

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug trafficker found with 300 grams of heroin among 43 convicted of drug crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of September 12, 2016, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 43 defendants in Superior Court. Those defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, 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 sent to prison were:

Jose Avilla-Sevilla, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. He was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison. In February 2016, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police made contact with Avilla-Sevilla at his residence after receiving information that he was involved in distributing drugs in Mecklenburg County. Avilla-Sevilla admitted to detectives that he had heroin in his bedroom and allowed officers inside, where they located more than 300 grams of heroin. During an interview, Avilla-Sevilla confirmed to detectives that he sold heroin in Charlotte and had previously been selling heroin in Gaston County.

Carlos Rembert, 36, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in cocaine by delivery and 2) selling cocaine. Rembert was sentenced to 48-67 months in prison.

Dustin Mann, 26, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Mann was sentenced to a total of 30-54 months in prison.

Saul Weaver, 44, pled guilty to selling heroin. Weaver was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison.

Peter Gould, 39, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver methamphetamine. Gould was sentenced to 12-25 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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