



State Liquor Authority

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SLA ISSUES EMERGENCY SUSPENSION FOR BRONX BAR Shootings, Assaults and Disorderly Crowds Lead to License Suspension

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of Twosha's Inc at 2576 Third Avenue in the Bronx today. The suspension was ordered by Chairman Vincent Bradley on Tuesday, February 14th. Effective immediately, no alcohol may be sold or consumed on the premises.

On January 8, 2018, the SLA received referrals from the New York City Police Department (NYPD) 40th Precinct advising that Twosha's has been a drain on police resources and detailed numerous shootings, assaults, and fights on the premises and in the nearby vicinity. According to the NYPD, three shootings, five fights, and one gunpoint robbery have occurred in or directly outside the premises in the last year.

On February 18, 2017, a victim was standing in front of Twosha's when he was shot in the abdomen by an unknown perpetrator. On November 3, 2017, a patron witnessed a group of males standing in front of the licensed premises, one of whom began firing gunshots into the street, and on November 12, 2017, a victim was robbed at gunpoint by patrons of the bar directly in front of the premises. Most recently, on December 13, 2017, a patron was standing in front of the bar when he heard two gunshots and realized he had been shot in the back.

In December 2017, police responded to three separate incidents of disorder inside the premises. On December 17, 2017, police arrived at the premises after receiving reports of a disorderly crowd and observed overturned tables and spilled drinks. One patron threw multiple hookahs toward an officer, and police ejected several patrons. On December 23, 2017, a fight occurred inside the premises resulting in one staff member being injured. On December 30, 2017, police responded to the premises and saw a fight break out with overturned tables, spilled drinks and approximately ten patrons on top of each other. Additional units were needed to restore order and shut down the premises.

On January 16, 2018, Twosha's was charged with 15 violations of the ABC Law, including five counts of disorderly premises, for becoming a focal point for police attention, and for failure to exercise adequate supervision. On February 4, 2018, the SLA conducted a joint inspection with the 40th Precinct at the licensed premises and discovered numerous fire safety violations, including blocked exits, unsafe wiring, overcrowding, and possession of fireworks. As a result of the February 4th inspection, the SLA charged Twosha's with 16 additional violations of the ABC Law.

“Not only has this licensee jeopardized the safety of her patrons and employees by ignoring fire safety rules, she is putting her entire community at risk by failing to supervise her establishment and allowing this disturbing pattern of violence and disorder to continue,” said Counsel to the Authority Christopher R. Riano. “These serious violations are completely unacceptable, and I applaud the Authority for suspending this license before any more victims were injured.”

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 administrative law 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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