

# Ohio Investigative Unit



## MEDIA RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 6, 2017

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### **Cleveland bar charged in large scale case involving receiving stolen property, food stamp and drug violations**

**(CLEVELAND)** – On February 2, agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit, and officers with the Cleveland and Middleburg Heights police departments conducted search warrants at a liquor permit and a private residence as part of a large receiving stolen property case.

Agents received information that K & C, Inc., also known as Ridge Café, 7216 Clark Avenue, in Cleveland, was purchasing and reselling stolen property. Over the course of the investigation, agents sold more than \$10,000 worth of alleged stolen property and multiple food stamp cards to the suspects. The property included hot water tanks, roofing shingles, plumbing and building supplies, and liquor. Agents also purchased heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine from the suspects at the bar.

Administrative charges were issued against the Ridge Café for five counts of receiving stolen property; five counts each of illegal possession of electronic benefit transfer (EBT), trafficking in EBT, and theft; three counts of illegal possession of intoxicating liquor not obtained from an authorized source; two counts each of drug possession and drug sales; giving away alcoholic beverages in connection with the operation of business; and permitting the removal of beer or intoxicating liquor sold for on premise consumption.

During the search warrant, agents seized \$12,000 worth of suspected stolen property, two EBT cards and \$57,644 in U.S. currency. The Home Depot and Lowe's Home Improvement loss prevention departments assisted agents with the investigation.

Criminal charges are pending a grand jury review against multiple suspects that have been identified as part of the criminal enterprise. Administrative charges 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](http://twitter.com/Ohio_OIU).*