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**SLA ISSUES EMERGENCY SUSPENSION FOR CORTLAND BAR**  
**Assault, Underage Sales Lead to Summary Suspension**

**Albany, NY** – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) today issued an emergency suspension of the Seventy Seven Club at 77 Main Street in Cortland. The suspension was ordered by Members of the SLA, Chairman Dennis Rosen, Commissioner Jeanique Greene and Commissioner Kevin Kim at a meeting of the Full Board on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Effective immediately, no alcohol may be served or consumed on the premises.

On June 17, 2014, a patron was knocked unconscious by the licensee's bouncer, who subsequently beat and kicked the victim. An eyewitness to the assault notified a nearby City of Cortland Police patrol. Upon entering the licensed premises, the responding officers observed the licensee dragging the victim across the premises' floor in an effort to move that victim out of view. The licensee informed police, falsely, that the victim had slipped and that he was caring for him. These facts, and the fraudulence of the licensee's account, were further verified by the licensee's bartender and additional witness statements to police. The licensee pled not guilty to the charges and a hearing was scheduled for October 6, 2014. The licensee failed to appear for the hearing, and the Administrative Law Judge sustained the charges by default.

Additionally, on October 24, 2014, during an underage compliance operation conducted by the SLA and City of Cortland Police, the licensee's bartender sold alcohol to an underage SLA agent. At no time during the transaction was that underage agent challenged as to their age. The transaction was witnessed and confirmed by an SLA Beverage Control Investigator. The Seventy Seven Club, originally licensed on

December 30, 2011, was also fined \$3,500 on March 31, 2014 by the SLA for selling to a minor.

“This suspension sends a clear message that the SLA will not tolerate bars that threaten public health and safety,” said SLA Chairman Rosen. “The SLA will continue working with the Cortland Police and 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, 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 Authority works with local law enforcement agencies and localities across the State to ensure compliance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law. In addition, the Authority issues and renews licenses and permits to manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers of alcoholic beverages.

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