



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Investigative Unit

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### Columbus Carry-out Cited for Selling Alleged Counterfeit Goods

**(Columbus)** - Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit and officers with Columbus Police Department conducted a search warrant this morning at a Columbus carry-out after an investigation of selling alleged counterfeit goods.

The Lockbourne Smoke Shop, 1730 Lockbourne Road in Columbus, was administratively cited with improper conduct – theft. During the investigation agents were able to purchase alleged counterfeit items such as Nike, Baby Phat and Michael Kors shoes, as well as Major League Baseball and collegiate apparel.

“Allowing counterfeit items to be sold in liquor permit establishments is a direct violation of the Liquor Control Act,” said Columbus District Office Agent-in-Charge SuAnn Cook. “Locations that traffic in counterfeit clothing cheat legitimate businesses and consumers.”

Criminal charges are pending for the sale of alleged counterfeit goods. The administrative citation will be referred to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission for their consideration once any criminal proceedings are complete. The commission has the authority to issue a fine, suspension or revocation of a liquor permit.

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*The Ohio Investigative Unit agents are plain-clothed fully sworn peace officers. OIU is charged with enforcing the state's liquor laws and is the only state law enforcement agency specifically tasked with investigating food stamp fraud crimes. Agents also investigate tobacco violations.*

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