

NEWS RELEASE

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Methamphetamine, cocaine traffickers among 50 convicted by DA's Drug Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of March 13, 2017, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 50 defendants, including methamphetamine and cocaine traffickers, in Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, 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 were convicted and sent to prison were:

Tarkra Harris, 36, pled guilty to trafficking in methamphetamine by possession. Harris was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In June 2016, undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg police arranged to purchase methamphetamine from an individual. Detectives conducting surveillance of the operation followed that individual and observed her meet with a suspected source of methamphetamine. That source was identified as Harris, who produced a bag and gave it to the individual who arranged the sale with undercover officers. Undercover officers observed 56 grams of methamphetamine inside the bag. Officers arrested Harris, and when he was interviewed, Harris admitted that he gave the methamphetamine to the individual to sell it and that he had additional drugs at an apartment. Officers searched the apartment and located 15 grams of methamphetamine, cocaine and firearms.

James Summers, 44, pled guilty to trafficking in methamphetamine by sale. He will be sentenced at a later date.

John Higgins, 41, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by transportation. Higgins was sentenced to 35-51 months in prison.

George McNeill, 25, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession. McNeill was sentenced to 35-51 months in prison.

Harry Green, 64, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Green was sentenced to 30-55 months in prison.

Juan Biscarra-Bega, 23, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Biscarra-Bega was sentenced to 20-36 months in prison.

Jorge Cano-Hidalgo, 27, pled guilty to selling heroin. Cano-Hidalgo was sentenced to 10-21 months in prison.

Eric Jones, 32, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Jones was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison.

Keith Robinson, 34, pled guilty to selling cocaine. Robinson was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison.

Joshua Wiggins, 25, pled guilty to possession of LSD. Wiggins was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison.

Joseph Kasper, 51, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by possession. Kasper was sentenced to 104 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

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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