

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team convicts 22 defendants, sends heroin traffickers to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Prosecution Team convicted 22 defendants March 18-21, 2013, in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge. 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 the defendants who pled guilty and were sent to prison were:

Jose Diaz, 25, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession and was sentenced to 90-117 months in prison. In August 2012, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police were conducting surveillance at a residence on Arnold Drive in Charlotte when they observed Diaz leave the house to make a large purchase of balloons from Party City. When Diaz returned to the house, officers knocked on the door, and Diaz was seen throwing 75.87 grams of heroin out of a window and attempting to escape through that same window. Officers apprehended Diaz. Inside the residence, officers discovered an additional 521.80 grams of heroin in Diaz's bedroom. Diaz confessed that the heroin in his bedroom belonged to him.



Jose Diaz

Inmar Cabrera, 18, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession and was sentenced to 70-84 months in prison.

Emilio Gomez, 45, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by possession and was sentenced to 70-84 months in prison.

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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