



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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Search warrants conducted at two McArthur gambling establishments

OIU, McArthur Police Department and Vinton County Sheriff conduct joint investigation

(McArthur) – On December 11, law enforcement personnel with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU), McArthur Police Department and the Vinton County Sheriff's Office conducted simultaneous search warrants on two gambling establishments.

"We received a lot of complaints from our citizens about the gambling establishments, so we reached out to OIU to conduct an investigation," said McArthur Police Chief Tony Wood.

The search warrants were conducted at McArthur Lanes Skill Games, 645 West Main Street and Arcade Paradise, 31675 Overview Drive, both in McArthur. The corporations were each charged with multiple counts of gambling and also operating a gambling house, as well as one count of person other than 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(7) organization or school conducting a raffle.

Additional criminal charges will be presented to the Vinton County Prosecutor's Office.

During the search warrants, law enforcement seized 31 slot machines, \$2,981.80 from McArthur Lanes Skill Games, as well as 17 slot machines and \$1,175.75 from the Paradise Arcade.

"The success of these investigations truly center around the partnerships formed with both McArthur Police Department and Vinton County Sheriff's Office," said OIU Assistant Agent-in-Charge Sam Love.

Gambling is prohibited in the state of Ohio without the proper licensing obtained from the Ohio Attorney General's Office or outside of Ohio's 11 sanctioned casinos/racinos.

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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. Follow OIU on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Investigative-Unit/165782203506269> and on Twitter by logging onto http://twitter.com/OIU_OIU.