

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Habitual Felon Team sends 18 defendants to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team recently convicted 22 defendants over the course of three days. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judge, on November 12, November 13 and November 15, 2013. Eighteen of the defendants were sent to prison; some were not habitual felons under North Carolina Law.

Among those convicted were:

Sanchez Mills, 28, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) being a habitual felon. He was sentenced to 88-118 months in prison. Mills has a criminal history that includes eight larceny of a motor vehicle convictions, two convictions for possession of a stolen motor vehicle, and a federal conviction for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Alfred Gibson, 46, pled guilty to 1) common law robbery and 2) being a habitual felon. Gibson was sentenced to 87-117 months in prison. Gibson has a criminal history that includes 11 felony breaking or entering convictions, 10 felony larceny convictions and a federal bank robbery conviction.

Brian Grantham, 35, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony larceny and 2) being a habitual felon. Grantham was sentenced to 77-105 months in prison. Grantham has prior convictions that include four counts of felony larceny, felony flee to elude and felony breaking or entering.

James Howie, 24, pled guilty to 1) felony possession of stolen goods and 2) being a habitual felon. Howie was sentenced to 51-74 months in prison. Howie has a criminal history that includes breaking or entering a motor vehicle, conspiracy to commit common law robbery and three convictions for common law robbery.

Derek Mathias, 54, pled guilty to two counts of felony breaking or entering. Mathias was sentenced to 40-66 months in prison. Mathias has prior convictions that include felony larceny, felony breaking or entering and felony possession of stolen goods.

Rodney Thomas, 46, pled guilty to 1) attempted felony larceny and 2) being a habitual felon. Thomas was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison. Thomas has prior convictions that include felony breaking or entering, robbery with a dangerous weapon and assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury.

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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