



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Glenn Taylor, Executive Director
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TWO INDIVIDUALS CHARGED CRIMINALLY FOR FOOD STAMP FRAUD

Reynoldsburg carryout charged in food stamp fraud investigation

COLUMBUS – Undercover agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit have charged two individuals and a Reynoldsburg carryout with food stamp fraud. The charges stem from a joint investigation with Reynoldsburg Police Department.

Visam, Inc., also known as Nishi's Mart Carryout, 6505 East Livingston Ave., in Reynoldsburg was charged with three counts of illegal use of food stamps and seven counts of trafficking in food stamps. Agents also charged, Khaled J. Kurdi, 30, with two counts of illegal use of food stamps and seven counts of trafficking in food stamps and Muhammad A. Khalil, 47, was charged with one count of illegal use of food stamps. Criminal charges have been filed with the Franklin County Common Pleas Court.

"Not only is food stamp fraud a crime that impacts those individuals and families who need assistance, it is also deceitful to taxpayers," said OIU Executive Director Glenn Taylor. "We appreciate the assistance of the Reynoldsburg Police and hope to work with them on future cases."

"The Reynoldsburg Division of Police has worked several successful joint operations with the Ohio Investigative Unit in the past," said Reynoldsburg Police Chief David Suci. "In this case the partnership provided a beneficial mix of local knowledge and operational experience which proved invaluable and led to the desired outcome."

In addition to the criminal charges agents also filed administrative citations against the liquor permit premise. Those citations include three counts of improper conduct – illegal use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT), seven counts of improper conduct – illegal possession of EBT and seven counts of improper conduct - trafficking in EBT. Administrative charges will be turned over to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. Penalties the commission may impose include fines, suspension and/or revocations of the liquor permit.

Individuals who are eligible for food stamp benefits may only purchase breads and cereals; fruits and vegetables; meats, fish and poultry; and dairy products from authorized retailers. Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes or tobacco, and non-food items are not eligible for purchase. Individuals who believe food stamp fraud is being committed are encouraged to contact OIU toll-free at 1-877-4MINORS. All complaints will remain anonymous.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Agents are sworn peace officers who enforce the state's liquor and tobacco laws, as well as food stamp fraud.