

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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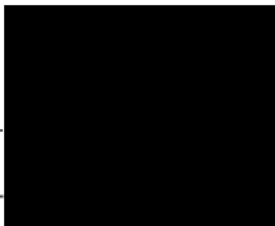
Statement of: Hector McKoy

Age if under 18: 0'18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Inspector

This statement (consisting of 17 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

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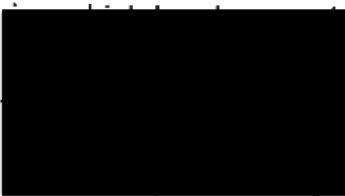
..... Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**SUMMARY REVIEW PROCEEDINGS**

I have been the Licensing Inspector for the City of London Police since January 2013. My primary role is to work with licensed premises within the City, assisting them to promote the statutory licensing objectives and, in particular, the 'prevention of crime and disorder' objective. This Statement is made in relation to Summary Review proceedings applied for by the City of London Police on 2 December 2013 relating to licensed premises currently trading as "The Dollhouse" at 7-8 Bishopsgate Churchyard, London EC2M 3TJ.

An interim steps hearing was held on 2 December 2013. The Premises Licence Holder attended and made representations. The premises licence was suspended pending the full review hearing for 30 December 2013.

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Although the police will, of course, consider any alternative proposals made by the licence holder, at this stage the police invite the licensing authority to consider revoking the Premises Licence as the only necessary, appropriate and proportionate response to the impact the operation of The Dollhouse has on the licensing objectives and, in particular, the prevention of crime and disorder.

POLICE EVIDENCE AND MATERIAL

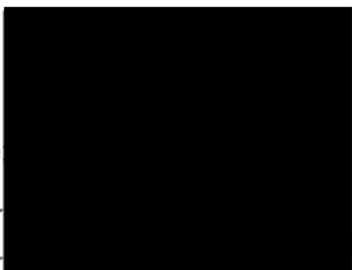
This Statement supplements (but does not replace) the following essential summarising documents produced by the police to which the Corporation is respectfully referred at the outset:

- (i) “Grounds for Summary Review” dated 1 December 2012 (attached to the police review application served on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013);
- (ii) “Schedule of Incidents” – produced by my colleague Pc Daniel White under my supervision.

These summary documents are based, primarily, on the following supporting material which will also be served on the Corporation and Premises Licence Holder:

- (i) Witness statements of Police Officers attending The Dollhouse (overtly and

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- (ii) Crime Reports, CADS, Criminal Intelligence Reports;
- (iii) Witness statements of CCTV Enforcement Officers, parking attendants and employees of Dashwood House (next door to The Dollhouse);
- (iv) CCTV footage and CCTV Schedule.


(Sensitive and confidential material has been redacted from these documents for police operational reasons to ensure investigations and sensitive sources are not compromised).

HISTORY OF POLICE ENGAGEMENT WITH PREMISES LICENCE HOLDER AND MANAGEMENT

I have personally been working with the managers and owners of The DOLLHOUSE, 7-8 BISHOPSGATE CHURCHYARD, LONDON EC2M 3TJ since taking over the role of Licensing Inspector from my colleague T/Insp. Rita JONES in January 2013. However other officers have been engaging with the premises before my involvement and I have consulted their records in making this statement.

In 2011 the police were notified of an application to transfer the premises licence of this premises, which was formerly known as the BATH HOUSE, to the current licence holder Mr David Wilcox.

In early 2012 the Licensing Team visited the premises and met with Mr Robert WRIGHT (the current Designated Premises Supervisor and the half-brother of Mr David Wilcox the premises licence holder). The purpose of the visit was to ensure that the licensing objectives


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were being promoted and not undermined.

By May 2012 police were increasingly concerned that violent crime associated with the premises and its customers was on the increase. As a result of this Robert WRIGHT and his wife met with T/Insp. JONES and John HALL (Licensing Team) where these matters were discussed. T/ Inspector JONES followed up this meeting with an e-mail which clarified the issues that were of concern to police at the premises. These included the number of violent crimes, irresponsible drink promotions and breaches of conditions. Exhibit HM/01 refers.

Issues at the venue came to a head in September 2012 at the time of the Paralympic Marathon when road closures were required to enable the event to take place. All the licensed premises affected by the road closures (including The Dollhouse) were informed about the closures. David WILCOX (Premises Licence Holder) informed the Licensing Team that they were hosting an after-party for the pop singer Lady Gaga (she was performing at Hammersmith). Mr Wilcox agreed to the police licensing team's request that the event would not be widely promoted and it would be a ticket only event. This request was made in order to ensure the licensing objectives would not be undermined.

