

# NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather  
III  
District Attorney

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## Habitual Felon Team tries 3 defendants; 11 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted 14 defendants during a recent trial session that began on March 17, 2025. The sessions were held in courtrooms 5110, 5170, 5310, and 5370 before the Honorable Craig R. Collins, the Honorable Sally Kirby-Turner, the Honorable Peter B. Knight, and the Honorable Alan Z. Thornburg, Superior Court Judges.

Caezare Haynes, 36, was tried for 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. At the conclusion of the trial, Haynes also pled guilty to being a habitual felon. Judge Thornburg sentenced him to 88-118 months in prison.

On August 4, 2023, Haynes entered a Smoothie King off Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road. He was wearing distinctive clothing and shoes. He flashed a firearm in the waistband of his pants and stated, "I want it all," demanding cash from an employee. The employee gave him cash from the register then Haynes ordered the employee to empty the safe in a back office. Haynes left with an estimated \$500, then fled to his Rock Hill home. Using surveillance video and vehicle databases, officers with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department were able to identify an address in Rock Hill associated with the suspect vehicle. Through further investigation and coordination with the Rock Hill Police Department, the defendant was identified as the suspect of the robbery, and a search warrant was executed on Haynes' vehicle and residence. In the residence, detectives recovered the outfit Haynes was wearing during the robbery and found the shoes in his vehicle.

Jermell Sturdivant, 27, was tried for 1) trafficking in opioids by possession, 2) trafficking in opioids by transportation, and 3) possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a schedule II controlled substance. After the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict, a mistrial was declared. Sturdivant then pled guilty to the two trafficking charges. Judge Collins sentenced him to two consecutive sentences of 70-90 months in prison.

Kenny Bowden, 39, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering 2) larceny after breaking or entering, and 3) being a habitual felon. The jury found him *guilty* of felony breaking or entering and misdemeanor larceny after breaking or entering. Judge Knight determined the verdicts to be inconsistent and declared a mistrial on the misdemeanor larceny conviction while allowing the felony conviction to proceed further. Judge Knight also declared a mistrial during the habitual felon phase of the trial after concluding that there was a question as to

whether the defense attorney was actually appointed to represent the defendant for the habitual felon phase. Judge Knight sentenced Bowden to 20-33 months in prison.

LaDarrell Brown, 33, pled guilty to 1) felony fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, 2) being a habitual felon, 3) four counts of misdemeanor child abuse, 4) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 5) misdemeanor possession of marijuana, 6) breaking or entering to terrorize or injure, 7) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 8) first-degree burglary, 9) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 10) four counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, 11) three counts of injury to personal property, and 12) discharging a weapon into occupied property. For the first 5 charges, Judge Knight sentenced Brown to 51-74 months in prison. For the remaining charges, he was sentenced to a concurrent sentence of 65-90 months in prison.

Mykel Frazier, 39, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession of a stolen firearm. For the two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, Judge Thornburg sentenced him to two consecutive sentences of 22-36 months in prison, and a consecutive sentence of 14-16 months in prison for the remaining charge.

David Ellis, 39, pled guilty to two counts of larceny of a motor vehicle. Judge Collins sentenced him to 20-33 months in prison.

Omar Parker, 28, pled guilty to felony larceny. Judge Knight sentenced him to 7-19 months in prison.

Kendrick Baker, 41, pled guilty to 1) six counts of trafficking fentanyl, 2) four counts of trafficking methamphetamine, 3) two counts of possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a schedule I controlled substance, 4) possession with intent to sell or deliver fentanyl, 5) two counts of selling a schedule I controlled substance, 6) two counts of delivering a schedule I controlled substance, and 7) four counts of being a habitual felon. Judge Thornburg sentenced him to 88-118 months in prison.

Roderick Price, 41, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) three counts of felony fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, 3) three counts of being a habitual felon, 4) two counts of resisting a public officer, 5) no vehicle liability insurance, 6) possessing or displaying a fictitious or altered vehicle title, registration card, or tag, 7) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, and 8) felony carrying a concealed gun. Judge Thornburg sentenced him to 67-93 months in prison.

Xavier Miller, 27, pled guilty to 1) five counts of discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling or vehicle in operation, 2) two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 4) two counts of discharging a weapon into occupied property inflicting serious bodily injury, and 5) being a habitual felon. Judge Knight sentenced him to 94-125 months in prison.

Preston Whitworth, 28, pled guilty to two counts of attempted trafficking heroin or opium by sale. Judge Kirby-Turner sentenced him to 84-113 months in prison. Whitworth also admitted to violating the terms of his probation for a previous conviction. Judge Kirby-Turner revoked that probation and activated his suspended sentence of 17-30 months in prison. That sentence will run concurrent with the new sentence.

Mary Price, 45, pled guilty to 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, 3) conspiracy to commit felony breaking or entering. Judge Knight sentenced her to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Damien Norman, 32, pled guilty to larceny from the person. Judge Thornburg sentenced him to 15-27 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

Amon Wigfall, 41, pled guilty to 1) common law robbery, 2) felony larceny, and 3) being a habitual felon. Judge Thornburg sentenced him to 76-104 months in prison.

*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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