

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual felon who sped from police is among 20 defendants convicted

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team recently convicted 20 defendants. Sixteen of those defendants, including a habitual felon who sped away from police the day after he took cash from a restaurant cashier, were sent to prison. The defendants entered their guilty pleas during the week of July 25, 2016, in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judge. Among those convicted were:

Ronnie Octavia Edwards, 46, pled guilty to 1) felony speeding to elude arrest, 2) larceny from the person and 3) being a habitual felon. Edwards was sentenced to 103-136 months in prison. In September 2015, Edwards approached the cashier at a fast food restaurant on South Tryon Street in Charlotte and asked for change for a dollar. When the cashier opened the till drawer, Edwards lunged over the counter and grabbed approximately \$80 in cash. Patrons who saw Edwards leave in a Lincoln Navigator provided police with the license plate information. The next evening, an officer on patrol spotted the Lincoln Navigator and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. Edwards ignored the patrol car's lights and sirens, and he sped off, driving recklessly, running a stop sign and veering through a yard. Edwards eventually struck a utility pole, ran away and tried to hide in a nearby apartment complex. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's helicopter flew overhead and relayed Edwards' locations to officers, and he was apprehended. Some of Edwards' prior convictions include attempted common law robbery and multiple counts of common law robbery.

Andrew Clayton Crawford, 22, pled guilty to 1) larceny of a motor vehicle, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) being a habitual felon. Crawford was sentenced to 77-105 months in prison. Some of Crawford's prior convictions include common law robbery, possession of a stolen motor vehicle and multiple counts of conspiracy to commit common law robbery.

Frederick Antonio Williams, 26, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) being a habitual felon. Williams was sentenced to 60-84 months in prison. Some of Williams' prior convictions include felony breaking or entering, felony possession of marijuana and financial transaction card theft.

Lamarco Shamare Timmons, 40, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Timmons was sentenced to 58-82 months in prison. Some of Timmons' prior convictions include possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, possession of cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Christopher Charles Hamilton, 43, pled guilty to 1) two counts of larceny from the person and 2) being a habitual felon. Hamilton was sentenced to 58-82 months in prison. Some of Hamilton's prior convictions include attempted larceny from the person, first-degree burglary and felony breaking or entering.

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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