

NEWS RELEASE

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53 defendants convicted of property crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team convicted 53 defendants during the week of August 26, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included breaking or entering, habitual breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, obtaining property by false pretenses, breaking or entering motor vehicles, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and failure to register as a sex offender. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Among the defendants who pled guilty were:

Terrence Jackson, 21, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering, 3) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 4) felony possession of stolen goods and 5) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Jackson was sentenced to 25-42 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Jackson must serve 60 days in the Mecklenburg County jail. Jackson was also ordered to pay \$8,450.21 in restitution. In September 2012, Jackson and an accomplice were seen running from a home with items, including a shotgun, stolen from the residence. A citizen attempted to stop the two men, but Jackson struck the person with the butt of the stolen shotgun and fled. The two suspects were soon found behind a nearby home. While Jackson was out of jail on bond and awaiting trial, a search warrant was served on his home, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg police located a stolen firearm in Jackson's bedroom. Following the second arrest, the District Attorney's Office successfully petitioned the court to have Jackson's bond revoked.

Harvey McCorkle, 23, pled guilty to 1) four counts of felony breaking or entering, 2) four counts of felony larceny and 3) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. McCorkle was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison and ordered to pay \$2,984.37 in restitution.

William Clifton, 20, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) possession of a stolen motor vehicle, 3) larceny of a motor vehicle and 4) two counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Clifton was sentenced to 21-44 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1,545 in restitution.

Albert Lee Baskins, 40, pled guilty to failure to register as a sex offender. Baskins was sentenced to 20-33 months in prison.

Matthew Tolson, 24, pled guilty to 1) felony larceny and 2) 10 counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Tolson was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 12-24 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. Tolson was ordered to pay \$4,779 in restitution. Over a period of four days in September 2012, Tolson and two others broke into 10 vehicles in Charlotte's Cotswold area, taking numerous items such as GPS devices, radar detectors, musical instruments and checkbooks. When responding to a call for service for a car break-in, officers found Tolson and the others in the process of breaking into vehicles, as well as a car that was full of stolen items from various car break-ins.

Shaka Holden, 41, pled guilty to two counts of felony breaking or entering. Holden was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Kenneth Goggins, 21, pled guilty to felony possession of a stolen vehicle. Goggins was sentenced to 7-18 months in prison.

Omar Contreras, 19, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering. Contreras was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison.

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.

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