



Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices
to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.

OMAHA COALITION MEETING
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
9 a.m.

A G E N D A

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review of the November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes
(please contact PEM staff with corrections)
- III. 2021 in Review
- IV. What's in store for 2022?
- V. Additional Discussion/Announcements
- VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: **January 19th, 9 a.m.**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Hearings – January 4 & 5, 2022
25th Anniversary Recognition Dinner – May 10, 2022

The mission of Project Extra Mile is to advocate for evidence-based policies
and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.

PROJECT EXTRA MILE

OMAHA METRO AREA COALITION MEETING MINUTES November 10, 2021

- I. Call to Order: Jen Pollock called the meeting to order via Zoom at 9 a.m.
- II. Welcome and Introductions: Welcome and introductions took place. Coalition members and speakers in attendance: Palistene Gray-Moore, Carey Pomykata, Don Hoes, Angela Richards, Jim Timm, Jona Beck, Mandy Peth, Traci Sawyer, Jason Thompson, Sharona Crittenden, Jen Pollock, Ed Vierk, Michael Bossman, Maggie Forman, Lorelle Mueiting, Andrea Frazier, Jeanne Bietz, Wendy Evans, Lacey Craven, Jason Menning, Vanessa Meyer, and a representative from KMTV. Staff members in attendance: Chris Wagner, Beatha Kliewer, and Liene Topko.
- III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October 13, 2021 meeting were included in the coalition meeting packet. No additions or corrections were made.
- IV. Determining the Presence of Alcohol in Traffic Crashes: Omaha Police Department Officers Mike Bossman and Angela Richards shared two incidents of underage drinking crashes that led to the minors' death and detailed the criminal investigations that followed. The officers shared the events leading up to the crash and then the process for conducting the investigation. They explained that an autopsy is conducted for every fatal crash victim to determine the presence of alcohol and/or drugs, however this process can take 6-8 weeks, though some cases are more obvious due to the strong odor of alcohol.

Coalition members were interested to learn more about what the community can do to prevent these senseless deaths and be supportive of law enforcement. They were discouraged after Chris Wagner shared that the administrative penalties following these cases fell short of the harms that were caused by these illegal alcohol sales to minors, but Wagner indicated that more can be done at all levels to prevent harms like these.

- V. Focus Area Updates
 - a. Local
 - i. Chris Wagner shared that the Alcohol Availability Assessment Tool is ready for data collection and will be sent to the coalition. The purpose of the tool is to gather observatory data and share the finding with law enforcement, the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, and decision-makers to shape the best enforcement and policies surrounding cocktails-to-go, curbside pickup, and alcohol delivery so that this alcohol is not getting into the hands of youth and leading to drinking and driving.

Carey Pomykata and Palistene Gray-Moore expressed a desire to bring conversations about underage drinking into communities in the Omaha area. PEM staff indicated that there may be an opportunity to involve the Youth Leadership Network. Further discussions will be needed.

- b. Policy
 - i. Wagner invited coalition members to consider joining an effort to share best practices with decision-makers to reduce the alcohol-related harms the state is experiencing. A letter is currently being drafted and any organization is welcome to join.
- c. Enforcement
 - i. Liene Topko shared that PEM attended the Nebraska Impaired Driving Summit. Many presentations focused on the potential legalization of cannabis which is a great concern for impaired driving. Law Enforcement agencies also discussed the need to incentivize Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) positions because these are the officers that have the greatest knowledge of alcohol and drug impairment and are key to the successful prosecution of cases.
- d. Youth
 - i. Topko invited coalition members to share information about the Youth Leadership Council and Network with youth they may know as well as other organizations.
- e. Awareness
 - i. The November research summary is available on Project Extra Mile's website under the 'Research' page.

