

NEWS RELEASE

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Juries convict 2 habitual felons; 1 pleads guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team called cases for trial during the week of September 25, 2017. Juries convicted two habitual felons, and another habitual felon pled guilty. These proceedings were held in courtrooms 5110 and 5370 before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson and The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judges.

Eric Christopher Orr, 33, was tried for 1) two counts of common law robbery, 2) felony flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle and 3) being a habitual felon. A jury found Orr *guilty* as charged. Judge Levinson continued sentencing to a later date. Orr's prior convictions include multiple counts of felony flee to elude arrest, multiple counts of felony carrying a concealed gun, possession of cocaine and possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana.

Anthony Monell Smith, 38, was tried for 1) two counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver heroin, 2) two counts of sale of heroin, 3) two counts of delivery of heroin and 4) being a habitual felon. A jury found Smith *guilty* of two counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver heroin, one count of sale of heroin, two counts of delivery of heroin and being a habitual felon. The jury found him *not guilty* of one count of sale of heroin. Judge Levinson sentenced Smith to 92-123 months in prison. Smith's prior convictions include possession with the intent to sell or deliver a counterfeit controlled substance, sale of cocaine and breaking or entering a motor vehicle.

Wesley Evay Westbrook, 32, was also called for trial. During jury selection, Judge Foust declared a mistrial. The case will be rescheduled for trial at a later date.

Deon Maurice Steele, 36, pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver heroin, 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 3) felony possession of marijuana and 4) being a habitual felon. Judge Levinson sentenced Steele to 66-92 months in prison. Steele's prior convictions include possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, felony possession of cocaine and trafficking in cocaine.

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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