

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury's verdict sends cocaine trafficker to prison; another defendant pleads guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A cocaine trafficker was sent to prison this week after a jury found him guilty of multiple drug offenses. The proceedings were led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team beginning February 27, 2017, and ending today before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge. Another defendant pled guilty before his case was called for trial.

Jamier Heard, 33, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession, 2) trafficking in cocaine by transportation, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 4) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver, 5) carrying a concealed gun and 6) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury found Heard *guilty* as charged. Judge Levinson sentenced Heard to consecutive sentences totaling 87-132 months in prison. In February 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police had information that Heard was selling drugs in front of his Charlotte home. Detectives conducted surveillance on Heard's home and observed activity consistent with drug sales. When Heard drove away, detectives followed his car to another residence. Officers then approached Heard, detected an odor of marijuana coming from his car and saw marijuana residue inside. Officers searched the car and located 32.44 grams of cocaine in the center console next to digital scales and \$193 in cash. Officers also discovered a .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol underneath Heard's seat.

James Clawson, 29, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver, 2) possession of heroin, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia and 4) resisting a public officer. Clawson was sentenced to 7-18 months in prison.

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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