunningham, 30, pled guilty to two counts of assault on a female. Cunningham was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

The following defendants were prosecuted during the week of January 11, 2016:

Jose Velazquez, 30, was tried for assault on a female. The jury found Velazquez *not guilty*.

Christy Calfee, 25, was tried for assault with a deadly weapon. Judge Bridges found Calfee *not guilty*.

Before a jury was empanelled for the trial of Daeton Duchnowski, 33, the defendant decided to plead guilty to assault on a female. Duchnowski was sentenced to 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of unsupervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Duchnowski must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

James Meeks, 55, pled guilty to assault on a female. Meeks was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Lastarsia Brown, 25, pled guilty to communicating threats. Brown was sentenced to 25 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Eddie McLain, 46, pled guilty to two counts of assault on a female. McLain was sentenced to 300 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, McLain must pay restitution to the victim and complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Harvey Moore, 46, pled guilty to two counts of assault on a female. Moore was sentenced to 300 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Moore must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

John Phillips, 38, pled guilty to assault on a female. Phillips was sentenced to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Phillips must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

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

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