

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

March 29, 2016

Heroin traffickers among 21 defendants convicted of drug offenses

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of March 21, 2016, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 21 defendants of crimes that included possessing, selling and trafficking in illegal drugs. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Among the defendants who were sent to prison were:

Derrick Strong, 29, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Strong was sentenced to 80-108 months in prison. In September 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police received information that Strong would be conducting a drug transaction. Officers conducted surveillance and observed Strong drop a bag of heroin. Strong then allowed officers to search his apartment. Officers seized more than 50 grams of heroin from the apartment.

Heather Poplin, 34, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Poplin was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In July 2015, Poplin arranged a sale of heroin with an undercover detective from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Poplin exchanged approximately 5.1 grams of heroin for \$900.

Alvaro Perez-Quintero, 19, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Perez-Quintero was sentenced to 90-120 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.

// End //