

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Habitual felon, heroin trafficker among 6 defendants convicted by DA's Drug Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team recently tried two defendants and convicted another five defendants who pled guilty before their cases were called for trial. Among those convicted were a habitual felon in illegal possession of a firearm and a drug trafficker who was found with more than 100 grams of heroin. These proceedings were held during the week of September 26, 2016, before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin and The Honorable Gregory R. Hayes, Superior Court Judges.

Jamarick Horton, 24, was tried for 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury found Horton *guilty* as charged. Judge Hayes sentenced Horton to 138-178 months in prison.

Chinelo Ray, 35, was tried for 1) trafficking in heroin by possession, 2) selling heroin, 3) delivering heroin, 4) possession of heroin with the intent to sell or deliver, 5) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver, 6) maintaining a place for keeping or selling controlled substances, 7) misdemeanor possession of marijuana and 8) possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict, and as a result, Judge Ervin declared a mistrial.

Another defendant filed a motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Hayes, who heard arguments from the defense and an Assistant District Attorney, denied the defendant's motion. The case will be set for trial at a later date.

The following defendants entered guilty pleas:

Angel Rendon-Martinez, 27, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Judge Ervin sentenced Rendon-Martinez to 90-120 months in prison. In November 2015 Charlotte-Mecklenburg police executed a search warrant at Rendon-Martinez's home. Detectives found more than 100 grams of heroin in the box spring of his bed, more than \$9,000 in cash, digital scales, drug ledgers and loaded firearms. During an interview with detectives, Rendon-Martinez admitted to selling heroin out of the home.

Cordell Blair, 29, pled guilty to possession of marijuana with the intent to sell or deliver. Judge Ervin sentenced Blair to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Brennan Crouch, 29, pled guilty to obtaining a controlled substance by fraud. Judge Ervin sentencing Crouch to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Yonnas Ghebrekristos, 26, pled guilty to maintaining a place for keeping or selling controlled substances. Judge Ervin sentenced Ghebrekristos to 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Rayshawn Hood, 28, pled guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Ervin sentenced Hood to 30 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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