



ABC &-NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina policy and political news relevant to the North Carolina's ABC Boards

NCAACB Mourns Death of Officer



The NC Association of ABC Boards mourns the loss of a Knightdale police officer who was killed Sunday.

23-year-old Ryan Hayworth died after a driver in another car crashed into his patrol car during a traffic stop on Interstate 540. Hayworth was a three-month veteran of the force and a former member of the United States Army. Another officer was injured in the crash.

According to media reports, alcohol was a factor in the tragic accident.

"The North Carolina Association of ABC Boards, as well as the entire North Carolina ABC system, feels a kinship with law enforcement," said NCAACB President Nancy Gooch. "We are partners in protecting the public, to implement and enforce laws, and we depend on each other to do just that."

Gooch said learning that alcohol is alleged to be a factor in the accident makes the tragedy hurt even more. "Our hearts are broken for Officer Hayworth and his family, and we pray for peace, understanding, and justice."

International Glass Shortage Affecting Liquor

NCAACB is publishing this NBC affiliate story about the international glass shortage in hopes that it gives policymakers, consumers, and association members context when discussing the NC ABC distribution system.

Your favorite stiff drink may be the latest casualty of COVID-19 shortages, but business owners are saying it isn't because there's a lack of alcohol.

Some bars, breweries, and distilleries around the country are dealing with shortages of glass bottles and other accessories in order to properly store and ship their alcohol.

JoAnn Elardo, the founder of the Wicked Dolphin Distillery in Cape Coral, said she gets her glass rum bottles from manufacturers in Arkansas and Mexico but in January they started telling her there may be a problem on the horizon.

"Everywhere we were calling our distributors and manufacturers, the demand was short," said Elardo. "We kind of saw that there was a problem and we started ordering very heavy."

Elardo said business has been booming at the Wicked Dolphin with sales increasing over 150 percent. The distillery runs their rum around the state, so Elardo ordered an extra 80,000 bottles to keep up with demand.

"We rented extra storage facilities, and we are stocking up," said Elardo.

Elardo said she's been told labor shortages are playing a huge part in the lack of glass.

"If they're able to get it, they're having a problem shipping it to us," Elardo says.

It's not just the labor shortage, but also manufacturing backlogs that have distilleries competing for the same resources. If rum is not your drink of choice, Elardo said the bottle shortage could have wide-ranging impacts on your favorite brands.

"The consumer is going to start to see things being sold out," said Elardo. "Not only with our brand but with other brands. They're not going to be able to get their product."

She said the distillery has enough bottles to last them through the holidays but they hope the shortage ends sooner rather than later.

"We're hoping for an end to this," Elardo said. "We're waiting for our distributors and manufacturers to give us a heads up."