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Tempe police arrest 237 in underage drinking crackdown

(Photo: 12 News video)

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Tempe police have arrested 237 people during its crackdown on underage drinking following the tragic death of an 18-year-old Arizona State University student.

Police believe Naomi McClendon was intoxicated in the early morning hours on March 30 when friends took her to a 10th-floor apartment in Tempe near ASU, where she later walked onto the balcony, lost her balance and fell to her death.

Tempe investigators learned McClendon, a sophomore majoring in nonprofit leadership and management, had attended an off-campus party in Tempe sponsored by a banned fraternity earlier in the night.

Tempe police and several other agencies have been cracking down this weekend on underage drinking in hopes of sparing other students from death or serious injuries stemming from binge drinking.

A total of 51 officers from several agencies have been patrolling for underage drinking, loud parties and DUI in an area around ASU, bordered by Broadway Road to University Drive and McClintock Drive to Mill Avenue, that is known as the "Loud Party Corridor." Participating agencies include the Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert and ASU police departments, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control.

Police arrested a total of 237 people during patrols on Friday and Saturday nights on suspicion of minor consumption and minor in possession of alcohol, and DUI, Tempe Police Detective Jaime Garibay said. The arrests include 67 DUI arrests, as well as citations and those who were booked into jail.

Republic reporter Jim Walsh contributed to this article.