

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug traffickers sent to prison; others enroll in treatment courts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team recently convicted 25 defendants of offenses such as possessing, selling and trafficking in illegal drugs. The defendants entered their guilty pleas during the week of March 12, 2018, before The Honorable W. Robert Bell and The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judges. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Since March 1, 2018, three people have enrolled in Mecklenburg County Treatment Courts. Two have enrolled in Superior Wellness Court, and the other enrolled in District Wellness Court.

Among those recently convicted and sent to prison were:

Humberto Rivera-Carrasco, 41, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Judge Bell sentenced Rivera-Carrasco to 70-93 months in prison. In August 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle driven by Rivera-Carrasco. When officers searched him, they discovered approximately 26 grams of heroin inside Rivera-Carrasco's pants.

Ned Peker, 32, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in opiates by transportation and 2) attempted trafficking in opiates by possession. Judge Bell sentenced Peker to 40-72 months in prison. In May 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police saw pills in Peker's car while he was sitting in the vehicle in a restaurant parking lot. During a search, police found 448 oxycodone pills in Peker's pants. Officers also seized cocaine, marijuana and more than \$1,000 from Peker.

Daracus Barringer pled guilty to 1) trafficking in cocaine by transportation, 2) discharging a firearm within an enclosure to incite fear and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Sumner sentenced Barringer to 35-51 months in prison. Barringer was also sentenced to an additional 15-27 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation.

Roberto Gonzalez, 38, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by possession and 2) attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by transportation. Judge Bell sentenced Gonzalez to 26-50 months in prison.

Martin Melendez-Perez, 34, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in cocaine by possession and 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Judge Bell sentenced Melendez-Perez to 24-48 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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