

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **DA's Crimes Against Property Team convicts 32 defendants**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Thirty-two defendants were convicted September 2-5, 2014, by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Beecher R. Gray, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included rape, breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, obtaining property by false pretenses, and breaking or entering motor vehicles. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences. Court was closed on September 1, 2014, in observance of Labor Day.

Among the defendants convicted and sent to prison were:

Jamal Mitchell, 22, pled guilty to 1) second-degree rape, 2) felony breaking or entering and 3) seven counts of felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Mitchell was sentenced to 80-105 months in prison. In 2009, Mitchell sexually assaulted a woman in Charlotte. The crime went unsolved until March 2014, when police discovered that Mitchell's DNA, which had been placed in a DNA database, matched evidence collected in the 2009 rape. In three separate incidents in 2012 and 2013, Mitchell also broke into several vehicles and a convenience store.

Edward Wright, 36, pled guilty to 1) three counts of felony breaking or entering, 2) three counts of felony larceny and 3) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Wright was sentenced to 23-40 months in prison and ordered to \$7,230 in restitution.

Tommie Lee Martin, 39, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering 2) felony breaking or entering a trailer and 3) two counts of felony larceny. Martin was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 9-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Martin must pay \$7,700 in restitution.

Ward Weiland, 41, pled guilty to felony larceny. Weiland was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison.

Alton Chavis, 59, pled guilty to two counts of felony larceny of a motor vehicle. Chavis was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison. Chavis was also sentenced to an additional 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 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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