

# BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

July 2019

## Licensee Highlights



Charm City Meadworks Owner James Boicourt.  
Photo courtesy Charm City Meadworks.

Charm City Meadworks recently became the first “meadery” in Maryland to receive a Class D Brewery License. This license allows Meadworks to serve products other than just their own within their taproom. This was made possible by a legislative change made during the 2019 Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

What does this change mean? As Meadworks’ owner James Boicourt stated, Meadworks now has the capacity to serve collaboration beers that it creates with other local breweries. According to Mr. Boicourt, Charm City Meadworks has been operating for 5 years and is the third largest meadery in the Country. The meadery’s main public entrance is located at 400 East Biddle Street in the Johnston Square neighborhood and is an active participant in the ReBUILD Johnston Square Association.

What is mead? Mead is an alcoholic beverage made from fermented honey and water. In related legislative news, prior to July 1, 2019, mead was considered to be “wine” in the State of Maryland. SB 596 in the 2019 General Assembly Session defined mead as “beer” for legal and tax purposes.

## Community Engagement Initiative Annual Summary

The Community Engagement Initiative FY2019 annual summary is now available on our website:

<https://llb.baltimorecity.gov/community-engagement-initiative>

The BLLC has engaged with over 113 associations across the City from July 2018 to June 2019. If you would like us to visit your association, please contact our Community Liaison at [matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov)

## Hearing Schedules

Want to know what’s coming up on the docket before the Board? The hearing schedule can be found on our website here:

<https://llb.baltimorecity.gov/hearings-schedule>

## Notice of Transfers

Each month, we also publish a list of applications for new licenses or license transfers, found here:

<https://llb.baltimorecity.gov/notice-of-transfers>

To receive the above notices by email, please email Kimberly Kerns at [Kimberly.Kerns2@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Kerns2@baltimorecity.gov)

## Community Questions

Each month our Community Liaison receives questions from neighborhood associations and business organizations across the City. In June of 2019, the BLLC visited 8 community associations, engaged with 251 people, and answered 35 questions from citizens on a wide range of topics.

A common question addressed to the agency regards what a community can do to work with a licensee on issues of concern. The answer to this question depends on the facts and circumstances of the issue. The BLLC recommends that citizens report concerns through 311 or direct communication with our staff so that inspectors may visit the location and assess the problems. We also encourage community associations or their representatives to directly communicate with the licensee. This allows all individuals to come together at the same table to work toward a positive outcome for the all stakeholders involved.

One possible outcome of a meeting with the licensee and the community is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a legal document between the two parties that can then be attached to the license. In many cases, MOUs can help with specific problems such as operating hours, type of products sold, and can result in a better experience for all stakeholders as well as encourage future cooperation.

**Fun Fact:** Maryland has its very own guide to growing hops within the State. Produced collaboratively by Flying Dog Brewing and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the guide examines agricultural reports and best practices. Find it here: <http://bit.ly/MDHopGuide>