

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **3 convicted and sent to prison after trials; 4 others plead guilty**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Violent Crimes Team tried and convicted three defendants during the team's September 23, 2024 trial session in courtrooms 5110, 5150, and 5170 before the Honorable Clifton H. Smith, the Honorable Carla N. Archie, and the Honorable Donald R. Cureton, Jr., Superior Court Judges. Four other defendants pled guilty. The session concluded on October 9, 2024. One matter was heard before the Honorable Reggie E. McKnight on September 16, 2024.

De'eric Blocker, 31, was tried for 1) attempted first-degree murder, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, 3) five counts of discharging a firearm into a vehicle in operation, 4) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 5) malicious conduct by a prisoner, 6) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 7) felony possession of stolen goods, 8) misdemeanor hit and run, and 9) resisting a public officer. After a trial of more than two weeks, the jury found the defendant *guilty* of all charges except the possession of stolen goods charge, for which they returned a verdict of *not guilty*. Judge Cureton sentenced the defendant to a total of 253-328 months in prison.

Ibn Reid, 31, was tried for 1) three counts of attempted first-degree murder, 2) conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, 3) three counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, 4) five counts of discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle, and 5) fifteen counts of attempting to discharge a firearm into an occupied vehicle. The conspiracy charge was dismissed by the court before the case was submitted to the jury. After a trial of more than two weeks, the jury found Reid *guilty* of 1) one count of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, 2) four counts of discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle, and 3) fifteen counts of attempting to discharge a firearm into an occupied vehicle. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict as to the remaining charges and a mistrial was declared as to those charges. Judge Smith sentenced Reid to a total of 96-164 months in prison.

Trenton Szady, 29, was tried for assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. The jury found him *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Judge Archie sentenced the defendant to 24-41 months in prison.

While the District Attorney's Office would normally include details of these crimes, each of the above defendants has pending criminal charges in other matters. As such, we are ethically prohibited from providing further details.

Sammy Garcia, 26, pled guilty to 1) assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury and 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Smith sentenced Garcia to 120-168 months in prison. On June 18, 2021, the victim, a lineman for Duke Energy was working on power lines. As he was walking back to his work truck, he was approached by two men, one of them later identified as the defendant. Both men pointed guns at the victim and demanded his belongings. The victim gave them his cell phone and a can of tobacco. When the defendant realized that the victim did not have anything else to give, he shot the victim in the face. The defendant and his accomplice fled. Through an extensive investigation, detectives were able to develop the names of both defendants. After his arrest, the defendant admitted to robbing and shooting the victim and to destroying the firearm he used. The co-defendant previously pled guilty to charges arising from this incident.

Akeyio Stokes, 27, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Archie sentenced Stokes to 64-89 months in prison. After Stokes' release from prison, he will be on supervised probation for 24 months. As a condition of his probation, Stokes will be placed on electronic monitoring.

Kobe Jones, 23, pled guilty to discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle in operation. Judge Cureton sentenced Jones to 38-58 months in prison.

James Sims, 30, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge McKnight sentenced Sims to 15-27 months in prison; that sentence is suspended pending the defendant's successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As part of his probation, the defendant must serve 34 days in jail.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).*

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