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

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

www.charmeckda.com

NEWS RELEASE

November 24, 2026

DA's Office concludes criminal matter involving unreturned rental vehicle

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Over the last few weeks, this office has received a series of media inquiries related to a criminal matter involving LaKesha Womack, a defendant who had been charged with Felony Failure to Return Hired Property, arising from the failure to return a car to a rental dealer in Fall 2019. This office strictly observes Rules 3.6 and 3.8 of the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct, but, in light of recent public discourse related to the case, including statements from the Defendant, the public interest compels the State to offer some limited facts related to the disposition of this case, all of which have been similarly offered in a filing with the court today.

The vehicle that was the subject of the summons was originally transferred to the Defendant's possession, per rental agreement, on August 27, 2019. That rental was renewed on two occasions, with the third and final rental period beginning on October 7, 2019. It was not returned to the rental dealer until it was recovered by local law enforcement and returned to the dealer on December 4, 2019. On January 14, 2020, a criminal summons for Felony Failure to Return Hired Property was secured against the Defendant. Law enforcement regularly executes service of summons, and, in this case, such service was completed on October 11, 2026. On November 10, 2026, the defendant's case was scheduled for First Appearance in Mecklenburg County District Court, and the Defendant's appearance was waived as Counsel for the Defendant appeared in her absence.

That court date represented both the District Attorney's Office first substantive engagement with this case and the beginning of this office's review of the matter.

On November 16, 2026, this office was informed of an agreement reached between Defendant Womack and the rental dealer. In the days that followed, we were able to confirm that the victim rental corporation received a sum of money from the Defendant equal to an assessed rental cost from the day the vehicle was deemed overdue until the day it came back into the possession of the victim corporation. In a subsequent phone call with a prosecutor, representatives for the victim rental corporation said explicitly that the corporation did not wish to proceed further with prosecution and considered the matter resolved. Taking these sentiments into account and considering that the outstanding losses from the rental were fully restored, the State has submitted a Voluntary Dismissal of the charge against the Defendant, with prejudice. Accordingly, with the matter closed, the District Attorney's Office will offer no further comment.

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

// End //