

Woman hurt in latest Venue fight

About 20 officers responded after multiple fights broke out Friday

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A 30-year-old Lansing woman remained in serious but stable condition following an altercation early Friday at a south Lansing nightclub that is a frequent stop for police, police said.

The victim was attacked at The Venue by a 22-year-old Lansing woman and received several lacerations to the face and chest, Lansing police Lt. Noel Garcia said. The injuries do not appear to be life threatening, and the suspect remained in police custody. She is expected to be arraigned on assault charges today.

Neither woman's name was released.

With more than 500 people at The Venue for a concert by rapper Webbie, the altercation possibly was to blame for several other fights that began in the parking lot, Garcia said.

About 20 police officers responded to the scene at about 1:30 a.m. after being dispatched to disband several fights.

Venue spokesman Mark King said he's only aware of the one altercation, which the club's security personnel attempted to handle.

Crowds that large are sometimes hard to manage and require additional support from police, he said.

King said about 45 security officers were on hand the night of the incident.

"A lot of times, when there's groups of people, sometimes it's difficult to identify the origin of the problem, in terms of a person that's causing trouble," he said. "Sometimes it's difficult to keep people separated."

The Venue has been the site of other incidents in the past, including shootings.

From June 1, 2009, to Sept. 15, 2009, Lansing police responded to 60 calls at the location along the 6800 block of South Cedar Street.

The club is looking into ways to ensure the safety of its patrons, King said.

But the city has its own remedy for nightclub problems that tie up police.

The City Council passed an ordinance in December that requires night club owners to pay for police services if their clubs are the center of disturbances.

And the city attorney's office Tuesday will present guidelines to the council about how cabaret licenses may be revoked if owners don't pay police costs.

"I think everybody prefers the easy way, but if the hard way is necessary, the city knows the path," said Brig Smith, Lansing's city attorney.