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## **ACPO PRESS RELEASE**

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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### ***Bond Set at \$12 Million for Former Detroit Police Officer in Drug Pipeline Case***

Brandon Jorge Allen, 29, of Detroit, today was arraigned in Athens County Common Pleas Court before Judge Alan Goldsberry. By agreement of the parties, Judge Goldsberry set bail at \$12 million. Mr. Allen will be required to surrender his passport if bond is posted. A pre-trial conference date was set for Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., with a trial date set for October 7<sup>th</sup>.

The former Detroit Police officer was charged in a twelve count indictment by an Athens County Grand Jury of: ten (10) counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs; one (1) count of Aggravated Possession of Drugs; and one (1) count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity. Allen was arrested on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport as he boarded a flight to the Dominican Republic. That same day, investigators from the Athens County Prosecutor's Office, together with federal and local officers in Detroit, executed a search warrant on Allen's residence collecting evidence for the case. The Athens County Sheriff's Office retrieved Allen from Atlanta and brought him to Athens County for today's hearing.

"Allen's appearance today should send a strong message -- the people of Athens County are not willing to be victimized by criminals who profit from the scourge of illegal drugs in our community," said Prosecutor Keller Blackburn. "We're fighting back. And we're prepared to take our fight directly to the source of the problem."

Allen is the Detroit connection who supplied drugs to a ring operating out of Glouster, Ohio. The investigation into that ring has resulted in charges being filed against more than a dozen individuals. To date, three of those individuals – John Casey Metcalf, Bert C. Sharrer and Kendra Sharrer – have pled guilty to drug crimes. Mr. Bert Sharrer, Jr., is scheduled to be sentenced on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

The unprecedented investigation into the Detroit drug pipeline involved the issuance of dozens of subpoenas and search warrants, on-the-ground intelligence gathering in and outside of Ohio, the examination of hundreds of hours of jail phone calls, monitoring social media activities, examination of public and business records, phone records and interviews with offenders and confidential informants.

The investigation was led by the Athens County Prosecutor's Office, the Athens County Sheriff's Office, the police departments from Athens City, Ohio University, Nelsonville and Middleport, and the Meigs County Sheriff's Office. These local agencies also received help from the Ohio State Highway Patrol, prosecutors in Wood County, Ohio and Wayne County, Michigan, the Michigan State Police Intelligence Unit, the Detroit Police Department, the Sumter County's Sheriff's Office in South Carolina, police officers in West Virginia, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The investigation is on-going.

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