

# NEWS RELEASE

---

Spencer B. Merriweather III  
District Attorney

September 20, 2018

## 2 men convicted in uptown Charlotte shooting

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During a trial session in Superior Court, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Violent Crimes Team prosecuted three defendants for a February 2016 shooting that occurred in uptown Charlotte. The proceedings were held September 11-19, 2018, in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judge. Court was closed on September 13 and 17, 2018, due to Hurricane Florence.

Howard Wright, 31, Kevin Thompson, 31, and Dereke Bolton, 36, were joined for trial. Before the trial commenced, two of the defendants entered guilty pleas.

Wright pled guilty as charged to 1) five counts of discharging a firearm into occupied property, 2) discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle in operation, 3) conspiracy to discharge a firearm into an occupied dwelling, 4) eight counts of discharging a firearm into an occupied dwelling and 5) misdemeanor carrying a concealed gun. Judge Archie sentenced Wright to 120-168 months in prison.

Thompson pled guilty to conspiracy to discharging a firearm into an occupied dwelling. Judge Archie sentenced Thompson to 29-47 months in prison.

Bolton was then tried for 1) five counts of discharging a firearm into occupied property, 2) discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle in operation, 3) conspiracy to discharge a firearm into an occupied dwelling and 4) eight counts of discharging a firearm into an occupied dwelling. A jury found Bolton *not guilty*.

In the early morning hours of February 28, 2016, gunshots were fired outside the Hyatt Place Charlotte Downtown on South Caldwell Street. Two occupied motor vehicles and the hotel lobby were struck by gunfire. Nearby, an off-duty G4S officer saw a suspect running from the direction of the gunshots and saw a suspect get into a silver Nissan sedan. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police stopped the vehicle shortly thereafter near a parking deck on West 5th Street. Upon stopping, Wright exited the vehicle and ran from officers with a rifle in his hand, dropping the rifle and a handgun as he fled. Officers captured Wright after a brief foot chase. Police also apprehended Thompson in the driver's seat of the vehicle. Bolton was the front seat passenger.

Subsequent expert forensic analysis confirmed that the rifle and the handgun recovered from Wright were the weapons that discharged the shell casings discovered at the crime scene.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

// End //

