



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Robert W. Booker Jr., Executive Director
www.oiu.ohio.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Julie Hinds, Public Information Officer
(614) 752-2401

May 4, 2011

"FEST" SEASON IN FULL SWING ON OHIO'S COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Ohio Investigative Unit agents assisting local jurisdictions in enforcing alcohol laws

(Columbus) – College "fest" season is under way on campuses throughout Ohio. Most campus "fests" are calm and come with few problems, but some have a history of being large and sometimes unruly, which can cause problems for local and state law enforcement.

"We understand that students want to have fun and celebrate spring and that classes are almost over," said Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) Executive Director Robert Booker. "However, we want a safe environment and we want students to follow Ohio's alcohol laws while having fun."

Just this past weekend, agents with OIU worked with Akron and University of Akron police departments for the annual Summerfest and May Day event, which resulted in 52 arrests. Of the 52 arrested, 49 were for underage drinking violations, two for open container and one for possession of drugs. Last month, agents arrested 18 individuals during Falconfest near Bowling Green and 31 people were charged with alcohol violations and other offenses during Highfest in Athens.

With many of Ohio's semester schools in finals week, police in college cities that operate on the quarter system, like Athens, are expecting larger crowds for "fests" held in their municipality. Athens Police Department, OIU agents and other public safety officials will be on hand to monitor events this May, including those during Palmerfest to be held Saturday and Millfest on May 14. Also, agents will be on hand during Friday's May Daze at Wright State University near Dayton.

Agents are primarily looking for alcohol violations, and are plain-clothed, fully-sworn peace officers. Each agent carries a badge and proper OIU identification. If an individual is criminally charged with a violation, they may be issued a summons-in-lieu of arrest or transported to jail.

"Often students do not realize that once he or she has been arrested, they now have a criminal record," Booker said. "Colleges will use arrest data from OIU and other jurisdictions to open a judiciary review on that student, even if the arrest takes place at or near other campuses."

Weekly activity reports, including any arrests at "fests," can be viewed by logging onto http://www.investigativeunit.ohio.gov/weekly_activity.stm. The weekly reports are updated each Monday. Also, arrest information will be updated on Twitter following the event. Please follow OIU on Twitter by logging onto http://twitter.com/Ohio_OIU.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Agents are undercover sworn peace officers who enforce the state's liquor and tobacco laws, as well as food stamp fraud. Individuals who believe food stamp fraud is being committed are encouraged to contact OIU toll-free at 1-877-4MINORS. All complaints will remain anonymous.