

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team sends 7 to prison during trial session

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted seven defendants during its latest trial session. The proceedings were held during the week of August 5, 2019, in courtrooms 5110, 5170 and 5370 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, The Honorable Casey M. Viser and The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr., Superior Court Judges.

Clifton McKinnie, 52, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, 3) felony possession of stolen goods and 4) being a habitual felon. A jury found McKinnie *guilty* of all of the underlying charges. McKinnie then admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Ervin sentenced McKinnie to 84-113 months in prison.

Cleveland Pegues, 35, was tried for 1) felony flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict for the charge of flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle. As a result, Judge Trosch declared a mistrial, and the State could not proceed on Pegues' status as a habitual felon.

Asean Chisholm, 23, was called for trial for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) being a habitual felon. During jury selection, Chisholm pled guilty to robbery with a dangerous weapon. Due to North Carolina's habitual felon laws, as applied to Chisholm's criminal record, Chisholm could have received a lower sentence if he was convicted as a habitual felon. For that reason, the District Attorney's Office dismissed Chisholm's habitual felon charge. Judge Trosch then sentenced Chisholm to 100-132 months in prison.

Jonathan Burke, 31, was called for trial for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, 3) felony conspiracy and 4) being a habitual felon. Before the trial began, Burke pled guilty as charged and admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Viser sentenced Burke to 51-74 months in prison and ordered Burke to pay \$8,730.59 in restitution. Burke's prior convictions include felony breaking or entering, possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine and possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana.

Traevon Newman, 29, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Ervin sentenced Newman to 67-93 months in prison. Newman's prior convictions include felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle and multiple counts of felony breaking or entering.

Wade Harris, 65, pled guilty to 1) attempted felony larceny and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Ervin sentenced Harris to 50-72 months in prison. Harris' prior convictions include felony breaking or entering and multiple counts of felony possession of stolen goods.

Carlos Culbert, 56, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Ervin sentenced Culbert to 8-19 months in prison.

Willie Johnson, 57, pled guilty to possession of heroin. Judge Ervin sentenced Culbert to 6-17 months in prison.

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.

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