

NEWS RELEASE

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III
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Felony Crimes Team tries 3 defendants; 3 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Working in three courtrooms over the course of the last week, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Felony Crimes Team tried three cases and convicted three other defendants who entered guilty pleas. In one case, a jury found a man guilty of trafficking cocaine.

The proceedings, which began March 4, 2024, were held in courtrooms 6110, 5370, and 5110 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, The Honorable J. Thomas Davis, and The Honorable Donnie Hoover, Superior Court Judges.

Christian Sosa-Valdez, 21, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine, 2) possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, and 3) misdemeanor carrying a concealed gun. At the close of the State's evidence, Judge Ervin dismissed the carrying a concealed gun charge. A jury found Sosa-Valdez *guilty* of trafficking in cocaine and possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine. Judge Ervin sentenced Sosa-Valdez to 35-51 months in prison.

Drakwan Butler, 31, was tried for carrying a concealed gun. A jury found Butler *not guilty*.

Marquis Smith, 29, was tried for possession of a weapon by a prisoner. At the close of the State's evidence, Judge Davis dismissed the charge against Smith.

Carlos Adams, 59, pled *guilty* to felony worthless check. Judge Davis sentenced Adams to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

Germone Hopper, 30, pled *guilty* to attempted trafficking in oxycodone and two counts of felony carrying a concealed gun. Judge Davis sentenced Hopper to 15-27 months in prison. That sentence will be followed by a sentence of 6-17 months; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Dupree Patterson, 39, pled *guilty* to 1) trafficking in fentanyl, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, 4) maintaining a vehicle or dwelling for controlled substances, 5) possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana,

and 6) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Hoover sentenced Patterson to 90-120 months in prison. Patterson's case was previously set for trial on August 7th, 2023. Patterson failed to report to court, and a Judge issued an order for his arrest. Thanks to the efforts of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Violent Crime Apprehension Team, Patterson was in court for this rescheduled trial setting.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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