Internet and social media searches by the police (including Facebook and Twitter) revealed that, contrary to Mr Wilcox's assurances, the Lady Gaga event was in fact being widely (and falsely) promoted to the public. The publicity claimed that Lady Gaga herself would be attending the event. Police confirmed with Lady Gaga's agents that she had no contract or agreement to go to the Dollhouse and her official after-party was not taking place at the DOLLHOUSE. This was taken up with the premises. It seemed that the management of The

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Dollhouse were either deliberately or recklessly misleading the public in order to attract more customers at this sensitive and vulnerable time in the calendar, despite police warnings that they should not do so and in contravention of their own previous assurances to police.

As the advertising had got to such an advanced stage the Licensing Team seriously considered issuing a section 160 Closure Order on the premises. Superintendent David LAWES was notified of the potential for disorder and he and T/Insp. JONES attended the venue. Superintendent LAWES told David WILCOX he wanted him to stop falsely promoting their event and told him to put on the website that Lady GAGA was not attending. Mr WILCOX accused the City of London Police of harassment at that meeting and, begrudgingly, agreed to write one line on their website to state that Lady GAGA was not attending the party herself. Exhibit HM/02 refers.

In the run up to Christmas 2012 police visited several licensed premises including the DOLLHOUSE. It had been noted by police that in two of the violent crimes associated with this premises, arrested persons were found in possession of wraps of cocaine and so police naturally had concerns about the levels of drug use at The Dollhouse.

Licensing Officers own observations gave rise to the opinion that Covert Licensing Officers (CLO's) should be used at this venue (as well as others where suspicions were identified).

On 21 December 2012, the first (and only) night Covert Licensing Officers (CLO's) were employed at the venue, one CLO overheard snorting/nasal sounds coming from the toilet cubicle which were consistent with a person snorting cocaine.

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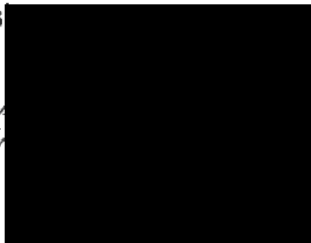


The CLO noted this on two separate occasions on the same night that he was in the venue. On the second occasion, as the male left the toilet, he pressed a £10 note into the toilet attendant's hand. It would appear that the toilet attendant was complicit in overlooking the drug use. The male was later identified as a member of the promoter's front of house team and arrested by uniform officers. *Exhibit HM/03 refers.*

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 the Licensing Team were engaged in visiting licensed premises and attended the DOLLHOUSE following a violent incident which had occurred there earlier the same night where males where fighting outside the venue. On arrival the Licensing Team spoke to David WILCOX regarding the earlier incident (and subsequently where a male had been arrested for Possession of a Controlled Drug – Class A Cocaine).

David WILCOX appeared to be angered by the officers' presence and shouted at members of the Licensing Team "I am not having you persecuting me for the whole of 2013". The Licensing Team informed Mr WILCOX that was not the case and stated that they were there regarding the male that had been arrested re drug possession and in fact it was a member of staff who had been in possession of cocaine. Mr WILCOX shrugged his shoulders replying "So"? Mr WILCOX did not appear to be surprised or taken aback by this development.

On this night the customers of the Dollhouse were clearly very anti-police. (This feature is present in several other recorded incidents where police had to attend the venue). Officers from the Licensing Team entered the premises shortly after their conversation with Mr WILCOX. Accompanied by the venue's Head of Security, John AGDOMAR, police carried out a licens



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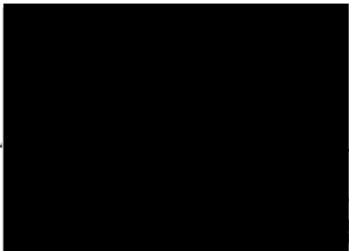
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spiral staircase and onto the dance floor customers could clearly be heard by officers shouting out "it's the FEDS". As the officers and AGDOMAR continued to walk through the venue males were approaching AGDOMAR and it would appear deliberately barging in to him. It was clear to the officers from the Licensing Team that this was a deliberate act because he was accompanying police officers around the venue. The atmosphere appeared tense and hostile towards the officers who decided to leave the premises as it was felt that their presence may have triggered a public order incident. *Exhibit HM/04 refers.*

On New Year's Eve 2012, members of the Licensing Team arrived at the DOLLHOUSE and entered the premises near closing time as a result of a call to a fight at the premises. Support Group (City of London Police Level 1 Serial, that specialises in public order/disorder) were already deployed outside the premises clearing people from the surrounds. When members from the Licensing Team arrived they entered the premises and they witnessed some heated exchanges occurring between various customers.

