

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

June 11, 2015

Domestic Violence Team convicts 8 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Through trials and guilty pleas, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team convicted eight defendants over the course of two weeks. On May 27, 2015, the team convicted three defendants who pled guilty to domestic violence crimes. Those proceedings were held in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. The following week, the team returned to Superior Court, where they tried two defendants before The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, Superior Court Judge, and convicted four others who pled guilty or remanded their cases to District Court.

The following defendants pled guilty to domestic violence crimes on May 27, 2015:

Zaliwa Driver, 22, pled guilty to two counts of assault on a female. Driver was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Ryan Henry, 40, pled guilty to 1) assault on a female and 2) assault with a deadly weapon. Henry was sentenced to 275 days in prison.

Edwin Saul, 31, pled guilty to two counts of violating a domestic violence protective order. Saul was sentenced to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

The following defendants were prosecuted during the week of June 1, 2015:

David Brett Blackwood, 25, was tried for assault on a female. The jury found Blackwood *guilty* as charged. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Blackwood to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, he must complete a certified batterer's intervention program and serve 12 days in jail.

Peter Bush, 33, was tried for 1) assault by strangulation, 2) assault by pointing a gun and 3) assault on a female. At the close of the State's evidence, Judge Kuehnert dismissed the case.

Casey Combs, 33, pled guilty to assault on a female. Combs was sentenced to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Jonathan Miller, 28, pled guilty to assault on a female. Miller was sentenced to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Matthew Mitzel, 20, was charged with assault on a female. Mitzel remanded the case and accepted the judgment of the District Court.

Curtis Stewart, 38, was charged with assault on a female. Stewart remanded the case and accepted the judgment of the District Court.

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.

// End //

