

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Drug Team tries 1 defendant; 6 others plead guilty before trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team tried one defendant and convicted six others who pled guilty February 3-11, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Richard D. Boner and The Honorable Martin B. McGee, Superior Court Judges.

A 29-year-old male was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by transportation, 2) trafficking in cocaine by possession, 3) trafficking in cocaine by delivery, 4) conspiracy to traffic in cocaine by sale and 5) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict, and as a result, Judge Boner declared a mistrial. The case will be scheduled for re-trial at a later date.

The following six defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Ervin Goode, 22, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession of cocaine. Goode was sentenced to 17-30 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Goode must serve 187 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Chinelo Ray, 33, pled guilty to 1) selling MDMA (ecstasy) and 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver MDMA. Ray was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Ray must serve 60 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Tevaris Boyd, 29, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Boyd was sentenced to 12-24 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Boyd must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

James Cherry, 44, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Cherry was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Cherry must serve 4 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Lakisha Smalls, 32, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge McGee sentenced Smalls to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Nahom Tessema, 22, pled guilty to felony possession of marijuana. Tessema was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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