

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Habitual Felon Team sends 8 defendants to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted 11 defendants during the week of August 14, 2017. Eight of those defendants were sent to prison. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Shakeyra Shaquell Cousart, 32, pled guilty to 1) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) being a habitual felon. Cousart was sentenced to 120-169 months in prison. Cousart's prior convictions include trafficking in heroin, attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud or forgery and obtaining a controlled substance by fraud or forgery.

Michael Deandre Hollingsworth, 35, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering, 2) two counts of larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. Hollingsworth was sentenced to 51-74 months in prison. Hollingsworth's prior convictions include possession of cocaine, grand larceny and receiving stolen goods.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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