



## Arizona Department of Gaming

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### News Release

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2013  
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## Department of Gaming is Not Amused

(Phoenix) – Earlier this week, a sweep of illegal “amusement” gaming devices took place at locations throughout Phoenix and Tucson. Agents from the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG), with assistance from the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, served simultaneous warrants at an array of locations including grocery stores, shopping centers, a storage facility and a private residence. Agents seized approximately 24 gambling devices with an estimated value of \$132,000, a vehicle, \$12,000 in merchandise and over \$16,594 in cash.

The investigation began when ADG received an anonymous call regarding several suspected illegal gambling devices in Phoenix and Tucson. Arizona gambling statutes state the prizes in “amusement” gaming devices cannot be offered as a lure to separate players from their money. Undercover ADG agents confirmed the devices were operating illegally with prizes such as gift cards, iPads, TVs, Kindles, Play Stations and other electronic devices. The seized machines are now being further inspected as they may have also been manipulated as to not allow a player a chance to win until a certain number of losses were reached, which is also a violation of the statutes.

“There’s a big difference between amusement gaming and illegal gambling,” said Mark Brnovich, Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming. “Although portrayed as amusement- type devices, these machines were engaged in separating consumers from their money with lavish prizes, some too big to even fit in them” added Brnovich.

Evidence gathered by ADG agents suggests possible violations including: possession of gambling devices, benefitting from gambling, promotion of gambling, and possession of gambling records. As the investigation continues, additional charges may be filed by the Attorney General’s office. No arrests have been at this time.

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

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