

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug traffickers convicted by Drug Team; others enroll in treatment courts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of April 9, 2018, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 29 defendants. 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.

Prosecutors also recently enrolled a number of defendants in Mecklenburg County Treatment Courts. Since March 21, 2018, two defendants were admitted to Wellness Court (formally known as Mental Health Court), one defendant was admitted to District Recovery Court, and one defendant was admitted to Superior Recovery Court. Forty-seven defendants were referred to District STEP Recovery Court. Additionally, one defendant is scheduled to be admitted this week to Wellness Court, and five defendants are scheduled to be admitted to Superior Recovery Court.

Among the 29 defendants convicted were:

Francisco Lopez-Delgado, 45, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Lopez-Delgado was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In June 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police executed search warrants at two houses that were places of interest based on an extended investigation into heroin trafficking. When officers entered the house on Pella Road, they found Lopez-Delgado with his hands in the sink and 23 balloons of heroin in the sink, as well as additional balloons of heroin in the kitchen. The total weight of the heroin seized in this case was more than 400 grams. Officers also searched a home on Hollystone Lane and seized more than \$75,000.

Thedrick Hoyle, 29, pled guilty to trafficking in fentanyl by delivery. Hoyle was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Julian Bravo, 46, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by transportation. Bravo was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. In July 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police arrested Bravo as a part of a drug investigation. A K9 unit indicated there were drugs in the car Bravo was seen driving. Inside the car, detectives found 998 grams of cocaine. Detectives also seized \$1,400 from Bravo's residence.

Jason Dunlap, 35, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in cocaine by transportation and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Dunlap was sentenced to 12-24 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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