



**STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL  
STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY  
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Albany**

**MEDIA ADVISORY  
For Immediate Release  
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**SAG HARBOR CIGAR BAR SLAPPED WITH EMERGENCY SUSPENSION  
Violence, Gang Related Assaults, and Underage Sales Leads to Summary License Suspension**

*Albany, NY* – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of the Arstar Associates Inc., doing business as Cigar Bar at 2 Main Street in Sag Harbor. The suspension was ordered by the Chairman Dennis Rosen and Commissioner Jeanique Greene, at a Special Meeting of the Board on Friday, January 22, 2009.

The decision to suspend the license was based on gang violence as well as numerous sales to minors reported to the SLA by the Sag Harbor Police Department (SHPD). The reports documented five separate violent attacks, occurring from October 2009 to present, attacks including the victims being stabbed and slashed. Based on the recent history of escalating violence at the premises including the gang related assaults involving weapons, the persistent pattern of sale to minor, the numerous fights and ensuing arrests, as well as the drain on police department resources, the Members of the SLA voted for an emergency suspension of the license. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

“If you allow violence in your bar we are going to take away your license” said SLA CEO Trina Mead. “The Members of the Liquor Authority sent a clear message today that this type of behavior will not be tolerated.”

On January 16, 2010 a fight broke out inside the bar. Opposing gangs numbering between 30 to 40 members clashed, spilling on to the street where the violence and chaos continued. Police officers from the towns of East Hampton and Southampton responded to assist controlling the crowd, as the SHPD was forced to call for backup.

On December 29, 2009 Sag Harbor Police responded to a fight involving three minors who had been consuming alcohol at the bar for hours prior to the incident. Four individuals attacked the three

minors, one of whom was knocked to the ground and repeatedly kicked. Again, SHPD summoned the East Hampton Police to assist and help control the violence. Police Department reports also noted that the bartender made no effort to contact the police or address the situation.

On October 29, 2009 at 3:00 AM, another fight broke out inside the licensed premises. One victim was taken to the hospital where he was treated for multiple fractures to his face requiring surgery. Again, the bartender on duty made no attempt to stop the fight and failed to contact police.

The SLA's decision to summarily suspend a license is not a final determination on the merits of the case. The licensee is entitled to an expedited hearing before an administrative law judge to address the alleged violation(s) that led to the suspension. An order of summary suspension remains in effect until such time as it is modified by the State Liquor Authority or reviewing court.

The State Liquor Authority regulates and controls the manufacture, sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages within the state. The Authority works with local law enforcement agencies and localities across the state to ensure compliance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law. In addition, the Authority issues and renews licenses and permits to manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers of alcoholic beverages.

On the Web: [www.abc.state.ny.us](http://www.abc.state.ny.us)

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