

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

April 23, 2013

DA's Habitual Felon Team convicts 25 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted 25 defendants April 15-17, 2013. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Twenty of them were sent to prison; some were not habitual felons under North Carolina law.

Among those convicted were:

Demetrius Washington, 26, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine with intent to sell or deliver and 2) being a habitual felon. Washington was sentenced to 66-89 months in prison. Washington has prior convictions that include possession of marijuana with intent to sell or deliver, larceny from the person and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Asa Drakeford, 31, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) discharging a weapon into occupied property and 3) being a habitual felon. Drakeford was sentenced to 44-65 months in prison. Some of his prior convictions include trafficking in cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to sell or deliver and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Derrick Reid, 30, pled guilty to 1) attempted larceny from the person and 2) being a habitual felon. Reid was sentenced to 44-65 months in prison. Reid has previously been convicted twice for larceny from the person.

Jimmy Aldridge, 62, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. Aldridge was sentenced to 40-66 months in prison. Aldridge's prior convictions include common law robbery, larceny after breaking or entering and several counts of felony breaking or entering.

Charles Lefler, 36, pled guilty to 1) possession of a stolen motor vehicle and 2) felony possession of stolen goods. Lefler was sentenced to 40-66 months in prison. Lefler has prior convictions that include felony breaking or entering, felony larceny and common law robbery.

Charles Petralia, 41, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Petralia was sentenced to 36-62 months in prison. Petralia has previously been convicted of sale of marijuana and two separate counts of habitual impaired driving.

Reginald Weathers, 29, pled guilty to three counts of felony larceny. Weathers was sentenced to 33-69 months in prison. Weathers has prior convictions that consist of breaking or entering a motor vehicle, grand larceny and robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Furman McLaurin, 31, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. McLaurin was sentenced to 28-34 months in prison. Some of McLaurin's prior convictions include felony possession of stolen goods, felony larceny and five counts of felony breaking or entering.

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 //

