

# NEWS RELEASE

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August 11, 2016

## Drug Team tries 2 defendants; another pleads guilty to heroin trafficking

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of August 1, 2016, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team tried two defendants and convicted a third defendant who pled guilty before his case was called for trial. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson and The Honorable R. Gregory Horne, Superior Court Judges.

Shana Dunbar, 27, was charged with 1) possession of cocaine and 2) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury found Dunbar *guilty* as charged. Judge Horne sentenced Dunbar to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Andres Vasquez, 21, was charged with 1) trafficking in heroin by transportation, 2) trafficking in heroin by possession, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia and 4) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury found Vasquez *guilty* of possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Judge Levinson sentenced Vasquez to a total of 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail. The jury was unable to reach unanimous verdicts in regard to the trafficking charges. As a result, Judge Levinson declared a mistrial as to those charges.

Marco Ramirez-Cruz, 40, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Judge Levinson sentenced Ramirez-Cruz to 90-120 months in prison. In January 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police and federal agents conducted surveillance on a residence after receiving information that the home was being used as a stash house for heroin. Detectives observed Ramirez-Cruz and another individual leave the house early in the morning. Detectives followed Ramirez-Cruz as he drove throughout Charlotte to conduct heroin sales. State troopers stopped his truck and located more than 70 grams of heroin inside. Detectives obtained a search warrant for the stash house and discovered more than 700 grams of heroin, \$15,000 in cash and drug paraphernalia.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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