

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC/LAPD REVOKE PROBLEM BAR'S LIQUOR LICENSE AS CRACKDOWN BEGINS ON HOLLENBECK AREA LIQUOR LICENSEES

Los Angeles – Investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and officers of the Los Angeles Police Department today posted a liquor license revocation notice on the Mi Barra, 128 N. San Fernando Road in Los Angeles. This is the first of many bars and liquor stores in the Hollenbeck area that are expected to have administrative action taken against their liquor licenses to reduce alcohol-related crime.

The permanent revocation of the liquor license will close the bar due to the illegal solicitation of alcoholic beverages. The violation involves women soliciting men to buy them drinks at inflated prices, and then splitting the profit with the bar, a violation of State law.

Bars and nightclubs that allow this illegal activity have a higher incidence of public drunkenness, fights, shootings, stabbings, illegal drugs and other criminal activity. Occasionally, the illegal solicitation encourages prostitution.

After receiving numerous complaints from residents in the area, ABC undercover investigators visited the Mi Barra bar on several occasions, and were repeatedly solicited for alcohol by women under the control of the bar. With the assistance of LAPD officers from the Hollenbeck Division, ABC was able to file an accusation to revoke the liquor license.

ABC Director Jerry Jolly said, "By closing down this bar, we will be improving the quality of life for residents in this area."

LAPD Hollenbeck Area Captain William Fierro said, "Revoking the liquor license will lessen the possibility of drunk driving fatalities coming from this establishment and reducing the number of calls for police services in this area."

ABC is currently conducting a number of investigations in the Hollenbeck area at problem bars and liquor stores. Violations include sales to minors, possession and sale of drugs, and illegal solicitation of alcohol. ABC expects to file numerous accusations against the licensees seeking suspensions or even revocations of their liquor licenses.