

NEWS RELEASE

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Defendants who committed break-ins among 21 convicted of property crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty-one defendants, including several who committed break-ins, were convicted of property crimes during the week of November 9, 2015. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge. The convictions, which were secured by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team, were for crimes such as breaking or entering, larceny, identity theft, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and financial transaction card theft. Court was not held on November 11, 2015, in observance of Veterans Day.

Among the defendants sent to prison were:

Jeremy Edwards, 29, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) two counts of larceny after breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 16-29 months in prison. The charges arose from two separate incidents. In August 2008, a man returned to his home in Charlotte's University City area to find that someone had broken in and stolen televisions, jewelry, money and a checkbook. Responding officers found a cigarette butt on the back deck of the home and submitted it for DNA testing. The results were entered into a DNA database, which linked Edwards to the crime years later. In August 2013, a man watched a suspicious car pull out of his neighbor's driveway at another Charlotte home. The man called police after he checked on the home and found the back door ajar. The victim, who reported that an air soft gun had been stolen, provided surveillance footage to police that showed Edwards kicking in the victim's door.

Adam Petrucci, 25, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) larceny after breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison.

Donovan Gaines, 23, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison.

Marcus Dawson, 21, pled guilty to three counts of felony breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 7-18 months in prison.

Kenneth Foster, 34, pled guilty to 1) two counts of larceny by an employee, 2) two counts of obtaining property by false pretense and 3) two counts of felony possession of stolen goods. He was sentenced to 5-15 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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