

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Drug Team convicts 44 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of December 9, 2013, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 44 defendants of drug crimes. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable James W. Morgan, 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:

Michael Hancock, 28, pled guilty to 1) selling marijuana and 2) two counts of selling cocaine. Judge Morgan sentenced him to 12-24 months in prison. In July 2013, Hancock sold marijuana and crack cocaine to an undercover officer from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

Corey Keene, 34, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in oxycodone by possession and 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver oxycodone. He was sentenced to a total of 27-51 months in prison.

Efran Romero, 23, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by transportation. He was sentenced to 20-36 months in prison.

Jamal Starks, 33, pled guilty to selling cocaine. He was sentenced to 11-23 months in prison.

Thomas McCusker, 38, pled guilty to 1) possession of heroin and 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana. He was sentenced to 6-17 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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