

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

## WITNESS STATEMENT

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

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Statement of: [REDACTED]

Age : O/18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Sergeant [REDACTED]

This statement (consisting of        pages(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.

**Signature:** [REDACTED]

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 27/09/2022

*(This statement is digitally signed)*

I am making this statement in relation to the recent premises licence application in relation to USA CHICKEN, 94 HIGH STREET, NEWMARKET, CB8 8JX.

I am Police Sergeant [REDACTED] and one of my current responsibilities is to supervise the Suffolk Police Licensing Team. In the course of this duty, I have cause to review numerous licensing application, crime records, call for service and provide reports to shape our response to Licensing and the Night-time Economy.

Due to the influence of the Coronavirus pandemic and restrictions put in place as a result, it is currently not possible to provide accurate year on year statistics for incidents within the night-time economy. The impact of the pandemic on the licensing/hospitality trade is clear and as an organisation Suffolk Constabulary seeks to support businesses to promote a safe and prosperous night-time economy. However, on occasions where there is a clear risk of crime and disorder, and/or public safety it is right that relevant information is provided to the Licensing Authority so an informed decision can be made.

I have reviewed our crime and event computer systems, looking specifically at incidents that have taken place during core night-time economy hours 10pm to 4am, approximately 150 metres either side of the premises (94 High Street, Newmarket). During the period between the 6th June 2022 and the 31st August 2022 (90 days), police were called to the area 39 times. Of these 39 occasions, 27 required an immediate or priority police response. In simple terms this means officers travelling to the area using their lawful road traffic exemptions and vehicle emergency equipment.

Police have recorded 50 investigations during the same period. The recorded offences include various assaults, wounding with intent, theft and robbery, public disorder and being

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drunk and disorderly. It is impossible to determine the exact cost of these crime to the public purse. However, the estimated social and economic cost of these crimes, based on figures published by the home office in 2018, is £360,650.

It would be unfair to directly attribute these incidents to the premises in question. However, it is clear, during this period the premises has been open and operating without a Premises Licence authorising late night refreshment. During the period the premises has been operating unlicensed, specifically between the hours of 2am and 4am, 14 crimes have taken place. Without the attraction of late-night refreshment in the town during these hours, it is likely that a number of these crimes would not have taken place.

On the 6th February 2022 whilst the premises was in operation without a licence, an incident of affray took place. This incident took place at 0345 hours. On review of the evidence, it is clear the premises had more than 20 customers packed into the public area of the premises. The staff had no control of the customers, many of whom were clearly intoxicated and were jostling to make or receive food orders. On this occasion the poor management of the premises directly contributed to this incident of disorder.

On the 10th July 2022 at 0324 hours the premises was visited by PC [REDACTED]. The store was again operating without a licence and had approximately 10 customers waiting to order or received their order. The member of staff was informed that he was operating past his authorised hours and told to close the premises.

On the 23rd July 2022 at 0314 hours the premises was visited by PC [REDACTED]. The premises was operating and had one customer who in the presence of the officer ordered a portion of "cheesy chips", the staff member (the same staff member who was spoken to on the 10th July), shouted the order to the staff preparing food at the back of the store. The member of staff was advised to close the premises.

On the 24th July 2022 at 0003 hours the premises was visited by PC [REDACTED]. On entry two customer were waiting to receive their food orders. The same staff member, who was spoken to previously, was told that he did not have a licence to serve food past 11pm. The staff member responded that the manager had applied for a licence but that it was not yet granted. PC [REDACTED] instructed the premises to close.

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These incidents not only demonstrate a clear disregard for the Licensing Act by the operators and staff at the premises but highlight poor management of a late-night venue. It is my belief that should this premises operate until 4am it will lead to intoxicated persons congregating in the area, which is likely to lead to disorder or crime and contribute to anti-social behaviour that could otherwise be avoided as no other late night refreshment premises is open at this time. At 4am, there is also likely to be less availability of taxi's to transport drunk and vulnerable people safely home from the area.

Signed: **RESTRICTED (when complete)**