

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Habitual Felon Team convicts 17 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted 17 defendants October 7-9, 2013. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judge. Thirteen of those defendants were sent to prison; some were not habitual felons under North Carolina law.

Among those convicted were:

Bryan Thomas, 31, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and 3) being a habitual felon. Thomas was sentenced to 76-104 months in prison. Some of Thomas' prior convictions include attempted possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, larceny of a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm. In December 2012, Thomas shot the victim in a parking lot near the Midnight Diner in Charlotte after the victim refused to turn over his property. Witnesses saw Thomas enter the diner and change his clothes. Police soon arrived and arrested Thomas at the scene.

Brett Willis, 26, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver and 2) being a habitual felon. Willis was sentenced to 44-65 months in prison. Willis has prior convictions that include two counts of felony possession of marijuana and felony breaking or entering.

Andre Allison, 53, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) attempted trafficking in cocaine. Allison was sentenced to 30-54 months in prison. Allison has three previous convictions for possession of cocaine.

Justin Brown, 33, pled guilty to common law robbery. Brown was sentenced to 22-36 months in prison. Brown has previously been convicted in Georgia of aggravated assault and robbery.

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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