

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

March 20, 2014

DA's Crimes Against Property Team tries 1; convicts 46 other defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team recently convicted 46 defendants of property crimes. From February 24 to March 7, 2014, the team tried one defendant in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judge. The following week, 46 defendants pled guilty in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. Those defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, obtaining property by false pretenses and breaking or entering motor vehicles. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison time.

Riley Monroe, 44, was tried for 1) breaking or entering a place of worship, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) possession of burglary tools. Judge Boner declared a mistrial when the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

Among the defendants who pled guilty during the week of March 10 were:

Anthony Johnson, 20, pled guilty to 1) two counts of breaking or entering 2) two counts of felony larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Johnson was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison. In September 2013, Johnson broke into Westerly Hills Academy in Charlotte and stole a projector, which he sold to a pawn shop hours later. The next day, Johnson broke into Ashley Park PreK-8 School. Police soon identified Johnson as a suspect because he was wearing an electronic monitor that tracked him at the scene of each crime.

Charles Penninger, 33, pled guilty to 1) breaking or entering 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Penninger was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1,665.10 in restitution.

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.

// End //