

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Defendant pleads guilty mid-trial; 6 others also convicted by Domestic Violence Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team convicted seven defendants during the week of July 21, 2014. One defendant was convicted by a jury, and another pled guilty after hearing opening statements in the trial against him. Five other defendants also pled guilty to domestic violence crimes. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5170 before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judge.

After the State presented its opening statement to the jury in the trial against Emmanuel Baker, 51, the defendant decided to plead guilty. He was being tried for 1) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 3) unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Baker pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Foust sentenced Baker to 50-72 months in prison.

Bo Maney, 36, was tried for simple assault. The jury found Maney *guilty* as charged. Judge Foust sentenced Maney to 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 6 months of unsupervised probation.

The following five defendants pled guilty:

Suffallah Smith, 36, pled guilty to 1) assault on a female and 2) false imprisonment. Smith was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Marques Royal, 38, pled guilty to 1) assault by strangulation and 2) assault with a minor present. Royal was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Royal's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Johnny Covington, 26, pled guilty to assault on a female. Covington 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 Smith, 36, pled guilty to assault on a female. Smith was sentenced to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Christian Torres-Nino, 25, pled guilty to assault on a female. Torres-Nino was sentenced to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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