



## Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee – Supplementary

**Wednesday 7 June 2023 at 10.00 am**

**Boardroom 2, 3rd Floor, Brent Civic Centre**

Please note that this meeting will be held in person with members of the Sub-Committee required to attend in person.

**The press and public are also welcome to attend this meeting in person. Please note the meeting is not scheduled for live webcast**

### **Membership:**

#### **Members**

Councillors:

Long (Vice-Chair)  
Chohan  
Hack

#### **Substitute Members**

Councillors:

Ahmed, Bajwa, Collymore, Ethapemi, Mahmood,  
Lorber, Rubin

**For further information contact:** Devbai Bhanji, Governance Assistant  
Tel: 020 8937 6841; Email: [devbai.bhanji@brent.gov.uk](mailto:devbai.bhanji@brent.gov.uk)

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:

**[www.brent.gov.uk/committees](http://www.brent.gov.uk/committees)**

**The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting**

## **Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:**

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest\*\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

### **\*Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences**- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

### **\*\*Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
  - To which you are appointed by the council;
  - which exercises functions of a public nature;
  - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
  - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who is the subject of a registrable personal interest.

# Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
3 Application for a New Premises Licence by Kingsley Adjei for the premises known as Palm Island Lounge, 1 Craven Park Road, NW10 8SE, pursuant to the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003	1 - 14

Date of the next meeting: **Thursday 15 June 2023**



- Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your mobile phone during the meeting.
- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.

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## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

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Statement of: Constable Euan Varney  
 Age if under 18: Over 18  
 Occupation: Police officer

This statement 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 in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: [REDACTED]  
 Date: 03 Nov 2022

This statement is a continuation of my previous statement, in relation to VYBZ BAR, 1 CRAVEN PARK ROAD, NW10 8SE. Vybz Bar is currently subject to a closure order which was put in place on AUGUST 9TH 2022 and is due to expire on NOVEMBER 9TH 2022. This order was granted at WILLESDEN MAGISTRATES COURT before being appealed at HARROW CROWN COURT on SEPTEMBER 30TH 2022. The appeal was not upheld and the closure order has remained in place as a result. During the appeal, the Judges expressed a number of concerns regarding the reopening of Vybz Bar. In particular, they were concerned about the lack of responsibility taken by Mr Samuel in relation to the number of violent incidents taking place both inside and outside of his venue and, as a result, the lack of concern shown to those affected by said incidents.

In addition to this, Vybz Bar has had its premises licence revoked on AUGUST 22nd 2022 by BRENT COUNCIL under the Licencing Act 2003. The Council expressed concerns regarding Mr Samuel's ability to manage the premises and his lack of qualifications to do so.

From a policing perspective, the closure of Vybz Bar has had a number of positive effects. No longer are there large crowds converging on Craven Park Road NW10 at 05:00 on weekend mornings, which has led to a noticeable decrease in calls from the public complaining about anti-social behaviour outside the venue at these times.

This trend is not exclusive to anti-social behaviour calls and reports also. The number of calls relating to violence or disorder in the area has also dropped drastically. This can be observed when looking at the heat maps I have generated, which show recorded crimes in the Harlesden area, including Vybz Bar and its immediate surrounding area.