VI. Additional Discussion/Announcement: none

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, December 8th at 9 a.m.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK

STUDENTS IN GRADES 8 - 12 ARE
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THURS, DEC 9, 2021

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT THE
FOLLOWING LINK: [BIT.LY/3EG2UCT](https://bit.ly/3EG2UCT)

LET US KNOW IF YOU'LL ATTEND IN
PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

YOUTH@PROJECTEXTRAMILE.ORG
QUESTIONS? TEXT 402-577-0094



RESEARCH SUMMARY
Date Compiled: December 2021

Key takeaways from included research:

- In one study, researchers looked at alcohol tax elasticity and determined that alcohol consumption tends to increase with income. They also found that current per capita alcohol consumption will be higher in 2027, relative to 2017, if alcohol taxes are not increased over the next decade. Researchers suggest annual alcohol tax increases of 1.0-1.5%.
- Another study sought to understand the impacts of acute alcohol consumption and the magnitude of prospective memory difficulties. Acute intoxication was found to lead to significant impairment of all prospective memory tasks. Furthermore, results showed that even a moderate dose of alcohol substantially impairs acute prospective memory function.
- Researchers looked at potential triggers of atrial fibrillation (AF) (caffeine, reduced sleep, alcohol, exercise, dehydration, etc.) and found that only acute exposure to alcohol was associated with significantly heightened risks of AF events.
- The link between cancer and alcohol consumption is still not widely known, therefore the US National Cancer Institute convened a workshop to identify knowledge gaps. They concluded that interdisciplinary research and implementation efforts are needed to increase knowledge as well as develop effective interventions to improve awareness. They also highlighted that reducing harmful consumption will have positive impacts on the alcohol-related cancer burden which is currently an estimated 4.1% of new cancer cases.

OPD: Fatal crash occurred Friday night on JFK to Interstate 80 ramp

Written by KMTV Staff

OMAHA, Neb. (KMTV) — According to a release from the Omaha Police Department, a fatal crash occurred Friday night on the on-ramp from JFK northbound to Interstate 80.

Officers arrived on the scene at approximately 9:46 to investigate and found a deceased person at the scene as a result of the crash.

The department said, “The investigation revealed that due to high speeds a 2008 Ford F250 pickup was northbound on JFK to the on-ramp of I-80 east and drifted off of the road causing the vehicle to roll. The driver and only occupant of the vehicle was declared deceased at the scene by medics.”

It added, “High speed, alcohol use and lack of vehicle restraint use are the primary factors in this crash.”

The driver has been identified as 32-year-old Luis A Chavez.

Lincoln woman arrested for DUI in crash that injured 7-year-old, police say

Written by Andrew Wegley

A Lincoln woman was arrested on suspicion of a felony DUI charge Saturday after police say she wrecked her SUV, injuring a 7-year-old passenger in her car.

Rosanne Barrett, 60, was driving her 2012 Mitsubishi Outlander north on 27th Street when she crossed the center line and crashed into a 2015 Ford F-250 that had been waiting to turn onto Calvert Street, Officer Erin Spilker said.

The 7-year-old passenger of the Outlander was transported to a local hospital by ambulance, where the child was treated for "significant facial injuries," Spilker said.

The Ford's driver was unharmed. Barrett was treated at the hospital and released after suffering minor injuries.

Spilker said Barrett's blood-alcohol level was 0.115%. Barrett was arrested on suspicion of felony DUI that caused serious bodily injury, felony child abuse and willful reckless driving.

Grand Island City Council rejects extension of alcohol sales hours

Written by Brandon Summers

Grand Island City Council Tuesday rejected an ordinance that would have extended hours for the sale of alcohol from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Council members Bethany Guzinski and Vaughn Minton voted in favor of the ordinance.

Mitch Nickerson, Jason Conley, Mark Stelk, Justin Scott, Mike Paulick and Maggie Mendoza voted against it. Michelle Fitzke and Chuck Haase were absent.

Mayor Roger Steele said if the ordinance had passed, he was going to veto it.

