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TERRITORIAL POLICING

Brent Police Licensing Unit

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Your ref:

Our ref: 01QK/ 684/16/157

Brent Borough Licensing Department

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Date: 29th November 2016

Police representation to the Premises Licence Review Application for 'Saharah Lounge' 5-7 Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, HA9 8AF.

Officer: Nicola McDonald
Licensing Constable PC 157QK

An officer of the Metropolitan Police, in whose area the premises are situated, who is authorised for the purposes of exercising its statutory function as a 'Responsible Authority' under the Licensing Act 2003.

The application has been made for a review of the premises licence under section 51 of the act.

I certify that I have considered the application shown above and I wish to make representations.

The Police representations are concerned with the prevention of public nuisance.

The current premises licence number for 5-7 Wembley Hill Road, Wembley is 223223095.

I dealt with the initial application for the premise Licence received by Brent Police Licensing team on 9th November 2014. The applicant and premises licence holder are one of the same:

Ms Hamida Moalin 296 Harrow Road, Wembley, HA9 6LJ.

The application was for late night refreshment and entertainment licensable activities only. The application described the general description of the premises as serving hot and cold drinks (not alcohol) and cakes. It will serve Shisha.

During that process I requested a list of conditions to be attached to the premises licence that would promote the licensing objectives. When the licence was granted there were twenty six conditions attached to the licence. One condition I requested in particular was removed by the means of a minor premises licence variation application when the responsible authorities are not consulted. The condition that was removed through this process on 26th October 2015 was:

'Only electronic smoking devices shall be offered for consumption on the premises'.

During the summer months of 2016 Brent Police Licensing officers became aware of complaints of public nuisance and anti social behaviour in the vicinity of Saharah Lounge generated by their customers.

As a result I made contact with Ms Moalin and spoke to her on 13th May 2016.

I explained that residents were being disturbed at unsociable hours of the night by her customers arriving and leaving the venue, some of them in vehicles. She explained to me that she had also witnessed some of the noise from her customers and when she had challenged them she had been shouted and jeered at. She indicated that if the problems did not cease she would look at closing the business and that it was not her intention to upset residents and the community as she is also local to the area.

I followed up our conversation with an email advising she

1. Utilise the door supervisors, make sure they are wearing high visibility jackets from 11pm when gusts start arriving, patrolling the residential street to the rear of the venue, in an attempt to prevent parking. Any failure of customers not to respond to the security requests jeopardizes their admittance to the premises.
2. The DJ should make announcements that parking in the residential roads is frowned upon by management as it causes a disturbance to residents.
3. The DJ to make verbal announcements at closing time requesting verbal noise be kept to a minimum and do not play music from vehicles until they have cleared the immediate area.
4. If the door supervisors identify guests that have parked in the road put a flyer on the windscreen asking in future they do not park in that road.

On 15th July 2016 I made contact with Ms Moalin again as I was aware that public nuisance was still being caused in the area of the venue by the customers. I invited Ms Moalin in to Brent Civic Centre to discuss the matter further.

Ms Moalin claimed she never opens the premises after the authorised time and was really trying to implement what had been advised by Police. In addition Ms Moalin said she had taken further steps and spoken to the Priest of the church over the road and an agreement made whereby her guests can utilise the church car park in the night time as to not cause nuisance to the residents.

However despite her efforts, the nuisance did not dissipate and I conducted a visit to the premises on Saturday 1st October at 0040 hours. Mr Abdi HUSSEIN presented himself as the manager. Ms Moalin was also present. There was a handful of customers in the main room and one door supervisor. Ms Moalin claimed that the premises had been booked for a party however not many persons had arrived so she was closing. I checked the CCTV system and it was operating appropriately. There was one male using an electronic shisha smoking device. I opened the rear fire escape door that leads to Ecclestone place and saw 6 Somali males sitting and standing on a dwarf wall at the top of the alleyway that leads from Eccleston Place to Harrow Road. They were talking and laughing loudly between themselves. This appeared to fit the description of some of the complaints made by residents.

I left the area just after 0100 hours returning at approximately 0140 hours. As I walked along Wembley Hill Road opposite White Horse Bridge there was several small groups of Somali males talking and laughing. One group near the railway bridge were openly smoking cannabis. There was a vehicle parked Ecclestone Place junction with Wembley Hill Road containing 3 Somali males, the windows were open and loud music was emanating from it. Slightly further up Eccleston Place near the entrance to the MOT garage there was another vehicle with the engine still running. The occupants were Somali males, some of the windows were open and a strong smell of cannabis was emitting. I saw customers arriving on foot and in cabs, entering the front of the premise. This breaches the premises licence conditions 'no

entry or re-entry shall be permitted after 0000 hours'. Police had to return to the premises later that night to an outbreak of disorder during which the lone door supervisor sustained injuries caused by customers. (Further details of this crime can be produced for a hearing).

The customer base for this premise on this evening appeared to be Somali males and females of late teens early 20 years. The existence of these premises and the late night activities is generating public nuisance that is causing an adverse effect for the residents in this neighbourhood. There are no other late night venues in the location; the nuisance I witnessed was caused by Saharah Lounge customers.

Ms Moalin appears to be taking steps to prevent the nuisance however the reality is that the customers are ignorant to her efforts and have no faith in the successful long term effect. Police believe that without a reduction of authorised hours in both late night refreshment and entertainment to midnight on Friday and Saturday nights and 2300 hours Sunday to Thursdays this nuisance is not going to improve.

Yours Sincerely,

Nicola McDonald PC 157QK

Licensing Constable Brent Police