

To: The Mayor and Town Council of Dewey Beach

On July 27, 2015, a Dewey Beach Police Officer was on foot patrol on Dagsworthy St. near a business. The officer received a call from the Dewey Beach Police Dispatch Center advising him of a large fight inside the business. When the officer arrived he heard loud yelling from inside and heard a female screaming for help. As he approached the door, he observed a group individuals running into the business. When he reached the door he observed a large crowd of people fighting inside. The initial call for assistance was placed and he waited until additional officers arrived.

While waiting for assistance, he observed a male subject watching the fight who was standing approximately 5-10 feet from his location. This subject picked an individual from

the crowd, walked behind him and punched him in the head with a closed fist. Several Dewey Beach Police Officers arrived on the scene and the officers made entry in the business. They immediately approached the male who committed the assault and attempted to place him into custody. While placing him into custody he and the officers fell to the ground and he continued to actively resist. While the officers were placing him into custody the crowd, who was still fighting around the officers, began to move and surround them. The individual was detained, but now the officers were surrounded. The second call for additional officers was given at this time. Several individuals in the crowd focused their attention on the officers and attempted to separate the prisoner from them. The officers attempted to verbally and physically push the crowd back, but the crowd actively resisted. With all options exhausted, the officers advised the crowd that pepper

spray would be deployed if they did not back away. Several more orders were given and the commands were ignored. Pepper Spray was deployed as the crowd approach and two individuals (who were described as the main aggressors) were directly hit. This action caused the crowd to slowly exit the business.

In the parking lot the disorderly behavior continued and the officers attempted to place the prisoners into the police van. The crowd again began to surround the officers. This is when the call was placed to the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center and the Rehoboth Center. While at the police vehicle, approximately 20 individuals approached cursing and attempted to access the prisoners. At this time several officer engaged in multiple physical altercations which allowed the officers to secure the prisoner into the vehicle. Multiple officers deployed pepper spray to

contain the crowd and another subject was taken into custody. The aggressive crowd grew again and the officers used necessary means to control the situation. The Delaware State Police, Rehoboth Beach Police and Lewes Police arrived. Approximately fifteen minutes later the crowd was at a manageable level. Members of the crowd announced that they would return next Saturday night.

As this is an ongoing police matter and could result in additional arrests, I am reluctant to discuss this other than my statement.

In closing I want to thank the Delaware State Police, Division of Alcohol Tobacco Enforcement and the Delaware Department of Transportation for their assistance and resources.

Chief Sam Mackert  
Dewey Beach Police Department