



State of North Carolina
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

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N.C. ABC Commission Suspends Alcohol Permits for Hickory's 5 O'Clock Somewhere

RALEIGH – In response to allegations that a Hickory club poses a threat to the public, local police and patrons who go to the location, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission on Thursday suspended the alcohol permits issued to Startown Lounge, Inc., doing business as 5 O'Clock Somewhere and located at 16 Second St. NW, Hickory.

The summary suspension imposes an immediate suspension of alcohol permits, without requiring a Commission vote. The action was requested by the Hickory Police Department and agents of the state's Alcohol Law Enforcement District VII.

In January 2008, a homicide occurred in the parking lot involving patrons of the business. On Nov. 8, 2009, police were called to respond to a fight in the street near the business and a crowd of approximately 50. To bring the situation under control and clear the parking lot required back up from every available unit, police reported. On Nov. 29, 2009, police assistance was required to clear the parking lot. On Jan. 1, Hickory police heard shots fired in the public parking lot near the club and responded finding a large crowd in the parking lot. As officers remained on the scene one was hit on the throat by an intoxicated patron leaving the business.

"The sworn affidavits of local law enforcement officers demonstrate that the pattern of violence is not changing at this establishment, and the time is up for 5 O'Clock Somewhere," said ABC Chairman Jon Williams, who signed the orders Thursday afternoon suspending the alcohol permits held by the business. "As a result, the ABC Commission is exercising its authority and duty to work with law enforcement to protect the community in matters related to alcoholic beverages."

He added, 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).

"ALE is working with the state ABC Commission to try to help solve this problem permanently," said ALE Director John Ledford. "The violent activities occurring at this business are a detriment to the entire community and a strain on law enforcement resources. We are diligently working to be responsive to law enforcement and citizen complaints."

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.

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LOCATION: 3322 GARNER ROAD, RALEIGH, NC 27610

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