The security staff looked as if they were having problems quelling the disturbance. A member of the Licensing Team went outside to call the Support Group officers in. The Support Group officers cleared the premises including a male who was making threats to others.

It was also noted that the lack of female security present at the premises may have inhibited the proper searching of female customers. Indeed there was a lack of effective searching of the male customers that were entering the venue.

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Once again, there was a level of hostility faced by police officers inside and outside of the premises as they tried to split up the warring factions. There were individuals grouped on stairs, there were references made to officers calling them "pigs" and "feds". As officers tried to disperse the crowd inside the venue, shouts were heard of "get the knife, get the knife".

A male was later arrested at the premises for having an Article with a Blade or Point in a Public Place. *Exhibit HM/05 refers.*

On January 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 a meeting took place between Robert WRIGHT his wife Loretta WRIGHT and Mike NERI (consultant to DOLLHOUSE) and members of the Licensing Team. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a number of incidents that had occurred at the premises during the run up to Christmas 2012 and the New Year.

Some of the incidents discussed above were talked about in addition to ways of improving security at the venue, for example by using a metal search arch or search wands to assist with searching customers, for their security staff to wear high visibility jackets to distinguish themselves from customers. Robert WRIGHT stated that he had purchased wands and that there was now a female member on the security team. He said that he had purchased high-visibility jackets for his security team. However, in contrast to Mr Wright's promises, evidence from later incidents and CCTV footage suggest that not all of the security staff do in fact wear high-visibility jackets. Mr WRIGHT stated that there was a cost implication with the purchase of the knife arches. The type of promoted events at the venue was also discussed at length.

Since January 2011, I have visited the premises a number of times and do not recall seeing

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search wands being used. Any searching of customers appeared to be cursory. When I mentioned this to Rob WRIGHT his reply would be: "yes, I see what you mean I will have a word with security". The management's approach to problems tends to be reactive in response to police feedback, when it ought to be pro-active to prevent problems arising in the first place.

It is a feature of this case that frequently whenever incidents occur at the venue Rob WRIGHT, on behalf of the licence holder and management:

- 1) Tries to minimise the incidents;
- 2) Claims that these are one-off events and he will no longer hold those events.

The events that occurred on New Year's Eve 2012 were discussed with Rob WRIGHT. He appeared to play down these events as merely pushing and shoving and he had not been made aware that there was a male inside his premises with a knife until he was told this by the police.

I also mentioned the importance of submitting 696's (risk assessment forms) in a timely manner and accurately. The reason I made this request (which should not have been necessary if the operator was behaving responsibly) is because they were not submitted in the time frame required by the police to enable us to carry out the police checks. Additionally, multiple DJ's and sub-promoters were included in the submissions even though we had requested on numerous occasions for the premises not to keep listing/using numerous promoters/DJ's at their events. This was because it risks relinquishing control of

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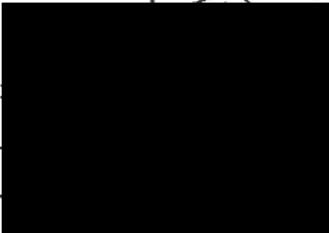
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customers coming to the venue and potentially leads to rival groups to turn up at the premises which can lead to flashpoints of disorder and violence.

The issue of intoxication and better control of serving customers who had consumed too much alcohol was discussed, Rob. WRIGHT stated that they had stopped selling the very large bottles of vodka. I also asked Rob. WRIGHT if he had any proposals for the business going forward i.e. Monday to Friday day time and evening.

The operators are prepared to promise changes and adaptations to their business model when under the spotlight of the police authorities. But these plans are usually rapidly abandoned, if ever implemented. In January 2013 Rob Wright stated that they planned to refurbish the café for use during the day time and evenings for selling teas, coffees and sandwiches. He also told police that they planned to start a promotion for happy hour drinks starting with Thursday evenings, 1700 – 2100, and build up an evening trade during the rest of the week. He stated they were looking at a type of promoted event for Thursdays, possibly a Jazz night, and had been approached someone regarding yoga classes. Mr WRIGHT stated that they expected to start this in about 3 or 4 weeks but Mike Neri stated that they weren't sure about the timings. None of this actually materialised although there was the opening of a 'sandwich shop' which did not stay open for long. *Exhibit HM/06 refers.*

