



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **FREEPORT MAN ARRESTED ON FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CHARGES**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; LARRY G. TRENT, Director of the Illinois State Police; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; JERRY WHITMORE, Chief of the Freeport Police Department; and STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Today ATF agents arrested **ERIC WAGNER**, 32 (DOB: 6/10/1972), of 102 West Douglas, Freeport Illinois, on federal gun trafficking and drug dealing charges resulting from a federal indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Rockford yesterday. The indictment charges Wagner with eight counts of selling a firearm to a felon and eight counts of illegally distributing marijuana.

Wagner will appear before United States Magistrate Mahoney at 2:30 p.m. today for his initial appearance. If convicted of the crimes charged in the indictment, Wagner faces a maximum potential penalty of up to 10 years in prison without parole on each of the firearms charges, and a maximum penalty of up to 5 years in prison without parole on each of the drug distribution charges. If convicted, the actual sentence will be determined by a United States District Court Judge, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Freeport Police Department, the Illinois State Police State Line Area Narcotics Team, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Rockford Police Department, and the Rockford-Winnebago County Metro Narcotics Unit. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

Members of the public are reminded that a criminal indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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