

NEWS RELEASE

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Crimes Against Property Team convicts 20, provides diversion opportunity to others

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty defendants pled guilty to property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of February 26, 2018. The defendants, who were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team, entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included felony breaking or entering, breaking or entering a motor vehicle and felony larceny.

Among those convicted were:

Travis Chislom, 26, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender and 3) common law robbery. He was sentenced to 26-44 months in prison.

Christian Newsome, 44, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was sentenced to 11-23 months in prison.

Damian Denny, 18, pled guilty to 1) five counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) attempted felony breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

In addition to these proceedings, the Crimes Against Property Team also enrolled defendants in the deferred prosecution program. Deferred prosecution is made available to first-time offenders charged with a low-level, nonviolent crime, allowing eligible defendants to earn a dismissal of the charge by participating in supervised probation for about two years. Participants must comply with conditions such as community service, restitution to a victim or drug testing when appropriate. If a defendant successfully completes his or her probation and commits no new crimes, a dismissal of the charge is granted. Since February 15, 2018, the Crimes Against Property Team enrolled 24 defendants in this program.

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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