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16 March, 2023

Licensing Authority, City of London Corporation

Dear Sir or Madam:

I refer to the application by NYT Aura Limited ([REDACTED] [REDACTED]) for a late night drinking establishment/nightclub at Ground, Lower Ground and Basement Level of The Corn Exchange, 55 Mark Lane, London, City of London, EC3R 7NE.

I would like to register my objection to the granting of the license, on the basis that a night club operating until 3am will adversely impact the lives of the surrounding residents. I have seen no evidence that there are any clear plans to address the noise, safety, nuisance, drug usage/supply and traffic issues that are caused by a night club establishments of this nature.

I am not qualified to address the specific legal issues relating to this application. As a resident and council taxpayer, my expectation is that the Licensing committee is sufficiently willing and able to interpret and consider my concerns and observations in the context of the law and relevant policies.

My specific concerns are:

- **Noise and crowd control.** With late night venues closing after the last underground and mainline trains having departed, cars are frequently used for transport to and from these clubs. Whilst the clubs in American Square and Minories were operating, these cars were often used as a place to congregate with loud music, drinking, continual revving of engines and shouting. I have observed some of these cars race around the local streets at high speeds with music, "pimped up" engine noise and shouting, causing concern for the safety of people walking around the streets. Clientele of some of these venues would also loiter around the entrances of Fenchurch Street Station, waiting for it to open and would make a racket in the process, which echoes under the rail arches.
- **Antisocial behavior.** It is an extremely common occurrence to be greeted by scenes and smells outside our properties, generated by the patrons of these establishments. Public urination on the outside of our buildings and the adjacent Doubletree Hotel is very common, as is vomiting on our doorsteps. It is also not unusual to get groups of people leaving these bars/clubs - congregating outside in the street and talking loudly and smoking, which pollutes the flats – particularly unpleasant when trying to sleep.

- **Drug supply and usage.** I have observed numerous instances of patrons of local late night club venues using recreational drugs (both smoked or orally/nasally ingested) outside my window. I have not seen it as much of late, due to the reduction in number of late night venues since the pandemic, but it would be a reasonable expectation that it would return with new similar venues opening nearby.

The concerns I have are not theoretical. We have experienced significant issues in the past from the clientele of other late night venues, particularly Revolution (and its successors) in America Square and Dirty Martini on Minories. Since both venues closed, we have not been negatively impacted in the same way. I believe there is a reasonable assumption that the problems I have noted will recur if this license is granted without the appropriate protections in place.

As I understand it, the City of London has a licensing policy that is designed to ensure the safety and well-being of its residents. Specifically, the policy states that the licensing committee should take into account the impact that a proposed establishment will have on the local community, and whether it is likely to cause a nuisance or disturbance to nearby residents. In this case, it is clear that the proposed establishment will have a negative impact on the surrounding residential buildings that comprise hundreds of homes.

We are a resilient community, having already to cope with the problems and antisocial behavior generated by drinking establishments on our doorstep; as well as venues that are slightly further afield that capture a late night crowd (often cutting through to access Fenchurch Street station or other transport options). The pure concentration of venues compounds this problem, and opening another without any clear and effective measures is clearly compromises the licensing guidelines.

It is not unreasonable as a resident to expect to be able to maintain the peace and quiet of their respective properties as purchased and/or occupied. Residents should not suffer from issues created by having a large number of inebriated people noisily passing/gathering on foot or in noisy cars, particularly when trying to sleep.

I request you review the licensing application, and strongly consider the right to a peaceful lifestyle of all residents at any time of the day or night. Additionally, the licensing hours given the residential nature of the neighborhood are unreasonable, and should be significantly reduced.

Sincerely,

Timothy Jordan