

CITY OF MADISON
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: February 24, 2006

TO: Captain Jay Lengfeld
FROM: Captain Jilene Klubertanz
SUBJECT: **Good Times Bar**

On February 20, 2006, I met with the owners of Good Times Bar to discuss my concerns about police calls for service at the bar. Present at this meeting were: Lt. Carl Strasburg, Alder Lauren Cnare, Larry and Tracy Schmock (owners of Good Times), Matthew Schmock (bar manager) and Marvin Thornton (employee/bouncer).

I gave the Schmocks a list of relevant police calls to the bar. Based on these police reports I expressed the following concerns.

- Underage persons have been arrested for drunk driving who indicated they drank at Good Times.
- Patrons causing disturbances in the bar are kicked out and either continue problems in the parking lot or return at a later date to again cause disturbances without consequences.
- Victims and witnesses contacted at the bar are often extremely intoxicated, to the point of stumbling. These seem to be a combination of over serving at the bar and allowing intoxicated persons to enter the bar and continue drinking.
- Numerous fights, some resulting in serious injury, are occurring at bar time on the weekends. Employees address these fights by telling the combatants that the police have been called and advising them to leave the area. These fights often involve person allowed to loiter in the lot after bar closing.
- Police have received reports of patrons carrying guns in the bar. Police found a loaded handgun in a patron's pocket after a fight in the parking lot.

In 2004 and 2005, I had discussions with Larry Schmock in regard to many of these same concerns. During those discussions I encouraged Mr. Schmock to set a tone that disruptive behavior would not be tolerated by using citations and unruly patron bans. I have not seen any change in management practices in response to those discussions. As a result, the bar has seen an increase in disruptive and dangerous behavior on the part of its patrons.

At this time, Larry and Tracy Schmock have agreed to implement the following practices. Some of these changes will be in place for an interim period until they have established control of their clientele and reduced the number of disturbances and fights occurring in the bar and parking lot.

- On Friday and Saturday nights, there will be 3 employees dedicated to checking identification and monitoring patron behavior.
- All patrons, including past regulars, will have identification checked prior to entering the bar.
- On Friday and Saturday nights, patrons will be checked for weapons using hand held metal detectors.

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- Persons showing any signs of intoxication will not be allowed to enter the bar. (Previously only persons having obvious difficulty walking were denied entry.)
- Employees will call police for all disturbances in the bar, instead of kicking the combatants out of the bar. Employees will cooperate with the issuance of citations and unruly patron bans.
- Employees will call police when they see any suspected drug distribution or use in the bar or parking lot.
- Employees will contact patrons in the lot at bar time and instruct them to immediately leave the lot. Police will be called when patrons do not comply.

The steps outlined above will no doubt increase police calls for service and impact our police resources in the short term. It is an investment I am willing to make in the interest of community safety and reduced police calls in the future. It should be emphasized, however, that this goal will only be accomplished if the Good Times Bar owners and manager commit to the above changes in their management practices.

cc. Larry Schmock
Alder Lauren Cnare
Jenifer Zilavy, City Atty Office