

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Burglar, pawn store thief among 28 convicted by DA's Crimes Against Property Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty-eight defendants were convicted of property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of August 10, 2015. The defendants, who were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team, entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included first-degree burglary, breaking or entering, possession of stolen goods, identity theft, insurance fraud, financial transaction card theft, embezzlement and obtaining property by false pretense.

Among the defendants who pled guilty were:

Justin Williams, 23, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 11-23 months in prison. In December 2013, police responded to an alarm call for service at a jewelry and pawn store in Charlotte's University City area. Police discovered that a door had been pried open, and several of the showcases were broken. Surveillance footage for the property showed three men wearing hooded sweatshirts entering the store at 4:37 a.m. and then shattering the cases with a crowbar and taking property, which they loaded into a duffel bag. Crime scene officers located what appeared to be blood on the showcases. That DNA evidence was collected and tested and later found to match that of Williams.

Jamoral Hill, 18, pled guilty to first-degree burglary. He was sentenced to 10-21 months in prison. In February 2015, the victims awoke to the sound of the front door of their Huntersville home being kicked in. Their cellphones and computers were stolen by intruders. Within hours, police received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Charlotte. When officers responded to the scene, the vehicle's occupants ran away. Hill was apprehended, and during an interview, he confessed to kicking in the victims' door and then acting as a lookout while others went inside and stole the items. A search of the vehicle revealed the victims' stolen cellphones and computers.

Marcus Green, 17, pled guilty to three counts of felony breaking or entering. He was sentenced to 16-38 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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