

Licensing Department  
City of London Corporation  
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13 November 2024

To whom it may concern,

**Licensing Application - Proud City, 4 Minster Pavement, London, EC3R 7PP**

I am writing to object to the application (and variation application) by Proud City which proposes an increase in hours of its operations that will result in the establishment now closing at 03:00 hours Sunday to Wednesday and until 05:00 hours Thursday to Saturday.

Disruption, predominately in the form of noise, loitering and anti-social behaviour post Proud City's closing time – sometimes as late as 4am – has regularly been reported by residents and other constituents in Tower Ward (which I represent) to Councillors and to officers in the City of London Corporation. It has caused many residents sleepless nights, anguish and negative impact to their lives, particularly during the week when they have to be alert and rested for another working day. Constituents have also reported issues with the clientele and the lack of cleanliness of the streets due to urination and both Licensing offices and City Police have confirmed that the issues are very much on their radar.

Having spoken to residents and businesses, I agree with many of my constituents in Tower Ward that the extension of hours to 05:00 from Thursday to Saturday will likely create undue and noise, antisocial behaviour and loitering until 6/6.30am given current experiences. Many constituents, particularly residents are also concerned that of increasing crime risk given their historic understanding of what the establishment has had to deal with.

The establishment will need to provide more security staff to move people out of the area and prevent Public Nuisance. It is unclear how Proud City's entry/exit policies will alleviate any crowd control difficulties. Proud City's customers generally will use surrounding streets with residential and hotel buildings in Tower (e.g. Pepys St, Seething Lane, Minories) to access taxis or public streets and/or find food; those living in the area have a reasonable expectation that their sleep will not be unduly disturbed between the hours of 23.00 and 07.00. The City Police

will likely need to be present at closing since CCTV is not a deterrent and the establishment's security will not keep moving people on in these areas and it's not clear that this will be possible. It will create more disturbances and harm to residents, families and visitors in the area.

If the applicant wishes to extend its licence, I would be more comfortable that closing times are kept as is and Sunday-Wednesday closing time is at 1am latest alongside all proposed conditions with a commitment to more security and staff and regular (e.g. quarterly) reviews with the community accompanied by police reports and records of residents reporting noise and/or other issues to the City Corporation.

I am aware the applicant has update the application citing that it would be for a short-term period only. However, I am worried by the precedent it would set for other applicants who wish to make similar application in the area, potentially request the same terms and extended opening hours, and reduces the ability for the Corporation to maintain the balance of types of licensees in the area. Therefore, the variance is not suitable.

I remain committed to realising the Corporation's Destination City agenda and believe that many residents and businesses are also committed to Destination City. Licensing however, particularly in residential areas must work for everyone to ensure the City continues to be the best place to work, live and have fun.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Aaron D'Souza.

Aaron D'Souza CC