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WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: Andrew Robert Philp

URN

[Empty boxes for URN]

Age if under 18: Over (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consist[redacted] and I make it knowing in it anything which I know to be true)

(by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. If I have wilfully stated otherwise, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated otherwise to be true.

Signature: [redacted]

2015

(witness) Date: 6th December,

At 0320 hours on Sunday 6th December, 2015 I was on duty in uniform when I attended an incident in Leadenhall Street, London, EC3. I was informed that a male had been stabbed outside the Carravaggio Restaurant on Leadenhall Street. When I arrived at the restaurant there was a large crowd in the roadway and a number of officers trying establish some control. I heard over my radio that some people who had been in Carravaggio's had run from the venue and had started to fight near Undershaft which is a short distance away off St Mary Axe. Some officer left to deal with that situation and I understand that a number of arrests were made for possession of weapons and Grievous bodily harm as a result. As I tried to gain an understanding of what had happened outside Carravaggio's I saw some ambulance crew and police officers with a man on the ground in the roadway to the right of the restaurant of the front of the restaurant. I walked over to establish the extent of the man's injuries and I was told by a member of the ambulance that the man was likely to die.

I tasked officers [redacted] had any witnesses to the event and to secure them. I set the para [redacted] de a decision to clear the crowd both from the street and from Carr [redacted] e crowd had been at an event prior to spilling on to

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the street. I approached a man I saw at the front of the restaurant who I believed to be the person in charge of the door. The man confirmed to me that he was the head doorman. I did not record his name at this time. I explained to the man what had happened and asked him to help clear the restaurant and to assist with moving the crowd away from the man who had been stabbed. In a volatile situation I will usually seek the help of door staff who will often have established a good rapport with event goers over a number of similar events. I asked the doorman for the number of his staff and he said that there were five including himself. I explained what I wanted and my request was met with no enthusiasm. He said simply, 'we are trying.' I did not see him or any of his team making an effort to assist police to disperse the crowd. I then entered the restaurant and met with the duty manager, a man who called himself Vlad. I explained to him that I did not want the venue to be cleaned or cleared up and asked him to usher those few remaining patrons out of the restaurant and away. We had a brief conversation with him about CCTV at the venue. He confirmed to me that there was CCTV and he agreed to show me the system and confirm that it was working. At this time I became aware of some raised voices at the foot of the stairs that sit in the centre of the main restaurant. I heard a man shouting about collecting a cake and then saw him and another man having what I would describe as a tussle at the foot of the stairs. The man who was shouting about the cake was a black male of slim build and aged in his late thirties. He was wearing green coloured trousers and jacket. I asked the manager who he was and the manager explained that he was the promoter. He explained that the man holding him back was a co-promoter. I asked the manager to speak to the parties and then to actively encourage. No attempt was made to do this. I saw that the head doorman was also present but that he made  situation. I waited for a short while and determined

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that none of the staff were going to make a move to resolve what was becoming a heated situation. There were about dozen people, patrons and staff, still in the restaurant and they were making no move to leave. I moved to the foot of the stairs and raised my voice to gain the attention of everyone present. I said that it was necessary to clear the venue to allow it to be examined and asked everyone to leave. They did so. The manager said that he had a significant quantity of money unsecured in an office and he asked if he could enter to secure it. I explained that the restaurant was now sealed and that he would not be able to return until it had been examined. Over the next several hours he made repeated requests to be allowed to go in to the building and I repeated each time a refusal. His continued requests became vexacious and I asked him to sit in my car out of the way.

As I left the restaurant after clearing it, I became aware of three officers struggling with someone on the ground in the street near the front entrance. The man on the ground was the man in the green suit I had seen shouting in the restaurant a short time earlier. A number of officers had established a protective line around the officers on the ground as some people, including door staff, were pushing forward and trying to get at either the officers or man on the ground. I called for more officers to attend to protect those officers present and to restore order. No other officers were available and I feared that the situation would quickly get out of hand. I was horrified by the fact that some of those who appeared to be attacking officers were members of the door staff. I spoke to one of them and asked him to move away and to get control of the other door staff. He told me he would not do this as he felt the police officers had and were dealing with the promoter in a manner that was unwarranted. He told me that an officer had punched the promoter in the face. I then asked the manager to get a grip of his doc [redacted] his but were friends of the promoter. I

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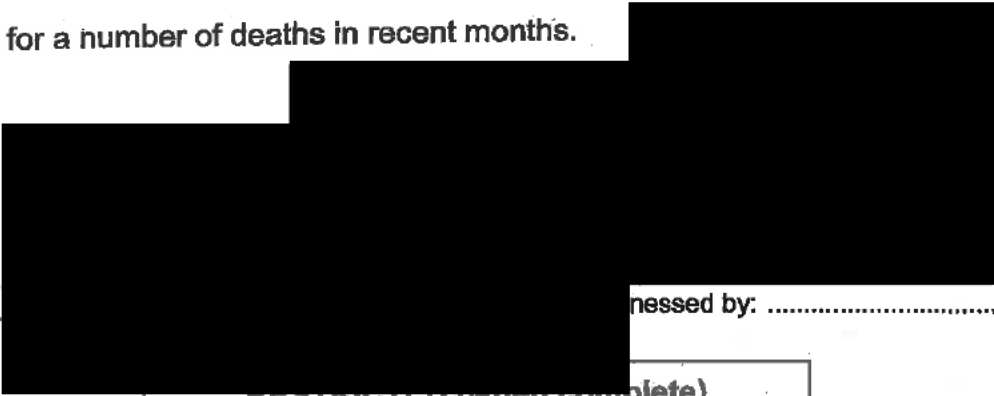
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instructed officers to start moving people back to give their colleagues room to deal with the promoter safely. The situation was becoming increasingly volatile and I felt that officers were vulnerable and exposed. My expectation is normally that door staff should engage with their patrons and assist in calming difficult situations. On this occasion door staff were instrumental in inflaming an already sensitive situation and their lack of assistance meant that I took longer to establish control and protect vital evidence at the scene. I was told that the victim may die and I felt that staff from Carravaggio's hindered my ability to deal effectively with witnesses who may have vital evidence which would identify the offender. In twenty years of service I have never experienced such a frustrating set of circumstances when dealing with the initial stages of a serious crime. It is my belief that the staff and management at Carravaggio's failed wholly to assist the police in investigating a serious crime that was so clearly linked to an event at their premises and that they failed to adequately protect their patrons. They appeared neither to understand nor to carry out their obligations.

Sometime later I surveyed the scene and noted a number of Nitrous Oxide canisters at the rear of a grey Mercedes motor car parked opposite the venue. I established that the car belongs to the promoter who had been arrested. There were also three small cardboard boxes which appeared contain similar canisters at the rear of the car. There were about twelve canisters in each of the card board boxes. Nitrous Oxide has become a popular intoxicant at events throughout the United Kingdom. The gas has been thought to be responsible for a number of deaths in recent months.



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