

NEWS RELEASE

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41 defendants convicted of property crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team recently convicted 41 defendants in Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge, during the week of January 13, 2020.

Among those convicted were:

Ralph Shaffer, 53, pled guilty to eight counts of habitual larceny. Shaffer was sentenced to 25-39 months in prison.

Brandon Silvius, 32, pled guilty to larceny by employee. Silvius was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Silvius must pay restitution to the victim business. Silvius worked as a night manager for a local restaurant and had access to the cash register. The business noticed that payments made via gift cards increased drastically, and the owners realized that Silvius was switching customers' cash payments to show as gift card payments in the system and then pocketing the cash. Between March and July of 2017, Silvius stole more than \$29,000.

Tiffany McClinton, 37, pled guilty to felony larceny. McClinton was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison.

Marcus Ogo, 21, pled guilty to 1) larceny of a motor vehicle, 2) breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 3) misdemeanor larceny. Ogo was sentenced to 9-20 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.

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