

Janice Johnson-Martin, City Clerk
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI. 53403

RE: SPECIAL LICENSED PREMISE REPORT

Dear Ms. Johnson-Martin,

The following report reflects an incident at The Cruz Inn regarding Licensed Premises which have been submitted to Investigator Jody Spiegelhoff.

The Cruz Inn, 1473 State Street

On 07-03-06 at 0111 hours, officers and rescue personnel responded to The Cruz Inn to assist a victim of a cutting, which occurred inside the bar. The Cruz Inn refused to call police for the victim, whose throat was cut by her ex-husband. (The cut was a 4" laceration across the front of her throat.)

A witness advised police that after the victim's throat was cut by her ex-husband, one of the bartenders refused to call police for the victim and told her "you gotta get out of here." The victim identified the bartender as Noelia, however, she didn't know the bar owner's name.

Also, after persons inside the bar pushed the offender outside, the victim told the bar's owner, Maria Maldonado, she didn't want to go outside because the offender was out there. According to the victim, she was forced outside by Maria without notifying police or getting her medical assistance, even though the offender was probably out there. After the victim was forced outside by Maria, she locked the door behind her so she couldn't come back in. After this happened, the witness had to notify police on her own.

Noelia was interviewed by Inv. D. Krueger. Noelia advised Inv. D. Krueger that she did see the offender pull out a knife, put it to the victim's throat, and motion across the victim's throat in a cutting motion. Noelia also advised that she didn't see the wound because the victim put her hand to her throat right away, however, she did see blood. Noelia further advised that after the offender left the bar, he came back inside. Noelia tried to lock him out, the offender struck Noelia on the arm when she was trying to lock him out. The offender then left and did not return.

Noelia also stated that Maria pushed everyone out of the bar after the incident so there "wouldn't be any problems." Noelia also advised that when police contact Maria, she'll pretend to not speak any English but "she speaks a lot of English."

Arrangements were made for Maria to come to the Racine Police Department for an interview. There was also a Spanish translator present to assist with the interview. The interview was conducted entirely in Spanish.

During the interview with Inv. D. Krueger, Maria indicated that her employees made her aware of the cutting; however, she did not witness it. Maria did state that she heard a female scream. Maria stated that last call had already occurred, meaning the outside lights and music were turned off.

Maria stated that after the incident happened, the victim and witness went outside to call police. Maria also indicated to Inv. D. Krueger that she knew the victim was injured because she was holding her neck. Maria claims she did not know the victim was afraid to go outside and that the bar usually closes at 1:30 a.m. to give patrons time to leave.

I spoke with Inv. D. Krueger further regarding this incident. She advised me that the victim personally knows there are more instances where the bar owner has pushed other crime victims out of the bar without getting assistance for them. Inv. Krueger also advised that she did not push the inconsistencies between Maria and Noelia's story at the time of her interview, so that Maria cooperated with the criminal investigation first. Inv. D. Krueger also advised she believed Maria was not being fully cooperative with the investigation, and she felt Maria was very guarded in her answers. These items will be followed up on by Inv. Jody Spiegelhoff this coming week.

Sincerely

Dean Stanton
Deputy Chief, Investigative Division
Racine Police Department