

Seattle City Clerk's Office

Comptroller File

07308

CITY OF SEATTLE

EXECUTIVE

March 24th, 1917.

To the Honorable City Council,
City of Seattle.

Gentlemen:

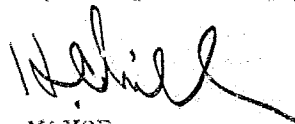
On February 27th. in superior court, one Herman Peterson, recovered a judgment against Officer A. G. Ford, a member of the special detail working under Sgt. Putnam. The details are fully set forth in a letter from Sgt. Putnam to myself, a copy of which I attach.

I have conferred with Mr. Tammany of the Corporation Counsel's office myself, and agree with him as to the non-desirability of an appeal.

Officer Ford has been an extremely efficient and hard working member of this most difficult detail, and were he to be compelled to pay this judgment, the effect would rightfully be to discourage the very efforts which are necessary to uphold the dry law.

I therefore, without wishing it to be understood as a precedent, request that you make provision to pay this judgment as a case standing by itself, because of its particular merits.

Yours very respectfully,


MAYOR.

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE
IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

C. L. BECKINGHAM
CHIEF

The City of Seattle

Washington

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

WHEN ANSWERING
KINDLY REFER TO

INITIALS _____

March 24, 1917.

Hon. H. C. Gill,
Mayor,
Seattle, Wash.

Sir:

On the evening of Nov. 20th, 1916, Officer A. G. Ford, upon information given him by one Wm. Staff, who was then partially under the influence of liquor, went into a house at 1328 Old 5th Ave., with Wm. Staff, who claimed that he had bought liquor there upon which he had become intoxicated and that he could still purchase liquor there. The Proprietor of the place, Herman Peterson, discovered the identity of the Officer and thereupon refused to sell him liquor, running upstairs cursing the Officer and threatening to shoot him, whereupon Officer Ford proceeded to place Herman Peterson under arrest.

I believe the Officer in doing this was acting in his own defense inasmuch as the man was conducting himself in a disorderly manner. This place has long been under Police surveillance, and it is known today that this man, Herman Peterson is still selling liquor, but so clever are his operations that it has been impossible for us to secure sufficient evidence against him to obtain a conviction, although we have had him arrested on two different occasions previous to this one. We have received numerous complaints from various parties relative to this place.

This disorderly conduct case came up for trial in Police Court, and at that time our regular Police Judge, John B. Gordon was on leave of absence and the Bench was occupied by one, P. V. Davis, and the case against Peterson was dismissed without all of the evidence being heard.

Herman Peterson filed damage suit against Officer Ford for \$10,000.00, and the case was tried before Judge Dykeman February 26th and 27th, and the Jury brought in a verdict of \$500.00 against the Officer. I have taken this up with Mr. Patrick Tammany, of the Corporation Counsel's Office, who defended the case, as to carrying it up to the Supreme Court with the possibility of winning it there, but he is of the opinion that with the evidence at hand, it would only be a loss to the City.

C. L. BECKINGHAM
CHIEF

The City of Seattle
Washington

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

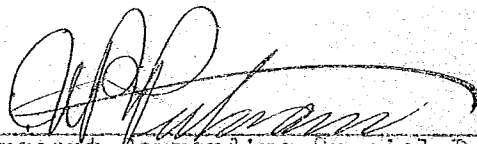
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(2)

Mr. Tammany informs me that the costs of the Court are \$64.60, making a total of \$564.60.

Believing that the City Council will act in accordance with their previous agreement with you, to defend such cases as might be incurred against us in this work, I tender this for your information.

Respectfully,



Sergeant Commanding Special Detail