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EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ISSUED FOR UTICA BAR
SLA Lifts License of Two J's Following Homicide

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) issued an emergency suspension of the Two J's at 615 Rutger Street in Utica. The suspension was ordered by Members of the SLA, Chairman Dennis Rosen and Commissioner Jeanique Greene and at a meeting of the Full Board on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Effective immediately, no alcohol may be served or consumed on the premises.

On January 18, 2014, responding to a report of gunshots fired, Utica Police found a 23 year old man shot dead in the parking lot of Two J's. Police at the scene reported the bar had no security on duty to handle the crowd the night of the homicide. Additional reports provided to the SLA by the Utica Police show officers were summoned numerous times over the past year to respond to fights, patrons in possession of guns, gunshots, crowd dispersing, and damage to vehicles at Two J's. The SLA charged the bar with four violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, including assault, disorderly premises, becoming a focal point for police attention, and inadequate supervision.

"Two J's is a dangerous bar that drains police resources and a threatens the safety of residents living in this community," said SLA Chairman Dennis Rosen. "Bar owners that cannot control their establishments will lose their liquor license."

Two J's was fined \$6,000 in 2010 and \$5,000 in 2013 by the SLA for inadequate supervision, becoming a focal point for police attention and related charges. TJ's was also charged on December 13, 2013 with becoming a focal point for police attention; this case is pending.

The State Administrative Procedure Act authorizes a State agency to summarily suspend a license when the agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action. When the SLA summarily suspends a license, it also serves a Notice of Pleading alleging one or more disciplinary violations. In invoking a summary suspension, the SLA has

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deemed the violation, 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. An order of summary suspension remains in effect until such time as it is modified by the SLA or a reviewing Court.

The SLA 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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