

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

September 24, 2015

Drug traffickers among 38 defendants convicted by DA's Drug Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Heroin and cocaine traffickers were among the 38 defendants convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team during the week of September 14, 2015. 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, the defendants' sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Among the defendants sent to prison were:

Manuel Gomez-Torres, 45, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) sale of heroin. Gomez-Torres was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison. In December 2014, Gomez-Torres sold \$300 worth of heroin to an undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer. Later, officers stopped Gomez-Torres' vehicle for a traffic violation. When Gomez-Torres allowed the officer to search his vehicle, the officer discovered 126 grams of heroin.

Ricardo Gonzalez, 23, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Gonzalez was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Demarcus Wallace, 30, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in cocaine by transportation and 2) trafficking in cocaine by possession. Wallace was sentenced to a total of 70-102 months in prison.

Shayla Taylor, 26, pled guilty to sale of cocaine. Taylor 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.

// End //