

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

September 20, 2019

2 habitual felons sent to prison during trial session

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted two defendants during the team's latest trial session. The proceedings were held during the week of September 9, 2019, in courtrooms 5130 and 5110 before The Honorable Julia L. Gullett and The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judges.

Curtis Howie, 47, was tried for three counts of failure to register as a sex offender. A jury found Howie *guilty* of one count of failure to register as a sex offender and *not guilty* of the remaining two counts. Howie then admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Gullett sentenced Howie to 77-96 months in prison. Howie's prior convictions include sale and delivery of cocaine, indecent liberties with a child and failure to register as a sex offender.

Broderick Taylor, 41, was called for trial for 1) three counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) seven counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) three counts of sale of cocaine, 4) three counts of delivery of cocaine and 5) being a habitual felon. Before his trial began, Taylor pled guilty as charged and admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Gullett sentenced Taylor to 96-128 months in prison. Taylor's prior convictions include common law robbery, possession of cocaine and possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine.

Damont Forte, 44, was tried for 1) trafficking in heroin, 2) possession of methamphetamine, 3) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 4) misdemeanor possession of a schedule II controlled substance and 5) possession of drug paraphernalia. A jury found Forte *not guilty*. As a result of the jury's verdict, the State could not proceed on Forte's status as a habitual felon.

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

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