

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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DA's Drug Team convicts 5 during trial week

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted five defendants June 24-July 1, 2013. The team convicted one defendant at trial, and another four defendants pled guilty. The proceedings were held before The Honorable H. William Constangy, Superior Court Judge.

Dennis James, 35, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession 2) possession of drug paraphernalia and 3) possession of marijuana. The jury found him *guilty* of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana and *not guilty* of the trafficking offense. Judge Constangy sentenced James to 120 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

The State called Michael Gaddy, 49, for trial for charges of 1) trafficking in heroin by possession, 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver heroin, 3) maintaining a dwelling to keep or sell a controlled substance and 4) possession of drug paraphernalia. Gaddy filed a motion to suppress evidence seized in the investigation. After a two-day hearing with arguments by the State and the defense, Judge Constangy denied the motion. Gaddy then pled guilty as charged. Judge Constangy sentenced Gaddy to 70-93 months in prison.

Eduardo Torres-Savala, 28, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession. Judge Constangy sentenced Torres-Savala to 70-84 months in prison. In September 2012, the DEA Joint Task Force arranged for Torres-Savala to deliver cocaine to an empty vehicle in Charlotte. Following his arrest and the seizure of the cocaine in the vehicle, agents searched Torres-Savala's house in Charlotte and found more than 200 grams of cocaine.

Hector Martinez-Ramirez, 38, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Judge Constangy sentenced him to 70-84 months in prison.

Gregory Covington, 43, pled guilty to 1) possession of firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Judge Constangy sentenced Covington to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Covington must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

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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