



**STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY
www.abc.state.ny.us**

**David A. Paterson
Governor**

**Alfred E. Smith Building
80 South Swan Street, Suite 900
Albany, New York 12210-8002**

**Chairman
Dennis Rosen**

**Commissioner
Jeanique Greene**

**Commissioner
Noreen Healey**

**IN REPLYING REFER TO
Albany**

**MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release
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Contact: William Crowley (518) 486-4767
PressOffice@abc.state.ny.us**

**EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR GENEVA BAR
Fights, Assaults, and Crack Cocaine Sales Trigger License Suspension**

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of the Whatdoyouwanttodo Inc, doing business as the “Al’s Inn” at 408 Exchange Street in Geneva. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Dennis Rosen, Commissioner Jeanique Greene, and Commissioner Noreen Healey at a Meeting of the Full Board on Wednesday, October 20, 2010.

The license suspension follows a recent bust by the Geneva Police Department on October 1, 2010 where eighteen people were arrested on drug charges, including for the sale and possession of crack cocaine. Additional reports obtained from the Geneva PD provide evidence of a lawless bar where over the past six months 27 sales of crack cocaine were confirmed, including ten by bar employees. In addition, reports document an appalling number of fights and violent assaults, including three incidents of melees involving more than 50 patrons, as well as numerous violent confrontations where knives, guns, broken bottles, barstools and even a machete were employed. One recent incident broken up by police involved the licensee, as he pushed one customer out the door while another patron placed him in a choke hold. In spite of these continual problems, police and former employees testify the licensee refused to recognize the need to take any measures to quell the violence or prevent the illicit drug sales.

“This licensee stuck his head in the sand while ceaseless fights and violent melees occurred night after night, all while his employees sold alcohol to minors and dispensed crack cocaine like candy on Halloween,” said SLA CEO Trina Mead. “Today, Al’s Inn is being held accountable for taxing the resources of the Geneva Police Department and threatening the safety of the families and residents for Geneva.”

“The Geneva Police Dept has responded to Al’s Inn 117 times during the past four years for fights which, on a number of occasions resulted in serious injuries. Along with the fighting our Narcotic Unit was able to establish that Al’s Inn was a major source of illegal drug activity in the City of Geneva,” said Geneva Police Chief Frank T. Pane. “Today’s action by the State Liquor Authority puts an end to fighting and drug activity at Al’s Inn providing a safer environment for the downtown business district along with allowing our officers to be more pro-active in other areas of the city.”

The 19 separate violations leveled against the Al’s Inn include assault charges, drug sales, inadequate supervision and disorderly conduct. Based on these serious violations, the Members of the SLA determined that the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted unanimously for an emergency suspension. Effective immediately, no alcohol may be served or consumed on the premises.

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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