

# NEWS RELEASE

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**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**November 24, 2015**

## **Heroin traffickers among 43 defendants convicted by DA's Drug Team**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who sold heroin to undercover officers and a man found in possession of more than 250 grams of heroin were among the 43 defendants convicted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team during the week of November 16, 2015. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Carla N. Archie, 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 those convicted and sent to prison were:

Eduardo Paredes, 30, pled guilty to 1) trafficking in heroin by transportation and 2) selling heroin. Paredes was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison. In December 2014, Paredes sold 2 grams of heroin to undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department detectives. Then, in March 2015, after conducting surveillance of Paredes, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police gained consent to search both his person and his apartment, locating 102.1 grams of heroin and \$16,527. Following his guilty plea, the seized money was released to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Alberto Martinez, 34, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Martinez was sentenced to 90-120 months in prison. In April 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police stopped Martinez's car, and Martinez consented to a search of his vehicle. The officers found 256 grams of heroin inside. Officers then searched Martinez's apartment and located 33.31 grams of heroin and \$12,620.

Federico Santiago, 28, pled guilty to trafficking in heroin by transportation. Santiago was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison.

Billy Redmon, 28, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by sale and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation. Redmon was sentenced to 48-76 months in prison.

Christopher Mercer, 24, pled guilty to 1) attempted trafficking in heroin by possession and 2) attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation. Mercer was sentenced to 30-54 months in prison.

Luis Preciado-Velazquez, 33, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in heroin by transportation. Preciado-Velazquez was sentenced to 58-82 months in prison.

Benjamin Hobbs, 38, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in opiates by possession. He was sentenced to 15-27 months in prison.

Samuel Hobbs, 41, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in opiates by possession. He was sentenced to 15-27 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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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