

NEWS RELEASE

Peter S. Gilchrist, III
District Attorney

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Drug Team convicts 58 felons from August 10-14

Fifty-eight defendants pled guilty to felonies last week in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in administrative courtroom 5310 from Monday, August 10, to Friday, August 14, 2009. The convictions were for felonies including attempted trafficking, selling, possessing with the intent to sell or deliver, and possessing illegal drugs. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to Christopher Graham's active prison sentence. Graham, age 39, was sentenced to 80-105 months in prison for possession of cocaine and being a habitual felon. Graham's prior convictions include common law robbery, larceny of a motor vehicle, felony breaking or entering (twice), felony larceny (twice), driving while impaired, uttering a forged instrument, assault on a female, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, and misdemeanor larceny. Graham was also sentenced to prison for five years as an habitual felon in 1996. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy, Superior Court Judge, presided.

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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