

NEWS RELEASE

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Heroin, cocaine traffickers among 49 convicted by DA's Drug Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 49 defendants during the week of November 14, 2016, in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable R. Gregory Horne, 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:

Devon Butler, 30, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by possession and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Butler was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison. In May 2016, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police searched Butler's vehicle and located more than 20 grams of heroin and a firearm. Detectives also searched Butler's home and found more than 20 grams of additional heroin and another firearm.

Juan Estevez, 23, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in cocaine by transportation and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Estevez was sentenced to 82-117 months in prison. In April 2016, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police had information that Estevez was involved in cocaine trafficking and knew he had outstanding warrants for his arrest. Detectives attempted to stop Estevez's car, but Estevez sped away. Detectives later located him as he attempted to engage in a drug transaction. When Estevez tried to flee the scene, he got his car stuck in nearby hedges. Estevez threw a backpack out of his window as detectives approached. Inside the backpack, detectives found approximately one kilogram of cocaine and a pistol. Detectives searched Estevez's home and located approximately 600 grams of cocaine inside.

Jonathan Garcia, 22, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Garcia was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Gregory Sorey, 35, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by possession and 2) attempted trafficking in marijuana by possession. Sorey was sentenced to 76-110 months in prison.

Miranda Cochran, 32, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Cochran was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Robert Burns, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Burns was sentenced to 18-24 months in prison.

Bradley Osborne, 35, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in cocaine by possession. Osborne was sentenced to 12-24 months in prison.

Jose Santiago, 45, pled guilty to selling heroin. Santiago was sentenced to 10-21 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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