



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

Eliot Spitzer
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July 19, 2007

Statement from the SLA General Counsel regarding sales of alcohol at firehouses

In the last few days, State Liquor Authority Investigators discovered evidence that suggested that alcoholic beverages were being sold in several unlicensed bars located in firehouses in a city in the Capital District. Recent media reports have stated that the Authority closed these bars. In fact, the Authority did not close the bars but advised the municipality in question that the sale of alcoholic beverages without a license was a violation of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law. The Authority further advised the municipality that, if evidence was obtained that the sales are continuing, the Authority would refer the matter to local law enforcement and seek an injunction against the city to cease the illegal conduct.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Law does allow, under certain circumstances, not-for-profit entities, such as volunteer fire companies, to give alcoholic beverages to its members or allow their members to bring their own alcoholic beverages into its bar, provided that there are no municipal restrictions that prohibit alcoholic beverages at the location. Any questions about this issue can be directed to the Authority's Office of Counsel at 518-474-6750.

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