

NEWS RELEASE

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Heroin, cocaine traffickers among 22 convicted of drug crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During the week of November 6, 2017, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted 22 defendants in Superior Court. 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. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Erwin Spainhour and The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, Superior Court Judges.

Among the defendants convicted and sent to prison were:

Oscar Magana, 26, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Magana to 70-93 months in prison. In April 2017, Matthews police conducted a traffic stop on a van Magana was driving. While interacting with Magana, officers saw him moving his hands under his seat after being told to keep his hands on the wheel. A search of the van revealed a pill bottle containing more than 4 grams of heroin under the driver's seat and a shotgun.

Ryan Shook, 29, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in cocaine by sale and 2) sale of cocaine. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Shook to 35-51 months in prison. In April 2017, Cornelius police conducted an undercover drug transaction with Shook for the purchase of 50 grams of cocaine. After the deal was complete, Shook was arrested.

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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