

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team tries 1 and 4 other habitual felons plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team tried one defendant and convicted four others who pled guilty during the week of September 29, 2014. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5150 and 5170 before The Honorable Kevin M. Bridges and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges.

Cesar Lavandier, 41, was tried for 1) common law robbery and 2) being a habitual felon. After the jury deliberated for more than an hour, Judge Bridges declared a mistrial when it became apparent the trial would continue into the following week.

Martavious Blakley, 34, pled guilty to 1) three counts of trafficking in cocaine, 2) felony flee to elude arrest, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia and 4) being a habitual felon. He was sentenced to 88-112 months in prison. Some of Blakley's prior convictions include trafficking in cocaine, possession of cocaine and possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine.

Ladarrell Brown, 22, pled guilty to 1) possession of a stolen motor vehicle and 2) being a habitual felon. He was sentenced to 65-90 months in prison. Some of Brown's prior convictions include possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a stolen motor vehicle and breaking or entering into a motor vehicle.

James Marshall, 62, filed a motion to suppress certain evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Bridges denied the defendant's motion. Marshall then pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Bridges sentenced him to 26-44 months in prison. Some of Marshall's prior convictions include possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, assault on a female and possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

After his case was called for trial, Traevon Newman, 24, pled guilty as charged to 1) breaking or entering a motor vehicle, 2) injury to personal property and 3) misdemeanor larceny. Newman then admitted his status as a habitual felon. In his discretion, Judge Kevin M. Bridges sentenced Newman to 36-56 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Newman must serve 3 months on house arrest.

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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