

NEWS RELEASE

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Burglar, habitual thief among 33 convicted by Crimes Against Property Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Thirty-three defendants were convicted of property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of September 6, 2016. The defendants, who were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team, entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included second-degree burglary, felony breaking or entering, possession of stolen goods, financial transaction card theft and habitual larceny. Court was not held on September 5, 2016, in observance of Labor Day.

Among the convicted defendants were:

Jim Mason, 57, pled guilty to two counts of habitual larceny. He was sentenced to 18-31 months in prison. In August 2015, an employee at a Dollar General store in Charlotte saw Mason enter the store and begin to pick out several Carolina Panthers shirts and scarves. Then, Mason placed the items in his pants and headed toward the exit. Two store patrons attempted to stop Mason at the door, but he fled, dropping shirts and scarves as he ran. In February 2016, Mason entered a Family Dollar store in Charlotte and concealed in his jacket several bars of soap, packages of sausage, lighters and tubes of toothpaste. He then left the store without paying for the merchandise. Since 2008, Mason has been convicted of five previous charges of misdemeanor larceny.

Aundrey Brown, 22, pled guilty to second-degree burglary. He was sentenced to 12-24 months in prison. In March 2016, the victim awoke in her Charlotte home around 12:40 a.m. and noticed that a hallway light, which had previously been turned off, was now turned on. She then saw a man standing next to her bed with his shirt wrapped around his head. When she asked him who he was and why he was there, the man turned off the lights, grabbed the victim's keys and left the residence. Nearby officers quickly responded to the victim's 911 call, and they discovered Brown near the back of the residence, where a security bar on a sliding glass door appeared to have been broken. Police immediately placed Brown under arrest, and the victim identified him as the same man she had seen in her bedroom only moments earlier.

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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