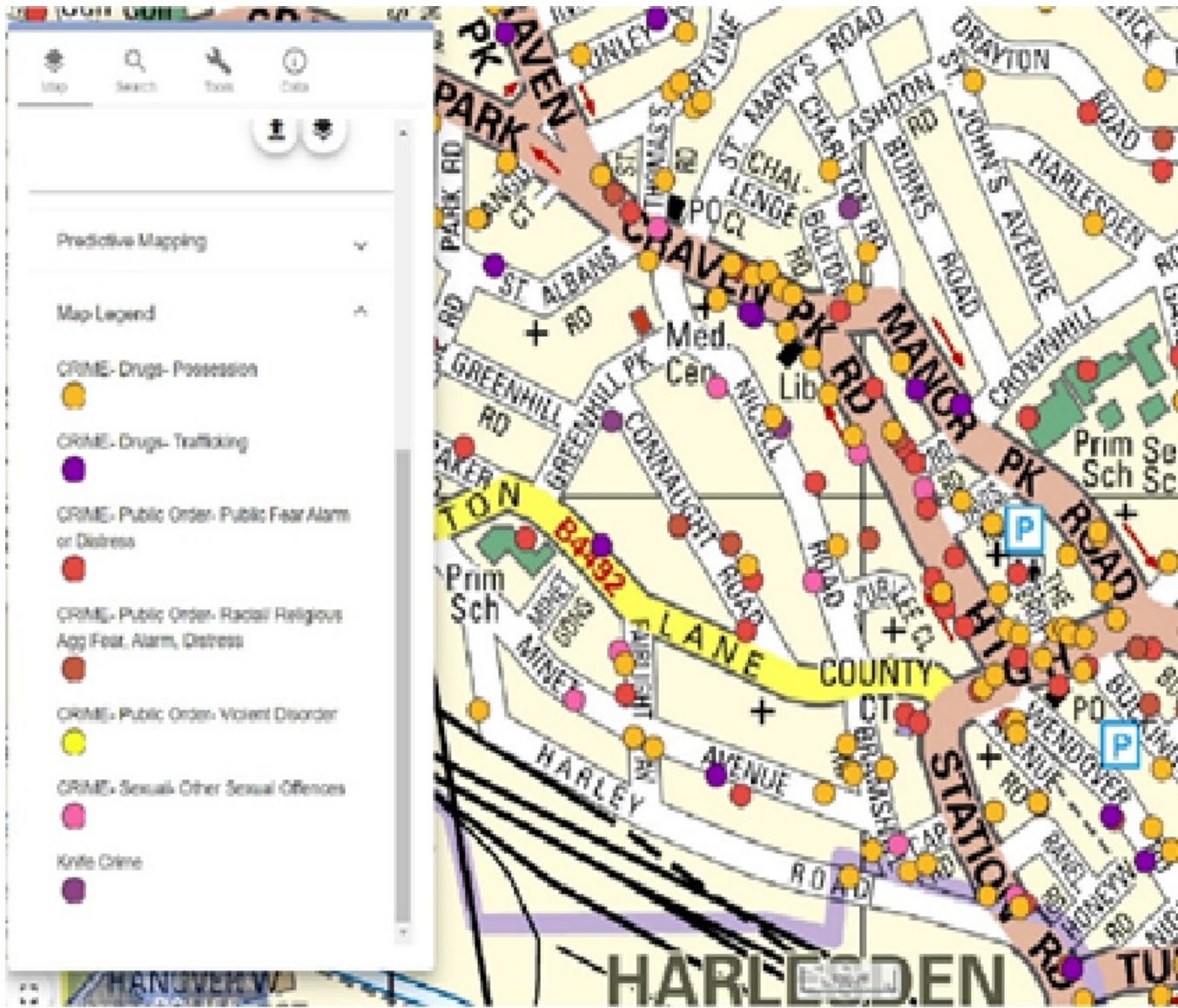
Furthermore. I have taken two statements from local community members. These statements detail the positive effects that the closure of Vybz Bar has had on their quality of life.

It is the view of the MPS that Vybz should remain closed and that the existing closure order should be extended by the courts. Previously, I presented the argument that Vybz Bar was a serious safety risk to the public, with the risk of serious injury or even death occurring at or just outside the venue being very high. The Courts accepted this argument on two occasions. My role as a Police Officer is to manage risk and prevent harm; the existing closure order does precisely this within the context of the risk presented by Vybz Bar.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Signature Witnessed by:

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Map Search Tools Data

Predictive Mapping

Map Legend

- CRIME- Drugs- Possession ●
- CRIME- Drugs- Trafficking ●
- CRIME- Public Order- Public Fear Alarm or Distress ●
- CRIME- Public Order- Racial/ Religious Agg Fear, Alarm, Distress ●
- CRIME- Public Order- Violent Disorder ●
- CRIME- Sexual- Other Sexual Offences ●
- Knife Crime ●



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Brent Licensing Team  
Brent Council

Harlesden Town Centre Team  
Harlesden Police station  
76 Craven Park  
Harlesden  
NW10 8RJ

Telephone: 0208 733 3835

Email: [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)  
Your ref: Palm Island Lounge -  
Application: 27896  
Our ref: Representation  
05/06/2023

Dear Licensing,

**Re, licensing application;**  
Palm Island Lounge  
1 Craven Park Road  
London  
NW10 8SE

I am Police Sergeant Cesar Sanguinetti, based at Harlesden Police station, a member of Harlesden Town Centre Team.

