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DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**SLA Announces Initiatives to Crack Down on Problem Spots in NYC  
Moratorium on New Licenses, ABC Law Task Force and Targeted Sweeps**

NEW YORK – (September 6, 2006) – New York State Liquor Authority Chairman Daniel B. Boyle announced a three point plan to tackle problem premises in New York City today. The plan includes a moratorium on the issuance of new nightclub, bar and cabaret licenses in Manhattan that are subject to the 500 foot rule; the creation of a task force to examine the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (ABC) Law in relation to the policies, procedures, and application process of on-premise establishments; and a citywide enforcement sweep targeting problem nightspots.

The moratorium on new licenses in New York County was voted on unanimously by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Boyle, Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, and Commissioner Noreen Healey at the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2006. The order only affects licenses for bars, clubs and cabarets that are subject to the 500 foot rule in New York County and will not impact restaurant applications.

“This moratorium will give the SLA time to thoroughly analyze the policies, procedures and applications that govern nightclubs and bars in NYS,” said Chairman Boyle. “Developing a comprehensive strategy with the input of law enforcement, municipal leaders, community groups and the industry, is a key part of our commitment to enforcing the ABC Law and preserving the quality of life for all New Yorkers.”

In announcing the moratorium, Chairman Boyle also designated Commissioner Noreen Healey to chair a task force to analyze relevant sections of the ABC Law and regulations related to bars, nightclubs and cabarets as well as SLA licensing policies and procedures and a revision of the on-premise license application.

Commissioner Healey will appoint members to serve on the task force from law enforcement, municipalities, community groups, industry, and SLA staff. The task force will make recommendations regarding the on-premise sections of the ABC Law and SLA’s policies and procedure for the issuance or denial of on-premise licenses and the distinction between restaurants and nightclubs. Task force recommendations will be made to Chairman Boyle, and forwarded to the Governor for action by December 31, 2006.

“I am honored to Chair this important task force,” stated Commissioner Healey. “Community interests and business interests do not have to be at odds, our goal is to refine our current system to better balance the needs of the interested parties and ensure compliance with the law.”

Chairman Boyle also announced Operation Last Call, a stepped-up enforcement effort targeting problem bars and nightclubs throughout New York City. During this operation, SLA Enforcement personnel will conduct controlled sweeps targeting bars and nightclubs for ABC violations including: excessive noise; assaults and violent felonies; sales to minors and intoxicated patrons; drug offenses; and other violations of the law.

“Operation Last Call is part of our ongoing efforts to make our communities safer,” said Chairman Boyle. “We are sending a straightforward message to all licensees, follow the law and respect the responsibilities that come with the privilege of holding a liquor license.”

The 500 foot rule prohibits the issuance of full liquor licenses for on-premises establishments when there are already three or more establishments with full liquor licensees within 500 feet. The law provides only two exceptions to the ban on issuing such licenses. Those establishments that were operating prior to the law that created the 500 foot rule were grandfathered and may be exempted from the rule. The Authority may also approve the application if, after consulting with the municipality or community board, it determines that granting the license would be in the public interest. The rule applies only in cities, town and villages with a population of at least 20,000. The freeze on new licensees goes into effect immediately and will last until December 31, 2006.

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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