

Ohio Investigative Unit



MEDIA RELEASE



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Columbus men, business charged with illegal gambling

(COLUMBUS) – Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit have charged a Columbus business for gambling violations after conducting a search warrant on February 16.

Agents have been investigating Brice Park Smoke Shop and Carryout, 6351 Tussing Rd., after receiving a complaint. Agents issued charges against Muhammad A. Farman, 28, of Pickerington, with three counts of gambling and operating a gambling house. Agents also issued charges against Umar Nawaz, 29, of Columbus for gambling and operating a gambling house.

Administrative charges were also filed against the liquor permit for acquiring, possessing, controlling or operating a gambling device; electronic video gambling device; game of chance for profit or scheme of chance; operating a gambling house; recklessly permitting public gaming; and giving away alcohol as a prize.

During the search warrant agents seized two electronic video slot machines, paperwork and \$460 in cash.

Farman and Nawaz are both scheduled to appear in Franklin County Municipal Court on March 10. The administrative case 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.