

NEWS RELEASE

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Special Victims Team convicts 13 of sex offenses, domestic violence crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team convicted 13 defendants in Superior Court during the week of April 22, 2019. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Howard Kirkland, 34, pled guilty to 1) statutory rape, 2) statutory sexual offense and 3) two counts of indecent liberties with a child. He was sentenced to 219-232 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, he must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Robert Thomas, 20, pled guilty to 1) second-degree rape and 2) first-degree kidnapping. He was sentenced to 134-234 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Thomas must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Myquan Smith, 26, pled guilty to attempted second-degree rape. He was sentenced to 51-122 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, he must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Timothy Johnson, 24, pled guilty to 1) indecent liberties with a child and 2) attempted promotion of prostitution. He was sentenced to 46-68 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, he must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Michael Lanham, 26, pled guilty to intentional child abuse resulting in serious physical injury. He was sentenced to 46-68 months in prison.

Luis Funes, 36, pled guilty to two counts of indecent liberties with a child. He was sentenced to 16-29 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 16-29 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, he must serve an additional 150 days in custody. Upon his release from prison, Funes must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Robert McNey, 49, pled guilty to hit and run inflicting injury. He was sentenced to 12-24 months in prison.

Jimmy Taylor, 72, pled guilty to two counts of indecent liberties with a child. He was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 60 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, he must

serve 180 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail. He must also register as a sex offender for 30 years.

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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