



State of North Carolina
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

JONATHAN S. WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN

4307 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-4307

COMMISSION MEMBERS:
A. D. "ZANDER" GUY, JR.
SURF CITY

MICHAEL C. HERRING
ADMINISTRATOR

(919) 779-0700
FAX (919) 661-5927

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 13, 2010

MEDIA CONTACT
Agnes Stevens
919-417-0858

Shooting Cover-up Prompts "Last Call" Summary Suspension for Greensboro Club

RALEIGH – Sworn affidavits state that security staff of a Greensboro Club witnessed a club patron being shot Nov. 7 in the club's parking lot, then failed to call for police or an ambulance, and told law enforcement officers who found the parking lot area bleached and mopped that no shooting had taken place. This has prompted the North Carolina ABC Commission to issue a Last Call summary suspension of the alcohol permits held by Lax Gentlemen's Club, 2216 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Greensboro.

The summary suspension imposes an immediate suspension of alcohol permits held by the business. The action was requested by the Greensboro Police Department and the state's Alcohol Law Enforcement Division. It 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 statements received by the ABC Commission indicate that this business failed to assist victims of violence in their own parking lot and then covered up the shooting and destroyed evidence," said ABC Chairman Jon Williams, who signed the orders suspending the alcohol permits held by the business. "The apparent disregard by this business for a life-threatening injury and solving a serious violent crime is prompting the Commission to exercise its authority and duty to immediately suspend the permits of Lax to sell alcohol."

In addition to the recent shooting, sworn affidavits by law enforcement officers state that since receiving a permanent permit to sell mixed beverages in February, there have been 44 calls for service made to the Greensboro Police Department for stabbings, shootings and other disturbances at the business.

"Our agents are working closely with local law enforcement and the ABC Commission to protect communities such as this one in Greensboro from unwelcome and unlawful activity," 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 eighth summary suspension issued since October 2009 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.