

City of La Crosse



Date: February 10, 2025
To: City of La Crosse Common Council
From: Lt. Jon Wenger
CC: Chief Shawn Kudron, Sergeant Ethan Purkapile
Subject: Latino Bar - 115 5th Avenue South

Council Members:

Latino Bar and Grill, located at 115 5th Ave. South, La Crosse, WI, holds a combination “Class B” beer and liquor license. This bar has been a disorderly presence in our community since 2022. I have been involved with investigations of underage alcohol and other nuisance activity involving this establishment, its employees, and patrons.

Part of my job duties include managing and supervising alcohol enforcement in the City of La Crosse. Of all licensed establishments in the City, Latino Bar is unique in that it consistently ignores its responsibilities as a licensee by failing to prevent underage individuals from entering and drinking in the bar. Thus, it is the bar most frequented by underage individuals. La Crosse Police Department officers have engaged in numerous conversations and trainings with Latino Bar staff and issued official warnings in 2022 and 2024. Despite this, Latino Bar has demonstrated little improvement since opening and continues to enable an underage drinking environment.

A check of the Police Record Management System (RMS) used by the La Crosse Police Department revealed over 120 calls for police services/incidents between February 1, 2022, and December 31, 2024. Attached is a summary listing some of the enforcement actions, complaints, and incidents that have occurred at, near, or related to the establishment. These incidents show a correlation to the actions/activity of the establishment, its staff, and patrons. This presents a disproportionate strain on police resources.

Latino Bar stands out from other similarly situated bars due to the high proportion of citations and/or warnings issued in connection with enforcement activity at the bar. While other establishments received more bar checks, Latino Bar failed their bar checks more than twice as often as the next highest bar. In fact, since Latino Bar opened in April 2022, officers have issued over 320 citations to Latino Bar patrons.

Of the bar checks at Latino Bar that did not result in citations or warnings, most occurred when local colleges were not in session.

Underage Presence and Reputation

Latino Bar's clientele is almost exclusively underage; therefore, the bar has gained a reputation as a "freshman bar." It is called this by its underage patrons as well. For example, on the night of October 18, 2024, an underage female stated that Latino Bar was known as the "freshman bar" and she felt "awkward" being at Latino Bar as a sophomore because she was too old and therefore knew "she wasn't supposed to be there."

There has been no notable attempt to disprove this reputation. The multitude of underage drinkers at the establishment has caused issues in the community. Officers have received complaints from businesses and individuals regarding the issues caused by Latino Bar patrons, including disorder, property damage, vomit, public urination and garbage near the establishment, and more. Further, officers consistently encounter heavily intoxicated underage individuals throughout the City and on the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus who admit to drinking at Latino Bar. The La Crosse Police Department's public health and safety concerns are shared by the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and I have reviewed correspondence from the Dean of Students and reports from the UW-La Crosse Police Department evidencing the same.

Officers have also observed the safety hazard of Latino Bar disregarding the maximum capacity for their bar. Social media platforms typically used by university aged individuals also reveal frequent dialogue about Latino Bar and its reputation as an underage bar.

Through my training and experience, I am familiar with common behaviors of underage individuals when officers conduct bar checks. Typical behaviors include walking in the opposite direction from officers, beelining to the exit, avoiding eye contact, peering around nervously, and more. Such behavior is not unique to a particular bar. On the other hand, individuals of legal drinking age typically ignore officers. At Latino Bar, it is not unusual for bar checks to lead to a mass exodus of patrons from the bar. There have been multiple occasions where officers have observed over 50 people leave the bar. In one incident on December 15, 2023, more people were counted leaving the bar than the 219 capacity limit of the bar. I am not aware of this behavior occurring at a similar magnitude at any other bar in the City, let alone with the frequency officers observe at Latino Bar. Large groups of underage individuals present other safety concerns as well. For example, on January 31, 2025, officers observed multiple groups of young people running through and on public roadways to get to Latino Bar. Despite numerous discussions, warnings, and citations, nothing has changed.

Staff

Staff interference with law enforcement activity is an ongoing issue. There have been multiple instances of Latino Bar employees and management confronting officers, attempting to prevent officers from entering the bar, yelling at officers, lying to officers, trying to interrupt officers interviewing underage individuals, and trying to move officers away from the bar. For example, on March 24, 2023, the bar owner/manager Jonnathan Vargas Paredes alleged that officers grabbed, shoved and pushed patrons out of the bar; however, a review of body worn camera footage disproves this statement. In another instance, on December 16, 2023, Vargas Paredes and bouncer Pedro Leal complained about officer presence and stated that officers ushered everybody out the front door the night before and hurt the business. Again, body worn camera footage shows this is false. Bouncer Leal consistently stopped officers on their way in and requested their cards before allowing them entry; while he said he wouldn't stop them, he did physically block the doorway. He also continually made allegations that officers were targeting Latino Bar, did not perform bar checks anywhere else, and argued that Latino Bar staff should be able to perform citizen arrests, including putting people in handcuffs.

More recently, on November 16, 2024, bar owner/manager Vargas Paredes interrupted and yelled at an officer while he was trying to explain the reasoning for ticketing the bar. During the conversation, he also stepped closer to that officer while pointing and shaking his finger at him. He then attempted to prevent his employee from providing identification to officers. Bouncer Leal again interfered with law enforcement activity on February 1, 2025, by ordering officers off the property, interfering with citation issuance, disregarding police authority, arguing loudly, and making a vaguely threatening statement toward an officer.

Latino Bar staff have an ID scanner to check for underage patrons and they rely solely upon this device for verifying age. They claim the scanner is sufficient despite numerous instances of officers indicating additional verification methods are required. The scanner's main purpose is to check birthdates, but it has other functions such as providing potential questions to gauge ID viability. The device also has a pop-up anti-pass-back feature, which is supposed to ensure different individuals do not use the same ID multiple times in short succession. Staff habitually dismiss this pop-up feature. There are multiple documented incidents of fake IDs being shared between multiple individuals.

Based on officer observations and review of media records, Latino Bar staff only give cursory glances to identification and do not habitually ask age or address related questions. There are also instances where IDs were not scanned at all. For example, on October 19, 2024, officers confiscated fake IDs and later provided some to Latino Bar staff to scan. One of the IDs did not cause any pop-ups, indicating that the fake ID had not been scanned earlier that evening at all. There have also been instances of

Latino Bar staff telling officers that they cannot verify IDs to be real or identify fakes and that was instead the responsibility of officers.

It is likely that staff training and consistency is another issue. There are some instances where bouncers told officers they had little training. Staff performance is also illuminating, such as an incident where a bartender was cited during a compliance check for failing to check the ID of an underage individual. She stated she thought the bouncer checked the IDs; however, no bouncer was working that night.

Officers have attempted to assist Latino Bar in preventing underage patrons from entering the establishment without success. Latino Bar received an initial warning letter about the issues with underage patrons in 2022. This warning letter had little effect. Officers had multiple subsequent discussions and conducted trainings to assist Latino Bar staff with identifying underage people and fake IDs. However, Latino Bar has not put this training into practice. Staff still do not question the presence of many allegedly new 21-year-olds from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and other distant states. Ultimately, Latino Bar is doing nothing more than a pulse check - if a person has an ID that says they are 21, they are allowed in the bar, regardless of whether they appear underage or the ID is suspect. The establishment is ultimately responsible for the conduct of its staff and is failing to adhere to its legal responsibilities as licensee via gross mismanagement or willful disregard for the law.

Nuisance Notice

Due to the continual underage presence at Latino Bar and related nuisance issues, the La Crosse Police Department issued Latino Bar a Notice of Chronic Nuisance Premises in March 2024. A meeting was summarily conducted and an abatement plan was signed. Latino Bar has not followed the terms of the abatement plan.

The first requirement states that all employees must attend a server training. The La Crosse Police Department conducted an in-person training on October 27, 2024. However, at least four staff members did not attend the training, including the bar owner/manager, Jonnathan Vargas Paredes and at least one bouncer who officers observed working the door prior to and after the training. Second, bar staff were not to allow underage individuals into the bar. This continues to occur approximately as often as it did prior to the abatement meeting. Third, a second form of identification must be requested when individuals look underage. In my review of enforcement records, I have never seen bar management ask for a second form of ID when working the door. Some bouncers have been observed asking for a second form of ID very infrequently. There is at least one incident where Vargas Paredes specifically chose not to request a second form of ID after a bouncer was unsure about letting an individual into the bar. Fourth, bartenders must ask for identification prior to serving alcohol. This is not occurring. Fifth,

while Latino Bar did exhibit some cooperation with officers by initially providing surveillance videos, they have stopped doing so and there have been further instances of Latino Bar staff being uncooperative or otherwise interfering with law enforcement. Finally, Latino Bar has never provided a monthly report about how the abatement plan is being followed.

Alcohol Beverage Application Documents

Marissa Acosta Perez is the registered agent for the corporate entity Latino Bar and Grill LLC and is the agent for the bar's liquor license. Acosta Perez has been the agent since the bar was first licensed. In the initial liquor license CUP application document, Acosta Perez listed 1430 Bainbridge Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin as her personal address. However, 1514 Bainbridge Street was her listed home address on the original alcohol beverage retail license application. Both of these properties are available as short-term rentals on Air BnB and/or Vrbo. The questionnaire she submitted with her 2024-2025 renewal ("La Crosse application," signed April 17, 2024) used the 1514 Bainbridge address. Latino Bar operates two additional bars in Arcadia that have liquor licenses and Acosta Perez is the agent for both. In 2024, she submitted an initial alcohol beverage license application (signed April 3, 2024) and a renewal application (signed May 6, 2024) (collectively, "Arcadia applications") which listed 732 S Sobotta Court, Arcadia, Wisconsin as her home address. This address is not listed in the La Crosse application. Further, in the Arcadia applications, 1514 Bainbridge Street is not listed as a previous address. Despite the close filing times of these three applications, Acosta Perez used an Illinois ID in the La Crosse application, while she used a Minnesota ID in the Arcadia applications. Additionally, she includes Illinois as a previous place of residency in the La Crosse application but only lists Wisconsin and Minnesota in the Arcadia applications. In all applications she claimed that she had resided in Wisconsin for over 10 years; however, at no point has she provided the La Crosse City Clerk's Office an ID indicating Wisconsin residency, nor is one provided in the Arcadia applications. I performed an address background check on Acosta Perez and found no record of her ever residing at 1514 Bainbridge or any other property in the City. I did discover she purchased the 732 S Sobotta home in 2023, which she did not disclose in the La Crosse application.

On January 24, 2025, a letter requesting proof of local residency was sent via regular and certified mail to Acosta Perez. The letter was sent to 115 5th Avenue South and 1514 Bainbridge Street. On February 5, 2025, the regular sent by standard mail to 1514 Bainbridge was returned, labeled "VACANT. UNABLE TO FORWARD." On February 3, 2025, I had spoken with Rebecca Clark, the property manager for 1514 Bainbridge. She indicated that Acosta Perez has a long-term lease and allows her employees to sleep/use the property while working over the weekend. She stated that they have an arrangement where the property manager allows short-term rentals when Acosta Perez and her associates are not using the property, such as over the summer months, and that Acosta Perez would

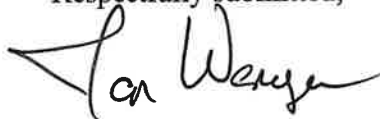
pay the property manager for rent not fulfilled by the short-term rentals. On February 4, 2025, the Clerk's Office received a residential lease agreement from Acosta Perez. Although the document indicates Acosta Perez signed in 2023, the lessor signature line is dated January 31, 2025.

With over 300 citations related to Latino Bar in less than 3 years, it is evident they have ignored the City's alcohol licensing law in multiple ways. If this behavior is allowed to continue, I am concerned that this flagrant disregard for the law will incentivize other bars to follow suit. Latino Bar has received much time and opportunity to improve and has failed to do so. Based on my training and experience, the activities taking place at the establishment demonstrate the establishment facilitates underage drinking, serves as a disorderly house, and thus interferes with the public health, welfare, and safety of patrons and others in the City of La Crosse.

In addition to the summary of incidents, attached to this memorandum are the following supporting documents:

- Graphical Representation of Bar Check and Citation Data 2022-2024.
- Latino Bar Calls for Service 2022-2024.
- Memorandum from Sgt. Nicole Miller, UWL Police Department.
- Letter from Dr. Kara Ostlund, UWL Dean of Students and Interim Title IX Coordinator.
- Chronic Nuisance Notice and Abatement Plan, and 2022 Warning Letter.
- Records from the La Crosse City Clerk's Office, including: 2024 City of La Crosse renewal application, 2022 City of La Crosse initial applications, 2024 City of Arcadia applications, 2025 letter to Acosta Perez, lease agreement, and the undeliverable mailing.
- Affidavits from two underage patrons of Latino Bar.

Respectfully submitted,



Lt. Wenger
La Crosse Police Department

Summary of Incidents related to “Latino Bar and Grill LLC” at 115 5th Avenue South, its staff and patrons

A review of the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD System) used by the La Crosse Police Department for incidents and law enforcement involvement related to Latino Bar, including those which occurred off-premises, revealed 38 events between April 2022, and December 2022; 56 events in 2023; and 65 events in 2024. Below is a summary of certain incidents related to the property, its residents and associates.

April 15, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 10-22-14695

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. While inside the bar, they observed two females who noticed their presence and immediately began to walk toward the exit. An officer contacted one of the individuals, who provided a fake Michigan driver’s license before providing a real Illinois license. She was confirmed to be underage and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .03. Officers observed a male look at them and then immediately attempt to leave. He provided a preliminary breath sample of .223. Three citations were issued to three individuals.

May 6, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 10-22-17979

Summary: An officer made contact with an underage male walking westbound on Hood Street near the river heading toward Houska Campground. He indicated that he was trying to get back to his UW-L dorm after drinking at Latino Bar. He provided a preliminary breath sample of .16. Additionally, he had a false ID. Police cited this individual and transported him back to his dorm room.

June 5, 2022

Actor(s): Alex Rogers (Latino Bar staff)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, Damage to Property

Incident No.: 10-22-23000

Summary: Officers responded to damage to a glass window. Upon arriving at Latino Bar, an officer contacted Alex Rogers who identified himself as a bouncer at Latino Bar. He described several altercations inside the bar which had taken place earlier that night with the alleged suspect and his friend. Rogers stated that the individuals were asked to leave the bar and that the subsequent altercation happened in the vestibule, where a male may have been pushed through the glass, resulting in property damage. Both individuals involved in the conflict were underage. The two involved subjects were located nearby and issued four citations.

August 21, 2022

Offense(s): Disorderly Conduct

Incident No.: 10-22-35252

Summary: Officers were responding to a domestic incident call on 5th Avenue South and Main Street. The caller stated that a female individual may have been beaten in a bar, later confirmed to be Latino Bar. There was physical evidence on both parties which supported the report. The aggressor was arrested and jailed for disorderly conduct. The aggressor was underage.

August 27, 2022

Offense(s): Underage in Bar, Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 10-22-36139

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. They observed an individual in the bar who appeared to be underage, and when asked to provide identification, provided an incorrect ID before providing his real ID. The individual also stated that he was "fucked up." Two citations were issued to one individual.

