

N°27 at 26 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0DG colin mbennett@talktalk.net

Letter of support: To whom it may concern

Re: Capital Arches Group 24-hour restaurant operation license application.

As an active member of the Leicester Square Association Capital Arches Group is a business which support local initiatives and is a very responsible business operator in Leicester Square.

Claude Abi-Gerges and his team regularly attend LSA meetings, Coffee with a Cop (Leicester Square), regular crime intelligence meetings, and has been an early adopter of Best Bar None initiative for late night operators within Westminster. His two restaurants in Leicester Square and in Shaftesbury Avenue have both received the Gold Standard Award as a result of their high operational standards, and the diligent responsible approach they take towards the Night Time Economy.

Capital Arches Group regularly attends the Heart of London and Covent Garden Pub Watch and they are also members of the Safety and Security Steering Group, Business Watch Focus Group and the Late-Night Economy Focus Group.

More recently, Capital Arches Group committed to supporting the expansion of My Local Bobby initiative, which currently provides security in the Leicester Square area. With an additional financial contribution Claude has offered, along with other responsible businesses, the security presence will be extended and available throughout the night, supporting the efforts of the Police and WCC in making Leicester Square an even safer environment.

A 24-hour restaurant operation under Claude's leadership will allow for their support of similar initiatives to be enhanced, provide safe refuge for guests whilst also supporting the Mayor's Women's Night Safety Charter and providing food, drinks and accessible facilities for those visiting Leicester Square.

I have no hesitation in recommending the granting of this application.

Regards

Colin M Bennett

Chairman Leicester Square Association