

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Habitual Felon Team convicts four habitual felons

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The DA's Habitual Felon Team called five cases for trial the week of March 19, 2012. The trials were held in courtrooms 5130, 5150 and 5370.

Jamal Williams, 39, was tried for 1) possession of heroin and 2) being an habitual felon. The jury found Williams *guilty* of possessing heroin and he admitted his status as an habitual felon. The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Williams to 121-155 months in prison. Some of Williams' prior convictions include first-degree kidnapping and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

James Thompson, 42, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being an habitual felon. The jury found Thompson *guilty* of possessing cocaine and he admitted his status as an habitual felon. The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Thompson to 116-149 months in prison. Some of Thompson's prior convictions include second-degree murder, possession of a stolen vehicle, and sale of cocaine.

Kenneth King, 29, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being an habitual felon. A *mistrial* was declared after the jury could not reach a unanimous verdict.

Two defendants pled guilty when their cases were called for trial. Vernon Potts, 53, entered a plea of guilty to 1) trafficking in cocaine, 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, and 3) being an habitual felon. Judge Bell sentenced Potts to 88-115 months in prison. Some of Potts' previous convictions include multiple counts of felony breaking or entering and multiple counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine. In addition, Potts was previously convicted and served a sentence as an habitual felon.

Bobby Ford, 40, pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and 3) being an habitual felon. The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Ford to 60-81 months in prison.

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