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## **SLA ISSUES EMERGENCY SUSPENSION FOR THE HUDSON VALLEY HOTEL Stabbings, Assaults at Newburgh Hotel Leads to License Suspension**

**Albany, NY** – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of NOWAB Hotels Corporation, doing business as the “Hudson Valley Hotel” at 90 Route 17K in Newburgh. The suspension was ordered by Members of the SLA, Commissioner Jeanique Greene and Commissioner Kevin Kim at a special meeting of the Full Board on Friday, June 5, 2015.

On May 30, 2015, officers from the Town of Newburgh Police Department responded to a large fight in the parking lot of the Hudson Valley Hotel involving several disorderly and intoxicated patrons. Additional units were called to the scene to address the violence and disorder. Shortly after the incident, police were notified of a victim receiving treatment for a stab wound suffered during the early morning confrontation. The New York State Police, currently investigating this incident, noted the licensee’s staff were uncooperative and observed staff attempting to clean the area inside the premises where the stabbing occurred.

The May 30<sup>th</sup> incident is just one of many violent disorders recently reported to the SLA by Newburgh Police. Additional incidents include fights and crowd disturbances on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, a February 2, 2015 assault where the victim suffered a broken jaw and multiple facial injuries, and a January 17, 2015 fight involving approximately 100 patrons resulting in the destruction of property, damage to the premises, and numerous reports of theft.

“This licensee has demonstrated total disregard for the law and a lack of concern for the safety of their patrons,” said SLA Chief Executive Officer Kerri O’Brien. “The SLA has an obligation to ensure this violence does not continue, and today’s emergency suspension will prevent episodes like this from occurring in the future.”

On June 4, 2015, the SLA charged the Hudson Valley Hotel with 9 violations, including disorderly premises, assault, inadequate supervision, and for becoming a police focal point. The license is suspended effective immediately, prohibiting the sale and service of alcohol at the premises. The hotel was previously fined \$6,000 in 2014 by the SLA for an August 25, 2013 violent assault and stabbing.

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 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.

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