Before undertaking this role, I was a sergeant in Emergency Response in Wembley, previously having worked as sergeant in Safer Neighbourhoods in Camden, additionally, my policing experience extends to: first responder in a response team, Designated Ward officer, 999 call handler, Partnership work in hate crime / ASB, etc. In my 8 years of police service, I have been fortunate enough to have gained substantial police experience.

Harlesden Town Centre was created and launched on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022; the main aims:

- Target and reduce violence, especially against Women and girls
- Decrease ASB / Crime in the Harlesden town centre area
- Engage with the community, building trust between police, as well as engaging with local stakeholders and partner agencies, such as Brent Council.

From our inception to June 2023, Harlesden has been successful in many of our goals, working in partnership with the local community and partner agencies. Inspector Le Geyt's statement refers to these achievements in more details.

The address 1 Craven Park Road NW10 8SE is the location for Vybz Bar. Over years Vybz bar was a synonym with violent crime (including GBH), drug crime, public disorder (including racially aggravated incidents), sexual offences, and more.

As a consequence, Vybz bar was making a very small number of people wealthy but was a curse for the local area, causing suffering to local residents, violence with injuries to patrons, incrementing crime: one of the main focal ASB points for the whole of Brent borough.

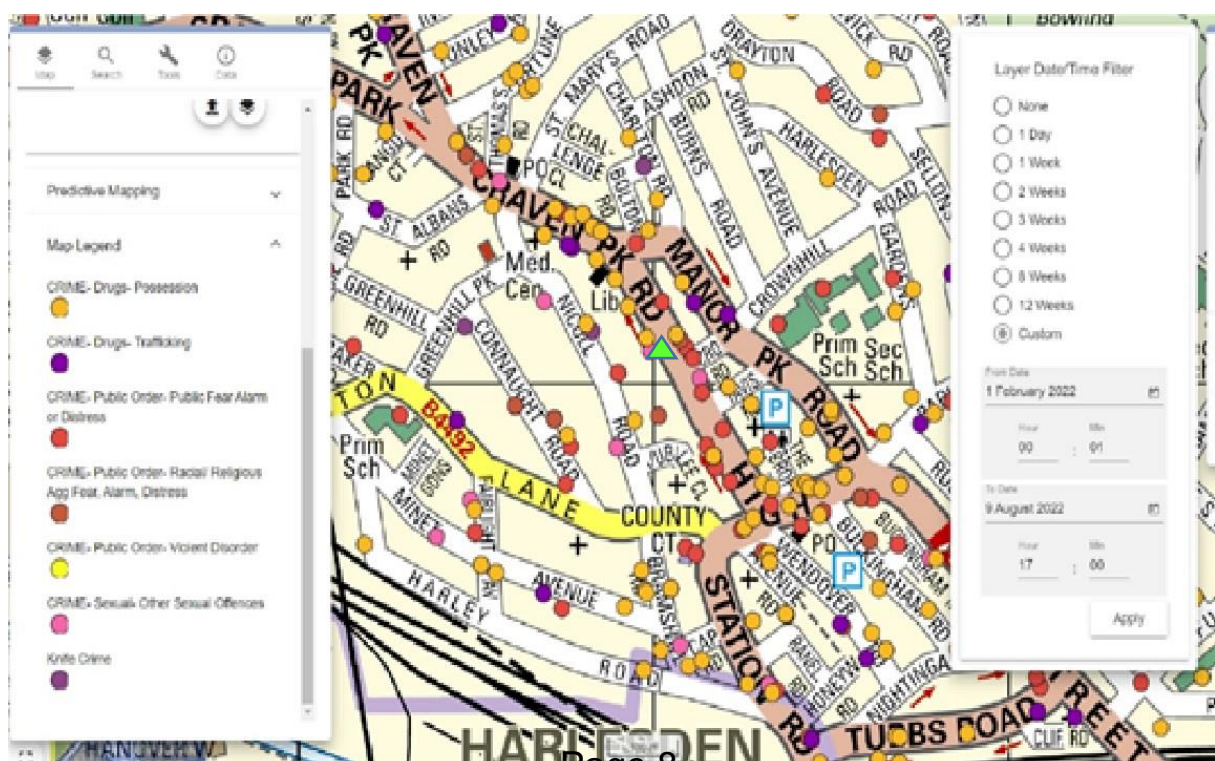
Police, and other first responders, were disproportionately being sent into the Harlesden town centre area to deal with emergencies resulting from the issues mentioned above, around the Vybz bar area, thus becoming unavailable for other areas.

