



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OIU Contact: Agent-in-Charge George Pitre
(330) 497-5411 or (614) 752-2792

OIU food stamp investigation leads to arraignment of Canton man

(Canton) A Canton man was arraigned on September 12 in Stark County Common Pleas Court on food stamp fraud related charges, stemming from an investigation by the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit.

Muhammed S. Ali, 63, of Canton, was indicted on seven counts of illegal use of supplemental nutrition program benefits.

Last fall, agents received a complaint that A & K Luckystar, Inc., also known as B & B Supermarket, 636 Cherry Ave., in Canton was participating in illegal food stamp activity. After an investigation, agents and Stark County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a search warrant in April on the location.

Agents also filed multiple administrative charges against the liquor permit, including: illegal use of electronic benefits transfer (EBT); trafficking in EBT and theft.

Administrative violations will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission once all criminal proceedings are completed. The commission has the authority to issue penalties such as fines, suspensions or revocation of the liquor permit.

If you have information about the illegal use of food stamps or trafficking of food stamps, please notify the Ohio Investigative Unit by calling #677 on your cell phone and your complaint will be investigated.

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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.