



# COMMERCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** March 24, 2006  
**FROM:** Kerry L.Crews, Chief of Police  
**RE:** PRESS RELEASE: ILLEGAL GAMBLING

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Commerce Police Department, in combination with the Greenville Police Department and Hunt County Sheriff's Department, conducted an undercover investigation into several businesses in Hunt County for illegal gambling operations.

Two officers with the Commerce Police Department were assigned to assist in this investigation and have worked over 240 hours in a two week time period gaining the probable cause needed to obtain search warrants.

In total, 13 establishments in Hunt County were identified as having an illegal gambling operation, with approximately 380 machines. Three of those establishments are located in the City Limits of Commerce with 90 illegal machines in operation.

During the search of each establishment, officers searched for any evidence and/or proceeds of an illegal gambling operation. Any item located were seized and held as evidence and possible forfeiture.

Officers from agencies in Hunt County formed search warrant teams used to execute the search warrants on each establishment. The teams were deployed at about 12:30pm to each gambling location. There were over 50 officers who participated in this operation. Locally, Officers from the Commerce Police Department, Texas A&M University-Commerce Police Department and the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission were teamed up to execute search warrants at the three locations in Commerce.

The following is the location of each establishment in Commerce:

1305 Park Street, Victor's Beer & Wine  
2201 Live Oak, Live Oak Amusements  
819 N Park, American Amusements

Julie Tee, Oriental Female, 61 yoa, was arrested at Victor's Beer and Wine  
David Long, white male, 24 yoa, was arrested at Live Oak Amusements  
Kenneth Brown, black male, 34 yoa, was arrested at American Amusements

All three were charged with Possession of Gambling Device, Paraphernalia and Equipment. They were arraigned by Justice of the Peace Sarge Erwin and transported to Hunt County Law Enforcement Center for processing.

The use of 8-liner gambling machines is a growing problem in our area. I am pleased to see that the law enforcement agencies in Hunt County can work together collectively to put a stop to illegal activity of this kind in our community.