

Blackpool Council Licensing Service				
Objection made by Lancashire Constabulary to a Temporary Event Notice				
Responsible Authority		Lancashire Constabulary		
Name of Officer <i>(please print)</i>	PC 4107 Emma Pritchard			
Signature of Officer	E L Pritchard			
Contact telephone number	01253 604007			
Date representation made	02	08	17	
Do you consider mediation to be appropriate				NO
Premises Details				
Premises Name	Walkabout			
Address	1-9 Queen Street			
	Blackpool			
Post Code	FY1 1NL			
Reasons for objecting				
<p>I am in receipt of a Temporary Event Notice at the above premises for the sale of alcohol and the provision of late night refreshment, from 04:00 to 07:00 on 27th August 2017. This is to cover the showing of live TV coverage of a high profile boxing match.</p> <p>Boxing and wrestling matches increase the risk of crime and disorder due to the high-adrenaline nature of the sport, hence the actual activity on the premises (as opposed to TV coverage) being licensable in itself. This, coupled with the supply of alcohol, and the very late hour at which the coverage is to be shown, causes great concern for the Constabulary.</p> <p>Not only will viewers be exposed to a high adrenaline atmosphere, they will also be more likely to have already had alcoholic drinks leading up to the fight, and the provision of alcohol continuing until 7.00am will exacerbate drunkenness and noise nuisance complaints, with a risk of crime and disorder due to all of the above combined.</p> <p>This boxing match in particular is unique in that it is bringing together the two fighting disciplines of boxing and Cage fighting. Floyd Mayweather is one of World's most renowned boxers; being unbeaten throughout his career. McGregor is widely regarded as the best cage fighter in the World. As a consequence this fight has the potential to bring together two rival fan bases with not only an individual winning but also a fighting discipline.</p> <p>The Temporary Event Notice does make mention of the event being ticket only with advance ticket</p>				

sales and that security staff will be present; although does not state how many. Also that food will be offered to patrons attending the boxing. These measures are in place to aid in the reduction of risk to crime and disorder. However, there is no mention of closing the bar and dispersing customers prior to the commencement of the boxing, therefore patrons already in Walkabout consuming alcohol up to 04:00hrs as their existing licence allows could then be allowed to continue whilst watching the boxing match; allowing the premises to serve alcohol for a solid 22 hours which gives the Police extreme concerns regarding drunkenness and an extremely likely rise in crime and disorder on an already busy bank holiday weekend.

Walkabout is a large and very popular venue situated in the heart of Blackpool Town Centre, in the middle of the Cumulative Impact Zone, surrounded by a high concentration of late night licensed bars. It is highly likely that any persons attending a boxing event at 04:00 will consume alcohol at many of the other licensed bars (or indeed Walkabout itself) prior to 04:00 and therefore have an already elevated alcohol level prior to the match even starting. It seems implausible that many patrons will go to bed, set a very early alarm to come into Blackpool Town Centre during a busy Bank Holiday weekend at 04:00 to watch a boxing match and mix with many others who will have been out consuming alcohol most of the night.

Due to the predicted business of the town centre at this time on the Bank Holiday Weekend there will be many people heavily intoxicated already in the town centre who don't have a ticket to the boxing and will be looking for venues to watch it. Refusal of entry at any licensed premises is often a flash point for disorder so although ticket only entry helps to manage those who enter the premises it also creates an increased risk to crime and disorder with those that have to be turned away.

Furthermore due to the time this event is due to start (approx. 05:00hours) it is likely many will not be leaving the premises until 07:00. This is a busy bank holiday weekend in Blackpool with many visitors to the area, especially with the Live Wire Festival taking place on the Headlands on the same weekend. At 07:00 it is light outside and many locals and visitors will be getting up to start their day, either opening up businesses, going for a breakfast or just a walk down the promenade. These people are likely to be met by up to 499 persons highly intoxicated and adrenaline fuelled leaving the premises.

Lancashire Constabulary believes there is an extremely high likelihood that the granting of this Temporary Event Notice would directly lead to an increase in crime and disorder and therefore wishes to object.

The Police recommend to the Panel that a Counter Notice be served by the Licensing Authority unless the following restrictions or requirements can be imposed by condition.

n/a