



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

**DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**SIX ROCKLAND COUNTY BARS RECEIVE EMERGENCY SUSPENSIONS**  
**State Liquor Authority Summarily Suspends Licenses on Drug Related Charges**

ALBANY – (September 20, 2007) The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the licenses of six Spring Valley bars. The suspensions were ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Daniel B. Boyle and Commissioner Noreen Healey at the full board meeting of the SLA on Wednesday, September 19, 2007.

El Valle Resturant at 137 North Main Street, Palermo II Inc at 39 South Main Street, Orgullo Guatemarteco Inc at 50 North Main Street, La Frontera Inc at 18 South Central Avenue, El Palacio at 10 South Main Street, and B & J Tavern Inc at 55 North Myrtle Avenue all in Spring Valley were issued emergency summary suspensions based on investigations conducted by the Spring Valley Police Department (“SVPD”).

El Valle Resturant, 137 North Main Street

The SVPD conducted an undercover sting operation at El Valle Restaurant on March 22, and March 23, 2007 during which SVPD agents were able to make six separate purchases of cocaine from employees and patrons of the premises. On August 18, 2007, State Liquor Authority Investigators and SVPD officers conducted an inspection of the premises. The SLA subsequently charged the bar with seven violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (“ABC Law”), including hiring unlicensed security guards, disorderly conduct for permitting drug activity, and failure to provide adequate supervision.

Palermo II Inc, 39 South Main Street

Over the course of a several month long investigation conducted by the SVPD, beginning in April, 2007, undercover agents were able to make two purchases of cocaine and one purchase of marijuana from employees and patrons of the Palermo II at 39 South Main Street. SVPD undercover agents also observed numerous narcotics transactions occurring openly in the premises during that time. On August 17, 2007, the State Liquor Authority Investigators and

SVPD officers conducted an inspection of the premises. The SLA charged the bar with 11 violations of the ABC Law, including hiring unlicensed security guards, disorderly conduct for permitting drug activity, and failure to provide adequate supervision. In addition, Palermo II Inc was previously charged by the SLA for disorderly premises, sale to a minor, and unlicensed security staff in July, 2006. These matters are currently pending before the Authority.

Orgullo Guatemarteco Inc, 50 North Main Street

From April 6, 2007 to May 18, 2007, undercover agents of the SVPD were able to make two separate purchases of cocaine and observe numerous additional narcotics transactions openly occurring in and around the Orgullo Guatemarteco at 50 North Main Street. On August 18, 2007, the State Liquor Authority Investigators and SVPD officers conducted an inspection of the premises. The SLA charged the establishment with 12 violations of the ABC Law, including selling alcohol to a minor, hiring unlicensed security guards, disorderly conduct for permitting drug activity, and failure to provide adequate supervision. The licensee was charged with violations pertaining to a disorderly premises and failure to notify the SLA of a change in facts in October 2003 and paid \$2,000 in March 2004. The licensee was charged with violations of availing and refusal to appear in August 2004 and paid a \$5,000 in November 2004. The licensee was also charged with selling to a minor on May 12, 2006.

La Frontera Inc, 18 South Central Avenue

On May 30, June 6 and August 25, 2007, SVPD officers observed a known convicted felon working at the bar. An undercover SVPD agent inside the premises observed a patron selling cocaine in the bathroom as well as in the bar area as well as several patrons using cocaine on the premises. The SLA charged La Frontera, Inc. with 14 violations of the ABC Law, including employment of a felon, permitting lewd and indecent conduct, disorderly conduct for permitting drug activity, and failure to provide adequate supervision. In addition, the licensee was charged with a sale to minor and disorderly premises in April 2007 and a sale to minor in July 2007. These matters are currently pending before the Authority.

El Palacio, 10 South Main Street

On August 18, 2007, an undercover SVPD agent made two purchases of cocaine from a patron inside the licensed premises. On September 2, 2007, the SVPD observed several males exit the licensed premises and appeared to be intoxicated. The SVPD determined that two of the males were 16 and 17 years of age and both males indicated that they were drinking alcohol inside the premises. In addition, the licensee was charged with failure to display the licensed in March 2007 and paid a \$1,000 fine due on October 5, 2007. The SLA charged the establishment with 18 violations of the ABC Law, including permitting lewd and indecent conduct, hiring unlicensed security guards, disorderly conduct for permitting drug activity, and failure to provide adequate supervision.

B & J Tavern Inc, 55 North Myrtle Avenue

Over the course of several months, beginning in February, 2007, undercover agents of the SVPD were able to make three separate purchases of cocaine from patrons at the B & J Tavern at

55 north Myrtle Avenue. The sales took place openly both inside and immediately outside of the premises and in the parking lot. On August 16, 2007, the State Liquor Authority Investigators and SVPD officers conducted an inspection of the premises. The SLA charged B & J Tavern, Inc. with 12 violations of the ABC Law, including disorderly conduct for permitting drug activity, failure to provide adequate supervision and for becoming a focal point for police attention.

"I want to commend the Spring Valley Police Department for their outstanding undercover work," said SLA Chairman Boyle, "These operations illustrate how cooperation between local law enforcement and the State Liquor Authority can help to ensure the safety of the public."

"All of these bars, in permitting and engaging in drug sales have shown a total disregard for the law," State Liquor Authority Chief Executive Officer, Joshua B. Toas said, "By suspending these licenses, the Members of the State Liquor Authority sent a clear message that criminal behavior will not be tolerated."

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.

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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