

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Peter S. Gilchrist, III**  
District Attorney

**June 18, 2010**

## **Drug Team convicts 49 felons**

Forty-nine defendants pled guilty to felony drug crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court from Monday, June 14, to Friday, June 18, 2010. The defendants entered their pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable Alan Z. Thornburg and The Honorable Robert F. Johnson, Superior Court Judges. 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 Javier Lopez-Aviles' active prison sentence of 70-84 months for conspiracy to traffic in cocaine.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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