

NEWS RELEASE

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May 5, 2016

2 defendants who tried to break into home convicted at trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of April 25, 2016, a Mecklenburg County jury convicted two defendants who tried to break into a Charlotte home. The defendants, as well as another defendant who was tried in Mecklenburg County Superior Court, were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5110 before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge.

Deion Culbreth, 23, and Michael Robinson, 27, were both charged in connection with the attempted home break-in. A judge previously granted the State's request to join the defendants' cases for trial, allowing prosecutors to simultaneously try Culbreth and Robinson. Culbreth was tried for 1) attempted felony breaking or entering, 2) resisting a public officer and 3) injury to personal property. The State dismissed the injury to personal property charge at the close of the State's evidence. Robinson was tried for 1) attempted felony breaking or entering and 2) resisting a public officer. The jury found Culbreth *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of attempted misdemeanor breaking or entering and resisting a public officer. Judge Bridges sentenced Culbreth to 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation. The jury found Robinson *guilty* of attempted felony breaking or entering and *not guilty* of resisting a public officer. Judge Bridges sentenced Robinson to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. In May 2015, a Charlotte resident called police to report that he believed two men were breaking into a neighbor's home. When Charlotte-Mecklenburg police arrived, they observed both Culbreth and Robinson running from the victim's back door, which had pry marks and appeared as if someone had tried to break in. After Robinson was apprehended, he admitted to trying to break into the victim's house using a screwdriver. Culbreth also fled on foot and was located with the assistance of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's canine unit.

Israel Lynch, 26, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. The jury found Lynch *not guilty*.

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