

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Spencer B. Merriweather III**  
District Attorney

**December 12, 2019**

## **Habitual Felon Team convicts 6 defendants**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted six defendants during its latest trial session. The proceedings were held during the week of December 2, 2019, in courtrooms 5110 and 5310 before The Honorable Casey M. Viser and The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judges.

Nickdan Stowe, 40, pled guilty to 1) sale of heroin, 2) delivery of heroin and 3) being a habitual felon. Judge Viser sentenced Stowe to 67-93 months in prison. In May 2017, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Vice and Narcotics Unit conducted an undercover operation with the help of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in an effort to seize illegal narcotics and firearms being sold in Charlotte. During that time, and over the course of several months, Stowe sold narcotics to undercover detectives on multiple occasions. On one occasion, he boasted about his abilities to make crack cocaine. Stowe also introduced a codefendant to undercover detectives and agents, and that codefendant sold illegal firearms to agents. Stowe's prior convictions include second-degree murder, felony breaking or entering and possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine.

Byron Steed, 29, was called to trial. Before his trial began, Steed pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell, manufacture or deliver heroin and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Viser sentenced Steed to 77-105 months in prison. Steed's prior convictions include possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession with the intent to sell, manufacture or deliver a schedule I controlled substance, and uttering a forged endorsement.

Antonio Gourdine, 29, was called to trial. Before his trial began, Gourdine pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 4) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Viser sentenced Gourdine to 67-93 months in prison.

Richard Jordan, 40, filed a motion to suppress evidence obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Viser, who heard evidence and arguments from the defense and an Assistant District Attorney, denied Jordan's motion. Jordan then pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Leslie Griffin, 44, pled guilty to 1) possession of methamphetamine and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Archie sentenced Griffin to 40-60 months in prison. Griffin's prior convictions include multiple counts of felony breaking or entering and breaking or entering a motor vehicle.

David Smith, 52, pled guilty to 1) two counts of attempted felony breaking or entering and 2) misdemeanor larceny. Judge Viser sentenced Smith to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Smith must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

*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.*

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