August 28, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Possession of False ID

Incident No.: 10-22-36289

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Two citations were issued to one individual. A fake Ohio ID was confiscated.

September 3, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-22-37520

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Body worn camera showed some individuals spotting police and then turning and walking away. One individual an officer contacted possessed a fake Indiana ID (the real ID was from Wisconsin) that he admitted to using to get in the bar as he was underage. He admitted to consuming a Rum and Coke at Latino Bar.

Another male individual stated that he got in without an ID and alluded that he wasn't sure if the bouncers had seen him. He admitted to being underage but denied having a fake ID. When the officer asked him, "Everyone in there is underage, right?" the individual responded "Exactly."

An officer contacted two female individuals at the bar, one of whom provided an underage Wisconsin ID, while the other stated that she had no ID on her. She had a drink in her hand when the officer contacted her. One of the individuals grabbed another unidentified female nearby and showed her the officer and said something to her, after which the unidentified female party walked away from the officer. The officer moved outside with the party who alleged she didn't have an ID, and the other female walked away.

The female admitted that she was underage and to consuming two shots of vodka at Latino Bar in addition to the drink the officer saw in her hand, which was still almost full.

The final female individual officers contacted immediately admitted to being underage and not having an ID on her when asked for identification. She stated that she walked in with a group of friends and that two bouncers were at the door but were checking only some IDs. She said they checked her friend's but not hers. She admitted that her friends were still in the bar and that they were also underage.

Seven citations were issued to four individuals.

September 11, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-22-38709, 10-22-39706

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Multiple individuals were contacted and found to be underage. At least two underage females claimed that they did not have IDs, with one claiming that she got into the bar because she knew one of the bouncers.

Another individual was contacted outside of Latino Bar who was concerned that he was too intoxicated. He was over 21 but stated that he was too “fucked up” to move and decided that he needed to go to the hospital for detoxification. Twelve citations were issued to six individuals.

September 18, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-22-39864

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Upon entering the bar, officers observed females who, when they noticed police, placed their drinks on a ledge and turned away to avoid the officers. One of the individuals was then contacted and admitted to being underage. Another individual presented police with a false Michigan driver’s license and was discovered to be underage. A third individual (later discovered to be underage as well) presented police with a false Illinois ID. At least one of the male underage individuals admitted to consuming several beers. Seven citations were issued to five individuals.

October 6, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-22-43314

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Officers observed one individual who appeared underage with a drink in hand. Upon seeing the officers, this individual turned around and walked away. Officers contacted the individual, who provided a fake Kansas ID initially, and then a real Wisconsin ID when pressed. Six citations were issued to five individuals.

October 9, 2022

Offense(s): Disorderly Conduct

Incident No.: 10-22-43628

Summary: Officers were responding to a trouble with party complaint at 901 State Street (The Hive Apartments), where an individual was intoxicated, yelling, pushing and shoving females and refusing to leave the complaining female's home. He was underage and admitted to coming to the apartment after having been at Latino Bar. One citation was issued to this individual.

October 15, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-22-44571

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. They observed an individual who appeared to be underage in the bar and who walked to the door when they noticed police presence. The individual provided a fake ID initially but the real one when asked and was confirmed to be underage. The person admitted to consuming one drink at the bar. Another individual who appeared to be underage also walked toward the door when they noticed police presence and provided police a fake Wisconsin ID but was confirmed to be underage. This person admitted to having one drink at the bar and provided a preliminary breath sample of .10. Six citations were issued to three individuals. Latino Bar received a warning for allowing underage in bar. The letter was sent on October 24 as described below.

October 22, 2022

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-22-45724

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. As they entered the bar, a bouncer, Pedro Leal, said, "Nobody has been coming in without an ID." Shortly after entering the bar, officers spotted at least three individuals suspected to be underage. Two of the individuals stated that they did not have any ID on them but were identified verbally and found to be underage. One of the individuals stated that she did not consume alcohol at the bar yet provided a preliminary breath test sample of .14. Another individual stated

that she had had two and one-half or three drinks, but at least some of these, if not all, were consumed prior to going to Latino Bar. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .147. Her friend, who was over the age of 21 and came to pick her up, stated, "Being an of age person, I don't go to Latino's." A final individual provided identification and was found to be under 21. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .137. As an officer was speaking with one of the cited individuals in the vestibule in the front of the bar, at least 70 individuals filed out of the bar in less than four minutes. Three citations were issued to three individuals.

October 24, 2022

Summary: La Crosse Police Department issued a municipal ordinance warning for violation of municipal code 4-7, Allow Underage in Bar. A letter was sent along with the warning which outlined potential for license suspension, revocation, or non-renewal with further violations.

October 30, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar
Incident No.: 10-22-46861

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. One officer noticed an individual attempting to leave the bar with her friend, and when the officer asked for identification, the subjects walked away. She attempted to exit again, at which point the officer was able to contact her. The individual was underage. Nine citations were issued to six individuals.

November 4, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Possession of False ID
Incident No.: 10-22-47680

Summary: Officers responded to a complaint of a group of college students wandering the area of 5th and Ferry Streets smashing pumpkins and hitting vehicles with a two-by-four. An officer encountered smashed pumpkins on the 500 block and then observed the subject. Upon seeing the officer, the subject ran away, despite the officer identifying himself and commanding the subject to stop. Eventually the officer was able to make contact and

discovered that the individual was underage and intoxicated. The individual alleged that he was trying to get back to UW-L campus but was headed in the wrong direction. He admitted to having been at Latino Bar but denied involvement with the pumpkins. He was also in the possession of his 22-year-old brother's ID. The officer provided him a ride home. Two citations were issued to this individual.

November 10-11, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Marijuana Possession 25 grams or less, Possession of False ID, Obedience to Officer

Incident No.: 10-22-48748, 10-22-48754

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Multiple underage individuals attempted to hide in the crowd upon seeing police enter the bar. Two of the individuals were contacted, admitted to consuming alcohol, confirmed underage, and cited without issue.

Two other individuals also attempted to flee from police while still in Latino Bar by going onto the dance floor. However, upon being detained, the female individual tried avoiding the officer and began to walk away. She was then escorted out of the bar, and the male individual who claimed to be her boyfriend began providing police with her alleged information. Then, when the officer attempted to run the information, both individuals sprinted away from the officer's vehicle. They did not obey orders to stop. The female was located hiding behind a different vehicle and then was placed in handcuffs. She was cited and released. A different officer located the male, who attempted to flee again when the officer placed him into custody. He was in possession of a fake Iowa ID and a THC wax vape. He admitted to drinking and being at Latino Bar that night.

Officers also responded to a trouble with party call on 3rd and King Streets. There was a verbal argument between a couple due to the male entering Latino Bar to see his girlfriend kissing another person. The female had run from the male at one point and fell, causing a road burn-like wound on her cheek that was bleeding when officers spoke with her. The male was discovered to be underage and was able to gain entrance to Latino Bar. The female's age is unknown.

In total, ten citations were issued to four individuals.

November 13, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID

Incident No.: 10-22-49054

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Two females were contacted who appeared to be underage and claimed they had gotten in without ID. During the bar check, a large crowd of people flooded out of the bar. Officers estimated that this was between 50-60 people, but upon review of body camera footage, the actual number of individuals leaving the bar appeared to be much higher. The crowd was so large near the doors that officers were forced to stand and wait before they were able to exit with the individuals they contacted.

The two females both admitted that they were 18 years old. They said that they had each consumed approximately three drinks at Latino Bar. Three fake IDs were taken into evidence; one was an Illinois fake ID. Seven citations were issued to three individuals.

December 3, 2022

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID

Incident No.: 10-22-51864

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. The bar check was initiated by a complaint from a rideshare driver who had dropped female riders off at Latino Bar who admitted to being underage. At the bar, an officer observed a female who appeared to be underage on the dance floor. When she saw an officer approach, she began walking away. The officer initiated physical contact, and she continued to attempt to pull away. When informed she was detained, she left the bar with the officer and later provided a false Indiana ID. She was confirmed to be underage. Three citations were issued to two individuals.

January 22, 2023

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 10-23-03115, Call Number 23-008879

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. One officer observed a female who attempted to walk away when she noticed police. The officer initiated physical contact, and she continued to try to pull away, stating her ID was in her jacket at the back of the bar. She claimed to be 21 years old at first, and later admitted that she was underage. She consumed at least one drink at the bar and made conflicting statements as to whether she had had one or two drinks. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .103. She stated that she was allowed to enter the bar because the bouncers knew her. She stated about Latino Bar: "Obviously, like, this is a place where a lot of underage people go." She complained that approximately fifty other people had walked out but did not get tickets.

While the officer escorted this underage party out of the bar, another officer was approached by bouncer Pedro Leal who said, "You guys cannot pull her like that!" Leal followed the officer out of the bar as the officer stated that apprehending underage individuals is part of their job. Leal again stated, "You guys cannot pull anybody." The officer explained that if someone was walking away from them, they could use the escort hold. Leal retorted, "Not with force," to which the officer responded that they were able to do so. Before Leal went inside, he told the officer that next time there was a bar check, he would need officers' IDs before they came in, stating that it was "policy." He alleged that he would not deny police entrance but that they must identify themselves before entering. The officer again stated that bar checks were part of their job and provided his identifying information. A few minutes later, Leal returned and asked for the officer's card, which was provided. Later, the officer contacted Sgt. Whitney Hughes, informing her of the incident in case future issues with employees were to arise.

A man who had been speaking with the bouncer approached the officer and stated that he knew the underage female that another officer was speaking with. He then inserted himself in their interaction, saying, "She's safe. She's good." When the officer clarified that the female was underage, the man said, "I know." Eventually, the officer had to tell the man that they had it taken care of due to continued attempts to interfere. The man attempted to interfere again later with the other officer on scene and had to be instructed to step away. One of the cited females stated that the individual worked for Latino Bar.

Another female exited the bar around this time, and due to her underage appearance, the officer asked for her ID. She attempted to pull away from the officer, stating that she needed to use the restroom. The officer told her that she looked underage and was leaving

a bar and again asked to see her ID. She told him, “No.” Another officer explained as she continued to try to pull away that she was not free to go because an officer was attempting to identify her. She went to pull an ID card from the back of her phone and then stated that she did not have her real ID with her. She then stated that she didn’t have a fake ID on her either. She was uncooperative and continued to pull away from officers, and one warned her that she would go in handcuffs if she continued, and she responded, “No I’m not.” She then continued to ask if she could get her real ID and became emotional.

During this interaction, 70-80 individuals filed out of the bar as seen in the background of body worn camera footage. This began less than five minutes after officers arrived at the bar.

The female stated that she got into the bar with her real ID, then stated that her brother had her real ID and that she had gotten into the bar without an ID at all. She repeatedly asked if she could call her brother to come get her when the officer asked her for identifying information, but eventually complied. She stated that she had walked into Latino Bar “without an ID, with an ID...” and that “they don’t care.” She also stated that there were “so many other people” the officers could have ticketed. She admitted to being underage and consuming alcohol in the bar. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .196. Review of a different officer’s body worn camera showed this individual earlier that night walking to the bar’s exit and upon seeing police, turning around to go back inside the bar. She exited a few moments later.

Two citations were issued to two individuals.

February 4, 2023

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Obstructing Officer

Incident No.: 10-23-05204, Call Number 23-014860

Summary: A neighbor of Latino Bar requested extra officer attention at Latino Bar due to ongoing issues with people urinating and littering in the alley adjacent to the bar. As officers approached the bar, one officer noted the large number of patrons outside the bar and garbage on the ground. Walking through the bar, the officer observed patrons appearing

to be underage. Two females were contacted and both claimed to be over the age of 21. They also claimed that they walked in without their IDs being checked at all. The officer elected not to ticket the two individuals because of a near-zero preliminary breath test sample. When police entered the bar, approximately 50 people left. One officer stated that the “whole bar” looked underage. At least one cited individual had a fake ID. One officer approached two females walking from the direction of Latino Bar and asked if they had come from Latino Bar. They indicated that they had and that their IDs were checked to get into the bar.

Officers re-entered the bar and contacted more individuals who appeared to be underage. Two females alleged that they were 21 but did not have IDs on them. However, both later admitted to being underage and one produced a fake ID. Both admitted to drinking.

Another individual who was contacted and suspected to be underage provided an officer with a Michigan ID which the officer suspected to be fake and which the individual later admitted was fake. Her actual age was 19 years old. She stated that Latino Bar Staff did check her fake ID for entry to the bar. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .20.

Sgt. Purkapile contacted two individuals, one of whom was of age and another of whom alleged to be 21 but to not have an ID on her. She provided false information for her identity, but eventually admitted that she was underage and provided correct information. She said that she had gotten into the bar with a friend’s fake ID and then returned it to the friend as soon as she got in. She received three citations with one being obstructing. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .16.

Additionally, Sgt. Purkapile met with a staff member, Leal, to explain the issue of the multitude of underage people at Latino Bar. He spoke about the number of people cited as well as the number of people who left upon seeing police presence. Leal advised he had worked for Latino Bar for some time but was mostly at the Arcadia location. He stated was recently hired as security lead and asked how many bar checks officers are allowed to do per night. Sgt. Purkapile clarified that they could do bar checks at any time but that they came back into the bar a second time because of the large crowd outside the bar. Leal alleged that Latino Bar staff were checking IDs, and that all patrons were required to present IDs. Sgt. Purkapile asked about what measures they were taking to identify fake IDs and offered that in any case where a fake is suspected they can call law

enforcement and request verification. Pedro was receptive to a class on identification verification. Sgt. Purkapile also confirmed that many of the underage persons present fake IDs and confiscation of false IDs is a regular occurrence. Sgt. Purkapile explained that police want to work with them to mitigate the issues and reduce incidents of underage persons in the bar but also explained that there could be citations issued if there is no reasonable effort to properly verify and vet their patrons.

In total, eleven citations were issued to six individuals.

February 17, 2023

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID, Obstructing Officer

Incident No.: 10-23-07351

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. When they initially entered the bar and attempted contact with several individuals, approximately 30 patrons of the bar began to file out rapidly.

An officer contacted a group of individuals who he believed were underage. In further conversation with one female from the group, she continuously alleged that she was not underage and provided information different than what was on her ID. A bouncer, Pedro Leal, interrupted him during this conversation, asking for one of his cards. The officer informed him that he would provide one once he was finished with what he was doing. The female individual refused to provide correct information despite multiple warnings that doing so could land her in jail, and as a result, was handcuffed with the assistance of Lt. Wenger. She then agreed to provide correct information. She had a fake Wisconsin ID. She admitted to purchasing and consuming two drinks at Latino Bar.

Lt. Wenger spoke with the other individuals in the group (one male and one female). The female admitted to being 19 years old and made conflicting statements as to whether her ID was checked when she went into the bar. The male's ID appeared to check out. Lt. Wenger issued a handwritten citation to her.

Going back later, Lt. Wenger contacted an individual who had a drink in his hand and asked for an ID. The individual took off sprinting southbound on 5th Avenue towards

Jay Street and was eventually stopped and handcuffed on Jay Street. He had a fake Illinois ID on his person. A different officer issued his citations and provided a ride home.

