



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Glenn Taylor, Executive Director
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Fourteen Middletown Area Bars Cited on Illegal Gambling Charges

More than \$1.2 million seized and 217 citations issued to permit establishments

(Columbus, Ohio) - - Fourteen Middletown area bars have been cited for illegal gambling and other violations after undercover agents from the Ohio Investigative Unit and officers from the Middletown Police Department conducted an investigation. The investigation came on the heels of a complaint received by the Ohio Investigative Unit.

"Enforcing the liquor laws in the state of Ohio includes enforcing illegal gambling within liquor permit establishments. Illegal gambling often leads to other criminal activity occurring within the permit premise," said OIU Executive Director Glenn Taylor. "The support from our partner law enforcement agencies made this operation possible."

More than \$1.2 million and 23 gambling machines were seized after a search warrant execution was completed. In all, 217 citations were issued including: operating a gambling house, electronic video gambling device, recklessly permitting public gambling, and game of chance for profit or scheme of chance.

Permit premises in Middletown include: Bills Open Door, 2715 Burbank; Lefferson Inn, 2908 Lefferson Road; Bucks Bar, 1300 Central Avenue; Busters, 1819 Casper Avenue; Ye Ole Dutch Tavern, 2716 North Verity; Third Base Café, 911 Crawford Street; Hillbilly Heaven, 2502 Atco Avenue; Main Bar, 2703 South Main Street; Lakeside Inn, 2019 Tytus Avenue; Madison Inn, 101 Front Street; and Maple Park Lounge or the "Blue Goose," 3008 Tytus Avenue. Search warrant executions also took place at locations in Trenton including the Brewery Inn, 3056 Wayne Madison Road and Hot Spot, 108 East State Street. Mayors Place, 114 East State Street was also investigated and cited with alcohol violations.

Monroe and Trenton police departments, and the Butler County Sheriff's Office assisted in search warrant executions on the locations.

The case will be turned over to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. Penalties may include fines, suspension and/or revocation of the liquor permit. Agents may meet with Middletown prosecutors for possible criminal charges.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Agents are sworn peace officers who enforce the state's liquor and tobacco laws, as well as food stamp fraud.