

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Drug Team convicts 7 defendants during trial week

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted one defendant at trial and convicted six others who pled guilty March 31-April 3, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. Prosecutors also made arguments in regards to a motion filed by a defendant. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judge.

Marty Lewis, 43, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by transportation, 2) trafficking in cocaine by possession, 3) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 4) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana. The jury found Lewis guilty of trafficking in cocaine by transportation, trafficking in cocaine by possession, possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Judge Foust sentenced Lewis to 35-51 months in prison. In February 2013, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police stopped Lewis' vehicle for speeding. Officers discovered that the vehicle smelled like marijuana, and when they searched the vehicle, officers found marijuana and 124 grams of cocaine.

One defendant filed a motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Foust denied the defendant's motion. The case will proceed to trial at a later date.

The following six defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Tracy Watts, 42, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Watts was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Efren Torres-Rodriguez, 29, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession. Torres-Rodriguez was sentenced to 35-51 months in prison.

John Miller, 22, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Miller was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Lamont Lindsey, 27, pled guilty to felony possession of marijuana. Lindsey was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Shea Kirkpatrick, 24, pled guilty to felony possession of marijuana. Kirkpatrick was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Dontavis Davis, 35, pled guilty to felony possession of marijuana. Davis was sentenced to 18 months of supervised probation pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 90-96.

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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