



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

**DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2007

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**ROCKLAND GROCERY STORE'S LICENSE SUSPENDED  
SLA Board Orders Emergency Summary Suspension for Torres's Grocery**

ALBANY – (September 19, 2007) The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of Santali Torres, also know as Torres's Grocery, at 42 Main Street in Haverstraw. 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, September 19, 2007.

The SLA received a referral as a result of an operation conducted by the Rockland County Narcotic Task Force (RCNTF). Between May, 2005 and September, 2006, an undercover agent of the RCNTF made a total of sixteen purchases from ten individuals associated with or working at the licensed premises. Nine of the individuals were subsequently identified and arrested. Additionally, on August 30, 2007, the licensee and his spouse were arrested during a drug sting operation conducted by RCNTF. Each was charged with one count of: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance (narcotics with intent to sell); Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance (narcotics); 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Criminal possession of Marihuana (25 grams); 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia (packages); and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia (scales). The licensee was also charged at that time with one count of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Criminal Nuisance pursuant to the Grand Jury Indictment regarding same.

The SLA charged the establishment with 26 separate violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, including 12 counts of engaging in drug activity, 10 counts of failure to supervise, inadequate books and records, becoming a focal point for police attention, not operating as a bona fide establishment and availing the license to another party. In light of these facts, the Members of the SLA determined the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted emergency suspension of the license. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be sold on the premises.

"I want to commend the Rockland County Narcotic Task Force, the Haverstraw Town and Village Police Departments, and the Rockland County DA's Office for their outstanding efforts," said SLA Chairman Boyle, "This operation is another example of how cooperation among multiple agencies helps to ensure the safety of the public."

"When a licensee engages in drug activity, they will lose their license," State Liquor Authority Chief Executive Officer Joshua B. Toas said. "This suspension sends a clear message to licensed establishments that they will be held accountable if they violate the law."

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.

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