



Alcoholic Beverage Control

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ABC COMMISSION TAKES STONG STANCE & WARNS PRIVATE CLUBS ACROSS NC THAT VIOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

RALEIGH – In the past 30 days the NC ABC Commission has issued summary suspensions of alcohol permits for two separate locations and has sent a letter to more than 1,000 private clubs warning that future incidents of violence will result in substantial fines and penalties.

“The ABC Commission has always used its regulatory authority to curb dangerous behavior at outlets that sell alcohol. What we are doing now is taking very visible steps to warn club owners that violence as a business practice simply will not be tolerated. If they allow life-threatening violence on their property, they will incur the full penalties available to the Commission,” said ABC Commission Chairman Jim Gardner.

Recent violent deaths at clubs in Fayetteville and Charlotte prompted the state ABC Commission to suspend the permits at both locations. The action marked the fourth time this year the state ABC Commission has issued summary suspensions of ABC permits at locations due to violence. Sworn statements of law enforcement officers describe Labor Day weekend incidents at El Gavilan, 3808 Driftwood Drive, Charlotte, and at Chiefs 25, 612 W. Rowan Street, Fayetteville. According to the affidavits, both locations have a history of violence and of violations of the ABC laws and regulations designed to protect the health and safety of the public.

The summary suspensions are immediate and in effect until the cases are 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.

Less serious incidents of violence may result in charges that a business is no longer suitable to hold permits, which can result revocation of permits.

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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