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Green Door exonerated of serving intoxicated patron

03/15/2014 . By Dick Myers

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The Green Door Tavern has been exonerated of the charges placed by the county's alcohol enforcement officer that they served alcohol to an intoxicated person. The unanimous vote by the St. Mary's County Alcohol Beverage Board (liquor board) came Thursday after a several hour hearing.

Corporal James Stone alleged the violation occurred in the early morning hours of Thanksgiving Day, 2013, which according to several persons who testified is the popular Park Hall bar's busiest night of the year.

Cpl. Stone testified that at shortly after 1 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day he arrived at the Green Door to do a compliance check. He found the bar not to be over its rated capacity and he said he didn't observe any problems other than litter on the floor which he asked to be corrected. He said he then got back to his cruiser and from there observed a young man visibly intoxicated just outside the door to the bar.

Stone said he witnessed a verbal confrontation involving the man and another and also a girl sitting on the parking lot in a fetal position. Stone said he got out of the car and asked the intoxicated man for his ID, which he had a difficult time producing. He administered Personal Breath Test (PBT) and the man blew a .22, which is almost three times the reading for someone to be charged with drunk driving.

Eventually Stone said the man pushed another police officer and had to be subdued. He had to be transported to the hospital and was later charged. "He really had no comprehension of what was going on due to his intoxicated level." Stone said he was concerned for the young man's safety and wellbeing.

The whole incident was captured on the police cruiser's dash cam and the video was shown to the liquor board during the hearing.

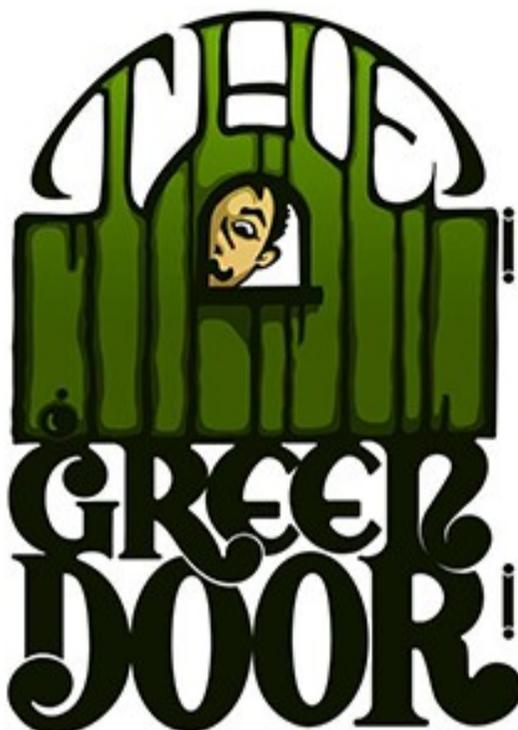
Stone said he had observed the man inside the bar during his compliance check with a drink at his table, so he charged the establishment's licensee Brian Tarleton with "Sale of alcoholic beverages to an intoxicated person." State law prohibits a server from selling to anyone visibly intoxicated.

At that point Tarleton's attorney Kevin McDevitt asked that the case be dismissed because there was no evidence the intoxicated man was actually served by any of the establishment's bar tenders. Board Chairman Moses

filed.

McDevitt put on a number of witnesses who were at the bar that night, including bartenders, the bouncer and the bar manager. All testified that they had not seen any server give a drink to the man and one bartender testified he refused him service because he didn't ha

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