

NEWS RELEASE

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Special Victims Team trials result in guilty verdicts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Working in multiple courtrooms, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team tried two defendants before juries during the week of July 22, 2019. Both juries found the defendants guilty, and another four defendants entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held before The Honorable W. Todd Pomeroy, The Honorable Lisa C. Bell and The Honorable Donnie Hoover, Superior Court Judges.

Brian Gleason, 45, was tried for 1) perjury, 2) misdemeanor violation of a domestic violence protective order and 3) felony stalking. The jury found him *guilty* of perjury and misdemeanor violation of a domestic violence protective order. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict for the stalking charge, and as a result, Judge Hoover declared a mistrial as to that charge. Judge Hoover then sentenced Gleason to 21-35 months in prison, as well as an additional 75 days in custody. In April 2018, Gleason pled guilty to misdemeanor stalking and felony breaking or entering for crimes against a woman. Only a few hours after he entered his guilty plea, he went before a magistrate to seek charges and a protective order against the same woman – without disclosing that she had an existing protective order against him and he had just been convicted of crimes against her. Gleason alleged that she had threatened him and followed him around the community. At trial, prosecutors used the victim's phone records and Gleason's electronic monitoring data to disprove his allegations, successfully arguing that Gleason had committed perjury and violated a protective order.

Tafari Vaughn Higgins, 32, was tried for two counts of sex offender unlawfully on school premises. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Pomeroy sentenced him to a total of 16-38 months in prison; those sentences were suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Higgins must wear an electronic monitor for 150 days and attend cognitive behavioral intervention classes.

Eric Houston, 49, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Houston to 28-46 months in prison.

William McCrorey, 27, pled guilty to assault on a female. Judge Pomeroy sentenced McCrorey to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, McCrorey must abide by a protective order and complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Michael Gustafson, 35, pled guilty to 1) misdemeanor stalking and 2) misdemeanor violation of a domestic violence protective order. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Gustafson to a total of 120 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; those sentences were suspended pending his successful

completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, he must abide by a protective order, wear an electronic monitor for 9 months and complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Lee Chester Nelson, 24, pled guilty to 1) assault on a female and 2) misdemeanor breaking or entering. Judge Bell sentenced Nelson to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail. The sentence is to run concurrently with the sentence he is currently serving.

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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