Harrow Council Licensing

PO BOX 18
Civic Centre
Station Road, HARROW
HA1 2XY

Date 8th December 2014

RE: Classy Junction 59 High Street, Edgware HA8 7DD

Dear Sir/Madam,

As licence holders at the above property and premises we write to confirm view our concerns with respect to recent events including our PACE interview and various correspondence which we have received.

As there are many issues and points I will deal with this one by one in a series of points.

- Within the PACE interview and also Officer’s Virdi Application for the review of our licence document he incorrectly makes statements regarding some incidents as follows:
  
  That on 25/10/2014 an incident occurred at Classy Junction

  The incident was actually NOTHING to do with our venue and actually was taking place at the car park rear of the “Masons Arms” public house and officers approached Classy Junction staff to see whether we could ASSIST in CCTV.

  Also they asked whether these people HAD been seen at our premises and our manager replied “NO”. They had asked us to ASSIST if we could help them in their enquiries.

  He also states that officers rang the premises at 19.45 on 25/10/14 INCORRECT (he is mixing this up with a later incident on 02/11/14) NO OFFICERS RANG UP AND SPOKE WITH ME RELATING TO THIS!

  The fight actually occurred well away from the premises and NONE of these people involved were at Classy Junction.

  We believe from public that this was something between some local youths from the Mason Arms and a gang passing the Tile Depot. This fight and scuffle over spilled into the Masons Car Park/Car wash

- Incident of 02/11/14

An incident occurred at the premises which our SIA doorman defused initially and then this carried on outside onto the pavement and in front of the next door Romanian Restaurant. We do not have CCTV coverage of this area! Our licensed premises and demise is within the building and our cameras do not show onto the main public road areas. The nationality of the youths were not known at the time but my manager informs me that they were Russian. The police were called to the premises to which staff were badly shaken. They had given statements to the police and ALL addresses/numbers were taken by officers. They had cordoned off the area as per speaking with my manager till 6am and they left as they were physically tired and drained. I had come to the premises on Sunday morning at 9am to collect takings for the night and saw some smashed glasses outside and empty cans of Red Bull. Inside the place was not cleaned and some glass was seen on the floor. It appeared that something untoward had occurred. The phone rang and I picked up to find it was a Police officer who explained what had occurred. They asked me kindly to inspect the CCTV to
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which I did. I explained that nothing was visible in the times they mentioned. They asked me to go through various times varying from 1am till 3am and nothing was visible. I mentioned we had NO cameras outside the premises. She asked me to burn off the visuals of what we did have. I explained that I had a wedding to go to and I had only come to collect money which was left on premises ONLY. She said even if there is nothing to see on CCTV she wanted the CD version for a two hour period and said could I do tomorrow to which I agreed.

On Monday at 2.25pm the club manager was approached by 2 persons outside Cafe Nero, Station Road, Edgware and was threatened in a way by stating that he, the staff, the owner and the club would be smashed up/ killed if he opened or anybody else spoke to the police. He lives 2 minutes up the road and they had even known where he lived. This made him very scared and he feared his life. He later met me and the doormen at the premises and said what happened. We were ALL absolutely petrifed as we had no idea we were dealing with a gangland issue and high profile individuals were involved. Under duress we did not speak with the police. We were under the impression that this was not an "off the cuff" threat. We were under the watchful eyes of a gang/máfia. It was a shame that the police constantly rang mobiles, however having had the addresses from statement of ALL the employees, its a shame that they didn’t visit any one of us. If this HAD happened we would have told them what duress we was under!

Incident of Friday 07/13/14

On this day we had opened up reluctantly and assumed that as we had co operated with these people we would not be in any danger. Staff opened up at 4pm and within 15 to 20 minutes we had 3 males enter and STOLE our hard drive. Now had officers been to speak with any of us at HOME we would have been able to hand them the hard drive. The premises had been closed the whole week and we were even thinking of NOT opening that weekend!

When officers came that evening they had taken statements and we had explained to them the threats we had received and everything else above to which they noted down. This was noted within our statements.

In terms of us being blamed for ALL the above I defend our actions under us being severely under stress and fearing our lives. We have never come across such violence in our lives of this nature and I expect the Harrow Licensing panel and the police to understand the events carefully when interrogating us when we are actually the innocent party here.

