Real estate top dogs get into brawl at Hamptons restaurant

A pair of high-profile real estate executives got into a physical fight last week at a restaurant in the Hamptons.

The altercation happened Thursday night at the East Hampton Grill in East Hampton, New York, when Jeffrey Collé clashed with Andrew Saunders. Collé is a luxury real estate developer whose website describes him as the “preeminent design builder and innovator in the Hamptons for over 40 years.”

Saunders is the founder and CEO of Saunders & Associates, which describes itself as the “most effective” brokerage in the Hamptons.

The incident was first reported by *The Real Deal*, which cited an unnamed source and characterized the fight as a bare-knuckle brawl that ended with the men on the ground.

Jeffrey Collé

However, two sources with knowledge of the situation disputed those details. One source told Inman that the incident began when Collé and Saunders coincidentally ran into each other at the restaurant. Saunders then made a comment that left Collé's wife feeling "uncomfortable," the source claimed, after which the men "bumped into each other."

The app that gives agents an edge with today's fresh listings

This hot new mobile app enables Realtors to connect with buyers, post listings, and generate leads quickly READ MORE

The source said the incident was mostly limited to "some words being exchanged," but ultimately described Saunders as the "aggressor."

However, the second source argued that in fact it was Collé who initiated an “unsolicited assault” on Saunders. That source described Saunders as the “victim.”

Both sources agreed that there is surveillance video of the incident, which police are currently reviewing, and that the overall clash was less severe than initial reports suggested.

Andrew Saunders

Saunders referred questions to his attorney Tony LaPinta, who told Inman in an emailed statement that “we will pursue all necessary means to stop Mr. Colle’s escalating and unacceptable behavior.” LaPinta did not say what other “escalating” behavior Collé might have participated in.

Collé’s attorney, Joseph Conway, told Inman that he believes the facts will show that his client acted in self defense. Conway also said that Collé is set to be arraigned Thursday on misdemeanor assault charges, though he described those charges as “baseless” and said the incident has been “blown out of proportion.”

The East Hampton Police Department, which responded to the scene, did not respond to Inman’s request for reports on the incident.

Though what exactly prompted the animosity between the two men remains unclear, a source claimed to Inman that Saunders owes Collé more than $1 million.

Saunders and Collé are both prominent members of the Hamptons real estate community and incidentally both have connections to Beyoncé. In Sanders’ case, his brokerage was tapped this year to market a collection of properties collectively worth $200 million. The collection reportedly

includes a mansion dubbed the Sandcastle, which Beyoncé and husband Jay-Z rented in 2012.

In Collé's case, he remodeled a home that the music power couple bought in 2017. He has also developed homes for Billy Joel, Alec Baldwin and Donna Karan.

Email Jim Dalrymple II

Source: click here