

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team convicts 2 traffickers, 8 other defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of June 25, 2018, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 10 defendants in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The team tried one case before a jury, two pled guilty after pretrial motions were denied, and one pled guilty after the jury was called into the courtroom. Six other defendants entered guilty pleas before their cases were called for trial. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge, and The Honorable W. Erwin Spainhour, Superior Court Judge.

Arturo Zarco-Gutierrez, 33, was charged with 1) trafficking heroin by possession, 2) trafficking heroin by transport, 3) trafficking heroin by delivery, and 4) conspiracy to commit trafficking heroin by sale. After his case was called for trial and jury selection had started, Zarco-Gutierrez pled *guilty* to 1) trafficking heroin by possession, 2) trafficking heroin by transport, and 3) trafficking heroin by delivery. On October 21, 2016, detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department conducted an undercover purchase of 18 grams of heroin from Zarco-Gutierrez. As a result of this investigation, detectives seized over 76 grams of heroin. Judge Spainhour sentenced Zarco-Gutierrez to 90-120 months in prison.

Treymaine Johnson, 24, was charged with 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) felony possession of marijuana, 3) possession of a schedule II controlled substance, 4) possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, 5) felony carrying a concealed gun, 6) assault on a government official, 7) possession of drug paraphernalia, and 8) resisting a public officer. The defense filed a pretrial motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of Johnson's legal rights. Judge Spainhour, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, denied the defendant's motion. After the motion was denied, Johnson pled *guilty as charged*. Johnson also pled *guilty* to 1) possession of marijuana with the intent to sell and deliver stemming from another incident. Judge Spainhour sentenced Johnson to 22-45 months in prison.

Bryan Johnson, 32, was charged with 1) possession of cocaine and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. The defense filed a pretrial motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of Johnson's legal rights. Judge Bridges, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, denied the defendant's motion. After the motion was denied, Johnson pled *guilty as charged*. Judge Bridges sentenced Johnson to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Johnson's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a special condition of his probation, Johnson must serve 4 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Kimberly Morris, 51, was charged with 1) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell and deliver, 2) selling cocaine, and 3) delivering cocaine. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* to the charges of 1) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell and deliver and 2) delivering cocaine; and a verdict of *not guilty* to the charge of selling cocaine. Judge Bridges sentenced Morris to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Morris' successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a special condition of probation, Morris was ordered to enter into Mecklenburg County Superior STEP Treatment Court.

Steven West, 29, was charged with 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) possession of marijuana with the intent to sell and deliver, 3) felony possession of marijuana, 4) felony maintaining a vehicle for the keeping or selling of marijuana, and 5) carrying a concealed gun. The defense filed a pretrial motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of West's legal rights. Judge Bridges, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, granted the defendant's motion. As a result of the ruling, the State dismissed the case.

Six defendants pled guilty before their cases were called to trial:

Remington Workman, 33, pled guilty to trafficking oxycodone by possession. On May 18, 2016, officers with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department approached Workman, who was seated in the driver's seat of a car in a parking lot. As they approached, officers noticed that Workman had money and pills on his lap. After a search of the car, officers found nearly 70 pills of oxycodone. Judge Bridges sentenced Workman to 70-93 months in prison.

Dontavius Newton, 21, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession of cocaine. Judge Bridges sentenced Newton to 14-26 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Newton's successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As a special condition of his probation, Newton must serve 195 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Randall Poole, 30, pled guilty to possession of methamphetamine. Judge Bridges sentenced Poole to 7-18 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Poole's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a special condition of his probation, Poole must serve 55 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Larry Manns, 30, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Bridges sentenced Manns to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Manns' successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a special condition of his probation, Manns must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail if he is not in compliance with probation during the first 6 months.

Rhiannon Loria, 39, pled guilty to possession of heroin. Judge Bridges sentenced Loria pursuant to N.C. General Statute §90-96, placing McCullough on 12 months of supervised probation and requiring her to submit to and complete a substance abuse assessment and any recommended treatment.

Jarrett Gardner, 22, pled guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Bridges sentenced Gardner to 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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