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TERRITORIAL POLICING

KN Bros Limited
The Aura
763-765 Harrow Road,
Wembley. HA0 2LW

Our ref: The Aura – Review
22/24927/3122NW

NW BCU Licensing Department - Brent

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Date: Thursday the 2nd of June 2022

Police Licensing comments regarding the Brent Council Review of 'The Aura, 763-765 Harrow Road, Wembley. HA0 2LW.

I acknowledge receipt of an application for the review of the above said property under section 51 of the club premises certificate and section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003, submitted by Mr Martin Wood from Brent Council

Basis of the Review

The main complaints regarding this venue are those of noise nuisance created by regulated entertainment which is fully detailed in the review submitted by Mr Wood. In addition to the noise nuisance complaints the council have concerns over waste management, food safety and Parking.

The current opening hours of the venue are as follows:

Monday to Thursday from 11.00 hours to 02.30 hours
Friday and Saturday from 11.00 hours to 03.30 hours
Sunday from 11.00 hours to 02.30 hours.

The regulated entertainment and sale of alcohol cease half an hour before the closing time respectively.

Mr Woods is proposing that new times should be:

Monday to Thursday from 11.00 hours to 00.00 hours
Friday and Saturday from 11.00 hours to 01.00 hours
Sunday from 11.00 to 00.00 hours.

Having read through this review and looked at the crime figures, complaints and numerous calls to this venue over just the last year alone, police fully support this review and the reduction of hours suggested by Mr Wood.

Police Crime figures and Calls to the venue

Below is a very brief outline of the calls police have had to this venue from the last year (24/05/2021 to 24/05/2022). The police reference numbers have had to be redacted.

CAD – Call to police
 CRIS – Crime report

QK/492	CAD	08-May-22	Call from Doorman at club stating he is refusing entry to a lady who is smoking cannabis	01.03hrs
19XXXX2/22	CRIS	22-Mar-22	Fight between group of drunk people who just left the Aura Club	02.10hrs
19XXXX2/22	CRIS	22-Mar-22	Cut to lip caused during fight - connected to above CRIS	02.10hrs
19XXXX0/22	CRIS	22-Mar-22	Another victim of assault with 15-20 drunk people fighting after leaving the Aura Club	02.10hrs
19XXXX5/22	CRIS	22-Mar-22	Another arrest for Drunk and Disorderly - eight officers in attendance to control the affray	02.19hrs
53XXXX2/22	CRIS	01-Jan-22	Theft of handbag from location	01.00hrs
19XXXX5/22	CRIS	16-Jan-22	Victim states that he was assaulted by bouncers at the venue, leaving a friend of his with bruising and a broken tooth	01.20hrs
20XXXX8/22	CRIS	31-Dec-21	Female victim states her drink was spiked at the location	22.00hrs
QK/323	CAD	25-Dec-21	Informant stating that bouncer tried to attack them and that the doorman threatened to rape them.	00.55hrs
QK/344	CAD	25-Dec-21	Same informant as last, stating police have arrived	00.58hrs
QK/306	CAD	25-Dec-21	Informant stating that there is a fight at the location and one person is armed with a knife	00.52hrs
QK/237	CAD	12-Dec-21	Call from staff at the club stating that there is a male been aggressive and refusing to leave	00.35hrs
QK/396	CAD	12-Dec-21	Call from security manager stating that same male is there very drunk, challenging people to fight	00.53hrs
19XXXX3/21	CRIS	04-Dec-21	By drunk customer smashing ID machine at location	02.46hrs

QK/582	CAD	29-Nov-21	Complaint of loud music coming from location - police operator could hear music in the back ground	02.30hrs
19XXXX7/21	CRIS	11-Nov-21	Male was evicted from club and then proceeded to get arrested for common assault and being drunk and disorderly	01.58hrs
QK/8569	CAD	27-Oct-21	Male has entered the club and when asked for ID he has refused and become aggressive	23.34hrs
19XXXX3/21	CRIS	09-Oct-21	Assault on security guard from club, female suspect arrested by passing police officers	23.40hrs
19XXXX8/21	CRIS	12-Jul-21	Allegation of kidnapping from the Aura Club	00.01hrs
QK/6593	CAD	06-Jul-21	Report that COVID rules were been broken by the club	20.00hrs
QK/977	CAD	01-Jun-21	A report of over 30 people not social distancing during COVID	23.30hrs

As you see from the above data a majority of the crimes and calls to police are after midnight. This is more than likely going to be fuelled by drunk behaviour where customers are using the Aura Lounge as an alternative venue to attend once the public houses have ceased trading. A shortening of the opening hours of the club would reduce a majority of the crimes that this venue is experiencing.

Licensing Issues

There is an attached exhibit to this letter, which is an e-mail from PC Dan Bailey – Exhibit PSG/1. To summarise this e-mail from PC Bailey he was investigating to separate matters, one of drink spiking and another of robbery. Both of these investigations required CCTV from the Aura. Numerous attempts had been made by PC Bailey where the club have firstly denied any incident took place. Then after repeated attempts to obtain the CCTV it was sent 'edited'.

The club have then decided that the police did not require the CCTV as the victim no longer wished to substantiate the allegation. PC Bailey had to explain that it was not their decision to make. The footage then showed one of the SIA picking up the stolen item and walking off camera with the property. To the best of my knowledge this item of property was not handed to the police or victim.

PC Bailey detailed how he had to threaten to get a warrant from court in order to obtain the CCTV.

From a licensing perspective I have grave concerns over the difficulties that police had on two separate occasions with obtaining CCTV. This is a basis requirement and I would expect the DPS to provide this CCTV without question within a speedy time frame. It is even more worrying to hear that a member of the security team had picked up this item which has not been seen since.

Summary

There appears to be a persistent problem with the management of the club providing police with CCTV from The Aura. This is a breach of the Aura's premises license which undermines the polices' ability to effectively prevent crime and disorder.

The above crime and incident figures are very high. These figures only show the last year of reported crime and I fear there is great deal more of un-reported crime linked to the venue.

In addition to the crime and disorder matters which is the main concern of the police, there are the issues of noise nuisance, waste enforcement, food safety and parking. A combination of all these issues shows a clear lack of control from the management of the club and police fully support the recommendations made by Mr Woods within this review.

Yours Sincerely,

PC Phil Graves 3122NW
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