

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Posts Notice of Suspension at El Merengue Bar in North Hollywood *Crack Down on Multiple Illegal Solicitations of Alcoholic Beverages*

(North Hollywood) – On December 27, 2013, California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Agents posted a Notice of Suspension at El Merengue, located at 12126 Vanowen Street in the city of North Hollywood. By suspending the liquor license, the owners are prohibited from serving alcohol for 30 days. The suspension order was the result of an investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department’s Detective Support and Vice Division and the Valley Division. This investigation was made possible by a grant from ABC’s Grant Assistance Program,

Undercover Los Angeles Police Officers visited the location numerous times during a three month investigation and discovered violations involving an illegal drink solicitation and commission scheme. The illegal drink solicitation scheme involved bar servers who placed a surcharge on alcoholic beverages in exchange for keeping male patrons company. Such practices often result in the over-service of alcoholic beverages. As a result, ABC filed an accusation against the licensee.

ABC Van Nuys Supervising Agent in Charge Brad Beach recognized the Los Angeles Police Department for their continued efforts in the San Fernando Valley. “This was an outstanding and thorough investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department,” said Beach. “LAPD has been utilizing resources through a grant from the Alcoholic Beverage Control. These efforts can help make a significant difference in the safety of local communities,” said Beach.