

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

November 14, 2013

DA's Homicide Team convicts 5 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Within the last week, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team has convicted five defendants. Three of the defendants entered their guilty pleas on November 7, 2013, and another two defendants entered their guilty pleas today. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, The Honorable Linwood O. Foust and The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judges.

Among those convicted were:

Christopher Huffman, 43, pled guilty today to first-degree murder. Judge Boner sentenced him to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*. Around 5:45 a.m. on January 25, 2013, Charles Michael Middleton, 62, was fatally shot just outside of his home on Elmhurst Road in Charlotte. Neighbors who heard the gunfire saw a man running from Mr. Middleton's home toward a Toyota Highlander. When police arrived, they found Mr. Middleton deceased. He'd been shot 11 times. Three days later, an Arizona Highway Patrol trooper spotted Huffman driving the Toyota Highlander. When authorities detained Huffman, investigators found the gun used in the shooting, as well as a two-week log that indicated Huffman had been watching Mr. Middleton's home and making notations when he saw other people in the area. Huffman and Mr. Middleton had known each other for years.

Nathaniel Belk, 22, pled guilty on November 7, 2013, to 1) second-degree murder and 2) first-degree kidnapping in connection with the July 2011 murder of Tevin Massey, 19. Judge Foust sentenced Belk to a total of 348-437 months in prison.

Damien Bond, 33, pled guilty on November 7, 2013, to 1) two counts of second-degree murder, 2) attempted first-degree murder, 3) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 4) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and 5) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in connection with the July 2010 murders of Keith Cox, 42, and Clayton King, 48. Judge Ervin sentenced Bond to a total of 300-378 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.

// End //