

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

May 8, 2012

Domestic Violence Team tries 3 defendants, 6 plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The DA's Domestic Violence Team tried three defendants the week of April 30, 2012, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The trials were held in 5150, 5170 and 5370.

Nicholas Williams, 36, was tried for 1) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, 2) assault inflicting serious bodily injury, 3) assault inflicting serious injury, and 4) interference with emergency communication. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* on assault inflicting serious injury and interference with emergency communication and *not guilty* on assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and assault inflicting serious bodily injury. The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Williams to 300 days in the county jail and a \$120,000 fine.

Mark Olivos, 24, was tried for assault on a female. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

Charles Handler, 34, was tried for communicating threats. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

6 defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Kuron Craig, 26, pled guilty to assault on a female. Judge Levinson sentenced Craig to 45 days in the county jail.

Louie Perkins, 35, pled guilty to two counts of assault on a female. Judge Levinson sentenced Perkins to 60 days in the county jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Randy Hodge, 22, pled guilty to assault on a female. The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Hodge to 60 days in the county jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Robert Daniels, 24, pled guilty to assault on a female. The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Daniels to 60 days in the county jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Michael Jewett, 23, pled guilty to two counts of assault on a female. Judge Sumner sentenced Jewett to 75 days in the county jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Michael Baker, 31, pled guilty to assault on a female and assault inflicting serious injury. Judge Levinson sentenced Baker to 250 days in the county jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 20 months of supervised probation.

Note: Misdemeanors and infractions are originally prosecuted in district court in North Carolina. In criminal district court, a judge determines guilt, not a jury; this is commonly referred to as a “bench trial.” However, defendants have a right to appeal a conviction from the district court to the superior court for a trial de novo. The new trial in superior court must be a jury trial, not a bench trial. In a de novo trial, the jury cannot be informed that a district court judge previously found the defendant guilty; further, a record of any evidence, including testimony, from district court may not be introduced. While the DA’s Office prosecutes nearly 225,000 misdemeanors and infractions each year in district court in Mecklenburg County, each defendant is entitled to exercise his/her right to appeal to the superior court. When a misdemeanor or infraction occupies the limited time available in our superior courtrooms, it the intent of the DA’s Office to keep the public informed of the results through news releases like this one. Due to the volume of misdemeanors and infractions prosecuted in district court each day, reports like this are not possible for all of those cases.

// End //

