



# NEWS RELEASE

## Chicago Police Department

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### **Search Warrants Executed for Illegal Cigarettes Sales from Gas Station**

*Joint Efforts from the Intelligence Section, Asset Forfeiture Unit, the Illinois Department of Revenue, and the Chicago Department of Business and Consumer Affairs*

CHICAGO – On May 8, 2014, Chicago Police Officers arrested 2 men after executing two search warrants for possessing and selling illegal cigarettes at a gas station in the 3800 Block of W. Roosevelt Rd. Officers recovered 3,790 packs of illegal cigarettes from Missouri and Illinois and \$287,778 in cash. The investigation was initiated in response to a tip that cigarettes were being sold over the counter at a gas station without the appropriate Illinois State and Cook County tax stamps.

Several Officers from the Intelligence Section, Asset Forfeiture, the Illinois Department of Revenue, and the Chicago Department of Business and Consumer Affairs collaborated their efforts to begin this investigation. Intelligence Officers made numerous purchases from the gas station and verified the cigarettes did not have Cook County tax stamps affixed and multiple packs had Missouri state tax stamps. Officers were able to determine through surveillance, that the cigarettes were being transported to the store by Nasser ABDULLAH, who was also storing large quantities of cigarettes in his garage and transporting them using his vehicle.

During the surveillance, officers observed ABDULLAH load a large quantity of cigarettes from his garage in the 9100 Block of Beloit, Bridgeview, IL into his vehicle. Officers were able to recover those illegal cigarettes and arrest Nasser ABDULLAH. Search warrants were then executed on both his garage and the gas station in the 3800 Block of W. Roosevelt Rd.

Throughout the duration of this investigation, officers recovered \$287,778 in cash and 3,790 packs of cigarettes without the proper tax stamps. Nasser ABDULLAH, 33, from the 9100 Block of Beloit, Bridgeview, IL, was charged with one felony count of Possession of >1000 Packs of Contraband Cigarettes and potential Business Licensing Fines, totaling nearly \$1,896,500. ABDULLAH appeared in Central Bond Court earlier today. Also arrested was a co-worker, Quaiti ALI, 22, from the 7700 block of W 82<sup>nd</sup> Pl, Bridgeview, IL. ALI was charged with municipal ordinance- No Cigarette Tax Stamp and will appear in Branch 44 on May 29, 2014.

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