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Cox Announces Results of Food Stamp Trafficking Raid

More than a Half Million Dollars of Fraud Alleged
More than \$100,000 Recovered in Raid

LANSING – Attorney General Mike Cox today announced the results of a successful raid against nine stores for food stamp trafficking which defrauded taxpayers of more a than half-million dollars. The multi-agency raid resulted in 22 arrests and recovered more than \$100,000, one individual is still outstanding.

"Food stamps, bridge cards, and EBT are a helping hand to Michigan citizens who are struggling and I will not tolerate business owners who try to take advantage and defraud Michigan taxpayers," said Cox.

The Michigan State Police and Special Agents from United State Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General, have been involved in the investigation of food stamp trafficking. A year long investigation revealed that the nine stores raided were involved in food stamp trafficking wherein they were exchanging food stamp benefits for cash.

Each year more than \$54 million worth of fraud is alleged in connection to food stamp trafficking in the State of Michigan. Michigan State Police and Special Agents from USDA-OIG conducted arrests and, seized properties and bank accounts related to the stores.

Acting Special Agent in-Charge Joe N. Smith said; "The USDA Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, is committed to aggressively investigating the criminal activities of store owners and employees who deprive needy citizens of the Detroit metropolitan area access to nutritious meals. We appreciate the assistance from our partners in the Federal and state law enforcement community."

(MORE)

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"I want to thank all of the agencies for the hard work and cooperation in the case, including the Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General and the United State Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General," concluded Cox.

Below are the charges, all store owners will face all counts (1 thru 4), while the implicated employees of the stores face counts 2 thru 4.

- Count 1: Racketeering, a 20 year felony and/or \$100,000 fine.
- Count 2: Food Stamp Trafficking, a 10 year felony and/or \$250,000 fine.
- County 3: Conspiracy, a 5 year felony and/or \$10,000 fine.
- County 4: Fraudulent use of EBT card, a 4 year felony and/or \$5,000 fine.

The following is a break down of the stores and employees arrested in connection to the respective stores.

(*) Represents store owners.

(+) Those not yet arrested.

N&J Petroleum 18300 Morang Detroit MI	Nabil Nagi Saleh Hizam, 06/17/67* Jamil Nagi-M Hassan, 01/08/61* Fathi Abdo-Abduarub Assaedi, 05/1981 Fares Ali Majhed, 12/27/1985 Abdullah Nabil Hizam, 11/20/1988
Quick Fill Gas Inc 9000 Conner Detroit	Nabil Nagi Saleh Hizam, 06/17/67 Jamil Nagi-M Hassan, 01/08/61+ Fadl Mohamed Al-Ghazali, 08/15/1963
Nabil & Sons Mrt Inc 14545 Plymouth Rd Detroit MI	Nabil Nagi Saleh Hizam, 06/17/67
Outer Drive 1555 E Outer Drive Detroit mi	Abraham Mohammad Alrfifeh, 11/17/85* Mohammad Ibrahim Alrfifeh, 01/26/54 Abed-Allah Mohammad Alrfifeh, 5/24/1990
IM Gas & Mart 20300 McNichols Detroit, MI	Ibrahim Saleh-Ali Mohamed, 02/08/76* Nooraldain Saleh Mohamed, 05/03/62 Mohamed Gamil-Ismail Al-Gazali, 05/19/75

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<p>Plymouth Gas & Mart Inc. 13601 Plymouth Detroit MI</p>	<p>Ibrahim Saleh-Ali Mohamed, 02/08/76 Abdurahman Abdulla Gazzali, 03/24/1987 Ahmed Mohammed Alhalmi, 10/05/1975</p>
<p>IT Mini Mart 20541 Plymouth Detroit MI</p>	<p>Ibrahim Saleh-Ali Mohamed, 02/08/76 Halil Fuad Al-Hadai, 07/01/1988</p>
<p>Abraham Fuel Group Inc 2021 W. Grand Blvd Detroit, MI</p>	<p>Victor Archibald Abraham, 12/18/71* Laurece Delcontee Abraham, 09/23/70* Keisha Patrice Minor, 10/01/1968 Cherissa Miller, 07/10/1973 Ashley Renae Risper, 02/28/1986 Shilia Jenise-Mary Brown, 10/06/1972</p>
<p>G K Inc. 17600 Joy Road Detroit, MI</p>	<p>Jalal M Kassa * George M Kassa*</p>