

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

August 13, 2015

2 defendants tried for drug crimes; 3 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Two defendants were tried for drug offenses and three additional defendants pled guilty to drug crimes during the week of August 3, 2015. The proceedings for these defendants, who were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team, were held before The Honorable Tanya T. Wallace, Superior Court Judge.

Deveon Howard, 24, was tried for 1) attempting to obtain a controlled substance by forgery or fraud, 2) injury to real property and 3) resisting a public officer. At the close of all evidence, Judge Wallace dismissed the charge of attempting to obtain a controlled substance by forgery or fraud, and the defendant then pled guilty to the remaining charges. Judge Wallace sentenced Howard to 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Cedric Kirkland, 24, was tried for 1) attempting to possess a firearm as a convicted felon and 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver a counterfeit controlled substance. When the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict, Judge Wallace declared a mistrial. The case will be scheduled for re-trial at a later date.

The following three defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

John Smith, 28, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Smith was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Smith must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Melvin Withers, 55, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) carrying a concealed gun. Withers was sentenced to 15-27 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Frederick Perry, 30, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Perry was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; 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. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

// End //