

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COURT**

THE PEOPLE OF THE:  
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS  
OF ODAWA INDIANS,

Plaintiff,

Case No. CR-038-0407

Hon. JoAnne Gasco

v.

CRAIG A SEARLES,

Defendant.

**ORDER AFTER BENCH TRIAL**

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

1. Defendant occupied a room with two other individuals, Jodie Strandling and Eli Gilligan, at Victories Hotel on the evening of March 25, 2007. The room was registered to Jodie Strandling.
2. Defendant and the two individuals went to downtown Petoskey and consumed alcoholic beverages.
3. Defendant and the other two individuals arrived at the hotel between 2:00 am-3:00 am on March 26, 2007.
4. There was testimony from the front desk clerk that six guests who checked out on March 26, 2007 complained about the noise coming from a room nearby. The guests heard glass breaking, yelling, and movement in the hallway.
5. Some of the room numbers of the guests that complained were staying in rooms 225, 218, 210, 222, 223, and 118. Defendant and the other two individuals stayed in room 220.
6. The housekeeping supervisor received a phone call from the front desk clerk indicating they should watch out for a room that may be trashed since customers were complaining of loud noises and hearing glass breaking.
7. One of the housekeepers testified that she was notified that she might find a room that was trashed. When she went to clean room 220 she saw a broken ashtray and blood on the sheets and in the bathroom. She started to clean the bathroom and

- put the sheets in a garbage bag. She then noticed more blood in the room and called the housekeeping supervisor.
8. The housekeeping supervisor testified that once she saw the room and the blood everywhere that she called the hotel manager who said to call Law Enforcement. They kept everyone out of the room until Law Enforcement arrived.
  9. Law Enforcement began their investigation and initially thought it was a possible domestic or assault because there was blood all over the room.
  10. The Law Enforcement officer testified that he made contact with the Defendant, Craig Searles, Jodie Strandling, and Eli Gilligan. Their statements were that all three went downtown for drinks and came back to the room. They were rough-housing and defendant didn't realize that he cut himself.
  11. Law Enforcement then reviewed the loud noise complaints and requested the surveillance tapes from that night. The videotape shows the Defendant running down the hallway knocking on a door, entering a room of another customer, and kicking the door.
  12. Defendant testified that the noise was coming from various rooms and other people were partying in the lobby so they could have been the ones that other customers were complaining about. Defendant feels that once the investigation was complete and they determined what happened in the room and that no crime was committed that he should not have been charged.
  13. Defendant feels singled out because he is a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the only person charged.
  14. Defendant admits that he was the person in the videotape who was running down the hallway knocking on a doorway, entering a room of another customer, and kicking the door.
  15. Chief Cobe testified that after reviewing the video the Defendant is the only person whose actions warranted charges being filed.
  16. Chief Cobe also stated that the two other individuals were not charged because they are non native and the tribe does not have criminal jurisdiction over non natives.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

1. Defendant was charged with "*Disorderly Conduct*", WOS 9.107.
2. Justice requires that the Court's decision conform to the testimony and evidence presented at the Hearing.
3. Therefore, **Defendant is found GUILTY of "Disorderly Conduct"**, a violation of WOS 9.107.

ORDER OF THE COURT:

1. Defendant is fined \$150.00 and \$50.00 court costs. Defendant has agreed to make weekly payments of \$20.00 to the court until paid in full.

05/21/07  
Date

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Honorable JoAnne Gasco, Chief Judge