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MEDIA RELEASE

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Operation Got Smokes

Subject: Manager of Store in Parramore Heritage Neighborhood Arrested

The *Orlando Police Department* and the *Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)* conducted an investigation of the manager of the **Arena Food Store**, located at **635 North Westmoreland Drive**, in the **Parramore Heritage neighborhood**, after receiving information from neighborhood citizens that the manager was buying and selling stolen property.

The store manager, **Abdus Bapary**, was arrested today for **Dealing in Stolen Property**, F.S. 812.01, following an undercover investigation by agents with the *Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation Vice/Organized Crime Section*. During the course of the investigation Abdus Bapary, White/Male DOB: 08/15/1968, purchased more than 500 packs of purportedly stolen cigarettes, that did not have the required state tax stamp, from **undercover MBI agents** posing as dealers in stolen property. Additional charges may result as the **Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT)** is also conducting an investigation regarding the purchase and sale of unstamped cigarettes.

The store's parking lot had become a **popular location for street drug dealers** to sell narcotics. The *Orlando Police Department's Drug Enforcement Division* has documented numerous drug dealers selling drugs on the store's property, and is in the process of preparing a **Nuisance Abatement Notice** for the owners of the property. The *City of Orlando Code Enforcement* has also responded to the scene to conduct an inspection for any code violations.

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; University of Central Florida Police Department; Sheriff of Osceola County; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; 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.