

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Larry Campbell, Sheriff

Leon County Sheriff's Office
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DATE: 7/29/2010

LCSO Detectives Shutdown Racetrack Bingo Operation

On Thursday 07/29/10 at approximately 11:00am The Leon County Sheriff's Office Financial Crimes Unit served a Search Warrant at Racetrack Bingo, located at 3030 S. Monroe St. in Tallahassee. This warrant and the associated arrest warrants culminated an investigation that began in September of 2009. Undercover investigation and interviews with both witnesses and suspects revealed Racetrack Bingo violated several sections of the Bingo Statute, F.S. 849.0931. Two Fort Walton Beach businessmen started the company Racetrack Bingo in 2009 and modeled the organization on other operations they run elsewhere. Larry and Josh Masino controlled the operation here in Tallahassee in order to profit personally. The operation also committed theft from a number of local non-profit organizations. The business solicited local non-profit organizations to sponsor bingo sessions at this location in name only. Under Florida law, all profits from bingo operations are supposed to go to the non-profits who host the event. Workers cannot be compensated for their time, the volunteers have to be bona fide members of the non-profit organization and the non-profit has to be a legitimate non-profit. Several of the illegitimate non-profits involved were not eligible for bingo operations here and had full knowledge of this. Profits from the bingo operation were diverted to the benefit of the Masino's.

At no time during this investigation were any of the local non-profits suspected of wrongdoing during these operations. Consequently, there were 11 local registered non-profit organizations that were victims. They collectively suffered a minimum loss of \$87,000.

The investigation continues and additional charges may be forthcoming.

Arrest Warrants were obtained for the following people:

Larry Masino

DOB: 04/24/50

Charges: Organized Scheme to Defraud, Grand Theft (11 Counts), and Bingo Statute Violation (312 Counts)

Josh Masino

DOB: 01/16/76

Charges: Organized Scheme to Defraud, Grand Theft (11 Counts), and Bingo Statute Violation (312 Counts)

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Leo Donnelly
DOB: 03/27/42
Charges: Bingo Statute Violation (49 Counts)

Christopher Jones
DOB: 07/05/58
Charges: Bingo Statute Violation (52 Counts)

Michele Young
DOB: 05/03/65
Charges: Bingo Statute Violation (4 Counts)

