



Witness Statement

CJ Act 1967, s9;

MC Act 1980, ss5A(a) and 5B;

MC Rules 1981, r70;

UPRN:

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Statement of:Lavine Miller-Johnson

Age of if under 18..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18').....

Occupation:Licensing Officer.....

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the:.....23.12.2015.....

Signature:

I am employed by the London Borough of Brent as a Licensing Enforcement Officer. My duties include enforcing the Licensing Act 2003. On Saturday 12th December 2015 at approx. 00:17hrs, my colleague Esther Chan and I went to Charlie's Wine Bar 238-240 Neasden Lane Neasden NW10 0AA to attach the public blue notice for the review of the premises licence. The notice was displayed on the lamp post directly outside facing the premise. Esther Chan took a picture of the notice once it was displayed at 00:18 hrs and we left to go back to the unmarked vehicle awaiting us on Neasden Lane. Shortly after we got back into the car we noted a white Eastern European male walk from Charlie's Wine Bar to observe the notice that we had just displayed. At 00:19 hrs a black male SIA in a high vis jacket and flat cap walks up to the Eastern European male and also observes the displayed review notice. The SIA touched the review notice to read it. The Eastern European male pulled down the notice, hands it over to the SIA and walks back towards the premises with the SIA. The SIA did nothing to prevent the removal of the notice. Esther and I got back out of the vehicle and walked back to the premise to discuss the removal of the notice with the SIA. On approaching the SIA at the entrance of Charlies Wine Bar, Esther and I introduced ourselves as Local Authority Licensing Officers to the SIA and the premises licence holder, Mr Phidias Charalambous known to us as Charlie. I explained to the SIA that I had observed his assist in the removal of the public notice. I advised the SIA it is an offence for the notice to be removed. At this point the SIA became aggressive and irate towards Esther and I and began waving his hands around in our faces. Whilst he was acting in this way he was also shouting. Another male from Charlie's came over to us and started speaking to get involved in the conversation. Esther asked what his involvement was and he said that he worked at the bar. Esther advised him that this is a matter to be dealt with by the licensee and not him or anyone else. Esther requested for the SIA to give his badge number, name, address and D.O.B. The SIA refused and said that he didn't have to give us any details and that he does not have to speak with us as we are only council workers. He was advised that Under the Licensing Act 2003 we are authorised officers and he should adhere to our requests.

Signature:..... Signature Witnessed by:.....



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Continuation of Statement ofLavine Miller-Johnson.....

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All the other people around us, staff and customers appeared to be controlling the situation at hand. Mr Charalambous who was standing with us did not have any interaction with us. To me it appeared that he was not the owner/licensee of the business. He was not in control of the situation. In his presences, SIA staff were not discouraged to present rage towards Council Officers.

At this point I said to Mr Charalambous that this is his business and if he allows is SIA staff to be aggressive towards Council Officers then how do you prevent them from being aggressive towards customers? It is this type of behaviour from staff and customers that are reducing the quality of his business. Mr Charalambous did not respond. A white female that had previously been in Charlies approached Esther and asked her if Esther's husband was inside Charlie's bar. Esther did not answer her. She then asked me the same question. I also did not answer her. She then, whilst turning to walk back into the bar shouted out "FUCKING BITCHES." At 00:30hrs , I asked Mr Charalambous to step aside for me to speak with him away from the crowd which was now hostile. During our conversation I advised Mr Charalambous as to why the licence was being reviewed. I said to him that the SIA staff seem to have more control over his business than he does and they have no right being so aggressive and trying to intimidate us in the way they did. I advised him that the notice must be replaced and if it wasn't he would be receiving further correspondence from the council regarding this. He was also advised that further visits will be made from the licensing team and the police. Mr Charalambous and I walked back over to Esther and SIA staff. Esther was trying to obtain details from the SIA staff. At 00:32 Esther attains details from the SIA staff. Details provided – CHUKWUMA ONYIA badge number 0130 0196 8202 0675. At this point Esther and I were surrounded by 6 males how were now shouting at us. At 00:34hrs I advised Charlie that we will be checking CCTV and we left the area.

Signature.... *Lavine Miller-Johnson*

..... Signature Witnessed by:.....