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ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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ARRAIGNMENTS HELD FOR THREE OF THE INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED AS RESULT OF JOINT OPERATION

On May 12, 2014, it was announced that five (5) individuals had been indicted for racketeering charges for drug conspiracy. Today, three of those individuals appeared in Court today for arraignments.

Bert C. Sharrer, 45, of Jacksonville, Ohio, entered a plea of not guilty to an indictment charging two (2) counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, felonies of the third degree and one (1) count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree. Bond was set at \$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars) with no 10% allowed. Jury trial was scheduled for July 15, 2014.

Bert Sharrer Jr., 18, of McConnelsville, entered a plea of not guilty to an indictment charging one (1) count of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, a felony of the fourth degree and one (1) count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree. Bond was set at \$800,000.00 (eight hundred thousand dollars) with no 10% allowed. Jury trial was scheduled for July 15, 2014.

Kendra Rania Sharrer, 22, of Glouster, entered a plea of not guilty to an indictment charging one (1) count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree, one (1) count of Aggravated Possession of Drugs, and one (1) count Tampering with Evidence, a felony of the third degree. Bond was set at \$800,000.00 (eight hundred thousand dollars) with no 10% allowed. Jury trial was scheduled for July 15, 2014.

As reported yesterday, these arrests are the result of a joint operation between the Athens County

Prosecutor's Office, the Athens County Sheriff's Office, the Athens Police Department and the Ohio University Police Department to shut down an area drug ring that extends from Athens County through Columbus to the Detroit area.