

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

December 16, 2015

Jury convicts methamphetamine trafficker; 4 plead guilty to drug charges

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A methamphetamine trafficker was sent to prison following a jury's guilty verdict, and four other defendants pled guilty to drug crimes during the week of December 7, 2015. The defendants were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Richard L. Doughton, Superior Court Judge.

Jerimy Black, 44, was tried for 1) trafficking in methamphetamine by possession, 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver methamphetamine and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury found Black *guilty* as charged. Judge Doughton sentenced Black to 70-93 months in prison. In June 2014, Black brought individually-wrapped baggies of methamphetamine, which weighed more than 10 grams, into a local restaurant. A citizen located the methamphetamine and brought it to the attention of Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. Police then located 27 grams of methamphetamine, as well as drug paraphernalia, inside Black's car. Officers also seized \$1,555 from the car. Following Black's conviction, the seized money was released to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Shavonda Simpson, 32, was tried for 1) two counts of possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) two counts of selling cocaine, 3) two counts of delivering cocaine and 4) two counts of possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury returned verdicts of not guilty.

Savion Hilliard, 22, pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) two counts of selling cocaine and 3) possession with the intent to sell or deliver a schedule IV controlled substance. Hilliard was sentenced to 20-42 months in prison.

Princeton Hopper, 21, pled guilty to 1) selling marijuana and 2) misdemeanor financial card fraud. Hopper was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Hopper must serve 44 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Rhoden Reddick, 64, pled guilty to 1) possession of a schedule II controlled substance and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Reddick was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Reddick must complete 200 hours of community service.

Jessica Sowell, 22, pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver MDMA, 2) felony maintaining a vehicle to keep a controlled substance and 3) misdemeanor death by

motor vehicle. For the possession with the intent to sell or deliver MDMA conviction, she was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. For the felony maintaining a vehicle to keep a controlled substance charge, Sowell was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. For the misdemeanor death by motor vehicle charge, Sowell was sentenced to 45 days in custody; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. Each of the three sentences is to run consecutively.

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

// End //

