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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS REQUEST ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO
REVIEW RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT DUE TO CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES; CHAIR AUTHORIZES
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #7 CONCERNING EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENT FOR TESTIMONY**

Baltimore, MD – On Wednesday June 29, 2016, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) requested from the Attorney General's Office of the State of Maryland an Advisory Opinion on the constitutional validity of whether each license issued to a business must have at least one Baltimore City resident. In a letter addressed to the Attorney General's Office, Chairman Albert J. Matricciani, Jr. requested guidance on the issue in light of decisions by the Court of Appeals of Maryland which have cast some doubt upon the enforceability of such residency requirements for licensure within Baltimore City.

Specifically, Matricciani asked whether Baltimore City's residency requirement infringes upon an individual's "economic interests" in violation of Maryland's Declaration of Rights and the U.S. Constitution. The letter sent to the Attorney General's Office can be found [here](#). Matricciani added, "While it is the Board's mission to ensure that the health, welfare, and safety of the community are protected when enforcing liquor laws within Baltimore City, it must do so in accordance with the protections afforded to individuals by the Maryland State and U.S. Constitution." Accordingly, the BLLC was instructed by Chairman Matricciani to continue to renew and issue licenses following its past patterns and practices until the Attorney General provides a response to the agency.

Also today, Chairman Matricciani authorized Administrative Order #7, which requires all individuals who wish to have their testimony included in the evidentiary record for consideration by the Board in its decision, be present at the public hearing and testify under oath. In line with the letter to the Attorney General, Chairman Matricciani believes that this administrative order will add an additional measure of transparency to the public hearings. Matricciani

added, "There will be no under the table communications to the agency or licensee that will affect this Board's decision making concerning licensure. If individuals take issue with any application or violation before the Board, then such information should be presented in person, under oath, and on the record."

Interested persons can seek more information by contacting the office at (410) 396-4377 and inquiries can be sent by email to Thomas R. Akras, Deputy Executive Secretary (Thomas.Akras@baltimorecity.gov).

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