

# NEWS RELEASE

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### 3 defendants convicted in homicide cases

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team convicted three defendants in homicide cases. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge.

Among those who pled guilty and were sent to prison were:

Kendrick Tabb, 25, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon for the murder of Edward Rosen, 52. Tabb was sentenced to 125-162 months in prison. In January 2012, Tabb and a co-defendant, Briley Belk, planned to rob the Fast-Wok restaurant on East W.T. Harris Boulevard in Charlotte. Tabb went inside to case the restaurant and then left. Belk then entered the restaurant, demanded money and fatally shot Mr. Rosen, an employee at the restaurant. Belk grabbed the cash register and fled in a vehicle with Tabb. They divided the money and discarded the cash register. Belk, who previously pled guilty to second-degree murder and robbery with a dangerous weapon in the case, is awaiting sentencing.

Justin Wayne Jones, 28, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony death by motor vehicle and 2) two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury in connection with the deaths of Marie Moser Crook, 62, and Jennifer Leigh Hunt, 37. He was sentenced to a total of 93-150 months in prison. In December 2012, Jones ran a red light and struck a vehicle on Pineville-Matthews Road in Matthews. Inside the other vehicle were four occupants: Ms. Crook, Ms. Hunt and two children. Ms. Crook and Ms. Hunt were killed, and the two children were seriously injured. Several witnesses saw Jones' vehicle traveling at excessive speeds and nearly striking other vehicles shortly before the crash. At the time of the crash, Jones was driving more than 30 mph over the speed limit. His blood alcohol concentration was more than .20.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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