

NEWS RELEASE

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Rapist sentenced to 260 years in prison after jury convicts him in cold case

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Thirty years after he raped two teenage girls, Anthony Worth Wyrick has been brought to justice by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit. Wyrick has been sentenced to 260 years in prison.

The trial began on May 16, 2016, in courtroom 5110 before The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judge. Wyrick, 47, was tried for 1) first-degree burglary, 2) two counts of first-degree rape, 3) three counts of first-degree sexual offense and 4) two counts of first-degree kidnapping. At the close of the State's evidence, the State proceeded on the lesser-included offense of felony breaking or entering rather than the burglary charge in order to pursue charges best supported by the testimony presented at trial. On May 20, 2016, the jury found him *guilty* of two counts of second-degree rape, three counts of second-degree sexual offense and two counts of second-degree kidnapping. The jury found him *not guilty* of felony breaking or entering. Judge Caldwell sentenced Wyrick to 40 years in prison for each rape and sexual offense charge and 30 years in prison for each kidnapping charge, totaling 260 years in prison.



Anthony Wyrick

The victims, a 15-year-old girl and 16-year-old girl, were having a sleepover one night in September 1985 at the older girl's apartment on Park Fairfax Drive in Charlotte. They were asleep when a man forced his way into the apartment with a crowbar and entered their bedroom. He bound the victims and sexually assaulted them before fleeing the scene. The case went cold as investigators were unable to identify a suspect.

Decades later, investigators in CMPD's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit reexamined evidence in the case and submitted evidence for DNA testing. That testing resulted in a match that identified Wyrick as the assailant. Police arrested Wyrick in September 2014.

Wyrick's conviction would not have been possible without the extraordinary strength shown by these victims, who faced their attacker by testifying at trial. Mecklenburg County prosecutors are committed to working with the CMPD's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit to secure justice for victims.

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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