“There’s some statistics I find troubling. If you look at the police calls (to local bars) they total 92 calls in the last 10 months,” he said. “I’m no expert on what happens past 10 p.m., but 92 calls for police service in 10 months in Railside is a problem.”

He added, “If this does come back, I want Railside to look at why it is that we have to have such a large police presence in what is supposed to be an entertainment venue.”

Steele was alarmed by “casual nature of discussion about driving while intoxicated.”

“This matter has been presented as having a beneficial safety aspect by saying intoxicated drivers will not head out on the highway to places like Worms or Palmer or Marquette, where they would achieve highway speeds, but instead remain on our city streets, which is safer,” he said. “It needs to be said out loud that driving intoxicated is a deadly and dangerous crime, and it is illegal.”

He added, “All I can say about those intoxicated drivers: I hope you’re arrested. I hope you’re stopped and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.”

Council debates

Guzinski said she supported the ordinance based on past experiences as a bartender and a certified liquor server.

“(Bar patrons are) leaving and driving on those highways, and while it’s not good for anyone to drive intoxicated anywhere, I’d argue an accident at 25 miles an hour is way less bad than a 65 mile an hour accident,” she said.

Voting against the ordinance is “a vote against small businesses,” Guzinski said.

“This is going to come around again when our casino opens. I say let’s just get this out of the way, get the newness worn off for our city, and when that casino opens, it’s not as big of a burden for our police force,” she said.

She added, “I am for this, not for myself, but this is what my people want and that’s what we as elected officials are supposed to be doing.”

Nickerson said he was not impressed by the argument that extending the hours of alcohol sales was crucial to attracting and retaining young professionals.

"I had a guy at Sam's Club approach me and say, I don't understand this argument about professionals wanting to have the bars open until 2 a.m. He said, what kind of professional wants to be up every night drinking until 2 a.m.? I said, I don't know. That's not what I would depict with professionals," he said. "I've never heard it as a valid argument."

Nickerson said the council must be the "first line of defense" for police and first responders, especially at a time when they are "woefully understaffed."

"We have to listen to what's important to them. We represent them and we are their voice," he said. "We're the voice of our businesses, but we're also the voice of public safety, and I think it's very important that we listen to our officers and the challenges and concerns they have."

He added, "To me, public safety trumps economics at this point."

City administration

Interim City Attorney Stacy Nonhof again told the City Council that city administration "does not endorse" the extension due to the "very legitimate concerns of the Grand Island Police Department."

"An ideal shift has 12 officers," she explained. "Given the city's current staffing level, there's either eight or nine officers per shift. We are consistently running three to four officers short every shift."

Officers must complete their reports from responding to calls before going home. This often results in overtime, and those reports are crucial to the Hall County Attorney's Office.

"The county attorney needs that report to figure out what charges are going to be filed," she said. "The judges in Hall County are not going to look kindly on the county attorney or (GIPD) if the reason somebody's sitting there for another day in jail is because they didn't have time to write the report."

Regarding the casino being developed in Grand Island, and what its sales hours will be, the Nebraska Legislature has not written those regulations yet, Nonhof said.

"They can write that casinos can be open 24 hours a day and they can allow alcohol sales 24 hours a day. I don't know because those laws haven't been written," she said. "The only thing that's happened with casinos is voters said, 'Yes, we want the ability to have them.'"

Nonhof clarified that the city ordinance was only for the hours of sale for alcohol, not hours for when bars can be open.

"If any bar in Grand Island chooses to stay open until 2 or 3 in the morning, they're free to do that, they just can't serve alcohol," she said. "None of this is telling bar owners they can't be open past 1 a.m."

City Administrator Jerry Janulewicz noted that state law prohibits the sale of alcohol after 2 a.m., and changes to this law would have to be voted on by the Legislature.

Police oppose

GIPD officer Grant Suchanek reported that call volume is fairly high after 10 p.m., and when bars close at 1 a.m. “we see more foot traffic, especially downtown, starting around midnight.”

