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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATHENS, Ohio** – Joshua D. Gambrel, 31, of Nelsonville, Ohio, appeared before Judge Patrick Lang on February 17, 2016, and entered a change of plea to guilty to an indictment charging **Count One**, Engaging in a Pattern Of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree; **Count Two**, Trafficking in Heroin, a felony of the fifth degree; **Count Three**, Trafficking in Heroin, a felony of the fourth degree; **Count Four**, Possession of Heroin, a felony of the fourth degree; **Count Five**, Trafficking in Heroin, a felony of the fourth degree; **Count Six**, Possession of Drugs, a felony of the fifth degree; **Count Seven**, Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a felony of the fifth degree; **Counts Eight, Nine and Ten**, three (3) counts of Theft of Drugs, felonies of the third degree; **Count Eleven**, Possession of Drugs, a felony of the fifth degree; and **Counts Twelve, Thirteen, Fourteen, Fifteen, Sixteen, Seventeen, Eighteen and Nineteen**, eight (8) counts of Possessing Criminal Tools, felonies of the fifth degree.

Joshua Gambrel is part of a local drug ring that purchased Heroin in Columbus, Ohio and distributed it locally. Gambrel also was found to be in possession of a large amount of prescription pills in November of 2015, and did sell, or offer to sell drugs to others numerous times in November 2015.

Judge Lang sentenced Gambrel to a total prison term of ten (10) years. Upon release from incarceration, Gambrel must complete the Athens County Prosecutor's Office Vivitrol Program and will be subject to five (5) years of post release control.

Gambrel's co-defendants include Kevin Payne and Natasha North, who are both in the Athens County Prosecutor's Office Vivitrol Program and are awaiting sentencing, and Kaleigh Morris, who is in the Athens County Prosecutor's Office A.C.E. Program and Vivitrol Program.

This case was investigated by the Athens County Prosecutor's Office.