



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

www.oiu.ohio.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 13, 2013

OIU Contact: Agent-in-Charge – Greg Croft
(216) 898-1870 or (614) 752-2792

Indictments on OIU, Cleveland Police Food Stamp Fraud and Receiving Stolen Property Case

(Columbus) – One Cleveland business and two people were indicted through the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Grand Jury for their role in a food stamp fraud and receiving stolen property case. One additional person was also indicted in Cleveland Municipal Court. Agents with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit and detectives with Cleveland Police Department began investigating the location in January. A search warrant was executed weeks later.

The indictments through Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court include: 5404 Storer AM, LLC., also known as the Economy Market, 5404 Storer Ave., in Cleveland with one count of trafficking in or illegal use of food stamps, two counts of petty theft and one count of receiving stolen property; Salam Habbas, 43, of North Olmstead with one count of trafficking in or illegal use of food stamps, two counts of petty theft, and one count of receiving stolen property; and Rosita Martinez, 46 of Cleveland with one count each of trafficking in or illegal use of food stamps and petty theft.

Charges were also filed in Cleveland Municipal Court on Trisha A. Thorne, 35 of Cleveland, for two counts of receiving stolen property.

Administrative charges were also filed against the liquor permit, including four counts of receiving stolen property, and one count each of illegal use of food stamp benefits, trafficking in food stamp benefits, drug possession, drug paraphernalia possession, and improper repackaging and/or splitting of beer.

Once all criminal proceedings are completed agents will present the administrative charges to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission for their consideration. The commission has the authority to issue penalties against the liquor permit including possible fines, suspensions or revocation.

###

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.