

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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California Alcoholic Beverage Control Suspends License for 35 Days

ABC Suspends the License of Joe's Crab Shack on South Azusa Avenue in the city of Industry

Rowland Heights/Industry –The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) posted a suspension notice today at Joe's Crab Shack located at 1420 South Azusa Avenue in the city of Industry. The suspension is the result of a violation that occurred back in March, 2008, when alcohol was served to minors who were later involved in a fatal crash involving alcohol.

The suspension means the restaurant cannot sell alcohol for the next 35 days. In addition, the alcoholic beverage license could face a possible revocation anytime in the next two years if a similar violation occurs.

ABC ordered 22 yr. old Theron Miles to appear in court on criminal allegations of serving alcoholic beverages to seven minors at a dinner party at Joe's Crab Shack, located at 1420 South Azusa Avenue in the city of Industry on the night of the crash. One of the minors served at the restaurant was Elias Munoz, who was 19 at the time and the driver of the vehicle that crashed later that night. The crash resulted in the death of his passenger, 20 year old Ondrea Alvarez. Further investigation revealed that Munoz was racing another vehicle, which was driven by 22 year old Brian Galvez.

In December, 2008, the CHP arrested 20 yr. old Elias Munoz. He was charged with gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence with .08 blood alcohol level and causing great bodily injury or death to another person. The CHP also arrested 22 year old Brian Galvez for the same charges with an additional charge of leaving the scene of a traffic collision resulting in injury or death.

"188 persons under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related crashes in California in 2007. It is critical that businesses check identifications and help keep alcohol out of the hands of minors," said ABC Assistant Director Joe Cruz.

ABC Investigators opened a Target Responsibility for Alcohol-Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation following the March, 2008 crash, after being contacted by CHP.

Funding for the TRACE program is made possible by a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes that involve possible alcohol consumption by minors.

For more information on the TRACE Program, contact Gerald Ackley in ABC's Southern Division Office at (562) 402-0659.