After the above I re ordered a new hard drive which had to be similar or the like to the previous one as all wiring and cabling to cameras/monitor etc had been pre installed as per before. Within days of the theft of the equipment we managed to track down the same model hard drive and ordered it. It arrived on Monday 24th November 2014. It is correct to say that we did open on the weekend of 14th/15th Nov whilst we still awaited the delivery of the hard drive. On sat 22nd Nov 2014, Officer Virdi came to the premises to which we had an African party (hired out for a graduation) no alcohol was incidently consumed as they were muslim and didn’t drink. He attended at approx 11pm and the party members were finishing their food and were leaving anyway. Officer Virdi then gave Mr Nutu a notice to him and told him to close up. He adhered to his instructions and once the party members finished up we were closed. I believe officers watched after this from across the road and confirm this. We are not here to play with rules and we were told to close and thats what we did. During this meet with Mr Nutu officer Virdi asked him for staff records and log books. We have these regularly updated and reviewed by myself and they were in the rear store room and he assumed that I had taken them home as I had mentioned to him that I was reviewing this for officers from 2 weeks go as they had requested photocopies of this! We are aware of what we are obliged to have, keep and maintain to which we have done. We take all this seriously just like the Licensing team want. We have not been at all negligent OR non cooperative. Furthermore his notice also highlighted a DPS issue in which he requested a copy of delegated power. I must stress that we mentioned this to Officer Virdi on our PACE interview that Mr Rajinder Singh WAS present and was on break. He had helped Mr Nutu set up the food for the African Party and he had then gone to eat at a nearby fast food restaurant. Also I should add that Mr Rajinder Singh had formally written a statement which again was available at the premises allowing Mr Nutu the delegated responsibility to serve. Please note that the customers on this evening had privately hired the venue and NO SALE of alcohol was made!

Officer Virdi’s recommendation of revoking or amending our closing time till 22.00 is not at all fair. With all the mitigating reason stated above, we feel Officer Virdi’s recommendation is TO HARSH considering the above. We would like to offer our own recommendation in that we will NOT have any club nights. After we were threatened in this manner by drunk individuals I have had to have a re think as to whether I wish to expose MYSELF and staff to such violence and problems. I appeal to you NOT to take drastic steps and meet me half way and allow us to show you that
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we DO care and WILL NOT have incidents like the above happening at this venue again. We will change the concept completely and ask for a last chance. We have never had an issue like this in the past and this being our first offence we endeavour to change things around and want this 2nd chance.

PACE Interview

Further to our interview I wish to confirm a few things which were incorrectly stated in the interview:

- We are in receipt of TWO different licenses which show different days and time periods....one shows us being able to serve alcohol on Thur/Fri/Sat till 1.30am and the other Fri/Sat/Sun till 1.30am (see both licences copies)
- Mr Peter Coates stated in the interview an incorrect fact. I was interrogated by ALL parties within the interview and having gone through this with my solicitor I regret to inform you that you have made an error.

Annex 2 (1) "The retail sale of alcohol after 21.00 hours for the consumption off the premises will only be undertaken in conjunction with the purchase of a meal"

If you read carefully ...you have already given me a licence to serve alcohol at prescribed times (see attached 2 differing licenses) BUT this means IF somebody bought a bottle of wine they cannot take this home after 9pm away from the licensed area UNLESS they had purchased it WITH A MEAL.

I wish you to confirm in writing that the PACE interview discussions were wrong from your part and I am correct as per my example above.

NOISE NUISANCE

- In respect of this situation we have mentioned earlier that we have agreed to CLOSE DOWN Club nights. If we don't have any club nights we WONT have any noise AT ALL
- This particular problem is totally solved. We will stop club nights with immediate effect.

With all the above to digest we again ask ALL departments here – Police Licence officer Mr Virdi, Licensing Team Leader Mr Peter Coates, colleague Mr Waghela and also the Environmental department that we wish to comply and carry out our business in conjunction with Laws and Rules within Harrow licence laws. We are showing you adequately that we do care about the Licensing objectives of Crime and Disorder/Safety/Nuisance. We want this to work and don't want issues like this ever to occur.

All the above problems have occurred on Friday and Saturday nights. These are the days when we had our club nights. Our club nights encouraged loud music and unacceptable behaviour and this will come to a stop. We will be encouraging more use of the venue hire when we know our clientele who would be more respectable and family orientated.

Yours Faithfully

Mr Vijay Madhaparia
Director and Licence Holder for Classy Junction Limited

CC. PC VIRD - Metropolitan Police Service - UNIT 1 Harrow Central Depa, Forward Dave, Harrow HA3-8NT

Laxmi Developments Ltd 2A Tavistock Road, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 6DA

Company Registration No 07331336
To Whom it May Concern:

I, Rajinder Kumar Singh, confirm that I am delegating my personal DPS Licence LN/2007/3915 to Mr. Marius Nutu of Flat 2, 144 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7BZ.

I have personally trained Mr. Nutu on all activities relating to the role of the DPS and my licence conditions.

MR. RAJINDER K SINGH

MR. MARIUS NUTU

Copy of DPS Authorisation