

Veranda

Police Concerns:

1. Firearm was taken into venue despite Security in place and a search policy.
2. No calls to police were received from the venue, when a serious incident had occurred.
3. On the night no staff member was able to download the CCTV; this is a breach of conditions of the venues licence, and frustrated urgent police enquiries.
4. Police seized CCTV hard-drives from the venue; the first unit time display was incorrect (6 hours 59 min and 15 seconds fast), the second unit time display was also incorrect (1 hour 8min and 50seconds slow). This suggests that the units maybe poorly maintained and not checked on a regular basis.
5. When checked by police on the night, the metal detecting wand used on the front door of the venue was not working.
6. Paul BASSEY (DPS) was unwilling on the night to give a statement to police, although he stated to me verbally that he was working behind the bar at the time of the shooting and saw a small black object that was hand held that made the bang.
7. On the night Paul BASSEY's business partner who was also working at the Bar on the night continually told BASSEY not to give a statement to police.
8. When Paul BASSEY did give a statement on Monday morning he stated to police that he was not in the venue at the time of the shooting as he had left to get change for the till.
9. I advised that the venue should not open for the rest of the weekend; Paul BASSEY assured me that he would only open as a restaurant during the day.
10. I understand that the venue opened on Saturday night closing at approximately 2am, against police advice.
11. Due to the serious nature of this incident, on Saturday two Police Community Support Officers were 'posted' to patrol this area of Acre Lane. At 6pm Paul BASSEY approached these Officers and was aggressive towards them telling them that 'neither himself or his staff appreciated their presence, and did not want them to stand or walk in front of his Club'. The Community Officers stated that they found BASSEY aggressive and intimidating in his demeanour.
This is of great concern to police, as licensed venues need to work closely with police.

I have serious concerns about the management of this venue, and at this time urge the Committee to suspend the licence pending a full review.

Due to the serious nature of this incident and the subsequent behaviour/attitude of the management I can think of no other interim steps that I believe would be appropriate.

Police Sergeant Steve Strange
Licensing Unit
Brixton Police Station