



Licensing Authority
London Borough of Havering

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Police Representation - Premises licence variation application - Gravity Bar 322 Collier Row Road Romford RM5 3NL

Dear Licensing Authority

Police acknowledge receipt of a premises licence variation application for Gravity Bar 322 Collier Row Road Romford RM5 3NL which we received on the 22nd April 2024.

The application states the venue wish to:-

- 1. Operate as a bar within the premises and on the outside terrace.**
- 2. To remove all existing conditions from Annex 2 of the premises licence and replace with new conditions as detailed in the application.**
- 3. Add the provision of live and recorded music to the premises licence from 23.00 to 00.30 the following day all week.**
- 4. Extend the permitted licensed hours for the provision of late night refreshment and the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises to be until 00.30 the following day all week.**
- 5. Extend the permitted licensed hours for all licensable activities on New Year's Eve to be until 02.00 the following day.**

On behalf of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, consideration has been given to this application and Police object to the application in its current format under the following licensing objective:-

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The venue's current premises licence contains the condition **"Alcohol shall only be served to anyone purchasing a meal. The sale of alcohol shall only take place within operational hours and all alcohol thus sold shall be consumed on the property"** indicating its operation as a restaurant/café.

Previously on their own website Gravity bar described itself as a culinary gem that catered to the discerning palate of the city's cosmopolitan residents and visitors.

My overall impression is that the venue have been operating as a vertical drinking establishment rather than a restaurant or café.

Police attended Gravity with the Council on the 27th October 2023 and on walking into the venue a fairly large number of customers were seen standing in the main bar area of the venue drinking alcohol. To the side was a small table which was offering a small serving of finger food. The licence holder was spoken to outside the venue and I understand the Council Licensing Team have contacted the venue on numerous occasions previously.

On the 24th January 2024 Police attended the venue with Council Licensing Officer Oisín Daly due to concerns and to discuss a previous variation application Police had received. We were met at the venue by a Gravity bar employee and not by the Designated Premises Supervisor or/and licence holder as they were not available to meet.

On operating the CCTV and inputting dates into the playback section of the system no recordings were found which would suggest that they weren't being saved and it was only by entering the management section of the system were CCTV backup files located. If a CCTV system was working and being operated correctly Police would expect footage in the playback section. On searching through the system an entry in the log showed the system had been reset at around 0330 hours on the 24th January 2024. No other system reset log entries were found and could suggest the system was accessed and possibly tampered with.

CCTV images obtained by Mr Daly show customers in the venue not eating food with alcohol. The kitchen didn't appear busy with activity as you would expect with the running of a restaurant or café kitchen. In one of the images there appeared to be only one staff member in the kitchen who wasn't wearing chefs clothing and not preparing meals.

Operating as a vertical drinking establishment carries extra responsibility and raises the risk of increased ASB and/or crime and disorder occurring. Historically ASB and/or crime and disorder is higher in venues where the serving of alcohol is predominant rather than the consumption of food.

It's due to the above observations that the venue have not fully evidenced to the Police that they're capable of adhering to their current licence conditions and have not proven they're responsible operators of a restaurant/café but now want to operate as a bar.

Police have also noted that the application states the venue wish to operate 7 days a week till 0100 hours which are beyond Havering Council's Licensing policy for terminal hours.

In conclusion, Police believe the venue have shown a total disregard to their current licence and are concerned whether the venue would be able to uphold the licensing objectives should the variation application to operate as a bar be granted and at this time cannot support this application.

Yours sincerely,



PC Chris Stockman - East Area Licensing Team