

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980, s.5B


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Statement of: Stuart Murray

Age if under 18: 0/18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consisting of One (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: 03 Oct 2023

My name is Sergeant Stuart MURRAY and I am responsible for licensing in NEWHAM and WALTHAM FOREST boroughs.

I have been a police officer for 22 years a sergeant for 13 years and responsible for licensing for 5 years.

This statement refers to the appeals lodged by PIER ONE and the Metropolitan Police regarding decisions made by the subcommittee on the 23rd May 2022 and 20th April 2023.

The Police have concerns over the running of the venue regarding incidents of intoxication both voluntary and involuntary leading to crimes being committed against them or by them.

After investigating incidents police have the view that the venue fails to ensure customers drink responsibly and allow persons to become intoxicated. Police feel that the venue does not have adequate welfare and supervision. The practise of allowing customers to buy bottles of spirits and wine and serve themselves means that persons can drink large quantities of alcohol without intervention, and can also allow persons to spike others by pouring drinks of unknown strengths leading to intoxication. These failings have led to further allegations of serious assaults including rapes, assaults and thefts. As listed below, persons have also been allowed to leave the premises vulnerable through intoxication and have become victims of assaults, theft and injury.

The review on the 20th April 2023 was triggered by allegations of drink spiking and rape crime number 2802405/23 SGM/1 20/01/2023. The venue then refused to supply CCTV to assist with the licensing investigation. After reviewing the CCTV and reading the account of the victim, it appears the victim attended the venue at 01:14, she met a male. She was poured drinks by the male suspect, she was very quickly became intoxicated to the point of her being dragged out of the venue by the male suspect. She was seen to be put in his car at 03:39 with the assistance of security. Later the victim made an allegation of several rapes and the investigation is ongoing awaiting charging decisions.

Since the review further incident have come to light of which mirrors the previous incident of the 20/01/2023.

3220227/23 SGM/2 RAPE

SATURDAY 29TH JULY 11:59 – SUNDAY 30TH JULY 10:00

The victim reported she attended Pier ONE with a male, where they sat at a reserved table. She remembered there being a lot of alcoholic beverages on the table, and her last memory of the night was talking to people in the club. Her next memory was being woken up by the male where she was in a state of undress. The victim believes she was raped.

CCTV showed the following (lifted from the report):

01:48 – Victim and susp can be seen entering the club at 01:48. Both victim and susp appear sober, or atleast coherent and able to walk properly. Camera name ‘ID scan area’

01:51- victim and sup walk through dancefloor of club in direction of their table at 01:51. Camera name ‘arena 2 dance floor’

01:51 – 02:41 – victim and sup can be seen at table in the club. Victim and sup interact throughout, they dance together and kiss and hug. Victim is escorted out by bouncer. Camera name ‘ladies toilet’ progressively more

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drunk until 02:41 when she is unable to stand and hold her up. Victim is escorted out by bouncer. Victim leaves club with suspect and unknown female.

Security informed police that the victim was very drunk and had to be carried out of the club. She told security that she did not want to leave the club alone with the male that she wanted to go with the group. The male told security that the victim had embarrassed him by getting so drunk.

Ongoing investigation.

No CCTV available to licensing at this stage due to late notification of this offence as crime reported to another borough. CCTV requested.

The police have concerns, as again the female victim was sitting at a booth and drinking from the large amount of alcohol on the table, in an uncontrolled manner. She even spoke with security about her concerns about leaving with this male. The venue has claimed all staff have been trained in welfare vulnerability and engagement which should have highlighted her vulnerability to becoming a victim. This is even more striking given the previous serious incidents which occurred less than 6 months ago.

Further incident have taken place since the previous reviews where persons on the premises or have left the premises intoxicated, and have become victims of crime or injured.

5325115/23 SGM/03 POISON

SUNDAY 30 JULST 2023 04:00

The victim reported that he believed he had been spiked at Pier One in order for his phone and wallet to be stolen. Reviewing of the CCTV footage showed the victim had left the club with his phone in his hand. The footage also showed that the victim was very intoxicated, he was unable to walk unaided. He left the club walking away from the venue holding on the fencing in order to keep him Upright. CCTV could not support or disprove a spiking.