Harlesden town centre did apply and was successful in obtaining a closure order for Vybz bar, on 09/08/2022 issued by Willesden Magistrates Court.

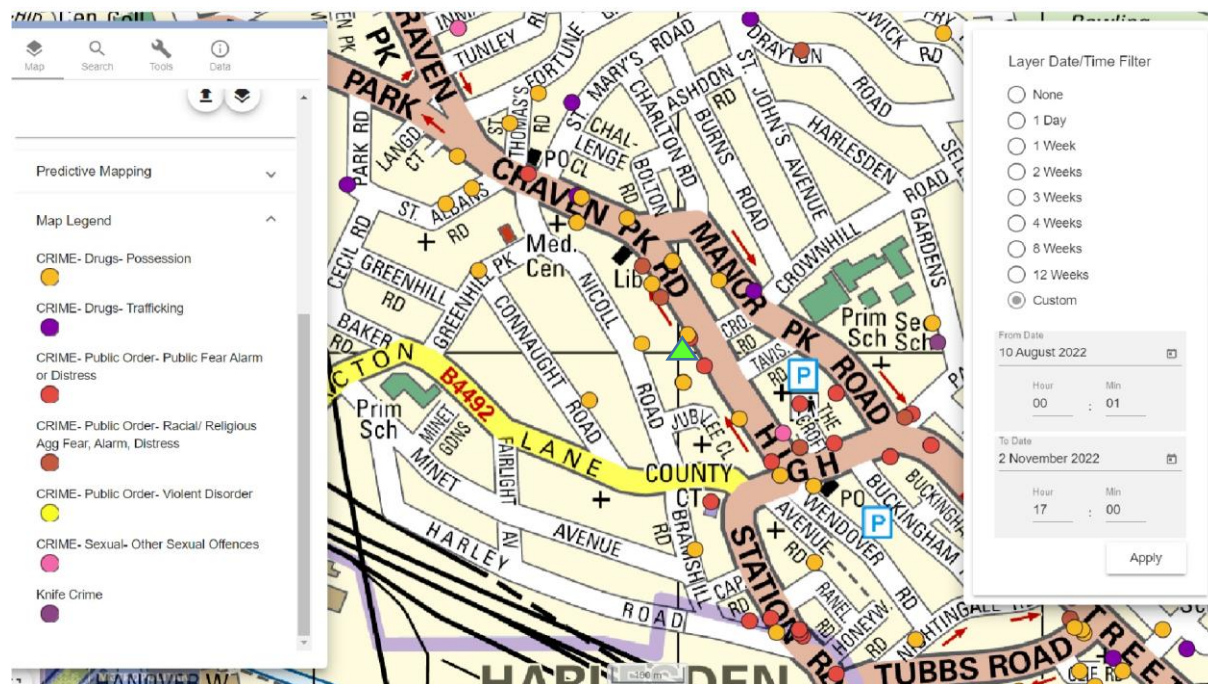
3 months later, on 07/11/2023, Harlesden town centre applied for an extension on Vybz' bar closure order, which was granted by the courts again.

At the time of the application, I produced 2 heat maps, using policing indices / systems; clearly evidencing the effects of a venue, such as Vybz bar, in the Harlesden town centre area.

The map below represents the level of offending and ASB around the Vybz bar area prior to the first closure order (venue shown as a bright triangle):



The map below demonstrates that the level of offending and ASB has undoubtedly diminished following the closure of Vybz bar, providing figures from 10/08/22 to 01/11/22 (venue shown as a bright triangle):



As demonstrated in the pictures above, a venue such as Vybz bar heavily impacts the local area in the most negative of ways. Police cannot overstate the benefit to Harlesden of the closure of Vybz bar.

