



# Internet Cafes

**City Council Presentation  
December 6, 2021**



## Internet Cafes



## Current Status:

There are no internet cafes legally operating within the City Limits of Lake City.

# Internet Cafes

## Options



- **Ban Internet Cafes Due To Safety Concerns**
- **Let Moratorium Expire**
- **Regulate Internet Cafes Inside City Limits**

## Internet Cafes



I recommend the City Council mirror the County Commission's ordinance banning internet cafes.

This recommendation is based on the following:

## Internet Cafes



## Items To Consider:



## ELECTRONIC GAMBLING PROHIBITION AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

### CS/HB 155 (Chapter 2013-2, Laws of Florida)

On April 10, 2013, Governor Rick Scott signed into law CS/HB 155 (Chapter 2013-2, Laws of Florida).

This legislation reaffirms that Internet Café & Sweepstakes adult arcades are not exempted by exceptions in the gambling laws for charitable or nonprofit organizations, laws permitting certain game promotions or sweepstakes, and/or laws authorizing skill-based games at arcade amusement centers.

Internet Café & Sweepstakes adult arcade business operators and employees have been, and continue to be, criminally charged under Florida gambling laws, Chapter 849, Florida Statutes, as well as criminal laws against racketeering and money laundering.

Continued unlawful operation or patronage of Internet Café & Sweepstakes adult arcades will subject individuals (owners, employees, and patrons) to criminal prosecution.

- F.S. 849.01 - Individuals who own, operate, or oversee a house or other place for unlawful gaming or gambling are guilty of a third degree felony.
- F.S. 849.02 - Agents or employees of such establishments are also guilty of a third degree felony.
- F.S. 849.233 - Unlawful possession of gambling devices, to include unlawful slot machines, is a misdemeanor.
- F.S. 849.08 - Individuals who engage in unlawful gambling activities are guilty of a misdemeanor.

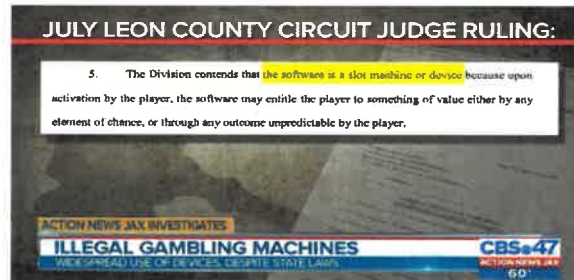
Any person concerned that he or she may be engaged in actions that are in violation of Florida's criminal laws should seek advice from a private attorney



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- John Durrett, the State Attorney for the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida, in which the City of Lake City is located, has also stated the manner in which internet cafes operate is unlawful.
- Leon County Circuit Judge John Cooper, hearing a case from the Florida Department of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, specifically ruled that even pre-veal games are illegal gambling.



## Internet Cafes



### **Crime Stats:**

A review of statistical data provided by the Columbia County Sheriff's Office regarding criminal activity at these locations in Columbia County makes it clearly evident that allowing these businesses into the City Limits will result in a marked increase in criminal calls for service.





Sheriff Mark Hunter  
COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Columbia County Internet Café Updated 04-15-2021

Business Name	AKA	ZONE	2019 Calls	2020 Calls	2021 Calls	3 Year Total	Business Address	City	Zip	Business Tax No.	Business Tax ID Date
1 Cyber Center Sweepstakes	Cyber Centers LLC	2	11	10	2	23	737 SW SR 247	Lake City	32025	8732	3/10/2016
2 Senior Social Center Casino		3			12	12	2240 W US 90	Lake City	32025	10153	1/3/2019
3 Lucky Dragon		3	50	19	1	70	1780 E Duval	Lake City	32025	10319	4/9/2019
4 Play Win 777	The Garden 777 INC	2	24	70	13	107	2310 W US 90	Lake City	32055	10361	5/1/2019
5 Fun Sweeps Arcade & More		2	1	1	0	2	2496 W US HWY 90, Ste 205	Lake City	32024	10399	5/15/2019
6 Lucky Spot	Fun Works Corp.	2	0	89	20	109	3816 W US 90	Lake City	32055	10729	1/2/2020
7 Lucky Day		5	0	10	62	72	14197 S US HWY 441, Ste 105	Lake City	32024	11071	2/18/2020
8 Treasure Island		5	0	153	72	225	13403 S US 441	Lake City	32024	10759	2/24/2020
9 Cherry 777	Wild Cherry 777	2	0	27	10	37	2260 W US 90	Lake City	32055	10825	4/22/2020
10 Boardwalk Arcade 777		1	0	5	0	5	1802 N US 441	Lake City	32055	10863	6/8/2020
11 Hot Spot Arcade	LC HotSpot	2	0	9	3	12	2194 W US 90	Lake City	32055	10899	7/8/2020
12 Q Time 777		1	0	71	45	116	1917 E Duval Street	Lake City	32055	10903/11143	7/8/2020
13 Lucky Spot Casino	Live Oak Senior Café LLC	1	0	23	22	45	2681 NE Bassett Norris Dr.	Lake City	32055	11131	10/23/2020
14 Fire Star Arcade		3	0	7	6	13	5416 South US 441	Lake City	32025	11147	11/2/2020
15 Fun Time		1	0	0	0	0	1912 N US HWY 441	Lake City	32055	11267	12/2/2020
16 Happy Times		3	0	0	28	28	2128 South Main	Lake City	32025	11427	12/17/2020
17 Vegas One	Lucky Vegas 777	3	0	0	30	30	4189/4201 South US 441	Lake City	32025	11503/10379	1/27/2021
18 Gutter Zone 777		2	0	0	0	0	3424 SW State Road 47	Lake City	32025	11525	2/10/2021
19 Lucky Duck	Cub Zibonaire	3	0	0	0	0	2779 South US 41	Lake City	32025	11549	2/19/2021
20 Lucky 7		3	10	8	1	19	1290 SE Bay	Lake City	32024	11581	2/25/2021
21 The Wild Cherry		3	0	0	0	0	3368 SW Main Blvd	Lake City	32025	11587	2/26/2021
22 Chasin Eddies	First Coast Williams, LLC	3	11	25	10	46	1252 E Duval Street	Lake City	32055	11617	3/10/2021
23 Royal Dragon	First Coast Williams, LLC	3	0	9	6	15	1270 E Duval Street	Lake City	32055	11129/11615	10/22/2020 03/10/2021
24 Bob RV Internet Café		5	6	8	6	20	23486 S US 441	High Springs	32643		
25 Cyber Café		3	48	59	17	124	1686 SE Bay	Lake City	32025		
26 Fun Win 777		2	14	8	3	25	2470 W US 90	Lake City	32055		
27 Lucky Day		5			2	2	14075 S US 441	Lake City	32024		
28 Lucky Joes Arcade		2	53	34	15	102	2218 W US 90	Lake City	32055		
29 Paradise Internet Café		3			1	1	158 SW Dominoes Way	Lake City	32025		
30 Unknown Name No Signage		5			2	2	14053 S US 441	Lake City	32024		
Totals:			228	645	387	1260					

