

# NEWS RELEASE

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**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**August 16, 2011**

**60 violent felons convicted in one week of court**

CHARLOTTE, NC – Sixty defendants pled guilty in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before the Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judge. The defendants entered guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 from Monday, August 8, 2011 through Friday, August 12, 2011; among them were:

Billy Thomas, 52, pled guilty to first degree statutory sex offense. Thomas was sentenced to 144-182 months in prison.

George Phillip Smith, 49, pled guilty to three counts of second degree sex offense. Smith was sentenced to 80-105 months in prison.

Kenneth Williams, 32, pled guilty to attempted second degree rape. Williams was sentenced to 84-110 months in prison.

Ronald Shoats, 21, pled guilty to malicious conduct by prisoner. Shoats was sentenced to 20-24 months in prison.

Juan Monroy, 19, pled guilty to 1) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and 2) discharging a weapon into occupied property. Monroy was sentenced to 20-33 months in prison.

Ryan Helms, 19, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) second degree kidnapping and 3) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Helms was sentenced to 44-62 months in prison.

Samuel McRae, 23, pled guilty to 1) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. McRae was sentenced to 62-85 months in prison.

Demetrius Thomas, 20, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Thomas was sentenced to 60-81 months in prison.

James Hinson, 21, pled guilty to 1) first degree burglary, 2) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) two counts of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Hinson was sentenced to 64-86 months in prison. And once released from that

sentence, he will have another sentence of 25-39 months in prison, suspended for 36 months of supervised probation.

*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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