



“Excellence in Police Service”

Chief Todd Thomas
Appleton Police Department

222 South Walnut Street • Appleton, WI 54911-5899
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To: Chairperson Katie Van Zeeland, Safety and Licensing Committee
Alderperson Mike Smith

From: Chief Todd Thomas

Date: January 24, 2022

Subject: **Incidents involving intoxicated bartenders - 2021**

Council Members,

Lt. Adam Nagel did research into the number of incidents where we needed to act on a bartender who was intoxicated. I attached the information he was able to locate, we know there were other incidents that did not rise to the level of a report or citation.

05/17/21

Appleton Officers responded to a disturbance at a bar on N. Richmond St. The bartender and patron were both involved in a physical fight. Both the bartender and patron were cited for Disorderly Conduct. The bartender submitted to a PBT which read 0.197. The officer indicated that alcohol was a contributing factor in the fight.

05/23/21

Appleton Officer conducts a traffic stop on a downtown bartender around bar close. Bartender smelled like alcohol. He claimed it was due to bartending and he had not been drinking. Bartender was arrested for OWI. The blood test came back at 0.202.

05/28/21

Appleton Officers responded to an anonymous complaint of a “very” intoxicated bartender at N. Richmond St bar. They arrived and observed the bartender was extremely intoxicated. They described her as being in no condition to be serving alcohol. She submitted to a PBT which read 0.245.

07/25/21

Appleton Officers responded to a complaint of loud music coming from W College Ave bar. Officers arrived at the bar and observed loud noise. Officers had contact with someone identifying themselves as the owner of the bar. This person had slurred speech and appeared to be highly intoxicated. When asked to vacate the bar at bar close, they argued with officers and were eventually cited for failing to vacate the bar. A PBT sample was not obtained.



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11/04/21

Appleton Officers received a complaint for a welfare check at a College Ave. bar. An anonymous person called dispatch and had a concern about an intoxicated bartender. Officers contacted the bartender. She was described as having slurred speech, redness in her eyes and was stumbling as she walked. The bartender in this case did not submit to a PBT and closed the bar.

12/30/21

At approximately 0255hrs officers noticed that an E Wisconsin Ave bar still had its lights and the OPEN sign on. When they arrived, they found multiple intoxicated people inside the bar. This included a person walking out of the business with two 24 packs of beer. The bar manager and an underage bartender were both intoxicated and no position to safely serve alcohol. Multiple citations issued. Both refused PBTs.

Lt. Nagel also spoke with the Neenah City Attorney about their ordinance. The Neenah ordinance was passed in 2013, before the current attorney was in their position. They looked through the notes for the council meeting at the time and were not able to find a specific reason for enacting the ordinance. They were clear that they don't randomly walk into establishments and PBT bartenders, and he is not aware of any citations being given, but they have used it a few times for educational purposes.

If the ordinance is passed by the council, we would anticipate the same approach. We would investigate only on a complaint or if we are in the establishment for another reason and have probable cause to believe that a bartender is in violation of the ordinance.

Chief Todd Thomas