



PRESS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA*

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**April 30, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PENNSYLVANIA MAN ENTERS GUILTY PLEA TO MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA —A 35 year old Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, resident entered a plea of guilty on April 30, 2012, in United States District Court in Wheeling, West Virginia before Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr.

United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II announced that RYAN RIEGER entered a plea of guilty to Count One of an Indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana. REIGER, faces a maximum exposure, of not more than 5 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

On March 1, 2012, at approximately 10:57 A.M. RIEGER arrived at the Spring Hill Suites in the Woodsdale section of Wheeling with \$133,000 in United States Currency. RIEGER went to a hotel room where a confidential informant was staying and once in the room RIEGER provided the informant with the cash, which was contained in two boxes. In exchange for the cash the confidential informant provided RIEGER with two (2) duffle bags containing approximately 43 pounds of hydroponic marijuana.

After the deal took place RIEGER and the confidential informant left the room, with RIEGER carrying one duffle bag and the confidential informant carrying the other. As RIEGER was attempting to exit the hotel task force officers detained and arrested RIEGER and seized the drugs and cash.

As part of his plea, RIEGER agreed to forfeit \$133,000.06 seized from him in Wheeling, West Virginia on March 1, 2012 and an additional \$3909.00 seized from his residence in Pennsylvania that same day. RIEGER also agreed to forfeit a 2007 Toyota Tundra pick up truck.

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The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randolph J. Bernard.

The investigation was conducted by the Ohio Valley Drug and Violent Crime Task Force which consists of officers from the Wheeling Police Department, the Ohio County Sheriffs Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Also assisting in the investigation were the West Virginia State Police-Bureau of Criminal Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration-Fairview Heights Resident Office in Fairview Heights, Illinois, and the Pennsylvania State Police.

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