

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team convicts 56 felons

Fifty-six defendants pled guilty to felony drug crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court from Monday, October 5, to Friday, October 9. The defendants entered their pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, 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 Eliseo Hernandez-Lopez's active prison sentence of 70-84 months for trafficking in cocaine. Hernandez-Lopez was also fined \$100,000.

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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