



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor

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Richardson Administration Issues Orders to Frontier and Northwest Airlines for Violating State Liquor Laws

State Regulation and Licensing Department Receives US Airways Permit Application

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department has issued orders to Frontier and Northwest Airlines to stop selling alcohol on flights in New Mexico. Both of these airlines have failed to obtain alcohol server licenses as required under New Mexico law.

This action follows a similar cease and desist order issued to US Airways earlier this week. US Airways had also failed to obtain an alcohol server license as is required under New Mexico law when Dana Papst was a passenger on board a US Airways flight from Phoenix to Albuquerque, was served alcohol, and drove drunk killing five members of a Las Vegas family last November.

“Whether you store liquor in New Mexico or serve it here, no one is above the law,” said Governor Richardson. “Liquor laws ensure that servers are well trained and that intoxicated customers are cut off. I intend to make sure that every bar, restaurant and airline is abiding by these laws to protect New Mexicans.”

RLD is continuing to conduct a thorough review of its records to ensure that other airlines have obtained server licenses. Those who have failed to do so will also be ordered to stop serving alcohol.

The Regulation & Licensing Department issued its order to US Airways to stop serving alcohol following an administrative citation that was issued by the Department of Public Safety for selling alcohol to Mr. Papst while he was intoxicated.

The Regulation & Licensing Department today received an application for a public service liquor license from US Airways. US Airways also certified that they have suspended all liquor service in New Mexico effective January 30, 2007.

Governor Richardson also convinced Giant Industries to terminate its liquor license lease agreement with Redi-Mart, the Bernalillo convenience store that sold beer to Dana Papst. This action will be effective at the end of February when Redi-Mart's current lease expires.

The state Department of Public Safety concluded during its investigation that Redi-Mart sold a six-pack of beer to Dana Papst on the night of Nov. 11, 2006, before he collided with a family on I-25 near Santa Fe – killing himself and five members of the Gonzales and Garcia families.

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