

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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DA's Drug Team convicts 39; sends drug traffickers to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 39 defendants September 30-October 4, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The 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 who pled guilty and were sent to prison were:

Francisco Paredes, 21, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Judge Foust sentenced him to 70-93 months in prison. In March 2013, Paredes was arrested after he sold heroin to an undercover agent of the Charlotte division of the Drug Enforcement Administration. When Paredes was searched after being arrested, agents found that he had additional heroin in his pockets.

Carlos Aguilar, 58, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Judge Foust sentenced him to 70-93 months in prison.

Jose Tiznado-Lopez, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Judge Foust sentenced him to 70-93 months in prison.

Noemi Negron, 52, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession. Judge Foust sentenced her to 35-51 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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