

NEWS RELEASE

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8 convicted as Habitual Felon Team leads trial session

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Working in three courtrooms over the course of a recent trial session, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team tried two cases and convicted six other defendants who entered guilty pleas.

The proceedings, which began April 1, 2024, were held in courtrooms 5370, 5170, and 5110 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, The Honorable George C. Bell, and The Honorable J. Thomas Davis, Superior Court Judges.

Chauncey Hardrick, 60, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering, and 3) felony flee to elude arrest. A jury found him *guilty as charged*, and Hardrick admitted habitual felon status. Judge Bell sentenced Hardrick to 77-105 months in prison.

Demont Forte, 48, was tried for 1) two counts of assault on a female, 2) false imprisonment, 3) felony flee to elude arrest, and 4) being a habitual felon. A jury found Forte *guilty as charged*. Judge Davis sentenced Forte to 78-106 months in prison.

Deronald Bailey, 36, pled guilty to 1) felony flee to elude arrest and 2) possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine. Bailey admitted his habitual felon status and Judge Ervin sentenced him to 58-82 months in prison.

Joseph Baucom, 33, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, 4) possession of drug paraphernalia, and 5) being a habitual felon. Baucom also admitted violating his probation. Judge Bell sentenced Baucom to 76-104 months in prison.

Aaron Benton, 43, pled guilty to 1) trafficking fentanyl, 2) trafficking methamphetamine, and 3) trafficking cocaine. Benton admitted his habitual felon status and Judge Ervin sentenced him to 90-120 months in prison.

Shamon Graham II, 24, pled guilty to resisting a public officer. Judge Ervin sentenced him to 30 days in custody; that sentence is suspended for 12 months, pending the defendant's successful completion of 12 months of unsupervised probation.

Derrick Johnson, 36, pled guilty to 1) trafficking methamphetamine, 2) trafficking fentanyl, 3) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 4) two counts of habitual misdemeanor assault, 5) battery of an unborn child, and 6) three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child. Johnson admitted his habitual felon status and Judge Ervin sentenced him to 70-93 months in prison.

Anthony Williams, 33, pled guilty to 1) twelve counts of trafficking cocaine, 2) two counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, 3) two counts of delivering cocaine, 4) two counts of selling cocaine, 5) possession of firearm by a convicted felon, and 6) being a habitual felon. Judge Bell sentenced Williams to 66-92 months in prison.

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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