

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Habitual Felon Team convicts 23 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted 23 defendants during the week of October 26, 2015. Fifteen of those defendants were sent to prison; some were not habitual felons under North Carolina law. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in Mecklenburg County Superior Court 5350 before the Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Joseph Dwayne Holmes, 45, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) being a habitual felon. Holmes was sentenced to 79-107 months in prison. Some of Holmes' prior convictions include felony breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, and felony possession of stolen goods.

Lonnie Houston Cassell, 61, pled guilty to robbery with a dangerous weapon. Cassell was sentenced to 58-82 months in prison. Some of Cassell's prior convictions include common law robbery, assault and battery with intent to kill, and second degree burglary.

Kinani Donterri Nesbit, 37, pled guilty to 1) possession of a schedule II controlled substance, 2) breaking or entering a motor vehicle, 3) possession of burglary tools, 4) misdemeanor larceny, and 5) being a habitual felon. Nesbit was sentenced to 40-60 months in prison. Some of Nesbitt's prior convictions include possession of cocaine, sale or delivery of a controlled substance, and felony larceny.

Joseph Richard Guignard, 22, pled guilty to 1) three counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Guignard was sentenced to 92-123 months in prison. Guignard did not qualify for prosecution as a habitual felon.

Carneal Sharod Robinson, 27, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) habitual breaking or entering. Robinson was sentenced to 33-52 months in prison. Some of Robinson's convictions include felony breaking or entering and burglary.

Kavanaugh Lattrell Warren, 42, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) sale of cocaine, and 3) being a habitual felon. Warren was sentenced to 40-60 months in prison. Some of Warren's prior convictions include common law robbery, felony breaking or entering, and possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine.

In courtroom 6150 on Monday, October 26, 2015, the Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge, sentenced two defendants in a matter that was tried during the Habitual Felon Team's trial week of

October 5, 2015. On October 8, 2015, a jury convicted Ayvonne Donte Brockington, 22, of 1) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, and 3) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Levinson sentenced Brockington to 237-370 months in prison. Co-defendant Javon Caldwell, 22, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to 23-40 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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