

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Peter S. Gilchrist, III**  
District Attorney

**August 20, 2010**

## **Drug Team convicts 111 felons**

One-hundred eleven defendants pled guilty to felony drug crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court from Monday, August 16, to Friday, August 20, 2010. The defendants entered their pleas in courtrooms 5310 and 5350 before The Honorable James W. Morgan and The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judges. 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 Jose Mercado's active prison sentence of 45-54 months for drug trafficking.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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