

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

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Violent Crimes Team convicts 39 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Violent Crimes Team recently convicted 39 defendants of charges such as assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The defendants entered their guilty pleas February 24-28, 2020, before The Honorable George C. Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Kievon Ratchford, 19, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Bell sentenced Ratchford to 73-100 months in prison. In January 2019, a woman was pumping gas at a Charlotte gas station when she was approached by Ratchford. He pointed a gun at her and demanded her keys. He then drove away in her car. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police found the victim's car abandoned days later. Ratchford's fingerprints were on a CD case inside her car, and the victim positively identified Ratchford as the man who robbed her.

Exavier Williams, 20, pled guilty to three counts of discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle. Williams was sentenced to 20-36 months in prison.

Tony Clark, 36, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) felony hit and run. Clark was sentenced to 17-30 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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