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POLICE**

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TERRITORIAL POLICING

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Health, Safety and Licensing
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Your ref:
Our ref: 01QK/256/15

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Date 8th June 2015

Police representation to the Variation of the Premises Licence at Savannah Lounge, 4 Lancelot Parade, Wembley, HA0 2AJ

I certify that I have considered the application shown above and **I wish to make representations** that the likely effect of the grant of the application is detrimental to the Council's Licensing Objectives for the reasons indicated below.

The application has been made to vary a premises licence under section 34 of the act.

Officer: **Michael Sullivan**
Licensing Constable PC 368QK

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 Police representations are primarily concerned with crime and disorder, and Public Nuisance.

This premise currently has authority through the premises licence to provide music, and dancing until 01.30 hours, alcohol until 02.00 hours and closed to the public at 02.30 hours, seven days a week. This is sufficient and acceptable timings for a predominantly residential street.

In January 2015 the premises submitted a Temporary event notice to hold an event at the location with a DJ and dancing until 0500 hours. Licensing Police visited the venue and spoke to Mr Vakaria expressing concerns of noise and nuisance to the local residents. Police were mainly concerned with music emanating from the venue and disturbance to residents from customers

arriving and leaving, car doors slamming, engines revving and customers saying long goodbyes in the street throughout the night. Police received reassurances from the DPS that this would not happen. The event went ahead without Police receiving any complaints.

Licensing Police were then contacted by Debra Sylvester a Licensing agent acting for Mr Vakaria. Ms Sylvester spoke about submitting more TEN's and also Police thoughts on an application to vary the premises licence to extend the hours to 0500 hours. Police reiterated their concerns and suggested to submit the TEN's for a period of time and monitor.

Police have now received this variation to extend the licensable hours and closing time of the premises for Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays.

Police are aware of a complaint from a local resident of noise nuisance in the early hours of Saturday 25th April 2015. As a result of this a disturbance noise abatement notice was served on the premises, there was a TEN in place for this event.

This breaches conditions

15. No Noise or vibration shall be detectable at any neighbouring noise sensitive premise.

16. The level of music shall be arranged so as not to cause a nuisance to local residents.

I have spoken to the resident who contacted Brent Noise Nuisance team to see if the incident they had reported was a one off, the complainant informed me that this is a regular occurrence, and that on occasions he has had to go and stay with friends due to the noise, he states that after complaining the noise reduced somewhat for a few days, but last weekend the noise was again unbearable and the walls were vibrating, he states that this went on until between 04.00 and 04.30 hours, he also said that as people leave the venue they are loud and rowdy and this is affecting his quality of life.

On Sunday 3rd May 2015 at 01.00 hours uniformed police officers conducted a licensing visit at the venue. There were no door supervisors on duty, there were ten customers inside the premises and alcohol was being supplied. Condition 2 of the premises licence states Door supervisors of a sufficient number and mix shall be employed from 21.00 hours on any day when the premises are open for the sale of alcohol past midnight. When the TEN application for this event was submitted an e-mail was received from the applicants agent outlining that all of the conditions currently attached to the premises license would apply, and that 2 door staff would be employed for the event, and that the same safeguards will be in place as for the previous events that had recently taken place for which TENs had been applied for. This shows a blatant disregard to the agreement made by the applicants agent to abide by the conditions of the License at a time they were being monitored on their performance and ability to run this type of event correctly, this suggests to me that profit over safety is the main goal of this business.

These incidents give police concerns that the licensing objectives are being undermined.

Police are objecting to this application to an extension of hours. The planning permission for this premise is for use as a restaurant until 0130 hours only. These timings were imposed for serious reasons and it would be neglectful of Police not to consider this. These incidents took place during winter/spring months and the concern is that the nuisance will be exasperated during the summer months when local residents will have their windows open throughout the night.

Another variation request is to increase the capacity from 120 to 150 people, which will ultimately increase disturbance to local residents in the early hours of the morning when revellers start to leave the club. This high volume of customers will also have an impact on parking around the venue; the current position is either double yellow lines or parking permits in close proximity to this address. There will be no public transport running at this time of the morning, meaning people will either drive to the club or be congregating in the streets waiting for taxis to arrive.

Police are concerned by the use of the smoking area which would be used up until the closing time of the club; this will see people standing outside talking until 05.00 hours and causing a noise nuisance to local residents.

