

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Drug Team convicts 3 during trial week

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Prosecution Team convicted three defendants during the week of May 20, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge. One defendant was convicted at trial, and two others pled guilty when their cases were called for trial.

Jose Gustavo Galaviz-Torres, 29, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession, 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 3) trafficking in cocaine by transportation. The jury returned verdicts of *guilty* on all charges. Judge Lewis sentenced Galaviz-Torres to a total of 350-444 months in prison. Judge Lewis also ordered that Galaviz-Torres pay the mandatory fine of \$250,000. On March 25, 2012, agents with the Charlotte division of the Drug Enforcement Administration, along with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, received information that Galaviz-Torres intended to sell 2 kilograms of cocaine to a confidential informant. DEA agents and CMPD detectives worked with the confidential informant, who made arrangements to meet Galaviz-Torres in the parking lot of Taco Bell restaurant in Charlotte's University City area to buy the cocaine on March 26, 2012. When Galaviz-Torres arrived with the cocaine, agents placed him under arrest. Approximately 2 kilograms of cocaine were recovered from the van he was driving, along with more than \$1,000 from his wallet. Galaviz-Torres later admitted to officers that he intended to deliver the cocaine in exchange for \$2,000.



**Jose Gustavo
Galaviz-Torres**

One defendant filed a motion to suppress and a motion to dismiss, alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the State, Judge Lewis denied both motions. The case will proceed to trial at a later date.

The following two defendants pled guilty when their cases were called for trial:

Ignacio Chavez, 41, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession. Judge Lewis sentenced Chavez to 70-93 months in prison.

Levi Toney, 27, pled guilty to 1) sale of cocaine, 2) delivery of cocaine and 3) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Judge Lewis sentenced Toney to 13-16 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of his conditions of probation, Toney was ordered to serve 60 days of electronic house arrest.

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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