



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Robert W. Booker Jr., Executive Director
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FOUR ARRESTED IN AKRON FOOD STAMP FRAUD CASE

Estimated \$2.2 million in fraud taking place over three years

(Columbus) – Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit and deputies with the Summit County Sheriff's Office have arrested four people in connection with food stamp fraud at an Akron-area Dairy Mart. It is estimated that over the last three years, the location has committed \$2.2 million in food stamp fraud.

On Tuesday, arrest warrants were issued through the Akron Municipal Court for: Mohammad W. Shped, 49, of Strongsville; Zobaydah N. Shped, 41, of Strongsville; Muaad N. Salem, 33, of Strongsville and Cory A. Oille, 37, of Akron. All four have been charged with three-counts each of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, related to food stamps; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits and receiving stolen property.

The food stamp fraud was being committed at the Dairy Mart located at 587 West Market St. in Akron. Agents and deputies conducted a search warrant on the location in September.

"There were a variety of crimes being committed at this location, all at the taxpayers' expense," said Akron Agent-in-Charge John Campbell. "The greatest impact, unfortunately, is on the intended recipients – the children."

Also during the search warrant execution, agents filed 20 administrative citations against the location, including: Five counts each of illegal use of electronic benefits transfer (EBT), trafficking in EBT and theft offenses; and one count each of illegal possession of EBT, illegal possession of WIC, drug sales, drug paraphernalia possession and drug possession. Each of these administrative charges will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. The commission will decide penalties including fines, suspension and revocation.

"This was a cooperative effort with the United State Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General, Summit County Sheriff's Office and Summit County Prosecutor's Office," Campbell said.

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