



## Alcohol and Tobacco Control State of Louisiana

### ATC Revokes Businesses' Owing over \$750,000 in Taxes



January 9, 2016

**Baton Rouge, La.** – Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) Commissioner Troy Hebert revoked the state alcohol and tobacco permits held by two New Orleans businesses owing the state more than \$750,000 in sales taxes. The order by Commissioner Hebert follows a Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling reversing previous injunctions against ATC and Commissioner Hebert that tied their hands.

"Let this be a clear message that ATC will not allow some businesses to operate illegally at the expense of all the good businesses that work hard every day and pay their taxes," stated Commissioner Hebert.

The two businesses involved are:

- Aberta, Inc. d/b/a Chicken Box Cafeteria and Market, located at 3101 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70122, which owes approximately \$463,664.45; and
- B Xpress Elysian Fields, LLC d/b/a B Xpress Elysian Fields, located at 3032 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70122, which owes approximately \$288,160.23.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals recently issued its finding that the two rulings issued in 2014 by Orleans Civil District Court Judge Sidney H. Cates IV were improper and that ATC should not have been prohibited from enforcing its revocation in December 2013 due to illegal ownership of the above businesses.

At the time of the original revocation, the businesses were both owned by Omar Hamdan, a convicted felon, and his wife, Fatmah Hamdan. Due to numerous filings and changes, it is not clear who the true owners are today.

**For more information, please contact:**

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