



State of North Carolina
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

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New Year's Shootings, Parking Lot Mayhem Prompt "Last Call" Summary Suspension for Jacksonville Club

RALEIGH – Sworn affidavits paint a picture of mayhem at a Jacksonville club as law enforcement officers tried to render first aid to two shooting victims early Jan. 1. Officers were hampered by the crowd of several hundred as club security staff provided minimal assistance. The sworn statements of law enforcement officers about events at Rock Nightclub, 2201 North Marine Boulevard, Jacksonville, prompted the NC ABC Commission to issue a "Last Call" summary suspension of the alcohol permits held by the club.

The summary suspension imposes an immediate suspension of alcohol permits held by the business. The action was requested by the Jacksonville 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 begin proceedings on the matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

"The ABC Commission applies the remedy of summary suspensions when sworn statements of law enforcement officers show a pattern of violence that seriously threatens the public," said ABC Chairman Jon Williams, who signed the orders suspending the alcohol permits held by the business. "Permit holders are responsible for the actions – or lack of cooperation – of their employees and must understand that the ABC Commission places a high priority on protecting public safety."

The suspension documents show that in June 2009, after another shooting incident at Rock, an ALE agent spoke with the club manager about laws and available training to assist the club's employees about complying with the laws. The sworn statements of representatives of the Jacksonville Police Department state the disturbances on Jan. 1 continue a pattern that causes a danger to the public and officers of the Jacksonville Police Department.

"ALE and the ABC Commission are taking steps to work together to address problems of violence that threaten communities across North Carolina," said ALE Director John Ledford.

In April 2010, 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 first summary suspension of 2011 and the tenth 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.