

Broome County SIUTF PRESS RELEASE

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***Compliance Check Leads to Seizure of Unlawful Vape  
and Marijuana Products in Conklin***

(TOWN OF CONKLIN, NY) Thousands of unlawful vape and marijuana products were seized from a Conklin gas station as part of a compliance check by the Broome County Health Department, working with the Broome County Special Investigations Unit Task Force and the Susquehanna Valley Central School District.

On March 9, 2026, members of the Broome County Sheriff's Office and the Broome County Special Investigations Unit Task Force assisted the Broome County Health Department with a flavored nicotine vape compliance check at the "One Dream" Sunoco gas station located at 976 Conklin Rd in the Town of Conklin.

During the compliance check, approximately 4,000 unlawful flavored nicotine vapes were seized from a back room of the business along with THC products. The business does not possess a valid license to dispense THC products. The unlawful flavored vapes are not taxed.

Flavored vapes are harmful to public health. They contain toxic chemicals and metals. Some of those substances include:

- Nicotine, a highly addictive substance which can impact brain development. The human brain is not fully developed until 25 years old.
- Acrolein, a herbicide used to kill weeds, which causes damages to the lungs.
- Nickel, tin and lead, all heavy metals.
- Benzene, a organic compound found in car exhaust.

Flavored vapes are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), nor are their ingredients which raise concerns for public health harm. The ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act) program conducts enforcement efforts in New York State. The goal is to prevent the sale and use of tobacco and vaping products as well as to protect public health.

In 2019, New York raised the legal age to purchase tobacco and vape products to 21, and in 2020 the state banned the sale of flavored vaping products (other than tobacco flavor). The Broome County Department of Health conducts youth and adult compliance checks regularly to ensure retailers do not sell flavored vapes or any tobacco products to individuals under 21, in accordance with NYS Public Health Law. When violations are found, fines are issued and increase with each offense. Repeat offenders may be referred to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and risk losing their authorization to sell cigarettes and lottery tickets.

“Responding to a complaint investigation, our team worked with SIU and were able to remove 23 bags of illegal, harmful product from our community.” said Director of Public Health, Olivia Catalano. “We are thankful for the community members submitting reports of illegal activity, business owners who are following the law and look forward to continuing to work to remove these from our community. Thank you to everyone who is helping to ensure our community is healthy.”

The compliance check was generated via a tip from the Susquehanna Valley Central School District.

“The safety and well-being of our students is always our top priority,” said Superintendent of Susquehanna Valley Schools Natalie Brubaker. “When concerns were brought to our attention regarding the possible sale of illegal flavored vaping products at a business located near our schools, we felt it was important to report that information and allow the appropriate authorities to investigate. We are grateful to the Broome County Sheriff’s Office, the Broome County Health Department, and the Special Investigations Unit for their swift and thorough response. Their partnership helps ensure that our community, and especially the areas surrounding our schools, remain safe and supportive environments for young people.”

“This is another great example of community partners like our schools, health department and law enforcement all working together to help protect our children and enforce the law,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar.

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