



News Release

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OLCC cancels liquor license of downtown Portland's H2O Martini Bar

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission Wednesday cancelled the liquor license of H2O Martini Bar & Restaurant, 204 SW Yamhill St., Portland, after a ruling by the Oregon Court of Appeals. The staff of H2O was advised to immediately cease selling, serving or allowing consumption of alcohol.

On Dec. 16, 2005, the OLCC issued a final order to cancel H2O's liquor license for liquor law violations, but three days later the agency granted a stay of enforcement in connection with the licensee's request for judicial review from the Oregon Court of Appeals. The licensee is Capital Asset Holding, Inc.; Aleksander Lupekha, president.

The licensee was cited for four violations, including the corporate principal making false statements to inspectors to induce or prevent action by the OLCC (ORS 471.425(1)). The bar/restaurant had an on-premises beer-wine-spirits sales license. The violations occurred from September 2004 to February 2005.

Other charges included allowing a minor to be on the licensed premises on multiple occasions, a violation of OAR 845-006-0335(3)(b); covering over a minor posting sign so it was not visible to the public (OAR 845-006-0360); and failing to verify the age of a minor before allowing him to buy alcoholic beverages (OAR 845-006-0335(3)(b)).

The licensee had three previous violations since the facility opened in September 2004.

A hearing was held in June and July 2005 and the administrative law judge later issued a proposed cancellation order, which led to the OLCC's final order.

The case was argued before the Court of Appeals on May 1, 2007, and judgment was issued July 31.