

District Attorney's Office

State of North Carolina

26th Prosecutorial District

Mecklenburg County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Special Victims Team convicts 1 at trial; 3 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of September 12, 2022, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team tried one defendant before a jury and convicted another three defendants who entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Gregory R. Hayes and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges. Another defendant was called for trial for statutory sex crimes, however, he failed to appear in court. As a result, the court issued an order for his arrest.

Anthony Smith, 36, was tried for 1) breaking or entering to terrorize or injure, 2) assault on a female, 3) assault on a child under age 12, 4) injury to personal property, and 5) communicating threats. The jury found him *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor breaking or entering. The jury found him *not guilty* of the other offenses. Judge Hayes sentenced Smith to 45 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, Smith must serve 10 days in jail. He was ordered to have no contact with victim or her family.

When called for trial, Elijah Edwards, 27, pled guilty to breaking or entering to terrorize or injure. Judge Bell sentenced Edwards to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. He was ordered to have no contact with the victims and to obtain a mental health and substance abuse assessment and follow the recommended treatment.

Howard Boynton, 53, pled guilty to 1) attempted statutory rape of a child by an adult and 2) indecent liberties with a child. Judge Hayes sentenced Boynton to 156-248 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Boynton must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Elijah Grant, 37, pled guilty to obstruction of justice. Judge Hayes sentenced him to 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

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