



# WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*David Brower, Chief of Police*

**To:** Licensing Board

**From:** Assistant Chief Ben Olsen

**Date:** Thursday, April 3, 2025

**Subject:** Tequila Nights Update

Dear Members of the Licensing Board,

I am writing to bring to your attention the ongoing issues at Tequila Nights, located at 617 S. 1st St., and the enforcement actions taken in response to these concerns. The following outlines the incidents and associated points assessments that have occurred over the past several months:

1. **9/28/24 - Watertown Police Department Incident #2024-13546**  
A citation was issued for underage alcohol sales. The defendant was found guilty, and the fine has been paid in full. **80 points** were assessed.  
*No meeting or agreement referenced for this incident.*
2. **11/4/24 - Watertown Police Department Incident #2024-15181**  
A citation was issued for violating closing hours. The defendant was found guilty by default, and the fine has been paid in full. **45 points** were assessed.  
*No meeting or agreement referenced for this incident.*
3. **11/29/24 - Watertown Police Department Incident #2024-16272**  
A citation was issued for noise. The defendant was found guilty, and the citation has been paid in full. **50 points** were assessed.  
*No meeting or agreement referenced for this incident.*
4. **12/27/24 - Watertown Police Department Incident #2024-17320**  
A citation was issued for noise. The defendant was found guilty, and the citation has been paid in full. **50 points** were assessed.  
*No meeting or agreement referenced for this incident.*
5. **1/29/25 - Watertown Police Department Incident #2025-1286**  
A citation was issued for noise. The defendant was found guilty by default, and the citation remains unpaid. **50 points** were assessed.  
*A meeting was held with Mike Martin regarding this violation.*
6. **2/22/25 - Watertown Police Department Incident #2025-2219**  
A citation was issued for underage alcohol sales. The citation remains open, and a pretrial conference is scheduled for 5/1/25. The potential points for this violation are **80**.  
*A meeting with Mike Martin was held on February 25, 2025, and additional agreements were made.*

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## **Voluntary Agreement and Actions Taken:**

In response to these ongoing issues, Mike Martin, the license holder for Tequila Nights, entered into an agreement with the Watertown Police Department on January 6, 2025, to address these concerns. A copy of that agreement is attached for your reference.

Following additional calls for service, the Watertown Police Department met with Mike Martin again on February 25, 2025. As a result of these discussions, Mr. Martin voluntarily agreed to close the establishment for two consecutive days, a closure that was completed without incident. A copy of this agreement is also attached for your review.

## **Bartender Awareness Course:**

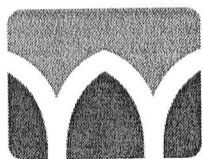
Furthermore, three employees from Tequila Nights successfully completed the Bartender Awareness Course held by the Watertown Police Department on March 25, 2025. This allowed the establishment to regain **50 points**, bringing their current total to **225 points**, which includes the 50 points regained through the course.

## **Current Status:**

The violations listed, including underage alcohol sales, noise disturbances, and violations of closing hours, resulted in significant point assessments, with the establishment accumulating a total of 225 points, far exceeding the 150-point threshold allowed under the ordinance. The points for the most recent violation, the underage alcohol sales citation on 2/22/25, are still pending and, if found guilty, would add an additional 80 points to the total. Therefore, the closure, while a step taken in response to enforcement action, does not erase the ongoing pattern of violations, nor does it eliminate the concern regarding the excessive points accrued. This continuing trend of violations, regardless of the voluntary closure, warrants the Licensing Board's attention and consideration of further action if deemed necessary. At the time of the voluntary closure, the citations were not yet adjudicated in order to count as demerit points for the Board to consider. The Board cannot take action on points until convictions have occurred, and this causes a delay due to normal court procedures.

Respectfully,

Ben Olsen  
Assistant Chief



# WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*David Brower, Chief of Police*

**To:** Licensing Board

**From:** Assistant Chief Ben Olsen

**Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025

**Subject:** Tequila Nights Update

Dear Members of the Licensing Board,

I am writing to follow up on the ongoing review of Tequila Nights, located at 617 S. 1st St. in the City of Watertown, regarding the establishment's continuing pattern of violations and calls for service. In light of the ongoing issues, I would like to provide you with additional information that may assist in your review of this establishment's license status.

As outlined in my previous communication, Tequila Nights has accumulated a total of 225 points due to several violations, including underage alcohol sales, noise disturbances, and violations of closing hours. This total already exceeds the 150-point threshold specified under the ordinance. The most recent citation, for underage alcohol sales on 2/22/25, remains pending, and if found guilty, it would add an additional 80 points, further exacerbating the ongoing issue.

In addition to the incidents referenced in my earlier memo, I would like to provide you with a complete summary of additional calls for service received by the Watertown Police Department since 8/29/24:

1. **8/18/24 at 4:26 am** – Officers responded to a report of a black Cadillac with its lights on, parked in the bar parking lot, playing loud music. A verbal warning for noise was issued.
2. **8/29/24 at 11:25 pm** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was identified. No issues were reported.
3. **9/1/24 at 1:14 am** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was identified. The officer noted that security personnel were present, and all appeared in order.
4. **9/8/24 at 1:28 am** – An anonymous caller reported loud music coming from the bar. The officer noted that the music was not loud, and the staff were advised to turn it down.
5. **9/8/24 at 1:41 am** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was identified. No issues were reported.
6. **9/14/24 at 6:46 pm** – An officer conducted a traffic stop at the location, and the driver was given a verbal warning for non-registration.
7. **9/15/24 at 1:28 am** – Officers responded to a car alarm going off. An intoxicated male had pulled on a door handle, causing the alarm. No action was taken after arrangements were made.

