

Ohio Investigative Unit



MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 20, 2017

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Ohio Investigative Unit closes long-term investigation with search warrant, numerous charges

(CINCINNATI) – Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit along with officers of the Cincinnati Police Department executed a search warrant on January 19 at a Cincinnati convenience store for violations including gambling, receiving stolen property and counterfeit items.

During the search warrant, agents issued 15 various administrative gambling violations, four theft offenses, and one charge each of drug possession, electronic benefit transfer (EBT) possession, and insanitary conditions against the liquor permit.

Agents issued summonses to Ahmad Elkhaldi, 52, of Cincinnati, for six counts of trademark theft offenses and three counts each of gambling and operating a gambling house. Elkhaldi is scheduled to appear in Hamilton County Municipal Court on February 7.

As a result of the search warrant OIU agents seized two electronic video gambling machines, \$3,761 in U.S. currency, marijuana and business records. Agents also seized counterfeit NBA, NFL, North Face and Michael Kors apparel with a retail value of \$3,000. Cincinnati officers seized multiple cartons of cigarettes, a large screen television and meat products that were identified as stolen items.

Cincinnati fire inspectors, city health inspectors and building inspectors were present to simultaneously conduct various inspections and to issue appropriate violations. Representatives from Kroger, Walmart and Target retail theft units were also present to identify stolen items.

Representatives of the Ohio Lottery Commission were also present and seized all lottery equipment and tickets, due to gambling violations linked to lottery registers. Also, the Cincinnati city attorney, whose primary role is to address nuisance properties in the city, was present.

Administrative cases will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission at a later date. Possible administrative penalties include fines, suspensions or revocation of the liquor permit.

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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.