

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

March 20, 2015

Jury convicts habitual thief who stole from office buildings

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Wesley Boyd Patterson, a man who spent years avoiding significant jail sentences by stealing items with a value lower than what is necessary to constitute a felony charge, is now going to prison for the next 9-12 years. His trial began on March 17, 2015, and ended on March 19, 2015, when the jury returned a guilty verdict. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge. The case was prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team.

Patterson, 54, was tried for 1) felony larceny, 2) felony breaking or entering, 3) felony possession of stolen goods and 4) being a habitual felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged, and Patterson admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Sumner sentenced Patterson to 110-144 months in prison.

In January 2014, Patterson entered an office building on Fairview Road in Charlotte and stole a bag containing a laptop and an iPad, which had been left on an employee's chair inside an office. Another employee saw Patterson walking out of the office, and the victim, who'd stepped away to attend a meeting, returned to find that his bag had been stolen. The victim used the "Find my iPhone" app to track his laptop and iPad to a nearby light rail station and then saw Patterson carrying his bag. The victim flagged down a police officer, and Patterson was arrested.

Patterson, who is known to authorities for stealing items from office buildings, had multiple prior convictions for misdemeanor larceny. The punishment for a misdemeanor larceny conviction, as set out in state law, is a maximum of only a few months in jail. In the January 2014 incident, however, the DA's Habitual Felon Team was able to prosecute Patterson for *felony* larceny in part because the team utilized the habitual misdemeanor larceny law, which allows prosecutors to charge a defendant with felony larceny if he has four prior misdemeanor larceny convictions.

The Habitual Felon Team is dedicated to aggressively prosecuting defendants who repeatedly harm the community. The team's efforts are part of District Attorney Andrew Murray's ongoing commitment to target those who threaten the security and safety of Mecklenburg County.



Wesley Patterson

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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