“We deal with a variety of verbal disturbances, sometimes physical altercations, and that stuff doesn’t taper off until after the bars close, and even then we do have incidences that happen at 1 o’clock or as people wait to get rides up to 1:30,” he said. “Usually we’re taking sometimes half our shift, if not our full shift, to deal with these situations.”

Officers also have to deal with people driving while intoxicated, which results in hit-and-run accidents or personal property accidents, Suchanek said.

Sgt. Brandon Reilly said GIPD currently does not have enough officers, and they’re seeing an uptick in calls at night for bar-related incidences.

“Numerous times we’ve not been able to go to a fight in progress because we have no manpower,” he said. “A lot of times we can’t leave a call the officers are on to go to this other call. My unfortunate job is making that decision of what call do we go to or not.”

Community support

Attorney Mark Porto said approving the ordinance would be beneficial to city.

“It’s a recruiting tool, I think, and a way to retain younger professionals, who the city’s always trying to attract,” he said. “We’re also in a competition for talent with city’s like Lincoln and Omaha that adopted this change over a decade ago and have not changed it back, and have not experienced significant problems as a result of the change at all.”

It is also needed by small business owners, Porto said.

“The bar and restaurant industry in particular has been ravaged by COVID,” he said. “You have a lot of small business owners asking you to do this, to help them through the difficult times they’ve had.”

Railside Business Improvement District President Amos Anson said the group supports the ordinance.

“These business owners Mark was talking about, they’re all entrepreneurs,” he said. “They’re all your local homegrown people who invested their capital and livelihoods in building a business in your town. They can pick anywhere to do that. I think it’s amazing that they picked Grand Island to do that.”

Community opposition

Katie Usasz, substance abuse prevention coordinator for Prevention Project, which advocates for responsible consumption, spoke against the ordinance.

Training for servers advocates for serving responsibly to patrons, Usasz said, which includes noticing signs of intoxication.

“It’s been many years since I’ve been at a closing time at a bar. However, in my memory, it was not business attire of young professionals having conversations to better the Grand Island community. What I recall is people intoxicated at that time,” she said. “If you look at that time frame, 1 to 2 a.m., what are we asking those servers to do? To serve those already intoxicated patrons who are there.”

The area college towns of Kearney and Hastings have bars that close at 1 a.m., Usasz argued.

“We need to look further in what our ripple effect would be if we chose to expand our hours to 2 a.m.,” she said. “We’ll become that destination and our already short police force is looking at a bunch more young college people entering our bar scene and then going home on those highways.”

Local group believes drive-thru alcohol sales in Nebraska could harm the community

Written by KMTV Staff

OMAHA, Neb. (KMTV) — A local group wants to educate lawmakers and see more policies combating the problem of underage drinking in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Chris Wagner, the executive director of Project Extra Mile, wants lawmakers to understand the harm some policies could cause. One policy he says may cause problems is a law that allows take-out alcohol sales.

"They authorize this stuff because they feel sorry for the businesses that had to deal with the pandemic, but they don't think about the consequences in allowing these services and what it's going to do with these communities," Wagner said. "So we're really trying to gather that information and present it to them."

Project Extra Mile is working to get input from community groups and is looking at doing a survey about how they feel about the recently-passed law.

‘This is essentially eliminating drunk driving’: Impaired driving prevention measure passed in Infrastructure Bill

Written by AJ Nwoko

RICHMOND, Va. (WWBT) - After months of political gridlock, Monday President Biden signed into law the \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Bill. The package pours billions into roads, bridges, public transit, the power grid, clean water, and broadband internet earning the support of lawmakers, governors, and mayors in both parties.

Also included in that bill is a section for “Advanced Impaired Driving Technology” which initiates a rulemaking by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to set the new safety standard. When fully implemented on all new cars, more than 9,400 lives could be saved annually, according to a 2020 study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The provision is one the organization Mother’s Against Drunk Driving (MADD) believes is the most significant lifesaving measure in its 41-year history.

