

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

December 11, 2019

Undercover operation leads to heroin trafficking trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who sold heroin to an undercover agent during an investigation known as Operation Hornets Nest was convicted by a jury and sentenced to at least 18 years in prison. He was among the three defendants convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team during a trial session held November 18-26, 2019. The proceedings were held before The Honorable George C. Bell and The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr., Superior Court Judges.

Quantarius Stinson, 24, was charged with 1) two counts of trafficking in heroin by possession, 2) two counts of trafficking in heroin by transportation, 3) two counts of trafficking in heroin by delivery and 4) two counts of trafficking in heroin by sale. The jury found Stinson *guilty* of two counts of trafficking in heroin by sale, two counts of trafficking in heroin by possession, one count of trafficking in heroin by delivery and one count of trafficking in heroin by transportation. The jury found him *not guilty* of one count of trafficking in heroin by delivery and one count of trafficking in heroin by transportation. Judge Trosch sentenced Stinson to 225-282 months in prison. In the fall of 2017, detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Vice and Narcotics Unit and agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) were conducting a long-term undercover investigation known as Operation Hornets Nest. On October 25, 2017, Stinson sold more than 4 grams of a mixture of heroin and cyclopropyl fentanyl to an undercover ATF agent. Two days later, Stinson sold more than 29 grams of heroin to the same undercover agent.

Keyon Torrence, 35, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in methamphetamine by possession and 2) trafficking in methamphetamine by transportation. Judge Bell sentenced Torrence to 70-93 months in prison

Ngir Espinozaresugio, 38, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by possession and 2) attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by transportation. Judge Bell sentenced Espinozaresugio to 26-50 months in prison.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

// End //