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**SLA ISSUES EMERGENCY SUSPENSION FOR THE “CORNER BAR” IN SYRACUSE
Assault, Stabbing, Tampering with Evidence Charge Leads to Suspension**

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of the Continental Room Inc., doing business as the “Corner Bar” at 400 South Clinton Street in Syracuse. The suspension was ordered by Members of the SLA, Chairman Vincent Bradley and Commissioner Kevin Kim at a meeting of the Full Board on Wednesday July 15, 2015.

On July 10, 2015, officers from the Syracuse Police Department responded to a large fight outside the Corner Bar. During the early morning confrontation, a female patron was stabbed and transported to University Hospital. After interviewing witnesses, Syracuse Police discovered the fight began inside the Corner Bar, spilling out onto the street, where the woman was ultimately assaulted. A male patron was arrested that day on felony assault charges.

Additionally, on May 8, 2015, a female patron, after consuming alcohol at the Corner Bar, caused a fatal car crash and was charged with vehicular manslaughter and driving while intoxicated. During the investigation into the incident, the Onondaga County Sheriff’s Office requested surveillance video from the bar. The Sheriff’s office discovered that portions of the video provided by the licensee’s manager had been intentionally removed from the security camera system and stored on a separate computer. The Sheriff’s Office obtained a search warrant and obtained the missing footage which showed, in plain view of the bars security staff, the female patron consuming alcohol at the Corner Bar, falling down three separate times directly outside the bar, and finally being carried off across the street by her hands and feet by two unidentified men. Corner Bar’s manager was charged on June 18, 2015 with one felony count of tampering with physical evidence.

“Rather than addressing the situation, bouncers at the Corner Bar simply locked the door and acted as spectators,” said SLA Chairman Vincent Bradley. “Bar owners have a responsibility for the health and safety of their patrons and the SLA will continue to hold our licensees accountable for their actions or lack thereof.”

On July 14, 2015, the SLA charged the Corner Bar with five violations, including assault, tampering with physical evidence, and failure to supervise. The license is suspended effective immediately, prohibiting the sale and consumption of alcohol at the premises. The hotel has been fined \$18,500 since 2007 by the SLA for selling to minors, after hour sales, unregistered bouncers, and assault charges.

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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