

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Investigators Post Suspension Notice at House of Spirits

The Store Owner is Charged with Sales of Illegal Drugs and Receiving Purported Stolen Property

(Monrovia) – Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) posted a 25 day Notice of Suspension today at “House of Spirits,” an ABC licensed business located at 501 W. Duarte Rd. in Monrovia. During the 25-day suspension, the owner will not be able to sell any alcohol at the location. In addition, the owner will have 180 days to transfer the license to a new owner who is acceptable to the ABC.

The suspension follows a six month investigation conducted by ABC investigators. Undercover officers visited the location multiple times and were able to purchase or obtain Marijuana on three separate occasions. In addition to the drug sales, one of the store owners also negotiated the sale/purchase of property that he believed was stolen.

Back in February, 2011, ABC investigators were assisted by the Monrovia Police Department when they arrested 30-year old Souhiel “Johnny” Khalil, the co-owner of the business. The investigation ended with the arrest of Khalil. He faces criminal charges of receiving stolen property, a violation of both sections 664 and 496 of the California Penal Code and Possession and Sale of Marijuana, which is a violation of sections 11359 and 11360 of the California Health and Safety Code.

In addition to the criminal charges, the store owner faces an ABC penalty of a 25 day suspension and revocation stayed for a period of 180 days to allow transfer of the license to a new owner.

The assistance provided by the Monrovia Police Department was invaluable in making the arrest.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.