“We’ve changed the way that cars are made how many people get to say that,” said MADD national president Alex Otte.

At just 25 years old, Otte is the youngest national president in the organization’s history, the first to not be a parent, and the first president to be injured in a drunk driving accident rather than lose someone.

After her near-death accident involving a drunk driver back in 2010, Otte vowed to do everything in her power to make sure more lives could be saved and accidents prevented.

“I was run over 11 years ago and I knew then that I wanted to be the last little girl it would ever happen to,” Otte said. “The man who ran me over was three times the legal limit two and a half hours later. This would be his fourth DUI.”

The legislation gives the NHTSA three years to evaluate technologies and set the standard for impaired driving prevention technology on all new vehicles. From there, automakers are given two to three years to implement the safety standard.

Otte says MADD documented a Request for Information (RFI) response in May 2021 from the NHTSA that 241 advanced drunk and impaired driving prevention technologies existed. MADD says many of these technologies that could be deployed now fall into one of three categories:

1. Driving performance monitoring systems that monitor the vehicle movement using cameras and sensors that are outside the vehicle, such as lane departure warning and attention assist;
2. Systems that monitor the driver’s head and eyes, typically using a camera or other sensors that are inside the vehicle;
3. Passive alcohol detection systems that use sensors to determine whether a driver is drunk and then prevent the vehicle from moving.

Otte says a specific technology has not yet been chosen yet. Otte says the aim for NHTSA is to choose one technology or a combination of the three to mandate in all new cars.

According to MADD, advanced alcohol detection systems use sensors integrated into a car that passively determines if the person behind the wheel is drunk. The smart technology also has no relation to police breathalyzers or to ignition interlock devices that require a motorist to actively blow into a device.

“The drunk or otherwise impaired driver will get in their car and it either won’t start, won’t move, or will pull itself over once it detects impairment,” Otte said. “The insurance institute for highway safety estimates that once this technology is in all new cars it will save more than 9,400 lives every year. essentially eliminating drunk driving.”

The safety provision could go beyond preventing incidents of drunk driving. According to MADD these systems could also detect other dangerous behaviors that lead to crashes such as drowsy driving, distracted driving, and even medical emergencies.

Otte believes the end of drunk driving could be within her lifetime. News of the Infrastructure Bill being signed into law was enough to bring Vanessa Haislip to tears.

“It’s joyful tears. I look at the families who will not have to go through what we’ve gone through.” Haislip “There are not enough words to say thank you for what they have done by passing this law.”

Haislip’s life would change forever when she lost her daughter Melissa to a drunk driving crash in 2014.

“She was a nurse at sain Mary’s hospital She was on her way home from work, she was killed by a crash,” Haislip said. “The guy was going between 80 and 85 miles an hour in a 35 mile per hour zone. His blood-alcohol level was double.”

Ever since Haislip has been working with MADD to help educate young people about the dangers of driving while impaired.

“When someone is killed in a crash like this, it’s not just one family that’s affected it’s a whole community,” Haislip said. “You can’t put a price on life.”

Though the measure is a major step in the fight to curb incidents of drunk driving, Haislip believes it will still take time for the safety technologies to have the desired impact because there will still be millions of cars on the road that won’t have the safety measures even if newer vehicles have them.

“People still need to be aware of the consequences of making bad choices with drinking and driving,” Haislip said. “People are still going to have older vehicles so not every vehicle is going to have this new technology.”

“It’s going to take years and years before that technology is on every vehicle for everybody that’s driving,” Haislip said.

New cars equipped with the -directed technology could start rolling off the assembly line in 2026-2027.

Otte says the goal of this provision is to make safety a standard across the board. Otte says much of the technology being looked at is already in cars on the market today but can be inaccessible to some consumers due to costs.

