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**ARMED GUNMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBING  
CARROLL COUNTY PHARMACY OF NARCOTICS**

**Baltimore**, Maryland - Joseph Wagner, age 25, of Baltimore, Maryland, pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to commit an armed robbery and using a gun during the robbery.

The guilty plea was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein; Special Agent in Charge Theresa R. Stoop of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives - Baltimore Field Division; and Colonel Terrence Sheridan, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police.

According to Wagner's plea agreement, on September 30, 2009, Wagner and a co-conspirator entered the Finksburg Pharmacy in Carroll County, Maryland wearing grey hooded sweatshirts with the hoods covering their heads. Three employees were working in the pharmacy at the time. Wagner pointed a handgun in the face of one of the employees and threatened to kill her if she moved. The co-conspirator demanded specific medications, including Oxycontin, Xanax and Percocet. After the employee showed the co-defendant where the medications were stored, Wagner bound the two employees' hands and feet with zip ties. The third employee was hiding in a back room and called 911, stating that the robbers were still in the pharmacy.

Maryland State Police troopers responded within minutes and as they drove by the pharmacy, which was on the other side of the highway, the troopers saw two individuals wearing grey hooded sweatshirts with the hoods up, walking across the parking lot away from the pharmacy. As the troopers pulled into the pharmacy's parking lot, witnesses indicated that the two individuals got into a black car and drove away. One of the state troopers spotted the car on the next street and stopped the vehicle. Wagner and the co-conspirator were ordered out of the car. Troopers recovered a loaded pistol in the vehicle. Wagner and the co-conspirator were arrested.

Search warrants for the vehicle were obtained and among the items seized were 75 pill bottles containing hundreds of pills of Percocet, Oxyontin and other medicines; zip ties; duct tape and \$1,577.

Wagner faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for the robbery conspiracy and a seven year mandatory minimum prison sentence for brandishing the gun, consecutive to any sentence imposed for the robbery conspiracy. U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz has

scheduled sentencing for October 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Charges against Wagner's co-conspirator are pending.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Maryland State Police for their work on this investigation and commended Assistant United States Attorney John W. Sippel, who is prosecuting the case.