

NEWS RELEASE

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Special Victims Team convicts 8 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Eight defendants pled guilty in Mecklenburg County Superior Court this month during the Special Victims Team's administrative court weeks. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge, The Honorable Karen Eady-Williams, Superior Court Judge, and the Honorable Donnie Hoover, Superior Court Judge.

Among those who pled guilty were:

Tevin Williams, 21, pled guilty to 1) two counts of first degree rape, 2) seven counts of first degree sexual offense, 3) two counts of first degree kidnapping, 4) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 5) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 6) possession of a stolen firearm, 7) urinating in public, 8) resisting a public officer, and 9) first degree trespass. On June 1, 2017, Williams held a man and a woman at gunpoint and demanded money. Williams then ordered the two to undress. He ordered the woman to perform oral sex on the man while he raped the woman at gunpoint. Williams began to tie up the man, who was able to trip the defendant and the man and woman were able to escape to call help. The defendant was arrested and admitted to committing the offenses. Judge Bell sentenced Williams to 600-820 months in prison. Williams must register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.

Taji Brown, 30, pled guilty to five counts of indecent liberties with a child. In 2017, Brown taught fifth grade at a local elementary school. In July of 2017, a student disclosed that Brown had touched his genitals while staying at Brown's home as part of a summer camp that Brown ran. Numerous other students associated with Brown disclosed similar instances of Brown touching their genitals. Judge Bell sentenced Brown to 20-33 months in prison. Brown must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Juan Pineda-Perez, 25, pled guilty to 1) soliciting a child by computer and 2) indecent liberties with a child. Judge Bell sentenced Pineda-Perez to 27-57 months in prison. Pineda-Perez must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Luis Gomez, 43, pled guilty to indecent liberties with a child. Judge Hoover sentenced Gomez to 13-25 months in prison. Gomez must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Norman Walker, 60, pled guilty to failure to register as a sex offender. Judge Bell sentenced Walker to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence is suspended pending Walker's successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Marcelina Castillo, 38, pled guilty to two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. On May 20, 2018, Castillo followed her husband and observed him in a car with another woman. Castillo approached the two in their car and stabbed them both with a knife. Castillo admitted that she stabbed the two. Judge Hoover sentenced Castillo to 15-30 months in prison; that sentence is suspended pending Castillo's successful completion of 19 months of supervised probation.

Roman Miller, 47, pled guilty to assault on a female. Judge Eady-Williams sentenced miller to 150 days in jail.

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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