



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Search warrants at three Northwest Ohio locations for illegal gambling

OIU, Bryan and Montpelier police departments worked jointly during the investigation

(Toledo) – Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit and officers with the Bryan and Montpelier police departments conducted three search warrants in Northwestern Ohio today as a result of a joint illegal gambling investigation.

Search warrants were conducted at two Cut Rate Tobacco Shops located at 1121 West High Street in Bryan and 1424 Whitaker Way in Montpelier, as well as the Petro 2 Truck Stop, 900 American Road in Napoleon.

Agents have issued administrative citations against Petro 2 Truck Stop's liquor permit for seven counts each of acquire, possess, control or operate a gambling device; game of chance for profit or scheme of chance; operating a gambling house; and recklessly permitting public gaming.

Criminal charges will be presented to the prosecutors in each jurisdiction for their consideration.

During the search warrants Bryan and Montpelier officers seized slot machines, quarter push machines, records and money associated with the illegal gambling operation. Agents seized eight slot machines, one quarter push machine, records and money associated with the illegal gambling operation.

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 fine, suspension or revocation of the liquor permit.

Both departments requested OIU to assist them with the Cut Rate Tobacco Shop investigations. The departments and OIU secured a memorandum of understanding to assist with the cases.

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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.