



**STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL  
STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY  
[www.abc.state.ny.us](http://www.abc.state.ny.us)**

**David A. Paterson  
Governor**

**Alfred E. Smith Building  
80 South Swan Street, Suite 900  
Albany, New York 12210-8002**

**Chairman  
Dennis Rosen**

**Commissioner  
Jeanique Greene**

**Commissioner  
Noreen Healey**

**IN REPLYING REFER TO  
Albany**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release

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Contact: William Crowley (518) 486-4767

[PressOffice@abc.state.ny.us](mailto:PressOffice@abc.state.ny.us)

**EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BILLIARDS  
Multiple Stabbings, Assaults, and Sales to Minors Leads to Summary License Suspension**

*New York, NY* – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of the Washington Heights Billiard Inc., doing business as the Washington Heights Billiards at 500 West 207<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Dennis Rosen, Commissioner Jeanique Greene, and Commissioner Noreen Healey at a Special Meeting of the Full Board on Wednesday, December 30, 2009.

The decision to suspend the license was based on a string of recent violent incidents reported to the SLA by the New York City Police Department (NYPD). The reports documented six separate assaults occurring around the premises from September 2009 to present, with five of the violent attacks including the victims being stabbed or slashed. In addition, the NYPD reported two recent incidents where minors were served alcohol at the premises as well as a violation for employing an unregistered bouncer. Based on these serious charges, the Members of the SLA determined that the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted unanimously for an emergency suspension of the license. Effective immediately, no alcohol may be served or consumed on the premises.

“In less than a year in business, this establishment has amassed an appalling record of violence and lawlessness,” said SLA CEO Trina Mead. “Today’s summary suspension demonstrates the SLA’s renewed focus on cracking down quickly and decisively on licensees who pose a threat to their communities. These actions are sending a clear message to licensees that the new SLA will not tolerate reckless behavior that jeopardizes the public health and safety.”

Included in the 13 separate violations leveled against the Washington Heights Billiards were charges for falsifying information in their original liquor license application, omitting the names of three shareholders in the corporation, and making unauthorized corporate changes. The State Administrative Procedure Act authorizes a state agency to summarily suspend a license when the

agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatives require emergency action. When the SLA summarily suspends a liquor license, it also serves upon the licensee a 'Notice of Pleading' alleging one or more disciplinary violations. In invoking a summary suspension, the SLA has deemed the violation(s), considering each licensee's disciplinary history, to be sufficiently serious upon initial review to warrant an immediate suspension.

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.

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