



For Immediate Release

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Florida Gaming Control Commission Takes Enforcement Action, Seizes Illegal Gambling Machines and Cash from Seven Convenience Stores in North and Central Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Last week, the Florida Gaming Control Commission took enforcement action against illegal gambling operations at seven convenience stores in North and Central Florida. Notices to Appear (NTAs) were issued for the store's owners or managers, including charges of Possession of Slot Machines, as well as charges for Keeping a Gambling House.

Florida law strictly regulates gambling, with slot machines permitted only in licensed gaming facilities, including eight pari-mutuel facilities in Miami-Dade and Broward counties and six Seminole Tribe of Florida establishments. It is illegal to operate slot machines or any other unauthorized gambling machines at an unlicensed facility in the state.

"Standalone illegal casinos aren't the only ones offering illegal slot machine gaming in this state," explained **Florida Gaming Control Commission Acting Executive Director Ross Marshman**. "Business franchisees, owners, and managers need to be aware of the law. If someone approaches your legitimate business with an opportunity to make more money that seems too good to be true, it probably is. These illegal schemes will result in criminal charges and hurt the business you worked hard to build."

Agents seized 35 machines from the seven locations, along with \$19,131.87 cash from inside the machines. Locations included:

- **BP Gas Station**, 3930 N. Nebraska Avenue, Tampa. Agents seized **six illegal gambling machines** containing **\$3,037 cash**. Store manager Christopher Merle Cornelius was issued an NTA for one count of Possession of Slot Machines and one count for Keeping a Gambling House.
- **Los Amigos Grocery & Meats**, 2223 Stuart Street, Tampa. Agents seized **13 illegal gambling machines** containing **\$699 cash**. Store manager Mohammad Iqbal Hossain was issued an NTA for one count of Possession of Slot Machines and one count for Keeping a Gambling House.
- **Speedy Mart**, 949 Center Avenue, Holly Hill. Agents seized **four illegal gambling machines**, containing **\$863 cash**. Store owner Hemalibahen Snehal Gandhi was issued an NTA for one count of Possession of Slot Machines and one count for Keeping a Gambling House.
- **Sunoco Gas and Convenience**, 190 Eau Gallie Boulevard, Indian Harbour Beach. Agents seized **three illegal gambling machines** containing **\$5,665 cash**. Store manager Mehta Sejal Chirag was issued an NTA for one count of Possession of Slot Machines and one count for Keeping a Gambling House.
- **Mobil Gas & Convenience Store**, 2094 Jimmy Buffett Memorial Hwy, Indian Harbour Beach. Agents seized **five illegal gambling machines** containing **\$375 cash**. Store manager Babulalam Khan was issued an NTA for one count of Possession of Slot Machines and one count for Keeping a Gambling House.
- **Perry Fast Mart**, 720 S. Jefferson Street, Perry. Agents seized **three illegal gambling machines** containing **\$8,154.77 cash**. The store's owner, Hua Chen, was issued an NTA for one charge of Possession of Slot Machines and one charge of Keeping a Gambling House.

- **Katie's Kountry Store**, 15729 Beach Road, Perry. Agents seized **one illegal gambling machine** containing **\$338.10 cash**. The store's manager, Mosfiqur Rahaman Masrafi, was issued an NTA for one charge of Possession of Slot Machines.

Legal gaming establishments ensure player protections, generate state revenue, and uphold game integrity. Anyone found possessing illegal slot machines faces criminal charges and may incur administrative fines of up to \$10,000 per machine. Business permits and liquor licenses may also be suspended for violations of Florida's gambling laws.

The Florida Gaming Control Commission is responsible for exercising all regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to legal gaming, including pari-mutuel wagering, cardrooms, slot machine facilities, oversight of gaming compacts, and other forms of gambling authorized by state law, excluding the lottery, as well as directly enforcing Florida's gaming laws and combatting illegal gambling activities. Concerns about illegal gambling activities or facilities in Florida are valuable and can be reported online at FLGaming.gov/File-a-Report, by email at Contact@FLGaming.gov, or by phone at 850-880-3433.

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