

**Cllr Caroline Selman**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Safety,**  
**Policy and the Voluntary Sector**  
Hackney Council  
Town Hall  
Mare Street  
London  
E8 1EA  
020 8356 3339  
Caroline.selman@hackney.gov.uk

**Licensing Team**  
**London Borough of Haringey**  
Level 1 North - River Park House  
225 High Road  
London  
N22 8HQ  
By email to [licensing@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@haringey.gov.uk)

02 August 2018

Dear Sirs,

**RE: Licensing Act 2003 s51 Application to review a premises licence  
'Live Nation', Finsbury Park, Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2AB**

I write to make a representation in response to the s51 of the Licensing Act 2003 application made by 'The Friends of Finsbury Park' to review the premises licence held by Live Nation (Music) UK Ltd, ref LN/000012182. I make this representation in my capacity both as Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Policy and the Voluntary Sector and as an elected member for Woodberry Down ward.

The large-scale events held over the last few years have been a major source of nuisance and distress for many Hackney residents in particular in relation to the three day Wireless event. The events also put a massive strain on Hackney Council services, including Enforcement, Environmental Operations and Parking.

Consequently I am of the opinion that there are many elements of the premises licence that require detailed scrutiny and review.

### **2017 Events**

In advance of the 2017 events Hackney Council sought to engage with both Haringey Council and the festival organisers including via the Haringey Safety Advisory Group.

As part of this:

- Agreement was reached in relation to revised egress arrangements that would have seen attendees exiting from within the park boundaries;

- In 2016, Festival Republic paid for stewarding on the Hackney side of the park. In 2017, in response to concerns raised by Hackney, Festival Republic agreed to pay Hackney the equivalent cost of the stewarding so we could contract our own company. We requested funding for 66 SIA qualified stewards. Funding was instead provided for 14 stewards (only 6 of which were SIA qualified). The justification provided for this was that due to the revised egress arrangements, individuals would not be exiting on to Hackney roads.

Unfortunately, the pre-agreed egress arrangements were changed at the last minute, without adjustment to the arrangements for stewarding and barriers on Hackney roads. As a result, large numbers of individuals exited directly onto Seven Sisters Road, without adequate provision in place, resulting in large numbers exiting down Hackney side streets.

This contributed to Hackney residents experiencing unacceptable levels of anti-social behaviour and disturbance until the early hours of the morning. Complaints received included:

- Noise nuisance resulting from both music at the event itself, and from festival goers exiting the festival. Residents reported unacceptable vibrations within their homes.
- Urination we received numerous complaints from residents about festival goers urinating in surrounding streets and even reports of human excrement being found on at least one doorstep.
- Attendees remained on the streets for many hours after the event, generating noise, dealing and taking drugs, leaving litter and drugs paraphernalia.
- The event also attracted individuals into the area, and it is fair to say exacerbated existing issues in the area at that time, leading to issues with alleged drug dealing from cars, loud stereos and noisy mopeds racing in the streets until the early hours.

## **2018 Events**

Following the events in 2017 significant concerns were raised with us by Hackney residents. In response to this a number of public meetings were arranged to allow feedback to be provided to Festival Republic directly.

As a result of these meetings, Festival Republic committed to an improved security operation for the events in 2018, including significantly increasing the number of security staff to around 85 each day. The plans were drawn up in consultation with ward councillors and a small panel of residents representing the local roads. Resident meetings were also held each day to allow feedback directly from residents to those managing the event in order to address issues raised for the following night.

However, while there were notable improvements in the management of the event compared to previous years, significant concerns remain. There were particular issues on the first night of Community Festival (29 June) and the last night of Wireless Festival (8 July), resulting in Hackney residents experiencing unacceptable levels of disruption. This included:

- Several incidences of on street urination and defecation
- Widespread illegal parking
- Illegal street-trading of nitrous oxide leading to hundreds of discarded aluminium cartridges
- Noise nuisance, particularly at low frequencies.
- Severe littering and subsequent aggressive, abusive and intimidating behaviour toward our street cleansing operatives.

Paragraph 170 of Haringey's Statement of Licensing Policy reflects Home Office guidance in saying that reviews "...represent a key protection for the community where premises present problems associated with the licensing objectives...". I would therefore invite the Sub-Committee to specifically assess the following whilst considering this review:

- Whether the capacity limit of 49,999 is appropriate having regard to the availability of public transport in the area.
- Whether the hours for licensable activity need to be reduced, given the dense residential nature of the area immediately outside of the park and the time it takes for the crowds to disperse. We would suggest this is particularly relevant to Sunday nights considering, for example, the impact on households with children due to attend school the next day.
- Whether there should be a minimum number of SIA registered supervisors and stewards provided, perhaps expressed as a ratio that correlates with the number of visitors.
- Whether there should be a minimum number of crowd control barriers specified bearing in mind the volume of visitors at the large scale events.
- Conditioning a requirement for arrangements relating to barriers, stewarding numbers and crowd control arrangements for dealing with anti-social behaviour and egress into Hackney to be agreed with us for every event over 15,000, giving full details of the number of SIA security, dot location plan and hours and roles at the event.
- Conditioning a requirement for the licence holder to engage at least one month in advance in writing local residents, and that any letters or other consultation documents effecting Islington residents will be cleared by Hackney before issue.
- Whether the traffic management plans are fit for purpose and if visitors are being provided with sufficient travel information given the level of illegal parking and road blockages.
- Whether the licensee should be required to implement an ID scanning type of system at future events.

Specifically, in relation to noise control measures and monitoring, we feel that the following conditions should be attached:

- The Music Noise Level (MNL) shall be assessed at measurement points identified as Nearest Sensitive Facades (NSF) by Haringey Council and any neighbouring Council Authority which the site shares a boundary. These measurement points will not be situated on trunk roads.
- Throughout the duration of the events (including sound checks, rehearsals and concert performances) the MNL shall not exceed 15dB (LAeq 5 minute) above

background (Representative LA90 obtained for all fixed monitoring points) or 65dB (LAeq 5 minute) whichever is the lowest.

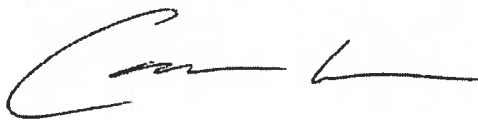
- Throughout the duration of the events (including sound checks, rehearsals and concert performances) the control limits set at the mixer position shall be adequate to ensure that the 63 Hz and 125 Hz octave frequency bands do not cause a noise nuisance to neighbouring residential properties. The 63 Hz and 125 Hz octave frequency bands shall be monitored throughout the duration of the event at measurement points prescribed by Haringey Council Environmental Health. On the request of Council Officers or an appointed Sound Consultant, sound levels will be reduced in either octave frequency bands so that it does not cause a nuisance to neighbouring residential properties.
- All noise monitored data shall be made available on the request of any authorised Council Officer or neighbouring Local Authority Environmental Health Department.

Lastly, the following points are also noted in relation to the existing conditions:

- Condition 19 and Condition 38 could be combined as they both relate to the provision of CCTV.
- Condition 81 refers to "Haringey Safety Advisory Group" whereas other references amongst the conditions are to the "Licensing Safety Advisory Group".
- Condition 82 appears to be a continuation of condition 81.
- Condition 94 is a duplicate of Condition 62.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you on this matter and do hope that a solution that works for all parties involved can be found.

Yours sincerely



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