

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Crimes Against Property Team convicts 46 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team convicted 46 defendants during the week of July 29, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included first-degree burglary, breaking or entering, habitual breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, breaking or entering motor vehicles, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Among the defendants who pled guilty were:

Thomas Powell, 21, pled guilty to 1) first-degree burglary, 2) attempted first-degree burglary, 3) breaking or entering and 4) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Judge Evans sentenced him to 88-130 months in prison. He was also ordered to pay \$2,511.95 in restitution to the victims. In September 2012, Powell broke into a home while the victims were sleeping. A victim came downstairs and saw Powell in his living room. Ten days later, Powell broke into another home and stole numerous items. The following day, Powell attempted to break into another home while the victims were inside. The victims heard kicking at the rear door and then heard the screen being removed from a window. A victim fired a shot from a shotgun out of the window that did not hit Powell. A witness who heard the shot looked outside to see Powell running away from the victim's home with a gun in his hand.



Thomas Powell

John Polk, 43, pled guilty to obtaining property by false pretenses. Judge Evans sentenced Polk to 20-33 months in prison.

Jonathan Brown, 23, pled guilty to 1) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender, 2) breaking or entering, 3) felony larceny and 4) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Brown was sentenced to 23-48 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 12-24 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

William Legge, 23, pled guilty to 1) breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. Judge Evans sentenced Legge to a total of 20-42 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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