



6/12/2020

Press Release

To: Area media outlets

From: Hampton Police Department

Re: Hampton Police Arrests on Ocean Boulevard

On June 5, 2020 at approximately 7:51pm, the Hampton Police Department responded to a call of Disorderly Conduct at the Boardwalk Inn Café on Ocean Boulevard. Upon responding to the location, officers were directed to two individuals who were later identified as:

Renaldo Gordon, 24
Hampton, NH; and

Ederson Vaillant, 29
Chelmsford, MA.

As officers were on scene, Mr. Vaillant was yelling loudly at customers at various tables. Staff from the Boardwalk Café had asked both individuals to leave the business, however Mr. Vaillant continued to yell loudly and aggressively at patrons of the restaurant. This activity was documented by several patrons who later provided the cellphone video footage to the police department for evidence.

Interviews of witnesses at the restaurant were consistent in that it was reported that Vaillant, who was reported to be drinking heavily, became loud and smashed his glass off of his table, sending debris and shards of the glasses onto the tables of nearby guests who were dining. After several customers complained, staff requested that Mr. Vaillant and Mr. Gordon leave the restaurant. At this point, Mr. Vaillant began yelling loudly, using profanity, and screaming at patrons at each table as they walked toward the exit.

Responding officers were nearby and observed the tail end of the incident. Mr. Vaillant picked up and threw a plastic chair toward the officers that had arrived on scene. As officers attempted to identify the two individuals, they walked away from the officers. Officers were attempting to identify the two men so that they could identify all parties involved and to inform and document any trespass orders from the restaurant. Officers attempted multiple times to get the two men to stop, however they continued to walk away. As they passed the officers, the officers were able to detect a strong odor of

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alcohol coming from the two men. They continued to walk away as the officers were attempting to identify them. After attempting to speak to the two men didn't work, officers made the decision to place them under arrest. The situation began to escalate when a couple of people attempted to get in between the officers and Mr. Gordon. These individuals were not involved in the incident, and hindered the officers' abilities to de-escalate the situation by escalating it themselves. This began to draw a larger crowd further complicating the situation.

Vaillant immediately complied with the arrest order and was taken into custody without further incident. Gordon tensed up and began pulling his arms away. He braced his legs and lowered his weight. Officers were able to safely get Mr. Gordon to the ground to continue to attempt to affect the arrest. Although Mr. Gordon continued to resist putting his hands behind his back, officers were able to quickly get him into handcuffs and back onto his feet for transport back to the police station.

Both men were transported back to the police department where they were released to a sober party.

On June 12, 2020 both men entered into the following plea at the Hampton District Court:

Gordon:

Guilty: Town Ordinance Violation for Disorderly Conduct as well as Resisting Arrest. Mr. Gordon has also written a letter of apology for his conduct during the incident.

Vaillant:

Guilty: Town Ordinance Violation for Disorderly Conduct with a charge of Criminal Trespass being placed on file without a finding on a condition of 1 year of good behavior and no re-entry on the Boardwalk Café property.

The Hampton Police Department understands the current dynamics in our country. We will continue to do what is necessary to keep our community safe. The situation that occurred was unfortunate, however both men have taken responsibility for their conduct and these cases have been disposed of. An internal review on the use of force was conducted with the assistance of the amount of video footage that was provided to of the incident. Officers were found to have conducted the arrest appropriately.

After the incident concluded, it was found that the individuals who were attempting to interfere in the arrest returned to the property and began harassing and attempting to intimidate witnesses. These individuals posted these actions of themselves in a video on social media. The Hampton Police Department will continue to investigate this secondary incident.

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Anyone with information regarding the identity of the involved participants or other information related to this incident is urged to contact the Hampton Police Department at 603-929-4444. Anyone with information leading to the arrest or identification of these individuals may be entitled to a reward from the Crimeline of the Hamptons. Anonymous tips can be made through the Crimeline for the Hamptons at 603-929-1222.

Follow the Hampton Police Department on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@HamptonNHPD).

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