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Department of Commerce,  
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Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

21-023

## Arrest of Unlicensed Marijuana Distributor

**Friday, October 22, 2021 (Anchorage, AK)** – On October 20, Robert W. Ridenour JR, age 51, of Anchorage was arrested by officers of the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) and the Anchorage Police Department (APD) on two (2) counts of Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree: AS 11.72.040(a), a class C felony, and AS 11.71.050(a)(4), a class A Misdemeanor in Alaska.

The charges stemmed from a proactive case in which it is alleged Mr. Ridenour posted on a local online sales website stating that he was selling “Strong herb candy - \$50.” Officers conducted several controlled buys between Mr. Ridenour and an undercover AMCO officer. The items purchased were bags of marijuana edibles containing exceedingly high levels of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Several of the packages recovered contained more than 600mg of THC per bag, which is an illegal quantity to sell in Alaska. The legally allowable maximum amount of THC per edible serving in Alaska is 10mg. The maximum amount of THC per package is 100mg.

Additionally, some of the items sold to the undercover officer had been packaged and sold in what appear to be commercially recognizable products or are meant to look like candy products (see examples below). These “knock-off” cannabis products are potentially dangerous given their high THC levels and likely attractiveness to children. If anyone purchased any of these types of items from the defendant or are in the possession of such products, please contact AMCO at [amco.enforcement@alaska.gov](mailto:amco.enforcement@alaska.gov)

A search of Mr. Ridenour’s residence was conducted, and he was remanded to the Anchorage Jail on his outstanding warrants. The investigation as to how these items arrived in Alaska and where they originated from is ongoing.

Alaska has a legal process for obtaining marijuana retail sales licenses and has strict regulations to help ensure legally allowable amounts and quality marijuana products are sold only in licensed retail establishments. Additionally, Mr. Ridenour did not possess, nor does it appear he ever attempted to obtain, a legal marijuana license or a marijuana-handler permit with AMCO.

There are many hard working and quality-conscious marijuana cultivators, manufacturers, and retail establishments throughout Alaska, most of whom meet the standards and comply with all Alaska marijuana laws. Illegally selling or delivering unknown and untested marijuana products is a threat to public safety and to consumers in Alaska.

AMCO is dedicated to enforcing Alaska’s alcohol and marijuana laws, providing clear and consistent standards for licensees, and protecting the public from harm. For more information on AMCO, visit <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>.

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Examples of the items sold to the undercover AMCO officer:

