

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **23 defendants convicted by Drug Team; 11 others referred to Recovery Courts**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of September 23, 2019, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 23 defendants in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable W. Todd Pomeroy, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for 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 August 28, 2019, a total of 11 defendants have been referred to Mecklenburg County Recovery Courts, and six have enrolled. Three defendants were referred to Superior STEP Recovery Court, two were referred to District STEP Recovery Court, five were referred to Wellness Court (formerly Mental Health Treatment Court), and one was referred to DWI Recovery Court.

Among those defendants who pled guilty were:

Dale Bloomberg, 62, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in cocaine by possession. Bloomberg was sentenced to 14-26 months in prison. In September 2018, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police conducted a search warrant on Bloomberg's residence and seized more than 100 grams of cocaine.

Pa Comma, 26, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in opiates by possession and 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Comma to 26-44 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. In August 2017, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police located more than 45 grams of oxycodone and more than 4 grams of hydrocodone, as well as marijuana, in Comma's vehicle.

Michael Cornwell, 24, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) possession of heroin. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Cornwell to 13-25 months in prison.

Xavier Miller, 22, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Miller to 12-24 months in prison.

Michael Eiland, 29, pled guilty to sale of cocaine. Judge Pomeroy sentenced Eiland to 10-21 months in prison.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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