

District Attorney's Office

State of North Carolina

26th Prosecutorial District

Mecklenburg County

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NEWS RELEASE

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August 24, 2022

Survivor's testimony results in jury's conviction of child molester

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A teenage survivor courageously took the stand to testify about the sexual abuse she suffered as a child during a trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team. Her testimony led a jury to find her abuser guilty, and he was sentenced to at least 29 years in prison. This case was among three cases recently tried by the Special Victims Team in Superior Court. Another three defendants entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held Aug. 8-22, 2022, in multiple courtrooms before four Superior Court Judges: The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, IV; The Honorable Kimberly Best; The Honorable J. Thomas Davis; and The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis.

Francisco Diaz-Rodriguez, 47, was tried for 1) two counts of statutory sex offense with a child by an adult and 2) two counts of sexual offense with a minor by an adult in a parental role. On August 22, 2022, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Davis sentenced him to a total of 350-600 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Diaz-Rodriguez must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. Diaz-Rodriguez was in a dating relationship with a relative of the survivor. On multiple occasions in 2018, he took advantage of a position of trust and molested the girl. She was 11 years old at the time. Originally from Mexico, the survivor decided to return to her home country after her abuser's arrest, yet she was willing to return to face Diaz-Rodriguez in court. Thanks to this 15-year-old's bravery, the assistance of local and federal authorities in transporting the survivor back to Charlotte, and the dogged persistence of the DA's Special Victims Team, justice was served for the survivor and the entire community.

Shyheim Bailey, 28, was tried for felony secret peeping. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. As a result, Judge Caldwell declared a mistrial.

Another man was tried for 1) felony habitual misdemeanor assault and 2) assault by strangulation. During the presentation of the State's evidence, a key witness was unable to participate in the trial, and the State could not proceed without the witness' testimony. As a result, the State dismissed the charges.

Patrick Brice, 49, pled guilty to felony assault on a handicapped person. Judge Lewis sentenced him to 20-36 months prison. That sentence is to be served when he completes the sentence he is currently serving for a previous conviction.

Bradley Dawson, 24, pled guilty to assault on a female. Judge Best sentenced Dawson to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Dawson must complete a certified intervention program for batterers and have no contact with the survivor.

Trey Eaves, 28, pled guilty to assault on a female. Judge Best sentenced him to 30 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Eaves must complete a certified intervention program for batterers and have no contact with the survivor.

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