

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather
III
District Attorney

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Felony Special Victims Team tries 2 defendants; 4 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Felony Special Victims Team convicted four defendants during a recent trial session. The proceedings, which began April 15, 2024, were held in courtrooms 5370, 5170, and 5110 before The Honorable Justin N. Davis, The Honorable J. Thomas Davis, The Honorable Bradley B. Letts, and The Honorable Matthew J. Osman, Superior Court Judges.

Christian Carson, 32, pled guilty to 1) assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, 2) assault by strangulation, and 3) breaking or entering with the intent to terrorize or injure. On September 4, 2020, the victim was returning home from work when Carson, who was known to the victim, rushed her and forced his way into her apartment where he strangled her at least three times. He then stabbed her six times with a steak knife. Carson did not permit her to leave the apartment for medical care, instead forcing her to stay in her bedroom while he cleaned up the crime scene. She was saved by her friends who were concerned when she did not reply to any calls or text messages that evening and went to her apartment to check on her. Once there, they called police and the victim answered the door appearing scared. Her friends did not believe her when she said she was fine, and one of the friends eventually went inside to find the defendant hiding in the shower. He fled from the scene, and the victim was taken to the hospital where she was treated with life-saving interventions. Judge Justin N. Davis sentenced Carson to 83 - 112 months in prison.

Ronald Irwin, 66, was tried for three counts of indecent liberties with a child. A jury found him *not guilty*.

Lemond Woodard, 34, was tried for assault on a female. On April 18, 2024, jurors indicated to the court that they were unable to reach a unanimous verdict. As a result, Judge Letts declared a mistrial. Judge Letts ordered Woodard to have no contact with the victim.

Javier Sosa Santamaria, 36, pled guilty to 1) first-degree statutory rape and 2) first-degree statutory sexual offense. Judge Justin N. Davis sentenced Santamaria to 180 - 276 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Santamaria will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

German Murillo-Cardona pled guilty to five counts of third-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. Judge J. Thomas Davis sentenced Murillo-Cardona to two consecutive suspended prison terms of 6 - 17 months each, with supervised probation for 60 months. As a condition of probation, the defendant must serve 90 days in custody. Upon his release from jail, Murillo-Cardona must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Desmond King, 31, pled guilty to preparation of obscene photographs. Judge Osman sentenced King to 45 days in jail; that sentence was suspended pending the defendant's completion of six months of unsupervised 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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