



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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

(Columbus) – Tuesday, agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit and deputies with the Summit County Sheriff's Office arrested five additional people in connection with food stamp fraud at an Akron-area Dairy Mart. Last month four people were arrested on food stamp fraud-related charges.

It is estimated that over the last three years, the Dairy Mart at 587 West Market St. in Akron committed \$2.2 million in food stamp fraud. Agents and deputies conducted a search warrant on the location in September.

Mustafa A. Diab of Akron, Ghalib Ali of Copley, Nathanael J. Nicolino of Akron, Anthony Swindell of Akron and Christopher R. Bryan also of Akron were arrested for illegal use of food stamps.

"These arrests are the latest in a continuing investigation involving many employees and patrons," said Akron Agent-in-Charge John Campbell. "The pattern of corrupt activity went from the top down."

Last month, Mohammad W. Shped of Strongsville; Zobaydah N. Shped of Strongsville; Muaad N. Salem of Strongsville and Cory A. Oille of Akron were 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.

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.

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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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