

Arizona Department of Gaming

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News Release

For Immediate Release: September 1, 2010 Media Contact: Rick Medina, Policy & Communications Manager (602) 604-1801 ext. 206 RMedina@azgaming.gov

ELECTRONIC GAMING DEVICES SEIZED IN JOINT OPERATION

(Phoenix) – Yesterday agents from the Arizona Department of Gaming and the Department of Liquor LICENSES AND CONTROL seized eight pay-for-play video machines operating in four liquor-licensed establishments in Phoenix and Tempe. An additional five were seized at a storage facility in Mesa. A warrant was served at each business believed to be operating in violation of their liquor license.

The four licensed locations include The American Legion at 39th and Southern Avenues; Tempe Elks #2251 located at 23rd Street and Hardy in Tempe; Moose Lodge at 24th Street and South Mountain; and Moose Lodge at Mill and Southern Avenues. Two additional warrants were served at the home of Richard Victory, the man believed to be the distributor of the electronic gaming devices, and at storage facility both located in Mesa. Victory allegedly provided these machines in exchange for a percentage of the profits. Officials estimate Victory collected thousands of dollars in undeclared income each month.

"Regardless of the location or establishment, state gambling laws will be strictly enforced" said Mark Brnovich, Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming. "We are committed to investigating reports of this type of activity and taking the appropriate action."

More than \$12,000 in cash, several computers, one vehicle, gaming records and financial documents were seized as a result of the warrants. Officers from DPS, Mesa PD and the Arizona Counter Terrorism Intelligence Center (ACTIC) office also assisted in the successful service of the warrants.

"Arizona liquor law does not allow gambling at liquor-licensed businesses when the customer is required to pay for a chance to win something of value," added Director Alan Everett of the Department of Liquor.

This case is being prosecuted by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. For more information or to request an interview with Director Brnovich, contact Rick Medina, Policy and Communications Manager of the Arizona Department of Gaming at (602) 604-1801, ext. 206.

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