

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

September 29, 2017

2 defendants tried before juries; 7 plead guilty to drug crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of September 18, 2017, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team tried two defendants before juries in Superior Court. Another seven defendants entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson and The Honorable W. Todd Pomeroy, Superior Court Judges.

Melvin Mullis, 40, was tried for possession of cocaine. The jury found Mullis *guilty* as charged. Judge Levinson sentenced Mullis to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 16 months of unsupervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Mullis must serve 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Tayvon Smith, 30, was tried for possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver. The jury found Smith *not guilty*.

Jonathan Robinson, 24, filed a motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Pomeroy, who heard arguments from the defense and an Assistant District Attorney, denied the motion. Robinson then pled guilty as charged to 1) possession of ethylone, 2) possession of cocaine, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia, 4) possession of hydrocodone, 5) misdemeanor possession of marijuana and 6) possession of marijuana paraphernalia. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Robinson to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Robinson must perform 30 hours of community service.

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

Maurice Falls, 34, pled guilty to 1) four counts of possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver, 2) three counts of sale of cocaine, 3) three counts of delivery of cocaine and 4) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Falls to 13-25 months in prison.

Shawn Stinson, 39, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Stinson to 10-21 months in prison.

Raphael McJunkins, 21, pled guilty to 1) misdemeanor possession of marijuana, 2) possession of cocaine, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia and 4) possession of marijuana paraphernalia. Judge Pomeroy sentenced McJunkins to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended

pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Robinson must perform 30 hours of community service.

Kamesha Way, 30, pled guilty to possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Way to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of her probation, Way must perform 30 hours of community service.

Gregory Bagwell, 28, pled guilty to possession of heroin. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Bagwell to 6-17 months of prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Rio Givens, 36, pled guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Givens to 120 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

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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