



KELLER J. BLACKBURN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATHENS, Ohio – The Athens County Prosecutor’s Office worked with the Columbus Police Department to make two arrests after several months of investigation into the alleged trade of illegal narcotics into the area by “E.”

Prosecutor Blackburn, Chief Investigator Barrett, First Assistant Prosecutor Meg Saunders, other prosecutor investigators, and other assistant prosecutors worked with Columbus Police Department CRT Zone 3 on March 29 and 30 to gather information and make two arrests.

On March 29, 2016, Kristin Smith, 26, of Pataskala, Ohio was arrested on Athens Municipal Court charge of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the second degree.

The target of the investigation, “E” is Eric J. Miller, 36, of Westerville, Ohio. He was arrested on March 30, 2016, on a warrant from Athens Municipal Court for one (1) count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree and a warrant out of Meigs County Common Pleas Court filed on December 28, 2015, for one (1) count of Possession of Heroin, a felony of the third degree; one (1) count of Trafficking in Heroin, a felony of the third degree; and one (1) count of Failure to Comply with Order or Signal of Police Officer, a felony of the fourth degree.

The Athens County Prosecutor’s Office reached out to CRT Zone 3 after the investigation moved from Licking County (Licking-Perry Task Force) to Columbus’ West Side late Tuesday afternoon.

A search warrant was conducted late on March 30, 2016, and into the early morning hours of March 31, 2016, by ACPO employees at Miller’s residence in Westerville and on his motor vehicle. The case remains under investigation.

Prosecutor Blackburn stated, “We are grateful for the work of Columbus Police Department CRT Zone 3, the officers in that unit worked diligently to bring “E” into custody.”

Prosecutor Blackburn further commented, “I am blessed to have a wonderful staff that works to stop the spread of addiction by supply-side elimination and demand-side treatment. Words can’t express my gratitude to this group of people who worked 34 of 42 hours between March 29th and March 31st. “E” had long been a known,

but unattainable target, he is now in custody and can answer for the allegations against him.”

The Athens County Prosecutor’s Office has information and will be working to track down the rest of those involved in this enterprise. Individuals are encouraged to contact us at 740-592-3208 or we will be contacting you.

Agencies involved in the original investigations include the Meigs-Gallia County Task Force, Fairfield-Hocking-Athens Major Crimes, and The Athens County Prosecutor’s Office.

Agencies involved in the arrests of Smith and Miller include the Columbus Police Department and The Athens County Prosecutor’s Office.