

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts defendant of drug offenses; 10 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A jury convicted one defendant of drug offenses, and 10 others pled guilty to drug crimes during the week of November 2, 2015. The defendants, who were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team, entered their guilty pleas before The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judge.

Ronald Swaringer, 23, was tried for 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 2) felony possession of marijuana and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. At the close of all of the evidence, Judge Archie granted the defendant's motion to dismiss the charge of possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana. The jury then found Swaringer *guilty* of the remaining charges. Judge Archie sentenced Swaringer to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. In October 2013, officers located a bag containing 215.54 grams of marijuana in the driver's side floorboard of the car Swaringer was driving.

Timothy Hendricks, 40, was charged with 1) possession of heroin and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Hendricks filed a motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Archie, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, denied the motion. Hendricks then pled guilty as charged. Judge Archie sentenced Hendricks to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Nine defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Deandra Adams, 31, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession. Adams was sentenced to 35-51 months in prison.

Patrick Alston, 25, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana and 3) felony maintaining a place for the purposes of keeping a controlled substance. Alston was sentenced to 12-24 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, Alston must serve 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Rico King, 36, pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) misdemeanor possession of marijuana and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. King was sentenced to 10-21 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, King must serve 10 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Exzavier Hoey, 30, pled guilty to 1) felony possession of marijuana, 2) felony maintaining a place for the purpose of keeping a controlled substance, 3) possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana and 4) possession of drug paraphernalia. Hoey was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Melvin McIntyre, 29, pled guilty to 1) misdemeanor possession of marijuana, 2) possession of cocaine, 3) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 4) possession of drug paraphernalia. McIntyre was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Delrico Simpson, 30, pled guilty to 1) possession of drug paraphernalia and 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Simpson was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Leslie Anderson, 21, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Anderson was sentenced to 12 months of supervised probation pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 90-96.

James Thatcher, 21, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Thatcher was sentenced to 12 months of supervised probation pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 90-96.

Altermise Vandross, 41, pled guilty to misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Vandross was sentenced to 12 months of unsupervised probation pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 90-96.

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