

Marion 'after-hours club' to shut down after MARMET raid

Law enforcement raided an "after-hours club" early Sunday on North Main Street they say was illegally selling alcohol, according to the MARMET Drug Task Force.

Before bar close Sunday, MARMET agents wielding a search warrant went to the club, which went by the name The Playground, at 646 N. Main St., at the southeast corner of Main and Fairground streets, according to a press release issued Wednesday by MARMET.

Marion Police Lt. Chris Adkins told the Star there were roughly 30 people at the club when agents arrived about 1 a.m. Sunday to look for evidence of illegal sales of alcohol without a permit.

During the search, Adkins said, agents found alcohol at the bar and on tables, as well as a cash register and a serving table. The location does not have a permit to sell alcohol, he said.

Officers also found and seized cash, marijuana and a firearm, the release says.

Adkins said the club opened in October and alleged it sold alcohol after bar close. He said the club operators have agreed, since the search, to close the club.

No formal charges had been filed in connection to the incident as of Wednesday, but Adkins said he expects charges in Marion Municipal Court later this week.

The release identifies three people against whom law enforcement is pursuing misdemeanor-level charges. Possible charges include selling alcohol without a permit or illegally keeping a place where beer or intoxicating liquor is sold, according to the release.

During the search, MARMET was assisted by the Marion City Police Department, the Marion County Sheriff's Office and the Ohio Investigative Unit, the release says.

The Ohio Investigative Unit, which enforces Ohio's alcohol and tobacco laws, helped MARMET with the two-month investigation into the club, the release says.

Originally published in the Marion Star on February 12, 2019