

23 January 2024

Ref: 017729/00001

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To Whom it May Concern
By email only

Dear Sir/madam

Palm Island Lounge, 1 Craven Park Road, London

I am writing to you as someone who has submitted a representation in respect of the application for a new premises licence for Palm Island Lounge. My name is Joe Harvey and I am a solicitor with Poppleston Allen Solicitors. We specialise in licensing matters and have been instructed by Palm Island Lounge Limited to assist them with the upcoming hearing for this matter.

I wanted to write to you to invite you to make contact with me to see if I could properly explain the application to you and offer assurances that this application is in no way an attempt to reopen a nightclub at the premises.

I understand that the closure of Vybz nightclub has brought about a much needed period of reduced crime and disorder on Craven Park Road. From my conversation with the Police, it is clear that Vybz had to be visited by the emergency services every 2-3 days or so. Many of the incidents which occurred there were serious assaults which resulted in road closures for days in the interests of evidence preservation. It is no surprise that local residents would want to ensure that this does not happen again.

My client is seeking an application for a premises licence so that he can open a restaurant which is to be called Palm Island Lounge. The restaurant will serve traditional West African and Mediterranean dishes in a relaxed atmosphere. The only patrons will be those who are dining and are seated and served by waiter/waitress service. This means that customers cannot attend for only a drink and the sale of alcohol will be ancillary to taking a meal. The hours which are being sought for the premises licence are consistent with a food led business and licensable activities shall come to an end at 23:00

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on Sundays to Thursdays with 23:30 on Fridays and Saturdays. There are to be no variations to this throughout the year despite this being indicated on the application.

The application has also sought regulated entertainment by way of recorded music. I am instructed to withdraw this part of the application as the premises only intends to have background music on a regular basis. It is firmly believed that background level music will not be heard outside of the premises and will not cause a noise nuisance to the neighbourhood.

There is some confusion which has been caused by the suggestion that the premises will not be available to children and that all patrons will have to use an ID scanner. These, along with the requirement of having security, have created the impression that this is not going to be a restaurant but a nightclub instead. I understand from my client that it was originally intended that the premises would be family friendly and that the requirement of an ID scanner and security would deter would be wrongdoers. It is our suggestion that if the licence is granted, it should be granted on the basis that children are only permitted provided that they are accompanied by an adult as well as ID scanning no longer being required.

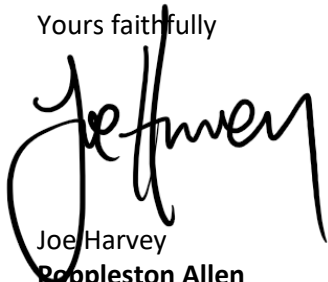
There are also concerns about how many customers will be able to be present on the premises as the original application suggests that this could be 60-80 people. Before opening for business, my client is required to carry out a fire risk assessment. At the time of writing, this has not yet been done because it is awaiting essential gas works at the premises. However, the assessment, which will be prepared by an expert assessor, will consider important issues such as the capacity of the building having regard to the fact that it will be used as a restaurant where patrons are seated at tables rather than standing up. For this reason, my client envisages that the capacity for the premises will be significantly lower than 60-80.

I am in the process of having discussions with the police to ensure that this application properly recognises the needs to of the local community in making sure that the chaos of Vybz does not visit you once more. I am hoping to agree a number of conditions with the police which will make it absolutely clear to the licensing committee that Palm Island Lounge is going to be a restaurant and not a nightclub. I am sure you will agree that the proposals I have described above are far more consistent with a restaurant and had they been on the original application, you may not have been caused this worry.

With that in mind, I would like to invite you to contact me directly so that I can discuss these or any other concerns I have not addressed.

PopplestonAllen

Yours faithfully



Joe Harvey

Poppleston Allen

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