

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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## Jury convicts 1 defendant; 3 others plead guilty to drug crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted one defendant at trial during the week of May 31, 2016, and another two defendants pled guilty when a judge denied their motions to suppress evidence. A fourth defendant pled guilty before his case was called for trial. These proceedings were held before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust and The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judges.

James Alexander, 43, was tried for 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) creating counterfeit controlled substances, 3) possession of a counterfeit controlled substance with the intent to sell or deliver and 4) possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury found him *guilty* of creating a counterfeit controlled substance and possession of a counterfeit controlled substance with the intent to sell or deliver. The jury found him *not guilty* of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Archie sentenced Alexander to a total of 18-40 months in prison; those sentences was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

Terry Newbill, 46, 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 the motions. Newbill then pled guilty as charged to 1) trafficking in heroin by possession, 2) maintaining a place to keep or sell controlled substances and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Foust sentenced Newbill to 70-93 months in prison. In August 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police were investigating a drug complaint at Newbill's residence when they observed 7.67 grams of black tar heroin, digital scales and tin foil. Newbill admitted to officers that he sold heroin to support his addiction.

Alex Farmer, 28, filed a motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of her legal rights. Judge Archie, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, denied the motion. Farmer then pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver, 2) possession of heroin and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Archie sentenced Farmer to a total of 12-34 months in prison; those sentences were suspended pending her successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of her probation, Farmer must successfully complete the Superior Court Supervision, Treatment, Education and Prevention (STEP) Drug Treatment Court program.

Ronell Mason, 25, pled guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Archie sentenced Mason to 10 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

*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.*

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