

District Attorney's Office

State of North Carolina

26th Prosecutorial District

Mecklenburg County

www.charmeckda.com

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III

District Attorney

August 9, 2021

Jury convicts habitual felon of robbing restaurant employees at gunpoint

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A habitual felon has been sentenced to more than 19 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of pointing a shotgun at the heads of three brothers and robbing them while they worked at a Charlotte pizza restaurant. The trial of Sherwood Alex was held July 28-August 5, 2021, and was held in courtroom 5110 before The Honorable Karen Eady-Williams, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team tried Alex, 41, for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. On August 5, 2021, a day after the jury's verdict, Alex admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Eady-Williams then sentenced him to a total of 234-306 months in prison.

In February 2020, three brothers working at a pizza restaurant on Beatties Ford Road were closing when they heard a ring at the restaurant's entrance. Alex, armed with a pump action shotgun, and his codefendant, Jovante McKenzie, entered the restaurant and went to the back, ordering all three victims to the ground. Alex pointed and pressed the shotgun to the victims' heads. Alex and his codefendant forced one of the brothers to open the restaurant's safe, where they found \$700. Threatening to shoot the victims, they also took the victims' cellphones and a wallet before fleeing out of the back of the store. Alex and his codefendant were driving a vehicle, but it became inoperable, and they quickly abandoned the car. Investigating police found items of clothing worn during the robbery that were thrown along the suspects' flight path, including clothing that contained Alex's and McKenzie's DNA. They also found evidence in the abandoned car linking Alex to the robbery.

McKenzie pled guilty in federal court in connection with this case and is awaiting sentencing. His case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of North Carolina.

Another defendant in an unrelated case pled guilty during the Habitual Felon Team's trial session. Chadwick Mills, 40, pled guilty to trafficking in methamphetamine. Judge Eady-Williams sentenced him to 20-33 months in prison.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

// End //

