

NEWS RELEASE

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July 15, 2013

DA's Drug Team convicts 35, sends drug traffickers to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Prosecution Team convicted 35 defendants during the week of July 8, 2013. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included possessing, selling and trafficking in illegal drugs. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Among the defendants who pled guilty and were sent to prison were:

Andrew Anderson, 27, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in opiates by possession and 2) sale of a counterfeit controlled substance while in immediate possession of a bulletproof vest. Judge Sumner sentenced Anderson to a total of 75-108 months in prison. In January 2013, Anderson sold what he represented to be cocaine to undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers. However, the substance was determined by the CMPD crime lab to not be a controlled substance. In Anderson's car, officers found a loaded gun and a bulletproof vest. Inside Anderson's home, officers discovered a safe that contained 49.06 grams of hydrocodone pills.



Andrew Anderson

Jennifer Brandon, 31, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in opiates by possession and 2) larceny by an employee. Judge Sumner sentenced Brandon to 25-42 months in prison for the trafficking offense. For the larceny by an employee offense, she was sentenced to an additional 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. Judge Sumner also ordered Brandon to pay \$1,376 in restitution to Target. Brandon was arrested in February 2013, after loss prevention employees at the Target store on Walker Branch Drive in Charlotte determined that Brandon had stolen approximately 10,000 hydrocodone pills over the course of several months while working as a pharmacy technician. When Brandon was arrested, she was in possession of 48 hydrocodone pills and admitted to officers that she'd stolen thousands of pills from the Target pharmacy.

Francisco Guevara, 29, pled guilty to trafficking in methamphetamine by transport. Judge Sumner sentenced Guevara to 90-117 months in prison.

Note: Almost all guilty pleas entered in criminal administrative court are the result of an agreed upon plea arrangement between the State and the defendant, which is then approved by the sentencing judge.

For more information about why most cases must be resolved by plea negotiation instead of jury trial, please visit the “Understanding Criminal Court” section of the DA’s website at www.charmeckda.com.

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