

# NEWS RELEASE

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## 31 defendants convicted of property crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Thirty-one defendants were convicted of property crimes January 20-23, 2015, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included felony breaking or entering, felony larceny, financial card forgery, identity theft and obtaining property by false pretense. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences. Court was not held on January 19, 2015, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Among the defendants who pled guilty were:

Robert Curd, 18, pled guilty to 1) three counts of felony breaking or entering, 2) assault with a deadly weapon and 3) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Curd was sentenced to 23-37 months in prison. In May 2014, Curd and his codefendant, who previously pled guilty in connection with this incident, entered three homes without permission and took items such as computers, firearms, gaming systems and jewelry. Investigators discovered fingerprints left at the scene and found that they matched those of Curd, whom was later found to be in possession of some of the stolen property.

George Benfield, 34, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering. Benfield was sentenced to 10-21 months in prison.

Travis Edwards, 21, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) felony attempted breaking or entering. Edwards was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison.

Francisco Barrera, 22, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. Barrera was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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