

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts domestic violence offender; 5 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Over the course of two weeks, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team convicted one defendant at trial, and five defendants were convicted when they entered guilty pleas. The trial and one guilty plea were held during the week of July 5, 2016, before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges. During a court session held during the previous week before Judge Bell, the Domestic Violence Team also convicted another four defendants who pled guilty. Court was not held on July 4, 2016, in observance of Independence Day.

Clifford McKnight, 31, was tried for 1) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, 2) assault by strangulation and 3) felony habitual misdemeanor assault. The jury found him *guilty* of assault by strangulation and felony habitual misdemeanor assault. The jury found him *not guilty* of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Judge Foust sentenced McKnight to 8-19 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending McKnight's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Amanda Sawyer, 28, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Judge Bell sentenced Sawyer to 23-40 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Sawyer's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of her probation, Sawyer must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

The following defendants entered guilty pleas on June 29, 2016:

Terry Bullock, 44, pled guilty to two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Bullock was sentenced to a total of 48-82 months in prison; those sentences were suspended pending Bullock's successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Bullock must serve 12 months in prison.

Fredrick Foster, 26, pled guilty to 1) felony habitual misdemeanor assault and 2) assault on a female. Foster was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Dontae Crittington, 36, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) felony breaking or entering and 3) assault on a female. Crittington was sentenced to 17-30 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Crittington's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Crittington must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail and complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Gerard Gill, 23, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) assault inflicting serious injury and 3) possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. Gill was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Gill's successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Gill must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail and complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

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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