



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Glenn Taylor, Executive Director
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Long-term Investigation by Federal, State, Local Authorities Results in Arrests and Charges on Liquor Permits

COLUMBUS – Criminal charges have been filed against five individuals, and administrative charges have been filed against three liquor permit premises following a two-year food-stamp fraud investigation by agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) and officers with the United States Department of Agriculture – Office of Inspector General (USDA).

On Thursday, Aug. 5, search warrants were executed at Sutton Pony Keg, 1911 Sutton Ave., Cincinnati; Mt. Airy Food Mart, 5564 Colerain Ave., Cincinnati; and a private residence at 1332 Parkway Ct., Fairfield.

“Our agents take food stamp fraud very seriously. Ohio’s food stamp program is vital to our citizens,” said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas J. Stickrath. “We need to ensure these funds are being used to assist families and individuals in need.”

Administrative citations were issued to Sutton Pony Keg, Mt. Airy Food Market and Coogans Bluff located at 852 Wright St., Newtonsville. Among other citations, the establishments were each cited for:

- Improper Conduct – Illegal Use of EBT
- Improper Conduct – Trafficking in EBT

The establishments will be required to appear before the Liquor Control Commission at a later date where they could face penalties including fines, suspension and/or revocation of the liquor permits.

Individuals charged criminally at the federal level were Brandon Shteivi, 22, of Fairfield, for food stamp fraud, providing firearms/ammunition to a known felon, and dealing in firearms without a license and Ibrahim Shteivi, 24, of Fairfield, for providing firearms/ammunition to a known felon and dealing in firearms without a license. Individuals charged criminally at the state level were Nazih Shteivi, 54, of Fairfield, Nabih Shteivi, 52, of Fairfield and Ayman Abu-Naffa, 37, of Cincinnati, for illegal use of food stamps or Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program benefits and receiving stolen property.

Cincinnati Police Department, Fairfield Police Department and Hamilton Police Department assisted in the execution of the search warrants.

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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.