

NEWS RELEASE

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Violent Crimes Team trials result in guilty verdicts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Violent Crimes Team tried two defendants before juries during the week of April 29, 2019. Both juries convicted the defendants. In addition, two other defendants entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, The Honorable Donnie Hoover, The Honorable Casey M. Viser and The Honorable Karen Eady-Williams, Superior Court Judges.

Joshua Koiyan, 20, was tried for robbery with a dangerous weapon. The jury found Koiyan *guilty* as charged. Judge Hoover sentenced Koiyan to 45-66 months in prison.

Travon Martin, 24, was tried for 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon. The jury found Martin *guilty* of two counts of felony breaking or entering and *not guilty* of robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Caldwell sentenced Martin to 12-34 months in prison. In July 2016, Martin broke into two houses in the early morning hours. Cutting himself on a window, Martin left blood behind at both homes. At the time of the crimes, Martin was wearing an electronic monitor, which showed that he was at the scenes of both break-ins. A DNA sample taken from Martin matched the blood found at both scenes.

Emmanuel Baker, 30, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Eady-Williams sentenced Baker to 15-27 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, he must serve 180 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Cetrell Newkirk, 29, pled guilty to 1) felony possession of marijuana and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Viser sentenced Newkirk to 16-29 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Newkirk must serve 16 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

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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