

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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Habitual break-in offender pleads guilty mid-trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man charged in multiple break-ins pled guilty in the midst of his trial during the week of October 2, 2017. The trial, which was led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team, was held in courtroom 5170 before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Stephen Montgomery, 27, was tried for 1) three counts of felony breaking or entering, 2) three counts of larceny after breaking or entering, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 4) possession of a stolen motor vehicle, 5) possession of a stolen firearm, 6) five counts of felony possession of stolen goods and 7) three counts of being a habitual breaking or entering status offender.

During the presentation of the State's evidence on the fourth day of trial, Montgomery chose to plead guilty to three counts of felony breaking or entering, three counts of larceny after breaking or entering, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, possession of a stolen firearm and five counts of felony possession of stolen goods. He also admitted to one count of being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Judge Bell sentenced Montgomery to 30-48 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 16-38 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Montgomery's charges stemmed from incidents that occurred in October and November of 2016 in Charlotte. Two homes were broken into during that time period, and one of the homes was broken into twice. Property taken from the homes included firearms, televisions, jewelry and a 2008 Toyota Tundra. The Tundra was later found abandoned with some of the stolen property inside. Fingerprints collected from the rear door of the vehicle, as well as the point of entry at one of the victim's homes, matched those of Montgomery. Surveillance and receipts from pawn shops nearby showed that Montgomery pawned a television owned by one of the victims and jewelry taken from another home. When police executed a search warrant at Montgomery's home, officers found firearms and a video game system taken from the victims.

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