

# NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray  
District Attorney

April 21, 2015

## Habitual felon convicted at trial of break-in; 6 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A habitual felon with a history of breaking or entering crimes was convicted at trial, and six other defendants pled guilty. The cases were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team during the week of April 13, 2015. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5370 and 5150 before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges and The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judges.

John Arthur Stroud, 54, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) two counts of felony possession of stolen goods. A jury found Stroud *guilty* of felony breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, one count of felony possession of stolen goods and one count of misdemeanor possession of stolen goods. Upon the guilty verdicts, Stroud admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Bridges sentenced Stroud to 115-150 months in prison. In May 2013, a teenager saw Stroud walk out of her Charlotte home's garage and then drive away. She told her mother, who called police and provided a description of Stroud and his license plate number. Police soon located Stroud, and they discovered two sets of stolen golf clubs in the back of his vehicle. One had been stolen that day, and the other had been stolen from another victim several days earlier. Stroud's prior convictions include three convictions for felony breaking or entering.

Thomas Allan Burrows, 50, filed a motion to suppress a confession, alleging a violation of his legal rights. After arguments from both the Assistant District Attorney and the defense, Judge Foust denied the motion. Burrows then pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession of a stolen motor vehicle, 2) breaking or entering a motor vehicle, 3) misdemeanor larceny and 4) being a habitual felon. Burrows was sentenced to 38-58 months in prison.

Gregory Antonio Gilmore, 54, pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) sale of cocaine, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia and 4) being a habitual felon. Gilmore was sentenced to 87-117 months in prison. Some of Gilmore's prior convictions include larceny of a motor vehicle and sale of cocaine.

Keith Tyrone Ellison, 52, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony larceny, 2) resisting a public officer and 3) two counts of being a habitual felon. Ellison was sentenced to 85-114 months in prison. Ellison's prior convictions include robbery with a dangerous weapon, and he has previously been convicted 17 times of misdemeanor larceny.

John Joseph Hughes, 47, pled guilty to 1) breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) being a habitual felon. Hughes was sentenced to 32-51 months in prison. Hughes' prior convictions include breaking or entering a motor vehicle and felony breaking or entering.

Darren Lamar Reid, 44, pled guilty to 1) conspiracy to commit common law robbery and 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Reid was sentenced to 16-29 months in prison. Reid did not qualify for prosecution as a habitual felon.

Robert Lee Darby, Jr., 25, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. Darby was sentenced to 10-21 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Darby must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail. Darby did not qualify for prosecution as a habitual felon.

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

// End //