On his third time back, Lt. Wenger stepped out with another individual who was discovered to be underage. He admitted to getting into the bar with a fake Minnesota ID and his real ID was from Wisconsin.

After this interaction was complete, Leal approached Lt. Wenger and confronted him, alleging that officers were scaring all of their clientele away. He also complained that officers were not checking other bars as much as they were checking Latino Bar. He alleged that Latino Bar was being targeted, and Lt. Wenger stated that he wasn't going to debate Leal because he had already had similar conversations with the manager. Leal, however, continued to argue that the police were scaring people away, and raised his voice and spoke over Lt. Wenger when he attempted to respond. Leal argued that no one got in without an ID and that Latino Bar Staff were not "cops to be checking for fake IDs." He then stated that if police had "an issue," they could talk to Latino Bar's lawyer. Lt. Wenger tried again to point out the issue at hand, and Leal stated that his only issue with police was that they had asked police for help a few days earlier because "nothing but black people are gonna be here," and police did not help. Lt. Wenger then clarified that Latino Bar staff called because "nothing but black people were going to be here?" and Leal stated "yeah" and that it was "for security."

An officer confronted a female individual who admitted to being underage and handed over a fake Minnesota ID.

In all, twelve citations were issued to five individuals.

February 18, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Resisting/Obstructing Officer, Public Urination

Incident No.: 10-23-07355, 80-23-01414

Summary: Officers encountered two separate incidents at different locations which were related to underage consumption of alcohol at Latino Bar.

One individual was urinating on the wall of the Wells Fargo Bank building and stated that he had come from Latino Bar. At first, he said he did not have an ID on him. However, when pressed, he provided his real ID. When doing so, a fake ID was in plain view of the officer, which the individual reluctantly handed over. The individual was discovered to be underage. He provided a preliminary breath test sample of .21. Two citations were issued to one individual.

In the other incident, UW-L Police encountered two females staggering down the street near UW-L campus. After seeing them fall, an officer initiated contact to check their welfare. One of the individuals had difficulty maintaining her balance, could not find her ID, could not answer basic welfare questions, and kept repeating herself. Tri-State ambulance was called for assessment, but determined detox was not needed. The other individual provided a preliminary breath test sample of .16. Both were found to be underage. The individuals had to be escorted back to the place they were staying and were cited and released.

The next day, one of the individuals returned to the UW-L police department with her twin sister, and informed officers that the citation was issued under her twin's name. After further investigation of the body worn camera footage, it became clear that she had provided the wrong name multiple times, continuously answered to that name, and did not attempt to correct her friend, EMTs, or officers when using the wrong name. In a later conversation with police, she stated that she suspected she had been drugged because she could not remember anything from the night. She stated that she and the other individual cited had been at Latino Bar. She got into the bar with a fake ID and consumed alcohol at the bar. She stated she did not remember anything after having that drink. Police cancelled the citation issued to her sister and re-issued one to her.

Three citations were issued to two individuals.

February 19, 2023

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)
Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar
Incident No.: 10-23-07537
Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. As they entered the bar, bouncer Pedro Leal immediately asked for their business cards, which they provided. An officer

contacted three male individuals, one of whom provided an Indiana ID which was discovered to be fake. Another one of the males stated he had dropped his ID and therefore had no ID on him, and asked the officer to let him go without getting in trouble. The third male provided the officer with an underage Minnesota ID but later admitted to having a fake ID and using it to get into Latino Bar. He provided the fake ID to the officer. All three males were underage. One provided a preliminary breath sample of .237, another's result was unclear by body camera, and the third provided a preliminary breath test sample of .055. One of the males stated, "I come to Latino's and they obviously let me in." He later stated, "They don't care."

A different officer stepped out with a female individual who appeared to be underage and who provided an underage ID. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .122. She stated about the bar, "It's mostly a freshmen bar." Eight citations were issued to four individuals.

Due to the consistent issues with underage people at Latino Bar, Sgt. Purkapile went to have a conversation with the Latino Bar staff who were working that night. He spoke with Leal and outlined the ongoing issue of underage people in Latino Bar. In response, Leal asked how frequently police were allowed to conduct bar checks and for how long, and Sgt. Purkapile clarified that there isn't a time limit on bar checks. Leal then complained that the previous night, officers had visited the bar multiple times within an hour. He incorrectly alleged that a lieutenant (referring to Lt. Wenger) "literally kicked everybody out" and that "technically, he's fucking with [their] business." Leal said that the lieutenant stayed until the bar emptied out and that the bar "had to close early" because "everybody started getting scared that cops were going to come in." This is inconsistent with body camera footage, which shows a mass exodus of people upon police presence in the bar in a very short period of time. Sgt. Purkapile clarified whether the lieutenant was actually asking people to leave, and Pedro responded, "No, but...come on dude." He stated then that kids are not "stupid enough" to stay when police are there and that "with [police] presence, oh, everybody takes off. It's common sense." Sgt. Purkapile noted that if someone is of age in a bar, they do not care if police enter. He added that officers can stand outside, but the issue was the number of underage citations that are issued every time they come to Latino Bar.

Leal argued that officers did not check other bars (with Legends mentioned specifically as another bar where underage individuals go), which Sgt. Purkapile countered with his

personal experience of conducting many bar checks at Legends. Leal also told Sgt. Purkapile that it was not Latino Bar staff's responsibility to check for every fake ID because he alleged that that would be doing the officers' jobs for them. This initiated an extensive back and forth between Sgt. Purkapile and Leal. While Sgt. Purkapile attempted to clarify that the bar is responsible for checking IDs and identifying fake IDs, Leal argued that their business was the actual bar itself, and that Latino Bar staff were not going to do the work of police officers by taking every single fake ID. He asserted that it was the job of police, not Latino Bar staff, to ensure people were following the law. Leal stated that he was not a bartender or a police officer, so it wasn't his responsibility. Sgt. Purkapile then offered Leal and Latino Bar staff an opportunity to participate in a training to teach them what to look for to identify fake IDs. Leal stated that he and his boss were open to this but that if every bar were to check for every single fake ID, no one would have a business in La Crosse.

Leal then asked Sgt. Purkapile whether Latino Bar staff were legally allowed to carry handcuffs or batons to detain people if they were engaging in criminal activity in the bar. Sgt. Purkapile stated multiple times that Latino Bar staff did not have the legal authority to detain people and could risk charges of false imprisonment if they elected to do so. Leal continued to argue with him, alleging that it was his right to do a "citizen's arrest" based on his knowledge from a high school criminal justice class and internet research. Despite multiple attempts on Sgt. Purkapile's part to communicate that Leal did not have the right to detain patrons of the bar, Leal told Sgt. Purkapile to "look it up" and maintained that he could. Sgt. Purkapile again clarified the responsibility of Latino Bar staff to prevent underage people from entering the bar by checking and verifying IDs.

February 26, 2023

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)
Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar
Incident No.: 10-23-08583, 80-23-01641
Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Upon entering the establishment, one officer made contact with a female sitting at a table with another female, consuming a drink. When asked for her ID, she stated that it was with a friend and that she had shown it to the bouncer and then gave it back to her friend. She eventually admitted that she was 20 years old and that she had actually used a friend's ID to get into the bar and did not have her own ID with her. She also admitted to consuming two drinks at the bar.

A different individual provided police with a false ID and was found to be underage. He admitted to consuming several drinks at the bar.

When officers first entered the bar, the Latino Bar bouncer, Pedro Leal, asked for their business cards. One of the officers told him that they'd provide the cards once they finished up. Leal then stated that no one had gotten in without an ID, that the bar had cameras, and that they had been "showing them [IDs] to the cameras." When the officers returned to the bar after citing the first individual, Leal again appeared to ask one of the officers for a card. Later, he asked the officer if there had been a report or if officers were conducting a random bar check. The officer replied that it was just a random bar check, and Leal replied that in the past, when there were several bar checks in a short time, it was because of a report. The officer indicated that they came to Latino Bar first because it was the furthest from downtown, and then they would work their way downtown and try to check as many bars as possible. Leal alleged that police did not do bar checks at other bars, specifically mentioning Legends, and the officer responded that he had personally done bar checks and cited underage individuals at Legends.

Additionally, Leal stated that last time police had been at the bar, they had handcuffed individuals in the bar. Leal added that he had to know what was going on to inform his boss. He complained that the previous time the police were there, they were present for an hour and no customers came in during that time. He said that he told his boss that he would be cool with police, but if an officer wanted to "act like a dick" that he can "defend" himself too. The officer told Leal that Latino Bar's boss was welcome to contact officers or their supervisors and discuss the matter. Leal, who identified himself as the head of security, said that he told another officer that "I'm not gonna check every single fake ID, 'cause first off, I'm not a cop..." He argued that he was doing the job of officers by checking fake IDs and seemed to imply that bouncers should also be able to detain people who were causing issues at the bar in a citizen's arrest. At one point, Leal also mentioned that he knew officers could not be at the bar for more than an hour.

At a separate location, a UW-L police officer noted three males walking near UW-L campus, one of whom was being supported by another. The male being supported appeared to be intoxicated due to his inability to walk on his own. The officer then made contact, and asked the intoxicated appearing male how much he had had to drink, to which he shook his head no. He also indicated he didn't have an ID on him. He

eventually provided his information and admitted to consuming shots at Latino Bar. He provided a weak breath sample of .124.

Three citations were issued to three individuals.

March 4, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-09736

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Six citations were issued to three individuals.

March 19, 2023

Offense(s): Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID, Obstructing Officer

Incident No.: 10-23-11808

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. One individual contacted had a Minnesota fake ID. Three citations were issued to one individual.

March 24, 2023

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager), Ruben Cruz (Latino Bar manager)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-12646

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. One officer contacted two female individuals who were suspected to be underage, and Jonnathan Vargas Paredes interrupted the officer to ask if he could speak with him and have his card. The officer stated that he had already provided his card to the bar, but Vargas Paredes stated that if the officer came in his bar, he needed to provide his card. The officer stated his name and badge number. Then, Vargas Paredes told the officer that it was “not right” that they were escorting some individuals out of the bar. The officer stated that it was within their legal right to do so. Vargas Paredes continued to argue and stated, “This is harassment for my bar.” Another officer then stepped in to ask what the issue was, and one of the female subjects apologized for Vargas Paredes’ interruption. Both female individuals used fake IDs to gain entry to the bar. One individual provided a preliminary breath test sample of .116, while the other provided a sample of .136.

Prior to stepping into the conversation with Vargas Paredes, the other officer contacted a male individual to ask for an ID and attempted to stop a second male individual, who then tried to run away from him. However, upon being placed in an escort hold, the individual agreed to cooperate. He admitted to being underage and using a fake ID to get into the bar, which he stated was checked but that no additional questions were asked.

While the officer was speaking with the male individual, Paredes could be seen and heard in the background of body worn camera footage raising his voice and pointing his finger at another officer. The officer in contact with the male paused his interaction to ask for a supervisor, then went to address the situation between Vargas Paredes and the other officer.

Vargas Paredes complained that people were panicking because police were grabbing individuals. The officer stated that it was not normal to have 50 people run out of a bar when police arrived. Paredes maintained that people were scared because of the police. The officer then stepped away and walked to his squad car down the block with the underage male. The individual stated that he had been to Latino Bar “a lot of times” and that “it’s a freshmen bar.” He also spoke about previous instances at Latino Bar wherein he had left upon seeing police to avoid underage tickets. The underage male provided a preliminary breath test sample of .061. As he tried to convince the officer to issue only one citation, he stated, “You guys know, I know...every single person in that bar is not 21. Every single one of ‘em.”

Vargas Paredes and Ruben Cruz, a bar manager, approached the squad cars while the officer was still with the underage male. He had stepped away to brief Sergeant Purkapile on what had happened, and Vargas Paredes and Cruz approached Sgt. Purkapile. In the conversation between Sgt. Purkapile and Latino Bar staff, Vargas Paredes alleged that police had grabbed, pushed, and shoved patrons of the bar. He mimicked the motion, indicating an excessive degree of force. He stated again that people were leaving because they were scared of the police. He stated that he did not know if the patrons were “younger people,” but that he was checking IDs. Vargas Paredes alleged that he had camera footage from the bar which would prove his allegations of pushing and grabbing. Sgt. Purkapile offered to view the footage multiple times. He also explained that officers were allowed to escort people out of the bar. Vargas Paredes stated that people might stop coming to his bar because they feared police and that he would not get any business. Sgt. Purkapile reinforced willingness to look at video and Latino Bar

staff stated that they would submit video of the incident. Yet, body worn camera footage does not support Vargas Paredes' allegations and did not show anyone being pushed or shoved. Six citations were issued to three individuals.

March 26, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-23-02400

Summary: Sgt. Nicole Miller (UW-L Police) encountered a female individual near UW-L who was swaying side to side while walking and appeared intoxicated. Contact was initiated for a welfare check. The intoxicated individual was underage and had been drinking at Latino Bar, and a friend was attempting to walk her home. She noted that her fake ID was in a dormitory, and she did not use it to enter the bar. She claimed that she had not had much to drink but provided a preliminary breath sample of .269.

One citation was issued to one individual.

March 31, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-13943

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Upon entering the bar, one officer observed a subject who appeared to be underage turn toward the front door and attempt to exit the bar when they noticed police. The officer made contact, and the individual denied having an ID at first. Later, he admitted to having a false ID and also to consuming alcohol. The subject provided a breath sample of .162. He was found to be underage.

A separate individual who appeared to be underage also attempted to leave the bar immediately after seeing that officers had entered. An officer contacted her, and she subsequently admitted to consuming two tequila sunrise mixed drinks at Latino Bar and that she was 19 years old. She also stated that she used a fake ID to get into the bar, and then provided this same fake ID to a friend who also used it to gain entry to the bar. She provided a preliminary breath test of .15. Three citations were issued to two individuals.

April 2, 2023

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID

Incident No.: 10-23-14116

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. When an officer entered the bar, a group of individuals walked toward the door and when an officer walked toward them, the individuals attempted to avoid the officer. However, two male individuals in the group were contacted. One of the males and the rest of the group walked away. The remaining individual admitted that he was underage. He also said he consumed one drink at the bar but then said it was only half of a drink. He stated that he had used his real ID to get into the bar, and that bouncers did not check IDs very well. He also confirmed that his friends who had walked away were all underage. Another individual was contacted who admitted to being underage, to consuming alcohol, and to using a fake Illinois ID to get into the bar.

A female individual who appeared underage was contacted and provided a fake Michigan ID to an officer to identify herself. She said that she had been drinking at Latino Bar, but it was alcohol that she had brought into the bar rather than purchased at the bar. The officer confirmed that she was under 21, and she provided a preliminary breath sample of .222.

Upon entering the bar the second time, an officer asked a patron for their ID and numerous parties inside began to leave the bar. One officer remained between the two sets of doors (though out of the way of traffic), and a Latino Bar staff member asked for his card. He provided it, and the staff member walked away at first, before turning around and asking the officer to write something (unknown) on the card as patrons began to file out of the bar. During this interaction, approximately 72 individuals left the bar in 52 seconds. Once finished writing on the card, the officer stopped the 73rd and 74th individuals. From another video, an additional 40 people could be seen leaving after the first officer stepped out, again in a very short period of time. The same staff member attempted to stop another officer as he was escorting an individual out of the bar to ask for his card. The officer informed the staff member he would provide it after he was finished.