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County Attorney Joel Foreman said because surrounding counties started banning internet cafes, these businesses started to relocate to other areas — such as Columbia County.

“Marion County, Duval County and Nassau County have all said they are just going to prohibit these machines because they think the probability that they’re being used illegally is so high. Because of public safety issues in Duval, Nassau and Marion counties, they have withstood challenge in federal court,” Foreman said.

Source:

**Columbia County Plans For August 2021 Ban On Internet Cafes**

By Erica Shebovsky

April 22, 2021 Heard It On WUFT-FM

# Internet Cafes



## 2 shot in 2nd robbery at Lake City internet cafe, police say

3 robberies at internet cafes in Lake City since April, LCPD says



**LAKE CITY, Fla.** – Two employees were shot early Friday when an internet gaming cafe in Lake City was robbed for the second time, according to police.

The employees were both shot in the leg and were flown to UF Health in Gainesville. Their condition was not known, police said.

According to the Lake City Police Department, officers responded to a robbery about 1:35 a.m. to the Treasure Island Internet Gaming Cafe at 1472 West U.S. 90.

The officer found the employees and rendered first aid, including applying newly acquired blood-clotting first-aid equipment, police said.

Witnesses told police that two men entered the cafe just after 1:30 a.m., immediately ordering all customers to get on the ground. At some point during the robbery, at least one suspect brandished a firearm while ordering employees to collect money for them, according to witnesses.

As the robbery progressed, both employees were shot in the leg, and the suspects ran off, police said. No suspect description was given.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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Alerts & Notices

### Media Release-Casino Shooting

Home | News | Media Release-Casino Shooting

**Daytine Leary**

On Saturday, January 30, 2011, shortly after 3:00am, deputies responded to a shooting at the "O-Time 777" casino on East Duval Street, near Cedar Avenue. The incident resulted in one person being pronounced deceased at the scene.

Investigation has revealed that Daytine Leary (42 years of age, Hall) been at the casino in the early morning hours when he was involved in a dispute. Leary was asked to leave the business. Shortly after leaving, he returned with a firearm. Leary entered the business again, and pointed the gun at a female inside the business. According to witnesses, Leary attempted to grab the woman at point blank range, but the gun malfunctioned. Leary then pointed the gun randomly throughout the business and began firing multiple rounds. A security guard who was inside then confronted Leary and exchanged gunfire. During the exchange, Leary was struck and died at the scene.

The business was occupied by other patrons during the incident, but no other people were struck. Detectives have identified another person associated with Leary. Investigation is still on-going to determine that individual's involvement.

**Quick Links**

- Find Our Sheriff's Jail
- Crime Stoppers
- FL's Florida Sheriff's Officers & Deputies
- FL's Law Enforcement Day Observance
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches
- Florida DHS System
- Columbia County Online
- Department of Financial Services
- Florida Department of Agriculture & Forestry Services
- Police Department
- David DeSantis

**Contact Numbers**

Operations Center: (888) 762-8212  
 Human Resources: (888) 762-2110  
 Fax: (888) 762-1110  
 Investigation: (888) 762-1235

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The Lake City Police Department, along with Agencies across the state, distributed posters to the casinos within the City Limits, and shortly thereafter, all of the internet cafes within the City Limits had ceased operation. Over the course of the next few years, however, internet cafes began to re-open under the premise that they had changed their operation software and were no longer gambling.

Unfortunately, investigations and prosecution of internet cafes is excessively resource-intensive and time-consuming. As a result, the best solution, and my recommendation, is to follow the County and establish an ordinance banning internet cafes.