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Store caught on camera selling loosies

Undercover video shows illegal activity

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Reported by: Walt Buteau

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (WPRI) - The law requires that cigarettes are to be sold by the unopened pack, but an Eyewitness News undercover investigation showed one local store using a more profitable approach.

Our investigation focused on the Silver Lake convenience store, the Food Mart and Smoke Shop on Plainfield Street, just a few blocks from a Providence Police substation.

Eyewitness News found front window ads offering tobacco products with by-the-pack prices in the \$7.50 cent range. But we discovered the store had a way to almost double that price.

With our hidden camera recording - we went inside and watched as at least six customers bought individual cigarettes, also known as 'loosies.'

Reporter Walt Buteau asks: Could I buy a 'loosie.' How many? Just one. Okay. Thanks.

It cost seventy cents for a single cigarette. Selling loose cigarettes is illegal under federal law.

After catching the 'loosie' sales on audio at the Food Mart and Smoke Shop, Eyewitness News went in looking for the store owner - but we were told he was not around.

Moments before, a hidden camera showed the clerk working behind the counter, but when we went in with a camera recording, she denied she worked there and told us she was just standing in for the owner and our questions went unanswered.

Reporter Walt Buteau asks: Do you sell loose cigarettes in this store?

Clerk: No.

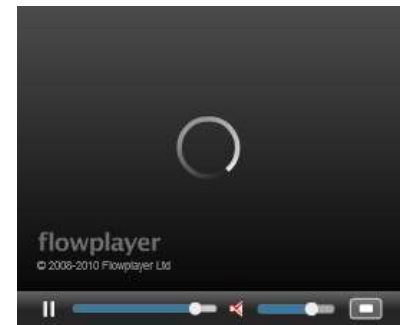
Reporter Walt Buteau: I bought one on Saturday. I know you do. I know you sell them.

Clerk: No. I don't do that.

The owner of the store was unavailable for comment and did not return our phone call.

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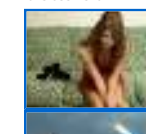


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[Pick_1_Name](#) 32p · 1 day ago

LOL, these high dollar crimes are amazing.

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2 replies · active 19 hours ago



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[Pick_1_Name](#) 32p · 20 hours ago

Actually look like WPRI is following WJAR (channel 10) around, WJAR actually caught a providence cop, brother

529, selling them behind the counter, they were also non taxed cigarettes from Virginia.

<http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2011/mar/02/only-10...>

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[stateoflosers](#) 33p · 19 hours ago

The dollar amount is not the problem has too many cops that are criminals. Next there are too many cops in the United States that think they are above the law. It is too the point if a cop gets killed the first thing that comes to mind what criminal activity are they involved with.

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[whiteshadow](#) 36p · 1 day ago

oh my god whats next catching a little kid selling lemonade without a peddlers license really is this what the news has stooped to

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