

NEWS RELEASE

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May 7, 2014

Violent felons among 39 convicted by DA's Crimes Against Persons Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team convicted 39 defendants during the week of April 28, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted and sent to prison were:

Jorge Sosa, 22, pled guilty to 1) discharging a firearm into occupied property and 2) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Sosa was sentenced to 55-79 months in prison. In June 2013, Sosa and his cousin, Tomas Maradiaga, were involved in a disagreement with two men at a liquor house in Charlotte. The two men drove away but were followed by Sosa and Maradiaga, who soon shot at the vehicle, injuring both men inside. Maradiaga previously pled guilty in connection with the incident and was sent to prison.

Josue Mauriz, 18, pled guilty to 1) second-degree rape and 2) assault by strangulation. Mauriz was sentenced to 58-130 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Mauriz must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life and participate in satellite-based monitoring.

Derrick Richardson, 28, pled guilty to robbery with a dangerous weapon. Richardson was sentenced to 38-58 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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