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ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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Wachenschwanz Sentenced to Ten (10) Years in Prison

Charles A. Wachenschwanz, 46, of Chauncey, Ohio, appeared before Judge George P. McCarthy on January 15, 2015, and entered a change of plea to guilty to charges of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree; Illegal Cultivation of Marihuana, a felony of the second degree; Endangering Children, a felony of the third degree; Possessing Criminal Tools, a felony of the fifth degree; Possessing a Defaced Firearm, a misdemeanor of the first degree; Having Weapons While Under Disability, a felony of the third degree; and Petty Theft, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

The Court sentenced Wachenschwanz to a ten (10) year prison term. Upon his release from prison, Wachenschwanz will have a mandatory term of five (5) years of post-release control.

Wachenschwanz is the Defendant associated in the drug pipeline case that reached from Glouster to Detroit, Michigan. Drug deals took place in Wood County, Ohio; Delaware County, Ohio; Athens County, Ohio; and Meigs County, Ohio. All told, over \$3,000,000.00 of Oxycodone were sold, in excess of 100,000 30 mg pills.

Brandon Allen, the former Detroit Police Officer and Michigan connection that supplied the drugs to the ring operating out of Glouster, Ohio, received a seventeen (17) year prison term on September 19, 2014; Derek Gyure, who was identified as the ring leader of the drug activity in Athens County was sentenced to a mandatory ten (10) year prison term, to be followed by 5 years of community control, on August 26, 2014; Bert Sharrer Jr. received five (5) years of community control on August 26, 2014; Clayton Ohlinger was sentenced to four (4) years in prison on August 22, 2014; Kendra Sharrer received a three (3) year mandatory prison sentence on August 7, 2014; John Casey Metcalf was sentenced to eight (8) years in prison on July 10, 2014; Bert C. Sharrer received a ten (10) year prison term on July 2, 2014; several customers of the drug ring entered the Diversion Program and are receiving treatment.

In Athens County, law enforcement officers from the Prosecutor's Office, Athens Police Department, Ohio University Police Department, Nelsonville Police Department, Athens County Sheriff's Office and Athens County 9-1-1 played a major roll in bringing these individuals to justice. Also providing assistance were the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Meigs County Sheriff's Office, Wood County Prosecutors Office (Ohio), and

Wayne County Prosecutor's Office (Michigan), law enforcement agencies in Michigan, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia, and the U.S. Attorneys Office, U.S. Marshal's Service, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Special recognition to Athens Police Officer Chuck Haegele, Ohio University Police Officer Mike Swearingen, and Athens County Sherriff's Deputy Jon Arnold.