

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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## **Heroin traffickers among 53 defendants convicted by DA's Drug Team**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Fifty-three defendants, including several heroin traffickers, pled guilty to drug crimes during the week of January 25, 2016, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants, who were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Drug Team, entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, 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 were sent to prison were:

Floralma Amaya, 40, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by possession and 2) trafficking in heroin by transportation. Amaya was sentenced to 140-186 months in prison. In May 2015, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration obtained information that Amaya was in possession of a large amount of heroin. Officers established surveillance of Amaya and stopped her vehicle. When officers were given consent to search the vehicle, they found 125.82 grams of heroin inside. Officers located an additional 1.002 kilograms of heroin inside Amaya's apartment. In an interview following her arrest, Amaya admitted that she had been selling heroin.

Alexander Lopez, 29, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Lopez was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Moreno Fuentes, 32, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Fuentes was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Orion Gonzalez-Contreras, 20, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Gonzalez-Contreras was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Jose Luis Gonzalez-Espinoza, 20, pled guilty to trafficking in methamphetamine by transportation. Gonzalez-Espinoza was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Esteban Martinez, 35, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Martinez was sentenced to a total of 32-58 months in prison.

Steven Bishop, 40, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Bishop was sentenced to 30-54 months in prison.

Daniel Sigmon, 27, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Sigmon was sentenced to 26-50 months in prison.

Desmond Singleton, 26, pled guilty to 1) selling cocaine and 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Singleton was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison.

Brian McFadden, 22, pled guilty to possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana. McFadden 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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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