



**STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

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Buffalo, New York 14203

**IN REPLYING REFER TO
Albany**

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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**BUFFALO BAR LOSES LIQUOR LICENSE
Liquor Authority Acts to Close Dangerous Bar**

Albany, NY- Today the Members of the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA), Chairman Daniel B. Boyle and Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, voted to revoke the license of Suave Holdings Inc. doing business as "Club El Coco" at 836 Niagara Street in Buffalo.

On April 9, 2006, SLA Investigators and the Buffalo Police Department conducted a raid at Club El Coco in Buffalo. The licensees were 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.

"Bar owners who do not take the responsibility of having a liquor license seriously will lose the privilege," said Chairman Daniel B. Boyle. "The State Liquor Authority will continue in its efforts to ensure public safety by acting against dangerous bars. There can be no compromise when the public's health and safety are in jeopardy."

Acting to protect the public health and safety, the Members of the SLA voted to summarily suspend the license of Club El Coco on April 24, 2006. After receiving the summary suspension, the owners of Club El Coco's were entitled to an expedited hearing before an administrative law judge to address the alleged violations leading to the suspension. Instead, the owners, through their attorney, opted to settle the case.

On Wednesday, May 17, 2006, the Members of the Authority accepted a "No Contest" plea from the owners of Club El Coco. In exchange for the no contest plea, the owners agreed to a license revocation and a \$1,000 civil penalty. A revocation under the ABC Law bars the licensee from holding any liquor license for two years.

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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