The operators are also prepared to serve policies and actions plans when problems are brought to their attention but events and incidents demonstrate that these plans are ineffectual. The operators have produced and provided us with copies of various policies that they used at the premises relating to drug searches/off weapons/cctv etc. *Exhibit HM/07*

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refers. An action plan was also discussed at the January 2013 meeting. *Exhibit HM/08 refers.*

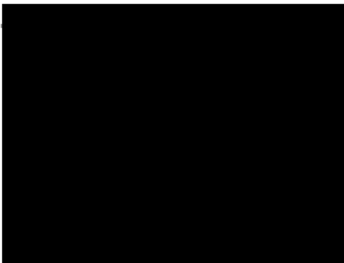
Following the 14 January 2013 meeting there have been a number of further meetings between police and the operators. These include meetings held (or scheduled to take place) on these dates: 1.3.13, 26.4.13, 17.5.13, 20.6.13, 27.6.13, 25.7.13, 31.7.13 and 18.10.13. These meetings would ordinarily focus on establishing a way forward for the premises after the series of incidents that had occurred. Discussions centred on: the tightening of their security procedures and door staff; the uniformity/visibility of their security; a workable dispersal policy; entry policies; removing irresponsible drinks promotions; advertising of promotions; the use of certain promoters at their venue; the continual late submission of their Risk Assessment forms; efforts to attract a different and less troublesome clientele; a dress code; age limits for their customers; better communications with the police; the introduction of a more reliable and sustainable business model which did not rely on externally promoted events. *Exhibit HM/13 refers*

Given the level of incidents continuing at the premises (considered below) regrettably the police do not believe that this engagement has achieved its objective of reducing levels of crime and disorder at The Dollhouse to acceptable levels.

**PROMOTED EVENTS**

At the beginning of December 2011 a letter was sent out to the DOLLHOUSE addressed to David WILCOX to ask if they would be holding any promoted events on the lead up to Christmas. [Redacted] did not receive any response from the DOLLHOUSE to

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indicate if they were or were not. However it was brought to the licensing team's attention that the DOLLHOUSE did indeed hold an event on 31/12/11 (New Years Eve). The Licensing Team discovered that this event was advertised on the internet.

*Exhibit HM/09 refers*

Subsequently since the above dealings there have been a number of events whereby the DOLLHOUSE has submitted risk assessment forms detailing one promoted event and on further research by officers from the Licensing Team the event has been listed or promoted for something completely different or indeed submitted risk assessment forms late, therefore not allowing the police to carry out sufficient checks.

The reason why I mention this is simply to outline the irresponsibility of the management of the premises in terms of working with the City of London Police and advising the police correctly on what events are occurring at the premises.

Doing this completely undermines the 'spirit' of the risk assessment process and demonstrates a lack of co-operation with the Police.

*Exhibit HM/11 refers*

Another example of where the premises' operators appear to have little control over, or knowledge of, promoters they host was the "Valentines Day Massacre" event held on 14 February 2013 the venue told police and appeared to believe that this event was going to be a romantic afro-beat party. The police licensing team soon discovered that it was being advertised as something completely different with an image of the "gangsta rapper" 50 Cent being used on promotional material.

*Exhibit HM/14 refers*

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The Licensing Authority has had cause to write to the owners of the DOLLHOUSE in regard to the advertising of irresponsible drinks promotion. In one advert a young male is shown drinking straight from a large bottle of drink (probably vodka). The fact that these operators or the promoters they host are prepared to advertise their events in this manner speaks volumes as to their approach to responsible alcohol retailing and the customers they hope to attract. *Exhibit HM/15 refers*

On 13 December 2012, after concerns were raised about promoters, Mr Rob WRIGHT emailed police to indicate that "We are no longer working with Mace and Nightplay".

*Exhibit 10 refers.*

However I have recently checked the website for the Dollhouse and it appears that on every Saturday night in December 2013 "Nightplay" promotions are being advertised.

*Exhibit HM/15A refers.*

**LEVELS OF INCIDENTS AT THE DOLLHOUSE IN 2012/13**

There have been a number of incidents at the Dollhouse involving its clientele throughout 2012/2013. Some occur inside the venue and some in the immediate vicinity. These are set out in the "**Schedule of Incidents**". This shows a high and unacceptable level of violent crime and serious disorder associated with the Dollhouse. Police believe this situation results from features including:

- 1) Management operators and a Premises Licence Holder who are prepared to put

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profits from the irresponsible sale of alcohol before the promotion of the licensing objectives;

- 2) The venue's reputation is one that attracts trouble-makers;
- 3) Its late operating hours and promotions at the venue (internal and external) attract crowds who are intent on violence and/or are permitted by the operator to get too drunk to control their own behaviour;
- 4) Ineffective door supervisors who are, ultimately, the responsibility of the Licence Holder.

