



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Ohio Investigative Unit, United States Secret Service, Florida and Georgia officials conduct search warrants on illegal gambling operations

(Columbus) – Law enforcement personnel with the Ohio Investigative Unit, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the United States Secret Service conducted search warrants into illegal gambling operations.

A total of 35 search warrants were executed, with 30 taking place throughout Ohio, three in Florida and two in Georgia.

As the investigation continues to grow, criminal charges are not expected to be filed today. OIU is expected to file administrative charges this evening against liquor permit premises involved in today's search warrants. Information regarding administrative charges will be released at that time.

Other agencies involved in the investigation include, from Ohio, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Euclid, Parma and Springfield (Clark County) police departments, as well as, from Florida, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

*Florida Department of Law Enforcement contact: Gretl Plessinger (850) 410-7001
Georgia Bureau of Investigation contact: Sherry Lang (404) 270-8330*

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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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