

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Drug Team convicts 2 at trial; 4 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted two defendants at trial, and another four defendants pled guilty to drug offenses May 27-May 29, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The team also made arguments in regards to a motion filed by a defendant. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judge. Court was not held on May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Dashaun McKnight, 22, was tried for 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Boner sentenced McKnight to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, McKnight must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Christopher Bethea, 21, was tried for 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 2) felony possession of marijuana and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury returned verdicts of *guilty* to possession of drug paraphernalia and the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury found him *not guilty* of possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana. Judge Boner sentenced Bethea to 45 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

One defendant facing drug charges filed a motion to suppress certain 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 Boner denied the defendant's motion. The case will proceed to trial at a later date.

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

Jonquel Taylor, 25, pled guilty to possession of cocaine on jail premises. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Michael Flowers, 28, pled guilty to 1) three counts of felony possession of marijuana, 2) three counts of possession of drug paraphernalia, 3) two counts of possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 4) possession of benzylpiperazine, 5) possession of methamphetamine and 6) resisting a public officer. Flowers was sentenced to two consecutive sentences of 6-17 months in prison; those sentences were suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Flowers must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Jarven Dashiell, 33, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in marijuana by possession. He was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Dashiell must serve 15 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Donovan Moore, 21, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. He was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Moore must serve 28 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

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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