
Capital Gazette

Prosecutors drop charges against man accused of rape in downtown Annapolis

By MEREDITH NEWMAN

MNEWMAN@CAPGAZNEWS.COM |

FEB 25, 2016 AT 5:22 PM



Michael Avram, 24, of Severn, was cleared Thursday of charges connected with an alleged rape last year in downtown Annapolis. (Annapolis police photo)

The Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office on Thursday dropped criminal charges against a man who was accused of raping a woman last year in a downtown Annapolis restroom.

Michael Avram, 24, of Severn, was facing charges of second-degree rape, second-degree assault, false imprisonment and a fourth-degree sex offense for an incident involving a 21-year-old Severna Park woman Sept 5 in the bathroom of the Annapolis Harbormaster's Office.

After working with city police and reviewing the evidence, the State's Attorney's Office decided to not move forward with the prosecution, said Heather Epkins, a spokeswoman for the office. The office had the accuser's "full support" with the decision, she said.

Avram is relieved the charges were dropped and in the process of "reclaiming his life," said his attorney, Peter O'Neill. Court records show Avram was released from jail on Thursday.

O'Neill said the decision to drop the charges was the correct one, considering the alleged victim's version of events was not consistent with the evidence.

"I think the State's Attorney's Office took good, ethical action," O'Neill said. "It takes a certain level of courage to decide not to prosecute a case, as much as it does to prosecute a case."

Police originally said Avram was among a group of people who left a downtown bar after closing time during the early morning hours of Sept. 5. The group then went to car in a nearby parking lot, police said. Drug use was alleged.

At about 3 a.m., the woman got out of the car and went to use the restroom at the Harbormaster's Office. Police at the time said Avram followed the woman to the restroom and raped her.

The alleged assault was interrupted by the woman's boyfriend, police said at the time, who went to check on her when she didn't return. A fight broke out between Avram and the woman's boyfriend, police said, and the woman ran to safety.

Avram had no previous criminal charges on his record, according to Maryland court records.

<https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/crime/ph-ac-cn-avram-charges-0226-20160225-story.html>