

NEWS RELEASE

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Crimes Against Property Team convicts 32, enrolls 11 in diversion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team convicted 32 defendants during the week of April 8, 2019. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable Karen Eady-Williams, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Volarrío Dillihunt, 28, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was sentenced to 12-24 months in prison.

Cordell Peters, 19, pled guilty to 1) larceny of a motor vehicle, 2) financial card theft, 3) financial card forgery, 4) breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 5) misdemeanor larceny. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Jerry Smith, 61, pled guilty to two counts of felony habitual misdemeanor larceny. He was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison.

In addition to these proceedings, the Crimes Against Property Team also enrolled defendants in the deferred prosecution program. Deferred prosecution is made available to first-time offenders charged with a low-level, nonviolent crime, allowing eligible defendants to earn a dismissal of the charge by participating in supervised probation for about two years. Participants must comply with conditions such as community service, restitution to a victim or drug testing when appropriate. If a defendant successfully completes his or her probation and commits no new crimes, a dismissal of the charge is granted. Since March 18, 2019, the Crimes Against Property Team has enrolled 11 defendants in this program.

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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