

NEWS RELEASE

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2 habitual felons found guilty by juries; 5 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Juries convicted two defendants in trials led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team during the week of May 9, 2016. Another five defendants pled guilty when they were called for trial. The court sessions were held in courtrooms 5110 and 5370 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell and The Honorable Christopher W. Bragg, Superior Court Judges.

Michael Deshawn Gilchrist, 35, was tried for 1) larceny by defeating an inventory control device, 2) misdemeanor larceny, 3) felony habitual misdemeanor assault, 4) malicious conduct by a prisoner and 5) being a habitual felon. The jury found Gilchrist *guilty* of larceny by defeating an inventory control device, misdemeanor larceny and felony habitual misdemeanor assault. The jury found him *not guilty* of malicious conduct by a prisoner. Upon the jury's verdicts, Gilchrist admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Bragg sentenced Gilchrist to 156-212 months in prison. Some of Gilchrist's prior convictions include selling cocaine, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, fleeing to elude arrest and assault with a deadly weapon.

Christopher Antonio Ervin, Jr., 28, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) being a habitual felon. A jury found Ervin *guilty* as charged. Judge Bell sentenced Ervin to 97-129 months in prison. Some of Ervin's prior convictions include multiple counts of felony breaking or entering and larceny after breaking or entering.

Santonio Dontray Brown, 35, was tried for felony possession of marijuana. A jury found Brown *not guilty*. As a result of the verdict, the State was unable to proceed on a habitual felon charge.

Michael Lewis Williams, 48, pled guilty to 1) identity theft, 2) two counts of financial transaction card theft, 3) three counts of attempting to obtain property by false pretenses, 4) obtaining property by false pretenses, 5) two counts of felony breaking or entering, 6) two counts of larceny after breaking or entering, 7) felony possession of stolen goods and 8) three counts of being a habitual felon. Judge Bell sentenced Williams to 88-118 months in prison. Some of Williams' prior convictions include first-degree burglary, possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine and multiple counts of felony breaking or entering.

Latawan Aaron Collins, 37, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Bell sentenced Collins to 76-104 months in prison. Some of Collins' prior convictions include possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, trafficking in cocaine and possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine.

Steve William Brown, 37, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession of cocaine, 2) possession of drug paraphernalia, 3) felony possession of stolen goods, 4) urinating in public, 5) misdemeanor possession of marijuana, 6) resisting a public officer and 7) two counts of being a habitual felon. Judge Bragg sentenced Brown to 29-47 months in prison.

Maurice Brandon Rakestraw, 26, pled guilty to 1) breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Bragg sentenced Rakestraw to 23-40 months in prison.

Chauncey Delane Odom, 34, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Bragg sentenced Odom to 15-27 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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