



Arizona Department of Gaming

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News Release

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Department of Gaming Seizes Illegal Gambling Machines

(Phoenix) – Agents from the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) had a busy weekend seizing illegal gambling devices at over 40 locations across the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

Earlier this year, ADG’s Intelligence Unit received information from the California Department of Justice regarding a criminal enterprise in California that it believed might be moving to Arizona. The organization was suspected of distributing illegal gambling devices targeting various “mom and pop” convenience stores, gas stations and smoke shops throughout the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. The gaming devices allowed patrons to deposit money, play various casino-style games and win credits that could be redeemed for cash.

For months, Undercover ADG Agents visited locations and gathered evidence suggesting possible violations of various state gambling statutes including: the promotion of gambling, benefitting from gambling and conducting a criminal enterprise.

On September 8, 2012, with the assistance of the Phoenix Field Office of the FBI and the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, ADG served warrants on 45 local businesses and one storage locker. Agents seized 54 eight-line gambling devices and five coin pusher machines, all containing cash.

“Keeping unlawful gambling out of our neighborhoods is a high priority,” said Mark Brnovich, Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming. “Organizations promoting illegal gambling will quickly discover that they are not welcome in our state”.

No arrests have yet been made as the investigation is still on-going.

To report suspected illegal gambling, contact ADG at 602-255-3888. For more information, to request photos or an interview with Director Brnovich, contact Jelena Momich at 602-316-8922.

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