



**STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY
www.abc.state.ny.us**

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**IN REPLYING REFER TO
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**MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release
February 23, 2010
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LAWLESS CLUB'S LICENSE YANKED

Multiple Bouncer Assaults, Numerous Fights, Unlawful Activity Leads to Emergency Suspension

New York, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of the MGN LLC, doing business as Touch at 240 242 West 52 Street in New York. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Dennis Rosen, Commissioner Jeanique Greene, and Commissioner Noreen Healey at a special meeting of the Full Board on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

The decision to suspend the license is based on the recent history of violence and disorder at the premises including assaults on patrons by security staff, sales to minors, numerous fights and drug sales. The club has become a focus of police attention and a drain on department resources, as the NYPD have been summoned on 19 separate occasions in the past year to quell violence and respond to illegal activities. Most recently, on January 1, 2010 a patron was dragged to the roof of the building by club bouncers and severely beaten. The victim sustained a fractured shoulder, broken nose, as well as contusions to the face and body. On January 14, 2010, a club employee was arrested in connection with this assault. On three additional recent occasions, club security guards assaulted patrons at the licensed premises. Citing the escalating and serious violence, the Members of the SLA voted for an emergency suspension of the license. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

“All violence is unacceptable, but it is especially abhorrent when it is committed by those hired to provide for safety,” said SLA CEO Trina Mead. “The Members of the Liquor Authority continue to show they will take immediate action when a licensee poses a threat to public health.”

The licensee was charged today with 21 separate violations of the ABC law, including four sales to minors, twelve assaults, employment of an unlicensed bouncer, two noise infractions,

dangerously exceeding the maximum occupancy, and failure to supervise. In 2009, the SLA imposed \$3,000 civil penalty on this license for sale to minor on November 8, 2008.

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 to address the alleged violation(s) that led to the suspension. An order of summary suspension remains in effect until such time as it is modified by the State Liquor Authority or reviewing court.

The State Liquor Authority 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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