



Exhibition Place

Appendix D

March 28, 2014

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

ACTION REQUIRED

From: Dianne Young, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **Electronic Dance Music Concerts – Additional Information**

Summary:

This report provides further information about the Electronic Dance Music concerts (EDM) being booked at Exhibition Place as requested by the Board.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board direct Exhibition Place staff to consult with the City of Toronto Emergency Services and Public Health on the protocol for the Exhibition Place Facility Requirements for EDM and Dance Parties attached as Appendix “A” and make any amendments suggested by these agencies.

Financial Impact:

Revenues earned from EDM’s will have a positive impact to the 2014 Exhibition Place operating budget.

Decision History:

The Exhibition Place 2009 - 2012 Strategic Plan had a Financial Goal to *Maintain a positive operating financial performance across Exhibition Place and all its businesses* and as Strategies to support this Goal *to seek new or expand revenue opportunities within our existing operations and ensure operating budgets are met or show a positive surplus to budget.*

At its meeting of February 14, 2014, the Board considered the report from the CEO entitled Electronic Dance Music Concerts dated January 21, 2014, and deferred subject report to the April 11th meeting of the Board, and requested that staff report on the definition of “all ages events”, and the City Solicitor report on the question of liability to the Board should potential accidents occur at these types of events.

Issue Background:

Exhibition Place has been the site of live music events since the 1980’s and more specifically for events similar to electronic dance music concerts for the last decade. It has worked with City Council, TPC, City Emergency Services and the City Board of Health to develop protocols to ensure that these events and the event producer provide a safe venue for these major events.

Comments:

Since the February 14th meeting, Exhibition Place consulted with Ms. Patti-Anne Tarlton, COO, Ticketmaster to understand the industry term “All Ages”. While Ticketmaster does not have its own definition; she spoke about the Music/Event/Sports Industry standard as “All Ages” to mean that the ticket holder is able to gain admittance to the event even if they are under the legal drinking age. The reason the industry refers to “All Ages” is that from province to province, or state to state, the legal drinking age may be different, and therefore, the term is applicable to whatever the legal drinking age is in that particular province/state. Typically, an “All Ages” ticket holder is not required to present ID to gain admittance to the event.

As discussed in the January 21st report from the CEO, Exhibition Place has developed in consultation with the City Fire, Ambulance and Police Services a protocol that must be met by all EDM producers who want to license Exhibition Place facilities. This Protocol attached as Appendix “A” is an updated version of the one used in previous years and referred to in the Memorandum from Toronto Public Health dated February 27, 2014 and attached as Appendix “B”.

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Submitted by:

Dianne Young
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Appendix "A"
Exhibition Place Facility Requirements
For EDM & Dance Parties

Exhibition Place is pleased to work with promoters and organizers of EDM, Concerts and Dance Parties. In order to create a safe and secure environment for your attendees, we have implemented the following guidelines. Your Sales representative will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

1. The Better Living Centre is the designated location for EDM and dance parties. The Better Living Centre is a self-contained facility, with access to parking and public transit. The main floor square footage is approximately 200,000 square feet, and maximum capacity is 9,356 persons, based on approved floor plans by the Fire Marshall, this capacity may change based on Fire Marshal Approval. Access to the space commences at 6:00am (for set-up) until 12:00 noon the following day.
2. The rental amount for the main floor is **\$34,329.85** + HST. Services and labour for the installation of sound, lighting and rentals are extra. To be eligible for the **\$34,329.85** +HST rate, the event must be over by 6:00am and equipment etc. must be moved out by 12:00 noon the following day. A credit application must be completed.
3. One security company will be used for each event. The expected number of attendance will determine the number of security guards required. A lockable room is available to the promoter for cash room.
4. The number of paid duty police will vary depending on the event and expected attendance. Police will be assigned to the interior space, as well as parking attendants. Mounted police are required to control line-ups to event. The police and the facility will determine the number of paid duty officers, and all fees for paid duty police will be invoiced and collected by Exhibition Place, ten days prior to the event.
5. Turnstiles are required at entry doors. The Exhibition Place event coordinator will monitor the numbers to ensure maximum occupancy for fire safety is not exceeded.
6. Ambulance Service is required on site at all times during event.
7. Ovations is the exclusive Food & Beverage Supplier to the facility, and as such controls and sells product for all concessions, alcohol, soft drinks, and bottled water for all EDM, dance parties, concerts and special events. All Licensed areas must have paid duty police assigned plus security guards throughout the event.

