

NEWS RELEASE

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34 defendants convicted by Drug Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team concluded 2019 by securing convictions of 34 defendants. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge, during the week of December 16, 2019. 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 was William Belk, 37, who pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by possession and 2) attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by transportation. Judge Lewis sentenced Belk to a total of 32-58 months in prison.

In June 2018, detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Vice and Narcotics Unit received information that Belk was trafficking methamphetamine in the Charlotte area. On June 14, detectives received further information that Belk would deliver 3 ounces of crystal methamphetamine around 4 p.m. that day in the parking lot of a diner on Lancaster Highway in Charlotte. Police established surveillance around the diner. At approximately 4:22 p.m., law enforcement observed Belk arrive at the location and briefly enter the diner before coming back to the parking lot. Law enforcement approached and searched Belk, discovering 59.69 grams of methamphetamine in his pockets. In a subsequent interview, Belk admitted he intended to sell the methamphetamine for \$1,500.

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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