

NEWS RELEASE

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17 convicted of property crimes; diversion opportunity provided to 35

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team convicted 17 defendants of property offenses during the week of April 23, 2018. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included felony breaking or entering and felony larceny.

Justin Patterson, 23, pled guilty to 1) identity theft and 2) eight counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Nicholas Vernon, 25, pled guilty to 1) obtaining property by false pretenses and 2) larceny by removing an anti-theft device. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Marquez Wright, 30, pled guilty to 1) conspiracy to commit felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny of a firearm, 3) felony financial card fraud, 4) two counts of felony larceny and 5) three counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Terris Mclendon, 17, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) possession of a stolen motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison.

Gabriel Peele, 18, pled guilty to 1) four counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) felony larceny. He was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison.

Richard Brown, 37, pled guilty to 1) two counts of larceny of a motor vehicle, 2) possession of a stolen motor vehicle, 3) felony breaking or entering and 4) felony larceny. He was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison.

James Byrd, 33, pled guilty to breaking or entering a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison.

In addition to these proceedings, the Crimes Against Property Team also enrolled defendants in the deferred prosecution program. Deferred prosecution is made available to first-time offenders charged with a low-level, nonviolent crime, allowing eligible defendants to earn a dismissal of the charge by participating in supervised probation for about two years. Participants must comply with conditions such as community service, restitution to a victim or

drug testing when appropriate. If a defendant successfully completes his or her probation and commits no new crimes, a dismissal of the charge is granted. Since April 3, 2018, the Crimes Against Property Team enrolled 35 defendants in this program.

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.

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