

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts defendant; 3 plead guilty to drug crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A Mecklenburg County jury convicted a defendant in a trial led by the District Attorney's Drug Team, and three other defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial. The proceedings were held May 22-26, 2017, before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, The Honorable Kevin M. Bridges and The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judges.

Jerrel Morris, 32, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury found him *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of possession of cocaine and *not guilty* of possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Sumner sentenced Morris to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Deryck Cureton, 26, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) misdemeanor carrying a concealed gun, 3) misdemeanor possession of marijuana and 4) possession of marijuana drug paraphernalia. Judge Bridges sentenced Cureton to 9-20 months in prison.

Carlos Gatewood, 36, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Caldwell sentenced Gatewood to 15-27 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Gatewood must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

William Bynum, 26, pled guilty to 1) obtaining property by false pretenses, 2) possession of heroin, 3) misdemeanor hit and run and 4) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Caldwell sentenced Bynum to 7-18 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Bynum must enter the Superior Court Supervision, Treatment, Education and Prevention (STEP) Drug Treatment Court program.

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.

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