

Police chief: Department investigated complaint

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GREEN BAY – Green Bay Police Chief Andrew Smith said he'd welcome a lawsuit from a woman claiming on social media that a police officer unjustly roughed her up last month.

Cassandra Beaster, 32, was arrested Nov. 5 after a dust-up outside a South Washington Street bar with officer Alex Carlson.

In a Facebook post about the incident, Beaster admitted she was drunk but says she didn't resist arrest or do anything to justify what she implied was unjustified roughness when the officer arrested her.



Beaster

Beaster posted a short video from a storefront camera, showing part of the incident. She has since removed the Facebook post and video.

In the post, she claimed the officer grabbed at her purse to get her identification.

"After he tried to grab for my purse you'll see me turn my shoulder and try to move his arm away from me, which I wasn't even able to do because he grabs my arm at that point and throws it behind my back and then walks me away from the camera and also the opposite way of his squad car," she wrote. "At no point in the video do u see me resist. In his statement he said I resisted arrest and that's why he had to throw me to the ground."

Beaster also posted pictures of herself with a black eye and cut-up ear.

Smith last week said the department had already received and investigated her formal complaint about her arrest.

He said her Facebook version of the event was missing important details.

"She was so intoxicated at the time. She had no recollection of the incident," Smith said. "We interviewed her, and she had no recollection ... She ended u

Beaster

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at 0.24 percent (blood-alcohol level), three times the legal limit.”

Several witnesses told police the bar wouldn't let her in because she was too drunk, and that prior to the police arrival, she had gotten into a stranger's car and refused to get out until the owner of the car called 911, Smith said.

Witnesses also said she had fallen several times before police arrived, he said.

Smith's interpretation of the store video was that Beaster kept backing Carlson down aggressively as he tried to deal with her calmly, and then the officer handcuffed her and put her on the ground, using minor force.

“I believe the injuries she suffered resulted from her intoxication, not from the officer's actions,” Smith

said.

One witness came forward, unsolicited, to tell police Beaster reached out to him, asking him to lie about what he saw because she was planning to sue, Smith said.

In an interview with the Press-Gazette, Beaster denied trying to get someone to lie on her behalf. “I'm very curious to know who that was,” she said. “If there really wasn't anybody, that chief is going to be in a lot of trouble for slandering my name, and if a person really said it, they're going to be in trouble for lying.”

Beaster admits she was drunk that night and that she mistakenly got into the wrong vehicle “and maybe didn't get out as fast as he (the driver) would like.”

“But I never hit anyone in my life, I'm not violent and I wouldn't resist arrest — just wouldn't do it,” she said. “There honestly was no reason” for the officer taking her roughly to the ground.

Although she didn't remember the incident, that was probably because the officer gave her a concussion, not because she was drunk, she said.

In his report, Carlson describes how he had her arms pinned behind her back when he felt her tensing as if she were about to resist. A crowd was beginning to form and, with no other officers to help, he “attempted to decentralize her to the ground while controlling her descent” but “was unable to control the descent fully

as the female was highly intoxicated at this time,” he wrote.

With her arms pinned behind her back, Beaster said, there was no way, drunk or sober, she could have protected her head during the takedown.

“But that was uncalled for,” she said. “There was no reason to do it.”

She admitted she should have given Carlson her ID as he had asked. She said she turned away when Carlson reached for her purse, supposedly to help her find the ID, but insists she did not resist and never swatted at his arm as he claimed.

Carlson said she declined medical treatment, but Beaster said she was in no condition to make that decision and should have been given treatment regardless.

Beaster said she is working with a lawyer but declined to say whether she intends to sue.

“I'm very disappointed in the way things were handled,” she said. “I wish they would have looked more into what actually took place instead of just siding with the officer.”

She was issued municipal citations for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Smith said he's confident Carlson handled the situation properly and reasonably applied minimal force.

“If she wants to bring a lawsuit, I'm fully prepared to work with the city attorney.”