

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC Suspends Licenses at Two Oceanside Bars *Illegal Drug Sales Result in Penalties*

(Oceanside) – California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Investigators along with Officers from the Oceanside Police Department posted suspension notices at two Oceanside bars on Thursday, October 21, 2010 because illegal drug sales were occurring inside both premises.

The suspension notices were posted at the “Firewater” bar, located at 406 Pier View Way, and the Pier View Pub, located at 301-305 Pier View Way in Oceanside.

The “Firewater” bar will not be allowed to sell alcohol for the next 30 days. The Pier View Bar license will be suspended for 20 days. If similar violations occur anytime in the next two years, the bars face the possibility of license revocation.

Back in May, 2010 ABC arrested two individuals for selling and/or negotiating sales of marijuana to undercover officers at the “Firewater” and “Pier View” bars. This followed a two month investigation by ABC and the Oceanside Police Department.

27 year-old Oceanside resident, Charles Eugene LeMay, a bartender, and a patron, 36 year-old Oceanside resident, Eric Erickson were arrested at the “Firewater” bar on May 5, 2010. LeMay, who was out on bail on pending manslaughter charges at the time, was looking at additional criminal charges of sales and possession of illegal drugs and violation of his bail conditions. Erickson faced misdemeanor charges for possession of illegal drugs. In addition, a minor was cited and released for consumption of alcoholic beverages and possession of a false ID. During the investigation, ABC undercover investigators were able to make purchases of high-grade marijuana from the bartender on several different occasions from both bars.

ABC along with the Oceanside Police Department initiated the investigation due to heightened concern about this location in the community. ABC investigators went undercover multiple times to develop the information that led to the arrests.

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.