Officers also contacted an individual as she was attempting to leave the bar after seeing officers. She admitted to consuming alcohol and being underage, but initially said that she did not have an ID on her. She later provided a fake Illinois ID to the officer. Her preliminary breath sample was at .08, and the male individual with her was at .113.

Fourteen citations were issued to eight individuals. At least five fake IDs were confiscated—two fake Iowa IDs, one fake Michigan ID, and two fake Illinois IDs. One of the fake Illinois IDs is unable to even be scanned from a phone app that is designed to detect fake IDs. The signature on this same ID is clearly a handwritten-style typed font and not real.

Sgt. Purkapile went back to Latino Bar after finishing citations to ask Pedro Leal, the bouncer, if he had any questions about the night. Leal asked if there was a report that initiated police presence or if it was a standard bar check, to which Sgt. Purkapile responded that no report had been made and it was just a regular bar check. Leal also asked whether police were allowed to actually go fully inside the bar, and Sgt. Purkapile confirmed that they could. Finally, he asked Sgt. Purkapile whether there would be an upcoming training, and Sgt. Purkapile stated that the goal was to have a training within a month.

April 7, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-14965

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. One of the individuals contacted advised officers that she had gotten into the bar using a friend's ID, specifying that she did not look anything like the photo on the ID. She provided a preliminary breath sample of .082. Four citations were issued to two individuals.

April 15, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-16544

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Four citations were issued to two individuals and at least one fake ID was confiscated (Wisconsin).

May 4, 2023

Incident No.: 10-23-20029

Summary: Lt. Curns met with a Latino Bar bouncer and manager to discuss conducting a TIPS Training in the weeks following. The bar was to confirm a date that worked for staff when he stopped by a week later.

May 5, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-20036

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Six citations were issued to three individuals.

May 12, 2023

Offense(s): Property Damage

Incident No.: 80-23-03792

Summary: UW-L officers apprehended three UW-L students who caused damage to several floors of Eagle Hall dormitory at UW-L. The damage extended to four floors and included damage to several stairwell and exit signs, a ceiling tile, the exterior of a fire extinguisher case, a motion light sensor, a study room, and furniture. Additionally, there was mess from soda, soda cans, and animal crackers on walls and floors. Other students heard loud noises around 2:30 a.m. and were kept awake by the noises. Additionally, one of the students stole a sewer hole cover and brought it back to his dorm room, which police discovered while interviewing him. The students had been drinking at Latino Bar that night prior to causing the damage in the dormitory. Two of the three individuals were underage. All three individuals were arrested and released on signature bond.

May 13, 2023

Incident No.: 10-23-21738

Summary: An officer heard yelling several blocks away from Latino Bar which was coming from the direction of Latino Bar. As the officer approached the bar, they saw staff from the bar on the sidewalk in front of the bar in the middle of a large group of people. Witnesses indicated that two groups of females had begun a verbal argument inside the bathroom

of Latino Bar which then carried outside. The main individual arguing was underage. Two sober males led one of the groups of females away from the area, but officers had to chase the other five females across and down the street. No citations were issued, and peace was restored.

July 28, 2023

Actor(s): Ruben Cruz (Latino Bar manager), Hugo (Latino Bar staff)

Incident No.: 10-23-35680

Summary: An officer spoke with a Latino Bar manager, Ruben Cruz, regarding TIPS training and another staff member translated. The officer explained the alcohol compliance class and what it would consist of. He advised them that it was a free class held at the Police Department. Ruben and Hugo advised they would need to speak to staff, but that a Wednesday or Thursday would work best.

July 30, 2023

Offense(s): OWI 1st

Incident No.: 10-23-35888

Summary: Suspect from OWI 1st offense admitted he was drinking at Latino Bar prior to driving the vehicle. He provided a preliminary breath sample of .203. Four citations were issued to one individual.

August 12, 2023

Incident No.: 10-23-38043

Summary: An officer responded regarding a 19-year-old female who could not be located by friends. She had left Latino Bar alone around midnight, and her friends could not locate her by 2:00 a.m. and her phone was dead. After an hour of investigation, the officer located her at Gundersen hospital.

September 17, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-44133

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Four citations were issued to two individuals, who both had fake IDs.

October 7, 2023

Actor(s): Carlos Corona Acosta (Latino Bar bouncer), Ruben Cruz (Latino Bar manager)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-47869

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. As they entered, an officer noticed several people appearing to be underage leaving the bar. Approximately 32 people left or attempted to leave within two minutes and 30 seconds of the officers entering the bar. An officer stopped one individual attempting to leave who began to run when the officer walked closer. She was confirmed to be underage. She provided a preliminary breath sample of .125. Another officer encountered an individual inside of the establishment who showed signs of nervousness upon seeing police and attempted to evade contact. Eventually an officer spoke with her, and she stated that she did not have an ID on her but was underage. She was in a group with five other people who the officer was unable to stop. She alleged that she had not consumed alcohol but refused to take a PBT. The officer was able to contact the other individuals in the group and asked if they were all underage. One individual answered affirmatively, and the officer stated that he could have ticketed them all and advised them not to go to bars downtown. Three citations were issued to two individuals.

The officers then circled back to discuss the issue of underage individuals in Latino Bar with staff. Carlos Corona Acosta, who was the bouncer that night, stated that he had just recently started at Latino Bar but had received some training. He said, "If they look like the picture on the ID and then they have the age where it says it's overage, I can't just completely be checking out every single time." The officers talked about the prevalence of fake IDs and again emphasized that this was a repeated issue over time with Latino Bar specifically because it had a reputation of being an underage bar. Corona Acosta stated that he was watching the individuals who left when police arrived and would be able to learn from the incident for next time.

October 26, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-50832

Summary: Officers received a call on the night of the 26th from a mother of a high school girl who expressed concern that friends of her daughter's (also in high school) were in Latino Bar and being served. Officers followed up with a bar check, and upon entering the bar, about sixty females left while IDs were being checked by officers.

October 27, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-51030

Summary: Officers received an anonymous complaint that there were several underage individuals in Latino Bar. Officers followed up with a bar check. When they arrived, a group of individuals immediately headed to attempt to exit the bar upon seeing officers. When an officer contacted one of these individuals, she identified herself with her real ID but handed over a fake ID right away. She was underage. Another officer contacted a different member of the group who attempted to leave when seeing officers, who then attempted to walk the other direction again. When asked for ID, he admitted to being underage and to drinking alcohol. He stated that he snuck into the bar while another group was stopped by the bouncers. He said that he had consumed approximately five drinks and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .14.

Another individual who appeared to be underage said that he did not have an ID on him but admitted to drinking and being underage. He provided a preliminary breath test sample of .18. A different individual who appeared to be underage gave the officer a fake Minnesota ID when asked and lied about their age. Eventually, the individual was honest about being underage and admitted to drinking. That individual provided a preliminary breath test sample of .032.

An assisting officer noted that a separate individual said that he had lost his wallet and therefore ID in the bar. He was confirmed to be underage and admitted to coming to the bar with friends and drinking a few alcoholic drinks. He provided a preliminary breath test sample of .05. Ten citations were issued to five individuals, and two fake IDs were confiscated.

October 28-29, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-51198

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. As officers approached the bar, there was a significant line of people to get into the bar. Two minutes after police entered, there was no line. Upon officers entering the bar, numerous people quickly turned in an attempt to exit the bar. In body worn camera footage, approximately 82 individuals or more exited the bar within one minute and 45 seconds. An officer contacted an individual who appeared to be underage and asked for an ID, which he provided. He was underage. He admitted to consuming some alcoholic drinks and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .089. Another individual that officers contacted who appeared to be underage provided her sister's ID when asked for an ID. She later identified herself and admitted to having a couple of drinks, and she was confirmed to be underage. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .096. Her sister's ID was taken into evidence.

An officer asked a third individual who appeared underage for an ID, and the individual attempted to walk away. The officer then escorted him toward the exit. As they were walking through the door, the individual asked if he could at least "get out." The officer released the escort hold, and the individual immediately jumped the metal gate outside the bar and sprinted away among the crowd too quickly for the officer to catch him.

Officers also contacted a female who initially provided a fake Michigan ID with a fake name when asked. At the time of the writing of this summary, the same ID was scanned with a phone app designed to identify fake IDs. The app identified the ID as likely fake. The individual later properly identified herself and admitted to being underage and to having two drinks. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .054.

After issuing citations to the initial group, officers returned to Latino Bar due to the still excessive number of underage-appearing patrons. When they entered, two male individuals saw them and started running further into the bar and the crowd, with multiple officers having to chase them down. One of these individuals claimed that he had no ID on him but admitted to being underage and said he had used his UW-L ID to gain entry to the bar. The other individual also eventually admitted to being underage and provided a fake Minnesota ID which he had used to get into the bar. His preliminary breath test sample was at .124. A fake Illinois ID was also confiscated from one of the individuals cited that night. Eleven citations were issued to ten individuals.

Also of note was the number of people total in the bar that night when officers first entered. People were standing shoulder-to-shoulder from the stage area of the establishment all the way to the pool tables, and a clear safety concern was present as this was over the 219-person capacity limit of the building.

November 3-4, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-52159

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. An officer noted an individual who appeared to be underage who attempted to avoid the officer when they entered the bar. Originally, she stated that she did not have an ID, but later provided a fake ID when asked. She admitted to being underage and stated that she had consumed some vodka drinks. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .14. Four citations were issued to three individuals.

November 11, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-53179

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Four citations were issued to three individuals.

November 12, 2023

Offense(s): OWI 1st

Incident No.: 10-23-53297

Summary: Officers arrested an individual for an OWI 1st. He provided a preliminary breath sample of .181. He admitted to drinking at Latino Bar prior to driving.

November 17, 2023

Offense(s): Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-54081

Summary: An officer was dispatched to a welfare check on the 400 block of Jay Street after a passerby had observed a male vomiting from his car. Upon arrival, officers noted that

the individual was covered in vomit and passed out in the driver's seat of the car, which was off. The individual appeared intoxicated based on his answers to orientation questions, and he stated that he was at Latino Bar prior to getting in his car. He was confirmed to be underage with a Wisconsin ID but refused to provide a breath sample. He was then given a ride and left in the care of a friend. One citation was issued to one individual.

December 1, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-23-09523

Summary: UW-L Police encountered a male who was observed staggering on the sidewalk near Coate Hall and La Crosse Street and made contact for a welfare check. The individual exhibited signs of intoxication and admitted to drinking. He stated he had just come from Latino Bar and had a can of Busch Light in his pocket while speaking with the officer. He also stated that he did not have his real ID with him but had a fake ID. When he handed his wallet to the officer, 3 fake ID cards were found—one Minnesota fake ID and two Wisconsin fake IDs. The subject provided a preliminary breath test sample of .191.

One citation was issued to one individual.

December 2, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 10-23-56237

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. One officer observed a female leaving once she saw them enter, and the officer asked for an ID. She initially provided a fake ID, but eventually admitted to being 18 years old. She also admitted to consuming five alcoholic beverages that night.

A different individual was stopped by an officer and asked to provide ID. She was underage. She initially stated she hadn't been drinking alcohol, but later provided a preliminary breath test sample of .151. She also admitted to using a fake ID to enter the bar, which was then confiscated. Two citations were issued to two individuals.

December 3, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 10-23-56372

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Upon police presence, officers noticed several individuals attempting to leave the bar through the back door and placed one female individual in an escort hold to contact her. She provided her Wisconsin ID, which confirmed that she was underage, and admitted to consuming at least one mixed drink at Latino Bar. Approximately fifty people left while the officers were on the scene. Two citations were issued to two individuals.

December 10, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-57435

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Upon their entrance and contact with an individual, officers noticed numerous people leave the bar or attempt to leave (approximately 25 people). One officer contacted a suspected underage individual as he was leaving the bar, who admitted to being 18 years old and drinking one or two drinks. Another individual, who began walking out immediately when police entered, was contacted. When an officer asked for her ID, she stated she did not have one and that she was 21 years old. She provided incorrect information, but officers were able to eventually identify that she was underage. She then admitted that she consumed two vodka drinks and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .089. Three citations were issued to two individuals.

December 14, 2023

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct

Incident No.: 80-23-09945, 10-23-57996

Summary: Officers were dispatched in response to a call about subjects on the roof of Cavalier Theater (114 5th Avenue North) without permission "running around again." Approximately an hour prior, officers had received the exact same complaint, but no suspects were found. Upon arrival the second time, an officer noticed the owner of the Cavalier walking down the sidewalk behind several younger college-aged males who were walking away from him. Two of the individuals started running when they noticed

the marked patrol vehicle. Three other males continued walking, and the Cavalier's owner advised that they had been part of the roof incident.

The three individuals were identified with their UW-L IDs/ Wisconsin IDs and claimed that they did not take part in the activity on the Cavalier Theater's roof. They were all identified as underage. They were initially released as the Cavalier's owner was unable to pull up the cameras at the time.

When the owner was able to pull up the security footage and the officer reviewed it, the three individuals spoken with earlier were identified, despite saying that they had not been on the roof of the Cavalier.

La Crosse Police then informed La Crosse County Dispatch to inform UW-L that they were looking to make contact with the individuals.

A UW-L officer encountered three males on the UW-L campus matching the descriptions of the three individuals La Crosse Police had spoken with. When contacted, one of the individuals stated that they had been stopped by LCPD but that they had cleared it up and that they didn't "do anything bad." They continued to deny being on the roof of the Cavalier. LCPD officers were called.

When they arrived, La Crosse Police officers informed the individuals that they had video evidence of all three males on the roof and walking out from the alley. Officers asked if the individuals had been drinking, which they denied despite emitting odor of intoxicants. Officers then attempted to preliminary breath test the individuals, while pointing out that one of them was wearing a wristband from Latino Bar. That individual admitted to drinking at Latino Bar and submitted a preliminary breath test sample of .169. Another one of the individuals submitted a preliminary breath test sample of .123. The third individual refused to provide a sample but showed multiple signs of being impaired and became increasingly uncooperative with officers. Six citations were issued to three individuals.

December 15, 2023

Actor(s): Ruben Cruz Ortiz (bar manager), Carlos Corona Acosta (bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID, Allow Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-23-58284, 10-23-58292, 80-23-09968

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Many patrons immediately walked hurriedly away from officers. Officers proceeded to make contact with multiple underage-appearing individuals.

Shortly after police arrived, approximately 230 people walked out of the bar. Upon information and belief, Latino Bar's capacity limit is 219. No one else entered the bar in this time frame and officers did not force the bar to vacate. Indeed, later when officers were speaking to Ruben, the bouncer denied two people entry into the bar without checking their IDs. An overwhelming majority walked to the right as opposed to the left, which is the more typical direction to other downtown bars.

While being interviewed by police, one individual even made a comment about how there were so many people walking out of the bar. Officers were given 5 fake IDs. 1 was from Wisconsin, 1 was Illinois, 1 was Iowa, and 2 were Indiana. One of the fake IDs was missing a DL number. An officer utilized blue light and noted that the Indiana IDs were "obviously" fake. One individual provided a preliminary breath test sample of .105 and the rest refused. Most of the individuals were otherwise generally cooperative after providing their fake IDs to officers. They believe that staff are not really checking IDs. In reference to who was underage, one individual stated, "you could've picked anyone in the bar."

