

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG STRANGE IS PLEASED WITH COURT ORDER MAKING CLEAR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OVER ILLEGAL GAMBLING

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange said he is very pleased that Jefferson County Circuit Judge Eugene Verin has dissolved his injunction against Sheriff Mike Hale regarding so-called “bingo” activities. The Judge’s action came this morning in response to a motion filed yesterday afternoon by the Attorney General’s Office.

“This ruling makes clear that Sheriff Hale and all other law enforcement agencies have the authority to enforce the law against any illegal gambling in the Bessemer division of Jefferson County. There should be no presumption of cover for anyone planning to open an illegal slot machine operation under the guise of bingo. Let there be no doubt that the Office of Attorney General will enforce state laws against illegal gambling. Those who undertake to resume or open a business using slot machines do so at their own peril and will face whatever law enforcement action may be determined necessary and proper.”

The Attorney General noted that, although details of law enforcement strategy may not be shared, and any potential investigation and prosecutions may not be commented upon, this should not be misunderstood by anyone. “The Office of Attorney General stands ready and is fully committed to take firm and appropriate action if laws are violated.”

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