

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crime Stoppers Tips Lead to Arrest in Pharmacy Robbery

Portland, ME – August 20th, 2007 - A man suspected of robbing a local pharmacy in the Portland area has been arrested as a result of a public plea issued by *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers*. The Portland Police Department has arrested Lee McClaskey Jr. in connection with the robbery that occurred in July at the Rite Aid Pharmacy located at 701 Forest Ave. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty.

On July 17th *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* asked for the public's assistance in investigating the robbery and offered a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that could help the police with their investigation. The cash reward is donated by pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma L.P., the company which developed and funds RxPATROL.

“We received several calls from residents almost immediately after issuing the alert on the robbery,” said *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* coordinator Chuck Kreimer. “It is extremely helpful when the public comes forward with information that can lead to the arrest of suspects.”

Purdue Pharma, L.P. developed RxPATROL® (Rx Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies & Other Losses) in 2003 as a collaborative effort between industry, pharmacists and law enforcement to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate information on pharmacy theft. In 2005, Purdue partnered with *Crime Stoppers* and affiliated local anti-crime programs throughout the country to offer rewards for information that can help lead to the arrest of pharmacy robbery suspects.

This arrest follows several others in, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio North Carolina, Florida, Utah and California. To date, 37 arrests have been made as a result of the partnership between Purdue's RxPATROL program and local Crime Stoppers affiliated programs.

“We are proud to support the efforts of *Crime Stoppers* and affiliated programs throughout the United States,” said RxPATROL program coordinator Capt. Richard Conklin. “The recent arrest in Portland proves that tips from local residents really can make a difference.”

All information that comes into the *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* tip line, as well as any other *Crime Stoppers* tip line, is kept completely confidential. Callers never have to give their names or appear in court. Anyone with information about any recent pharmacy crimes in the area is asked to call **the *RxPATROL Tip line at 1-888-4RXTIPS***.

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