

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 24, 2022

Violent Crimes Team trial session leads to guilty verdict, pleas

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During a recent two-week session, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Violent Crimes Team called cases for trial. Defendants also entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held during the weeks of August 1 and August 8, 2022, before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, The Honorable Karen Eady-Williams, and The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, Superior Court Judges.

Romeus Pitts, 31, was tried for 1) attempted murder and 2) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury. The jury found him *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and *not guilty* of attempted murder. Judge Lewis sentenced Pitts to 25-42 months in prison.

The State called Jaquez Hayes, 20, for trial. After a jury was selected but before the presentation of evidence began, Hayes pled guilty to two counts of felony flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Hayes to a total of 10-30 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

Jakeil Keller, 20, pled guilty to 34 counts of discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Keller to a total of 66-117 months in prison.

Jonathan Morel, 23, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Eady-Williams sentenced him to 12-24 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Brayon Rhodes, 25, was tried for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) first-degree kidnapping, 3) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, and 4) conspiracy to commit first-degree kidnapping. The jury found Rhodes *not guilty* of the conspiracy offenses. The jury was unable to reach unanimous verdicts on the robbery and kidnapping charges, and as a result, Judge Eady-Williams declared a mistrial as to those charges.

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 //

