

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team convicts man found with 245 grams of heroin, 1,000 grams of meth

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who was arrested in a local shopping center parking lot with significant amounts of heroin and methamphetamine was among the 35 defendants convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team during the week of November 4, 2019. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable George C. Bell, 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 those convicted were:

Jose Gil-Romero, 17, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by possession. Judge Bell sentenced Gil-Romero to 58-82 months in prison. In December 2018, detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's DEA Task Force received information that Gil-Romero would be transporting large amounts of heroin and methamphetamine in the south Charlotte area with the intent to sell those narcotics to an undercover officer. Officers made contact with Gil-Romero in the parking lot of a shopping center on Pineville-Matthews Road, where the drug transaction was to occur. A search of Gil-Romero's vehicle revealed more than 245 grams of heroin and more than 1,000 grams of methamphetamine. Gil-Romero was arrested on scene for drug trafficking. In a subsequent interview, Gil-Romero admitted that the drugs belonged to him and that he planned to sell them in the Charlotte area.

Seth Bott, 29, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) second-degree burglary and 3) possession of methamphetamine. Judge Bell sentenced Bott to a total of 27-51 months in prison.

Donte Ford, 18, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) 10 counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Judge Bell sentenced Ford to 12-24 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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