Officers discovered that the bouncer, Carlos Corona Acosta, had an active warrant. Corona Acosta was placed under arrest without incident and transported to the La Crosse County Jail where he was released to jail staff.

Eleven citations were issued to six individuals, and Latino Bar received a citation for allowing underage in bar. This was handed to the bar manager, Ruben Cruz.

This same night, a UW-L officer initiated a welfare check on a male subject walking near Eagle Hall on La Crosse Street who appeared to be staggering and in a "zombie-like" state. The officer attempted to contact the individual by identifying himself and speak to the male. The male continued to walk away from the officer and ignored the officer when told to stop. Eventually, the officer contacted the individual, who turned

toward him and spoke incoherently before telling the officer he was fine. The officer noted that the subject had leaves stuck to his person, bloodshot eyes, slurred/ incoherent speech, a staggering walk, and a strong odor of intoxicants coming from him. He was also missing a shoe. He admitted to drinking but could not produce ID, nor could the officer locate one on him. He stated that he had been drinking at Latino Bar.

The UW-L officer had to call an LCPD officer to assist due to the individual's level of intoxication. The male stated he had been sleeping in the bushes outside one of UW-L's residence halls and was unable to provide his correct residence hall information. He was also unable to answer other welfare questions correctly, such as providing an incorrect year and current location. He consented to go to detox, and officers determined that ambulance transport to detox would be the best option for him due to his level of intoxication. He provided a preliminary breath test sample of .167. He was given one citation and sent to Gundersen Lutheran.

December 16, 2023

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager), Carlos Corona Acosta (Latino Bar bouncer)

Incident No.: 10-23-58407, 10-23-58416

Summary: Officers received a complaint wherein the caller wanted police to "raid" Latino bar like the previous night because of all of the underage individuals in the bar. An officer later met with Latino Bar managers to discuss the complaint and share the concern over the multitude of underage individuals in the bar. Jonnathan Vargas Paredes alleged that the caller may have been someone who had been denied entry to the bar and who was therefore calling police and reporting underage people as revenge. A bouncer, Carlos Corona Acosta, claimed that people had been telling him "every single time" if he didn't let them in that they would call police and say that everyone in the bar is underage. The officer clarified that officers perform bar checks everywhere regardless of reports that might be made and that they check other bars more frequently than Latino Bar.

Vargas Paredes then complained about police presence the night prior, stating that five police went into the bar and kicked patrons out. Corona Acosta stated that "Everybody rushed to the door, pushing everybody over, almost falling out the door...both doors were open...there was an overflow of people even then." He alleges that "all the police officers followed everybody all the way out to the front door." This is inconsistent with

body worn camera footage, which showed a couple of officers standing by while other officers contacted a group of individuals. They did not contact additional patrons or advise any patrons to leave the bar. When the officer asked why they thought that people might be rushing to leave, Latino Bar staff stated, “Because they think there’s something going on.” Vargas Paredes then alleged that DJs who work at Latino Bar had told him that police do not go into other bars like they do Latino Bar. He mentioned Brothers and Library specifically. The officer pointed out that people who are of age do not react or care when they see LEOs in bars. He explained the process of bar checks generally as checking a couple of IDs and leaving but stated that the experience is different at Latino Bar because patrons, even those outside the bar, see officers and run to get out the door before officers even approach. He also added later that enforcement may feel like a bigger deal because people leave in masses and there are issues. The officer stated that this does not happen downtown during other bar checks. When staff were asked what percentage of people they believed were underage in the bar, they said that they could not say because the scanner said they were all of age.

Vargas Paredes was also upset that they had gotten a ticket the day prior because he stated that he checked all IDs and this could be corroborated by security footage. He added that he had felt discriminated against since the bar opened and was upset that the Sergeant the day prior had asked for his information and the bouncers’ information. Vargas Paredes also alleged that he had a Snapchat account for the bar and saw videos uploaded by “kids” (this was the term the bouncer used when translating for Vargas Paredes) from other bars where police come in and then the patrons leave. He stated that there were videos of other bars downtown being shut down, and that the individuals come to Latino Bar in those cases.

During this conversation, the officer noticed individuals walking toward Latino Bar and stated that they could come in—however, they turned around upon seeing him. Another group also turned around a few seconds later when they saw him. Vargas Paredes again stated this was due to fear of police. He complained that he would not have any more clientele because of police, or that police kicked everyone out. He alleged that when officers came into the bar to grab a couple of people and leave the bar to issue tickets, patrons would stay, and that the reason big groups left was because of the police issuing citations inside the bar or forcing people out. Because of all the people who left the prior night, Vargas Paredes estimated that the bar lost \$1,500 in profit. He complained that the City was costing him money, yet he still had to pay taxes and rent. He also cited

positive feedback he had received about the bar from parents of college students during Parents' Week.

The officer asked Vargas Paredes, "Do you think that your business would, if you found a way to make it so that under-agers could not come in at all—if you had a scanner that scanned it and said 'this ID is fake,' right, it would tell you right at the door—do you think your business would plummet?" Vargas Paredes paused for several seconds and tilted his head back and forth, before the bouncer translated for him, "yes, and probably no, who knows?" Vargas Paredes stated that the bar did not make money over the summer months because their clientele is entirely college students. He argued that if police/ the City took their money or cost them money during the year, they would not be able to afford rent during the summer. The bouncer who was translating then stated, "It's a tough business, but if there can't be cooperation from both sides, then..."

Vargas Paredes cited having issues with officers from the night prior and continued to complain about getting a ticket and that other bars were not checked the prior night. The officer stated that he knew for a fact that this was untrue. He did not issue any citation and outlined the option for Latino Bar to contest the prior night's citation in court. He stated that he wanted to work with them and that he believed the bar was doing some things well in addition to the areas they needed to work on. He ended the conversation by emphasizing a positive working relationship moving forward.

January 21, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-24-00691

Summary: A UW-L officer was dispatched to assist a first responder with a call from a UW-L dormitory. The caller was concerned for her friend, who was not feeling well and thought she might need to go to the hospital. The individual in need of help admitted to being underage and drinking at Latino Bar earlier that night. She was not able to stand and walk on her own but could answer basic welfare questions. Tri-State Ambulance determined that it was the individual's choice of whether to go to the hospital, and she decided that she needed to go.

One citation was issued to this individual.

January 26-27, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Resisting Arrest

Incident No.: 10-24-03457, 10-24-03627, 80-24-00867

Summary: Two groups of officers conducted bar checks at Latino Bar on the night of January 26th-27th. First, officers encountered a male who appeared underage and who avoided officers. There were approximately fifteen other individuals in the bar at that time who all left when officers detained the male. Once officers made contact, he provided his real ID to officers but later admitted he had a fake ID. He stated he had consumed 5-6 drinks. This individual was cited and released.

An officer attempted to contact a different individual, and she ran away from the officer. She was ordered to stop running and eventually contact was established. She was underage (19 years old) and had a fake Indiana ID in her possession. Additionally, she provided a preliminary breath test sample of .024.

In total, seven citations were issued to three individuals.

The same night, UW-L police had an encounter with two underage individuals who had run from the police when they attempted to initiate contact earlier that night. The individuals denied running from police but showed signs of intoxication. One was wearing a wristband that the officer identified as being from Latino Bar. Both admitted to drinking and both were underage. Neither would perform a preliminary breath test. Each individual was given one citation.

February 1, 2024

Actor(s): Karen Lopez Hernandez (Latino Bar bartender)

Offense(s): Sale/Furnish Liquor to Underage

Incident No.: 10-24-04474

Summary: Officers were conducting a compliance check at Latino Bar with a minor volunteer. The minor went in the bar and there was no bouncer, and IDs were not being checked. The minor ordered a Coors Light beer and was served by the bartender. Again, no ID was checked. One citation was issued to the bartender.

February 2, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-04681, 10-24-04694

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. They observed a female who appeared to be underage attempting to leave the bar as officers arrived. She identified herself with her real ID and admitted to consuming one drink in the bar.

Other officers contacted another female who appeared to be underage when she walked toward the bathroom once officers entered the bar. She was very unsteady on her feet, struggled to retrieve her ID and had to have a friend help her do so, and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .287. Three citations were issued to two individuals.

The same night, officers received a call about a verbal altercation at Latino Bar. The caller stated that the argument occurred outside the bar. He was at the bar to pick up his nephew, and later stated that the people arguing had left the scene. He called back again, requesting that police stop by to check IDs of patrons. He observed that the people arguing appeared to be young and stated that there were still underage people at the bar. He also stated that the bartender had told him not to call police.

February 16, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID

Incident No.: 10-24-06780, 10-24-06782

Summary: Officers encountered an underage individual urinating outside Latino Bar. They identified the individual verbally at first because he claimed he did not have an ID. He was later found to be in possession of a false ID and admitted to being in Latino Bar and consuming alcohol there. He received two citations.

Officers then conducted a bar check at Latino Bar. They encountered one individual who initially stated she did not have an ID, but after further investigation was found to have a fake ID. This individual was underage.

Another individual made eye contact with an officer and then immediately turned around and walked away, trying to avoid the officer. Eventually, the officer made contact with her, and she admitted to being 19 years old and to drinking two mixed drinks at Latino

Bar. Her fake ID was confiscated. During the bar check, three citations were issued to two individuals. In total, five citations were issued to three individuals.

February 17, 2024

Actor(s): Ruben Cruz (Latino Bar manager)

Incident No.: 10-24-06939, 10-24-06946, 10-24-06985

Summary: Officers were responding to a rowdy group at Latino Bar, at least one member of which was underage. When officers arrived, several people exited the bar. Over the course of 7 minutes of body worn camera footage, approximately 84 individuals left the bar. This was the most obvious the second time officers entered the bar, when 34 individuals left the bar within one minute and 30 seconds of the officers' entry. While at Latino Bar, officers spoke with bar staff, who indicated that they had purchased a scanner to check IDs, and that fake IDs were being confiscated and destroyed. Four underage females were identified and three provided fake IDs (two from Minnesota and one from Iowa). Officers released them to go home without citing them but confiscated the fake IDs.

About 45 minutes after the first bar check, officers returned to Latino Bar and it was completely empty. During this time, officers spoke to a Latino Bar manager, Ruben Cruz, and a bouncer about the ongoing problem of underage patrons being inside the bar. Cruz stated, through the bouncer who was translating, that people leave other bars too when the police come. An officer pointed out that they do not run into situations elsewhere wherein such large crowds exit at the presence of police. Cruz stated that people left because they were afraid of police. The Latino Bar staff said they believed the scanner they purchased was sufficient for checking the validity of IDs. They were asked whether they were asking additional questions to vet their patrons, and they claimed they were. An officer suggested asking for secondary forms of ID and clarified that it was legal to do so. Latino Bar staff stated that when they did ask for second forms of ID, the names on credit or debit cards matched the names on the IDs.

Also on the 17th, a neighboring business of Latino Bar called police to complain about vomit and urine near their business front door and windows. A neighbor stated they have cameras which often show college aged individuals committing these acts. They asserted that the activity at Latino Bar involving underage individuals was necessitating additional cleanup for their business.

February 23, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID, Obstructing an Officer

Incident No.: 10-24-07834

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Upon entering, officers observed a female who appeared to be underage in the center of the bar. She made eye contact with an officer, then immediately looked away and tried to walk past the officer to the exit. The officer requested an ID and she provided a false Minnesota ID that the officer recognized as suspicious-looking due to offset print. It did not return information, and the officer asked her for correct information more than ten times, and she continued to provide false information. She was eventually identified through dispatch and was underage. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .158. Six citations were issued to two individuals.

March 1, 2024

Offense(s): Public Urination, Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-24-02041

Summary: A UW-L officer was parked across from the UW-L campus and noticed a male stumbling on the sidewalk next to a UW-L dorm and urinating while walking. When the officer attempted to contact the individual, the person saw the officer and started running toward the dorm. He then fell in the grass, and the officer was able to contact him.

The individual said he was urinating because he had to use the bathroom and admitted that he had been drinking. It was at this point that the officer noted the blue wristband on the individual's wrist, which the officer knew from experience was associated with Latino Bar. The individual confirmed that he was coming from Latino Bar and stated that "everyone" on Thursday nights is coming from Latino Bar. He had been drinking mixed drinks, but did not state how many and would not consent to a PBT. Two citations were issued to this individual.

March 7, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID, Obstructing Officer (warning)

Incident No.: 10-24-10056

Summary: Officers were responding to an anonymous call complaining of at least 30-35 underage people drinking at Latino Bar. One officer observed an individual inside the bar who appeared to be underage and asked for his ID. The individual gave the officer an ID which the officer identified as clearly fake. The officer asked for his real ID, to which the individual responded that the fake was his real ID. The officer then indicated that if he was not provided the real ID, the individual would face charges, at which point the individual provided his real Wisconsin ID. He was found to be underage. Three citations and one warning were issued to one individual.

March 9, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol (warning), Underage in Bar, False ID (warning), Obstructing Officer

Incident No.: 10-24-10215

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. One officer observed two females who appeared to be underage and asked for identification. Both individuals provided fake Illinois IDs and alleged that they were real. The officer was able to identify one of the individuals, who also admitted to drinking in the bar. She was 17 years old.

Officers contacted another individual who did not have an ID on him but stated he was 17 years old. This was confirmed. He alleged that he walked into the bar without having his ID checked.

In total, three citations and four warnings were issued to three individuals.

March 17, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Marijuana Possession 25 Grams or Less, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Incident No.: 10-24-11496

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. While inside, one officer attempted to identify two females, who stated that they did not have identification. One of the individuals was identified verbally and admitted to being underage. During her

interaction with the officer, she also produced a pink marijuana grinder with a green leafy substance inside that gave off an odor of marijuana. In total, four citations were issued to two individuals.

March 23, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-12634

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. An officer observed an individual who appeared to be underage, and when the individual was contacted, observed a fake ID in his phone. The individual surrendered the ID and admitted to drinking. He provided a preliminary breath test sample of .07.

Officers noticed that a separate female individual appeared nervous upon noticing the presence of law enforcement in the bar. When asked for ID, she alleged that she did not have one. She initially provided the officer with false identification information, but eventually provided accurate information. She was underage and admitted to drinking in the bar. She refused a PBT.

A third individual also appeared nervous at the presence of law enforcement and claimed she did not have an ID. She admitted to drinking in the bar and was found to be underage. She refused a PBT.

In total, six citations were issued to three individuals.

March 29, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-24-03060

Summary: UW-L officers responded to a welfare check at the 4th floor lobby of Coate Hall related to an individual who was passed out and intoxicated. A Resident Assistant (RA) said that he had initially found the male individual on the floor of the bathroom and that the individual's friends carried him to the couch in the 4th floor lobby.

When the officer initially contacted the individual, he appeared to be unconscious. The officer tapped him on the shoulder, stating their role as an officer, and the individual shushed the officer.

