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SLA ORDERS EMERGENCY SUSPENSION FOR SCHENECTADY BAR

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) suspended the license of Club Illusion at 2 Argyle Place in Schenectady. The suspension was ordered by Members of the SLA, Chairman Dennis Rosen and Commissioner Jeanique Greene, at a meeting of the Full Board on Wednesday, January 30, 2013. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

The Emergency Suspension was ordered following an investigation by the SLA and the Schenectady Police Department into a large fight and gunshots fired on January 20, 2013 at the premises. The Schenectady Police required the assistance of police departments from Glenville, Niskayuna and Rotterdam to disperse the crowd and secure the scene. A patron was later admitted to Albany Medical Center with a gunshot wound following the shooting. The SLA charged the bar with five violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) law. The incident occurred less than a week after Club Illusion served a 15 day suspension and paid a \$10,000 fine for eight ABC law violations including fights, assaults and excessive noise at the premises.

“The SLA will not tolerate violent bars that drain city resources,” said SLA Chairman Dennis Rosen. “This should serve as a message that this agency will not hesitate to take immediate action when a bar poses a threat to public health and safety.”

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



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 ABC Law. In addition, the SLA issues and renews licenses and permits to manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers of alcoholic beverages.

On the Web: www.sla.ny.gov

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