

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team convicts 31, refers 51 to treatment programs

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of June 4, 2018, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 31 defendants in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Jeff P. Hunt and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges. The defendants pled guilty to 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 May 18, 2018, a total of 51 defendants were referred to Mecklenburg County Recovery Courts, which work to break the cycle of addiction.

Among those convicted during the week of June 4, 2018, were:

Maury Gonzalez-Salgado, 22, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Judge Hunt sentenced Gonzalez-Salgado to 90-120 months in prison.

Saul Rodriguez, 21, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Judge Hunt sentenced Rodriguez to 20-36 months in prison.

Jared Rogers, 21, pled guilty to sale of methamphetamine. Judge Hunt sentenced Rogers to 13-25 months in prison. In January 2018, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police conducted an undercover purchase of methamphetamine from Rogers.

Khalif Pemberton, 50, pled guilty to possession of heroin with the intent to sell or deliver. Judge Hunt sentenced Pemberton to 10-21 months in prison. In August 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police executed a search warrant on an apartment on South Hoskins Road. Pemberton was located in an upstairs bedroom along with more than 440 bindles of heroin, 7 grams of cocaine, more than \$3,500 in cash and a firearm.

Johnathan Banks, 29, pled guilty to two counts of attempted trafficking in cocaine. Judge Hunt sentenced Banks to 9-20 months in prison. Banks was also sentenced to an additional 12-24 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

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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