

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: PC COURT 2136SE

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

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: *[Handwritten Signature]* Date: 17/11/2024

I am the above named person and this is a statement regarding a business which is situated on my ward which has applied to vary/change their licence to permit them to sell alcohol 1100-0130 Sunday to Thursday and 1100-0200 Friday and Saturday. This premises is META FRIED CHICKEN AND PIZZA, at 640 DOWNHAM WAY, BR1 5HN.

I am a police officer who works out of LEWISHAM police station and have been on the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for almost TWO years now. I cover the Grove Park ward, in which this premises falls under and therefore has an impact on my ward. As a SNT officer, it is my job to ensure the safety of the Grove Park community, providing visibility, regular patrols and reassurance to the public. I attend incidents within my ward and a large part of my role is to focus on the antisocial behaviour that is being caused within Grove Park. My team consists of TWO PC's and ONE PCSO. Between us, we regularly patrol the whole ward, with a large focus on our crime and ASB hotspots. One of our ASB hotspots is DOWNHAM WAY, which is where META FRIED CHICKEN AND PIZZA is situated.

Grove Park is a residential ward, with a small local row of shops/ high street running on BARING ROAD/ DOWNHAM WAY, close to GROVE PARK BR station. In Grove Park, we currently have THREE main ward priorities which are, antisocial behaviour, theft/ shoplifting and robberies/violence against the person.

Antisocial behaviour has been a huge issue in the Grove Park ward, especially over the last couple of months and has been brought up by both residents and local businesses at the previous two ward panel meetings. There are various homeless people who have been frequenting and loitering in Grove Park, in particular around the BR station, BARING ROAD and DOWNHAM WAY outside the shops, as well as in PULLMAN MEWS, which is a private road which runs up the side of the station. The individuals who are causing the ASB issues within the area are consistently street drinking, using drugs and urinating and defecating in the area. They are also begging members of the public for money, often quite aggressively.

Our team have had various reports, emails and in person feedback about the issues that are being caused by individuals within Grove Park and we are continuing to identify the individuals and take action against them.

Witness Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

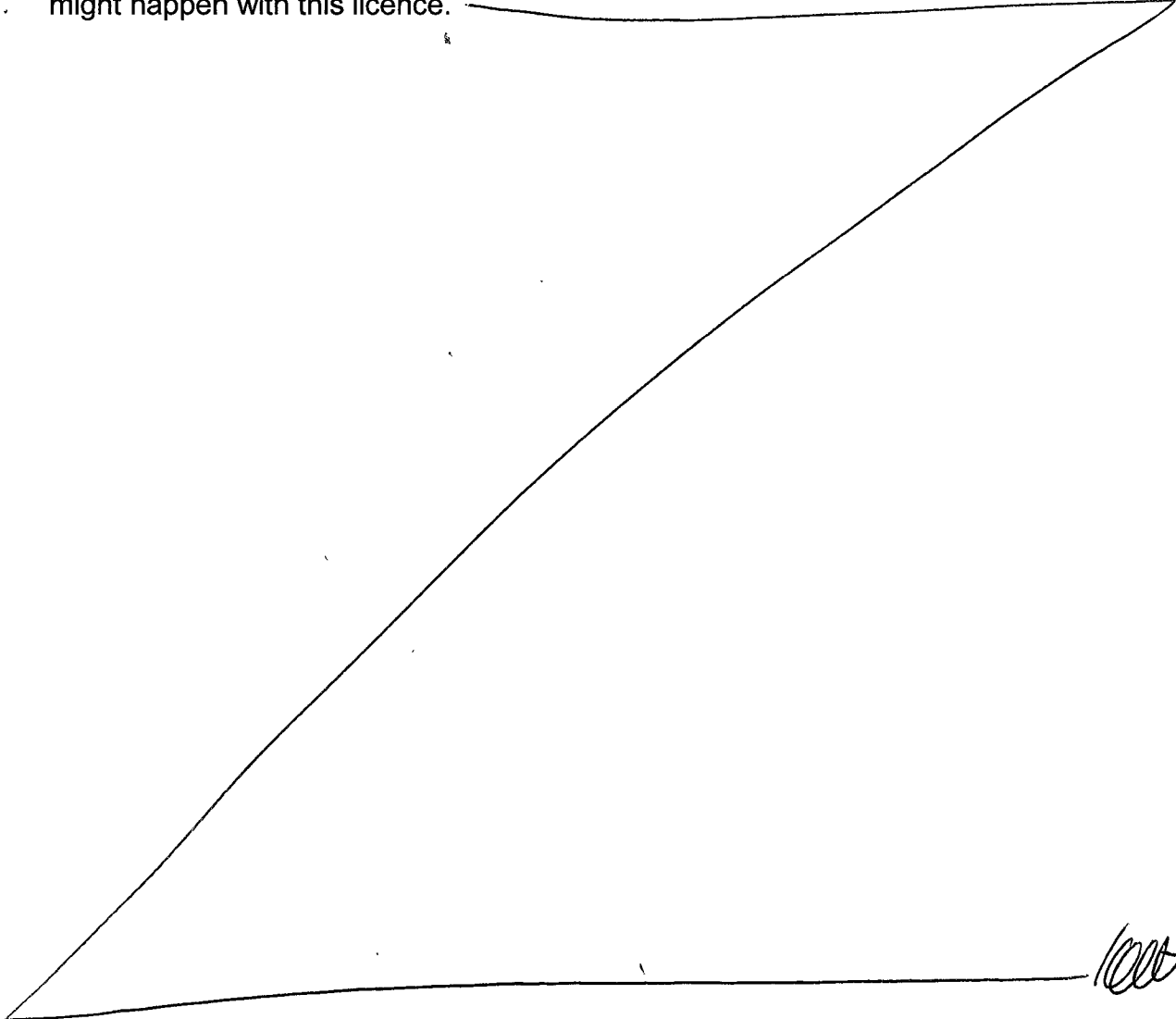
Signature Witnessed by Signature:

Continuation of Statement of: PC COURT 2136SE

We have had various partnership working meetings recently with the council, British Transport Police, local businesses, as well as drug and alcohol rehabilitation teams in order to work together on the issues that the ward is facing.

There has recently been a Public Space Protection Order which has been put into place by the council, whereby signs have been put up, including outside META's premises, stating that street drinking is not allowed. We are currently supporting the council in enforcing this in the area.

I believe that by META receiving approval for their licence to permit them to sell alcohol, it will add to and actively encourage the issue of street drinking within my ward. I don't believe there is a need for a takeaway food shop to need to sell alcohol, and although I understand that there could be conditions surrounding this licencing, however, I feel as though these might not be complied to. The PSPO is currently not being complied with by the local street drinkers and individuals who are causing ASB in the area, therefore I fear that the same might happen with this licence.



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Witness Signature: *100011261858*

Signature Witnessed by Signature: