

MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
LICENSE INVESTIGATION UNIT

CRIMINAL RECORD/ORDINANCE VIOLATION/INCIDENTS
SYNOPSIS

DATE: 11/26/07

LICENSE TYPE: BTAVN

NEW: X

RENEWAL:

No. 13544

Application Date: 04/18/07

Expiration Date:

License Location: 6263 N Teutonia Avenue

Aldermanic District:01

Business Name: Club Escape

Licensee/Applicant: Mc Neal, Thomas J

(Last Name, First Name, MI)

Date of Birth: 03/07/57

Male:

Female:

Home Address: 3955 N 41st Street

City: Milwaukee

State: Wi

Zip Code: 53216

Home Phone: (414) 873-9774

This report is written by Police Officer Kristyn Kukowski, assigned to the License Investigation Unit, Days.

The Milwaukee Police Department's investigation regarding this application revealed the following:

1. On 10/14/2004 at 1:15 AM officer investigated a Battery complaint which occurred earlier at the licensed premises at 6263 N Teutonia Av, Area 414. The victim stated she had been punched in the mouth in the parking lot of the tavern. The victim also related that security personnel from the tavern observed the altercation but did not do anything. One suspect was identified. Incident Report Filed.
2. On 10/31/2004 officers responded to the licensed premises at 6265 N Teutonia Av, Area 414, regarding a Man with a Gun complaint. Officers interviewed a security guard who related that a patron was involved in an altercation in the parking lot. The patron was cited for Disorderly Conduct. The gun complaint was found to be baseless. Incident Report Filed.
3. On 11/04/2004 at 12:37 AM officer responded to the licensed premises at 6265 N Teutonia Av, Area 414, regarding a Battery. Officers interview a security guard who related that a female patron had been hit in the head with a beer bottle, however, officer were unable to locate a victim. Incident Report Filed.

4. On 11/06/2004 officers responded to the licensed premises at 6265 N Teutonia Av, Area 414, regarding a Fight. Investigation revealed that security guards were removing a patron from the tavern, when several others assaulted the security guards. One patron complained that he had be "pepper sprayed" by security, however, security denied carrying pepper spray. Four patrons were cited for Battery. Incident Report Filed.

5. On 11/14/2004 at 2:32 AM officers responded to the licensed premises at 6265 N Teutonia Av, Area 414, regarding a Shooting. Investigation revealed that an unknown suspect shot a patron of the tavern in the upper left side of his body. Officers related that due to the large number of vehicles leaving the tavern, the Med unit had a difficult time getting to the scene to treat the victim. A total of 10 squads were required to secure the scene. (Incident #04-319-3035) Incident Report Filed.

6. On 11/28/2004 at 12:14 AM officers responded to the licensed premises at 6265 N Teutonia Av, Area 414, regarding Shots Fired. Investigation revealed that security had broken up an altercation between two patrons. One of them threaten to return with a gun. The suspect left, but returned and ran into the club, yelling he had a gun. Security subdued the suspect and held him for police. He was found to be armed with a piece of marble slab. The suspect was charged with Disorderly Conduct While Armed. (State). Incident Report Filed.

7. On 01/22/2005 officer investigated a Battery complain which took place at the licensed premises at 6265 N Teutonia Av, Area 414. Investigation revealed the victim reported being hit in the head with a flash-light and a fist by security. He was treated at St Michael Hospital for a laceration above his eye which required 5-stitches. Incident Report Filed.

8. On 02/19/2005 at 12:45 AM responded to the licensed premises at 6265 N Teutonia Av, Area 414, regarding trouble with patrons. Investigation revealed that a female had been doing "a strip dance" which caused male patrons to start a disturbance. The female was being removed by security when she started kicking and hitting them. The suspect's sister joined in the disturbance. Both were arrested for Disorderly Conduct. Incident Report Filed.

9. On 02/19/2005 at 1:50 AM officers responded to the licensed premises at 6265 N Teutonia Av, Area 414, regarding a fight. Investigation revealed that a patron of the tavern was attacked by several patrons. The victim was removed by security. Security related that the subject was fighting in the tavern with several others. Incident Report Filed.

