



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

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

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**IN REPLYING REFER TO
Albany**

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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**LICENSE SUSPENSION ORDERED FOR KINGSTON BAR
SLA Votes for Emergency Summary Suspension on Drug Related Charges**

Albany, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of RJ's Lounge at 8 10 Thomas Street in Kingston today. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the State Liquor Authority, Chairman Daniel B. Boyle, Commissioner Jeanique Greene, and Commissioner Noreen Healey at a meeting of the Full Board on Thursday, October 2, 2008.

The case was referred to the State Liquor Authority from an investigation conducted by the Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team ("URGENT"). The URGENT Taskforce conducted an extensive narcotics investigation focusing on cocaine sales at the licensed premises. Members of the Taskforce were able to purchase cocaine on September 10, 2008, September 11, 2008 and September 19, 2008 at the premises from the licensee. Following the third transaction on September 19, 2008, a search warrant was executed and a search of the licensee was conducted. Members of URGENT Taskforce found a large amount of cash on the licensee as well as paper-folds of lottery tickets containing cocaine in a drawer behind the bar and \$1,500 cash in a non-working freezer in the premises. The licensee was arrested and charged with three class B felonies, one class E felony and two class A misdemeanors. The Members of the State Liquor Authority, determining the actions of the licensee pose an imminent threat to the public, voted unanimously to summarily suspend the license. Effective immediately, no alcohol may be sold or consumed at the premises.

"The State Liquor Authority will not tolerate drug activity in our licensed premises," said Chairman Boyle. "This Board will not hesitate to act when a licensee's actions pose a threat to public health, safety, and welfare."

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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