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Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 7:03 PM
To: Regen, Licensing <Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: :El MeroTaco Restaurant and Bar 18 Amelia Street SE17 3PY ref23/446

Good afternoon

please find attached Southwark Police representation in regards to the application for a New premises Licence for the venue called El MeroTaco Restaurant and Bar 18 Amelia Street SE17 3PY

Mark Lynch 2246AS | Police Constable

Central South BCU – Southwark | Licensing Team

Email: mark.lynch6@met.police.uk

Address: Southwark Police Station

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Our MD/23/446
reference:

Date: 06/08/2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: El MeroTaco Restaurant and Bar 18 Amelia Street SE17 3PY

Police are in possession of an application from the above for a new premises licence, for recorded music, performance of dance, late night refreshment and the supply of alcohol on sales. The application describes the venue as a restaurant and bar establishment and is situated in the Elephant and Castle Major Town Centre area. The hours requested far exceed those recommended in the Southwark Council statement of Licensing Policy for a bar or restaurant.

The hours requested are:

Open to the public
Mon-Sun-1000hrs-0400hrs

Recorded Music
Thurs-Sat-2200hrs-0330hrs

Performance of Dance
Thurs-Sat-2200hrs-0330hrs

Late Night Refreshment
Mon-Sun-2300hrs-0330hrs

Supply of Alcohol on sales
Mon-Sun-1000hrs-0330hrs

The hours are more in keeping with the operation of a night club and this is supported by the application which stipulates DJs will be in operation on a Thursday to Saturday. The venue currently has excessive hours to operate as a hotel bar which can only be accessed by hotel residents and bona fide guests who enter the bar via the main hotel entrance thus limiting public access. This can be the only reason for such late hours being previously granted in this highly residential area. The premises location is not suitable for a nightclub and it is this type of operation that contributed to the review of the licence in 2021.

The applicant has also supplied a copy of the venues plan however this does not show any fixed seating to which I would expect to see in a restaurant bar establishment?. There is also no mention of accommodation limits?

The applicant has offered a number of control measures however these are minimal and are what we would expect to see on a licence for a Bar/restaurant which operates within policy hours not that of a late nightclub.

The Home office guidance issued under Sec 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 'General principles' state that it is important in setting the parameters within which the premises may operate. Conditions must be precise and enforceable.

The metropolitan police object to the granting of this Premises Licence as we believe it would have a negative impact on this residential area and the minimal conditions offered do not address the licensing objectives for such extended hours.

Submitted for your consideration.
Yours Sincerely

PC Mark Lynch 2246AS
Southwark Police Licensing Unit
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