

# Market raided over Bridge Card fraud

## Middle Eastern Market on Eastern Avenue

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GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (WOOD) - For the second time in two days, investigators raided a retail location over alleged bridge card fraud.

Federal agents with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and state agents with the State Department of Human Services served a warrant at the Middle Eastern Market at 2417 Eastern Avenue SE Wednesday morning.

The lead investigator with D.H.S.'s Office of the Inspector General said the search warrant was part of an investigation into Bridge card trafficking.

"Trafficking is selling or purchasing Bridge cards for items that are not food," said Agent Max Warriner. "That's we're investigating: trafficking food assistance benefits."

On Tuesday, a **Marathon gas station at Burton and Kalamazoo** was raided for similar reasons.

Agents will not say if the two investigations are part of a larger effort in West Michigan.

24 Hour News 8 spoke to one of the owners of the Middle Eastern Market over the phone about the raid. He denied any wrongdoing.

No charges have been filed against any of the members of the extended family that owns the market.

The investigation is ongoing.