“Car companies at this time are putting the technology in there, but then they are charging the purchaser of the car thousands of dollars to switch this technology on,” Otte said. “To me, that means two things; it makes safety a luxury of the rich for people who can pay thousands more extra for their car, but more so than that the people who genuinely need the technology in their vehicle because they’re going to make the choice to drink and drive will never pay for it.”

The organization believes that a timeline can be met with existing technologies and those currently being developed. The Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety (DADSS), states that their current timeline for use in consumer vehicles is by 2024 for the breath system and 2025 for the touch system.

According to Otte the push for a drunk driving prevention technology standard for all new vehicles was led in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI), who introduced the HALT (Honoring the Abbas Family Legacy to Terminate Drunk Driving) Act in memory of Issam and Rima Abbas and their three children who were killed by a drunk driver while driving home from vacation in January 2019.

The Senate version of the bill, the RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving for Everyone) Act, was led by Senators Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and Rick Scott (R-FL) with co-sponsorship from Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

In 2019, more than 10,000 people were killed and 300,000 others injured in drunk driving crashes. Preliminary estimates for 2020 show alcohol-related deaths spiked by 9% compared to 2019, even as vehicle miles traveled diminished significantly during the pandemic.

“We are so thankful for all of our support in Congress and for all of our support of victims, survivors, and family who were so willing to share their stories,” Otte said. We are so thankful to be in this place today.

Last month, the NHTSA reported an estimated 20,160 people died on America’s roads in the first half of 2021, an 18.4% increase over the first half of 2019. The rise in traffic deaths is due to speeding, not wearing seatbelts and impaired driving which is the leading cause of traffic deaths and injuries. According to NHTSA.

“The sooner this gets done the more lives are saved and injuries prevented,” Otte said. “I truly believe that we will all live to see a day when there is the last victim of drunk driving,” Otte said.

'She stole a legacy from my family': Loved ones lament sentencing in Omaha

Written by Josh Kristianto

Outrage from an Omaha family on Thursday as the driver who killed their loved one gets a plea deal.

Michael Corcoran was on his motorcycle when Brenda Berger crashed into him just over a year ago. Berger will now serve 21 days in jail for his death.

The judge could have given Berger up to one year in jail, but she will instead serve just a fraction of that.

"She stole a legacy from my family, a million memories, a million moments. Next week at Thanksgiving, he's not at our table," said Erin Branscom, Michael's sister.

Branscom says there was no justice in her brother's death because the driver who killed him will only serve 21 days in jail and two years probation.

Berger was on her way to work as a nurse when she hit the back of Corcoran's motorcycle on I-480 near F street. Omaha Police found alcohol in her system that morning, but it was below the legal limit.

"I think we would feel as a family very differently if this were truly 100 percent an accident, but she made choices that day. As a fellow registered nurse, she was on her way to work, I go to work every morning and I don't have a bit of alcohol in my system at 7:56 in the morning," said Julie Wyssman, another of Michael's sisters.

Cameras were not allowed in the courtroom Thursday, and there is no booking photo for Berger. The judge said he had to sentence her within the bounds of the law.

Douglas County Attorney Donald Kleine says they did what they could.

"The evidence that we had and the police investigation showed that the person was under the legal limit. And there weren't any other factors that would aid us in proving that somebody was impaired," said Kleine.

Corcoran's family feels otherwise.

"Whether or not she was above the legal limit or not, she was under the influence at some level. And this isn't the first rodeo for her," said Wyssman.

Berger's attorney says her client is getting help through Alcoholics Anonymous and that she has written letters of remorse. None of that is enough for Corcoran's family.

"She'll be at Christmas, she won't be in jail. But my brother won't be at Christmas," said Branscom.

Corcoran died one day before his 32nd birthday. He also leaves behind a young child. Berger is serving her 21 day sentence right now. KETV also learned in court that her nursing license in South Dakota has been revoked.

Bar fight sends three people including suspect to hospital, two critically injured

Written by KETV Staff

OMAHA, Neb. — Three people are recovering after being cut in a bar fight, police say. Officers were called to Grover's Inn for a big fight around 11:45 p.m. Friday.

