

...and know the hotel

Suit charges Hyatt with lax security

By LAURA JANOTA
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Charging security was lax, an Atlanta man attacked last winter in the Hyatt Regency Hotel lobby in Chicago filed suit Tuesday against Hyatt.

David Verzello, 31, charged in the suit filed in Cook County Circuit Court that security was inadequate at the hotel last Jan. 23.

The hotel's general manager couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday.

The Atlanta businessman, a guest at the hotel, was beaten, kicked and hit on the head with a telephone by two unidentified men as he made a phone call in the hotel lobby, the lawsuit charges.

The unsolved crime, which left Verzello with a broken foot, is believed to be unrelated to two recent assaults at the hotel, located at 151 E. Wacker Drive.

The recent attacks include the beating Sunday of a female security guard walking her beat at the hotel. In an attack last month, a New Jersey teen was found beaten in her hotel room.

The violent incidents, which have grabbed headlines, come at a time when the hotel is preparing to host delegates to next month's Democratic National Convention.

"I guarantee you that when the Democratic National Convention is in town ... security will be different," said attorney G. Grant Dixon.

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