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EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR ALBANY BAR Multi-Agency Investigation Uncovers Widespread Underage Drinking

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) suspended the license of Pulvers Pub LLC., doing business as the “Smokin Bull” at 53 North Lake Street in Albany New today. The suspension was ordered by Members of the SLA, Chairman Vincent Bradley and Commissioner Kevin Kim at a meeting of the Full Board on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

Following recent complaints of underage drinking at the Smokin Bull, on Thursday, November 12th, investigators from the SLA, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the Albany Police Department (APD) conducted a compliance inspection at the premises. SLA undercover investigators entered the premises shortly before midnight, and after determining a large percentage of the approximately 125 patrons appeared to be underage and purchasing alcohol, called in the multi-agency team consisting of the SLA, DMV and APD.

The investigation found that only 10 of the 125 patrons were 21 years of age or older. On November 16, 2015, the SLA charged the licensee with 32 violations, including 30 sales to minors, paying employees off the books, and failure to supervise. DMV investigators confiscated 75 counterfeit licenses and arrested 74 individuals for allegedly possessing fraudulent identification documents or presenting another person’s driver license. In addition, two bartenders were arrested for unlawful dealing with a minor by the Albany Police Department.

“The SLA will not hesitate in taking emergency action against bars that cater to minors,” said SLA Chairman Vincent Bradley. “We will continue working with 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 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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