



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Robert W. Booker Jr., Executive Director
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 19, 2011

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

CLEVELAND BUSINESS CITED FOR FOOD STAMP FRAUD VIOLATIONS

Agents seized \$15,489 from two locations

(Columbus) – Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) and the USDA-Office of Inspector General executed a search warrant Friday at a Cleveland mini mart after a nine-month joint investigation.

Search warrants were executed at Abuasi Inc., also known as Ramada Deli, at 9800 Almira Ave., and a residence at 3509 Riverside, both in Cleveland. During the searches agents seized \$3,511 from Ramada Deli and \$11,978 from the residence.

“Food stamp fraud impacts the entire community, especially children,” said OIU Executive Director Robert Booker. “We are committed to put a stop to fraudulent activity which impacts children, taxpayers and neighborhoods alike.”

During the search warrants agents wrote 174 administrative violations including: seven counts of receiving stolen property; 41 counts of illegal use of food stamps; and 42 counts each of illegal possession of food stamps, trafficking in food stamps and theft. These administrative citations will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. The commission will decide penalties including fines, suspensions and revocation.

Possible criminal charges will be presented to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor.

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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.

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