



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY 80 S. Swan Street, Suite 900 317 Lenox Ave 125 Main Street
Albany, New York 12210-8002 New York, New York 10027 Buffalo, New York 14203

IN REPLYING REFER TO
Albany

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact: Bill Crowley (518) 486-4767

PressOffice@abc.state.ny.us

LIQUOR AUTHORITY SUSPENDS LICENSE OF BAR IN GLENS FALLS

Glens Falls, NY- The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of a bar in Glens Falls on Friday. The emergency suspension was ordered by Members of the State Liquor Authority, Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda and Commissioner Noreen Healey, at a special meeting on Friday, June 30, 2006.

The State Liquor Authority immediately suspended the license of the South Street Saloon Bar & Grill at 49 South Street in Glens Falls. 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 swift action to protect the public."

SLA Investigators and the Glens Falls Police Department served a summary suspension order upon the South Street Saloon Bar & Grill Friday afternoon. Warren County District Attorney Kate Hogan requested the SLA take action, due to an extensive narcotics investigation completed by the Glens Falls Police Department with the Capital District Drug Task Force that resulted in several undercover drug buys at the bar. A subsequent investigation by the State Liquor Authority's Enforcement Unit found the bar was being operated by someone other than the licensee. The bar was previously cited for selling to a minor and for being a police focal point, as local law enforcement was repeatedly summoned to the establishment.

"I am very grateful to the State Liquor Authority for its prompt and necessary action," said District Attorney Hogan. "Over the past several months, this bar has served as a magnet for drug dealers, because they knew that they could sell drugs with impunity. By suspending the liquor license, the SLA has sent a clear message that owners must take steps to control what occurs inside their establishments."

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) 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.

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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