

NEWS RELEASE

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Crimes Against Property Team convicts 3 at trial; 5 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team tried three defendants during the week of December 16, 2013, and another five defendants pled guilty. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5150 and 5370 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans and The Honorable James W. Morgan, Superior Court Judges.

Chante Sterling, 37, was tried for 1) two counts of obtaining property by false pretense, 2) two counts of identity theft, 3) financial card theft and 4) financial card fraud. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Morgan sentenced Sterling to 13-16 months in prison. Judge Morgan also sentenced Sterling to an additional 13-16 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation.

Thomas Ervin, 49, was tried for 1) three counts of uttering a forged instrument and 2) three counts of obtaining property by false pretense. The jury returned verdicts of *guilty* on one count of uttering a forged instrument and one count of obtaining property by false pretense. The jury returned *not guilty* verdicts on the remaining charges. For the obtaining property by false pretense charge, Judge Evans sentenced Ervin to 7-18 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Ervin must serve 5 days in the Mecklenburg County jail and wear an electronic monitor for the first 90 days of his probation. For the uttering a forged instrument offense, Judge Evans sentenced Ervin to an additional 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Donnell McCaskill, 36, was tried for 1) two counts of forgery of a financial transaction card, 2) two counts of possession of a financial transaction card forgery device and 3) possession of five or more counterfeit instruments. The jury found McCaskill *guilty* on the two counts of forgery of a financial transaction card and *not guilty* on the remaining charges. Judge Evans sentenced McCaskill to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, McCaskill must serve 120 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

The following five defendants pled guilty:

Jason Conde, 31, pled guilty to 1) larceny of a firearm and 2) possession of a stolen vehicle. Conde was sentenced to 16-29 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1,375 in restitution.

David Tabron, 55, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny. Tabron was sentenced to 14-26 months in prison and ordered to pay \$500 in restitution.

Eric Byrd, 24, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny. Byrd was sentenced to 10-21 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1,245 in restitution.

Tomontre McCray, 21, pled guilty to two counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle. McCray was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, McCray must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County jail and pay \$1,300 in restitution.

Antonio Armstead, 24, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny. Armstead was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Armstead must serve 45 days in the Mecklenburg County jail and pay \$2,500 in restitution.

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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