

# NEWS RELEASE

**Spencer B. Merriweather III**  
District Attorney

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## **Drug Team convicts 27, refers 41 to treatment programs**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Beginning July 9, 2018, and ending July 13, 2018, the DA's Drug Prosecution Team convicted 27 defendants in Courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Donnie Hoover, Superior Court Judge, and The Honorable Karen Eady-Williams, 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.

While the team works to hold drug sellers and traffickers accountable for their crimes, prosecutors also connect defendants facing addictions with treatment services. Since June 15, 2018, a total of 41 defendants were referred to Mecklenburg County Recovery Courts, which work to break the cycle of addiction. Five defendants were admitted to District STEP Recovery Court, five defendants were admitted to Superior STEP Recovery Court, and three defendants were admitted to DWI Recovery Court.

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

Rem Sor, 40, pled guilty to trafficking cocaine by sale. On August 30, 2017, detectives with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department conducted an undercover purchase of 29 grams of cocaine. Detectives seized more than 38 grams of cocaine as a result of the complete investigation of Sor. Judge Hoover sentenced Sor to 35-51 months in prison.

Jese Carella, 23, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking hydrocodone by possession, 2) attempted trafficking hydrocodone by transport, 3) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell and deliver, and 4) carrying a concealed gun. On May 15, 2017, officers with the Mint Hill Police Department conducted a traffic stop on the car that Carella was driving. Officers found 30 pills of hydrocodone, methamphetamine, marijuana, a pistol, and over \$3,000 cash throughout the course of the investigation. On December 1, 2017, officers with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department conducted a traffic stop on a car that Carella was driving. As a result of the investigation, officers found cocaine, marijuana, oxycodone, and a pistol. Judge Hoover sentenced Carella to 17-33 months in prison. Judge Hoover also sentenced Carella to an additional 23-40 months in prison; that sentence is suspended pending her successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Damien Williams, 25, pled guilty to selling cocaine. On September 22, 2017, detectives with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department arranged an undercover purchase of 1.5 grams of cocaine from Williams. Judge Eady-Williams sentenced Williams to 12-24 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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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