

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Juries convict defendants of involuntary manslaughter, attempted murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Two trials led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Violent Crimes Team resulted in convictions as a jury found a man guilty of involuntary manslaughter in a fatal hit-and-run case and another jury convicted a woman of attempted murder. Five other defendants entered guilty pleas. Beginning the week of November 26, 2018, the proceedings were held in courtrooms 5110, 5130 and 5370 before The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, The Honorable Joseph N. Crosswhite and The Honorable Casey M. Viser, Superior Court Judges.

Gerson Gutierrez, 27, was tried for 1) involuntary manslaughter, 2) felony hit and run, 3) reckless driving and 4) driving while license revoked. After a two-week trial, the jury found him *guilty* of involuntary manslaughter, the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor hit and run, reckless driving and driving while license revoked. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Gutierrez to 16-29 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 240 days in custody; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 60 months of supervised probation. This is the maximum punishment permitted by law. In April 2016, Gutierrez ran a stop sign on Mallard Creek Road, striking 45-year-old Keith Anthony Ricks, who was driving a motorcycle. Gutierrez then fled the scene. Mr. Ricks ultimately died from his injuries. Eyewitness testimony and physical evidence collected from the scene led to Gutierrez's arrest and conviction.

Fabiola Chavez, 38, was tried for 1) attempted first-degree murder, 2) conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and 3) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury. The jury found her *guilty* as charged. Judge Crosswhite sentenced Chavez to 336-417 months in prison.

Kenneth Boulware, 28, was tried for 1) attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle in operation and 3) assault with a deadly weapon. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. As a result, Judge Viser declared a mistrial.

Haywood Graham, 28, pled guilty to two counts of common law robbery. Judge Viser sentenced Graham to 26-42 months in prison.

Devine Logan, 25, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Logan to 20-26 months in prison.

Ulondis Edwards, 19, pled guilty to three counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Viser sentenced Edwards to 12-24 months in prison.

Sisavanh Vongphouthone, 35, pled guilty to driving while impaired. Judge Crosswhite sentenced Vongphouthone to 12 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation.

Melvin Autry, 27, pled guilty to attempted larceny from the person. Judge Viser sentenced Autry to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Autry must serve 14 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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