



Alcoholic Beverage Control

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABC COMMISSION SUSPENDS PERMITS HELD BY HIGH POINT CLUB AFTER PATRON IS GUNNED DOWN AT BAR AND DIES

RALEIGH – The NC ABC Commission has suspended the permits held by a High Point private club after a patron was shot multiple times inside the business early Friday morning. The shooting victim, Gerald Dwayne Williamson, Sr., 28, died roughly an hour later while being treated at the hospital.

High Point Police are investigating the homicide and have delivered sworn statements to the NC ABC Commission, providing the basis for the summary suspension. Kenzie's Event Center at 401 Brentwood Street has held ABC permits since August 2013.

The summary suspension is immediate and is in effect until the case is heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings. The action is authorized under N.C. General Statute 150B-3(c), which directs the ABC Commission to begin hearing proceedings on the matter.

Separate incidents of alleged violence at the location had already prompted the state ABC Commission to seek the revocation of the ABC permits at the business. A hearing on that matter is scheduled for April 28.

This week's action is the third summary suspension this year and is part of an ongoing focus on public health and public safety on the part of the NC ABC Commission.

In September 2013, ABC Commission Chairman Jim Gardner sent a letter to more than 1,000 businesses in North Carolina that hold permits as private clubs to sell and serve alcohol. The letter provided a recap of the regulations related to private clubs and warned club owners and operators that the Commission may impose substantial fines and penalties for ignoring the law or for allowing violence at these locations.

ABOUT THE NC ABC COMMISSION

North Carolina is one of 17 states to regulate alcohol through a control system. Since 1937, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission has provided regulation and control over the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages in the state of North Carolina. The Commission oversees permits allowing alcohol sales by more than 18,000 retail outlets across the state. <http://abc.nc.gov>.

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