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8. **9/22/24 at 5:32 pm** – An anonymous caller reported a black car playing loud music at the location. The caller later reported that the music had stopped.
9. **9/22/24 at 8:33 pm** – A report of a group arguing outside the bar, with no physical altercation. Officers issued a stay-out letter to one individual, and no further enforcement action was taken.
10. **9/28/24 at 7:53 pm** – A compliance check was conducted. Please note that the accurate incident number for this event is 2024-13456 (not 2024-13546, as previously stated).
11. **10/5/24 at 11:37 pm** – A bar check was conducted, and everything appeared in order. There were parking issues that were resolved, and contact was made with the bouncer.
12. **10/6/24 at 2:03 am** – Officers contacted a subject who ducked out of view after seeing police. The male was using the restroom, and he was given a verbal warning for being out of public sight.
13. **10/27/24 at 1:43 am** – A bar check was conducted, and a keyholder list was updated with dispatch. The bartender was identified.
14. **11/3/24 at 1:12 am** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was identified. No issues were reported.
15. **11/3/24 at 1:42 am** – Officers investigated a possible fight outside the bar. The argument was verbal, and the individuals involved were moved along. The bartender did not request a stay-out letter.
16. **11/4/24 at 2:19 am** – Refer to the original memo for this incident (2024-15181).
17. **11/29/24 at 9:17 pm** – Refer to the original memo for this incident (2024-16272).
18. **12/7/24 at 1:57 am** – A resident reported excessive noise from the establishment. Officers notified staff, and the bar was closing at the time of the complaint.
19. **12/14/24 at 12:52 am** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was identified. No issues were reported.
20. **12/14/24 at 2:39 am** – Officers noted subjects inside the bar possibly past closing hours, but it was determined they were workers, not customers. No action was taken.
21. **12/21/24 at 11:01 pm** – A neighbor reported excessive noise. Officers issued a written warning and advised the owner to follow up with the DJ and staff.
22. **12/27/24 at 11:56 pm** – Refer to the original memo for this incident (2024-17320).
23. **12/28/24 at 1:14 am** – A caller reported that the music had been turned down briefly but was now loud again. Officers investigated and determined no action was necessary.
24. **12/31/24 at 11:32 pm** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was identified. Everything appeared in order.
25. **1/4/25 at 12:36 am** – Officers conducted a traffic stop and issued a citation for operating after suspension.
26. **1/29/25 at 11:48 pm** – Refer to the original memo for this incident (2025-1286).
27. **1/30/25 at 10:07 pm** – A 911 call was received for disorderly conduct. A stay-out letter was requested for a male who caused a disturbance by shoving items off the bar.
28. **2/2/25 at 12:17 am** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was advised about window coverings in violation of the ordinance. The bartender agreed to notify the owner.
29. **2/6/25 at 1:55 am** – A follow-up bar check regarding the window coverings was conducted.

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30. **2/9/25 at 12:09 am** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was identified. No issues were reported.
31. **2/22/25 at 8:32 am** – Refer to the original memo for this incident (2025-2219).
32. **3/6/25 at 8:10 pm** – A bar check was conducted, and the bartender was identified. No issues were reported.
33. **4/5/25 at 12:39 pm** – A delayed report of a fight at the location was received. The investigation is ongoing, and limited information is available at this time.

In response to the ongoing noise complaints, the owner of Tequila Nights will contend that as the noise concerns developed over time, he took proactive steps to address the issue. Specifically the owner met with one of our officers on or around 12/28/24 to discuss the noise concerns. During this meeting, the owner and officer arrived at an agreed-upon volume level of 40, which was intended to ensure that the sound from the bar would not disturb neighboring areas.

However, it was also explained to the owner during our 1/6/25 meeting that achieving an absolute volume level is challenging, as different songs and sound inputs can cause fluctuations in the sound output. As such, it remains the responsibility of the staff working at the establishment to consistently monitor the volume and ensure it does not exceed a level that can be heard outside and cause a disturbance to others. This is an ongoing challenge that requires diligence and active management. This later led to a citation being issued for noise on 1/29/25. Upon review of that case, the officers body camera can clearly pick up the noise from the bar across the street southeast of the location.

The accumulation of calls for service, alongside the ongoing pattern of violations and enforcement actions, raises significant concerns regarding the establishment's operation. While some corrective measures have been taken, such as voluntary closures and staff training, the persistent nature of these issues requires continued attention.

It should also be noted that during this timeframe (8/18/24 – date of this memo) that there have been 191 bar checks conducted by officers of the Watertown Police Department. This number includes those done at Tequila Nights. In addition, on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> there were 38 compliance checks of establishments throughout the city. On February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> there were 50 compliance checks of establishments throughout the city.

Sincerely,

Ben Olsen  
Assistant Chief