

NEWS RELEASE

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Heroin traffickers among 40 convicted by Drug Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 40 defendants January 21-24, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, 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.

Among the defendants who pled guilty and were sent to prison were:

Anthony Guillen-Melendez, 20, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. He was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Amber Alvarez, 31, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. She was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Nikola Radakovic, 25, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. He was sentenced to 70-93 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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