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10. On 06-26-05 at 4:28am, Officers conducted a licensed premise check at 6263 N. Teutonia Ave, Area 414. Milwaukee Police received an anonymous tip of operating after hours and nude dancers. Investigation revealed fifty to sixty people in the main bar area drinking from individual plastic cups containing some type of beverage. There was also loud music inside the tavern as it would be during normal business hours. Officers observed four to six females on stage dancing topless with only "thong" underwear covering their genital area. Upon seeing the officers, many patrons and dancers exited through several side doors. Officers were able to detain two females and a male from the bar as well as one of the topless dancers. They were identified as Octavia J. Muhammad B/F 11-01-85, Khadijah M. Mimis B/F 10-17-89 and Marcus J. Watts B/M 04-06-72. The dancer was identified as Nina Blathers B/F 02-20-79. Ms. Muhammad received a citation for Patrons After Hours and Ms. Blathers received a citation for Certain Performance Prohibited. Officers also spoke to the manager of the bar, Thomas McNeal. McNeal stated he intentionally allowed patrons in to film a music video and was aware that patrons were not allowed to be in the tavern after 2:30am. McNeal stated he was unaware that the dancers were performing partially nude in an exotic fashion inside the club. McNeal also stated that no employee of the club checked the ages of any of the guests that had entered the club after hours. Thomas McNeal received citations for several violations. Officers did not observe any video recording devices inside the tavern. Officers found the tavern licenses and numbers were properly displayed behind both bar areas, along with an occupancy permit. McNeal did not have a permit for live entertainment.

As to Octavia Muhammad:

Charge: Patron After Hours
Finding: Guilty
Sentence: Bench warranted Issued
Date: 08-17-05
Case: 05075839

As to Nina Blathers:

Charge: Certain Performance Prohibited
Finding: Guilty
Sentence: Fined \$832.00
Date: 08-17-05
Case: 05075823

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As to Thomas McNeal:

Charge: A) Patrons After Hours
B) Presence of Underage
C) Certain Performances Prohibited
D) Tavern Amusement License Required
E) Hours for Music- Tavern

Finding: A) Guilty
B) Guilty
C) Dismissed
D) Dismissed
E) Dismissed

Sentence: A) Fined \$343.00
B) Fined \$343.00

Date: 10-05-05

Case: A) 05078196
B) 05078197
C) 05078198
D) 05078199
E) 05078200

11. On 07-11-05, Milwaukee Police were sent to monitor traffic and crowd control at Area 414. A police supervisor advised Thomas McNeal to not allow anymore customers in the bar due to capacity limits, McNeal agreed. Investigation later revealed that security was allowing more patrons into the bar at the instruction of the owner. (McNeal) Approximately 100 people exited the bar prior to officers count. Officers began counting patrons as they left and estimated about 320 exiting the club. Officers also confiscated from security 5 altered or fake id's.

12. On 04-10-06 at 1:48am, Milwaukee Police were sent to a fight at 6200 N. Teutonia. Officers observed two females fighting and identified them as Tamika D. White B/F 01-20-84 and Shalessa N. Kemp B/F 03-27-84. Investigation revealed that the fight began inside the Club Escape and continued outside of the bar. Both females received citations for disorderly conduct and a call was placed by the bar owner (McNeal) requesting police for a fight in the parking lot. McNeal stated he did not witness this fight.

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13. On 04-30-06 at 1:00am, Milwaukee Police was flagged down by security at Club Escape for the premise being well over capacity. An officer stood at the front entrance and counted patrons as they exited as well as another officer at the rear entrance counting patrons as they left. 675 patrons exited from the front door and 42 exited through the rear exit, for a total of 743 patrons. The posted capacity sign lists 500. A citation was issued for Over Capacity.

Charge: Over Capacity
Finding: **Guilty**
Sentence: **Fined \$1,0000**
Date: **08/09/06**
Case: **06050747**

Item # 13 reported previously, disposition now added on 04/19/07.

14. On 07/03/06 at 12:55 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to 6263 N Teutonia Avenue for a Subject With Gun complaint. Investigation revealed that a fight took place inside the tavern with security breaking up the fight and escorting some of the patrons out of the tavern. The gun complaint was found to be baseless.
15. On 09/25/06 at 1:53 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to 6263 N Teutonia Avenue for a Fight complaint. Investigation revealed security refused entry to two patrons due to the club closing. The patrons became argumentative and tried to enter the tavern. Security blocked entry into the club and the patrons began to fight with security. Security decentralized these patrons, using pepper spray on one of the subjects. These subjects were detained until police arrived and were issued Disorderly Conduct citations. Officers were unable to reach the licensee, Thomas Mc Neal, regarding this incident.
16. On 09/30/06 at 1:43 am, Milwaukee Police were flagged down by security for a fight at 6263 N Teutonia. Investigation revealed two patrons were arguing inside the tavern with one being arrested for Disorderly Conduct/ Domestic Violence Related.
17. On 09/30/06 at 2:33 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to 6263 N Teutonia Avenue for a Fight complaint. Investigation revealed two patrons who had argued earlier inside the club, were arguing now in the parking lot of the tavern. One patron then lifted up his shirt showing he had a gun in his waistband, when security observed and began to approach this subject. The subject ran and was detained after a brief chase with security who also recovered the gun. Police arrived and arrested this subject for Disorderly Conduct While Armed and Carrying Concealed Weapon.

