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EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR SCHENECTADY BAR
Investigators Uncover Widespread Underage Drinking at Geppetto's

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) today suspended the license of D & D Stromboli Shop Inc., doing business as “Geppetto’s” at 547 Nott Street 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, February 15, 2012. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

The suspension follows a February 9, 2012 joint inspection conducted by the SLA, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the City of Schenectady Police Department. After determining that a large percentage of the approximately seventy-five patrons at the premises appeared to be underage and purchasing alcohol, SLA undercover investigators called in the inspection team. Fifty-five of the seventy-five patrons were underage. SLA investigators documented sixteen minors directly purchasing alcohol from a bartender and obtained statements from sixteen additional underage patrons admitting to consuming alcohol. The SLA charged the bar with thirty-six violations, including underage sales, unlicensed bouncers, paying employees off the books, and failure to supervise the premises. DMV also ticketed four minors for Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument.

“Cracking down on underage sales is a priority and the SLA will not hesitate in taking emergency action against bars that cater to minors,” said SLA Chairman Dennis Rosen. “We will continue working with the Schenectady 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

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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 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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