

NEWS RELEASE

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21 defendants convicted of property crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty-one defendants pled guilty to property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of November 3, 2014. The defendants, who were convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team, entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included breaking or entering, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, breaking or entering a motor vehicle, conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, embezzlement and identity theft. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Among the defendants who pled guilty were:

Ronnie Moore, 25, pled guilty to seven counts of felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Moore was sentenced to a total of 24-57 months in prison. In May 2014, Moore broke into seven vehicles in Charlotte's University City area, taking items such as GPS devices, headrest televisions, wallets, checkbooks and credit cards.

Courtney Byrd, 19, pled guilty to 1) felony conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) felony breaking or entering. Byrd was sentenced to a total of 29-57 months in prison.

Xavier Davis, 20, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering. Davis was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison.

Clay Collison, 31, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering. Collison was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. Collison was ordered to pay \$1,925 in restitution.

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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