

District Attorney's  
Office

State of North Carolina  
26th Prosecutorial District  
Mecklenburg County

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Spencer B. Merriweather  
III  
District Attorney

[www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com)

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Jury convicts man of murdering Charlotte man during attempted car break-in

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Christopher Chisholm was sentenced to life in prison after a jury found him guilty of first-degree murder and multiple other offenses for the murder of 56-year-old Robert Hopkins. The trial, which began October 21, 2024, and concluded with today's verdict, was held in courtroom 5370 before the Honorable Louis A. Trosch Jr., Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Christopher Chisholm, 29, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) three counts of possession of a stolen firearm, 4) breaking or entering a motor vehicle, and 5) being a habitual felon. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. Judge Trosch sentenced the defendant to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder charge. For the remaining charges, Judge Trosch sentenced him to consecutive sentences totaling 112-159 months in prison.

On December 20, 2019, the defendant and an unidentified male were attempting to break into vehicles in the parking lot of Ayrley Town Center. Surveillance video shows that they backed their car into a parking space two spots away from the victim's truck. The other man tried unsuccessfully to break into the car parked between them, then he tried to break into the victim's truck. After he couldn't get in, the defendant punched in the lock and began ransacking the inside of the truck. At the same time, Robert Hopkins was leaving work after attending his company's holiday party and staying late to go over plans for the house he and his wife were planning to build. As he approached his truck, he noticed the defendant in the front seat. He approached the defendant who ran to his own car and got in the driver's seat. Mr. Hopkins stood in front of the car in an attempt to stop the defendant from fleeing. Chisholm drove forward striking the victim and proceeded to run him over as he fled the scene. Two days later, the defendant was spotted by police in the car that he used to run over Mr. Hopkins and was captured after leading police on a high-speed chase. Stolen property was found inside his car and suspected blood was found on the car's undercarriage. Lab testing confirmed that the blood found on the undercarriage of the car was that of Mr. Hopkins.

*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](#), & [Instagram](#).*

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