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News Release

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Arizona Department of Gaming Uncovers Internet Gambling Cafés in Sun City West and Peoria – Charges Pending

PHOENIX – On November 7, 2019, the Arizona Department of Gaming with assistance from Surprise and Peoria Police Departments executed search warrants at two Internet cafés located in strip malls in the Northwest Valley, and a residence located in Surprise. ADG agents seized two Dragon video table games, 24 computers and an estimated \$5,500 in cash.

ADG interviewed three individuals involved in the gambling operations, who later were released pending charges being filed by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. ADG will seek multiple charges that may include promoting and benefiting from gambling and possession of gambling devices and records.

"We appreciate the support of our local police departments, Surprise and Peoria, and our ongoing partnership with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in our efforts to uphold Arizona's gambling laws," said Ted Vogt, ADG Director. "While it's important that owners and operators of illegal gambling activities be held accountable, each of us plays a part in ensuring that gaming in Arizona is conducted in a socially responsible manner."

ADG began its investigation in late summer 2019, which revealed the business, AZ Internet Café, was conducting operations that provided patrons access to play and wager using suspected illegal gambling devices, as well as create and use individual online user accounts to bet on unlawful internet sweepstakes video games.

ADG's ongoing collaboration with state and local law enforcement agencies and other partners has helped shut down dozens of illegal gambling businesses in the last few years alone making Arizona's communities safer. Commonly located near residential neighborhoods, these illegal establishments often attract other criminal activity when left unchecked.

If you have information about suspected illegal gambling anywhere in Arizona, please contact ADG at (602) 771-4263.

About ADG

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, ADG is the state regulatory agency for [tribal gaming](#), [racing](#) and [pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering](#), and [unarmed combat sports](#). ADG also provides and supports education, prevention and treatment programs for people and families affected by problem gambling through its [Division of Problem Gambling](#) and 24-hour confidential helpline, 1-800-NEXT-STEP.

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