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EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR NEW PALTZ BAR Investigators Uncover Widespread Underage Drinking at Grimaldi's

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) suspended the license of Eats & Drinks Inc., doing business as “Grimaldi’s” at 119 Main Street in New Paltz today. The suspension was ordered by Members of the SLA, Chairman Dennis Rosen, Commissioner Jeanique Greene, and Commissioner Noreen Healey at a meeting of the Full Board on Wednesday, December 14, 2011. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises.

Following recent complaints of underage and excessive drinking at Grimaldi’s, on December 6, 2011, undercover SLA Investigators entered the premises. After determining a large percentage of the approximately 75 patrons appeared to be underage and purchasing alcohol, SLA Investigators contacted the New Paltz Police Department to conduct a joint underage drinking compliance inspection. SLA Investigators documented fifteen minors directly purchasing alcohol from a bartender, in addition to obtaining statements from five other underage patrons admitting to purchasing and consuming alcohol on the premises. The SLA charged the bar with twenty-three violations, including underage sales, unlicensed bouncers, contaminated bottles, and failure to supervise the premises. All twenty minors were issued a ticket from the New Paltz PD for Possession of an Alcoholic Beverage Under the Age of 21. Five of the minors also received tickets for Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, and four others were ticketed for Criminal Impersonation.

“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 New Paltz 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

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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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