

# NEWS RELEASE

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**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**September 26, 2012**

## **Property Team convicts 48 defendants, sends two sex offenders to prison**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Forty-eight defendants pled guilty to property crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court from Monday, September 17 through Friday, September 21, 2012. The defendants entered their pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable James W. Morgan, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included failing to register as a sex offender, second degree burglary, felony breaking or entering, felony larceny, larceny of a firearm, breaking or entering a motor vehicle, obtaining property by false pretense, embezzlement and financial transaction card theft.

Among those convicted were the following:

Roderick Antoine Alexander, 45, pled guilty to failing to register as a sex offender. Judge Morgan sentenced Alexander to 26-41 months in prison. He was previously convicted of second degree rape in 1993, and of failing to register as a sex offender in 2010.

Preston Applewhite, 29, pled guilty to failing to register as a sex offender. Judge Morgan sentenced Alexander to 20-33 months in prison. He was previously convicted of attempted second degree rape in 2001.

Jaquell Villegas, 17, pled guilty to second degree burglary, felony larceny of a motor vehicle, breaking or entering a motor vehicle, and misdemeanor larceny. Judge Morgan sentenced Vellegas to 10-21 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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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