

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team tries 2 defendants; 4 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team tried two defendants during its latest trial session. Another four defendants entered guilty pleas. The trial proceedings were held May 31-June 9, 2022, in courtrooms 5370 and 5110 before The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr. and The Honorable N. Hunt Gwyn, Superior Court Judges.

Keith Cureton, 42, was tried for 1) attempted first-degree murder, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury, 3) three counts of discharging a weapon into an occupied vehicle, 4) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and 5) being a habitual felon. The jury found Cureton *guilty* of one count of discharging a weapon into an occupied vehicle and being an habitual felon. The jury found him *not guilty* of the remaining charges. Judge Trosch then sentenced him to 76-104 months in prison. In June 2020, Cureton and another man got into a dispute over a Facebook post. The verbal dispute turned physical when Cureton punched the other man, who responded with several punches of his own. Ultimately, a gun was drawn, and Cureton fired several shots, shooting and seriously injuring the man. At trial, Cureton argued that he acted in self-defense.

Diego Young, 31, was tried for 1) first-degree burglary, 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and 4) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury. During the presentation of evidence, Young requested new counsel, which was granted by Judge Gwyn. As a result, Judge Gwyn declared a mistrial. The case will be retried at a later date.

Dana Denena, 29, pled guilty to two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Trosch sentenced Denena to a total of 30-54 months in prison.

Alphonso Sturdivant, 39, pled guilty to two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The Honorable David A. Phillips, Superior Court Judge, sentenced him to a total of 30-54 months in prison.

J-Nytre Kyler, 38, pled guilty to 1) conspiracy to discharge a weapon into occupied property, 2) possession of cocaine, 3) possession of a schedule II controlled substance, and 3) injury to personal property. Judge Trosch sentenced him to 23-37 months in prison.

William Jones, 61, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Judge Trosch 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](#).

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