



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

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**LIQUOR AUTHORITY SUSPENDS LICENSE OF DANGEROUS BAR IN BUFFALO**

**Buffalo, NY-** The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of a bar in Buffalo on Thursday. The emergency suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Daniel B. Boyle and Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at the full board meeting.

The State Liquor Authority immediately suspended the license of Suave Holdings Inc. doing business as “Club El Coco” at 836 Niagara Street in Buffalo. The Members of the Authority determined the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted to summarily suspend the license.

“Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises,” said Chief Executive Officer Joshua B. Toas. “I commend the Board for taking this action to protect the public.”

SLA Investigators served a summary suspension order upon the owner of Club El Coco Thursday morning. During a joint operation with SLA Investigators and the Buffalo Police Department on April 9, the licensee was found using the unlicensed second floor of the bar for a party in which drugs, drug paraphernalia, and two hand guns were confiscated. Crack cocaine and heroin were found and 10 minors admitted to purchasing alcohol at the bar.

“Club El Coco demonstrated a continuous disregard for the law,” Toas said. “Bars where drug activity, gun shots, underage drinking and disorderly conduct occur will lose the privilege of having a liquor license.”

The State Administrative Procedure Act authorizes a State agency to summarily suspend a license when the agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires 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 a reviewing Court.

On April 11, 2006, Governor Pataki directed the New York State Liquor Authority to establish a Rapid Enforcement Unit (REU) within the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control to conduct priority investigations and institute prompt disciplinary action when allegations of criminal activity and serious repeat violations of the ABC Law occur. “Club El Coco is the type of establishment the REU will be addressing,” said Toas. “The Rapid Enforcement Unit will help coordinate SLA efforts with our partners throughout the state in a continuing effort to

make our communities safer.”

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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