

Man convicted for 54th time

BY KEITH EPPS / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

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A man with 53 previous criminal convictions was ordered Tuesday to serve four years in prison for his 54th—stealing a cellphone and other property from a woman who was visiting her sick husband in the hospital.

Richard Lee Washington Jr., 56, of Milford was convicted of grand larceny in Fredericksburg Circuit Court. Judge Gordon Willis sentenced him at the high end of the recommended state sentencing guidelines.

Prosecutor Travis Bird asked the judge to “warehouse” Washington for the good of the public.

“He has proven over and over that there’s no rehabilitating him,” Bird said.

Washington’s latest conviction stemmed from a Jan. 18 incident at Mary Washington Hospital. The victim, who is in her 50s, was sleeping in the waiting room while her phone was charging. Her husband was in intensive care.

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When she woke up, her phone and power adaptor were gone.

Police tied Washington to the crime after a hospital surveillance camera showed him taking the phone. An employee also remembered seeing him in the hospital that night.

Washington’s criminal history began in 1977 and includes multiple convictions for larceny, burglary and being drunk in public.

He has also been convicted of forcible sodomy, assaulting a police officer and failing to register as a sex offender.

Washington's criminal record could soon get even longer. He is charged with abduction and assault in Caroline County and has a trial scheduled there on Aug. 22.

Keith Epps: 540/374-5404

kepps@freelancestar.com