

NEWS RELEASE

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Man who injured officer, drivers is among 18 convicted by Habitual Felon Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who injured an officer and two others as he fled from police was among the 18 defendants recently convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team. The defendants entered their guilty pleas during the week of June 29, 2015, in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Thirteen of those defendants were sent to prison; some were not habitual felons under North Carolina law. Court was not held on July 3, 2015, in observance of Independence Day.

Among those convicted were:

Terry Dennis, 35, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver methamphetamine, 2) serious injury by motor vehicle, 3) three counts of felony hit and run, 4) four counts of misdemeanor hit and run, 5) larceny of a motor vehicle, 6) trafficking in methamphetamine, 7) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 8) being a habitual felon. Dennis was sentenced to 220-280 months in prison, and he was ordered to pay \$14,514.15 in restitution. In November 2014, Dennis was found passed out in his vehicle at the Arboretum Shopping Center in Charlotte. When a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer attempted to check on his welfare, Dennis awoke, refused to listen to the officer's commands and then attempted to flee in his vehicle. As Dennis fled, he pinned the officer between his vehicle and a parked car, injuring the officer. During his flight, Dennis also struck four vehicles in the parking lot before rolling his vehicle on its side. With other officers in pursuit, Dennis fled on foot into the middle of Pineville-Matthews Road, causing a driver to stop to avoid hitting him. When the driver of that vehicle got out to see whether Dennis was all right, Dennis stole the vehicle and fled down Pineville-Matthews Road. Dennis then rear-ended a Ford Taurus and sideswiped a Honda Pilot, causing serious injuries to both drivers and severe property damage to all vehicles involved. Dennis was soon apprehended in the woods near the crash scene. Police discovered 335 grams of methamphetamine, a large amount of cash and two firearms in Dennis' vehicle. Some of Dennis' prior convictions include possession with the intent to sell or deliver methamphetamine, fleeing to elude arrest in a motor vehicle and common law robbery.

Jeffery Henderson, 56, pled guilty to 1) delivering cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Henderson was sentenced to 117-153 months in prison. Among Henderson's prior convictions are four convictions for possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, including two with sentences that were enhanced by convictions for being a habitual felon.

Laquan Lassiter, 29, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) attempted trafficking in cocaine and 4) being a habitual felon. Lassiter was sentenced to 77-105 months in prison.

Riccorian Smith, 35, pled guilty to 1) two counts of habitual driving while impaired and 2) being a habitual felon. Smith was sentenced to 66-92 months in prison. Some of Smith's prior convictions include fleeing to elude arrest in a motor vehicle, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and three prior convictions for driving while impaired.

Traivon Theale Allen, 37, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering, 2) two counts of possession of stolen goods and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Allen was sentenced to 90-120 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.

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