

Place Directorate Public Realm

Licensing Authority
John Onslow House
1 Ewart Place
London
E3 5EQ

Email: Licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk

27th May 2021

My reference: LIC/135429/CH

Dear Sir/Madam,

Head of Environmental Health & Trading
Standards **David Tolley**

Licensing Section
John Onslow House
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London
E3 5EQ

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Licensing Act 2003

New premises licence application: Players Social, 1 Crispin Place, London,
E1 6DW

Since submitting my representation on 12th February 2021 it has come to my attention from the police licensing officers that on Saturday 22nd May 2021 at approx. 20:21 hours police were called to Players Social, 1 Crispin Place as a result of a large fight being in progress.

I was informed that the first units on scene were confronted with large scale disorder with 100+ people congregated, some were fighting and others were watching the incident. Officers had to call for further back up. Whilst providing first aid to a male, who had a facial injury, a female police officer was kicked in the face by a suspect and immediately had bottles thrown in her general direction. Urgent assistance was required by the officers who attended.

Both males and females had been involved in the fight and a number were detained by police. The victim is believed to be a member of the security team, who informed police that the large group involved were having a stag event. They were heavily intoxicated and were refused any further drink which had caused them to become hostile. As they were asked to leave they assaulted the security officer.

The police licensing officer attended the venue later that evening and found the venue to be poorly run. The CCTV was not working and COVID regulations

were not being adhered to. Please see the attached police statement from PC Leban.

Although the current Premises Licence does not have a CCTV condition on the licence it is best practice and good management to have an operational CCTV system at all times. In this case it would have helped to see what had occurred and help to identify any culprits involved.

The applicant had applied for a number of TEN's through April and May for '20 bookable seating booths adjacent to the existing licenced area'. The TEN which is scheduled for 27th – 29th May 2021 would be the last TEN that could be applied for the premise as they have used their quota for the year. All of these TENs have been applied for by Ben Hodges for the outside area seating booths which this application wishes to incorporate into the licence.

On Monday 24th May 2021 the Licensing Authority received a police objection to a number of TENs which have again been applied for by Ben Hodges. This time the area to be licenced was described as 'Temporary service area offering a limited menu to complement the existing licensed premises'. These were for 26th-30th May, 2nd - 6th June, 9th – 13th June and the 16th – 20th June. This was for an additional 20 days of TEN's. A particular premise can only have a maximum of 15 Temporary Event Notices, with a maximum of 21 days, per year. Therefore, it appears as if the applicant has tried to apply for double the amount of TENs allowed by describing them as separate areas.

The fact that this group were allowed to consume so much alcohol to the point that they became violent on being refused more alcohol shows a serious lack of control and poor management. If the staff cannot monitor the alcohol levels of customers within the premises there is little chance of correctly supervising the additional seating outside the premises for which this licence application wishes to incorporate.

This serious incident increases my concerns expressed in my representation regarding the large additional numbers of customers this licence will allow and therefore the Licensing Authority feels this application should be refused.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Corinne Holland.

Corinne Holland
Licensing Officer
(Acting as a Responsible Authority)