



NEWS RELEASE

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LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAMS UP FOR SUMMER OPERATION IN ASHTABULA

Ashtabula, Ohio-The Ashtabula Police Department in conjunction with the U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Investigative Unit, Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office, Ashtabula County Adult Probation, Ohio Adult Parole Authority, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, conducted Operation "*Summer Crush*." The operation took place from August 7th to September 4th, 2014 in Ashtabula City and Ashtabula Township. The operation targeted known violent offenders, wanted persons; impaired drivers, criminal interdiction patrol, liquor permit violations, and residential checks of probationers and parolees.

As a result of the cooperation between these law enforcement agencies 25 wanted fugitives were arrested. There were over three hundred seventy traffic stops made, resulting in one hundred and eleven citations being written. Ten of those citations were issued for OVI. Twelve liquor permit premises were checked in Ashtabula City and Ashtabula Township. These checks resulted in 12 administrative violations and 8 misdemeanor arrests from three premises. The most serious of these incidents occurred at the premise of 3105 Lake Rd Inc., known as the Rare Cherry. Administrative Violations included Agent or Permit Holder Intoxicated, Improper Conduct- Nudity, Improper Conduct - Public Indecency, Improper Conduct- Engage in Sexual Activity, Improper Conduct - Drug Use, Improper Conduct - Disorderly Activity and multiple Insanitary Conditions violations. In addition, numerous criminal summonses were issued for charges including Illegal Activity in a Sexually Oriented Business, Drug Abuse and Disorderly Conduct by Intoxication. That same liquor permit holder was cited a second time less than two weeks later for several of the same activities.

During the course of operation “*Summer Crush*” 4 firearms, over \$500.00 cash, and 6 grams of heroin were seized. Two out of state fugitives with significant criminal histories were also found hiding out in Ashtabula.

On August 8th, 2014, Jemel Milton-Thompson was arrested at an apartment on Altman Court when officers discovered two handguns and a small amount of heroin during an unrelated arrest. Milton-Thompson was from Detroit, MI and was on parole to Michigan for a previous arson conviction. Milton-Thompson was able to post bond prior to Michigan violating his parole and he was again arrested by the task force and Ashtabula PD on August 21st for a parole violation warrant. He is currently being held in U.S. Marshals custody as federal authorities pursue charges for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Milton-Thompson has a lengthy criminal history which included convictions for violent charges.

During the operation, Ashtabula patrol officers obtained information that a subject was wanted for escape out of Essex County, N.J. and was hiding out in the city, and the NOVFTF initiated an investigation. On August 21st, members of the task force and APD went to an address on Jefferson Street where they located and arrested Roosevelt Kelly on his New Jersey warrant. Kelly had a lengthy criminal history which included charges for violent crimes.

Pete Elliott, United States Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio said, “The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force is committed to aiding our law enforcement partners in Ashtabula. We want to send the message that Ashtabula is not a safe haven for fugitives and we will continue to pursue these fugitives wherever they may hide.”

Operation “Summer Crush” was coordinated by the United States Marshals Service and the Ashtabula Police Department. Participating agencies included the Ashtabula County Sheriff’s Office, Ashtabula County Adult Probation, Ohio Adult Parole Authority, Ohio State Patrol, Ohio Investigative Unit, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.