



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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OIU, Hamilton Police investigate a Hamilton bar for illegal activity

Administrative charges have been filed against the liquor permit

(Cincinnati) – Agents with the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Ohio Investigative Unit and officers from the Hamilton Police Department conducted an investigation at a Hamilton bar after receiving complaints of illegal drug use and food stamp trafficking.

Agents have filed administrative charges against 314 South 3rd Ltd., also known as J & J Bar & Restaurant, 314, South Third Street in Hamilton, after agents were able to determine the bar was conducting activities that violated the establishment’s liquor permit. The permit was cited with five counts of drug abuse and one count each of trafficking in electronic benefits transfer (EBT), drug possession and drug paraphernalia possession.

Officers have charged Richard Harris, 48, of Hamilton, with knowingly possessing or using a controlled substance – marijuana. He will be scheduled to appear in Hamilton Municipal Court.

In the state of Ohio, liquor permit establishments must ensure they are not allowing illegal activity to take place on their property, such as drug activity or food stamp fraud. Once all criminal proceedings are complete, the administrative case will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission for their consideration. Possible administrative penalties include fines, suspension or revocation of the liquor permit.

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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/Ohio_OIU.