

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

RESTAURANT BOUNCER NOT CHARGED IN MAN'S DEATH

Published: Thursday, August 15, 2002

NEWS 09B

By Tim Doulin

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

It appears that no criminal charges will be filed in the case of a man who died during a struggle with a restaurant bouncer last year on the Far North Side.

Vincent L. Darling, 41, died Dec. 2 after an altercation at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Grill, 100 Hutchinson Ave.

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien said his office reviewed the police investigation, but he would not confirm whether the matter was presented to a grand jury, saying such proceedings are secret.

However, a source said that the grand jury recently voted not to indict the bouncer in Darling's death. The bouncer never was named.

One of Darling's relatives referred all questions to the family's attorney, **Keith Karr**, who said the family plans to file a lawsuit.

"The civil and criminal case are two separate matters," Karr said. "We are going to pursue the civil claims so that the truth becomes known to the public."

Karr said the wrongful-death suit will be based on excessive force, recklessness and negligence. He has said that several witnesses say Darling did not provoke the incident.

Shortly after the incident, detectives said police had been called because of Darling's aggressive behavior. Darling was unconscious when police arrived and under restraint when he died, police said.

The Franklin County coroner ruled the death a homicide, saying Darling died of blunt trauma to the neck. Karr said the autopsy report indicates that the injury probably was caused by a chokehold.

Darling also had a blood-alcohol content of 0.27 percent, according to the coroner. In Ohio, a person is considered to be driving drunk at 0.10 percent.

A restaurant manager declined to comment yesterday.

tdoulin@dispatch.com

Please print this article or save it on your computer now. It will not be emailed or otherwise sent to you.

ALL CONTENT HEREIN IS COPYRIGHT © 2005, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH AND MAY
NOT BE REPUBLISHED WITHOUT PERMISSION.