



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2019

Media Contact | Caroline Oppleman
602.255.3814 | coppleman@azgaming.gov

Arizona Department of Gaming Seeks Multiple Criminal Charges Related to Underground Casino Operation in Phoenix

PHOENIX – On October 16, 2019, the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) with assistance from the Phoenix Police Department (PPD) executed search warrants at six separate locations in the Phoenix metropolitan area related to an underground gambling operation. Officers seized seven casino-style video poker gaming devices, six ATM kiosks, eight sweepstakes internet café computers and close to \$7,000 in cash.

ADG interviewed six individuals involved in the gambling operation, who later were released pending charges being filed by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. ADG will seek multiple charges that may include money laundering, illegal control of a criminal enterprise, promoting and benefiting from gambling, possession of gambling devices and records, sale of dangerous drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia.

ADG began this cooperative investigation in March 2019, which involved infiltrating an underground casino, known as Tom's Amusement or Tom's Warehouse, located near W. Peoria Ave. and N. 21st Ave. in Phoenix. During the investigation, officers purchased illicit drugs and a firearm. ADG and PPD served the related additional warrants at four other locations in Phoenix and one in Scottsdale.

"The Arizona Department of Gaming takes its duty to enforce the gambling laws in our state seriously," said Ted Vogt, ADG Director. "We appreciate our ongoing partnerships with the Phoenix Police Department and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in our efforts to stop illegal gambling and its associated crimes."

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.

###

World-Class Gaming Regulation for a Stronger Arizona