



ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

ALFRED E. SMITH BUILDING
80 SOUTH SWAN STREET, SUITE 900
ALBANY, NY 12210-8002

DENNIS ROSEN
CHAIRMAN

JEANIQUE GREENE
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact: William Crowley (518) 474-4875

Press.Office@sla.ny.gov

EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR BRONX BAR
Police Referrals Document Violence, Underage Sales at All Night Bar

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) ordered an emergency suspension of Don Grill Restaurant and Bar, doing business as “DR Sports Bar and Restaurant” at 509 East Tremont Avenue in the Bronx. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the SLA, Chairman Dennis Rosen and Commissioner Jeanique Greene, at a meeting of the Full Board on Wednesday, March 27, 2013. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

The decision to suspend the license is based on several recent referrals sent to the SLA from the New York City Police Department (NYPD). On January 4, 2013 a patron was assaulted and required hospitalization after being attacked by a group of five men. Police report that the licensee attempted to hide the assailants in the attic of the bar; however they were apprehended and arrested for felony assault. Reports also show the licensee selling alcohol after 4 am on multiple occasions, including the morning of February 18, February 10, February 2, and January 5, 2013. Additionally, on February 22, 2013 the licensee sold to an underage NYPD auxiliary officer.

“This suspension sends a clear message that the SLA will not tolerate bars that jeopardizes the public health and safety,” said SLA Chairman Rosen. “The SLA will continue working with the NYPD and our partners in law enforcement across the state to hold licensees accountable.”

The SLA charged the bar with twelve violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) law, including sale to a minor, sales during prohibited hours, and disorderly premises. The bar was previously fined \$4,000 on February 12, 2013 for selling after hours and employing unlicensed bouncers. This fine, due March 15, 2013, has not been paid, which will result in a cancellation of the license effective March 29, 2013.

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.

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.

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