



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Glenn Taylor, Executive Director  
[www.oiu.ohio.gov](http://www.oiu.ohio.gov)



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### Felony Food Stamp, Telecommunications Fraud Charges Filed on Three Individuals

**(COLUMBUS)** – The Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), filed felony charges Wednesday in Toledo Municipal Court against three individuals connected with food stamp fraud.

OIU separately conducted long-term investigations on Otime Store, LTD., also known as Our Time Carryout, 2100 Dorr St. in Toledo and Wags Carryout, also known as Wags Party Store, 422 Steadman St. The United States Department of Agriculture's Office of the Inspector General assisted with these investigations.

As a result of the investigation at Our Time Carryout, Harjit Singh Multani, 44, of Toledo, has been charged with four counts each of illegal use of food stamp, telecommunications fraud and misuse of a credit card and one count of falsification.

Also, two individuals at Wags Carryout are now facing criminal charges. Abdul L. Fayad, 52, of Detroit, Mich. has been charged with five counts of illegal use of food stamps and three counts of telecommunications fraud. Khalil Bazzi, 36, Dearborn, Mich. has been charged with six counts each of illegal use of food stamps and telecommunications fraud.

"While food stamp fraud may seem harmless or victimless, it is an act that takes away vital services from those who need them most," said ODPS Director Thomas J. Stickrath. "In addition, food stamp fraud is often a channel for other criminal activity, putting patrons in dangerous situations."

In addition to the criminal charges, administrative citations will also be filed with the Liquor Control Commission. Both establishments will be required to appear before the commission at a later date, where they may face penalties such as fines, suspension and/or revocation of the liquor permit. Our Time Carryout has been cited with eight counts of illegal use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) and theft, and four counts of illegal possession of EBT. Wags Party Store has been cited with two counts of illegal possession of EBT, two counts of trafficking in EBT and six counts of illegal use of EBT.

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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.*