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18. On 10/30/06 at 1:59 am, Milwaukee Police observed a large crowd exiting Club Escape and requested several other cars to assist in crowd and traffic control. While on scene, club security flagged down officers for several subjects fighting in the parking lot of the club. Security officers used Oleoresin capsicum spray to break up the fight. Officers located a victim who stated several unknown subjects in the parking lot jumped him on. This subject received a citation for Disorderly Conduct. Other officers on the scene issued several other citations and this incident took 20 squads to help with crowd and traffic control.

19. On 11/04/06 at 2:29 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to 6263 N Teutonia for Property Damage Only Accident. Investigation revealed a patron who was asked to leave the tavern, was in his auto in the parking lot blocking traffic and not allowing people to exit the lot. Security asked this subject several times to leave the lot and he refused. Security attempted to have this subject exit his auto when he sped off, almost striking other pedestrians and security that were in the parking lot. A security guard then sprayed his Oleoresin Capsicum in the subjects' auto and security was able to detain the subject until police arrived. No accident ever occurred and the subject was cited for Disorderly Conduct.

20. On 12/22/06 at 10:20 am, Milwaukee Police were monitoring the crowd at 6263 N Teutonia when officers observed autos stopping in traffic with some of the occupants sitting on the door of the vehicles, hanging out the window. Many autos had very loud music with some autos driving recklessly. Officers were then flagged down by security who stated they were detaining some subjects who were fighting with security inside the tavern. Additional units had to be called to the scene, due to an excess of some 200 hundred patrons. Two citations were issued for Disorderly Conduct to the patrons regarding the fight. Officers did speak with the licensee, Thomas McNeal, who was on scene and who was aware of the fight.

21. On 01/01/07 at 4:48 am, Milwaukee Police were flagged down for a Trouble With Subject by female who had just left the Club Escape Bar. Officers spoke to security at Club Escape and the investigation revealed a fight broke out inside tavern between two female patrons. Security was escorting these women out of the club when they both became combative. Security placed handcuffs on both women until they were out of the tavern. Once outside, the handcuffs were removed and one of the females then bit a security guard and "went crazy". The security guard used his OC, which calmed the woman down and she was released by security shortly afterwards. Officers issued two citations for Assault and Battery and Disorderly Conduct to the woman who bit the security guard. When officers asked security why police weren't initially called regarding the fight, security related because the owner didn't want a tavern report filed.

22. On 02/09/07 at 2:14 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to 6263 N Teutonia for a Subject With Gun complaint. Investigation revealed security was detaining a subject who was found to be in possession of a gun. Officers searched this subject and found he was also wearing a bullet resistant vest under his shirt. Subject was arrested and charged with Felon in Possession of Firearm. Officers investigation also revealed three patrons who were inside the tavern and had been drinking were underage and were cited for Presence of Underage. Another patron was arrested for outstanding warrants. The licensee was issued a citation for Presence of Minor Prohibited.

Charge: Presence of Minor Prohibited
Finding: **Dismissed on city's motion**
Case: 07029776
Date: 07/15/07

23. On 03/24/07 at 10:00 pm, Milwaukee Police were monitoring activities at Club Escape. Officers observed heavy traffic that was directly related to Club Escape. Officers wrote a total of 62 parking citations due to complaints from the business owners at the Silver Mill Shopping Center. Officers handle auto and pedestrian traffic until 3:45 am, due to the many patrons that had left the bar and were now cruising the area.

24. On 03/26/07 at 12:54 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a Sick and Injured complaint at 6263 N Teutonia. Investigation revealed a patron had too much to drink and was found outside of the tavern, in the parking lot, throwing up. Medical attention was called and the patron was conveyed to Mt. Siani for treatment.

