

NEWS RELEASE

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January 25, 2017

DA's Drug Team sends heroin traffickers to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Several heroin traffickers were among the 38 defendants recently convicted in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants, who were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Drug Team, entered their guilty pleas January 17-20, 2017, in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, 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 active prison sentences. Court was not held on January 16, 2017, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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

Michael McCart, 29, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. McCart was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison. In July 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police conducted surveillance of McCart after learning that he was involved in selling narcotics. Officers observed McCart engage in drug transactions and then made contact with him. McCart had heroin on his person and indicated that he had more inside of his hotel room. McCart allowed detectives to search his hotel room, where detectives located more than 30 grams of heroin.

Antonio Hill, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Hill was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison. In April 2016, undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg police arranged to make a purchase of heroin from Hill. He agreed to sell an undercover officer 7 grams of heroin for \$500. After Hill completed the sale, he was arrested in his car. Officers located more than 50 grams of heroin and a firearm in Hill's trunk.

David Preston Scott, 24, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Scott was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

April Vaughn, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in methamphetamine by possession. Vaughn was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

David Wylie, 29, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Wylie was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Jose Cortes-Romero, 18, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Cortes-Romero was sentenced to 36-53 months in prison.

Carl Byous, 41, pled guilty to selling MDEA. Byous was sentenced to 20-33 months in prison.

Aaron Worth, 28, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) selling cocaine. Worth was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison.

Daly Douk, 34, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in marijuana by transportation. Douk was sentenced to 5-15 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.

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