Ohio Investigative Unit

MEDIA RELEASE

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Columbus bar, two women charged with illegal gambling

(COLUMBUS) – Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit filed charges today in the Franklin County Municipal Court against two Columbus women for their part in an illegal gambling investigation.

Agents charged Columbus residents Debbie Dials, 58 and Sherry Darst, 57, with gambling and operating a gambling house. The charges were filed after agents served a search warrant on January 4 at Phil N Youngs INC., also known as Dick & Pats & Patio, 733 Harrisburg Pike.

Agents administratively charged the liquor permit premise with five counts each of operating a gambling device, electronic video gambling device, game of chance for profit or scheme of chance, operating a gambling house, and recklessly permitting public gambling. The permit was also cited for insanitary conditions.

During the search warrant, agents seized two slot machines, gambling records and $2,813 in cash.

Dials and Darst are scheduled to appear in the Franklin County Municipal Court on January 26, 2017. 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.