

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Jury convicts habitual felon of Craigslist robbery

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A jury's guilty verdict sent a habitual felon who committed a robbery to prison, and another defendant was tried by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team during the week of August 10, 2015. The team prosecuted the defendants in proceedings held in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable J. Thomas Davis, Superior Court Judge.

Stephen Eugene James, 28, was tried for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 4) being a habitual felon. A jury found James *guilty* as charged, and James admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Davis sentenced James to 110-144 months in prison. The victim in this case posted an ad on Craigslist to sell an Xbox One video gaming system. In November 2013, he received a phone call from a man who said he was interested in buying the gaming system, and they arranged to make the transaction at a gas station at the corner of East W.T. Harris Boulevard and The Plaza in Charlotte. A man arrived at the gas station in a Honda Accord and approached the victim's vehicle to view the Xbox. After looking at the Xbox, the man signaled to James, who was a passenger in the Accord. James exited the vehicle and pointed a pistol at the victim while the other man took the victim's Xbox. James sold the Xbox later that day. Officers with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Violent Criminal Apprehension Team arrested James two weeks later in Statesville. In the room where James was located, officers found a pistol matching the description of the one used in the robbery. Some of James' prior convictions include felony breaking or entering, conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit common law robbery.

Brandon Eugene Martin, 29, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Davis declared a mistrial when the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the possession of cocaine charge. As a result of the mistrial, the State was unable to proceed on the habitual felon charge during this trial session.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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