

District Attorney's Office

State of North Carolina

26th Prosecutorial District

Mecklenburg County

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Jury convicts man of attempted murder as Habitual Felon Team leads trial session

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man with a history of weapons-related crimes has been sentenced to at least 56 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of attempting to murder two men. His case was among several prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team, which worked in three Superior Court courtrooms during the team's latest trial session. The proceedings were held September 19-27, 2022, before The Honorable Athena F. Brooks, The Honorable Jonathan W. Perry, and The Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey, Superior Court Judges.

Lionel Price, 36, was tried for 1) two counts of attempted first-degree murder, 2) two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury, 3) two counts of discharging a weapon into an occupied vehicle in operation, and 4) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty* of two counts of attempted first-degree murder, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury, two counts of discharging a firearm into occupied property, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Brooks sentenced Price to a total of 678-850 months in prison. Price is also currently serving a 100-month federal sentence for robbery with a dangerous weapon. In June 2020, the two victims were running errands together in Charlotte when they picked up Price, who was a friend of one of the victims. At some point while Price was in the backseat, he fired a gun, shooting the victim who was sitting in the front passenger seat. The other victim, who was in the driver's seat, looked back as gun smoke filled the car, and he heard several more gunshots. Then, he saw Price flee the vehicle with a gun in his hand. The victim in the passenger seat was slumped over the center console, telling the driver to go. He sped away until he saw a police officer nearby. He stopped, got out of his car, and flagged down the officer. It was only then that this victim realized he had also been shot. Both victims had been shot at least three times. At trial, the State presented evidence that Price was wearing an electronic monitor at the time of the shooting, and electronic monitoring data placed him at each location they visited that day, as well as the scene of the shooting. A tip led to the discovery of the firearm, which contained Price's DNA on the trigger guard, and a firearm analysis found that this gun was the one that fired the discharged cartridge casings that were located inside the victims' vehicle. Price's prior convictions include a federal conviction for robbery with a dangerous weapon, as well as state charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Eddy Soto, 37, was tried for assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. The jury found him *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of simple assault. Judge Poovey sentenced Soto to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail. Judge Poovey also sentenced Soto to an additional 30 days in jail after finding him in contempt of court.

Darius Danzy, 46, was tried for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. As a result, Judge Perry declared a mistrial.

Deshaun Briggs, 34, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Perry sentenced him to 31-47 months in prison.

Felix Alexander, 44, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession of cocaine. He will be sentenced at a later date.

When Damion Wyke, 48, was called for trial, he pled guilty to 1) possession of methamphetamine and 2) possession of heroin. Judge Perry sentenced him to a total of 16-38 months in prison; those sentences were suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Wyke must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Antonio Patterson, 41, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon with a minor present. Judge Perry sentenced Patterson to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

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