

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team sends 19 defendants to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Working to target repeat offenders who threaten the safety of the community, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team recently convicted 19 defendants and sent each one to prison. Among those convicted were a man who seriously injured a pedestrian in a hit and run outside a local restaurant and a man who robbed a supermarket at knifepoint. The defendants entered guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge, during the week of January 6, 2020.

Jerry Wayne Goodman, 51, pled guilty to 1) felony hit and run causing serious injury or death and 2) being a habitual felon. Goodman was sentenced to 120-156 months in prison. He was also ordered to pay restitution to the victim. In March 2018, two victims were walking to their car from a Zaxby's restaurant on Albemarle Road when a silver Hyundai Sonata accelerated in their direction. One victim was able to move out of the way and sustained minor injuries. The other victim was hit head on, thrown into the air and flipped several times before landing on his head about 81 feet away. He suffered skull fractures, internal bleeding, respiratory failure, vertebrae fractures and multiple other bone fractures. Surveillance video from the restaurant captured the incident. Around the same time, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police were also investigating a report of a stolen car, which they tracked to a parking lot next to a motel on Albemarle Road. When officers located the stolen car, they discovered it had damage to the windshield and hood. Police determined this stolen car was the same car that fled the scene at Zaxby's after striking the pedestrians. As officers processed the damaged car, Goodman watched while sitting on the stairs of the motel and drinking alcohol. Officers spoke to Goodman at the scene, unaware that he was the suspect. After they watched the Zaxby's surveillance video, police were able to identify Goodman as the driver who was responsible for the hit and run. Goodman also left his fingerprints on a bottle inside the stolen car. The victim required a lengthy hospital stay and addressed the court as Goodman entered his guilty plea. Goodman's prior convictions include felony breaking or entering, felony possession of stolen goods and conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

Andre Jones, 35, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) being a habitual felon. Jones was sentenced to 130-168 months in prison. One evening in December 2018, an employee of La Unica Supermarket on South Boulevard in Charlotte was working at the cash register when Jones, wearing a face mask, approached her with a knife and demanded that she open her cash register. Jones took \$745 and two money orders from the cash register before leaving the store. Another employee followed Jones and saw him remove his face mask after the robbery. That employee was able to see Jones' face and provided Charlotte-Mecklenburg police with a physical description. Based on that information, officers were able to quickly locate Jones. Once detained, officers found La Unica's \$745 and money orders in the bag Jones

carried. Jones' prior convictions include conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, common law robbery and second-degree kidnapping.

Dondrae Stewart, 28, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) discharging a weapon into occupied property and 3) being a habitual felon. Stewart was sentenced to 117-153 months in prison. Stewart's prior convictions include larceny from the person, felony breaking or entering and possession of a stolen firearm.

James House, 32, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) being a habitual felon. House was sentenced to 85-114 months in prison. House's prior convictions include felony breaking or entering, first-degree burglary and possession of cocaine.

David Weikle, 34, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) being a habitual felon. Weikle was sentenced to 75-102 months in prison. Weikle's prior convictions include multiple counts of breaking or entering and breaking or entering a motor vehicle.

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