



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Glenn Taylor, Executive Director
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FOUR INDIVIDUALS CHARGED CRIMINALLY FOLLOWING EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANT AT WARREN LIQUOR PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT

Illegal gambling investigation by state, local authorities results in citations

COLUMBUS – Gambling-related criminal charges have been filed against four individuals following the execution of a search warrant Thursday, April 22 on a Warren liquor permit establishment by local agents from the Ohio Investigative Unit and officers with the Warren Police Department.

Agents and officers executed the search warrant at Freeway Lanes Bowling Group, LLC., 2700 Parkman Road NW after receiving complaints of illegal gambling at the location. A second search warrant was also executed at 2001 Southern Blvd., in Warren.

“Liquor permit premises know that gambling is not permitted and we will continue to enforce the liquor laws in the state of Ohio,” said OIU Executive Director Glenn Taylor. “We appreciate the good working relationship with the Warren Police Department and the Warren Prosecutor’s office for their efforts in helping complete this case.”

Individuals charged criminally were David Patz, 49 of Garfield Heights, for two counts of operating a gambling house; Glenn Gable, 44 of Shaker Heights for two counts of operating a gambling house; Steven Scarpaci, 36 of Niles, for gambling – tip tickets or machines; and Kelli Sylvester, 29 of Boardman, for gambling – tip tickets or machines.

The liquor permit was also administratively cited for three counts of gambling – acquire, possess, control or operate a gambling device; three counts of gambling – electronic video gambling device; three counts of gambling – operating a gambling house; and two counts of gambling – recklessly permitting public gaming. The citations will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. Possible penalties may include fines, suspension and/or revocation of the liquor permit.

“We are not going to tolerate gambling in the city of Warren,” said Warren Police Chief Timothy Bowers. “We are happy that the Ohio Investigative Unit came in and assisted us in the investigation, and we look forward to working with the agency closer in the future.”

Items seized during the search warrant executions include 20 gambling machines, gambling paraphernalia, documents and \$5,187.

Ohioans are encouraged to contact the Ohio Investigative Unit toll-free at 1-877-4MINORS to report liquor, tobacco violations and food stamp fraud. All complaints will remain anonymous.

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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.