

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather
III
District Attorney

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Felony Crimes Team trial session leads to seven convictions

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who participated in, and bred dogs for, dog fighting was among the seven defendants convicted during a trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Felony Crimes Team. The proceedings were held during the week of October 23, 2023, before The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr. and The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, Superior Court Judges.

Just as prosecutors were set to begin the trial of Earl Hamilton, 43, he pled *guilty* to multiple charges associated with dog fighting that took place in October of 2021. A total of twenty dogs were removed from the home, many of which were suffering from various injuries and ailments that required extensive veterinary care. One of the rescued dogs had a litter of nine puppies (bred by Hamilton) while in CMPD Animal Care and Control's custody. Hamilton pled guilty to 1) five counts of felony dog fighting, 2) sixteen counts of felony animal cruelty, 3) thirteen counts misdemeanor animal cruelty, and 4) three counts of misdemeanor restraining dogs in a cruel manner. Judge Trosch sentenced Hamilton to two consecutive sentences of 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 60 months of supervised probation. Hamilton was also required to forfeit all dogs in the care of CMPD Animal Care and Control and to surrender all other dogs currently in his possession. Lastly, he was ordered not to possess, purchase, own, care for, or control any animals while on probation.

Javon Overton, 34, was tried for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. The jury found Overton *guilty* of the lesser-included offenses of common law robbery and conspiracy to commit common law robbery. Judge Keuhnert sentenced Overton to 19-32 months in prison, which will run consecutive to a sentence he is currently serving for a previous conviction. That sentence will be followed by a suspended sentence of 11-23 months pending Overton's completion of 60 months of supervised probation.

Fany Gomez-Avila, 43, was tried for 1) felony breaking and entering and 2) larceny from a merchant. A jury found her *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor larceny. Judge Trosch sentenced Gomez-Avila to 45 days in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Dervon Jones, 28, pled *guilty* to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) possession of a firearm by a felon, 3) resisting a public officer, 4) possession of drug paraphernalia, and 5) carrying a concealed gun. Judge Trosch sentenced Jones to 12-24 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Dreontis Gaddy, 31, pled *guilty* to misdemeanor fleeing to elude arrest. Judge Trosch sentenced Gaddy to 14 days in jail and gave him credit for the time he has served so far.

Tyson Person, 33, pled *guilty* to 1) felony larceny after breaking or entering, 2) felony possession of stolen goods, and 3) felony carrying a concealed gun. Judge Trosch sentenced him to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation and payment of court ordered restitution.

Thomas Vinson, 45, pled *guilty* to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver Hydrocodone and 2) misdemeanor fleeing to elude arrest. Judge Trosch sentenced Vinson to 11-23 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

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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