

NEWS RELEASE

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Crimes Against Persons Team convicts 8 during 2-week trial term

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team convicted three defendants at trial, and another five defendants pled guilty September 3-12, 2013. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5370 and 5150 before The Honorable James W. Morgan and The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judges. Court was not held on September 2, 2013, in observance of Labor Day.

Lester Perry, 22, was tried for 1) three counts of discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle and 2) carrying a concealed weapon. A jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Levinson sentenced him to a total of 96-140 months in prison. In December 2011, Perry fired multiple gunshots from a moving car at another car as his vehicle chased the victims along Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte. The chase ended when the victims drove to the entrance of a nearby police station. The passengers in the car – two adults and three children – were not injured. Perry was soon apprehended. The day before, Perry had witnessed an altercation between his mother and one of the victims. Perry's mother, who was driving the car in which he was riding during the shooting, previously pled guilty in connection with the case.

Corey Bernard Johnson, 34, was tried for 1) felony child abuse inflicting serious bodily injury and 2) felony child abuse inflicting serious physical injury. At the close of the State's evidence, Judge Morgan dismissed the charge of child abuse inflicting serious physical injury. The jury found Johnson *guilty* of child abuse inflicting serious bodily injury. Judge Morgan sentenced Johnson to 72-99 months in prison. In December 2011, a 15-month-old child was rushed to an area hospital by his mother. When the child underwent emergency surgery, doctors discovered that he'd suffered head and abdominal injuries, which were believed to be caused by shaking and blunt force trauma. Doctors estimated that the injuries occurred within the previous 24 hours. Johnson told police he'd been alone with the child while babysitting him overnight.

Julio Benitez, 40, was tried for two counts of indecent liberties with a child. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Levinson sentenced him to a total of 26-32 months in prison.

The following defendants pled guilty:

Walter Hernandez-Rosa, 25, pled guilty to attempted rape. He was sentenced to 125-210 months in prison.

Jeremy Hinson, 25, pled guilty to common law robbery. He was sentenced to 17-30 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of

supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Hinson must serve 225 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Michael Timothy Smith, 42, pled guilty to malicious conduct by a prisoner. He was sentenced to 17-21 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Smith must serve 120 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Kadeem Fetherson, 23, pled guilty to common law robbery. He was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of probations, Fetherson must serve 109 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Tysquan Meaders, 23, pled guilty to assault inflicting serious injury. He will be sentenced at a later date.

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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