

NEWS RELEASE

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34 convicted of drug crimes; heroin trafficker sent to prison after police find stash house

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of October 10, 2016, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 34 defendants. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, 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.

Among the defendants sent to prison were:

Diego Garcia, 23, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Garcia was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison. In October 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police were conducting surveillance of a home that was a suspected heroin stash house. Detectives saw Garcia and two others leave the home and then followed their vehicle to North Hoskins Road, where detectives observed a drug transaction. When they approached Garcia's vehicle, detectives found approximately 50 grams of heroin and more than \$5,000 in cash inside the car. Officers searched the home and located more than 800 grams of heroin, as well as a drug ledger.

David Daniels, 32, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit trafficking in heroin by sale. Daniels was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Anakaren Torres, 22, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Torres was sentenced to 43-64 months in prison.

Douglas Swaney, 57, pled guilty to possession with the intent to manufacture, sell or deliver methamphetamine. Swaney was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison.

Demetria Finley, 24, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in marijuana by possession. Finley was sentenced to 6-17 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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