

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC takes action against Culver City Restaurant

Alcohol Sales Halted after Task Force Operation Uncovers Multiple Violations

(Culver City)- The owner of a Culver City Restaurant has pulled his alcoholic beverage license application following a task force operation by ABC and Culver City Police that determined there were multiple illegal activities taking place at the location.

The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (CABC) conducted a joint operation with the Culver City Police Department at Leo's Grill, 5571 S. Sepulveda in Culver City on September 28, 2007. The operation resulted in five individuals being cited and the owner, Leonel Gonzalez Cifuentes, has decided to voluntarily withdraw his license application with ABC which means alcohol will not be served at this location indefinitely.

Acting on a complaint received by the Culver City Police Department, undercover ABC and Culver City Police Officers conducted an operation that resulted in three minors being cited for purchasing and consuming alcohol. The on-duty bartender was cited for selling / furnishing alcohol to the minors, possession of alcohol on the premises not allowed under a beer and wine license and furnishing marijuana to an undercover investigator. Additionally, the owner permitted illegal adult topless entertainment to be performed on the premises and was cited for allowing alcohol other than beer and wine on the premises. The owner also violated six of the nine conditions placed on the license.

Earlier this year, the owner had been issued an interim retail permit, which is a temporary license that allows an applicant to operate prior to permanent licensure. Upon learning the Department lawfully canceled that permit and would be recommending denial of the permanent license, Mr. Gonzalez Cifuentes chose to withdraw his application with the Department.

"We expect all licensees to comply with the law," said ABC Director Steve Hardy. "When ABC licensed locations violate the law, we will take action and hold them accountable."

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.