

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Jury convicts habitual felon who robbed 3 pharmacies

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A habitual felon who robbed three pharmacies was sentenced this week to at least 26 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of robbery and drug offenses. The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team also tried another defendant and convicted a third defendant who entered a guilty plea. The proceedings were held January 10-19, 2017, in courtrooms 5110, 5130 and 5370 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges and The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judges. Due to inclement weather, court was not held on January 9, 2017.

Scott Alton Hill, 62, was tried for 1) three counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) three counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) three counts of trafficking in opiates by possession, 4) three counts of trafficking in opiates by transportation 5) being a habitual felon and 6) being a violent habitual felon. A jury found Hill *guilty* of three counts of the lesser-included offense of common law robbery and all six counts of trafficking in opiates. The jury found him *not guilty* of the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon charges. Upon the jury's verdict, Hill admitted his status as a habitual felon. The State did not proceed with the charge of being a violent habitual felon because Hill was not convicted of the higher class felony of robbery with dangerous weapon. Judge Foust sentenced Hill to 312-399 months in prison. In October and November 2015, Hill robbed three pharmacies in south Charlotte. In each robbery, Hill wore glasses and a baseball cap when he approached the pharmacist, brandished a handgun and demanded oxycodone. He threatened to shoot and kill the pharmacist if he or she sounded any alarms or did not comply. After receiving the drugs, Hill ordered the pharmacists to lie on the ground and count to 50 as he fled the scene. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police released surveillance footage of each of the robberies to local media outlets and received several leads from the public, allowing police to develop Hill as a suspect.

Fabian Pagan, 31, was tried for 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) driving while impaired and 3) being a habitual felon. Upon a motion from the defense following the commencement of the trial, Judge Lewis declared a mistrial. The case will be scheduled for retrial at a later date.

When called for trial before Judge Lewis, Brion Marques Carter, 34, pled *guilty* to 1) failure to register as a sex offender and 2) being a habitual felon. Carter will be sentenced at a later date.

Another defendant filed a motion to suppress certain evidence utilized by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Bridges, who heard arguments from the defense and an Assistant District Attorney, denied the motion. The case will be tried at a later date.

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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