

Mount Pocono riot aftermath: Community uproar, relative defends young men arrested

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The uproar over a riot in Mount Pocono on Monday night now includes a family member of three young men accused of causing trouble.

Pocono Mountain Regional Police said they were trying to disperse crowds after the Pocono Mountain carnival and ran up against a defiant and unruly group, cursing and blocking traffic.

A relative of a 15-year-old boy who was at the Rita's stand in Belmont Plaza said police told the boy to move along. When he didn't, an officer knocked a soda out of the boy's hand, then grabbed him by the neck when the boy asked if the officer was going to pay for the spilled drink.

The boy was one of two juveniles sent to a detention facility. His brother and cousin were among three men arrested and now jailed in Monroe County.

Police called for backup when the crowd got out of control. Officers from Pocono Township and Stroud Area Regional Police along with state troopers responded to help - an unusually serious situation, said Harry Lewis, chief of Pocono Mountain Regional Police.

Police tasered three young men during the melee.

Community members are complaining that young thugs have ruined the ability of children and families to enjoy the Pocono Mountain carnival. The week-long event is a major fundraiser for the volunteer fire department.

We're interviewing witnesses from the riot and getting additional information from police. Look for the story in tomorrow's print and online editions, plus video interviews online.