Once he began talking, the individual stated that he was visiting his friends and that he had been drinking that night. When asked how many drinks he consumed, he stated “too many.” He refused to provide a preliminary breath test sample. Additionally, he was vomiting and pale when the officer spoke to him but stated that he did not want to go to the hospital and answered welfare questions correctly. The officer also identified that the individual was underage during their conversation.

The officer then spoke with the individual’s friends, who stated that they had observed him go to Tequila’s and then Latino Bar. He had consumed a pitcher of rum and Coke before being cut off by a bouncer due to excessive drinking. The individual’s friends were concerned for him and wanted an ambulance called to assess him, but the officer clarified that he could not force the individual to accept aid because he had correctly answered welfare questions. The officer then called in assistance from LCPD due to concern that the individual may end up needing medical attention and not wanting to move the individual to issue a citation.

While LCPD officers were with him, the individual fell asleep and incorrectly answered welfare questions when he woke. Once he was more alert, he was able to answer correctly again.

This individual was issued one citation.

April 5, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-24-03300

Summary: A UW-L officer conducted a traffic stop on La Crosse Street after a vehicle drove the wrong way down a one-way street on Farwell/Oakland Street. Upon initiating contact, the officer detected an odor of alcohol coming from the car. The driver denied consuming alcohol, but the passenger admitted to consuming alcohol. The officer then noted that the passenger’s pupils were enlarged and that she was wearing a gold Latino

Bar wristband. The passenger was confirmed to be underage but refused to provide a breath sample. She was issued one citation.

April 21, 2024

Offense(s): Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID (warning)

Incident No.: 10-24-17211

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. During the bar check, an officer observed a female walking away from him after noticing police presence. She was contacted and provided her ID, which showed she was underage. She provided a PBT with a “very low” result. She was cited and received a warning for having a fake ID. While police were with her, at least 100 and potentially more patrons of Latino Bar left the premises. Officers assessed this behavior as a common sign for a high population of underage patrons, and further pointed out that it had been a common issue at Latino Bar. One citation and one warning were issued to one individual.

April 26-27, 2024

Offense(s): Property Damage

Incident No.: 10-24-18203, 10-24-18205, 10-24-18882

Summary: Officers received a call from a Latino Bar staff member stating that college kids had exited Latino Bar and broke windows of the building to the south of Latino Bar. The caller stated that four suspects ran toward People’s Food Co-op. As an officer arrived on scene at Latino bar, he heard another window shatter at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Main Street. The officer was not able to locate the suspect that night. Meanwhile, UW-L police received a complaint about language used in a Snapchat video which showed a male appearing to be highly intoxicated kicking in the window near Latino Bar and breaking it.

The next day, the officer followed up at Latino Bar to attempt to identify the person who had caused the damage to two windows. The footage showed the suspect standing outside of Latino Bar as three other males exited the bar. The group conversed, and one of the three males who had exited the bar began filming the Snapchat video mentioned above as the suspect kicked one window, shattering it. Officers noted that in the video,

the suspect had unsteady balance, could not walk in a straight line, and appeared to be highly intoxicated. All four males then ran south on 5th Avenue.

The suspect was then captured on downtown cameras kicking the window at White Buffalo Thriftery several times until it broke, and then he walked back toward the area of Latino Bar. Later, he was seen walking toward the Cavalier Theater and then back to the White Buffalo Thriftery, where he kicked the broken window area again multiple times.

The suspect was identified through both the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center matching his photograph to his Facebook Account as well as a post by the Cavalier Theater on its Facebook page which several individuals commented on, providing the individual's name.

Upon review of the IDs scanned from Latino Bar that night, the suspect's name was identified. The scanner advised that his ID had been scanned more than once that night—at 10:58 p.m. and 12:31 a.m., which was shortly before the windows were broken. He was underage and used a fake Minnesota ID to enter the bar.

When officers were able to contact the individual, he agreed to come into the police department for an interview. He stated during the interview that he had been at Latino Bar most of the night during the incident and did not remember damaging windows, but said he was heavily intoxicated and “blacking out.” He also admitted to using a fake ID to get into Latino Bar and upon seeing footage of himself breaking the window near Latino Bar that night, agreed that it was him in the video. He was apologetic but did not remember the incident due to his level of intoxication at the time. The estimated damage at the time the police reports were written was a total of \$4,500 between the two windows and property damage at the White Buffalo Thriftery. He was arrested and charged for both incidents of damage.

April 27, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-18335

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. One officer observed an individual who appeared to be underage, and when asked for ID, provided a fake Tennessee ID. The officer was advised by dispatch that the individual was underage and had a

Wisconsin ID. The individual then admitted to consuming one alcoholic drink inside of Latino Bar and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .058.

Another individual, upon noticing an officer inside the bar, began to walk toward the exit. When contacted by the officer, he provided a real Puerto Rico ID which identified him as under the age of 21. He also admitted to drinking in the bar but argued that the drinking age in Puerto Rico is 18 so he could legally drink there. He recognized that he was not of age to consume alcohol in the United States.

A third individual who appeared underage initially presented officers with a fake Illinois ID. The individual was discovered to have a Wisconsin Driver's License and be underage.

In total, six citations were issued to three individuals.

May 4, 2024

Incident No.: 10-24-19331

Summary: Officers were responding to a trouble with party call at Latino Bar. An underage male had called the police after being "jumped" outside Latino Bar. He had been inside Latino Bar drinking and saw his ex-girlfriend and proceeded to throw a drink at her and then went outside. Three other males followed him outside and punched him approximately five times, then pushed him over. He admitted that he had initiated the conflict with both his ex-girlfriend and the three other males. He chose not to press charges at that time.

May 10, 2024

Incident No.: 80-24-04564

Summary: A UW-L Officer responded to a suspicious activity call at a UW-L dorm involving a male in a female room who was not supposed to be there. The caller indicated that she did not know the male in her room, and the Resident Assistant stated that the male had been a little bit uncooperative.

The male individual believed that it was his younger brother's room, who he alleged he was helping move back from college. He said that he had gone out drinking with his brother, who was 19 years old. He stated that they had been at Latino Bar. During the male's interaction with an officer, he stepped out to the bathroom to vomit. The officer

also noticed an odor of intoxicants coming from his person as well as slurred speech and red, glossy eyes.

The female resident of the room stated that she had been woken up from sleep by the sound of a door opening shortly followed by the sounds of someone vomiting. She expressed concern about the male getting to his brother's room safely. The officer escorted the individual to his brother's actual room. He was not cited due to the fact that he was 22.

September 6, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-40552

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. They noticed multiple individuals who appeared to be underage. At least two female individuals attempted to hide from or elude officers. They initially stated that they did not have IDs on them, but they both later admitted to being underage and having consumed drinks earlier in the night at a restaurant. One of the two females provided a preliminary breath test sample of zero, while the other provided a preliminary breath test sample of .027.

Another officer contacted two other female individuals. One of the individuals stated that she used her school ID to gain entry to the bar, while the other stated that she had given her ID to a friend. Both females eventually turned over fake IDs (both from Minnesota), were found to be underage, and admitted to drinking. They provided preliminary breath test samples of .022 and .017. In total, seven citations were issued to four individuals.

September 7, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-40727

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. They contacted three female individuals. One individual initially told officers that she did not have an ID and that she had just walked in, but later admitted that she was underage and handed over a Minnesota fake ID. She stated she had used this to gain entry to the bar. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of zero. Her friend also denied drinking and initially stated that she

had just walked in and didn't have an ID but handed hers over when the first individual did. She admitted then to being underage and provided a preliminary breath test sample of zero. She gave her fake Illinois ID to the officer as well. The third female individual admitted to being underage and stated that she did not have an ID but just walked into the bar as well. The officer told her that a fake ID ticket would cost more, but that they would not issue one if the girls handed over the fake IDs. She provided an Illinois fake ID. She also stated that she had consumed one drink approximately 10-20 minutes prior and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .08. Four citations were issued to three individuals.

September 26, 2024

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Obstructing Officer, Underage in Bar (two warnings), Possession of False ID (one warning)

Incident No.: 10-24-44095

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. As they approached the bar, at least 30 people were lined up waiting for entry. When officers exited the bar with an individual less than two minutes later, the line was only 2-3 individuals. In the bar, one officer quickly spotted a female who appeared to be underage, who began walking away from him upon seeing that he was a police officer. When the officer contacted her, she set down what appeared to be a mixed drink. She gave the officer both a fake Wisconsin ID and a real Wisconsin ID, and she admitted to consuming three mixed drinks. She was confirmed as underage. Another female individual who appeared to be underage was seen in the bar holding what appeared to be a mixed drink. She stated that her friend had her ID. She provided the officer with an illegitimate name but admitted to consuming two mixed drinks and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .06. After the officer tried searching for the name she provided multiple times unsuccessfully, she admitted that she had lied about her name. She was found to be underage. A final female attempted to walk away upon seeing an officer, and another female stepped in between her and the officer. Eventually, the officer was able to make contact. She immediately handed over a fake Indiana ID to officers and stated it had her real name, but later provided a second fake Indiana ID with her actual name. She was confirmed to be underage. She stated that she had one drink 45 minutes prior but provided a preliminary breath test sample of .106.

During the interaction between these individuals and police, Jonnathan Vargas Paredes interrupted to tell police they “need to go over there,” and pointed across the street and away from the bar. He stated, “this is my property.” He was visibly combative; however, police stepped to the side.

Four citations were issued to three individuals.

October 4, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-24-09497

Summary: A UW-L officer initiated a welfare check for a female, accompanied by two other individuals, who was walking back and forth in a street near the UW-L campus. When the officer contacted her, her movement was lethargic, she had red glossy eyes, and a moderate odor of intoxicants was emitting from her breath. In addition, she had a bruise under her right eye, a scratched knuckle on her left hand, and a wet spot on the back of her pants. She stated that she did not need medical attention and said that she had fallen.

The officer then asked where she came from and noticed a blue wristband on her wrist. She and the male individual with her stated that it was from Latino Bar. When asked how much she had had to drink, she stated “not enough.”

She claimed that she could not find her license, and when asked for her birthday, did not initially respond. Eventually, dispatch confirmed that she was underage. She initially agreed to provide a preliminary breath test, but later declined it. She was cited and released to one of her friends.

The officer added that the male individual with her exhibited “abnormal” behavior during the encounter, with slow and awkward movements and not following the officer’s instructions. Additionally, the officer observed a blue wristband identical to the one previously discussed with the other individual which had been discarded on the ground nearby. The officer asked someone to pick it up, and the male individual did and then placed it in his pocket. The officer asked him his age and he initially lied, but when confronted by the officer, he admitted to being underage. He was issued a warning instead of a citation because he and the other individual had come to assist the female party who received the citation.

One citation was issued to one individual, and a different individual received a warning.

October 11, 2024

Incident No.: 10-24-47122

Summary: Officers were responding to a person in crisis at Latino Bar. This underage female claimed that she had been raped and believed she may have been drugged in Latino Bar. Her friends mentioned that she had a history of trauma and that she had been drinking downtown when they noticed she began to act a bit strange. When speaking with the person in crisis, officers were unable to gather a statement due to her intoxication level and hyperventilating. She was transported to Gundersen to be medically evaluated. All involved individuals were underage.

October 12, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar (warning), Possession of False ID (warning)

Incident No.: 10-24-47130

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. They observed a female who appeared to be underage and who walked away from officers upon noticing their presence. When officers contacted her, she admitted to consuming four mixed drinks (vodka cranberry) at Latino Bar. She had a fake Illinois ID that she used to gain entry to the bar, which she had ordered online. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .111. One citation and two warnings were issued to one individual.

October 18, 2024

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager), Alex Rogers (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Allowing Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-48282

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Multiple underage individuals were contacted and admitted to drinking at Latino Bar.

One individual had used a friend's fake ID to enter the bar. He admitted to being served and consuming three Captain Morgan and Coke beverages at Latino Bar and had a beer in his hand when an officer initially approached him.

Sergeant Plenge apprehended an underage individual who noted during their interaction that it was well known among students that underage people could get into Latino Bar.

Later, officers contacted a group of females who appeared to be underage as they were attempting to exit the bar. One of these individuals alleged that she gained entry to the bar with her real (underage) ID and did not have a fake ID in her possession. Another individual provided a fake Minnesota ID, which the officer evaluated as a "pretty cruddy fake." She alleged that the bouncer had scanned this ID, and she gained entry to the bar with it. She admitted that it was her intent to visit Latino Bar that night because she knew that her ID would work there as well as to drinking at the bar. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .097. Sergeant Purkapile assisted with two of the underage females during this interaction. One of the females used a fake ID from Iowa to get into the bar. The other individual claimed that she had gotten in with her underage ID. The other individual, a sophomore, said that she had gone to Latino Bar a couple of times the prior year because she knew of the bar's reputation as a "freshmen bar." She admitted to drinking at Latino Bar that night and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .17. She added that she felt awkward being at the bar as a sophomore because it was a "freshman bar"—she was too old and therefore knew she wasn't "supposed to be there." The other female provided a preliminary breath test sample of .16.

After officers had ticketed multiple underage individuals, Sergeant Plenge initiated a conversation with Latino Bar owner, Jonnathan Vargas Paredes. Sgt. Plenge confirmed that a bar check had been conducted and that numerous underage individuals were cited. Vargas Paredes alleged that they had been checking IDs all night and that Latino Bar used a scanner for IDs while other bars downtown did not. Sgt. Plenge pointed out that the expectation for ID verification, per the bar's Nuisance Abatement Agreement, went beyond just using the scanner, and that individuals who appeared to be under 30 years old should have additional inquiry. Vargas Paredes also alleged that Latino Bar staff had been asking questions to confirm identity as well as second forms of ID. However, when he tried to confirm that questions had been asked with his employee, Alex Rogers, Alex stated, "What kind of question though? Seriously. What kind of question?"

Throughout the conversation, Vargas Paredes repeatedly asked officers if they were also checking other bars and alleged that other bars allow and serve underage individuals with fake IDs. He also complained that Latino Bar staff were being required to attend a training with police while other bars were not. Officers then asked to see the security footage from that night, and Vargas Paredes agreed to provide it. When asked to provide his own ID, Vargas Paredes initially resisted, but then agreed to retrieve it from his car.

An officer had a conversation with the bouncer Rogers during this time. Rogers alleged that it was his second night working at the bar. However, City of La Crosse Police Department records detail Rogers being a staff member at Latino Bar as far back as June 5, 2022, when he reported an incident of property damage at the bar. He stated during this conversation that he normally did not check IDs at the door and was covering for the staff members that usually worked in that position. He claimed that he had not had any training in recognizing fake IDs, was not told to ask certain questions, and did not know how to properly use the scanner (“I don’t know how to fuckin’ use this thing”). He stated that he only asked for a second form of ID if someone looked particularly young or if a “pass-back alert” popped up on the scanner, though he said he did not know what that meant. He stated that he had not heard of Latino Bar’s reputation before.

During the various interactions between officers, underage individuals and the bar staff, large groups of people could be seen exiting the bar in short periods of time. In one video, 83 people exited the bar over an 8-minute period. By the time Sgt. Plenge went into the bar to watch the security footage, it was almost entirely empty.

