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## Informant robbed during drug deal

NEWARK -- A bad food stamp card turned a drug deal into an aggravated robbery Wednesday.

A confidential informant working with the Central Ohio Drug Enforcement Task Force allegedly bought more than one gram of crack cocaine from Courtland T. Royster, 20, last known address 283 Quail Creek Drive, Apt. A, Newark.

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Upon completing the deal, Royster allegedly told the informant he was going to keep the money and drugs because someone else gave him a bogus food stamp card earlier that day, according to court documents.

The informant argued with Royster, stating it was not his money and he should not be responsible for the food stamp card. The informant claimed the defendant then removed a handgun from the kitchen area and placed it on the couch beside him telling the informant, "That's how it is going to be."

Lt. Dave Starling of the Licking County Sheriff's Office said about \$800 was seized from Royster's home and a "significant" amount of crack cocaine also was found.

A 9mm handgun was seized during a raid at the home Friday, Starling, commander of the task force, said.

Additional charges of trafficking in crack cocaine and permitting drug abuse also might be considered against Royster by a Licking County grand jury.

On Monday at his bond hearing, Royster was charged with aggravated robbery, a first-degree felony.

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Judge David Branstool set his bond at \$25,000.

Originally published October 16, 2007

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