The bar is near 42nd and Grover streets.

Once there, authorities found three injured men; 22-year-old Jacob Leonard, 51-year-old Todd Stephens and 46-year-old John Good.

Douglas County officials confirm two of the men were taken to a hospital with critical injuries and another had serious injuries.

An officer at the scene told a KETV Newswatch 7 photographer, Good was taken into custody overnight.

It is unclear what led up to the incident but investigators say everyone is in stable condition.

Authorities say charges are pending in this case.

20-year-old man killed, another man wounded in shooting at Omaha bar

Written by Kevin Cole

A 20-year-old man was fatally wounded and another man suffered a minor injury during a shooting Saturday night at a west Omaha sports bar.

Demetrius A. Johnson of Omaha died from his wounds, a police spokesman said Sunday. Christopher Grutel, 20, of Omaha was shot in the foot, the spokesman said.

Police were called to a report of a shooting just before 11:30 p.m. at the DJ's Dugout location at 777 N. 114th St. Officers learned that two people were taken by private vehicles to Omaha hospitals, police said.

Johnson was taken to Methodist Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Grutel was taken to the Nebraska Medical Center with a gunshot wound to his right foot.

According to social media posts, all DJ's Dugout locations were scheduled to show the WBO world welterweight championship fight between Omaha's Terence "Bud" Crawford and Shawn Porter from Las Vegas. Crawford won by technical knockout at 11:15 p.m. Omaha time.

The bar did not open Sunday, said Steve Herrman, the general manager. The bar had been packed Saturday night for the fight, and everyone appeared to be having a good time before shots rang out in the parking lot, he said.

"It all happened outside in the parking lot," Herrman said. "It was a pretty fun night until that incident occurred."

About a dozen vehicles remained in the bar's parking lot Sunday morning, surrounded by crime scene tape as police continued the investigation. Dozens of evidence markers were scattered throughout the parking lot.

Johnson's death marks the 27th homicide of the year in Omaha. That compares with 35 homicides at this time in 2020.

Anyone with information about this incident may contact Omaha Crime Stoppers at 402-444-STOP or at www.p3tips.com or by downloading the p3tips mobile app. Callers can remain anonymous and are eligible for a cash reward of up to \$25,000 for information that leads to an arrest in a homicide.

'They complemented each other': Family wants answers after fatal crash ends engagement

Written by Alex McLoon

OMAHA, Neb. — Police have yet to identify who was driving the Toyota Camry that struck Jacob Slayden, who was delivering newspapers with his fiancée Jamie Novak Tuesday morning.

Only the couple and one occupant of the Toyota Camry were at 120th and Blondo streets when police arrived. Police have not yet identified that one occupant who was taken to Bergman Mercy in serious condition.

Novak died at the intersection that morning, while paramedics rushed Slayden to Bergan Mercy. He returned home Tuesday night, with a cut to his forehead and his arm in a sling. His family wants officials to say who had the right of way.

Slayden will spend Thanksgiving without his fiancée.

"They just—they were always so happy," Slayden's sister Tiffany Reichert said. "They complemented each other well."

Slayden stayed inside a home while KETV NewsWatch 7 spoke to family members. He was too shocked and shaken to appear and talk on camera.

"They were always together," Reichert said.

Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine says officials don't know who was driving the Toyota. Officials are looking into someone possibly drinking and driving.

"There are several factors we're looking into as far as how that occurred, and one of the factors we're looking into is if there's any alcohol that's involved," Kleine said.

Traffic investigators with the Omaha Police Department haven't said who had the right-of-way. A police department spokesperson says it's still processing the crash report, and the latest department news release says the investigation is ongoing.

Jacob and Jamie's families are left to process the loss heading into Thanksgiving. They set up a GoFundMe to cover funeral costs and to help Jamie's children.

"She fit in," Reichert said of her once soon-to-be sister-in-law. "And she made Jacob whole."