



JASON W. SMITH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

State of North Carolina
General Court of Justice
Sixth Prosecutorial District
Wilmington, NC 28402

POST OFFICE BOX 352
PHONE: (910) 772-6610
FAX: (910) 772-6611

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Contact: Samantha Dooies, Public Information Officer

Samantha.Dooies@ncourts.org

(910) 772-6934

Ballard Pleads to Multiple Drug Charges

A Wilmington area man will serve almost a decade in prison for trafficking fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana. Zymene Kore Ballard, age 21, pled guilty Monday to Trafficking in Opium or Heroin Level II, Attempted Trafficking of Cocaine, and Attempted Trafficking of Marijuana, and was sentenced to a minimum of 108 months in prison.

After receiving a tip in February of 2024, the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics detectives investigated the residence of 517 Minnow Way in Wilmington. During the next few days, multiple individuals were seen coming and going to the residence, which indicated to law enforcement that a drug transaction was occurring. One individual seen leaving 517 Minnow Way would be questioned by law enforcement and found to be in possession of several fentanyl laced pills. When questioned, the individual would advise law enforcement that the fentanyl laced pills were sold to them by Zymene Ballard. Thereafter, a search warrant was executed at the residence, which yielded approximately 400 dosage units of fentanyl, just over 100 grams of cocaine, and over 10 pounds of marijuana, among other items of contraband. Additionally, a ledger found in the residence listed multiple illicit sales of narcotics to numerous individuals that were carried out within a recent time period, according to the investigation.



Zymene Kore Ballard

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