

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

April 12, 2013

Rapist convicted, sentenced to 18-22 years in prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, a jury found Kevin Cellent, 22, guilty of the first-degree rape of a woman in 2011. The trial, which began April 8, 2013, was held in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable C. Thomas Edwards, Superior Court Judge.

Cellent was tried for 1) first-degree rape, 2) first-degree sex offense, 3) first-degree kidnapping and 4) robbery with a dangerous weapon. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* on the first-degree rape offense and returned verdicts of *not guilty* on the remaining charges.

Judge Edwards sentenced Cellent to 220-273 months in prison. Judge Edwards also ordered that, upon his release from prison, Cellent must participate in satellite-based monitoring and register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

In August 2011, Cellent approached the victim at a bus stop on Mallard Creek Road in Charlotte. Cellent displayed a gun and then forced the victim behind a nearby privacy fence, where he raped her at gunpoint and then kicked her as he walked away.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office admires the courage shown by the victim, who faced her attacker by testifying at trial.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA

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Kevin Cellent