Eventually, Vybz' bar alcohol licence was revoked and the venue shut for good.

I have serious concerns that Palm Lounge is Vybz bar being renamed so to fool like the local authority to allow its owners to operate in Harlesden. By 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and for Palm Lounge, ?????? was the registered Business rate holder, where ???? was applying for the planning permission to erect a pergola, and Mr Kingsley Adjei introduced to be the owner / manager. Police are aware ???? was the person behind Vybz bar, with ???? running the business for him. This is highly suspicious, and only points out to a rebranding of Vybz Bar.

PC Brendon MCINNES 1187NW wrote to this authority expressing concerns about the planned opening of Palm Lounge, I am borrowing some extracts:

“During the Closure Order Mr Kingsley ADJEI has breached the Closure Order by allowing builders into the premises in order to construct a shelter in the rear of the property to increase the numbers permitted to the venue. People were only allowed to enter the property to carry out essential maintenance. Building a structure to increase capacity is not deemed as essential maintenance...Craven Park Road is a hotspot for street drinking. Should another premises open with a licence until 04.00hrs, this will only encourage more of a night life, with more street drinking taking place...”

Mr Kingsley Adjei replied to this letter from PC MCINNES, I am borrowing some extracts:

“I’m not saying that it will not occur outside the premises as I cannot control people behaviour outside my premise but only control people coming into the premises...I only got involved with the premises as the estate agent was helping me look for some properties to start my business and I liked the premises and leased it in December....The estate agent didn’t tell me about workers not being allowed in the premises and as soon as the police made me aware that builders wasn’t allowed and they evacuated the place with immediate effect...I’m willing to abide by the law...Craven Park appears to have a bad reputation in Harlesden...venue for drinking to minimise people from drinking on the street carelessly and without proper supervision”

Mr Adjei’s reply is distressing.

He states he cannot control people outside his premises. As the map above demonstrates, there was serious criminality outside Vybz bar, and there is no reason not to believe this would not be the case if he is allowed to open Palm Lounge. Mr Adjei has already said that he will not take any responsibility over any ASB / crime that his business brings into the Harlesden area. It is proven that well managed night clubs / bar do have some control over their patrons.

As per policy; Harlesden town centre had a notice on the premises known as Vybz bar clearly indicating this venue was subject to a closure order stating reason, powers and dates. The fact that Mr Adjei let his contractors inside, despite this notice raises concerns and is an offence. Moreover, the proven fact that Mr Adjei ordered constructions of a Pergola, before the planning permission was granted, also raises concerns. Mr Adjei says he is willing to abide by the law (in one of his reply letters he even talks about metal detectors), but his intentional conduct evidently indicates otherwise. The simple reason why Mr Adjei has not continued to breach more laws is because of the work of Harlesden town centre policing team. I do not believe Mr Adjei can be trusted to run a drinking bar efficiently and safely.

Craven Park is street in Harlesden. Harlesden is a vibrant multi-cultural community, which has long been plagued by crime and ASB. There is a small number of wrongdoers, engaging in crime / ASB, affecting the lives of the large majority of law-abiding citizens who call this area of London home. Business such as Vybz Bar, brought crime and ASB into Harlesden.

Harlesden town centre policing team, has been working tirelessly to rid the area of crime and ASB by targeting the small amount of wrongdoers. Vybz bar was identified as an ASB / crime generator. The closure of Vybz bar, which was disputed by the owners at court, was part of this drive from the local police to make Harlesden safer for the local residents.

I honestly believed that allowing Palm Lounge to operate in the Harlesden area, in spite of all the reasonable concerns raised above, would not only undo all police’s efforts to make Harlesden a safer area, but would seriously impact the wellbeing of the local community. One more GBH in the local area attributable to Palm Lounge’s activities, is one GBH too many.

Other police officers, PC McInnes, Inspector Le Geyt, Sergeant Millar, have already written to this committee raising objections to the licence of Palm Lounge. These concerns range from noise pollution, unsuitability to have a venue of this nature in a residential area, crime, ASB, etc. I would like to join my voice to these objections with these statement and argue against allowing Palm Lounge to open in Harlesden.

