

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DLLC Assisting DPS in Investigation of Fatal Tempe Tavern DUI Collision

PHOENIX, AZ — On September 16, 2026, the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (DLLC) was contacted by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Vehicular Crimes Unit to assist with an investigation into a fatal vehicle collision that occurred earlier that morning on US Highway 60 at Higley Road.

DPS detectives arrested 21-year-old Zachary Robert Penrod of Queen Creek, Arizona, at the scene who showed signs of impairment. Investigators suspected Penrod had been drinking at Tempe Tavern, located at 1810 E. Apache Blvd. in Tempe, immediately prior to the crash.

DLLC investigators assisted DPS detectives in executing a search warrant at the establishment. During the search, DLLC determined that Penrod was physically present at Tempe Tavern and consumed alcoholic beverages on the premises prior to the incident.

The DLLC's administrative investigation remains active and ongoing. Further details will be released upon the conclusion of the case.