



ABC

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NORTH CAROLINA

Alcoholic Beverage Control

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AFTER RECENT VIOLENCE AT JACKSONVILLE CLUB, STATE ABC COMMISSION SUSPENDS ALCOHOL PERMITS AT EIGHT BALLS PIZZA

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Commission has issued a Last Call Summary Suspension of the alcohol permits held by Eight Balls Pizza, 108 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville. The ABC Commission took the action based on law enforcement affidavits citing violence at the location.

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

At the most recent incident January 5, Jacksonville Police Department officers who responded to an alleged shooting at the business found a man in the parking lot who had been beaten with an AK-47, kicked and punched by several people and hit in the head with a beer bottle. Sworn affidavits of Jacksonville police officers paint a picture of similar violence and nearly 50 calls for service to the location during the past 12 months.

In April 2010, the state ABC Commission announced Last Call – a cooperative initiative with local law enforcement and the state's Alcohol Law Enforcement Division that streamlines the process for suspending alcohol permits of violent bars and clubs. In January 2011 the ABC Commission issued a Last Call Summary suspension of the permits at Jacksonville's Rock Nightclub, 2201 North Marine Boulevard. Yesterday's action is the first Last Call summary suspension of permanent ABC permits in 2012 and the 14th issued since October 2009 by the state ABC Commission.

"The recent extreme violence and the history at this location as outlined in the sworn statements of the Jacksonville Police Department created an urgency for the ABC Commission to take this action to suspend alcohol sales at Eight Balls Pizza," said Zander Guy, NC ABC Commissioner. Guy signed the summary suspension order as acting chairman of the NC ABC Commission.

ABOUT THE NC 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. <http://abc.nc.gov>.

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