



NEWS RELEASE

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GUILTY PLEAS IN ROBBERY AND ASSAULT CASES

Three more defendants charged in a series of robberies and assaults in Denver last year have pleaded guilty today in Denver District Court; here is a status update on their cases –

Merkel Jones (dob: 12-21-86), charged earlier with *robbery* (F4) and *third degree-assault* (M1) in connection with an attack on November 18, 2009 at 16th Street and Stout Street, pleaded guilty today to *robbery* (F4). Jones went to immediate sentencing and was sentenced to a two-year deferred judgment. Co-defendant **James Sherman** (dob: 03-17-83) pleaded guilty last month to theft (F5) in connection with this case and is scheduled to be sentenced May 4, 2010.

Denita Mayfield (dob: 01-16-86), charged earlier with *attempted robbery* (F5) and *bias- motivated crime* (F4) in connection with an attack that took place on August 30, 2009 at 19th Street and Blake Street, pleaded guilty to *attempted robbery* (F5). Mayfield is scheduled for sentencing May 5, 2009. Co-defendants **Deven Cunningham** (dob: 01-18-89) and **Bertrande Uhde** (dob: 12-31-88) are scheduled for a disposition/motions hearing on May 18, 2010 and a trial May 19, 2010, respectively.

Christopher Rodney (dob: 05-09-91), charged earlier with *first-degree assault* (F3) and *aggravated robbery* (F3) in connection with an attack that took place on November 9, 2009 at 1550 Broadway, pleaded guilty to *robbery* (F4) and *second-degree assault* (F4). Rodney is scheduled for sentencing June 1, 2010. Co-defendant **Ashley Celestine** (02-05-92) pleaded guilty and was sentenced earlier this month to a two-year supervised deferred judgment.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See Colo. RPC 3.6*

