

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

May 17, 2013

Habitual Felon Team convicts 27, sends defendants to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted 27 defendants May 13-15, 2013. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Twenty of them were sent to prison; some were not habitual felons under North Carolina law.

Among those convicted were:

Jeremy Southern, 35, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) being a habitual felon. Southern was sentenced to 67-93 months in prison. Southern has 10 prior convictions for felony breaking or entering. In February 2012, Southern broke into Invisible Fence of Charlotte by throwing a pair of pliers at the glass door, fracturing the glass pane. He then pushed through the glass, entered the business and stole the cash box. In June 2012, Southern broke into a Smoothie King in Charlotte by smashing the glass door. He then entered the business and took cash from the register. At both businesses, investigators found Southern's fingerprints, and at the Smoothie King, they found DNA from blood smears that matched the defendant.



Jeremy Southern

Jshehaun Jones, 37, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. Jones was sentenced to 51-74 months in prison. Jones has prior convictions for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell or deliver.

Thomas Smith, 29, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. Smith was sentenced to 51-74 months in prison. Some of Smith's prior convictions include larceny of a motor vehicle and four counts of felony breaking or entering.

Brandell Norman, 24, pled guilty to 1) felony flee to elude arrest and 2) being a habitual felon. Norman was sentenced to 44-62 months in prison. Norman has prior convictions for possession of a stolen motor vehicle, felony breaking or entering and felony larceny. In December 2012, Highway Patrol officers saw Norman speeding in a stolen car in Charlotte. When they attempted to stop Norman, he sped away, reaching 110 mph on Wilkinson Boulevard and running through several stoplights. He eventually abandoned the car after crashing into a gas pump at a gas station. He was soon arrested by responding officers.

Charles Dixon, 34, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Dixon was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison. Some of Dixon's prior convictions include

common law robbery, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and selling or delivering cocaine.

Mario Reynolds, 30, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Reynolds was sentenced to 29-47 months in prison. Reynolds has prior convictions that include possession of cocaine with intent to sell or deliver and trafficking in cocaine.

Rodwyn Taylor, 24, pled guilty to two counts of felony possession of stolen goods. Taylor was sentenced to 24-48 months in prison. Taylor has prior convictions for felony larceny, felony possession of stolen goods and several counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle.

Keita Ford, 29, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine with intent to sell or deliver and 2) being a habitual felon. Ford was sentenced to 23-40 months in prison. Ford has prior convictions for robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession of cocaine with intent to sell or deliver.

Emery Hamilton, 25, pled guilty to 1) conspiracy to commit felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. Hamilton was sentenced to 23-40 months in prison. Hamilton has prior convictions that include common law robbery, felony breaking or entering, and larceny after breaking or entering.

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.

// End //