I recently visited the premises and spoke to Mr Vekaria and I discussed the application with him, in particular we spoke about the proposal to vary his licence to open until 05.00 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. I raised my concerns about the potential of 150 revellers leaving the premises at that time of the morning when Public Transport will be virtually non-existent, he stated that a local cab company will be able to take his customers home, I visited the Mini-cab company and spoke with the controller who stated that they do have drivers on at that time of the morning, but I do not believe they would be able to accommodate that number of people. We also discussed the smoking areas; for the lower ground area the patrons use the back yard which overlooks a residential area, and the first floor patrons will use the front of the premises which is the main road and again overlooks a large residential block of flats. Mr Vekaria stated that there would be a system of one person out at a time to the smoking areas and that this would be controlled by the SIA staff. This is a completely unworkable solution that indicates a lack of 'late night venue' knowledge from the applicant. There would be disorder from customers waiting to exit the premises to have a cigarette. Two SIA staff would require permanent positions in the smoking areas; this would increase the overall numbers of security staff required to work in the premises.

I then asked for the SIA log sheets, and checked for the sheet covering 3rd May 2015. Mr Vekaria confirmed that he had a TEN in place for this date and was open until the early hours of the morning but did not have any door security working the event. When asked why he stated it was an invitation only event, (Guest List) and that there was approximately fifty people present on the night, and for these reasons he did not employ Door Staff, I explained to him that this was a breach of his licence and that having an event that was by invitation only did not exclude him from not having door security present from 2100 hours until 0200 hours (the start of the TEN). I then asked him to provide me with a copy of this Guest list which he was unable to produce.

On the 12th June 2015, at 23.30 hours licensing officers conducted a visit to the Savannah Lounge, on arrival they saw a group of about eight to ten males standing outside the front of the venue, they all appeared drunk and were talking loudly, two of the males appeared to be arguing and were shouting at each other in an aggressive manner, this went on for a few minutes before one of the males walked off, the other male then sat on a low wall next to the venue and started shouting at people as they walked past, his voice was loud and he sounded aggressive, after a few minutes he started to stagger off up towards WEMBLEY HIGH ROAD.

By this time a few more people had exited the Savannah Lounge and were also standing directly outside talking, they also appeared drunk and were talking loudly laughing and shouting, at this point Mr Vekaria came out of the venue, a male walked up to him and started hugging Mr Vekaria the male was very intoxicated and was staggering around, he then said something like 'I go in' or words to that effect and then staggered towards the front door of Savannah Lounge, where a member of staff shouted angrily at him to go away.

Officers were talking to Mr Vekaria and as they were speaking two motor vehicles pulled up directly outside the club, a large group of Asian males got out of the cars and started to walk towards the front doors of the Savannah Lounge, a couple of them said hello to Mr Vekaria, at which point he hesitantly said to them, 'the club is closed' the group stopped and one of them said 'WHAT' in a loud voice, the group looked confused and appeared surprised at what Mr Vekaria had just said, he then walked over to the group and spoke to them, officers were unable to hear what was being said, the group then went and sat in their vehicles which were parked across the road.

Officers observed the venue for about ten minutes to fifteen minutes, during this time several cars drove into the street beeping their horns, people came out of the club and got in them, there was still a small group of people coming and going from the Savannah Lounge and some stayed standing outside talking and due to being drunk were loud and in high spirits.

This atmosphere and noise felt more like a busy High Street on a Friday night rather than a quiet residential road, directly opposite the Savannah Lounge is a large block of flats, this is no more than a few meters from the entrance to the front door of the club, due to the warm summer night officers noticed that some people had their windows open, this noise from revellers leaving the club and standing outside talking and shouting along with the vehicles stopping and beeping their horns must make for a very unpleasant place to live for these people who would undoubtedly be woken from their sleep.

Again as previously stated this highlights the disregard of the licensing legislation and shows a worrying trend.

In addition to the above, the applicant has not provided any information in the operation schedule to indicate how he will manage the exodus of 150 revellers at 5AM, or the use of external areas. The applicant has made this application with profit in mind over the licensing objectives and importantly the right to a peaceful home life for local residents.

The initial application for a premises licence at this address, indicated a bar restaurant. This variation is quite clearly now for a 'night club'. This premise and location is neither suitable nor fitting for such activities to 5AM.

If this application were to be granted Police consider it would have a detrimental affect on the local residents and will ultimately Breach the licensing objective The Prevention of Public Nuisance.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Sullivan PC 368QK
Licensing Constable Brent Police