

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

**May 10, 2011**

## **31 criminals go to prison for committing felonies**

CHARLOTTE, NC – Thirty-seven defendants were convicted of felonies in Mecklenburg County Superior Court by the DA's Habitual Felon Team. The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge, presided. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in administrative courtroom 5350 on Tuesday, May 3, Wednesday, May 4, and Friday, May 6, 2011.

A few of the defendants were not habitual felons under North Carolina law. Nonetheless, thirty-one defendants were given active prison sentences. Among them were:

Davis Smith, 40, pled guilty to 1) possessing stolen goods and 2) being a habitual felon. Smith was sentenced to 87-114 months in prison. Some of Smith's previous convictions include robbery, possessing a firearm by a convicted felon, selling and delivering a controlled substance, and assault on a female.

Thomas Russell, 48, pled guilty to 1) felony larceny, 2) breaking or entering a motor vehicle, and 3) being a habitual felon. Russell was sentenced to 66-89 months in prison. Russell has multiple prior convictions for felony breaking or entering and felony larceny.

Jerry Pittman, 34, pled guilty to 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Pittman was sentenced to 80-105 months in prison. Some of Pittman's previous convictions include felony possession of stolen goods, possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, and assault on a female.

Houston Harrelson, 42, pled guilty to 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 2) sell marijuana, 3) felony breaking or entering, and 4) larceny after breaking or entering. Harrelson was sentenced to 70-84 months in prison. Some of Harrelson's previous convictions include driving while impaired, possessing and delivering controlled substances, felony breaking or entering, and felony larceny.

Melvin Jowers, 43, pled guilty to 1) selling marijuana and 2) being a habitual felon. Jowers was sentenced to 66-89 months in prison. Jowers was arrested and charged with selling drugs multiple times over the course of an undercover police investigation.

Richard Pressley, 42, pled guilty to 1) two counts of financial card theft and 2) three counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Pressley was sentenced to 54-66 months in prison. Some of Pressley's previous convictions include felony breaking or entering, felony larceny, larceny of a motor vehicle, felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle, and felony possession of stolen goods.

Ulysses Mims, 50, pled guilty to 1) selling cocaine, 2) conspiring to sell cocaine, and 3) possessing with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Mims was sentenced to 46-57 months in prison. Mims has prior convictions for possessing, selling, and delivering drugs.

Brandon Barber, 28, pled guilty to possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine within 1000 feet of a school. Barber was sentenced to 30-45 months in prison.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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