

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Three Sentenced to a combined 39 years in prison on drug trafficking charges

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that three individuals were sentenced this week by Greenville County Circuit Judges on illegal drug trafficking charges.

DANIEL MORENO MARTINEZ pleaded guilty on January 8, 2018 to trafficking over 2,000 grams of powder cocaine and was sentenced to 15 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC). He also received a one year concurrent sentence for the Unlawful Carrying of a Pistol. Martinez admitted his role in a drug conspiracy centered in southern Greenville County that Greenville County Sheriff's deputies uncovered in January of 2017. Martinez admitted that he attempted to deliver, to a distributor cooperating with deputies, more than 2,003 grams of powder cocaine. Deputies covertly arranged a meeting location for the delivery and apprehended Martinez when he arrived with the illegal drugs.

SERGIO MARIN COLIN pleaded guilty on January 10, 2018 to trafficking 983 grams of methamphetamines and 17 pounds of Marijuana and received a sentence of 13 years in SCDC. Sergio Marin Colin, also part of a southern Greenville County drug conspiracy, admitted in court this week that he planned to deliver approximately 1,000 grams of methamphetamines and 17 pounds of marijuana to a cooperating distributor back on January 5, 2017. Deputies apprehended Colin when he arrived with the delivery. Colin was sentenced to 13 years of incarceration as a result of the attempted delivery.

These wide-reaching illegal narcotics investigations in southern Greenville County involved the arrest of more than a dozen illegal drug suppliers and distributors in Greenville County. These guilty

pleas are the result of extensive investigation by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. The Solicitor's Office and Sheriff's Office have formed a collaborative effort to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of large volume illegal drug suppliers and distributors with the goal of removing drug traffickers from our community for extended periods of time.

As the result of a separate investigation in the Travelers Rest community, MICHAEL EUGENE HUGHES pleaded guilty on January 10, 2018 to trafficking methamphetamines and received a sentence of 11 years in SCDC. Hughes admitted his role in a drug distribution network that involved the sale and the use of methamphetamines in northern Greenville County.

In summarizing the collaborative efforts of his office and members of the Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit, Solicitor Wilkins states that "the detection and vigorous prosecution of these particular enterprises is a model that will be repeated again and again throughout the Circuit until drug traffickers learn that they are not welcome in either Greenville or Pickens County."