

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Crimes Against Persons Team tries 3 defendants; 3 others plead guilty before trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team called three cases for trial, and three other defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial January 21-28, 2014. The proceedings were held in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, The Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges.

Derrick Johnson, 40, was tried for discharging a weapon into occupied property. The jury found him *guilty*. Judge Bridges sentenced Johnson to 40-57 months in prison. In March 2011, the victims were celebrating a relative's birthday at a home on Grandview Ridge Drive in Charlotte. Johnson, a neighbor whom witnesses said was intoxicated, came to the victims' home, got into a verbal argument with the victims and threatened to shoot at the home. He left, and the victims returned inside their house. Later, the victims heard gunshots and saw that a bullet had entered the home through the dining room. Police soon found Johnson with a rifle, as well as 11 shell casings on his back porch. Three adults and four children were inside the home at the time of the shooting.

Hassan Ahmed, 27, was tried for malicious conduct by a prisoner. Judge Poovey declared a mistrial when the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

After jury selection – but before the victim testified – in the trial of Guillermo Jimenez, 40, the defendant decided to plead guilty. Jimenez pled guilty to indecent liberties with a child. Judge Poovey sentenced Jimenez to 16-20 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Jimenez must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

The following three defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Anna Kennedy, 31, pled guilty to taking indecent liberties with a minor. Judge Poovey sentenced Kennedy to 16-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. Kennedy must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Ryqwonn Herron, 20, pled guilty to larceny from the person. Judge Bell sentenced Herron to 8-19 months in prison.

Wesley Beamon, 20, pled guilty to larceny from the person. Judge Poovey sentenced Beamon to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30

months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Beamon must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

*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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