



**STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL  
STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY  
[www.abc.state.ny.us](http://www.abc.state.ny.us)**

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**IN REPLYING REFER TO  
Albany**

**MEDIA ADVISORY  
For Immediate Release  
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**EMERGENCY LICENSE SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR UTICA BAR  
Stabbing Death Leads to Suspension**

*Albany, NY* – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of Bagicha Singh, doing business as the Spilka’s Hotel at 1310 Stark Street in Utica. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Dennis Rosen, Commissioner Jeanique Greene, and Commissioner Noreen Healey at a special meeting of the Full Board on Friday, December 4, 2009.

The decision to suspend the license was based on an investigation by the Utica Police Department. On November 27, 2009, Utica PD responded to a stabbing at Spilka’s. The licensee and a bartender provided statements to police that two men were arguing inside the bar and were advised by the owner to “take it outside.” After a skirmish outside, the patrons were allowed back in the bar where the argument continued and escalated. A fight ensued outside the bar with both men being stabbed, one fatally. According to police reports, at no time did the licensee attempt to diffuse the situation or even call the police. Moreover, the man charged with the fatal stabbing was only 20 years of age. The licensee has a history of selling to minors at other licensed establishments he owns. Based on these serious charges, the Members of the SLA determined that the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted unanimously for an emergency suspension of the license. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

“Licensees are responsible for ensuring safety at their establishments,” said SLA CEO Trina Mead. “Mr. Singh’s reckless ‘take it outside’ approach ended in tragedy and demonstrates his lack of concern for the safety of his patrons.”

The State Administrative Procedure Act authorizes a state agency to summarily suspend a license when the agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatives require 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 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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