

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

March 19, 2015

Defendant pleads guilty to drug charge mid-trial; 4 others convicted

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team prosecuted six defendants during the week of March 9, 2015. The team tried two defendants, including one who pled guilty mid-trial, and another four defendants were also convicted of drug offenses. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge.

Johnny Ramirez, 30, was called for trial, and after hearing testimony from witnesses, Ramirez decided to enter a guilty plea. Ramirez pled guilty to attempted trafficking in marijuana by possession. Judge Sumner sentenced Ramirez to 6-17 months in prison.

Christian Welch, 32, was tried for 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Sumner declared a mistrial when the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

Jay Goolsby, 37, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Goolsby was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Goolsby must serve 187 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Joseph Lloyd, 29, pled guilty to possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana. Lloyd was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Christopher Auten, 26, pled guilty to felony possession of marijuana. Auten was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Kevin Smith, 28, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Smith was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 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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