



State of North Carolina
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

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History of Violence and Assault of Deputy Prompt "Last Call" Summary Suspension for Ahoskie Bar

RALEIGH – The site of a deadly shooting this spring erupted into another scene of violence earlier this month when the Ahoskie Police Department and the Hertford County Sheriff's Department responded to reports of a fight involving more than 25 patrons of BJ's Bar and Grill, 208 East Main Street, Ahoskie. According to sworn accounts provided by law enforcement, a Hertford County Deputy was struck by a thrown chair, and patrons of the business were throwing bottles out the front door at officers attempting to make arrests at the scene Oct. 23.

In response to the sworn affidavits provided, the NC ABC Commission has issued a "Last Call" summary suspension of the business's permits to sell and serve alcohol. The suspension is in effect immediately. The action is authorized under N.C. General Statute 150B-3(c), which directs the Commission to commence proceedings about the matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

"The sworn affidavits of law enforcement strongly suggest that the public safety is at risk if this business is allowed to continue to serve alcohol," said ABC Chairman Jon Williams, who signed the orders suspending the alcohol permits held by the business. "Based on these sworn statements, it is the decision of the ABC Commission to put public safety first and to suspend alcohol permits at this location immediately."

In addition to the recent assault, sworn affidavits by law enforcement officers state that there have been many calls for service to the location made to local law enforcement, including times when the entire shift of the Ahoskie Police Department has been dispatched to respond to a complaint about violent activity at the business.

"The allegations of violent activities at this location posed a clear threat to the public, to law enforcement officers and to Alcohol Law Enforcement agents who have a responsibility to inspect licensed premises. We are working with the state ABC Commission to curb violence and promote safety across North Carolina," said ALE Director John Ledford.

In April, the State ABC Commission announced Last Call – a cooperative initiative with local law enforcement and ALE that streamlines the process for suspending alcohol permits of violent bars and clubs. This is the seventh summary suspension issued in the last 12 months by the state ABC Commission.

ABOUT THE ABC COMMISSION

North Carolina is one of 19 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 more than 25,000 permits allowing alcohol sales by more than 17,000 retail outlets across the state. In fiscal year 2010, liquor sales returned more than \$260 million in taxes and revenue to benefit the General Fund and the budgets of local cities and counties that sell spirits.