



SEVEN INDIVIDUALS CHARGED IN ONGOING SPORTS WAGERING INVESTIGATION

David Jobes

Assistant Director, Division of Criminal Investigation

515.725.6014

jobes@dps.state.ia.us

August, 2, 2023

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation’s (DCI) Special Enforcement Operations Bureau, which serves as the primary criminal investigative and enforcement agency for gambling laws in the state of Iowa, investigated alleged violations of Iowa law related to sports wagering at the University of Iowa and Iowa State University.

Yesterday, seven individuals were charged with one count of Tampering with Records related to that investigation. The Story County Attorney’s Office and the Johnson County Attorney’s Office approved the charges.

The following individuals were charged in Story County:

Eyioma Uwazurike, age, 25, Centennial, Colorado

Hunter Dekkers, age, 22, Ames, Iowa

Dodge Sauser, age, 21, Ames, Iowa

Paniro Johnson, age 20, Ames, Iowa

The following individuals were charged in Johnson County:

Gehrig Christiansen, age 20, Iowa City, Iowa

Ahron Ullis, age 21, Iowa City, Iowa

Aaron Blom, age 21, Iowa City, Iowa

The investigation is ongoing and may result in the filing of additional charges. No further information can be released at this time.

Note: A criminal charge is merely an accusation, and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

ABOUT THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) is the largest law enforcement agency in the state. It includes six divisions and several bureaus, all working together with local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to keep Iowa a safe place by following our core values: leadership, integrity, professionalism, courtesy, service and protection. Divisions within the Iowa DPS: Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa State Fire Marshal Division, Iowa Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center, and Administrative Services Division. The Department of Public Safety is led by the Commissioner who is appointed by the Governor.