District Attorney's Office

State of North Carolina 26th Prosecutorial District Mecklenburg County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts man of trafficking as Habitual Felon Team leads trial session

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who was found with over 1100 methamphetamine pills, weighing over 400 grams, was sentenced to at least 18 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of trafficking. This marks the <u>second conviction</u> of a major drug trafficker in a month as the District Attorney's Office continues to confront the community's ongoing challenges from the proliferation of dangerous drugs like meth and fentanyl. His case was among several tried by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team, which worked in two Superior Court courtrooms during the team's latest trial session. The proceedings were held the week of February 26, 2024, before The Honorable Donald J. Cureton and The Honorable David H. Strickland, Superior Court Judges.

Javonte Miller, 35, was tried for 1) two counts of trafficking methamphetamine, 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 3) possession of cocaine, 4) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 5) felony carrying a concealed gun, and 6) being an habitual felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. The State elected not to proceed on the habitual felon status. Judge Cureton sentenced Miller to one mandatory sentence of 225-282 months in prison.

On June 12, 2019, officers with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department attempted to serve outstanding warrants for the arrest of Javonte Miller. They believed Miller to be staying at the Super 8 Motel on Queen City Drive. Once there, officers recognized Miller's vehicle as it was leaving the parking lot. They waited and it later returned. As soon as Miller exited the car, officers arrested him. Officers located cocaine in Miller's pants pocket and in a cigarette box he was holding. A search of the vehicle Miller was driving revealed a loaded .357 Taurus firearm under the driver's side floor mat. A DNA analysis showed Miller's DNA to be on the firearm. Additionally, officers located three bags, later determined to be methamphetamine, in the center console of the vehicle.

Officers obtained a search warrant for Miller's motel room and located an additional five bags of over 1100 unknown pills. A sampling of those pills were subjected to a chemical analysis and were determined to be methamphetamine. After a statistical analysis, it was determined the weight of those pills was over 400 grams.

Zavier Chisholm, 63, pled guilty to 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) misdemeanor carrying a concealed gun, and 4) being an habitual felon. Judge Strickland sentenced Chisholm to 80-108 months in prison.

Michelle Jones, 55, pled guilty to attempted larceny from the person. Judge Cureton sentenced Jones to 10-21 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

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