

# NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray  
District Attorney

May 11, 2016

## Jury convicts defendant of drug offenses; 3 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A jury recently convicted a man of possessing heroin with the intent to sell or deliver the drug. Another defendant pled guilty to heroin trafficking charges when a judge denied his motions to suppress evidence at trial, and two others pled guilty before their cases were called for trial. The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team prosecuted these defendants during the week of May 2, 2016. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust and The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judges.

Martin Lopez-Benitez, 20, was tried for 1) trafficking in heroin by possession, 2) possession of heroin with the intent to sell or deliver and 3) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury found him *guilty* of possession of heroin with the intent to sell or deliver and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury found him *not guilty* of the trafficking charge. Judge Evans sentenced Lopez-Benitez to 6-17 months in prison. In March 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police approached Lopez-Benitez on Scaleybark Road in Charlotte after receiving complaints of drug activity in the area. Detectives observed Lopez-Benitez in a car with the door open, and as detectives came closer, they saw a bag of balloons containing heroin and \$1,044 in cash in his lap. He also had marijuana on his person.

Felix Rojas, 26, filed motions to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Foust, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, denied these motions. Rojas then pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) trafficking in heroin by possession. Judge Foust sentenced Rojas to 90-120 months in prison.

Brandon Miller, 27, pled guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Foust sentenced Miller to 3 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Scott Lewis, 23, pled guilty to maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of keeping a controlled substance. Judge Evans sentenced Lewis to 18 months of supervised probation and authorized a conditional discharge of the offense pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 15A-1341(a4).

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

// End //