



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