

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

January 31, 2020

Jury convicts man of trafficking cocaine in restaurant parking lot

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During a trial session held January 13-24, 2020, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team called two cases for trial. Another defendant entered a guilty plea before his case was called for trial. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Casey M. Viser and The Honorable Donnie Hoover, Superior Court Judges.

Ricardo Hale, 33, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession and 2) trafficking in cocaine by transportation. The jury found Hale *guilty* as charged. Judge Viser sentenced Hale to a total of 70-102 months in prison. In April 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police witnessed Hale conducting a drug transaction in a car in the parking lot of a Jack In The Box restaurant in Charlotte. Officers detained Hale and searched his car, where they found 47 grams of crack cocaine.

Dexter Barrino, 28, was called for trial for the charge of possession of cocaine. Barrino filed pretrial motions to suppress certain evidence obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Hoover granted those motions and then dismissed the case.

David Graves, 34, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Hoover sentenced Graves to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Graves must serve 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

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 //