



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Robert W. Booker Jr., Executive Director  
[www.oiu.ohio.gov](http://www.oiu.ohio.gov)



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN SAFELY AND LAWFULLY

**(Columbus)** – Each year many of Ohio's college students visit other campuses to experience Halloween festivities. We know this year is no different.

"Halloween in Ohio can be a great time, especially on our college campuses," said Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) Executive Director Robert Booker. "We want everyone celebrating Halloween throughout the state to be safe and have fun, but to also follow Ohio's alcohol laws."

Anyone convicted of attempting to purchase alcohol as a minor, sharing in the cost, using false identification or furnishing alcohol to a minor may face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. A possible driver license suspension may occur as well.

Students may also be charged for public intoxication. If convicted of a minor misdemeanor for public intoxication, individuals may be fined \$100. If convicted of a fourth-degree misdemeanor for public intoxication, the penalty may be 30 days in jail and/or a \$250 fine.

Liquor establishments near college campuses should be on the lookout for underage individuals attempting to purchase beer – often with a fake ID. Clerks should also be aware of individuals 21 or older purchasing alcohol for a person who is not yet 21. In Ohio, it is illegal to share in the cost of alcoholic beverages with a minor - or attempt to do so, even if the sale is refused.

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.

"We are going to keep warning our students that once he or she has been issued a summons in lieu of arrest, 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 during Halloween celebrations can be viewed by logging onto [http://www.investigativeunit.ohio.gov/weekly\\_activity.stm](http://www.investigativeunit.ohio.gov/weekly_activity.stm). The weekly reports are updated each Monday. Also, arrest information will be updated on Facebook and Twitter following the event. Please "like" OIU on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Investigative-Unit/165782203506269> and follow us on Twitter by logging onto [http://twitter.com/Ohio\\_OIU](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.*