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06/04/2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: **APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE (TIME LIMITED) – THE OPEN ARMS,**

**FINSBURY PARK, LONDON N4 2NQ**

**ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY TO 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

We the Metropolitan Police Service are writing to you about the above application, which is for a new premises licence in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

The applicant wishes to provide the following regulated activity within the area of Finsbury Park to commence on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 up to and including 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 during the days and times shown below:

**Regulated Entertainment: Plays, Films, Live Music, Recorded Music, Performance of Dance & Anything of a Similar Description**

Wednesday to Sunday with timings as 12:00 to 21:00 hours

Bank Holiday Mondays with timings as 12:00 to 21:00 hours

**The Supply of Alcohol**

Wednesday to Sunday with timings as 12:00 to 21:00 hours

Bank Holiday Mondays with timings as 12:00 to 21:00 hours

For consumption **ON** and **OFF** the premises

## **Hours open to the public**

Wednesday to Sunday with timings 12:00 to 21:30 hours

Bank Holiday Mondays with timings 12:00 to 21:30 hours

The concept is one of a grass roots showcase for up and coming jazz musicians with funding partly from the Arts Council with a percentage of alcohol sales being donated to the charity 'Tomorrows Warriors' an organisation established to inspire, foster, grow and develop a community of jazz artists. The sale of alcohol being ancillary to the entertainment.

## **Location**

Finsbury Park is a large open Parkland area owned by the local authority. It has been used to host many music events and festival type activities over the years. During the summer period and coinciding with the dates and timings shown on this application there will also be other events which will draw more and more people to the park in order to enjoy the activities for example events such as Crank Brothers event which attracts a 6000 plus footfall as well as a 1500 capacity open air cinema along with the European Football games, which although are not being hosted within the local environment will also attract visitors to the local public houses and during clement weather the open park area are as we emerge from Covid Restrictions.

The public also use the park as a thoroughfare to use the main transport hubs in the near vicinity all adding to crowd capacities within the park.

## **Stated Provision by applicant**

The applicant has stated that they will for the duration of the event provide SIA registered and trained security personnel via a reputable security firm.

The numbers of personnel have been stated as initially 4 SIA trained staff for the duration of the first week of operation reducing to 2 SIA trained staff thereafter.

It has been stated that should the need arise additional security could be called arriving within 30-60 minutes.

At this time the applicant's security policy has not been fully disclosed to the police this concerns the Police as it is anticipated that visitors to the park area (especially during good weather and as we emerge from the Covid 19 crisis) will rise exponentially with local people, some of whom have not been able to enjoy open natural spaces for some months during lockdown come to the area. Understandably people will be drawn to licenced premises, as such it is felt the applicant may be underestimating the impact increased crowds could have upon the event without adequate security measures in place to manage this. Increased crowds will also bring with it an attraction for the criminal

element in the area that prays upon such opportunity without sufficient uniformed visual deterrent.

The artists booked for the event have not been disclosed to police at the time of this report nor has any risk assessment been provided on the artists

Other staff will consist of approximately 20-30 operations personnel occupied with other tasks such as providing service within the bar area with a general manager being on duty. Personnel will communicate via a 2 way radio.

A Microsoft Teams meeting took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 with the applicant and their representatives. This meeting was to discuss the application during which the Metropolitan Police raised concerns regarding how the event would promote the licencing objectives specifically the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety.

## **Conclusion**

The Police have requested that the applicant to provide the following information:

- Security Policy,
- Risk assessment for artists,
- Daily risk assessment
- Expected capacity of the event.
- The Police have also requested that the premises does not show any televised sporting events during the event
- That staff are trained in ACT-E (Terrorism training) and Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE)

To date Police have not received clarification in writing on any of the above points.

Due to the above the Police don't believe that they can consider this application in its entirety, until there is sufficient information provided in writing by the applicant. As such the Metropolitan Police will be objecting to this application under the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety licensing objectives.

Respectfully

PC1277NA Derek Ewart Licensing Officer Enfield and Haringey

