

District Attorney's  
Office  
State of North Carolina  
26th Prosecutorial District  
Mecklenburg County

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Felony Special Victims Team convicts two at trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Felony Special Victims tried and convicted two defendants during the team's recent trial session. The proceedings, which began on September 22, 2025, were held in courtrooms 5170 and 5370, before the Honorable Justin N. Davis and the Honorable Louis A. Trosch Jr., Superior Court Judges.

Laquell Thames, 29, was tried for 1) first-degree rape, 2) first-degree kidnapping, 3) assault by strangulation, 4) felony breaking or entering, and 5) communicating threats. The jury found him *guilty* of first-degree rape, first-degree kidnapping, assault by strangulation, the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor breaking or entering, and communicating threats. For the rape and kidnapping charges, Judge Trosch sentenced Thames to 240–348 months in prison. For the remaining charges, he was sentenced to a consecutive sentence of 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. Thames must also register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

On June 16, 2021, early in the day, the survivor met Thames to tell him that their relationship was over; the two had been in a dating relationship on and off for several years. When she did not answer his 112 phone calls following this meeting, he drove to her apartment, forced his way into the apartment, threatened her with a gun, strangled her, and sexually assaulted her. She managed to get away and start driving to the hospital with the defendant immediately in pursuit in his own vehicle. While the victim was on the phone with 911, the defendant followed closely behind her around the CMC University Hospital multiple times, such that she was not able to get out of her car safely and seek help at the hospital. When police arrived, the defendant abandoned his pursuit of her and proceeded to lead CMPD on a multi-vehicle chase across Charlotte.

The defendant had previously victimized this survivor in 2018 but repeatedly pressured her not to cooperate in his prosecution. On behalf of our entire community, the District Attorney's Office is grateful to this survivor for her courage in ultimately ensuring her abuser finally faced justice.

Kevin Martinez, 29, was tried for second-degree rape. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. Judge Davis sentenced him to 73-148 months in prison. Martinez must also register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Lorenza Inman, 38, pled guilty to 1) habitual misdemeanor assault and 2) intimidating a witness. Judge Trosch sentenced him to 11-23 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

*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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