

NEWS RELEASE

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Armed robber convicted at trial and sent to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Diego Young, 23, was tried during the week of June 9, 2014, in courtroom 5150, for two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, two counts of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, and one count of first-degree kidnapping. The jury found him *guilty* of one count of robbery with a dangerous weapon and one count of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge, declared a mistrial as to the other charges after the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. Judge Bell sentenced Young to 84-110 months in prison.

During the week, seven defendants pled guilty when their cases were called for trial:

Tysean Williams, 22, pled guilty to two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Lisa C. Bell sentenced Williams to 78-106 months in prison.

Samuel Kendrick, 48, pled guilty to second-degree kidnapping. Judge Lisa C. Bell sentenced Kendrick to 33-52 months in prison.

Alejandro Avila-Arroyo, 39, pled guilty to second-degree kidnapping. Judge Lisa C. Bell sentenced Avila-Arroyo to 20-36 months in prison. Avila-Arroyo was tried earlier this year but a mistrial was declared because the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. Avila-Arroyo chose to plead guilty in lieu of having a new trial.

Justin Stewart, 21, pled guilty to 1) misdemeanor possession of marijuana and 2) misdemeanor carrying a concealed weapon (gun). Judge Lisa C. Bell sentenced Stewart to 60 days in jail.

Omar Markabi, 18, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Lisa C. Bell sentenced Markabi to 84-125 months in prison.

Jamar Wilson, 23, pled guilty to 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana and 2) possession of a firearm by a felon. Judge W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Wilson to 17-21 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Wilson's successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. Wilson must serve 158 days in jail as one of his conditions of probation.

James Ratliff, 23, pled guilty to 1) felony fleeing to elude arrest, 2) reckless driving, 3) hit and run, 4) possession of drug paraphernalia, and 5) resisting an officer. Judge W. Robert Bell sentenced Ratliff to 10-21 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Ratliff's

successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. Ratliff must serve 45 days in jail as one of his conditions of probation.

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