

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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DA's Drug Team convicts 38 defendants; sends drug traffickers to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 38 defendants November 4-8, 2013. 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:

Ernesto Martin Delgado-Galindo, 24, and Jose Castro Hernandez, 37, each pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Judge Foust sentenced both Delgado-Galindo and Hernandez to 70-93 months in prison. In May 2013, Delgado-Galindo and Hernandez were in a vehicle that was pulled over after a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer observed the vehicle weaving and displaying an improper registration. When the defendants allowed police to search the vehicle, officers discovered more than 5 ½ pounds of heroin concealed in a suitcase.

Fernando Gonzalez, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. He was sentenced to 48-67 months in prison.

Dexter Seke, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by transportation. He was sentenced to 35-51 months in prison.

Terry Hammons, 30, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. He was sentenced to a total of 30-54 months in prison.

Jeffrey Ewing, 35, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. He was sentenced to a total of 26-50 months in prison.

Douglas Brower, 39, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by sale. He was sentenced to 23-37 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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