



**STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

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**IN REPLYING REFER TO
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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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**COPAKE BAR LOSES LIQUOR LICENSE
Liquor Authority Summarily Suspends License of the Copake Inn**

ALBANY – (August 22, 2007) The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of Copake Inn on Main Street in Copake. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Daniel B. Boyle and Commissioner Noreen Healey at the full board meeting on Wednesday, August 22, 2007.

On August 10, 2007, SLA Investigators, the Copake Police Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles conducted a surprise investigation of the Copake Inn, targeting underage drinking. The investigation discovered 30 out of 62 patrons at the bar were underage, most working as counselors at a local summer camp. Twelve minors were observed directly purchasing alcohol from bartenders, including two 16 year olds and two 17 year olds. Another fourteen signed sworn statements admitting they were served alcohol, including four 17 year olds. Two bartenders from the Copake Inn were subsequently arrested, along with the director of the local summer camp for permitting the sale of alcohol to underage persons. Additionally, the bar was cited by the SLA for failure to provide adequate supervision. The Members of the State Liquor 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.

“This irresponsible behavior, where over half the patrons at a bar are underage, shows a total disregard for the law,” State Liquor Authority Chief Executive Officer, Joshua B. Toas said, “The Members of the Liquor Authority sent a clear message that this behavior will not be tolerated.”

“I want to commend the State Liquor Authority for working with us on this detail and for taking swift action today,” Tom Nolan, Copake Police Commissioner. “Our Department will continue to crack down on any ABC Law violations in an effort to curb youths from are drinking and driving.”

The State Administrative Procedure Act authorizes a State agency 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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