



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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John R. Kasich, Governor

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OIU Agents File Charges in Connection to a Trace-Back Investigation

Additional charges filed against liquor permit for gambling

(Columbus) – On Wednesday, agents with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit charged the owner of a Fairpoint night club and the liquor permit with alcohol violations in connection with an injury crash involving impaired minors.

Agents charged Kem A. Bartolo, 56, of Fairpoint, with one count each of sale of beer and sale of intoxicating liquor to a person under 21. In addition, Piateks Nite Club, 71137 Main St., in Fairpoint, has been administratively cited with one count each of furnishing beer and furnishing intoxicating liquor to person under 21; and sale of beer and sale of intoxicating liquor to a person under 21.

As agents entered the night club to present the charges, they observed three illegal gambling machines, and obtained a search warrant. Agents seized three slot machines, cash and records. Additional administrative charges were filed for the electronic gambling devices; acquiring, possessing, controlling or operating a gambling device; insanitary conditions; and not operating at the locations specified on the permit.

The charges come after troopers with the St. Clairsville Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol requested OIU agents trace the sale of alcohol, after a driver and passenger, both underage, were involved in a one car crash on County Road 76 in Belmont County on Sept. 27. The driver, 17, was charged with possessing, purchasing and consuming beer under the age of 21, as well as OVI, failure to control and open container. The passenger, Brittany A. Boone, 19, of St. Clairsville, was charged with consuming intoxicating liquor and beer under the age of 21.

Criminal charges against Bartolo, will be presented to the Belmont County Western Division Court. Administrative charges will be filed with the Liquor Control Commission once all criminal proceedings have been completed. Possible administrative penalties could include fines, suspension or revocation of the 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. 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.