

# NEWS RELEASE

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**May 24, 2018**

## **Drug Team convicts heroin traffickers, enrolls others in treatment courts**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team works to hold drug sellers and traffickers accountable for their crimes while also connecting defendants facing addictions with treatment services.

Prosecutors recently enrolled a number of defendants in Mecklenburg County Treatment Courts. Since April 18, 2018, one defendant was admitted to Wellness Court (formally known as Mental Health Court), six defendants were admitted to DWI Court and five defendants were admitted to Superior Recovery Court. Additionally, 82 defendants were referred to District STEP Recovery Court.

During the week of May 7, 2018, the Drug Team convicted 18 defendants of crimes that included possessing, selling and trafficking in illegal drugs. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Jeff P. Hunt, Superior Court Judge. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Among the 18 defendants convicted were:

Donald Milton, 34, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Milton was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In May 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police executed a search warrant at Milton's residence. In his bedroom, officers found approximately 18 grams of heroin, 35 grams of cocaine, nearly 800 grams of marijuana, a pistol and \$628.

Uri Romero-Perez, 22, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Romero-Perez was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Ytiel Barriento, 19, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by transportation. Barriento was sentenced to 35-51 months in prison.

James Proctor, 37, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by sale and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by delivery. Proctor was sentenced to 19-32 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 19-32 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Steven Gagnon, 23, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Gagnon was sentenced to 15-27 months in prison.

Odell Davis, 34, pled guilty to 1) sale of cocaine, 2) possession of a schedule I controlled substance and 3) possession of cocaine. Davis was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison.

Matthew Mitzel, 23, pled guilty to 1) selling a schedule IV controlled substance, 2) possession of cocaine and 3) felony breaking or entering. Mitzel was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

*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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