



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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OIU Trace-Back Investigations Traces the Source of Alcohol in Traffic Crashes

(Columbus) – When Ohio’s law enforcement officers and troopers are investigating alcohol-related crashes and incidents, another component that is often investigated is the source of the alcohol – or trace-back investigations. Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit have been tracing the source of alcohol in these types of incidents for many years.

The intent is to identify the seller, server or provider of the alcohol and to determine if the server or provider acted within Ohio’s liquor laws. OIU agents determine if the individual was old enough to consume or possess alcohol and was the person intoxicated when they were served.

“We investigate to hold bars, restaurants and convenient stores accountable for their sales,” said Agent-in-Charge Eric Wolf. “The sooner our agents get involved with these cases, the more successful we are in finding the source of the alcohol.”

Agents have two courses of action to take if laws are found to be broken. Criminal charges can be filed against individuals, and administrative charges can be filed against the liquor permit.

As of September 3, 2013

Trace-back cases closed unfounded	44
Trace-back cases closed via administrative citation	3
Trace-back cases closed via arrest	9
Trace back cases closed via administrative citation and arrest	4
Open Trace-back cases	18
Total	78

Administrative charges are presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission for their consideration. Administrative penalties include fines, suspensions or liquor permit revocation.

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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.