

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Burglar among 27 convicted of property crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty-seven defendants pled guilty to property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of December 8, 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 C. Thomas Edwards, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included first-degree burglary, habitual breaking or entering, corporate malfeasance, financial card theft 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:

Ricardo Gonzalez-Hernandez, 24, pled guilty to two counts of first-degree burglary. He was sentenced to 51-74 months in prison. On May 3, 2014, Gonzalez-Hernandez entered a home through an unlocked bathroom window while the residents were sleeping and took a flat screen television, a Wii gaming system and a laptop computer. On the same evening, Gonzalez-Hernandez entered another residence through an unlocked garage door and took two cellphones, a billfold and a purse.

Kevin Sims, 20, pled guilty to felony fleeing to elude arrest. Sims was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison. At the time of the crime, Sims was on supervised probation for a previous conviction. As a result, Sims' probation for that prior offense was revoked, and he must now also serve his previously suspended sentence of 14-24 months in prison.

Jaylen Barber, 19, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Barber was sentenced to 12-24 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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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