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PRESS RELEASE

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Huntley Man Charged With Stealing Fentanyl From Central DuPage Hospital

WHEATON – DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Winfield Chief of Police David Schar announced today that charges have been filed against a Huntley man and former employee at Central DuPage Hospital for allegedly stealing fentanyl from the hospital. On July 28, 2016, a DuPage County Grand Jury returned a ten-count indictment against Joshua M. Agruss, 33 (d.o.b. 2/11/1983) of 9745 Cummings Street, alleging four counts of Unauthorized Acquisition of a Controlled Substance (Class 4 Felony), four counts of Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (Class 4 Felony) and two counts of Burglary (Class 2 Felony.)

It is alleged that on multiple occasions from December 10, 2014, through December 28, 2014, Agruss, who worked as the Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education Specialist at Central DuPage Hospital, obtained fentanyl from an emergency department registered nurse to purportedly replace fentanyl administered to a patient by a paramedic knowing that the paramedic did not actually provide fentanyl to the patient. It is also alleged that Agruss obtained 400 micrograms of fentanyl from an emergency department registered nurse to purportedly replace fentanyl administered to a patient by a paramedic knowing that the paramedic actually provided only 200 micrograms fentanyl to the patient and not 400 micrograms. On July 28, 2016, following an investigation into the matter by the Winfield Police Department, a \$50,000 arrest was issued

for Agruss. On August 6, 2016, Agruss turned himself in to authorities and was released after posting the necessary 10%, or \$5,000.

“This case is a textbook example of law enforcement and other entities working together towards a common goal,” Berlin said. “The authorities as Central DuPage Hospital have been extremely cooperative and helpful throughout this entire investigation and for that I thank them. I would also like to commend the Winfield Police Department for their outstanding work in helping us secure charges against Mr. Agruss as well as Assistant State’s Attorney Lynn Cavallo for her work in holding Mr. Agruss responsible for his actions.”

“This was a long and complex investigation that required a cooperative effort between Winfield Police Detective McIntyre, several members of the DuPage County State’s Attorney’s Office and a number of other private and public entities,” Schar said. “Everyone’s effort and determination has ensured the best case possible will be presented in court.”

Agruss’ next court appearance is scheduled for September 6, 2016, in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.

Members of the public are reminded that this complaint contains only charges and is not proof of the defendant’s guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government’s burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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