

NEWS RELEASE

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August 16, 2017

Heroin traffickers among 32 convicted of drug crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Drug traffickers who sold heroin to undercover detectives were among the 32 defendants convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team during the week of August 7, 2017. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Carla N. Archie, 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 were convicted and sent to prison were:

Corey Rutledge, 38, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by sale. Rutledge was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In July 2016, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police had information that Rutledge was selling heroin in the Charlotte area. Detectives contacted Rutledge and made arrangements to purchase approximately 28 grams of heroin for \$3,000. Rutledge met detectives and completed the sale.

Charles Anderson, 27, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Anderson was sentenced to 48-67 months in prison. In January 2016, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police were conducting an investigation that led them to Anderson as a source of heroin in Charlotte. Detectives contacted Anderson and arranged to purchase about 8.5 grams of heroin for \$500. Detectives made contact with Anderson, who exchanged the heroin for money and left the area. Surveillance units followed Anderson and observed him engage in another sale. Officers then detained Anderson, who admitted that he had just sold more heroin.

Lamar McKenzie, 31, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, 3) selling cocaine and 4) assault inflicting serious injury. McKenzie was sentenced to 13-25 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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