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DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**LIQUOR AUTHORITY CLOSES BAR IN QUEENS
Investigation by Liquor Authority's Newly Created Rapid Enforcement Unit (REU) Leads to
Summary Suspension**

New York, NY- The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of a bar in Queens on Wednesday. The emergency suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Daniel B. Boyle and Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, on Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at the full board meeting.

The State Liquor Authority immediately suspended the license of Costa Colombiana Sports Club In. at 146 14 Hillside Ave in Jamaica, also known as "Day Dreamz" due to illegal weapons and prostitution charges. The Members of the Authority determined the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted to summarily suspend the license.

"Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises," said Chief Executive Officer Joshua B. Toas. "I commend the Board for taking this swift action to protect the public. The SLA will not tolerate any bar that permits criminal activity on the premises."

SLA Investigators in conjunction with the New York City Police Department served a summary suspension order upon the owners Day Dreamz on Wednesday evening. The matter was referred to the SLA's Rapid Enforcement Unit (REU) from the Queens County District Attorney's Office. On February 24, 2006, an undercover NYPD officer was offered sex for money at Day Dreamz. A subsequent undercover operation was conducted on March 24, 2006, by the Queens County DA's office and the NYPD. Eight female employees were arrested on prostitution charges. The owner of Day Dreamz and a security guard employed by the bar were arrested for weapons charges. The security guard employed by the bar has a prior felony conviction. No application was presented to SLA approving this employment, as mandated under the Alcoholic Control Beverage Control Law.

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said, "This location generated numerous complaints and criminal activity; it is only fitting that this license be revoked."

On April 11, 2006, Governor Pataki directed the New York State Liquor Authority to establish a Rapid Enforcement Unit (REU) within the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control to conduct priority investigations and institute prompt disciplinary action when allegations of criminal activity and serious repeat violations of the ABC Law occur. The REU immediately responds to allegations of criminal activity and serious repeat violations of the ABC Law. The REU includes the SLA's most experienced investigators and prosecutors, led by CEO Toas. The REU coordinates with law enforcement to quickly

react to emergency situations, prosecute disciplinary charges and refer matters to the Members of the Authority for action.

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown said, "We are committed to working with Queens communities and government agencies to eliminate crime and business practices that promote criminal activity, such as prostitution. Prostitution is not a victimless crime. It often ensnares the young women, some as young as 13 years of age, who are forced into such activities. It erodes a neighborhood's quality of life and creates an atmosphere in which more serious crimes are committed. I commend the SLA for its prompt action in revoking this establishment's liquor license."

"By enacting this initiative, Governor Pataki has ensured the efforts of the SLA, local law enforcement, municipalities and government agencies will be fully integrated and managed," said Chairman Boyle. "The Rapid Enforcement Unit is coordinating SLA's efforts with our partners throughout the state in a continuing effort to make our communities safer."

Under the State Administrative Procedure Act, a State agency is authorized to summarily suspend a license when the agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires 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 a 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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