

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team convicts 36 defendants, refers 26 to treatment

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of February 18, 2019, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 36 defendants in courtroom 5310 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.

While the team works to hold drug sellers and traffickers accountable for their crimes, prosecutors also connect defendants facing addictions with treatment services. Since January 18, 2019, a total of 26 defendants have been referred to Mecklenburg County Recovery Courts, and 17 defendants have enrolled. There were three referrals to District STEP Recovery Court, 13 referrals to Superior STEP Recovery Court, seven referrals to Wellness Court (formerly Mental Health Treatment Court) and three referrals to DWI Recovery Court.

Among the defendants convicted was:

Shuannisha McCollum, 33, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession. Judge Bell sentenced McCollum to 25-39 months in prison. In July 2017, detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department seized more than 375 grams of cocaine from McCollum.

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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