

NEWS RELEASE

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Trials lead to convictions of rapist, armed robber; 2 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team convicted two defendants at trial, as well as two others who pled guilty, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the weeks of February 17 and February 24, 2014. The proceedings were held before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, The Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey and The Honorable Julia Lynn Gullett, Superior Court Judges.

Walter Gause, 48, was tried for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Bell sentenced Gause to a total of 205-265 months in prison.

Daven Lorenzo Teeter, 23, was tried for 1) first-degree rape, 2) first-degree sex offense, 3) attempted first-degree sex offense, 4) four counts of first-degree kidnapping, 5) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 6) two counts of breaking or entering and 7) communicating threats. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Poovey sentenced Teeter to 574-726 months in prison. Upon Teeter's release from prison, he must register as a sex offender and participate in satellite-based monitoring for the rest of his life. [Click here](#) for more information about the case.

The following two defendants pled guilty before or when their cases were called for trial:

Michael DeFrances, 30, pled guilty to 1) aggravated felony serious injury by a motor vehicle, 2) driving while impaired and 3) felony hit and run causing serious injury. DeFrances was sentenced to 31-50 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 60 months of supervised probation. As a condition of probation, DeFrances must serve 6 months in the Mecklenburg County jail. He was also sentenced to an additional 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 60 months of supervised probation. DeFrances was ordered to be on house arrest and wear an electronic monitor that tracks his location and any alcohol consumption during his probation.

Cedric White, 29, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Judge Bell sentenced White to 25-42 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, White must serve 145 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

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

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