

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual felons sent to prison during trial session

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team tried three defendants and convicted another defendant who pled guilty June 2-10, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5150 and 6150 before The Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey and The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judges.

Horace Kersey, 45, was tried for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) being a habitual felon and 3) being a violent habitual felon. The jury found Kersey *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of common law robbery and being a habitual felon. Because the jury did not find him guilty of robbery with a dangerous weapon, the State could not proceed on the charge of being a violent habitual felon. Judge Poovey sentenced Kersey to 146-188 months in prison.

Jaahkii Harris, 20, and Marquese Young, 25, were tried for 1) breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) possession of stolen goods. Harris and Young were co-defendants joined for trial. Based on evidence presented at trial, the State pursued charges best supported by the evidence and dismissed the charges against Young before the close of the State's evidence. The jury found Harris *guilty* of possession of stolen goods and *not guilty* of the remaining charges. Judge Bell sentenced Harris to 6-17 months in prison. Some of Harris' prior convictions include breaking or entering and attempted breaking or entering.

Maurice Berry, 36, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) felony possession of stolen goods and 3) being a habitual felon. He was sentenced to 58-82 months in prison.

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