

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug traffickers among 45 defendants convicted

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Several drug traffickers were among the 45 defendants recently convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team. During the week of October 6, 2014, the defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans and The Honorable J. Thomas Davis, Superior Court Judges. 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.

Among the defendants who pled guilty and were sent to prison were:

Ismael Algular, 35, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Algular was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison.

Jonathan Gonzalez, 17, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Gonzalez was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Luis Garcia-Garcia, 25, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Garcia-Garcia was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Weston Darfler, 25, pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession. Darfler was sentenced to 35-51 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.

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