

### WITNESS STATEMENT

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

URN

Statement of: [REDACTED]

Age if under 18: +18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police 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 in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 08/07/2022

I am the above named person and I am the Police Inspector of Harlesden Town Centre Team. I have over 18 years' service. Prior to my appointment I was the Learning & Development Inspector for NW-BCU, this entailed training new Constables and delivering a new recruitment pathway, previous to this I worked as a Duty Officer on an Emergency Response Team in Hillingdon as well as being a Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant for three wards in Hammersmith and Fulham, previous to this St Margaret's Ward Sergeant in Richmond Borough and other specialist roles.

My team was newly created and launched on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to help improve trust and confidence in the police, reduce violence, violence against women and girls and to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour. During the first 8 weeks of operation the team had achieved a 9.2% reduction in overall crime in the town centre and ASB related calls to High Street, Harlesden which is the focal point of the town centre reduced by 90%.

We know from these results and our increased visibility in the town centre, the community are informing us of the difference they are seeing and the fact that they are feeling safer to walk the streets. The chair of Harlesden Safer Neighbourhood Panel has said much the same after speaking with many community members.

In my role as Town Centre Team Inspector I am expected to do everything in my power to help the residents and community of Harlesden in reducing ASB, violence, drug dealing, licensing issues and to use various problem solving tools and initiatives to do this.

One of the main issues that was brought to my attention early on, relates to Vybz Bar, 1 Craven Park Road, Harlesden NW10 8SE. I was receiving information from residents, council and Safer Neighbourhood Panel members that Vybz Bar were breaching their licence every weekend, and that there were large groups of people outside the bar in the early hours of most Friday and Saturday nights with people going in and out of the bar at 4am, 5am and sometimes later. The groups associated with the bar were rowdy and noisy and keeping residents up at night.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]

Signature Witnessed by Signature: .....

Continuation of Statement of:

I have since liaised with the Licensing Team at Brent Council and have conducted research on police systems which document issues relating to Vybz Bar as shown below:

**1903327/22** S049/10 Other theft. VIW reporting that his phone and his wallet containing items were stolen at venue. VYBZ BAR on SAT 05/02/2022 between 00:10 hours and SAT 03:00hrs.

**1908663/22** S008/06 ABH. "Male ejected from club, grabbed by neck. Police were called by the victim who initially stated that he was being ejected from the bar and was grabbed around the neck and thrown to the ground. He was told by the operator about lawful ejection but he felt as though they used too much force. On police arrival the bar was packed but was near to closing time" Vybz Bar SAT 02/04/2022 between 04:40 hours and SAT 04:40 hours.

**1911567/22** S008/01 GBH/Wound. VIW1 stated she got to the club at approx. 0330hrs and has gone straight to the bar. SUS1 has assaulted VIW1 by throwing a glass bottle causing abh injuries. Vybz Bar SAT 30/04/2022 between 04:00 hours and SAT 04:30 hours.

**1912851/22** Crime Related Incident. Informant calling stating they have been assaulted by the security. Vybz Bar MON 16/05/2022 at 00:01 hours.

**1914165/22** S005/01 GBH W/I. Call regarding a victim of a stabbing needing help, no victim present on police arrival. 3 x females were in Vybz Bar with another group of suspects who managed to enter with a knife/knives. Threats were made by suspects inside venue and victim was stabbed by the group when she went outside. SAT 28/05/2022 at 22:30 hours.

**1916830/22** S008/01 GBH/Wound. Male has been stamped on in the street causing a laceration to his face. Both victim and suspect inside Vybz Bar, heavily intoxicated, suspect had 3 Bottles of Ciroc Vodka. Victim walked outside and was immediately attacked with a bottle by the suspect and head stamped on. SAT 25/06/2022 between 05:30 hours and SAT 05:45 hours.

**1930159/21** S030/83 Burg-Bus/Com. Burglary, money, laptops stolen from venue VYBZ Bar FRI 19/11/2021 between 21:30 hours and SAT 22:00 hours.

As you can see from the above data, the majority of these offences and incidents are taking place at a time considerably past when the club should be closed and are in clear breach of their licence. The management of Vybz Bar and the blatant disregard to the licensing laws has contributed to violence, ASB and assaults in Harlesden town centre.

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Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....