25. On 06/07/07 at 7:00 pm, Milwaukee Police met with Thomas Mc Neal regarding allegations of nude dancing that was occurring at his club. Mc Neal stated that during March, he allowed Amy Kolf, who is employed by I-Pole, to provide pole-dancing lessons on Wednesday nights and instructed all women who wanted to try using the pole that nudity and stripping was not allowed. Milwaukee Police then spoke to Kolf by phone and she stated she worked at Club Escape for a few weeks and strictly enforced the no stripping rule. McNeal stated that he does not anticipate dancing lessons in the future as the venture was not profitable and didn't bring more customers to his establishment. Mc Neal reiterated that he does not allow nudity in his club and ejects men or women who dress too provocatively or remove clothing.

26. On 06/18/07 at 12:30 am, a female patron, who was inside Club Escape at 6263 N Teutonia, got into a verbal argument with her ex-boyfriend and his roommate. The female patron pushed the roommate to down to ground and an argument ensued. Security for Club Escape kicked out the ex-boyfriend and his roommate out of the club. At 2:00 am this female patron left the club with a friend and began to walk her auto when she was approached by her ex-boyfriend who stated he was going to "heat them up". The ex-boyfriend struck the victim in the face several times. The victim then called her brother who went to confront the ex-boyfriend at his residence and started shooting at the exboyfriend when he opened the door. Police made arrests regarding this incident and the gun was recovered. Officers were unable to contact Thomas Mc Neal at his home phone. A voice mail message was left at the Club Escape business line.

27. On 06/18/07 at 1:15 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Club Escape for a fight complaint. Officers observed a male lying between two parked vehicles in the parking lot. Medical personnel were called and this subject was conveyed to an area hospital where he received multiple staples to the rear of his head. A witness told police that a security guard was dragging this subject from the club and left him in the parking lot. Officers were unable to locate the bar manager due to the lack of police squads at the scene and who were dealing with the fight and crowd control. Officers attempted to call the licensee at home but the phone line was not working. Officers left a voice mail at 7:55 am on the business line.

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28. On 06/25/07 at 1:40 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to 6263 N Teutonia for a shooting. Investigation revealed that two unknown suspects while in an auto, fired shots from an automatic rifle as people were exiting from Club Escape. Two patrons and one security officer suffered gunshot wounds to their arms with the armed uniform security officer returning fire at the suspects. The two suspects then fled on foot. Officers observed blood on the sidewalk, driveway and near one of the victims autos. A check of the area also found bullets that had penetrated

nearby office buildings and numerous casings throughout the area of where Club Escape is located. Officers also investigated a complaint of a Battery that occurred inside of the Club Escape before the shooting occurred. Officers spoke to a female patron who stated an unknown male picked up a champagne bottle and struck her in the back of head breaking the bottle. The male patron then proceeded to cut her forehead with the broken bottle. Officers were able to locate this suspect and he was arrested and charged with Substantial Battery. Another subject, who was with the suspect, received a citation for Resisting/Obstructing Police. It should be noted that as police arrived on scene, it was very difficult to enter the parking lot because there is only one entrance/exit drive and a large number of vehicles were attempting to leave at the same time emergency vehicles were trying to respond. Officers were also attempting to preserve multiple crime/evidence scenes with numerous vehicles driving at a high rate of speed throughout the different evidence sites.

29. On 08/19/07 at 2:20 am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to 6263 N Teutonia for Battery complaint. Investigation revealed that a security guard was punched twice in the left eye by a patron who claimed that the security guard was "sticking his fingers in my face." This incident occurred in the entrance/exit way to Club Escape. A citation was issued to the suspect for Assault and Battery.

30. On 10/22/07 at 11:30 pm, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to 6263 N Teutonia to monitor traffic and closing of the club. As officers arrived, they observed hundreds of vehicles parked in no parking zones with a City of Milwaukee parking checker on scene issuing tickets. Six cars were towed for various violations. Officers found a loaded stolen firearm that was recovered from the ground in the parking lot of the club. Approximately at 2:00 am, the club closed with numerous patrons exiting the club and more than six separate fights breaking out. More squads were requested to help handle the volatile situation. Seven subjects were arrested and issued citations for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting/Obstructing An Officer. Once the club was cleared, police received several more Battery complaints that were phoned in from St Joesph's Hospital originating from what happened outside Club Escape. Charges resulting from those calls are Substantial Battery and Possession of Controlled Substance. Officers attempted to speak with the licensee regarding the situation, but he declined to speak with police.