

NEWS RELEASE

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Domestic Violence Team convicts 8 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team convicted eight defendants in Superior Court during the week of October 2, 2017. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

James Thomas, 56, pled guilty to 1) felony habitual misdemeanor assault and 2) felony violation of a domestic violence protective order. Thomas was sentenced to 19-32 months in prison.

Marcus Cummings, 39, pled guilty to assault by strangulation. Cummings was sentenced to 16-29 months in prison.

Edward Powers, 44, pled guilty to assault on a female. Powers was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Brandon Lockhart, 31, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering. Lockhart was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Lockhart must serve 3 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail, pay \$2,000 in restitution and undergo a psychological evaluation and comply with treatment recommendations.

Sheirmale Adams, 30, pled guilty to 1) assault on a female, 2) misdemeanor breaking or entering and 3) misdemeanor violation of a domestic violence protective order. Adams was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Adams must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Frank Joyner, 48, pled guilty to assault on a female. Joyner was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Joyner must complete a certified intervention program for batterers and continue substance abuse treatment.

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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