



State of North Carolina  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

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## N.C. ABC Commission Issues "Last Call" and Suspends Alcohol Permits for Raleigh's Envy Ultra Bar and Lounge

**RALEIGH** – After a shooting incident Monday that injured two patrons and in response to allegations that a Raleigh bar has created an ongoing hazardous environment for the public, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission on May 26, 2010 suspended the alcohol permits issued to Bowties Restaurant Group, LLC, doing business as Envy Ultra Bar and Lounge and located at 3201 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh.

In addition to the recent shooting on the business premises, sworn affidavits from the Raleigh Police Department and the state Alcohol Law Enforcement Division allege that there have been multiple stabbings/cuttings, assaults, gunfire and weapons violations at the site in 2009 and 2010.

"Two people were seriously wounded by gunfire at this business Monday. And the sworn affidavits of local law enforcement officers demonstrate that there has been an established pattern of violence at this location," said ABC Chairman Jon Williams, who signed the orders Wednesday afternoon suspending the bar's alcohol permits. "The ABC Commission is exercising its authority and duty to work with law enforcement to protect the community in matters related to alcoholic beverages. We believe summary suspensions are an effective "Last Call" when concerns for public safety are significant."

The order by the ABC Commission imposes an immediate suspension of alcohol permits, without requiring a Commission vote. The ABC Commission works closely with local law enforcement agencies across the state, and in instances that the Commission finds appropriate, it will suspend permits immediately under the authority of N.C. General Statute 150B-3(c).

In April, the State ABC Commission announced the Last Call -- a cooperative initiative with local law enforcement and ALE -- that streamlines the process for suspending alcohol permits of violent bars and clubs. In recent months, the state ABC Commission has suspended alcohol permits in other communities where instances of violence have posed a substantial threat to public safety, but this is the first instance of a "Last Call" summary suspension since the program was formally launched in April.

"ALE is pleased to partner with the State ABC Commission to deliver an effective remedy -- a Last Call Summary Suspension -- when violence threatens the public safety," said ALE Director John Ledford.

### ABOUT THE ABC COMMISSION

North Carolina is one of 19 states to regulate alcohol through a control system. Since 1937, the state 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. In fiscal year 2008, the Commission returned approximately \$250 million in taxes and revenue to benefit the General Fund and the budgets of local cities and counties that sell alcoholic beverages.