

Burglar gets seven years

City man sentenced for role in Shaffer Street home burglary

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A Lynchburg man was sentenced Friday to seven years in prison for his role in a Shaffer Street home burglary last year.

Patrick D. Sales, 22, pleaded guilty in June to charges of statutory burglary and using a firearm in a felony.

Sales and three others broke into

the house around 2:30 a.m. May 10, 2005, said Chuck Felmlee, Lynchburg deputy commonwealth's attorney.

The burglars fled empty-handed minutes later and exchanged fire with the residents.

Sales was hit in the leg. Police found him by the road.

"I'd like to say I know I was wrong," Sales said Friday. "I committed a terrible crime."

Besides his seven-year sentence,

Sales received 11 years of suspended time.

He won't serve the suspended time unless he violates conditions of his sentence.

Three other Lynchburg men have pleaded guilty to taking part in the break-in.

Jarrold S. Terrell, 22, was sentenced in August to 16 years in prison with 27 suspended.

Jarvis A. Sales, 20, was sentenced in

September to eight years in prison with 32 suspended.

Darnell O. Goins, 21, is set for sentencing on Oct. 27.

The three pleaded guilty to six felony charges each. Terrell's sentence included an unrelated drug charge.

The burglary was Patrick Sales' idea, Felmlee said, but he talked with

police about the others, so prosecutors charged him with fewer crimes.

"I have to admit the defendant was

extremely helpful in solving this case," Felmlee said.

The four chose the house because Patrick Sales had a long-standing grudge against a resident, Felmlee said.

They also thought the residents were drug dealers loaded with cash, Felmlee said.

Three of the five who were home at the time have since been charged with federal drug crimes.