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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ELK MILLS MAN SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS FOR
POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE**

ELKTON- On Monday, August 8, 2022, Joshua P. Garcia (age 26) of Elk Mills, Maryland was sentenced after having plead guilty to Possession of Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute on May 23, 2022.

On June 29, 2021, a search conducted by the Maryland State Police at the New Eastern Motel where the Defendant has been staying, resulted in authorities recovering over 600 bags of suspected heroin/fentanyl. After confiscation, the bags were transported to a laboratory for testing by a forensic chemist. The lab report confirmed that the substance was in fact fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled dangerous substance.

The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines at the time of the plea was between 12 and 20 years for the charge of Possession with Intent to Distribute. However, in July 2022, the guidelines changed, now recommending a sentence between 4 and 12 years. The State, represented by Assistant State's Attorney Stuart T. Welch, recommended a sentence of 20 years given the guidelines at the time of the plea as well as the fact Mr. Garcia has an extensive criminal record with this conviction being his third for Possession with the Intent to Distribute a controlled dangerous substance. After hearing from both the State and the Defense, Circuit Court Judge William W. Davis imposed a sentence of 20 years suspend all but 12 years to serve in the Division of Corrections. Additionally, the Defendant will have to complete 5 years of supervised probation with various conditions upon release.