

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team convicts 47 felons

Forty-seven defendants pled guilty to felony drug crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court from Monday, April 19, to Friday, April 23. The defendants entered their pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included possessing, selling, and trafficking in illegal drugs. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences of 70-84 months for Jarod Sturdivant and Audon Tinoco for trafficking in drugs. Sturdivant was fined \$100,000 and Tinoco was fined \$50,000.

Note: Almost all guilty pleas entered in criminal administrative court are the result of an agreed upon plea arrangement between the State and the defendant, which is then approved by the sentencing judge. For more information about why most cases must be resolved by plea negotiation instead of jury trial, please visit the "Understanding Criminal Court" section of the DA's website at www.charmeckda.com.

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