APPENDIX B



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DANCE PARTIES IN CITY-OWNED VENUES

Background

- In the late 1990s, the electronic dance music scene became popular, and the 'rave' scene was growing. Although legal raves were more frequent, dance parties were still held on an "underground" basis with locations announced only hours beforehand to deter surveillance.
- Problem conditions at underground raves included a lack of drinking water, toilets and running water, and poorly ventilated spaces with high heat/humidity¹.
- In response to these issues, the Toronto Dance Safety Committee was formed, comprised of City agencies, health service providers, and people attending raves.
- This committee developed the Protocol for the Operation of Safe Dance Events/Raving², which was adopted by City Council on December 15, 1999. This protocol included a provision for the City of Toronto to lease property to event promoters for large dance parties.

Allen Ho's Death and Inquest

- The above City protocol was suspended for a few months in May 2000³ following a wave of media focus⁴ on 'raves' after the death of Allen Ho (age 21) at an underground rave held in a parking garage.
- Allen Ho was found unresponsive on the dance floor of the garage. He died later in hospital with an extremely high body temperature and seizures, and he had taken 'ecstasy'/MDMA.
- A May 2000 inquest into Mr. Ho's death looked at "the promotion, organization and operation of these all night dance parties, public health issues and relevant existing legislation"⁵.
- Recommendations from the inquest jury included:⁶
 - City of Toronto to permit raves on its properties;
 - Rave tickets/flyers should include locations;
 - Drinking water be widely available at all dance events; and,
 - Harm reduction strategies should be promoted and funded so people attending dance parties are made aware of safety strategies regarding dance parties and substance use.
- Following these recommendations, media focus shifted, exploring issues of safety and risk⁷.
- On May 3, 2000, MPP Sandra Pupatello put forward a private member's bill, the *Raves Act* (2000) in an attempt to regulate raves⁸. The bill passed Second Reading before being referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Social Policy; however, it was never enacted.
- In August 2000, City Council adopted the "Establishment of Late Night Entertainment Event Protocol (including Raves) and Co-ordinated Response to Inquest Recommendations into the Death of Allen Ho"⁹, which specifically authorized Exhibition Place to hold dance parties, and referred back to the original Protocol adopted in December 1999.

Deaths related to 'club drugs'

- In addition to alcohol, people use a wide variety of drugs in bars and clubs (either before they go or at the club) including, cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy/MDMA/MDA, ketamine, GHB, methamphetamine, and diverse other synthetics or "research chemicals".
- There is no local data about the prevalence of overdose (fatal or non-fatal) caused by substance use in specific locations such as bars, clubs or other entertainment venues.
- However, the majority of problems (e.g., violence, sexual assault, impaired driving) related to substance use in public places are caused by alcohol.
- In Toronto, deaths caused directly by 'club drugs' are infrequent compared with deaths caused by other drugs.
- Preliminary data from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario¹⁰ shows that between 2002 and 2010, there were 892 accidental Toronto deaths in which substance use was a direct cause. Among these deaths, opiates/opioids were a direct cause in 536 deaths, cocaine was a direct cause in 319 deaths and alcohol was a direct cause in 205 Toronto deaths (not including deaths caused by alcohol-related violence or traffic accidents).
- MDMA/MDA was noted as lethal in 17 of these deaths although in over half (9), other drugs were also noted as lethal, including alcohol, cocaine, opiates and others. MDMA/MDA was the sole lethal drug in eight Toronto deaths of the 892 during this period. Of these combined 17 deaths, 10 were people aged 40 and over.

Prepared for: Councillor Gord Perks and Councillor Mike Layton

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References:

- ¹ Welr, Erica (2000). Raves: a review of the culture, the drugs and the prevention of harm. *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 162 (13) 1843-1848.
- ² Minute of the Council of the City of Toronto, Dec, 14-16, 1999, Item 14.76 (Attachment #6).
- ³ Minutes of the Council of the City of Toronto, May 9-11, 2000, Item 7.76
- ⁴ Hier, Sean P (2002). Raves, risks and the ecstasy panic: a case study in the subversive nature of moral regulation. *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 27(1), 33-57.
- ⁵ Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario (2001). Report on the Inquest into the death of Allen Ho. Toronto, October 2001.
- ⁶ Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario (2001).
- ⁷ Hier, Sean P (2002).
- ⁸ Bill 73: Raves Act: An act to promote peace and safety by regulating late-night dance events.
http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=583&isCurrent=false&detailPage=bills_detail_the_bill
- ⁹ Minutes of the Council of the City of Toronto, August 1-4, 2000, Item 10.53: Clause 1 of Report 7 of the Community Services Committee, "Establishment of Late Night Entertainment Event Protocol (including Raves) and Coordinated Response to Inquest Recommendations into the Death of Allen Ho".
- ¹⁰ Preliminary unpublished data, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, retrieved by Toronto Public Health.