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ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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Property Crimes Task Force Conducts Joint Operation on Sale of Stolen Property in Athens County

Today, in an initiative of Prosecutor Blackburn's Property Crimes Task Force, a joint operation was conducted by the Athens County Sheriff's Office, the Athens Police Department, the Ohio University Police Department and the Athens County Prosecutor's Office – in cooperation with local merchants – to address the sale of stolen property in Athens County. Undercover teams visited area businesses seeking to sell stolen property including coins, jewelry and a gun. While some businesses responded appropriately, two area business did not. The individuals involved will face charges of various degrees depending on the nature of the stolen property and investigations of businesses that purchase property illegally will continue.

“This operation should send a message to any business owner who may be tempted to buy stolen goods,” said Prosecutor Blackburn. “Sales of stolen property are fueling the purchase of illegal drugs. We’re going to get to the source of the problem and shut off the money that’s feeding addiction in our community.”

This joint operation involved resources and officers from the Athens County Sheriff's Office, the Athens Police Department, the Ohio University Police Department, the Athens County Prosecutor's Office and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification. The Property Crimes Task Force is one of the key components of Prosecutor Blackburn's Community Justice Initiative.

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