

NEWS RELEASE

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February 26, 2014

Heroin traffickers among 53 convicted by DA's Drug Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of February 17, 2014, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 53 defendants in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Beecher R. Gray, 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:

Alfonso Arechia, 20, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Judge Gray sentenced him to 70-93 months in prison. In June 2013, Arechia sold six balloons of heroin for \$600 to an undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer.

Gabino Moreno, 31, pled guilty to trafficking heroin by transportation. He was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Edwin Gonzalez, 21, pled guilty to trafficking heroin by transportation. He was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Roy Hayden, 30, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) selling heroin. He was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Edwardo Guzman, 19, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. He was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Anthony Coleman, 45, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. He was sentenced to 36-53 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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