For Immediate Release
Sep 26, 2012

Suspect Arrested After Stabbing Outside Downtown Bar

Location: Octave Bar, 661 Central Avenue

Arrested Suspect: William R. Wasel, W/M, 06/14/77 of 2675 50th Avenue North (booking photo attached)

Stabbing Victim: James Langner, W/M, 35, of Tampa

At about 0045 hours this morning, Wasel was in the Octave Bar at 661 Central Ave when he became involved in some sort of argument with a female bar patron. James Langer, a friend of the female, intervened and at some point Wasel punched him in the face. Langer responded by punching Wasel several times as bar security attempted to intervene.

Wasel then produced a gray handled knife with a four inch blade and began swinging it wildly at the other bar patrons gathered around the fight. No one was struck and one of the bar employees grabbed a chair and used it as a shield to help push Wasel outside the front entrance.

Once outside Wasel confronted Langer again and used the knife to stab him once in the lower chest area. Wasel then attempted to flee, but was quickly grabbed by several bar patrons who were able to disarm and detain him until police arrived to take him into custody.

Langer was taken to Bayfront Medical Center where it was determined that the knife had pierced his liver, but surgery was not required and his wound was determined to be non-life threatening.

Wasel was also taken to the hospital for treatment of facial injuries he suffered during his physical confrontation with the other bar patrons.

He was released and taken to the Pinellas County Jail where he was charged with one count of aggravated battery and one count of aggravated assault.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

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