

NEWS RELEASE

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Domestic Violence Team convicts 3 at trial; 9 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Over the course of two weeks, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team convicted three defendants at trial, and another nine defendants pled guilty. During the week of October 24, 2016, the team held administrative court before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Six defendants entered guilty pleas that week before Judge Bell. The following week, juries convicted three defendants of domestic violence crimes, and three more defendants entered guilty pleas before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge.

Kenneth Belk, 27, was tried for 1) felony habitual misdemeanor assault, 2) communicating threats and 3) assault on a female. The jury found Belk *guilty* as charged. Judge Levinson sentenced Belk to 8-19 months in prison, as well as an additional 270 days in custody.

Kadeem Curry, 25, was tried for assault on a female. The jury found Curry *guilty*. Judge Levinson sentenced Curry to 120 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Curry must serve 22 days in jail and complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Shantina Graham, 28, was tried for contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. The jury found Graham *guilty*. Graham will be sentenced at a later date.

Demontre McClure, 26, pled guilty to 1) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) felony habitual misdemeanor assault and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Bell sentenced McClure to 33-52 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 17-30 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, McClure must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Dearrico Hopkins, 32, pled guilty to 1) common law robbery and 2) assault on a female. Judge Levinson sentenced Hopkins to 17-30 months in prison.

Joshua Byrd, 31, pled guilty to 1) possession of a schedule I controlled substance and 2) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Bell sentenced Byrd to 17-30 months in prison.

James Meeks, 55, pled guilty to felony habitual misdemeanor assault. Judge Bell sentenced Meeks to 12-24 months in prison.

Kennedy Pride, 38, pled guilty to felony habitual misdemeanor assault. Judge Levinson sentenced Pride to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Pride must serve 80 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail and complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Kelly Easter, 47, pled guilty to discharging a weapon into occupied property. Judge Bell sentenced Easter to 25-42 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Easter must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Quincy Edwards, 35, pled guilty to assault on a female. Judge Levinson sentenced Edwards to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Edwards must serve 12 days in jail.

Derrick Weldon, 37, pled guilty to assault on a female. Judge Bell sentenced Weldon to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, McClure must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Antonio Martin, 24, pled guilty to 1) possession of drug paraphernalia and 2) assault on a female. Judge Bell sentenced Martin to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Martin must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

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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