

NEWS RELEASE

Peter S. Gilchrist, III
District Attorney

June 7, 2010

Trials, motions, and guilty pleas with Drug Prosecution Team, May 10-15

The DA's drug prosecution team held court in three courtrooms during the week of May 10 to May 15, 2010. The Honorable F. Lane Williamson, Superior Court Judge, presided over criminal courtroom 5150. The Honorable Michael Beale, Superior Court Judge, presided over criminal courtroom 5370. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy, Superior Court Judge, presided over criminal court 5130.

TRIAL: William Jones, age 29, was tried before a jury for felony possession of marijuana. The jury found Jones guilty and Jones admitted his habitual felon status. Judge Beale sentenced Jones to 84-110 months in prison.

TRIAL: William Bailey, aka Devontray Brooks, age 30, was previously found guilty by a jury for felony possession of marijuana. Judge Murphy sentenced Bailey to 9-11 months in prison after two juries could not reach a unanimous verdict as to whether Bailey was guilty of being a habitual felon.

TRIAL: Treon Livingston, age 26, was tried before a jury for possession of cocaine. The jury found Livingston *not guilty*.

TRIAL: After the trial of Lavant Jackson, age 28, began, Jackson pled guilty to 1) possession of MDMA (ecstasy) and 2) possession of BZP. Judge Williamson sentenced Jackson to 8-10 months, suspended for a period of 24 months probation. As a condition of probation, Jackson will serve an active sentence of 75 days in jail.

TRIAL: Another trial was of a defendant whose name is being withheld since the case is still pending. The defendant was tried for a felony drug offense. The jury could not reach a unanimous verdict. The presiding judge declared a mistrial.

Several other defendants pled guilty before their trials began and some pre-trial motions were argued; some of them included:

The defense filed a pre-trial motion to suppress the evidence seized from Jason Wright, age 30. After arguments from both sides, Judge Williamson denied the motion. Wright pled guilty to trafficking in heroin. Judge Williamson sentenced Wright to 70-84 months in prison and fined him \$50,000.

Montario Hall, age 26, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Beale sentenced Hall to 90-117 months in prison.

Olantamus Goode, age 31, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Williamson sentenced Goode to 8-10 months, suspended for a period of 24 months probation. As a condition of probation, Goode will serve an active sentence of 60 days in jail.

John Martin, age 37, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) possession of MDMA (ecstasy) and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Williamson sentenced Martin to 6-8 months, suspended for a period of 24 months probation. As a condition of probation, Martin will serve an active sentence of 25 days in jail.

Keith Thomas, age 27, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) resisting a public officer. Judge Williamson sentenced Thomas to 6-8 months, suspended for a period of 24 months probation. As a condition of probation, Thomas will serve an active sentence of 30 days in jail.

Another defense pre-trial motion to suppress was heard. The motion was denied and the defendant's name is being withheld since the case is still pending. The jury trial will be held at a later date.

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