

NEWS RELEASE

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III**
District Attorney

July 21, 2026

Mid-year Homicide Team report for January-June 2026

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Continuing their work to protect the community from Mecklenburg County's most violent offenders, the District Attorney's Homicide Team convicted 75 defendants between January and June 2026. In that time, the team tried 6 defendants – 5 of whom were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Last year's office restructuring and the additional prosecutor positions provided by HB 307 allowed the Homicide Team to add a prosecutor to the team bringing their total to 13 ADAs. Throughout the first half of the year, members of the Homicide Team regularly participated in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Homicide Support Group, meeting with victims' loved ones and answering their questions about the criminal justice system. The Homicide Team also reviewed two officer-involved shootings.

The following defendants were convicted by the Homicide Team between January and June:

January 2026

Hubert Wilkinson, 34, was tried for 1) first-degree murder, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, and 3) attempted first-degree murder in the 2020 shooting that killed 44-year-old Lawrence Crank and injured another man. The jury found him guilty as charged. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the first-degree murder charge and a consecutive sentence of 180-228 months in prison for the attempted first-degree murder charge. Judgment was arrested for the remaining charge.

Ayyad Sukkar, 26, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder, 2) common law robbery, and 3) financial card theft in the 2024 death of 36-year-old Corey Robinson. Sukkar was sentenced to 238-298 months in prison.

LaSha Big Eagle, 38, pled guilty to 1) accessory after the fact to robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) identity theft. She was sentenced to 15-27 months in prison.

Desmond Dunlap, 23, pled guilty to second-degree murder in the 2024 death of 79-year-old Fred Dunlap. He was sentenced to 240-300 months in prison.

Da'marion Godfrey, 18, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon in the 2024 murder of 17-year-old Melakah Corbette. He was sentenced to 125-162 months in prison.

Kenya Venable, 24, pled guilty to second-degree murder in the 2024 murder of 21-year-old Natajah Johnson. Venable was sentenced to 157-201 months in prison.

February 2026

Antonio Rollins, 33, was tried for 1) first-degree murder and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in the 2020 shooting death of 25-year-old Demarcus Mack. The jury found him guilty as charged. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Laquan Hoe, 32, pled guilty to second-degree murder for the 2024 murder of 30-year-old Aundrey Brown. He was sentenced to 190-240 months in prison.

Sir-Anthony Hepburn, 24, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon in the 2022 murder of 19-year-old Yimere Joyner. Hepburn was sentenced to 157-201 months in prison.

Keshawn Boyd, 28, pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the 2025 death of 15-year-old Matthias Crockett. He was sentenced to 48-70 months in prison.

Josiah Small, 18, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) conspiracy to commit discharging a weapon into a vehicle in operation for the 2025 murder of 19-year-old Jaquan Pearson. He was sentenced to 125-162 months in prison.

March 2026

Derek Johnson Jr., 22, was tried for first-degree murder for the 2020 shooting death of 28-year-old Marcus Withers. After the jurors informed the court that they had been unable to reach a verdict, Johnson decided to plead guilty to second-degree murder. He was sentenced to 157-201 months in prison.

Jabari Walker, 14, pled guilty to second-degree murder for the 2025 murder of 20-year-old Emily Alvarez. He was sentenced to 192-243 months in prison.

Maiseo Caldwell, 21, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) conspiracy to commit first-degree burglary in the 2024 murder of 36-year-old Cordarrell Houston. He was sentenced to 125-162 months in prison.

Quavon Strother, 20, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) conspiracy to commit first-degree burglary in the 2024 murder of 36-year-old Cordarrell Houston. He was sentenced to 125-162 months in prison.

April 2026

Dean Tate, 50, pled guilty to second-degree murder in the 2024 murder of 53-year-old Robert Long Jr. Tate was sentenced to 360-444 months in prison.

Sharrieff Gray, 54, pled guilty to second-degree murder for the 2024 murder of 53-year-old Ronnie Ruth. Gray was sentenced to 240-300 months in prison.

Jeremiah Childers, 18, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon for the 2024 murder of 18-year-old Zakary Rieken. Childers was sentenced to 125-162 months in prison.

Sanjie Johnson, 19, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon for the 2024 murder of 18-year-old Zakary Rieken. Johnson was sentenced to 157-201 months in prison.

William Bordsen, 40, pled guilty to second-degree murder in the 2025 murder of 65-year-old Robert Murphy. Bordsen was sentenced to 180-228 months in prison.

May 2026

Ebonee Rahman, 45, pled guilty to second-degree murder for the 2024 murder of 42-year-old Lashunda McClendon. Rahman was sentenced to 292-363 months in prison.

Jamotis Watkins, 20, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury for the 2024 murder of 22-year-old Derrick Baker. Watkins was sentenced to 192-243 months in prison.

Rebecca Oxendine, 43, pled guilty to second-degree murder for the 2025 murder of 61-year-old Loren Dudley. She was sentenced to 165-210 months in prison.

Steven Staples, 37, pled guilty to 1) three counts of second-degree murder, 2) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) two counts of first-degree kidnapping, 4) first-degree burglary, 5) robbery with a dangerous weapon, and 6) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. The charges stemmed from the 2019 shooting death of 40-year-old Anthony Leakes and the 2020 murders of 35-year-old Siojvon Joseph and Asa Shannon who was also 35 years old. Staples was sentenced to 264-329 months in prison. The sentence will run concurrently with a life sentence Staples is serving for a previous murder conviction.

June 2026

Emmanuel Collins, 28, was tried for first-degree murder for the 2020 shooting death of 52-year-old Jessie Hurley. The jury found him guilty as charged. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Dimas Ramirez pled guilty as charged when he was called for trial for the 2024 vehicular death of his uncle, 39-year-old Abigail Romero. Ramirez, 24, pled guilty to 1) felony death by vehicle, 2) involuntary manslaughter, 3) no operator's license, 4) operating a vehicle with no insurance, and 5) reckless driving to endanger. He was sentenced to 64-89 months in prison.

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

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