

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team convicts 1 at trial, 4 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team tried two defendants, and another four defendants pled guilty July 22-August 1, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner and The Honorable Jeffrey P. Hunt, Superior Court Judges.

Jimmy Sevilla-Briones, 35, was tried for 1) trafficking in methamphetamine by possession, 2) trafficking in methamphetamine by transport and 3) conspiracy to traffic in methamphetamine. The jury returned verdicts of *guilty* on all charges. Judge Hunt sentenced Sevilla-Briones to a total of 180-240 months in prison. In December 2012, agents with the Charlotte division of the Drug Enforcement Administration received information from a confidential informant that Sevilla-Briones was selling methamphetamine. DEA agents were conducting surveillance at Yateswood Drive in Charlotte as part of an undercover operation when Sevilla-Briones arrived as the passenger in a vehicle with 226.13 grams of methamphetamine to sell. DEA agents apprehended Sevilla-Briones and found the methamphetamine on his lap. After Sevilla-Briones was arrested, he confessed to his involvement.



**Jimmy Sevilla-
Briones**

Daniel Espinoza, 29, was tried for 1) sale of heroin, 2) delivery of heroin, 3) possession with intent to sell or deliver heroin, 4) conspiracy to sell heroin, 5) possession of heroin, 6) trafficking in heroin by transport, 7) trafficking in heroin by possession, 8) possession with intent to sell or deliver heroin, and 9) conspiracy to traffic in heroin by transport. The jury returned verdicts of *not guilty* on the charges of sale of heroin, delivery of heroin, possession with intent to sell or deliver heroin, conspiracy to sell heroin and possession of heroin. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the remaining charges, and Judge Sumner declared a mistrial as to those charges.

The following four defendants pled guilty when their cases were called for trial:

Jovany Diaz, 20, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transport. Judge Hunt sentenced Diaz to 70-93 months in prison.

Nelson Barrett, 27, pled guilty to 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 2) felony possession of marijuana and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Hunt sentenced Barrett to a total of 12-16 months in prison; those sentences were suspended pending Barrett's successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Barrett must serve 21 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Donald Springs, 26, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 2) felony possession of marijuana and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Hunt sentenced Springs to a total of 10-30 months in prison and 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; those sentences were suspended pending Springs' successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of probation, Springs must serve six months of electronic monitoring and electronic house arrest.

Sadavian Donald, 29, pled guilty to possession of heroin. Judge Sumner sentenced Donald to 12 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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