

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts sex offender who contacted child through social media

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Over the course of two weeks, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team convicted two defendants at trial and convicted six others who entered guilty pleas in Superior Court. Among those convicted were a man who sexually assaulted a child after contacting her through social media and a man who fired gunshots into a home occupied by a woman and her children. The proceedings were held during the weeks of February 19 and February 26, 2018, before The Honorable Gregory R. Hayes, The Honorable Martin B. McGee and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges.

Demorris Cathcart, 25, was tried for sexual offense with a child. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Hayes sentenced Cathcart to 300-420 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, he must register as a sex offender for 30 years. In September 2014, Cathcart connected with a 12-year-old girl through social media. Cathcart represented to the child that he was younger than 22, which was his actual age at the time. He later met the child and engaged her in sexual acts. Cathcart's DNA was retrieved from the child when a sexual assault kit was collected the following day.

Marcus Pulley, 34, was tried for 1) two counts of discharging a firearm into occupied property, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 4) assault on a female. The jury found Pulley *guilty* of both counts of discharging a firearm into occupied property, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and assault on a female. The jury found him *not guilty* of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill. Judge McGee sentenced Pulley to 133-182 months in prison, as well as an additional 150 days in custody. In May 2016, Pulley got into an argument with the victim, with whom he has a child. Pulley physically assaulted the victim and shot twice into her home while she and her three children were inside.

Tony Davis, 34, pled guilty to assault inflicting serious bodily injury. Judge Bell sentenced Davis to 26-41 months in prison.

Omar Franklin, 49, pled guilty to 1) discharging a firearm within an enclosure to incite fear and 2) assault with a deadly weapon. Judge Hayes sentenced Franklin to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Franklin's successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Franklin must serve 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail and successfully complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Corey Alexander, 30, pled guilty to felony habitual misdemeanor assault. Judge McGee sentenced Alexander to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Alexander's successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Alexander must complete a certified intervention program for batterers and perform 24 hours of community service.

Harvey Pettis, 21, pled guilty to 1) assault inflicting serious injury and 2) assault on a female. Judge McGee sentenced Pettis to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending Pettis' successful completion of 19 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Pettis must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Donta Taylor, 36, pled guilty to assault on a female. Judge McGee sentenced Taylor to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending Taylor's successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Taylor must complete a certified intervention program for batterers and perform 24 hours of community service.

Jadarrin Roseboro, 28, pled guilty to assault by pointing a gun. Judge McGee sentenced Roseboro to 75 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, Roseboro must serve 18 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.

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