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Chicago Police and City Officials Close Nightclub in the interest of Public Safety

The Chicago Police Department, working in conjunction with the City of Chicago's Department of Business Affairs and the office of 2nd Ward Alderman Brian Hopkins, has concluded an investigation which will result in the immediate, temporary closure of a licensed nightclub establishment in the 14th (Shakespeare) District. The closure was made possible by the recently passed Summary Closure ordinance, which gives police the ability to order the temporary closure of establishments that are deemed public safety threats. The closure will be effective for a period of six months or until the establishment works with CPD and city officials to develop an approved public safety plan to ensure it no longer threatens public welfare.

On <u>December 20, 2015</u> at approximately <u>3:40 a.m.</u> on the 1600 block N. Elston Avenue, a physical altercation occurred inside the Koncrete Nightclub that spilled into the street. During the incident, a 21-year-old female was struck by gunfire and transported to Illinois Masonic Hospital where she later died. Also injured was a 23-year-old male, who sustained a gun shot wound to the leg and was transported to Mount Sinai in stable condition. An investigation of the incident revealed that the establishment's owner had knowledge that all of the parties to this altercation had been inside the club prior to its migration to the street. The owner failed to report this information to authorities and also neglected to request emergency medical attention. Additionally, the establishment's owner placed 911 calls with the intent to deflect attention from the establishment as the origin of the conflict.

"We all have a vital role to play in keeping our communities safe and the Chicago Police Department will stop at nothing to protect our residents and business patrons from the threats of gun violence," said Shakespeare District Commander Marc Buslik. While the investigation into Sunday's shooting remains ongoing, Buslik added that "detectives and district officers are working together and making optimistic progress". He also thanked Alderman Hopkins for his partnership and swift action in supporting the order.

Beginning in November 2013, the Koncrete Nightclub has an extensive history of violent incidents, resulting in legal action against the licensee. According to the complaint filed by police, the licensee has been ineffective in managing and remediating the unwholesome environment of the club manifested by the multiple incidents of violence. City Officials, have concludee that any future operation of the Koncrete Nightclub would also constitute an immediate public safety threat to the city of Chicago and its residents.

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