



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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Columbus Weekend Events End With More Than 115 People Facing Charges

(Columbus) – More than 115 people were charged by agents with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit over the weekend with either alcohol or drug-related charges.

During ComFest, agents charged 77 people, including 29 juveniles with charges ranging from underage alcohol, to possession or use of illegal drugs. One arrest involved a 13-year-old who was caught smoking marijuana. During the Kenny Chesney concert, agents charged 40 individuals with alcohol and false ID charges.

Agents have the authority to investigate illegal activity, such as underage drinking and illegal drug use, on liquor permit property or when alcohol is present.

"Safety is our upmost concern when large groups of people gather and alcohol and drugs are involved," Columbus District Agent-in-Charge SuAnn Cook said. "We want event-goers to enjoy themselves while obeying Ohio's laws."

Agents will be attending various concerts and music festivals this summer enforcing alcohol and drug laws in Ohio.

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The 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.

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