



# ABC COMMISSION NORTH CAROLINA

## Alcoholic Beverage Control

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ABC COMMISSION SUSPENDS ABC PERMITS FOR VIOLENT ROCKINGHAM CLUB

RALEIGH – A Rockingham club that has been the site of a fatal choking and numerous fights requiring response by law enforcement from three counties last week saw a patron wounded by gunfire. The pattern of escalating violence reported by local law enforcement officers at the location prompted the N.C. ABC Commission Friday (today) to suspend the ABC permits at P3, located at 416 East Broad Avenue, Rockingham. The business has held permits to serve alcohol since June 2011.

"Taken together, reports of fights involving dozens of people spilling onto the roadway, incidents of club security staff allegedly choking and punching patrons in an attempt to subdue them, and last week's gun-related injury at this location are very alarming," said Zander Guy, Chairman of the NC ABC Commission. "Sworn statements of law enforcement suggest that public safety seems to be at increasing risk when P3 is open, so the ABC Commission has made the determination that it is appropriate immediately to suspend the alcohol permits held by this business."

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. Friday's action is the 17th summary suspension of permanent ABC permits by the state ABC Commission since October 2009.

The summary suspension of the Rockingham location's ABC permits is immediate and is in effect until the case is heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings. The action is authorized under N.C. General Statute 150B-3(c), which directs the ABC Commission to begin hearing proceedings on the matter.

### ABOUT THE NC ABC COMMISSION

North Carolina is one of 17 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 18,000 retail outlets across the state. <http://abc.nc.gov>.

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