



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Investigative Unit

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### Ohio Investigative Unit Cites Austintown Township Bar for Role in Crash

**(Columbus)** – Agents with the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) have cited a bar in Austintown Township after a driver and two passengers, all underage, crashed into a Niles Police Department cruiser, parked on the side of McKees Lane on March 17, 2013.

As a result of the crash, Niles Police contacted OIU agents to conduct a trace-back investigation to determine how the underage individuals received the alcohol. Subsequently, agents cited the Austintown Township bar, Split Level, 169 South Four Mile Run Rd., with two counts each of sale of beer to a person under 21 and furnishing beer to a person under 21.

“Bar employees need to understand they and their employer may be held liable for their part in serving individuals who are later involved in a crash,” said Canton District Office Agent-in-Charge John Campbell.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was contacted to handle the crash and charged the driver, Matthew A. Stein, 20, of Vienna, with OVI, leaving the scene of an accident and failure to control. The driver’s BAC was .177 percent. In the state of Ohio, an individual who is under 21 is considered legally drunk with a BAC of .02 percent.

Possible criminal charges will be presented to the Mahoning County Prosecutor’s Office for their consideration. The Ohio Liquor Control Commission will be presented with the administrative charges once all criminal proceedings are completed, if they are filed. Possible administrative penalties could include fines, suspension or revocation of the liquor permit.

**###**

*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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