



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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IN REPLYING REFER TO  
Albany

MEDIA ADVISORY  
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**MONTICELLO BAR LOSES LIQUOR LICENSE**  
**Fights and Disorderly Behavior End in Summary Suspension**

*Monticello, NY* - The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of Chase Benjamin Inc. at 384 Broadway Avenue in Monticello d/b/a The Chase. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Daniel B. Boyle and Commissioner Noreen Healey at the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2006.

The Monticello Police Department referred multiple complaints to the SLA, most recently concerning a fight that started inside the licensed premise and continued out into the street. One victim being stabbed and another was shot in the thigh. The referral was sent to the SLA's Rapid Enforcement Unit (REU) for an expedited investigation. Based upon information provided by the local police department and the REU investigation the Members determined the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted for suspension. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

"The Members of the Liquor Authority sent a straight forward message to irresponsible bar owners: If you break the law, you will lose your license," said Joshua B. Toas, Chief Executive Officer of the State Liquor Authority. "Bar owners who run unruly and dangerous establishments will not be tolerated."

The bar, licensed in June of 2002, has become a focal point for police attention, including a number of fights, lewd and indecent conduct and disorderly premises.

On April 11, 2006, Governor Pataki directed the SLA to establish a Rapid Enforcement Unit to conduct priority investigations and institute prompt disciplinary action when allegations of criminal activity and serious repeat violations of the ABC Law occur. The REU coordinates with law enforcement to quickly react to emergency situations, prosecute disciplinary charges and refer matters to the Members of the Authority for action.

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.

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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