



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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**EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ISSUED FOR NORTSHORE NIGHTCLUB
SLA Action Prompted by Underage Drinking and Violence**

New York, NY- The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended the license of Aqua Lounge Inc., at 58 Landing Road, Glen Cove, NY. The suspension was ordered by the Members of the Authority, Chairman Daniel B. Boyle, Commissioner Jeanique Greene and Commissioner Noreen Healey by unanimous vote at the October 2nd Full Board Meeting.

On September 19, 2008 an underage police agent was served alcohol by one of the licensee's bartenders. That same evening, Glen Cove Police responded to several complaints of large disorderly groups in front of the establishment. Two hours later, police were forced to return to the establishment after receiving additional complaints of excessive noise. Upon entering the establishment, officers observed numerous physical altercations in progress. Officers described the scene as a riot which moved outside and soon involved patrons arming themselves with broken bottles and pipes. Additional officers from other departments were called to the scene to assist in controlling the situation.

Aqua Lounge was charged with 6 separate violations of the ABC Law, including disorderly premises, failure to supervise, and sales to minors. The Members of the Authority determined the bar posed an imminent threat to the public and voted for the suspension. Effective immediately, no alcohol can be served or consumed on the premises. Prior to these charges, the State Liquor Authority had charged the Aqua Lounge Inc. with numerous ABC Law violations including, serving minors, disorderly premises, excessive noise, failure to exercise adequate supervision, becoming a focus for police attention, and building codes violations. The licensee has been fined \$17,500 and served a 10 days of suspension since 2006

"The State Liquor Authority will not tolerate violent establishments that cater to minors," 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 violation. 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 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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