ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD

JB Pritzker • *Governor*   Charles Schmadeke • *Chairman*   Marcus D. Fruchter • *Administrator*

Press Release

Gaming Agents Arrest Man in Armed Robbery for Stealing $14K in Chips from Illinois Casino

The Illinois Gaming Board (IGB) announced an arrest and charges against a 23-year-old man for his part in an armed robbery of more than $14,000 worth of casino chips from Rivers Casino in Des Plaines.

On October 31, Ismail Ahmed Ateyat, is suspected of entering Rivers Casino wearing a black face mask, pulling out a handgun, pointing it at casino employees, stealing $14,100 in casino chips and fleeing the casino.

Ateyat, of Chicago Ridge, was charged by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office with three counts of armed robbery on November 1. He is currently being held without bond.

Gaming Board Agents were able to track Ateyat to his Chicago Ridge home, where they discovered the handgun, the mask and the stolen chips.

"Because of the swift and diligent work by our Gaming Agents and our local law enforcement partners, we were able to arrest this individual and recover the stolen casino chips," said IGB Administrator Marcus D. Fruchter. "I am grateful to our Gaming Agents, Illinois State Police, Chicago Ridge Police, and the staff at Rivers Casino."

Ateyat's next hearing is scheduled for November 30 at the Circuit Court of Cook County's Second Municipal District-Skokie. All suspects facing criminal charges are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The IGB serves as the state regulatory and law enforcement agency responsible for overseeing all licensed casino gambling, video gaming and sports wagering to ensure the integrity and safety of Illinois gaming while generating revenue for the state and gaming host communities.

Illinois is home to 15 casinos, 11 licensed sportsbooks, and a network of more than 8,400 licensed video gaming establishments.

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