



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Robert W. Booker Jr., Executive Director
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LORAIN BUSINESS INVESTIGATED FOR FOOD STAMP FRAUD VIOLATIONS

(Columbus) – Today, agents from the Ohio Investigative Unit, the Lorain Police Department and the Lorain County Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at a Lorain business for food stamp-related crimes.

During the investigation of Adames Deli & Grocery, Inc., 1700 East 31st Street in Lorain, ineligible items were purchased with food stamps, including cell phone bill payments. The investigation was prompted by a citizen complaint.

“It is unfortunate when we discover that food stamps are being used to purchase frivolous, non-eligible items,” said Cleveland Agent-in-Charge Greg Croft. “In these cases, the true victims are the children who depend upon this program for their nutrition and the taxpayers.”

Criminal charges will be filed at a later date with the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas. However, agents did issue 12 administrative violations against the location’s liquor permit including: four counts each of illegal use of food stamps; trafficking in food stamps and theft. The administrative violations will be presented to the Liquor Control Commission, once all criminal proceedings have been completed. The commission will decide any penalties, which could include a fine, suspension or revocation of the liquor permit.

Anyone who suspects food stamp fraud is taking place is encouraged to report the violations to OIU by calling 877-4-MINORS. All complaints will remain anonymous.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. All agents are plain-clothed fully sworn peace officers. OIU is the only state law enforcement agency specifically tasked with investigating food stamp fraud crimes. Agents also investigate alcohol and tobacco violations.

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