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STATE OF MARYLAND  
**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**  
FOR BALTIMORE CITY  
231 E. BALTIMORE STREET, 6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, 21202-3258  
PHONE: (410) 396-4377

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 4, 2017

Contact: Thomas R. Akras  
Telephone: 410-396-4377  
[Thomas.Akras@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Thomas.Akras@baltimorecity.gov)

**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONER RECEIVES GRANT FROM  
BEHAVIOR HEALTH SYSTEM BALTIMORE**

**Baltimore, MD** – On May 3, 2017 the Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) received authorization from the Board of Estimates to accept a \$24,000 grant from Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB). The grant allows the BLLC to expand its underage enforcement operations with the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office and ensure that Baltimore's 1249 liquor licensed establishments are conducting the proper identification checks of patrons, thereby prohibiting access to alcoholic beverages to individuals under the age of 21.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, by age 15 about 33 percent of teens have had at least 1 drink and, by age 18, about 60 percent of teens have had at least 1 drink. Further, in 2015, 7.7 million young people ages 12–20 reported that they drank alcohol beyond "just a few sips" in the past month. Thus, the prevention of underage drinking is an important part of the BLLC's enforcement efforts.

"We greatly appreciate the Behavioral Health System Baltimore's grant. This is the first time the Commission has ever received outside funding and it will help bolster our mission in ensuring licensees are following the law and preventing minors from obtaining alcohol. I look forward to the Commission's ongoing partnership with the BHSB," stated Chairman Albert J. Matricciani, Jr. He added, "I also want to thank Baltimore City Sheriff John W. Anderson's Office for partnering with the BLLC in this operation to ensure

that individuals under the age of 21 do not have ready access to alcoholic beverages. This is critical to the BLLC's agenda and the City's public health and safety efforts."

The BHSB serves as the local behavioral health authority for Baltimore City and works to increase access to prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery services to help build healthier individuals, families and communities. Crista Taylor, President and CEO of BHSB commented, "Underage drinking can lead to adverse consequences, such as car accidents, alcohol poisoning, and other health problems." Ms. Taylor added, "We appreciate our partnership with the Commission and our joint efforts to prevent underage drinking in Baltimore City."

Mayor Catherine Pugh said, "While in the State Senate, I served on the Maryland State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council and we worked to identify available resources and developed a comprehensive and coordinated method to prevent, intervene with, and treat drug and alcohol abuse in the State. I recognize the detrimental public health and safety impact underage drinking has in our neighborhoods." Mayor Pugh added, "I applaud the Commission and the Behavioral Health System Baltimore for this creative partnership which demonstrates that when like-minded organizations come together, our City benefits and grows stronger."

"As Council President, investing in our next generation has always been my top priority. My P.L.A.Y. campaign provides Baltimore's youth with a wide range of opportunities to strengthen their self-confidence, develop leadership skills, learn from positive role models, and be rewarded for their academic achievements. As we continue to promote these values, I acknowledge we must remain steadfast in enforcing our underage drinking laws and re-direct these youth to more productive activities, like the P.L.A.Y campaign and others," said City Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young. He added, "I thank the Commission and the BHSB for this alliance."

Interested persons seeking more information may contact the BLLC via phone at (410) 396-4377. Inquiries may also be sent via email to Thomas R. Akras, Deputy Executive Secretary (Thomas.Akras@baltimorecity.gov).

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