



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seneca County liquor permit cited with illegal gambling charges

(Toledo) Agents with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit conducted a search warrant at a Seneca County liquor permit premise for illegal gambling Thursday.

The Hickory Inn, 10 East New Haven Street in Bloomville, was administratively cited with conducting instant bingo without a license or contract; acquire, possess or operating a gambling device; game of chance for profit or scheme of chance; operating a gambling house; and recklessly permitting public gambling.

During the search warrant, agents seized instant bingo tickets. Criminal charges may be presented to the Seneca County Prosecutor's Office. Once all criminal proceedings are completed, administrative charges will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. The commission has the authority to issue penalties against the liquor permit – such as fines, suspension or revocation of the liquor permit.

It is illegal to sell instant bingo tickets in Ohio, without a charitable bingo license issued by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

To report an establishment conducting illegal gambling, contact Investigative Unit by calling the #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.