

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts man of cocaine trafficking

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who sold cocaine to undercover officers at a local library was convicted by a jury during the latest trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team. Another five defendants pled guilty to drug crimes. The proceedings were held September 3-11, 2019, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Michael A. Stone and The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judges.

Leon Jones, 32, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession 2) three counts of sale of cocaine, 3) three counts of delivery of cocaine, 4) three counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 4) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 5) possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Archie then sentenced Jones to 35-51 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 12-24 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. Between September and October of 2017, Jones sold cocaine to undercover detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department on three different occasions at a Charlotte library. When officers arrested Jones and executed a search warrant on his apartment, they located a firearm, 60 grams of cocaine and multiple items of drug paraphernalia.

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

Rayshawn Strong, 22, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) misdemeanor carrying a concealed gun and 3) resisting a public officer. Judge Stone sentenced Strong to 15-27 months in prison.

Michael Horne, 37, pled guilty to possession of methamphetamine. Judge Stone sentenced Horne to 6-17 months in prison.

Alvarez Powell, 44, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Stone sentenced Powell to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Korey Ford, 27, pled guilty to 1) possession of drug paraphernalia and 2) misdemeanor carrying a concealed gun. Judge Stone sentenced Ford to a total of 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending Ford's successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Lonnie Crawford, 57, pled guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Stone sentenced Crawford to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending Crawford's successful completion of 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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