



**Alcoholic Beverage Control**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 11, 2014**

**ONGOING VIOLENCE PROMPTS ABC COMMISSION TO TAKE ABC PERMITS FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST IN ELIZABETH CITY**

**RALEIGH** – Early on the morning of April 6, roughly 30 patrons of the Linton J. Sutton Post 223 of the American Legion in Elizabeth City spilled into the street fighting and trying to remove passengers from a parked car, according to sworn statements received by the NC ABC Commission.

In March, the location at 611 South Martin Street had been the site of other serious alleged violations including incidents of gunfire. As a result of the March problems, the Commission sent a notice that was served on March 21 alerting the permit holders that the Commission was alleging, pending a hearing, that the location was no longer suitable to hold alcohol permits.

The troubled history of the location and the most recent violence April 6 prompted the Commission to order the summary suspension of the ABC permits held by the post. 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.

This week's action is the fourth 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. <http://abc.nc.gov>.

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