

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury verdict sends man to prison for 2018 shooting

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of November 4, 2019, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Violent Crimes Team convicted a man by jury trial for shooting his ex-girlfriend's son at close range. A jury convicted another defendant of a firearm offense, and four additional defendants entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5110 and 5370 before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell and The Honorable Casey M. Viser, Superior Court Judges.

Louis Blackmon, 58, was tried for assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury. After a two-day trial, the jury returned a verdict of *guilty* as charged. Judge Viser sentenced Blackmon to 67-93 months in prison. Blackmon had dated the victim's mother for about 15 years, and he was angry about recently being kicked out of their shared residence. In October 2018, when Blackmon saw the victim walking down Covecreek Drive in Charlotte, he approached the victim, pulled out his handgun and shot the victim four times, including once in the chest. The victim survived his injuries and testified at trial against his assailant.

Zhaymalik Phillips, 28, was tried for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Viser sentenced Phillips to 14-26 months in prison.

Michael Eiland, 29, was tried for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) three counts of second-degree kidnapping and 3) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Bell dismissed two of the kidnapping charges at the close of the State's evidence. The jury found Eiland *not guilty* of the remaining charges.

Justin Mullis, 35, pled guilty to common law robbery. Judge Viser sentenced Mullis to 15-27 months in prison.

Ahmad Watts, 21, pled guilty to conspiracy to discharge a weapon into occupied property. Judge Bell sentenced Watts to 15-27 months in prison.

Joshua Douglas, 19, pled guilty to common law robbery. Judge Viser sentenced Douglas to 12-24 months in prison.

Daniel Clarke, 24, pled guilty to common law robbery. Judge Viser sentenced Clarke to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

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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