

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Heroin traffickers among 41 convicted by DA's Drug Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of March 17, 2014, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 41 defendants. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable H. William Constangy, 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:

Damien Nash, 18, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by sale and 2) sale of heroin. Nash was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In September 2013, Nash sold black tar heroin to an undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer. Later that day, police executed a search warrant at Nash's home, and Nash was found to be in possession of more than 5 grams of heroin.

Jonathan Rallis, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Rallis was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Alexis Hernandez, 19, pled guilty to two counts of trafficking in heroin by transportation. Hernandez was sentenced to 70-93 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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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