



KELLER J. BLACKBURN
Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

Date: July 2, 2014 ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Jacksonville Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison for Drug Crimes

Bert C. Sharrer, Sr., 46, of Jacksonville, appeared before Judge George McCarthy today and pled guilty as charged in the indictment against him to two (2) third degree felony counts for Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs and one (1) first degree felony count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity.

The charges stem from the joint investigation by the Athens County Sheriff's Office, the Athens Police Department, the Ohio University Police Department and the Athens County Prosecutor's Office into a drug ring that has been running illegal drugs from Detroit through Columbus into Athens County. This investigation led to charges being brought against eight individuals from the area, including Bert Sharrer.

The Court today accepted Sharrer's guilty plea and sentenced him to three (3) years in prison for each of the two Drug Trafficking offenses and ten (10) years in prison for Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity. The Court ordered that the sentences should run concurrently for a total of ten (10) years and that, under the terms of the plea agreement, Sharrer could be considered for judicial release after (5) years in prison. The agreement requires that Sharrer cooperate fully in the on-going investigation and that he testify truthfully in court actions stemming from the investigation.

Prosecutor Blackburn reports that, "On two separate occasions in March of 2014, Bert C. Sharrer sold Oxycodone tablets, a Schedule II Controlled Substance, in the vicinity of a juvenile. In addition, Sharrer was unlawfully associated with an enterprise that engaged in a pattern of corrupt activity." Blackburn continued, "Those who are at the source of the drug problems in our community should expect to go to prison."