



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019

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## Operation End Game

### Flagler Sheriff Shuts Down Dakota Joes and Seizes Gambling Equipment and Monetary Proceeds

While on patrol a few months ago, Sheriff Rick Staly responded to Dakota Joes Senior Entertainment Center, located at 2245 S. Old Dixie Hwy in Bunnell, for a call for service. While working the call, Sheriff Staly entered Dakota Joes and spoke with the manager. The Sheriff noticed some suspicious activity that resembled electronic gambling.

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Special Investigation Unit (SIU) detectives have since conducted numerous undercover operations at Dakota Joes and discovered gaming devices in the establishment that pay winners in money. This enabled detectives to secure a search warrant on the building for gambling related offenses. The search warrant was executed on Friday evening by members of SIU and members of the Investigative Services Division.



Left: The Sheriff and deputies in front of Dakota Joe's.



Right: Members of SIU removing gaming machines.

Detectives seized five gaming machines and monetary proceeds related to the gambling. No arrests have been made at this time. The investigation is active and ongoing.

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Left: FCSO members removing gaming machines.



Right: The gaming machines were collected as evidence.

The business was previously served with a Cease and Desist letter on November 1, 2018 after investigating an armed robbery that took place at the business on October 29, 2018. The gambling activities ended for a period of time before starting back up again.

“These internet cafes are illegal in Florida and often become targets for crimes, just like the armed robbery that took place at this same establishment last October,” Sheriff Staly said. “We gave them fair warning the first time that their activity is illegal in Florida. Now we are back again after finding illegal activity. Any similar businesses operating in Flagler County need to cut their losses and close their doors or face arrest with a future ‘Operation End Game’ coming to you.”

Electronic gambling is a violation of Florida State Statute (FSS) 849.01, Keeping a Gambling House, and makes the owner liable for criminal charges under FSS 849.03. Additionally, employees and customers may be criminally charged. This investigation is ongoing.

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