

# NEWS RELEASE

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## DA's Crimes Against Property Team convicts 20 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty defendants pled guilty to property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of May 11, 2015. The defendants, who were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team, entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included first-degree burglary, breaking or entering, possession of stolen goods, financial card fraud, forgery and embezzlement.

Among the defendants who pled guilty and were sent to prison were:

Brent Caltagirone, 24, pled guilty to 1) embezzlement, 2) trafficking in stolen identities and 3) two counts of identity theft. Caltagirone was sentenced to 29-47 months in prison. In May 2014, a victim received a call from his bank, which was attempting to verify a credit card application the bank had received online. Knowing that he had not applied for a credit card, the victim asked for the address used to open the account. When he ended the call, the victim went to that address, where he found mail addressed to him. Then, he checked his credit and learned that several inquiries and credit applications had been recently submitted online. He notified Charlotte-Mecklenburg police, and the investigation resulted in the arrest of Caltagirone. The CMPD Financial Crimes Unit's investigation revealed that Caltagirone had opened multiple credit card accounts using multiple victims' personal information. He had obtained the information by promising to complete one victim's tax return, by accessing a coworker's employment file and by purchasing information from a local car dealership employee who had access to customers' credit applications. When police arrested Caltagirone, they found him in possession of binders and files that contained dozens of people's personal information, including their social security numbers and dates of birth.

Joshua Torres, 24, pled guilty to 1) first-degree burglary and 2) felony larceny. Torres was sentenced to 67-93 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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