5316088/23 SGM/04 Criminal damage to motor vehicle

SATURDAY 20 MAY 2023 02:45

BIDDER ST E16

A drunk male purposely drove into another person vehicle after telling the victim to "move your car otherwise I will drive into it" The suspect then tried to enter Pier One but was refused entry.

5314489/23SGM/05 GBH

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2023 02:50

Victim was highly intoxicated and unable to explain what had happened. Security stated victim was inside the club and was very intoxicated, they were concern for him, so led him outside and gave him water. The male became aggressive as he wanted to re-enter but was refused. Due to his intoxication he fell over sustaining a deep cut.

5305632/23 SGM/06 Common assault


SUNDAY 19 FEB 2023 04:20-05:20

Victim and suspect had been inside Pier One. The victim was assaulted in his car outside the club after offering them a lift. He was punched in the mouth.

5301412/23 SGM/07

SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 2023 08:11

CCTV and witness accounts have provided a strong timeline for this collision. The driver/suspect of the car had attended the Pier One night club in BIDDER STREET, entering the club at 01:12 hrs. The car was parked up outside the entrance/ exit gate to Selco builders, on Bidder Street, approx. 150m from collision site. At about 08:00 hrs CCTV showed the suspect exiting the car, and stumbling about outside, appearing to urinate outside Selco. He stumbled back into the car. Another person was seen to join him in the car, appearing to come from the direction of Cody road. At about 0810 hours the drove away, towards the mini roundabout, joining behind a dark coloured car (unrelated), and both headed north into Stephenson Road. As the cars passed Cody road, a red single decker bus (route 323) pulled out behind, and also headed north on Stephenson street. The suspect then crossed onto the opposing lane, whilst making a overtake, and crashed into victim cycling southbound on his bicycle, on his own side of the road. The victim had bright flashing cycle lights front and rear, and was wearing a hi-vis jacket. Behind the suspect was a witness, driving her Mercedes. The victim was thrown into the north bound, and the witness car prevented the suspect traveling any further. She got out to run over to the victim, as he was lying in the road. The suspect was shouting at the witness to get out of the way, but she didn't, and the suspect stayed in the car, trying to leave. The windscreen was heavily damaged, with cabin incursion, and the roof line was dented. PC MURRELL ran across and opened the door of the moving car. BWV shows suspect in the driving seat of the car, seat belt on. It is unclear at this time if the victim had stayed in Pier One after closing or if he had exited intoxicated and slept in his car investigation ongoing and victim left with life changing injuries. Suspect charged with failing to provide and causing serious injury through dangerous driving.

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5331564/22 Theft SGM/08 01/02/2022 00:30 (Quoted from crime report)

I entered a club called pier one. I and 2 friends gave our jacket to the cloakroom. I paid for the cloakroom £6 it was £2 for each jacket. We bought a bottle of Remmy Martin and I had 2 drinks from the bottle. I remember putting my jacket in the cloakroom and leaving the bar with the bottle. We were dancing and that all I remember. My friends told me I said I needed to go toilet and I never returned so they went searching for me. They eventually found me in the toilet throwing up and seemed drunk. But I hadn't drunk enough to get to that state. I told them I wanted to just sleep there. We went to get out jackets they only returned 2 and refused to give back my expensive white jacket. I have pictures in the jacket from last night. I called them today and they said to me if they go there and my jacket is not there I will have to pay them money for wasting their time. I believe I was spiked at that club and my jacket was stolen by staff. A lot of people have stated they are spiked and sexually abused in that club which I found out today. I will never go there again but my jacket was a present from my mum it means a lot to me. I would appreciate if I had a police member go to club with me to return my jacket.

5330862/22 GBH SGM9 26/09/2022 04:50

Female victim alleges male in club pushes her causes her to fall over chipping a tooth and cutting her lip.

Attending officers stated female was very drunk and incapable of giving a statement.

The offences above show that most offences involving intoxication and violence occurred after 2am. Several of the incidents mention or involve drinking at booths from bottles as the cause of the intoxication. I also believe that safeguarding is severely lacking within the management and staff allowing persons become overly intoxicated and fall victims to thefts, assaults and accidents. Police believe that a reduction of hours and additional safeguarding welfare along with stopping bottles at the table would be the minimum to promise the licensing objectives and prevent clients becoming victims of crime or sustaining injury.



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