

# NEWS RELEASE

**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**July 31, 2017**

## **Drug Team convicts 6 defendants**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted six defendants in Superior Court during the week of July 24, 2017. One defendant entered a guilty plea after a judge denied his motion to suppress evidence, and five others pled guilty before their cases were called for trial. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judge.

Lorenzo Mills, 29, was called for trial. The defense filed a motion to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Foust, who heard arguments from the defense and an Assistant District Attorney, denied Mills' motion. Mills then pled guilty as charged to 1) possession of marijuana with the intent to sell or deliver, 2) felony possession of marijuana and 3) possession of marijuana drug paraphernalia. Judge Foust sentenced Mills to 6-17 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, Mills must perform 30 hours of community service.

The following defendants entered guilty pleas before their cases were called for trial:

Mykal Gaddy, 27, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) assault with a deadly weapon on a law enforcement officer. Judge Foust sentenced Gaddy to 90-120 months in prison.

Tony Withers, 58, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession of heroin. Judge Foust sentenced Withers to 12-24 months in prison.

Laron Branham, 31, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Foust sentenced Branham to 15-27 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, Branham must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Mark Belton, 28, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver and 2) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Judge Foust sentenced Belton to 10-21 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Belton must serve 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Michael Hargrove, 33, pled guilty to misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Judge Foust sentenced Hargrove to 1 day in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

*// End //*

