



**STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL  
STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY  
[www.abc.state.ny.us](http://www.abc.state.ny.us)**

**David A. Paterson  
Governor**

**Alfred E. Smith Building  
80 South Swan Street, Suite 900  
Albany, New York 12210-8002**

**Chairman  
Dennis Rosen**

**Commissioner  
Jeanique Greene**

**Commissioner  
Noreen Healey**

**IN REPLYING REFER TO  
Albany**

**MEDIA ADVISORY  
For Immediate Release  
November 5, 2010  
Contact: William Crowley (518) 486-4767  
[PressOffice@abc.state.ny.us](mailto:PressOffice@abc.state.ny.us)**

**EMERGENCY SUSPENSION FOR CASA RICA  
Fights, Assaults at Riverhead Bar Ends with License Suspension**

*New York, NY* – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of the Potrerillo’s Corp, doing business as the “Casa Rica” at 65 East Main Street in Riverhead. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Dennis Rosen, Commissioner Jeanique Greene, and Commissioner Noreen Healey at a Meeting of the Full Board on Wednesday, November 3, 2010.

The license suspension was issued after the SLA received arrest records, as well as numerous complaint reports and affidavits from officers from the Riverhead Police Department that clearly demonstrated the bar posed a threat to public health and safety. Since obtaining a license on April 23 2009, fights and assaults have been commonplace at Casa Rica, as police were summoned to respond to 11 separate violent incidents involving numerous patrons and various weapons, resulting in serious injuries. Moreover, the quality of life has suffered as 131 calls to police have been made due to violations occurring in proximity to the bar, with 26 violations, two misdemeanors and ten felonies resulting. Persistent violations have taxed town resources as arrests, summonses and criminal proceedings have resulted from the violent events.

“This bar was clearly a haven for violence, a drain on police resources, and an unremitting menace to the residents of Riverhead,” said Deputy SLA CEO Michael Jones. “The SLA will continue working with the Riverhead Police Department and our partners in law enforcement across the state to hold licensees accountable when their actions pose a threat to the public.”

The recent violations leveled against Casa Rica include charges for assault, inadequate supervision and disorderly conduct. In addition to the recurrent violence, three bouncers were arrested on August 6 2009 after police discovered they were unlicensed and not trained to provide security. The State Liquor Authority also imposed a \$2,500 civil penalty on Casa Rica on December 9, 2009 for

sale to a minor. Based on these serious violations, the Members of the SLA determined that the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted unanimously for an emergency suspension. Effective immediately, no alcohol may be served or consumed on the premises.

The State Administrative Procedure Act authorizes a state agency to summarily suspend a license when the agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatives require emergency action. When the SLA summarily suspends a liquor license, it also serves upon the licensee a 'Notice of Pleading' alleging one or more disciplinary violations. In invoking a summary suspension, the SLA has deemed the violation(s), 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 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.

On the Web: [www.abc.state.ny.us](http://www.abc.state.ny.us)

---

---