In addition to the crimes that resulted in a formal crime report (set out in the Grounds for Summary Review) there have also been numerous other incidents recorded by way of Computer Aided Despatch (CAD's) including:

- 6 CAD's relating to calls of a violent nature, usually persons fighting;
- 13 CADS that relate to public order, which will be person/persons causing a disturbance or disturbance pending;
- 5 CAD's relating to public nuisance where officers will be called to the premises to assist in the dispersal from the premises of customers or where the customers' vehicles are double parked and preventing other vehicles access/blocking the highway;

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- 5 CAD's relate to a medical concern/safety of person/persons at the venue, where they have been or reports of intoxicated persons.

Each CAD report usually requires multiple officer attendance. This is resource intensive. A disproportionate amount of police officer time that has to be dedicated to the DOLLHOUSE which in turn means officers are diverted away from dealing with other matters also needing attention in the City. *Exhibit 12 refers.*

The Schedule of Incidents also demonstrates that in the great majority of cases the venue does not call the police itself. This may be by design or negligence, but there is an obvious inference that other offences occur at the venue which the police remain unaware of.

A series on Intelligence Reports disclose incidents where persons involved in criminal gangs attend the Dollhouse. Some are associated with drugs and firearms. In one report dated 19.11.12 a male is stated to have shown a handgun to another person whilst inside the Dollhouse.

**29 NOVEMBER 2013 INCIDENT**

The final "trigger incident" on 29 November 2013 involving very serious public disorder at the Dollhouse is detailed in the Grounds for Summary Review and the accompanying witness statements. It will be apparent that this was not an isolated incident but rather the culmination of the manner in which this premises has been operated under the current Premises Licence Holder and the customers it attracts.

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(It has since transpired that during this disorder a male victim suffered extensive facial injuries amounting to grievous bodily harm that required surgery). The victim has stated that when the assault occurred security from the DOLLHOUSE grabbed him and took him out the back exit of the club – worryingly the victim does not believe the security called the police. This is an ongoing investigation. CR/007037 refers.)

*Exhibit HM/16 refers*

“CHIPMUNK”

At the Summary Review interim steps hearing on 2 December 2013 I believe I heard Mr David Wilcox tell the sub-committee that he had never previously used or held a promotion involving a rap-artist known as “Chip” (previously “Chipmunk”). It was this gentleman whose birthday party was being held at the venue on 28/29 November 2013 when serious disorder broke out. However I have since found this ‘screen shot’ on the internet suggesting that the DOLLHOUSE have previously promoted this ‘Chipmunk’ event at its premises in September 2012. *Exhibit HM/10 refers*

OTHER LICENSED PREMISES

A licensed premises named BABBLE CITY is located at 45, Old Broad Street EC2 1HU which is about 400 yards away from the DOLLHOUSE. However I can say with confidence that all the crimes listed in the Schedule of Incidents are far more likely to have emanated from the DOLLHOUSE and involve its customers rather than other nearby licensed premises. Although BABBLE benefits from a late licence (alcohol sales until 0300hrs) the

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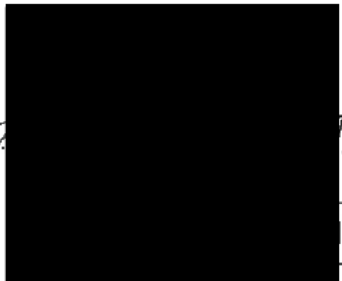
events that they hold there are promoted to a very different demographic and clientele to those who attend the Dollhouse. BABBLE experiences very little crime and disorder associated with its operation. In addition, since May 2013, the owners of that premises have agreed not to hold any externally promoted events.

CONCLUSION

The problems existing at the Dollhouse are not superficial. Its operation amounts to a fundamental undermining of the licensing objective of preventing crime and disorder. It is the view of the City of London Police that only a root and branch change to the nature of this premises so that it can no longer operate as a late-night licensed venue, the removal of its operators and/or its permanent closure, will promote the licensing objectives.

In my opinion if this venue re-opens in its current state there is a strong likelihood that serious violence and/or serious crime will re-occur in the near future.

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2010/11