

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Spencer B. Merriweather III**  
District Attorney

**January 23, 2018**

## **Heroin, cocaine traffickers among 12 convicted of drug crimes**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Over the course of two days, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 12 defendants. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judge, on January 16, 2018, and January 19, 2018. 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. Court was not held on January 15, 2018, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and court was closed January 17-18, 2018, due to inclement weather.

Among the defendants who were convicted and sent to prison were:

Tanaka McClure, 41, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. McClure was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In January 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police assisted federal probation officers in conducting a search of McClure's residence. They located a firearm and approximately 31 grams of heroin during the search.

Kevin Alford, 41, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by sale. Alford was sentenced to 35-51 months in prison.

Troy Kirkpatrick, 35, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession, 2) possession of cocaine and 3) felony habitual misdemeanor assault. Kirkpatrick was sentenced to 22-45 months in prison.

*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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