

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

URN

Statement of: Barry LEBAN

Age if under 18: over 18

(if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Constable

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:  PC1485CEDate: 25th May2021

This statement is my best recollection and honest held belief of the incident I dealt with on Saturday 22nd May 2021. I have not viewed mine or any other officers body worn camera footage prior to writing this statement. Statement commenced at 18:01 hours in the licensing office at Shoreditch police station, alone. This statement refers to a licensing visit carried out by myself and PC1810CE GILES at PLAYERS BAR, BRUSHFIELD STREET E1, in relation to an incident at the venue. CAD 6581/22MAY21 refers. We attended the venue due to an earlier call to the bar regarding a fight between drunk patrons and security staff. We had been made aware prior to attending that police had been called to the fight and upon their arrival the group fighting with security staff then turned their anger towards police and assaulted two (2) officers, one of whom was a female who was kicked in the face. When we arrived at the bar, I saw two uniformed officers speaking to an IC1 male, who identified himself as the security manager. The security manager stated that two of his staff had been assaulted by the group and had been seen/treated by London ambulance services who had attended. The security manager stated that the group were initially inside the PLAYERS BAR and that they were drunk and becoming rowdy. He then stated bar staff had told the group that they were not going to be served any more alcohol.

And that they should leave the venue. The group then began to physically attack staff and throw plants pulled from the pots outside PLAYERS BAR. Security staff then arrived and the group then turned their attention towards them and ultimately on police upon their arrival. PC1810CE GILES and I then entered PLAYERS BAR to speak to the duty manager regarding the incident. As we stepped inside the venue, immediately to our right were three (3) males, who were standing without masks. PC1810CE GILES identified herself as a police officer and told the males that they should be seated. To our left were two (2) shuffle boards several females were around these shuffle boards and none were wearing masks. There were several members of staff behind the extensive bar area. Some were wearing masks, none were covering their mouth and or nose. Others had no mask on at all. A male clearing tables was walking between patrons with no face covering and several members of public were either entering or leaving the venue, without a face covering. A short time after our arrival, I noticed that staff began to adorn face coverings correctly, I believe that this was due to the initial staff contact had then informed the other staff that licensing officers were seated in the venue waiting to speak to the duty manager. A female joined us and introduced herself as the manager and gave her name as Sam CORNWELL. Our observations of the breaches and lack of management of staff and patrons in relation to COVID 19 regulations were shared with Sam CORNWELL. When Sam CORNWELL was asked questions in relation to the premises licence being available and the licence conditions, Sam CORNWELL did not

Witness Signature:  PC1485CE

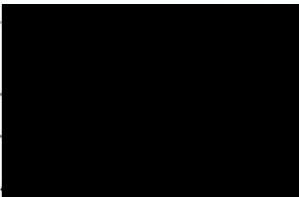
Signature Witnessed by Signature:

Continuation of Statement of:

know where it was or any of the conditions and had to contact a colleague to have it sent to her phone. When Sam CORNWELL was asked if the CCTV had captured the group inside the venue. Sam CORNWELL stated that the CCTV was not working and was due to be installed on Monday. It appears that although the staff at the venue had made the correct decision not to serve the group any more alcohol due to their drunken demeanour. They had failed to recognise signs when members of the group were becoming inebriated to the point that it boiled over into violence. I believe that this was exacerbated by no security staff at the venue who are trained to observe and deal with conflict management at an early stage. There was a lack of control at the venue in relation to alcohol being served to customers who were in a drunken state. Staff and patrons not adhering to government legislation in regards to protecting themselves and customers during the COVID 19 pandemic. Statement terminated at 18:48 hours.

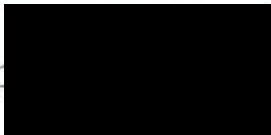


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Witness Signature:



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