



For Immediate Release
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Gaming Control Commission Agents seize assets, cash, illegal slot machines in a significant takedown of illegal gambling operations in St. Petersburg and Tampa

Tampa, Fla. — Today, the Florida Gaming Control Commission (FGCC) agents executed search warrants targeting illegal gambling operations and seized more than \$1,000,000 in assets, cash, slot-style gaming machines, computers, and ATM machines at multiple locations in Delray Beach, Fort Pierce, St. Petersburg, and Tampa.

The Hillsborough County location was Lucky Game Lounge, 4802 Gunn Hwy Suite 140, Tampa. The Pinellas County location was 2116 34th St. S., St. Petersburg. The Palm Beach County location was Players Paradise Arcade, 4900 Linton Blvd, Suite 31-33, Delray Beach. The St. Lucie County location was Midway Arcade, 4986 25th Street, Fort Pierce.

Based on a public complaint received about the Midway Arcade in Ft. Pierce, FGCC, Division of Law Enforcement served a warning notice letter regarding a complaint of violations of Florida gambling laws on January 27, 2023. Subsequent investigations by law enforcement uncovered extensive illegal gaming operations in Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and St. Lucie counties.

“Illegal gambling establishments operate outside the legal, regulated market to exploit vulnerable Floridians. They are usually associated with organized crime, do not generate state tax revenue, and do not provide the same consumer protections or safeguards as legal gaming operators,” said **Lou Trombetta, FGCC executive director.**

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Great work by the law enforcement officers at the Florida Gaming Control Commission and my Statewide Prosecutors shutting down a massive illegal gambling operation spanning several Florida counties and involving more than a million dollars in assets. These illegal gaming operations will not be tolerated in Florida.”

“The FGCC will continue to work diligently to keep Florida communities safe from crime by curbing illegal gaming, and we appreciate the public's help in identifying suspected illegal gambling sites,” said **Carl Herold, FGCC's director of law enforcement.** Residents and business owners can anonymously report any suspected illegal gambling activity by visiting:

<https://flgaming.gov/file-a-complaint/> or calling (850) 880-3433. FGCC reviews all complaints it receives.

Attorney General Ashley Moody's **Assistant Statewide Prosecutor, Colleen Monroe**, will be prosecuting the case.

Illegal arcades often utilize predatory tactics to fool customers into thinking their machines are legal, but they offer no consumer rights, no guarantee of fair play, and no recourse if an operator steals their money. Illegal gambling is a criminal offense, and these operations can expose individuals to other criminal activity including armed assaults, drug trafficking, and prostitution. The FGCC will continue to collaborate with local law enforcement to combat this issue and make our communities safer.

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The Florida Gaming Control Commission is a five-member regulatory body that is responsible for exercising all regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to gambling, including pari-mutuel wagering, cardrooms, slot machine facilities, oversight of gaming compacts, and other forms of gambling authorized by the State Constitution or law, excluding the state lottery.