

NEWS RELEASE

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Rapist sentenced to 32 years in prison, armed robbers plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Sex offenders, a habitual felon and armed robbers were among the 46 defendants recently convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team. During the week of September 25, 2017, the defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin and The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judges.

Among those convicted and sent to prison were:

Antonio Gaines, 52, pled guilty to 1) two counts of second-degree rape, 2) second-degree sex offense, 3) attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and 4) first-degree kidnapping. Judge Ervin sentenced Gaines to 390 months (approximately 32 years) in prison. Upon his release from prison, Gaines must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Ricky Edwards, 35, pled guilty to first-degree statutory rape. Judge Archie sentenced Edwards to 169-263 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Edwards must register as a sex offender and participate in satellite-based monitoring for the rest of his life.

John Collins, 43, pled guilty to 1) eight counts of burning personal property and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Archie sentenced Collins to 89-119 months in prison.

Steven Batista, 17, pled guilty to 1) three counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) three counts of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) attempted assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, 4) felony larceny and 5) possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Judge Ervin sentenced Batista to 51-74 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 20-36 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Douglas Ramirez, 17, pled guilty to 1) five counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) five counts of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) attempted assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, 4) first-degree burglary and 5) larceny after breaking or entering. Judge Ervin sentenced Ramirez to 51-74 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 20-36 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Travis Tudor, 35, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Archie sentenced Tudor to 13-25 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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