I would beseech this committee to review the evidence, including that provided by the local community, consider the likely negative impact of allowing Palm Lounge to operate in Harlesden: Increased ASB, serious crime, deployment of first responders that could be used elsewhere, local community impact with the disaffection it causes, bad reputation to the area, etc. I honestly do not believe Palm Lounge to be in public interest, those premises should be operated by another organisation that cares for the local stakeholders, not in making money while breaching regulation while doing so.

Yours sincerely,

Cesar Sanguinetti  
Sergeant  
Harlesden Town Centre Team

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### WITNESS STATEMENT

**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

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Statement of: Dxxxxx JXXXXX

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: [REDACTED]

This statement (consisting of 1 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 in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

[REDACTED]

Witness Signature: ..... Date: 03NOV22

This statement is to the best to my knowledge I am the above named person and am the [REDACTED]. I have been the [REDACTED] for over EIGHT YEARS. I have been a resident of Harlesden, NW10 for over FORTY ONE YEARS.

The business I will mentioning in this statement is VYBZ bar which is 1 CRAVEN PARK ROAD, NW10. I know this business to have been in HARLESDEN for a number of years which has changed ownership multiple times. I am in support of the HARLESDEN TOWN CENTRE TEAM going for an extension CLOSURE ORDER on VYBZ BAR. I own and operate a business at XX Xxxxxx xxxx xxxx, XX## #XX. My business is approximately # shops down from VYBZ BAR and on the [REDACTED] of the road.

Since the temporary closure of VYBZ Bar most of the businesses and residents have experienced cleaner streets and pavements on Saturday and Sunday mornings. In particular no urinating and defecating in our shop fronts, staircases and alleyways. There is no longer broken glass and bottles littered all over the street which children walk along every day on their way to school. There are no longer groups of males smoking cannabis and intimidating members of the public including my customers trying to walk past. I dread any reopening as I have, in the past, had my large front glass panel broken by persons fighting at 0600hours. on a Saturday morning. I had to pay to have the replacement carried out and VYBZ took no responsibility for this.

At present our street is cleaner over the weekends, no vehicles are parked on the pavements, no loud music from vehicles in the early hours of the morning, no broken bottles or cans strewn around the streets and pavements. No inebriated persons walking around the area, blood on the streets and pavements and Police cordon off areas. Vehicles driving on the wrong side of the road.

My plea to the courts as [REDACTED] and a local resident is that the application by the Metropolitan Police be granted as it would be of benefit to the majority who live, work, and carry out businesses in the area not the minority who come into Harlesden to display anti-social behaviour.

[REDACTED]

Dxxxxx Jxxxxx, [REDACTED]

Witness Signature: .....

Signature Witnessed by Signature: .....

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### WITNESS STATEMENT

**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

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Statement of: Anonymous

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Not Stated

This statement (consisting of 1 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 in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Witness Signature: ..... Date: 03NOV22

This statement is to the best to my knowledge and refers to when to the anti-social behaviour that occurs at in directly outside the Vybz Bar on CRAVEN PARK ROAD, NW10.

In my statement I would like to remain anonymous. Police have my details should they be required and have signed in an officer PNB that this is my statement. I will be referring to in this statement the business known as VYBZ Bar which is located on CRAVEN PARK ROAD, NW10. I know this bar to regularly have anti-social behaviour for a couple of years now.

I am a local resident of HARLESDEN I have been living in HARLESDEN for many years now and during this time I have seen antisocial behaviour going on at the VYBZ bar. I have seen VYBZ BAR always break the terms of their licence, opening beyond permitted hours and their customers were involved in continuous anti-social behaviour on the street outside on the evenings when the bar was open

Since the Closure Order was granted the problems directly associated with VYBZ have completely disappeared. The area outside the bar is now quiet at night, the lack of trouble and disturbance is a great relief. There is no longer any rubbish littered on the streets. There are no longer cars blasting music out in the early hours of the morning.

I am in support of the Metropolitan police going for an extension on the CLOSURE ORDER on VYBZ bar and feel that it would be good for the local community.

Witness Signature: .....

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....

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