

NEWS RELEASE

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August 6, 2019

4 plead guilty to felony drug crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During a trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team, four defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for a trial. Juror misconduct resulted in a mistrial of a fifth case. The proceedings were held during the week of July 29, 2019, before The Honorable Casey M. Viser and The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr., Superior Court Judges.

The State called Ricardo Hale, 33, for trial for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession and 2) trafficking in cocaine by transportation. On the fourth day of jury selection, Judge Trosch declared a mistrial as the result of prejudicial statements made by a prospective juror and juror misconduct. The case will be rescheduled for trial at a later date.

Joshua Ledford, 27, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by possession and 2) possession of methamphetamine. Judge Trosch sentenced Ledford to 90-120 months in prison. In January 2018, officers with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and the U.S. Marshals Service arrested Ledford on outstanding warrants, and officers located more than 20 grams of heroin on his person.

Cass Byers, 30, pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Viser sentenced Byers to 9-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Byers must complete 24 hours of community service, obtain a substance abuse assessment and comply with any recommended treatment.

Stefon Boatwright, 28, pled guilty to possession of methamphetamine. Judge Trosch sentenced Boatwright to 7-18 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Jose West, 35, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Trosch sentenced West to 18 months of supervised probation pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 90-96. As a condition of his probation, West must obtain a substance abuse assessment and comply with any recommended treatment.

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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