

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

July 14, 2016

Drug trafficker sent to prison after jury's verdict; 2 others convicted

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Two drug offenders, including a drug trafficker, were convicted at trial July 5-July 11, 2016, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. Another defendant pled guilty before his case was called for trial. The proceedings for these defendants, who were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team, were held before The Honorable Carla N. Archie and The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judges. Court was not held on July 4, 2016, in observance of Independence Day.

Stacy Simmons, 38, filed a motion to suppress his statements, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Ervin, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, denied the motion, and the case proceeded to trial. Simmons was tried for 1) trafficking in opiates by possession, 2) trafficking in opiates by transportation, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 4) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver and 5) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury returned verdicts of *guilty* to the charges of trafficking in opiates by possession, trafficking in opiates by transportation, misdemeanor possession of marijuana and the lesser-included offense of possession of cocaine. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty* to the charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Ervin sentenced Simmons to 70-93 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. In November 2014, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police conducted surveillance at a hotel on Monroe Road in Charlotte after receiving information that Simmons would be bringing heroin to that location. Simmons arrived at the hotel and exited a vehicle with his daughter, a toddler. Officers approached Simmons, who admitted that he'd placed heroin in his daughter's pants. Officers retrieved 0.84 grams of heroin from the girl's pants, and officers who searched the vehicle located hydrocodone, black tar heroin and cocaine under the hood. Officers also discovered \$800 in cash, digital scales and marijuana inside the vehicle.

Andwele Eaves, 32, was tried for 1) possession of marijuana with the intent to sell or deliver, 2) felony possession of marijuana, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia and 4) resisting a public officer. The jury found Eaves *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury found him *not guilty* of the remaining charges. Judge Archie sentenced Eaves to 15 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Dante Williams, 28, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Ervin sentenced Williams to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

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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