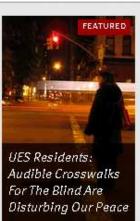


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OUR CITIES: NEW YORK CITY







NY Post Finds Welfare Cash ATMs... In Strip Clubs

The NY Post found out that some strip clubs have ATMs dispensing cash for welfare recipients and decided to make a stripper name joke on its front page! "\$WEET CHARITY (And Destiny, Crystal, Bambi...)" And these ATMs aren't just at strip clubs—they are also at "bars, liquor stores, X-rated video shops, hookah parlors.... where they presumably spent their taxpayer money on lap dances rather than diapers."

Welfare recipients can receive between \$158 to over \$400 (for a family of four) in cash a month. Besides Club 11 and Club Heat, two strip clubs in the Bronx, the Post found that "welfare recipients us[ed] their EBT cards to make dozens of cash withdrawals at ATMs inside Hank's Saloon in Brooklyn; the Blue Door Video porn shop in the East Village; The Anchor, a sleek SoHo lounge; the Patriot Saloon in TriBeCa; and Drinks Galore, a liquor distributor in The Bronx." Oh, and, "The Boiler Room, a gay dive



bar in the East Village, had \$120 and \$60 transactions a minute apart on Jan. 17, 2011. The bar is around the corner from a Bank of America that takes EBT cards."

A Cato Institute fellow said, "This is morally scandalous. I have nothing against strip clubs, but that's not what benefits are for. I don't blame [recipients]. If you are poor, it's a crummy life and you want to have a drink or see a naked woman. I blame the people who are in charge of this." The Post points out that an upstate Republican, State Senator Thomas Libous, has been trying to pass a bill banning the use of welfare dollars on liquor, casinos, cigarettes, lottery tickets and adult entertainment but it's been stalled in the Assembly.