

# NEWS RELEASE

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## DA's Persons Team convicts seven during trial week

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team tried two defendants the week of March 26, 2012, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The trials were held in courtrooms 5150 and 5370.

Demaris Grice, 37, was tried for 1) attempted murder, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, 3) first degree kidnapping, 4) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 5) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 6) attempted larceny of a motor vehicle and 7) impersonating a law enforcement officer. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* of 1) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, 2) first degree kidnapping, 3) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 4) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 5) attempted larceny of a motor vehicle and 6) impersonating a law enforcement officer. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty* of attempted murder. The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Grice to 170-223 months in prison.

Christian Welch, 29, was tried for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

Six defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Jerry Brownlee, 27, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) first-degree burglary, and 4) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Burris to 66-89 months in prison. Judge Levinson also sentenced Brownlee to a second sentence of 25-39 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As one of his conditions of probation, Brownlee must serve 9 months in prison at the conclusion of his 66-89 month prison sentence.

Jonquez Smith, 18, pled guilty to 1) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) two counts of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Levinson sentenced Smith to 61-83 months in prison.

Marcellus Morris, 23, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Levinson sentenced Morris to 27-42 months in prison.

David Leeper, III, 25, pled guilty to possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana. Judge Levinson sentenced Leeper to 5-6 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Jaruis Meaders, 20, pled guilty to 1) possession of a weapon of mass destruction and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Levinson sentenced Meaders to 18-22 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of his conditions of probation, Meaders must serve 5 months in prison.

Bradley Sprott, 33, pled guilty to simple assault. Judge Levinson sentenced Sprott to 45 days in jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 20 months of unsupervised probation.

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