



JASON W. SMITH  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*State of North Carolina*  
**General Court of Justice**  
**Sixth Prosecutorial District**  
Wilmington, NC 28402

POST OFFICE BOX 352  
PHONE: (910) 772-6610  
FAX: (910) 772-6611

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Contact: Samantha Dooies, Public Information Officer

[Samantha.Dooies@nccourts.org](mailto:Samantha.Dooies@nccourts.org)

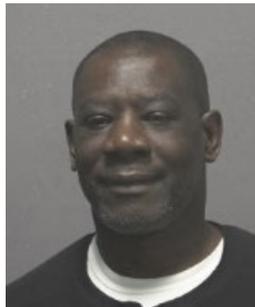
(910)-772-6934

### **Habitual Felon Sentenced to Over 11 Years in Prison for Retail Store Crime Spree**

Leon Ross Jr., age 60 of Wilmington, pled guilty last week to 16 counts of Habitual Larceny arising from thefts from Wilmington retail stores beginning in November of 2024. A person qualifies for the charge of Habitual Larceny if they commit any larceny and have been previously convicted of larceny four times. Ross has an extensive criminal record with multiple felony larceny and misdemeanor larceny convictions, breaking and entering convictions, robbery convictions, and assault convictions among other convictions.

Wilmington Police Department Detectives Petrone, Mitchell, Speight, Early, and Klemm began investigating Ross after he was caught on surveillance footage at Lululemon at Mayfaire in November 2024 stealing \$2,000 of merchandise. From November 2024 until December of 2025, Ross continued to commit multiple larcenies at Wilmington retail stores including Home Sense, Belk, Dick's Sporting Goods, Buckle, H&M, Rack Room Shoes, and Ulta. Throughout the past year, when Ross was arrested for new larcenies, he either received a low bond or have his bond unsecured by the presiding District Court Judge. Despite being placed on electronic monitoring as a condition of his pretrial release, Ross continued to steal from stores in December 2025 while wearing an ankle monitor.

Superior Court Judge Frank Jones sentenced Ross as Habitual Felon, ordering Ross to serve a 128–166-month active sentence followed by a 12-24 month active sentence. Judge Jones also ordered that Ross pay restitution in the amount of \$13,648 if he is granted work release as part of post release supervision.



Leon Ross, Jr.