

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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46 defendants convicted of drug offenses

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Several heroin traffickers were among the 46 defendants convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team during the week of December 15, 2014. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, 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:

Eddie Bolton, 19, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by sale. Bolton was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In July 2014, Bolton sold \$500 worth of heroin to an undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer.

Eric Blas, 23, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Blas was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Luis Hernandez-Diaz, 17, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by sale. Hernandez-Diaz was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Oscar Rodriguez-Lopez, 23, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Rodriguez-Lopez was sentenced to 70-93 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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