



## State Liquor Authority

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**For Immediate Release:** May 24, 2016

### **STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION INTO UNDERAGE ALCOHOL SALES IN WESTERN NEW YORK**

#### **Sixteen Stores Caught Selling Alcohol to Minors in SLA Sting Operation**

**Albany, NY** – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) today announced results from undercover sting operations conducted in Western New York on May 19, 2016. SLA investigators sent underage decoys into 70 grocery and liquor stores in Erie County with the underage buyers making purchases at sixteen locations. Notably, 54 convenience store clerks and licensees refused to sell to the minors.

“The State Liquor Authority is committed to cracking down on underage sales,” said SLA Chairman Vincent Bradley. “These large scale enforcement efforts will continue to be a part of our proactive measures to prevent alcohol abuse among our youth.”

During the investigation, SLA Beverage Control Investigators entered the grocery stores separately from the undercover minor to observe and verify when illegal transactions occurred. Licensees charged by the SLA with underage sales face civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation, with fines starting from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for a first time offense. Repeat offenders also face potential suspension or revocation of their licenses.

The Sixteen businesses found selling to minors are:

#### Erie County

Spice Bazaar  
3311 Sheridan Drive, Amherst

University Mobil  
3652 Sheridan Drive, Amherst

Robo Self Serve  
5095 Main Street, Williamsville

Williamsville Liquor Store  
5511 Main Street, Williamsville

Passport Wine & Spirits  
8855 Main Street, Clarence

Premium Wine & Spirits  
7980 Transit Road, Williamsville

Niagara County Produce Inc.  
8555 Transit Road, East Amherst

Price Rite Market  
324-326 West Delavan Avenue, Buffalo

Save A Lot  
142 Grant Street, Buffalo

Family Food Market  
412 Auburn Avenue, Buffalo

Evergreen Mini Mart  
163 W Ferry Street, Buffalo

Elmwood Express Minimart  
460 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo

Corner Stop  
445 Massachusetts Avenue, Buffalo

Mini Max Market  
319 Massachusetts Avenue, Buffalo

Hampshire Express  
170 Hampshire Street, Buffalo

Best Value Wine and Liquor  
1100 Southwestern Boulevard, West Seneca

The SLA has dramatically intensified enforcement actions to crack down on sales to minors in addition to providing education to licensees on their responsibilities. SLA prosecutions for underage sales are up 50 percent since 2010, while the number of licensees and their staff completing the Alcohol Training Awareness Program to prevent underage sales has increased by over 150 percent over the same time period.

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