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For Immediate Release

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**EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR UTICA LIQUOR STORE**

**Albany, NY** – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) today suspended the license of the Bleecker Street Liquor store at 1128 Bleecker Street in Utica. The suspension was ordered by Members of the SLA, Chairman Dennis Rosen, and Commissioner Jeanique Greene at a special meeting of the Full Board on Thursday, September 20, 2012. Effective immediately, no alcohol may be sold at the premises.

On August 15, 2012, the SLA received a referral that an underage agent from the Utica Police Department illegally purchased alcohol from the Bleecker Street Liquor store without being asked for ID. Following this incident, on September 6, 2012, the SLA sent a seventeen year-old underage agent into the liquor store, who was also able to purchase liquor without showing ID. In addition, the licensee has a history of underage sales, including previous fines imposed by the SLA of \$5,000 in 2004, \$6,000 in 2006, and \$8,000 in 2009, all for illegal sales to minors.

“Cracking down on underage sales is a priority and the SLA will not hesitate in taking emergency action against liquor stores that repeatedly cater to minors,” said SLA Chairman Dennis Rosen. “We will continue working with the Utica Police and our partners in law enforcement across the state to hold licensees accountable.”

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.

[www.abc.state.ny.us](http://www.abc.state.ny.us)



The SLA regulates and controls the manufacture, sale, and distribution of alcoholic beverages within the state. The SLA 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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