



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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John R. Kasich, Governor Thomas P. Charles, Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Nine People, Four Businesses Named in 60-Count Indictment, Three Arrested

Ohio Investigative Unit continues to focus on internet casinos

(Columbus) – Nine individuals and four businesses were named in a 60-count indictment earlier today by the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury. Those indictments were followed by a third round of search warrants at two internet casino locations in Cuyahoga County.

The indictments and the search warrants are a result of a long-term investigation between the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy J. McGinty, the United States Postal Inspectors, U.S. Secret Service and Parma Heights Police Department.

The search warrants were conducted at Internet Island, 901 Harvard Ave., in Cuyahoga Heights and Cyber Space Internet Café, 5130 Warrensville Center Rd., in Maple Heights.

Indicted today were: Gary Tritsarolis, 50, Debra Tritsarolis, 46, and Dennis Tritsarolis, 54, all of Cuyahoga Heights; Phillip Cornick, 50, Jackson, N.J.; Gaby Hasrouni, 42 of Stow; and George Hasrouni, 44, of Willoughby Hills. All have been indicted on multiple charges of felonious money laundering and possession of criminal tools, as well as misdemeanor gambling. Christos Karasarides, Jr., 46 of Canton was indicted on felonious gambling and criminal tools, while Richard Upchurch, 59 of Ramseur, N.C. was indicted on felonious gambling. In addition, Michael Koty, 50, Bloomsbury, N.J. was indicted on felony money laundering charges. VS2 World Wide Communication, Tritsrolis Investment; Jim Katt, LLC., and Harouni Investment, Inc. were also indicted.

Arrest warrants were also served for Gary Tritsarolis, Debra Tritsarolis and Dennis Tritsarolis.

"Internet casinos will not be tolerated in Ohio's liquor permits," said Public Safety Director Thomas P. Charles. "Ohio Investigative Unit agents are taking these crimes seriously."

The above agencies, as well as the Maple Heights Police Department, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Marshall's took part in today's search warrants.

Last month and in January 2012, search warrants were conducted at various locations. Those search warrants have resulted in previous indictments on 17 individuals and eight businesses. Six individuals and two businesses have been convicted.

To report illegal internet casinos, contact the Ohio Investigative Unit on your cell phone at #677.

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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. Follow OIU on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Investigative-Unit/165782203506269> and on Twitter by logging onto http://twitter.com/Ohio_OIU.