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ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anthony A. Spears, 35, of Nelsonville, Ohio, appeared before Judge Patrick J. Lang on November 16, 2015, and entered a change of plea to guilty. Judge Lang accepted Spears' plea and found him guilty of **Count One**, Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity; **Counts Two, Three, Fifty-Four and Fifty-Five**, four (4) counts of Money Laundering; **Count Four, Eight, Nine, Ten, Eleven and Twenty-Four**, six (6) counts of Trafficking in Heroin; **Counts Five and Twelve**, two (2) counts of Possession of Heroin; **Counts Six and Seven**, two (2) counts of Having Weapons While Under Disability; **Counts Thirteen, Fourteen, Fifteen and Sixteen**, four (4) counts of Possessing Criminal Tools; **Count Seventeen**, Operating a Vehicle with a Hidden Compartment Used to Transport a Controlled Substance; **Count Thirty-Four**, Tampering with Evidence; **Count Thirty-Nine and Sixty-One**, two (2) counts of Possession of Cocaine.

Judge Lang sentenced Spears to a total of twenty-six (26) years in the State Penal System. Several vehicles, personal property and over \$13,000.00 were ordered forfeited.

Amy Beth Degarmore, aka Amy Beth Morris, aka Amy Beth Sawyers was sentenced to eighteen (18) months prison; Leesha Santek was sentenced to five (5) years of community control; John E. Rutter was sentenced to four (4) years prison; Ronnie Degarmore was sentenced to two (2) years prison; Patricia Nichole Vore was sentenced to three (3) years prison; John "Michael" Losey sentenced to ten (10) years prison; Gerald W. Hammon Jr. was sentenced to five (5) years community control; Cary A. Losey was sentenced to five (5) years community control; and Kelly Marie Cox was sentenced to five (5) years of community control; Megan Vore was sentenced to fourteen (14) years in prison; Jeffrey Degarmore was sentenced to four (4) years in prison.

Robert A. Degarmore, Kevin A. Degarmore and Richard E. Losey still have cases pending.

Prosecutor Blackburn commented, "As the leader of this expansive drug ring, Anthony Spears' conviction and sentencing has been another huge step forward in tackling the drug problem in the region. We will continue to attack addiction through treatment while punishing those who spread addiction in our communities."