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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Police Bust K2 Operation**

Springfield police officers arrested two women yesterday for selling illegal synthetic and imitation controlled substances (commonly referred to as K2) at a retail business on Campbell Avenue.

SPD executed a search warrant at "Draggin' Fire" located at 3165 S. Campbell #B4. Several hundred packages of suspected synthetic Cannabinoids along with assorted smoking devices commonly used to ingest the substances were seized.

The search warrant was a result of several ongoing investigations of retail businesses that continue to sell the illegal substances.

K2 is a mixture of plant material that has been sprayed or mixed with a synthetic chemical compound similar to THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. K2 products are often labeled as "incense," but in reality are intended for human consumption as a drug.

Over the past several years, smokable herbal blends marketed as being "legal" and providing a marijuana-like high have become increasingly popular, said Sgt. Bryan DiSylvestre, narcotics team supervisor. He said they are particularly popular among teens and young adults, because they are easily available and, in many cases, they are more potent and dangerous than marijuana.

These products consist of plant material that has been coated with dangerous psychoactive compounds that mimic THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Synthetic cannabinoid products are commonly purchased in novelty shops, head shops, tobacco shops, convenience stores, adult stores and over the Internet. Users of these products have reported effects similar to marijuana, but many times greater, including paranoia, panic attacks, hallucinations, increased heart rate and increased blood pressure.

Applicable charges for may include:

#### **Delivery or manufacture of an imitation controlled substance, penalty. 195.242.**

1. It is unlawful for any person to deliver, possess with intent to deliver, manufacture with intent to deliver, or cause to be delivered any imitation controlled substance.
2. A person who violates this section is guilty of a class D felony.

#### **Distribution, delivery, manufacture or production of a controlled substance, violations and attempted violations, penalty. 195.211.**

1. Except as authorized by sections 195.005 to 195.425 and except as provided in section 195.222, it is unlawful for any person to distribute, deliver, manufacture, produce or attempt to distribute, deliver, manufacture or produce a controlled substance or to possess with intent to distribute, deliver, manufacture, or produce a controlled substance.
2. Any person who violates or attempts to violate this section with respect to manufacturing or production of a controlled substance of any amount except for five grams or less of marijuana in a residence where a child resides or within two thousand feet of the real property comprising a public or private elementary or public or private elementary or secondary school, public vocational school or a public or private community college, college or university, or any school bus is guilty of a class A felony.
3. Any person who violates or attempts to violate this section with respect to any controlled substance except five grams or less of marijuana is guilty of a class B felony.
4. Any person who violates this section with respect to distributing or delivering not more than five grams of marijuana is guilty of a class C felony.

For more information, contact Major Kirk Manlove at 417-864-1754 or Cora Scott at 417-380-3352.

Release authorized by: Sgt. Bryan DiSylvester