

# BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

September 2024

## How to Find Out About Upcoming BLLC Hearings

BLLC publishes hearing dockets two weeks in advance of scheduled hearings. Upcoming dockets can be found [on our website](#) (*website screenshots below as a guide*).

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## Sign Up to Receive Email Notices from BLLC

If you do not currently receive BLLC emails when Hearing Schedules are published, please be sure to [send your email to Kimberly Kerns](#), BLLC Executive Assistant, and ask to be added to the distribution list.

## Monetary Penalty in Lieu of Hearing (MPLH) Program Launch

Maryland Alcoholic Beverages & Cannabis Article § 12-2105 permits the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) to offer as a compromise, a monetary penalty for certain violations in lieu of appearing before it at a hearing. This process is intended to ensure that violations are handled by the BLLC swiftly and transparently. The BLLC issued new Rules and Regulations to implement this program, posted those for a 30-day public comment period, and the program was officially enacted at the September 5<sup>th</sup> Board hearing. During the comment period, BLLC staff did extensive outreach with elected officials, other stakeholders, and a select group of engaged community leaders, to solicit feedback directly and discuss the new program. Throughout this process, changes were offered and accepted, and the final product reflects this extra level of engagement. A special thank you to all who participated and took the time to collaborate on this new program.

In brief, the MPLH program allows the Board to offer a monetary penalty for certain violations in lieu of a hearing. Licensees must be eligible for the program according to the type of violation and the licensee history, and to participate must admit guilt and pay the fine in a fixed 30-day period. Once a licensee participates fully, that violation is read into the record at the following public hearing and becomes part of the license record. [More info on the program, including rules for eligibility, and a breakdown of penalties, can be found here:](#) *The MPLH program will begin as an option for any violations issued on or after September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*

RULE	ELIGIBLE FOR PROGRAM	1ST VIOLATION	2ND VIOLATION
Rule 3.01 – Ownership and Operation	NO		
Rule 3.02 - Cooperation		\$500	\$1,000
Rule 3.03 – Records		\$300	\$600
Rule 3.04 – Keg Registration		\$150	\$300
Rule 3.05 – Alcohol Awareness Certification		\$300	\$500
Rule 3.06 – Signs and Hours of Operations		\$150	\$300
Rule 3.07 – Lighting		\$150	\$300
Rule 3.08 – Sanitation and Safety		\$500	\$1,000
Rule 3.09 – Rest Room Facilities and Health Regulations		\$500	\$1,000
Rule 3.10 – Communications		\$100	\$200
Rule 3.11 – Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages	NO		
Rule 3.12 – General Welfare	NO		
Rule 3.13 – Bottle Service <i>*Except subsections (3) and (4)</i>		\$500	\$1,000
Rule 4.01 – Minors	NO		

Above: a screenshot of part of the monetary penalty matrix for the MPLH program.

## BLLC In the Community

BLLC Community Liaison Matt Achhammer, along with other BLLC staff, routinely visits with community associations, BPD meetings, safety walks, and other events, to educate the public on BLLC activities and procedures. [Please don't hesitate to invite us to your meetings.](#)



Above: Recent events including BPD NE Commanders Meeting, Brewers Hill Neighbors Meeting, NW Safety Walk.