It should also be noted that as officers were speaking with Vargas Paredes, an individual who had been in Latino Bar ran out with one of Latino Bar’s credit card payment devices in hand. As Rogers chased the individual down the block, the device was thrown on the ground and damaged. Despite Latino Bar staff providing the name on the ID the suspect used to gain entry to the bar as well as a still of security footage from the individual entering the bar, police were not able to identify the suspect because the ID scanned was fake.

In review of the security footage provided by Latino Bar, there were several concerning incidents which contradicted information Vargas Paredes gave police. First, all the patrons attempting to enter the bar appear to be under 30 years old, and therefore should have been asked for a second form of identification. Only a small portion of people were

asked to provide a second form of identification, and very few were turned away completely (approximately seven people) from 11:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. that night.

Additionally, at around 11:01 p.m., a female stepped forward to have her ID scanned by Rogers. She appeared to be underage and was gesturing animatedly at her chest as she told Rogers something (unclear/ no audio). She was let in without a second form of ID as Vargas Paredes watched the interaction. Rogers gestured to Vargas Paredes, and the female approached Vargas Paredes and whispered in his ear. At the same time, Rogers was checking her friend's ID, and it appeared he was going to stop the friend from entering the bar. The first female returned and appeared to argue with Rogers, at which point Vargas Paredes took the ID in question and used his phone app to scan it. The phone app displayed a green check mark, and Vargas Paredes showed it to Rogers and both females were let in.

Around 11:10, Rogers stopped another person after checking their ID. However, Vargas Paredes motioned for the individual to come over to him and again utilized the scanning app on his phone. After looking over the ID a bit more, Vargas Paredes allowed the individual to enter. This happened again immediately after, when Rogers handed a questionable ID to Vargas Paredes rather than verifying it himself with a second form of ID or by asking questions. The second individual was not allowed in. This happened for a third time around 11:12. Vargas Paredes did not ask anyone for a second form of identification. Around 11:15, Rogers gave an ID to Ruben Cruz, one of the managers, to scan with the phone app. The individual was allowed in the bar without a second form of ID.

Finally, this footage is notable for an instance where a probable pass-back can be observed (where an individual uses a fake ID to gain entry to the bar and then passes that ID back to a friend to use). At around 11:18 p.m., a female's ID was scanned, and she entered the bar. Less than one minute later, she left the bar through the front door. Two minutes after leaving, she re-entered the bar without having her ID checked. She appeared to say to the bouncer "I was already in here." She waited by the front door area and security personnel until a friend joined her shortly thereafter.

As Sgt. Plenge was reviewing the footage with Vargas Paredes, he noted to Vargas Paredes that the bouncer (Rogers) appeared to be just scanning IDs briefly and letting people in, rather than taking time to ask questions. Vargas Paredes disagreed. Sgt. Plenge asked him if Latino Bar staff would ask for a second form of ID when their scanner gave

an alert pop-up, to which he responded yes. Sgt. Plenge caught this and clarified that it wasn't until the scanner said no that they would ask for a second form of ID. Vargas Paredes responded "yeah, but no." Sgt. Plenge pointed out that in the footage, all the individuals looked very young and that none had yet been rejected.

Seven citations and five warnings were issued to six individuals, three fake IDs (one each from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa) were confiscated, and Latino Bar received a citation for allowing underage individuals in the bar.

October 19, 2024

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Possession of False ID, Allowing Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-48448

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Multiple underage individuals were contacted and admitted to drinking at Latino Bar. All the individuals used fake IDs to gain entry to the bar. Three fake IDs were from Michigan, two were from Minnesota, and one was from Illinois. One of the individuals said that his ID was not scanned and was only looked at. The other individuals all said that their fake IDs were scanned, but that they were not asked for a second form of ID. The individuals provided preliminary breath test samples of .028, .056, .064, .05, and .12. One individual provided a preliminary breath test sample of zero and stated that she was the one driving her friend.

One female shared that she had been coming to Latino Bar since the year prior (her freshman year) using the same fake ID. She stated that Latino Bar was the "only bar" that admits freshmen. Another stated that Latino Bar is known as the underage bar and that "everyone [there] is underage."

After citing the individuals, officers initiated a conversation with Latino Bar staff about the number of underage individuals being allowed in and served at the bar on a consistent basis. Staff argued that they had turned multiple people away—seven during that evening—and were scanning every ID. When officers provided some of the fake IDs that they had confiscated that night to Latino Bar staff to scan, one of the IDs does not cause any pop-ups, and one causes a pop-up indicating that the ID had been scanned within the last eight hours. This means that one of the fake IDs had not been scanned earlier that evening at all. The bouncer who had been checking IDs alleged that every

single ID had been scanned that night. Staff argued that they were doing everything expected of them and offered to provide that night's security footage to police. They also asked for recommendations for a better scanner. Sgt. Purkapile suggested that there may have been a software issue or an issue with the scanner's settings but pointed out that when police arrived at the bar, over 40 people left. A staff member then replied that people may have left because they were uncomfortable with what was going on or did not like the police. Sgt. Purkapile told the staff member that that explanation was not typical.

Later, when Sgt. Purkapile called Jonnathan Vargas Paredes to inform him that Latino Bar would receive a citation, Vargas Paredes argued that he scanned IDs and did his job. When Sgt. Purkapile shared that a majority of the patrons of the bar left when police entered, Vargas Paredes attributed the behavior to people disliking the police. Sgt. Purkapile explained this behavior is associated with underage individuals in bars. Vargas Paredes then argued that other bars downtown do the same thing and asked whether other bars were being checked and receiving citations.

An agent of Latino Bar submitted security footage of the front door from that night. Like the night prior, this footage showed behavior on the part of Latino Bar staff which is inconsistent with their statements to police. Bouncers consistently dismiss the pass-back pop-up throughout the footage provided without asking for a second form of ID, which allows multiple individuals to use the same ID. Overall, IDs were scanned very quickly.

Just before 11:32 p.m., one of the female individuals who later received a citation was let into the bar. A pop-up consistent with the pass-back alert appeared when her ID was scanned. Around 11:40 p.m., the male individual who later received a citation approached the bar and was let in after his ID was very quickly scanned. It is clear from the footage that no additional questions were asked.

Ten citations were issued to six individuals, and Latino Bar received a citation for allowing underage individuals in the bar.

October 22, 2024

Incident No.: 10-24-48847

Summary: An officer met with businesses near Latino Bar. These businesses expressed concerns about individuals associated with the bar vomiting and urinating on the business properties and nearby sidewalks.

October 25, 2024

Incident No.: 10-24-49311

Summary: An officer met with Jason LaCourse, owner of Cavalier, who was upset with how police and the City are handling the ongoing issues with Latino Bar. LaCourse stated that the issues had gone on too long and felt that nothing was being done about them. He also spoke about how the issues at Latino Bar, particularly with underage patrons, have directly affected him as a business owner in close proximity to Latino Bar.

October 25-26, 2024

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-49447, 80-24-10181

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Upon approaching the bar, there was a large group standing near the entrance that began to disperse when they noticed police presence. A Latino Bar bouncer, Pedro Leal, stopped officers before they entered and asked, "Can I have your guys' cards before you guys go in?" Then, he said "I'm not gonna stop you guys from going in of course." He was, however, standing in the way of the door. Officers then contacted two underage females who attempted to dodge them inside the bar. Both used fake Minnesota IDs to get into the bar and both admitted to drinking at the bar. Four citations were issued to two individuals.

The same evening, a UW-L officer encountered two males, one of whom was laying in the grass while the other sat next to him. Both individuals were underage and intoxicated. They had been walking home from Latino Bar. While the officer wrote their citations, one of the individuals vomited on the sidewalk. Due to that individual's inability to walk home by himself, an officer transported him home. He vomited again upon getting out of the squad car. Two citations were issued to two individuals.

October 26-27, 2024

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)
Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar
Incident No.: 10-24-49574

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. As it was almost 2:00 a.m., there were very few people in the bar. They contacted two underage females who both used fake IDs to get into the bar. One of the individuals had an incomplete last name on her fake ID. The fake was scanned, but she was not asked for a second form of ID, which would have shown her full last name. She also told one officer that all the people in the bar were “probably freshmen.” Both individuals admitted to drinking at Latino Bar. One individual had an Indiana fake ID and one had an Iowa fake ID.

While the officer was questioning the individual with a fake ID, Pedro Leal asked officers to leave the property if they were writing individuals tickets.

Sgt. Whitney Hughes was called to the scene after a Latino Bar bouncer (Leal) said that he would rather “talk to a sergeant or a lieutenant” than one of the officers conducting the bar check. Officers explained the process of requesting records to the bouncer. Leal stated that he had previously gotten “into it” with other sergeants and/or lieutenants.

Six citations were issued to two individuals.

October 27, 2024

Actor(s): **Latino Bar Staff:** Cruz Ortiz, Ruben; Guzman Jr., Ricardo; Martinez, Hugo; Gonzalez, Lesly; Basler, Andrew; Young, Alex; Pavtida, Mario; Praziel Zapata, Cesar; Castelan, Alan; Steinhoff, Faith; Vasquez, Brenda

Offense(s): N/A

Incident No.: 10-24-49626

Summary: Officers conducted a training for Latino Bar staff as part of their Nuisance Abatement Agreement. During the training, staff members alleged that they were using a handheld scanner (as opposed to the phone app) that they had purchased online to check IDs. They were advised to stop using the phone app to scan IDs. All staff members were to attend

this training. At least five have been identified, including Jonnathan Vargas Paredes, who did not attend.

November 1, 2024

Actor(s): Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-50359

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. When police approached the bar, the bouncer (Pedro Leal) immediately yelled, "Again, man?" As officers encountered the bouncer, a female who appeared underage was leaving the bar, saw the police, and immediately turned around and ran in the opposite direction. There were also several patrons outside the bar who appeared to be underage and quickly walked away after seeing police. Once inside, officers contacted three underage females, two of whom had fake IDs (one Minnesota, one Iowa). The third alleged that her friend had her ID. One of the individuals admitted to drinking at the bar and said that she got the drink with the wristband she was given at the front door. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .137. Three citations and two warnings were issued to three individuals.

November 2, 2024

Incident No.: 10-24-50531

Summary: Officers were conducting a welfare check at Latino Bar. After investigation, it appeared that the call was placed accidentally from inside Latino Bar. The individual who placed the call was underage.

November 2-3, 2024

Actor(s): Alex Rogers (Latino Bar bouncer), Ruben Cruz (Latino Bar manager), Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Allowing Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-50672

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. As officers walked toward the front door, an individual was walking out of the bar and collided into the door and then with an officer. The individual admitted to consuming a drink at Latino Bar and stated that he used his real ID to get into the bar, despite an officer stating that he saw a fake ID in his wallet.

A female individual was contacted who appeared to be underage and stated that she did not have an ID with her. She stated that she walked into the bar without an ID being checked and had not consumed alcohol. When asked how word spread about people going to Latino Bar, the female stated that it was known as the “freshmen bar.” She stated that she was a sophomore and that she was “so over going [to Latino Bar] anyways.”

Officers again initiated a conversation with Latino Bar staff about the presence of underage individuals in the bar. One bouncer alleged that he was asking people’s names and dates of birth to verify IDs. Alex Rogers was holding the ID scanner when officers approached, despite not being present at the October 27th training. Three citations were issued to two individuals, a fake Illinois ID was confiscated, and Latino Bar received a citation for allowing underage individuals in the bar.

An officer followed up with Latino Bar staff on November 15th to attempt to assess the bar’s security footage to determine whether the female cited the night of November 2nd had in fact gotten into the bar without an ID. Ruben Cruz (Latino Bar manager/ staff) said through a translating party that their boss (Jonnathan Vargas Paredes) had instructed them to not provide any additional camera footage to police since they had already provided some. They stated that they would not provide more footage unless legally required to do so. Cruz also stated that the lawyer for Latino Bar instructed them to not provide additional footage. When the officer circled back, staff stated that they would need to speak with the owner to obtain his permission to do so and referred to Vargas Paredes as the owner. They provided his number so the officer could contact him directly. When calling Vargas Paredes, the officer provided background to someone translating for Vargas Paredes that the bar would be cited if they did not show that the female party had had an ID checked. Vargas Paredes alleged that no one had gotten into the bar without an ID. He agreed, however, to let the officer see the footage from 10:00 to 11:00

p.m. and indicated that he would call the bar manager to inform him. However, officers ultimately issued a citation, and Latino Bar did not submit additional footage.

November 8, 2024

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 10-24-51414

Summary: Officers were responding to a separate incident in the downtown area when they heard screaming coming from the area of Latino Bar and went to investigate. They encountered an underage female who said she was having a “temper tantrum” because it was cold. Jonnathan Vargas Paredes interrupted this conversation to greet officers and tell them that nobody was at his bar and that everyone was downtown.

Another officer spoke with the two males exiting Latino Bar who were the last people with the female. They were both underage and used fake IDs to enter Latino Bar (one Michigan, one Wisconsin). One admitted to drinking at Latino Bar, but all of the individuals provided preliminary breath test samples of greater than zero (.065, .039, and .1). Three citations were issued to three individuals.

November 16, 2024

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Allow Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-24-52736

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar as well as follow-up from bar checks on November 2nd. There were Latino Bar staff members, including Jonnathan Vargas Paredes, at the door and an additional staff member just inside. Sgt. Plenge contacted two underage females attempting to leave the bar as he entered. Both had fake IDs, one of which was a Montana fake. The other was a Minnesota fake ID. Sgt. Plenge pointed out that it did not look very legitimate and asked if she had gotten in the bar with the Montana ID. She said, “Yeah, surprisingly.” Both individuals confirmed that they were neither asked for a second form of ID nor asked additional questions to verify their age or identity. They also said they were aware of Latino Bar’s reputation, and both females referred to the bar as the “freshmen bar.” Additionally, one of the females said that she

had two drinks in the bar and that the bartender did not ask for identification. They provided preliminary breath test samples of .111 and .203.

Another officer contacted a female when she ran away upon seeing him and continued to try to pull away. She got into the bar by using a friend's fake Minnesota ID and was not asked for a second form of ID. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .113.

Three additional underage females were contacted and admitted to drinking at Latino Bar. They provided preliminary breath test samples of .163, .148, and .242.

After the officers cited the underage individuals, they returned to Latino Bar to speak with bar staff and Vargas Paredes. Sgt. Plenge informed Vargas Paredes that the bar would again receive a citation for allowing underage individuals in the bar, and Paredes was frustrated and argumentative. He began to interrupt and yell over Sgt. Plenge, who was attempting to explain the reasoning for ticketing the bar. Meanwhile, officers attempted to communicate with the staff member who had been checking IDs that evening. He clarified that the pop-up (which another staff member immediately dismissed) meant that an ID had already been used at the bar that same day and provided a time stamp of when the ID was last used. Latino Bar staff repeatedly dismissed and disregarded this pop-up in security footage they provided police. When officers asked that same bouncer if he had been asking additional questions to confirm identity, he stated that he had not. He described the process of checking an ID as scanning the ID, making sure the photo matches the appearance of the individual, and holding the ID up to the light. He stated that he had just started a month prior, and began to translate for Vargas Paredes, who was speaking rapidly in Spanish with a raised voice.

