

NEWS RELEASE

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Seven defendants called for trial by Drug Prosecution Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The DA's Drug Prosecution Team prosecuted seven defendants the week of June 4, 2012, in courtroom 5150 of the Mecklenburg County Courthouse before The Honorable Alan Z. Thornburg, Superior Court Judge.

John Sherrill, 28, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine and 2) felony maintaining a dwelling to keep or sell a controlled substance. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* on the lesser included offense of misdemeanor maintain a dwelling to keep or sell a controlled substance and *not guilty* on possession of cocaine. Judge Thornburg sentenced him to 32 days in the county jail.

Shelton Fripp, 49, was tried for possession of cocaine. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

Five defendants pled guilty when their cases were called for trial:

Jamil Rorie, 28, pled guilty to felony possession of heroin. Judge Thornburg sentenced Rorie to 11 to 14 months in prison.

Kerwin Burke, 28, pled guilty to sale of cocaine. Judge Thornburg sentenced Burke to 9 to 11 months in prison.

Zion Tafari, 51, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Thornburg sentenced Tafari to 5-6 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation.

Steven Moore, 40, pled guilty to felony possession of cocaine. Judge Thornburg sentenced Moore to 6 to 8 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Moore's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

DeJanarell Cherry, 27, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) resisting a public officer. Judge Thornburg sentenced Cherry to 6-8 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Cherry's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of his conditions of probation, Cherry must serve 13 days in the county jail.

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