

For Immediate Release

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Florida Gaming Control Commission Collaborates with Local Law Enforcement Partners to Address Illegal Gambling Activity and Shut Down Illegal Casinos

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Last week, the Florida Gaming Control Commission reaffirmed its dedication to the safety and wellness of Florida communities by continuing efforts to address illegal gambling activity. In collaboration with local law enforcement partners in Brevard and Volusia counties, FGCC agents assisted with shutting down five illegal casinos as well as seizing illegal gambling machines from two business establishments.

"The cooperative relationships developed between the Florida Gaming Control Commission and our partner law enforcement agencies are essential to fulfill our mission, and these efforts are making an impact," said Ross Marshman, Acting Executive Director of the Florida Gaming Control Commission. "Through innovative strategies, enhanced resources, and collaboration, these partnerships reflect our dedication to fostering trust and accountability while effectively addressing public safety concerns related to illicit gambling locations."

On Tuesday, FGCC agents assisted the Brevard County Sheriff's Office as they executed search warrants for five illegal casinos throughout the county. More than 500 illegal gambling machines, related equipment, and more than \$845,000 was seized. A 2022 Chevy Silverado, which was actively being used to transport cash from the illegal casinos, was also seized. Criminal arrests are pending. The five facilities were located at:

- 190 Malabar Rd, Suite 121, Palm Bay
- 4940 Stack Blvd Suite D1-D2, Melbourne
- 780 Apollo Blvd, Melbourne
- 1882 N. Wickham Rd, Melbourne
- 950 N. Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island

On Thursday, FGCC agents and the Port Orange Police Department addressed community concerns received by both agencies about two independently owned businesses. More than \$6,000 and 19 illegal slot and gaming machines were seized. Three arrests were made for charges of *Operating illegal Gambling Establishments* and *Illegal Possession of Slot Machines and Gaming Devices*. The two establishments included:

- Stop & Go Convenience Store, 5687 S. Ridgewood Ave, Port Orange
- Mark and Jill's Village Tavern, 5263 S. Nova Rd, Port Orange

Citizen reports are important to share concerns about illegal gambling activities or facilities in Florida. Concerns can be reported to FGCC online at <u>FLGaming.gov/File-a-Report</u>, by email at <u>Contact@FLGaming.gov</u>, or by phone at 850-880-3433.

The mission of the Florida Gaming Control Commission is to preserve and protect the integrity of gaming activities in Florida through fair regulation, licensing, effective criminal investigation, and enforcement.