



TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMOKE SHOP BUSTED FOR ILLEGAL 'SPICE' SALES

TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (6/28/13) – Temple Terrace police detectives executed a search warrant Friday morning at Smoke and Pipes, Inc., 8908 N. 56th St., arresting a 44-year-old Tampa man on drug charges.

Haitham Mousa Amso, of 3460 Park Square East, Apt. 2, Tampa, was charged with felony possession of controlled substances. He is listed as vice president of the business.

Friday's warrant and subsequent arrest were the result of an ongoing investigation that began several months ago. In December, 2012, Attorney General Pam Bondi enacted an emergency order extending the prohibition of chemical compounds used in the production of synthetic designer drugs. At that time, the Temple Terrace Police Department began distributing notices informing the community of the new emergency order, and warning that any future possession of such items could result in confiscation and a criminal investigation.

Records show that notice of the emergency order was hand-delivered to Smoke and Pipes, Inc. on March 27, 2013 by Temple Terrace police detectives.

On May 28, 2013, during a routine follow-up, detectives found more than 200 packets of illegal spice behind the sales counter. At that time, the spice was seized and a sampling was submitted to F.D.L.E. for laboratory examination. The crime lab confirmed that the substances seized were among those prohibited by the Attorney General's office.

The investigation into the business's ongoing criminal enterprise led detectives to initiate an undercover operation, which revealed that the business continued to possess and sell illegal spice. On Friday, detectives seized 468 more packets of spice from behind the sales counter.

The investigation is continuing and additional charges are pending.