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Police did not shut down illegal central London rave because it was 'too dangerous'

The City of London police confirmed its decision not to intervene and shut down the party was made "on safety grounds" after hundreds of youths stormed the Citicape building

BENEDICT MOORE-BRIDGER | Friday 23 October 2015 |  2 comments



News



Police allowed more than 500 revellers to party at an illegal rave in central London for 36 hours because removing them would have been "too dangerous", the Standard has learned.

Despite being opposite a police station, hundreds of youths

stormed the Citicape building in Holborn before setting up “incredibly powerful” sound systems at the back of the disused site, which is due to be turned into a hotel.

Officers were called to the rave on Holborn Viaduct at about 2am on Saturday but decided not to intervene. Instead, they gathered outside the venue to marshal people away as they left, at around midday on Sunday.

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City of London police confirmed its decision not to shut down the party was made “on safety grounds”.

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Police sources said last weekend's party was a “secondary location” as officers had shut down the primary rave in Fenchurch hours earlier, removing about 150 people from inside the commercial premises. The revellers dispersed before arriving at Citicape House at about 2am.

A police source said: “We had shut down the main rave earlier so officers had been deployed there, but as is often the case with these raves, the organisers have a number of locations to fall back to. Most of the time people don't know where it is until minutes before, so it is very hard to act fast enough to prevent them from occurring, which can only happen if you get there ahead of time.

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“If you have more than 500 people inside, then you have to make a judgment call about how to proceed – it is a balancing act taking into consideration the safety of people inside.

“If you go in to forcibly remove people then it can be too dangerous with numbers of that size.”

A neighbour said some of the revellers tried to break into his apartment block. He added that his son dialled 999 and five officers arrived but said they were “under-resourced”.

“It was so loud. The police should have stopped them but all they



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did was to gather outside as they left,” he said.

A spokesman for the force said: “We work with the owners of vacant commercial properties to advise them on securing their properties.”

A hotel was due to be completed last year on the site, which is owned by offshore company CHIL. Its planning consultants DP9 failed to respond to requests for comment.

More about: | [Holborn Viaduct](#) | [Citicape](#) | [rave](#)



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