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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: Police Inspector 410 James MARTIN

Age if under 18: over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Officer 410

This statement (consisting of 3 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.

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Insp 410 (witness) Date: 08/08/2017

I am Police Inspector 410 James MARTIN of Lancashire Police, currently based at Blackpool Police Station.

My I am currently the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Blackpool North and Central, which includes the ward areas of Claremont and Town Centre. I have held this role for 3years and 3months.

Previous positions and experiences I have held within the Police Service include between 2011 and 2013 been the Lancaster, Morecambe and Fleetwood Divisional Licensing Officer, with responsibility to represent the Police as a Responsible Authority, working with Wyre Borough Council and Lancaster City Council. I have experience of employing the Licensing Act 2003 and the Act guidance issued and have conducted numerous Licence Premise Reviews and objections.

Prior to working within Lancashire Police, I was an officer in the West Midlands Police Service and spent time Policing Birmingham City Centre as both an Immediate Response Supervisor and Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, during which time I held responsibilities for and regularly policed the Night-time Economy areas within Birmingham City Centre.

Throughout my Police career I have worked in Uniformed Police roles and have 16years experience of Policing Night-time Economies and the associated alcohol fuelled violence and disorder in towns and cities such as Solihull, Birmingham, Coventry, Lancaster, Morecambe, Fleetwood and most recently Blackpool.

With regards my current role I am involved with the Blackpool Night-Time Economy Working Group and currently working on actions that support Blackpool's Council application for Purple Flag status, which will represent Blackpool as having a safe and vibrate Night-time Economy.

As part of my role as the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector I am required to continually assess Risk and Threats within Blackpool Town Centre and monitor levels of crime, disorder

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Insp 410 Signature Witnessed by [Handwritten Signature]

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and anti-social behaviour. At present I would determine that Blackpool Town Centre is at high risk of repeated violence, disorder and alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour within its Night-time economy.

I can confidently state that areas within the Town Centre, such as Market Street, Queen Street and Bank Hey Street are high risk locations concerning violence and anti-social behaviour.

Since 01st January 2017 until 08th August 2017 there has been reported to Police 99 crimes of Violence and assaults whereby the offence location has been given as Queen Street, Dickson Road or Town Centre (Police Incident Location Beat WA39), and the offence time recorded between 11pm and 7am. Of these 99 assaults, 42 offences have taken place on or after 3am.

Based on these crime figures just under half of all reports of assault in these areas take place after 3am and prior to 7am.

I am aware that two local Licensed Venues in Blackpool Town Centre have applied for Temporary Events Notices to open and serve alcohol from the their premises in the early hours to show a forthcoming sporting event, this been the Mixed Discipline Boxing Match between Connor McGregor and Floyd Mayweather. The match is taking place in the USA and will be screened live from 5am onwards UK time. The date is Saturday 26th August 2017, with the match actually taking place on Sunday 27th august 2017 UK time.

In support of Blackpool Police Licensing I would like to raise serious concerns regarding the application for this Temporary Event Notice, based on the Licensing Act objectives of Preventing Crime/Disorder and Preventing Public Nuisance.

26th August to the 30th August 2017 is the main Summer Bank Holiday and one of the busiest weekends for Blackpool Town Centre as a Seaside Resort. The area will be densely populated with tourists enjoying Blackpool Town Centre and it's vibrate night-time economy. The Police Service at this time also experience an exceptional demand on resources. The application for the provision of alcohol outside of normal operating hours I strongly believe will be detrimental to the Night-time economy of Blackpool and will no doubt effect the early Day-time Economy of Blackpool.

On most evening the Night-time Economy and the Day-time Economy has a 'buffer' period between 4am and 7am, whereby the provision of alcohol in Blackpool is vastly reduced and as a result of this most persons intoxicated from consuming alcohol within the Night-time economy have left the area, meaning the start of the Day-time economy is met with a period of calm and the buffer zone also allows for Blackpool Council to carry out environmental duties to make the Town Centre clean and tidy for the Day-Time economy to begin.

I have no doubt that if the Temporary Event Notice is granted this will simply permit prolonged consumption of alcohol at times when people are not use to doing so. The nature of the Notice is not pre-dominantly to provide a safe place for the viewing of a sporting event. In my opinion it is an opportunity for Licensed Premises to profit from the provision of alcohol in a Vertical Drinking environment.

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I have concerns that at the conclusion of the Notice period there will be the potential for a large number of intoxicated persons to leave the Licensed Premise locations, on mass, and enter the local area of Blackpool Town Centre. Understanding the flow and movements of persons intoxicated after pre-longed consumption of alcohol I have no doubt that this will cause people to behave in an anti-social manner, loiter and/or delay their exit from the Town Centre area whilst the consumption of hot food takes place and people await taxi services out of the local area.

The Notices if granted will not therefore benefit from the 'buffer' time zone as described and I strongly suspect that the Night-time Economy will simply meet with the Day-time economy and this set of circumstances may result in violence, anti-social behaviour and give a extremely poor representation of Blackpool Town Centre as a safe and vibrant tourist destination.

I strongly believe that if granted the Temporary Event Notices as applied for will have a detrimental effect on Blackpool Town Centre, will likely result in acts of an anti-social manner and could lead to acts of violence, and therefore undermine the Licensing Act Objectives of preventing crime and disorder and reducing public nuisance.

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