



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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April 23, 2014

A North Royalton man indicted on gambling charges in multi-agency investigation

Agencies conduct more than 15 search warrants throughout Northeast Ohio

A North Royalton man has been indicted by a Cuyahoga County Grand Jury on multiple counts of gambling, money laundering and possession of criminal tools after a multi-agency investigation into a gambling ring in Northeast Ohio. This is part of a larger on-going investigation into the manufacture, distribution and operation of electronic video slot machines. Numerous additional indictments are expected to be presented to the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury at a later date.

Through an extensive investigation, agents with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit, the United States Secret Service's Northern Ohio Organized Crime Task Force, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office have connected Martin Sarcyk, 61, to a number of locations where search warrants were conducted earlier today.

"Illegal gambling continues to be a problem, by promoting criminal activity," said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born. "The search warrants conducted today, provides an example to all Ohioans that we are committed to making Ohio safer."

Search warrants were conducted at B&G Old World Tavern, 661 East 185th Street and K&K Tavern, also known as the Blue Parrot, 561 East 185th Street both in Euclid; Cleveland businesses HIH Tavern, also known as the 2nd Chance Lounge, 756 ½ East 200th Street, the Pearl Road Tavern, 4370 Pearl Road, and Union Vending, 13730 Enterprise Ave.; Flyers, 6298 Pearl Road, in Parma Heights; Corvette Lounge, 22916 Lorain Road, in Fairview Park; Highlander Tavern, 795 Bishop Road, in Highland Heights; Walter Music and Vending, 7195 Commerce Drive, in Mentor; Wooster businesses Puzzle Bug, 3777 Cleveland Road and Fun and Skill Games, 2889 Cleveland Road; Fun Skill Games, 60 Lincolnview Drive, in Dalton; and residences at 9400 Dennis Court, North Royalton and 2709 Tanglewood Drive in Wooster. A third residence in Wooster was also searched, as well as safety deposit boxes at PNC Bank and Key Bank.

"The search warrants served today should send a clear message to those trying to bypass the law that illegal gambling will not be tolerated in this state," said Attorney General DeWine. "This case is just one example of how local, state, and federal authorities are working together to shut down illegal gambling operations."

This is the second time since May 2012 investigators have filed charges against Sarcyk, who was convicted in May 2013 of money laundering and multiple felony gambling counts after state and federal investigators discovered his involvement in illegal internet sweepstakes gambling and the operation of a sports bookmaking ring.

"We will keep arresting repeat offenders like Martin Sarcyk who choose to continue their illegal gambling operations," said Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy J. McGinty. "We will not let them take root in Cuyahoga County. Let today's seizures and arrests be a warning to others looking to bilk the public: They

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will lose their illicit profits, they will lose their slot machines and they will wake up in a hotel where they paint the cement floors.”

Other agencies involved in the investigation include the United States Marshals Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service; the Ohio State Highway Patrol Vehicle Theft Unit; the Parma Heights, Euclid, Cleveland, Mentor and Wooster police departments; and prosecutors with the Attorney General’s Special Prosecutions Section, and the Lake and Wayne county prosecutor’s offices.

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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.

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