

Ohio Investigative Unit



MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 2, 2016

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OIU agents charge 60 with illegal sales in 2015

(Columbus) – Selling alcohol without a liquor license in the state of Ohio is illegal. In 2015, the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Ohio Investigative Unit agents investigated 133 illegal alcohol sales cases throughout the state and arrested 60 people.

Two of those charged by OIU agents for illegally selling alcohol accepted a plea deal earlier today in Middletown Municipal Court. Bobbie M. Brown, 39, Cincinnati and April Lewis, 39, Franklin each entered plea deals in Middletown Municipal Court this morning and were each sentenced to 90 days suspended jail time, \$250 plus court costs. The pair also entered guilty pleas to disorderly conduct and was sentenced to 30 days suspended jail time and \$150 fine, plus court costs. Brown operated Third Base Café, 911 Crawford Street.

In October, Grove City residents Fatima Murib, 72, and Iyad Murib, 45, were charged by agents for illegal sales at Eureka Market, 192 South Eureka Avenue in Columbus. On Jan. 14, Iyad entered a guilty plea in Franklin County Municipal Court for activities prohibited without permit. Iyad was sentenced to 180 days in jail, his jail time was suspended and he is on probation until 2018. He was also ordered to pay a \$500 fine, plus court costs. Fatima also entered a guilty plea for keeper of a place where intoxicating liquors are sold. She was ordered to pay a \$250 fine plus court costs.

"Establishments operating without a liquor permit are not operating within Ohio's laws and far too often our agents find that other illegal activities take place inside these locations," Captain Gary Allen, commander of OIU said.

Liquor establishments need to ensure they have a valid and active liquor permit in order to sell alcohol. To report an establishment selling alcohol illegally, contact OIU at #677 and your complaint will be investigated.

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The Ohio State Highway Patrol's 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.