



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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Seven People, One Business Indicted For Food Stamp Fraud

(Columbus) – On Monday, seven people from Cleveland and a business were indicted by the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury for food stamp fraud.

The indictments stemmed from a December 2011 search warrant conducted by agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit and the USDA - Office of Inspector General at the Ramada Deli, 9800 Almira Ave., Cleveland. The defendants face 22 felony-counts and six misdemeanors

The following people were indicted: Maysoon Zaghari, 36, on six-counts of trafficking in or illegal use of food stamps, three-counts of theft, one-count of receiving stolen property, all felonies; and three misdemeanor counts of theft.

Mahmud Rae, 51, on felonies: trafficking in or illegal use of food stamps, theft, and receiving stolen property.

Janice Bozeman, 39, and Danyell Lockhart, 27, were each indicted on one-count of trafficking in or illegal use of food stamps, and one-count of theft, all felonies.

Eddie Sharp, Jr., 55; Deirdre Conley, 34, and Calvin Rembert, Jr., 25, were each indicted on one-count of felony trafficking in or illegal use of food stamps, and one-count of misdemeanor theft.

Nima Beverage, Inc., also known as Ramada Deli was also indicted on one-count of trafficking in or illegal use of food stamps and one-count of grand theft, all felonies.

“We are committed in continuing our efforts to combat food stamp fraud in Ohio,” said Cleveland District Agent-in-Charge Greg Croft. “The results of this investigation are yet another example of individuals exploiting a program intended to help families and children.”

During the search warrants agents wrote 174 administrative violations including: seven-counts of receiving stolen property; 41-counts of illegal use of food stamps; and 42-counts each of illegal possession of food stamps, trafficking in food stamps and theft. These administrative citations will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. All administrative violations will be heard once all the criminal proceedings are complete.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit agents are plain-clothed fully sworn peace officers. OIU is charged with enforcing the state’s liquor laws and is the only state law enforcement agency specifically tasked with investigating food stamp fraud crimes. Agents also investigate tobacco violations.

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