

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis
Additional Information Sheet

Location:

extortion of bar owner Maurice Williamson

Maurice's Gold Coast

2919 Olive

Additional Information:

Maurice's Gold Coast was a bar with a mix of patrons, both LGBTQ and straight.

Owner Williamson told police investigators he was approached in November 1974 by one of six officers who had gone among customers that night asking for identification. Then at least one of the cops demanded \$100 for making sure he didn't have problems. Williamson gave this cop some of the money, but went to 9th District commander to complain. Police officials gave him marked bills, which when paid to the offending cops proved the extortion occurred.

Three people in police department were charged with "oppression in office," a misdemeanor, later dismissed by judge. By May 1976 two officers and one detective involved were fired.

Headline in the *Post-Dispatch* read: "3 Policemen Fired; Extortion."

For additional history see: