

NARRATIVE FOR SERGEANT JESUS E AROCHO

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On Saturday March 8, 2014, I (Sergeant Arocho) was on duty assigned to a disturbance response team for the widely advertised Blarney Blowout. During last year's event several thousand people had gathered at the Townhouse Apartment complex. The results of which was wide spread damage caused by a number of individual after several hours of partying. The event became a riot leading to a number of arrests.

At 12:17 hours my team along with other officers were dispatched to the Brandywine and Townhouse area for a crowd of several thousand individuals. As my team arrived to assess the situation I noticed that a 20' steel light pole was being knocked down, in addition beer bottles and cans were being thrown not only at the building adjacent to where the crowd was but also towards the parking lot. There were several reports of fights and assaults.

We proceeded to clear the area between Brandywine apartments and Puffton Village. An order to disperse was given and people were asked to vacate the area. It took well over an hour to clear the area due to the size of the crowd. The crowd brought traffic on North Pleasant Street, the main road leading from the Center of Amherst to North Amherst, to a standstill. The street was blocked by the thousands of students and vehicles that were already on the road were trapped. Two officers had to be staged to divert traffic. One at North Pleasant Street and Pine Street and the other at North Pleasant Street and Governors Avenue. It took Seventeen Amherst Officers and nine UMass Officers to clear the riotous crowd. Several arrests were made for failure to disperse, inciting a riot, disorderly conduct, minor in possession of alcohol, and TBL open container.

Once the initial crowd had been clear we received a second call regarding another crowd of over three thousand students that had again gathered at the Brandywine Apartments. The crowd was near a pond in the Brandywine apartment complex. As a precautionary measure officers donned helmets because during the first incident beer bottles, beer cans, rocks and snow balls had been thrown. Captain Pronovost again gave an order to disperse. Officers had been deployed in two teams, Sergeant Knightly with eleven Officers augmented by nine UMass Officers and me with a team of five of five officers. Officer Barone, Officer Hulse, Officer Hebb, Officer Clark, Officer Chandler, and I began to attempt to move the crowd. We continued to move the crowd from Brandywine to Puffton Village. Several individuals began to throw beer bottles and cans as well as rocks and snow balls. As we reached the fence dividing Brandywine Apartments from Puffton Village my team and Sergeant Knightly's team converged. Several Officers were making arrests as the crowd had now turned violent. Several bottles had struck officers.

As officers were making an arrest an individual later identified as Thomas C. DONOVAN continued to approach officers as they were attempting to place an individual into custody. DONOVAN was told to leave the area several times but he refused. DONOVAN began to argue with officers and retrieved his iPhone to record the encounter. Officer again order DONOVAN to leave the area but he stated he wasn't doing anything wrong. Oleoresin Capsicum was sprayed for are denial so that people would leave the area. DONOVAN continued to refuse to leave and was sprayed as he began to close the distance between himself and the offices. DONOVAN's refusal to leave further encited the crowd. DONOVAN was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct and failure to disperse. DONOVAN was handcuffed (double-locked) and transported to the Amherst Police Department for booking. DONOVAN was booked in full per department policy. DONOVAN's iPhone was tagged and entered into evidence.