Through the bouncer, Vargas Paredes accused the police of being racist toward Latino Bar because the scanner they used to verify IDs was the same scanner other bars used. The officers tried to explain that there should be more verification beyond just scanning, but Vargas Paredes continued to argue with, yell over, and interrupt police. He continued to step closer to them and pointed and shook his finger at them. He stated that he was listening to police but was "tired" of the continuing interactions. He also repeatedly demanded identification of the persons who were cited at the bar that evening, despite officers instructing him to file a records request with the Police Department. When officers attempted to pull the bouncer aside to discuss the issue with him separately, Vargas Paredes ordered his employee and police to stay outside the bar where cameras could see them.

The bouncer said that he received training when he first started and that he attended the training with the La Crosse Police Department. He claimed he had turned away about six people that evening for peeling or expired IDs. He also stated that Latino Bar did not have people who were assigned exclusively to check IDs, but that the role was filled on a rotating basis. He complained that it was difficult to check IDs well because of the number of people coming to the bar. As Sgt. Plenge verbally checked the bouncer's ID, Vargas Paredes was yelling "no" in the background, attempting to prevent the bouncer from providing his information to police, and asking why police needed ID. The interaction ended with Vargas Paredes telling officers, through the bouncer's translation, that he would see them in court.

Twelve citations were issued to six individuals, and Latino Bar was also issued a citation for allowing underage in bar.

November 23, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-24-11101

Summary: UW-L officers observed a group of individuals walking near the UW-L campus, and a female individual in the group was being carried by a male individual. When they saw an officer, they scattered. However, the officer later found the individual who was previously being carried struggling to walk up the stairs outside of a UW-L dormitory. She was with another female, and the officer contacted both after dispatch helped to identify them. They admitted that they were the individuals the officer had seen earlier. One of the two (the one who had been carried earlier) admitted to drinking and provided the officer with a fake Minnesota ID. Due to her inability to correctly answer welfare questions and follow simple instructions of the officer for a preliminary breath test, Tri-State Ambulance Service was called to evaluate her. Her friend informed EMTs that they had been at Latino Bar, and the individual being evaluated stated that she had consumed four or five mixed drinks at Latino Bar. She elected not to go to the hospital despite continuing to incorrectly answer welfare questions. Her friend then admitted to having one or two drinks, and the officer noted that her speech was slurred. She would not consent to a preliminary breath test.

Two citations were issued to two individuals.

December 5, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-24-11493

Summary: A UW-L Officer observed a female individual leaning against a privately-owned apartment building on or near the UW-L campus with her head down. Upon stepping out, the officer noticed two male individuals talking to the female leaning against the building. The males claimed that the Uber driver who brought the individual to the apartment building asked them to ensure she got to her residence hall. While the officer was speaking with the two males, the female was attempting to get into the front passenger seat of the officer's squad car, despite the officer advising her to stop. The officer placed her in the back of the squad car and released the other individuals.

It became clear to the officer that the female individual needed assessment by Tri-State Ambulance service due to her inability to answer some welfare questions, nonsensical or incoherent statements, and her inability to lift her head during her interaction with the officer. When asked what residence hall she lived in, she stated that she was "an embryo." After evaluation, Tri-State determined that the individual should be taken to Gundersen for detoxification. She was not offered a preliminary breath test due to her level of intoxication. She received one citation.

December 7, 2024

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

Incident No.: 80-24-11520

Summary: A UW-L officer contacted a female individual who was observed staggering, appearing to be supported by a male, and appearing to be intoxicated on UW-L campus. Upon an officer announcing their presence, the individual attempted to get away from the officer by speeding up and walking away. Once contacted, the female stated that she had come from Latino Bar, where she claimed she had been admitted with her UW-L ID card because she knew a bouncer. She did not have any other forms of ID on her. She provided a preliminary breath test sample of .171. She received one citation and was released.

January 30, 2025

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager), Ruben Cruz (Latino Bar manager), Ricardo (Latino Bar bouncer)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Allow Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-25-04109

Summary: Officers were alerted to a large group of individuals running toward and congregating near Latino Bar and on 5th Avenue toward Main Street via the 5th and Main police camera, and subsequently initiated a bar check. As officers approached the bar, there was a line of people waiting for entry wrapped around the corner of the building and extending to a business next door. Officers told individuals in line that if they were not 21, they should not enter the bar multiple times. Almost all the individuals in line walked or ran away. Just one minute later, there was no line. Upon entering the bar, officers contacted a male individual who admitted to being underage and stated that his girlfriend, who was still in the bar, was also underage. He was wearing a blue wristband, which he indicated cost \$10 for all-you-can-drink at Latino Bar that night and that that was why so many people came to Latino Bar. He stated that it was “pretty obvious” that most people in the bar were underage, and asked how the bar was able to “get away with...selling to underage people.” When an officer asked him whether his fake was believable, he said no. He clarified that his fake ID had information for Jason Voorhees from Crystal Lake, who is an antagonist from a horror film, on it. He admitted to drinking at Latino Bar but declined to provide a preliminary breath test sample.

Another officer encountered a female with a drink in her hand who attempted to pull away when the officer tried to contact her. The officer attempted to bring her outside to check her ID, and she again tried to pull away from him. He then yelled to her to not try to escape, and she was cooperative from then on. When she alleged that she had gotten in with her real ID, the officer stated, “I doubt it,” and she immediately produced a fake Ohio ID. She then admitted to being underage and to consuming alcohol at Latino Bar.

A different officer contacted two females who appeared to be underage. They both admitted that they were freshmen in college and stated that they had used friends’ fake IDs to gain entry to the bar. They provided preliminary breath test samples of .054 and .051.

A male individual was also contacted right inside the door and admitted to being underage. He stated that he used a fake Illinois ID, which was handed over to an officer,

to gain entry to the bar and that he had one drink at the bar. However, he did not provide an adequate breath sample for a preliminary breath test.

As officers left the bar and walked toward their squad cars with individuals they were citing, Latino Bar owner/manager Jonnathan Vargas Paredes stated that he wanted to speak with police or ask them some questions. Therefore, officers returned after citing the individuals for a conversation with Latino Bar staff. Vargas Paredes, Ruben Cruz, and an individual named Ricardo were present. Vargas Paredes alleged that he had an issue with officers coming into the bar and pushing people, and an officer explained the purpose of an escort hold to him and clarified that this was different than pushing people. Ricardo then provided officers with a business card for Latino Bar's attorney and stated on behalf of Vargas Paredes that if officers had any questions about the bar or wanted to talk about the bar, they needed to speak directly with the attorney. Vargas Paredes stated that their attorney had instructed them not to speak with police. Ricardo further stated that when using the scanner, if it indicated a green color for a passing ID, then they would let people in. If it was yellow, they would ask for another form of ID. Finally, if it was red, saying that the ID wasn't valid, they would not let the person in and would confiscate their ID. One officer then spoke about how different scanners have different abilities and levels of sophistication, and that the expectations of Latino Bar's Nuisance Abatement Agreement went beyond just using the scanner. Furthermore, the officers highlighted how nearly all the people in the line left when officers indicated that people under the age of 21 should not enter the bar.

Vargas Paredes then demanded the information of the individuals who were cited. Sgt. Plenge responded that they could work through their attorney to submit a records request online with the police department. Vargas Paredes alleged that the reports they had received in previous requests did not contain names of the individuals cited, and Sgt. Plenge stated that any questions about redaction should be explored between their lawyer and the police records department.

When explaining the scanning process, Ricardo stated that in addition to the scanning device, bouncers also use a scanning app on Vargas Paredes' phone. Ricardo stated that because Latino Bar staff are using both the app and the handheld scanner, that they are doing as much as they can. Sgt. Plenge again stated that Latino Bar staff have "gotta be following the abatement."

During this conversation, multiple individuals approached the exit of Latino Bar and then walked away again upon seeing police. Others waited by the door but did not leave the establishment while police were present.

The footage from the police camera at 5th and Main was also notable for the evident safety concerns which accompany the presence of large underage crowds at Latino Bar. In the footage, individuals ran in crowds through the middle of 5th Avenue southbound toward Latino Bar. They ran in front of cars which had the right of way and most did not heed traffic signals or keep to sidewalks. Multiple vehicles had to stop or wait for individuals in the middle of the road. The footage also showed large crowds leaving Latino Bar once officers came.

In total, seven citations were issued to five people.

January 31, 2025

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager)

Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Possession of False ID, Obstructing Officer, Allow Underage in Bar

Incident No.: 10-25-04279

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. Upon entering the bar, officers stopped three female individuals who appeared to be underage. All three individuals had fake IDs—one Iowa, one Illinois, and one Wisconsin—and all of them admitted to drinking and had what appeared to be mixed drinks in hand when officers approached them. They were all underage.

Officers returned to the bar after the first group was cited due to the still significant number of individuals who appeared to be underage that were in the bar. Two males were contacted almost immediately, and both were holding what appeared to be mixed drinks, with one individual also holding a Coors Light beer. When officers requested their IDs, one of the individuals provided an underage ID and stated that he had gotten into the bar with that ID. He also provided a preliminary breath test sample of .123. The other individual provided a fake Wisconsin ID, stated that he drank “a lot” in the bar, and confirmed that he used the fake ID to gain entry to the bar.

A female individual was contacted as well and was asked for an ID. She began to look inside her coat, but then put the coat on and walked out of the front of the bar. The officer asked her for her ID again, and she continued walking away. The officer then placed her in an escort hold, to which she responded, "Excuse me? Excuse me?" and attempted to pull away. She stated that she had no ID on her and that she was leaving. The officer then asked for her name, and she responded, "I'm leaving right now." The officers who were in contact with the males stepped in to assist, and directed her to provide her name, warning her of the potential consequence of arrest for obstruction. When the officer asked one final time if she was going to provide her name, she asked "Why are you talking to me right now?" She was placed under arrest for obstructing and searched, and a fake Wisconsin ID was located on her person. The officer gave her one more opportunity to provide her name and not go to jail, and she finally complied. However, upon being asked whether the ID was fake, she denied knowing what the ID was or where it came from, despite her name appearing on it. She was confirmed to be underage and provided a preliminary breath test sample of .17.

Because one of the male individuals alleged that he got into the bar with an underage ID and did not appear to have a fake ID with him, the bar was cited for allowing underage in bar. An officer spoke with Jonnathan Vargas Paredes, owner/manager of Latino Bar, to explain the citation. Vargas Paredes asked for the name of the underage individual multiple times and was informed that he could get the information from an open records request. He became frustrated that he had been told to submit records requests in the past and again that night and asked why officers would not provide the information then and there. He stated, "I need see the name." He was provided a copy of the citation and informed that the court date was mandatory.

That night, fourteen citations were issued to six people, and Latino Bar was issued a citation for allowing underage individuals in the bar.

February 1, 2025

Actor(s): Jonnathan Vargas Paredes (Latino Bar owner/manager), Pedro Leal (Latino Bar bouncer)
Offense(s): Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Underage in Bar, Allow Underage in Bar
Incident No.: 10-25-04428

Summary: Officers were conducting a bar check at Latino Bar. As they approached the bar, there was a long line of individuals that extended around the corner of the building to the doors of the next business. One officer stated, "If you're not 21, go home," while another stated, "If you're not 21, here's your chance." The line diminished, and individuals thanked the officers as they walked away from the bar. When officers entered the bar, a group of female individuals attempted to move further into the crowd upon noticing them. An officer contacted one of these individuals, who stated that she did not have any form of ID on her but immediately admitted to being 18 years old. She stated that she got into the bar without an ID but later provided a fake Indiana ID to the officer. She informed the officer that she was a student at Onalaska High School and provided a preliminary breath sample of .064. Another female individual who was contacted that night admitted to being underage. She initially claimed that she got into the bar with her underage ID, but later stated that she just walked in, and her ID wasn't checked at all. This individual looked extremely young. Officers contacted another female who admitted that she was 18 years old and a freshman in college. She stated that she used a fake ID to get into the bar but gave it to a friend after she got in. She also admitted to drinking at the bar.

Officers returned to the bar a second time due to the multitude of suspected underage individuals in the bar. As they returned, they passed a crowd of 15 people walking northbound away from the bar, while another crowd of approximately 20 people were walking southbound away from the bar. One officer waited in line as a patron was admitted to the bar and stopped the male individual immediately after he was patted down. The male identified himself with an underage Wisconsin ID, but a fake ID was visible in his wallet. The officer told the individual he had seen the fake, and eventually the individual provided a fake Indiana ID. He admitted to drinking prior to coming to the bar and provided a preliminary breath sample of .183. Another individual contacted admitted that she was 18 and stated that she had no identification on her at all. She alleged that she had just walked into the bar without her ID being checked. It should be noted that while officers were walking the second round of underage individuals to their squad cars, Latino Bar owner/manager Jonnathan Vargas Paredes and bouncer Pedro Leal followed the officers, and Vargas Paredes attempted to record officers from behind their squad cars. An officer had to tell him several times that this presented a safety issue, and that he could record from the sidewalk before he complied.

Latino Bar bouncer, Pedro Leal, attempted to interfere and argue with officers at multiple points during the bar check. As officers exited Latino Bar for the first time, Leal made

statements to multiple officers that if they were going to issue citations to people, they must go onto the sidewalk or leave. The officer stated that he was legally allowed to be present and conduct the bar check, and Leal again stated that the officer needed to step to the sidewalk or leave the premises. The officer asked Leal to stop obstructing, and Leal stated that he was not obstructing, repeated his request for officers to move again, and then said to another officer, "Sir, Sarge, can you take him? You wanna talk to your officer?" That officer responded, "Yeah, that's fine man, but you gotta step away from him. He's gonna do his job here." Leal then stated, "If he wants to give me attitude, I'm the wrong person to do it with."

The officers returned later to issue a citation to Latino Bar for allowing underage in bar. Leal agreed to translate for Vargas Paredes and an officer handed him the citation and began to explain the court date and that the bar was being cited. Leal was immediately argumentative, telling the sergeant on duty that they were free to see how Latino Bar staff were scanning IDs, but that the IDs were passing the scans. He said, "if it's a fake, it's their problem. You guys' problems." When officers told Leal that the citation was being issued due to the multitude of underage individuals cited as well as one of the individuals stating she got into the bar with an underage ID, he asked officers to "bring her out with the ID." The officers responded that they would not do that, and Leal said he needed them to do it. An officer stated that he was not going to argue because that was the purpose of court, and Leal raised his voice and said, "So if I'm given a ticket, I need proof that you guys are getting what this is." He was again told that officers would not argue with him and in response, stated again that he needed proof. An officer clarified that Vargas Paredes was the one who was being cited, and Leal responded, "Okay, if we're getting a ticket, I'm security. I don't give a shit if it's [Jonnathan's], if it's me... I'm the one that takes care of security. You say she's 18? I need her ID and her name, and I need her here." Leal was told that he could obtain such information through an open records request. He then shook his head and said, "You guys can either bring her, or this needs to get voided." After more back and forth, he told officers, "I don't care what you guys say, either do it, or void it," and "I'm not gonna wait 'til court." Eventually, he accepted the citation on Vargas Paredes' behalf and stated that they would give it to their attorney.

Twelve citations were issued to six people, and Jonnathan Vargas Paredes was issued a citation for allowing underage individuals in the bar.