

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts man of attempted first-degree murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A jury has found a man guilty of attempted first-degree murder after he fired at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police officers in May of 2021. The trial, which was held June 4-11, 2024, took place in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Violent Crimes Team tried Shelton Smith, 36, for 1) attempted first-degree murder, 2) assault on a law enforcement officer with a firearm, and 3) being an armed habitual felon. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. During sentencing, the State argued that, because the offense was committed to prevent a lawful arrest, an aggravating factor existed. The jury agreed and found the existence of that aggravating factor. Sentencing the defendant in the presumptive range, Judge Ervin sentenced Smith to consecutive sentences totaling 334 – 425 months prison.

On May 27, 2021, detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department were investigating an armed robbery that occurred two days earlier at a motel on Reagan Dr. During the robbery, two victims were robbed at gunpoint by three suspects. Detectives had identified a Mercury Grand Marquis with a red front left quarter panel and a white bumper as the suspect vehicle in the robbery. Earlier that day, detectives identified two suspects in the robbery, then located the vehicle at a motel on Old Interstate Rd. and were able to identify Smith, whom they observed at the motel, as the third suspect. As officers moved in to arrest him, Smith fled on foot. Two officers pursued him and Smith shot at them. One officer returned fire and hit Smith, allowing them to arrest him. The officer's response was found to be legally justified.

Smith was previously tried for these and other charges related to this incident in 2022. That jury found him *guilty* of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and *not guilty* of one count of attempted first-degree murder and one count of assault on a law enforcement officer with a firearm. The jurors were unable to reach unanimous verdicts on the remaining charges and, as a result, a mistrial was declared. The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office retried the case, which resulted in this week's verdict.

Smith's co-defendants were previously convicted of charges related to the robbery.

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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