



METROPOLITAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Visit WWW.MBI-POLICE.ORG

Since 1978

MEDIA RELEASE

PHILIP B. WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR

Telephone: (407) 836-9701

Facsimile: (407) 836-9743

ARREST OF MANAGER OF WINNER'S CLUB

Orlando, Florida – Tuesday, November 15, 2011, members of the Vice/Organized Crime section served a court ordered search warrant at the **WINNER'S CLUB** business center, also known as the **AMERICAN WAY of Edgewood** at **5617 South Orange Avenue, Edgewood, Florida**, to seek evidence relating to **Illegal Gambling, Slot Machines, Lottery, and Keeping a Gambling House** offenses.

A court ordered arrest warrant was served on the manager present, named **Miguel Angel Santana**. Arrest warrants have been issued for other managers of the business, as well. MBI Vice and Narcotics agents have been investigating the operation at **WINNER'S CLUB** since it opened in the City of Edgewood in September 2011.

At first, the business presented itself as a business center and "internet café" which sold internet, printing, and fax services, but also operated a constant, ongoing series of computer based, slot machine style games referred to as a sweepstakes, and lottery style games. Recently, the business began telling customers it was a donation center, and the all monies paid would be tax deductible, but continued to run the slot machine and lottery style games.

The evidence obtained for **Illegal Gambling, Slot Machines, Lottery, and Keeping a Gambling House** will be submitted to the State Attorney, Lawson Lamar, for review and filing for formal charges in circuit court in Orange County, Florida.

Similar businesses have operated throughout Florida in estimated numbers as high as 1,000, in other counties. A similar business named **Plinko Business Center** operated in Orange County, but closed in the year 2009 when MBI agents arrested the manager and owners and prosecution followed.

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation is a multi-agency Narcotics, Vice and Organized Crime Law Enforcement Task Force assigned to Orange and Osceola Counties. The member agencies of MBI are the State Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sheriff of Orange County; Orlando Police Department; Winter Park Police Department; Apopka Police Department; Ocoee Police Department; University of Central Florida Police Department; Sheriff of Osceola County; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Winter Garden Police Department; United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Postal Inspection Service, and the United States Secret Service.