



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**DEA
ERIN MCKENZIE-MULVEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 337-2906**

**PHARMACIST AGREES TO PAY \$100,000
IN CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT SETTLEMENT**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JOHN P. GILBRIDE, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), announced the settlement today of a civil lawsuit filed in the Southern District of New York against THOMAS FARKAS for numerous violations of the Controlled Substances Act including the failure to properly track tens of thousands of Schedule II and III controlled substances. The settlement, approved today by United States District Judge PAUL G. GARDEPHE, requires FARKAS to pay \$100,000 in civil penalties to the United States.

FARKAS, 52, is a pharmacist and former owner and operator of a pharmacy located at 650 First Avenue in New York, New York called Anatole Pharmacy. The United States filed a lawsuit against FARKAS alleging a series of record-keeping violations uncovered during a May 2007 audit by the DEA of Anatole Pharmacy. The audit revealed a systemic violation of record-keeping requirements under the Controlled Substances Act and its implementing regulations, which require pharmacists and any other distributors of controlled substances to maintain complete and accurate records of all substances received, sold, or disposed of. These requirements regulate the distribution of controlled substances that could pose danger to the public.

The alleged violations against FARKAS included the failure to properly track tens of thousands of Schedule II and III controlled substances, including methadone, oxycontin, and controlled substance products containing hydrocodone; failure to maintain and properly complete certain DEA order forms that are required to be used for all orders of Schedule II controlled

substances actually received by the purchaser; and failure to conduct biennial inventories of controlled substances as required by law.

Following the audit, FARKAS promptly surrendered Anatole Pharmacy's DEA registration. The consent judgment entered today permanently enjoins FARKAS from ever applying for a DEA registration, as well as owning his own pharmacy.

Mr. BHARARA praised the DEA for its outstanding work in the investigation.

The case is being handled by the Office's Civil Frauds Unit. Assistant United States Attorney CAROLINA A. FORNOS is in charge of the case.

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