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## **BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 11, 2020 Contact: Thomas R. Akras Telephone: 410-396-4377

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## BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR BALTIMORE CITY WAIVES FEES FOR TEMPORARY OUTDOOR EXTENSIONS DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY, RELEASES GUIDANCE FOR LICENSEES

**Baltimore**, **MD** – On Thursday, June 11th, 2020 the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) voted unanimously to waive fees for Temporary Outdoor Permit Extensions after being granted the authority to do so by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan through his issuance of Executive Order 20-06-11-01 on the same day. The BLLC also released guidance to its licensees on the temporary extensions process to enable the addition of outdoor seating and service in an expedited timeframe.

This action was a direct result of efforts by multiple levels of government in the past weeks. On June 1, 2020, Baltimore City Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young wrote a letter to Governor Hogan requesting that the Governor grant the BLLC the authority to waive fees associated with Temporary Outdoor Permit Extensions. The Office of the Mayor, following discussion with the BLLC Board and Executive staff, requested the ability to waive fees in order to augment the streamlined process the City recently created to allow licensed establishments flexibility and support to adapt to changing conditions during the Covid-19 crisis.

Chairman Albert J. Matricciani, Jr. stated, "We want to thank Mayor Young for his advocacy and Governor Hogan for granting the Board the authority to waive the Temporary Outdoor Permit Extension fees for our licensees." He explained, "Upon being granted this authority, the Board unanimously agreed to waive temporarily these fees throughout the duration of the State of Emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency. I would additionally like to thank all of our stakeholders for working together to make this process less burdensome and by providing financial relief to the licensed establishments of the City."

The BLLC has prepared guidance documents concerning temporary outdoor extensions and the process licensed establishments must follow, as well as a letter to our licensees for additional direction. To read the Governor's Executive Order, please <a href="click here">click here</a>. To access the BLLC guidance documents, please go to our website at <a href="lib.baltimorecity.gov">lib.baltimorecity.gov</a>. Please note that this additional guidance is only in effect for as long as the accompanying Executive Order remains in place.

Please view our website for additional information regarding agency matters: <u>Ilb.baltimorecity.gov</u>. Additional questions or concerns about this matter should be directed to Thomas R. Akras Deputy Executive Secretary at 410-396-4377 or <u>Thomas.Akras@baltimorecity.gov</u>.

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