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BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS PUBLISHES ONLINE LIBRARY OF LICENSEE RECORDS COMING INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ACT OF 2014

Baltimore, **MD** – On August 1, 2016 the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) announced the publication of an Online Library that provides the general public and stakeholders with free access to its 2013-2015 records of all active licensed retail liquor establishments within the City.

In compliance with the Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2014 and Alc. Bev. Art. § 1-409, the BLLC created a digital record of the agency's documents related to all of its active licensed liquor establishments. Through this portal, community organizations, licensees, prospective licensees and the general public will have greater access to the agency's records. All of these documents, which cover license years 2013 – 2015, are now available at the BLLC's Online Library accessible from the Liquor Board's website:

http://llb.baltimorecity.gov/ A "How to Search the Online Library" document is accessible on the agency's website to assist all interested parties who wish to search the BLLC's records. *Please note that the Online Library application performs best using Chrome and Firefox browsers*.

The publication of the Online Library is the result of collaboration between the BLLC and the Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT). "Although the publication of this Online Library is long overdue, I think its distribution is an important step towards making the agency's activities more transparent to the public." said Chairman Albert J. Matricciani, Jr. "Upon being empaneled to the Board, we made publication of the Online Library a top priority," Matricciani continued, "I'm glad to see that the BLLC and MOIT put in the

extra effort over these past few months in order to come into compliance with a requirement of the Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2014."

The Online Library includes documents from 2013-2015 that cover the following areas, where applicable, of all active establishments regulated by the BLLC:

- Original and Renewal Applications
- Inspection Reports filed by inspectors for each establishment
- License issued to Licensees
- All supplemental documents filed with the BLLC concerning the establishment: (MOUs, letters of support/opposition, violation case files, etc.)
- One-Day licenses issued by the BLLC from 2013-2016 (This feature will be viewable by the Fall of 2016.

The Online Library contains scanned documents beginning with License Year 2013. Documentation that predates License Year 2013 can still be researched at the BLLC's offices or the Baltimore City Archives Division. Moving forward all documentation submitted to the BLLC will be scanned and uploaded to the applicable case file within the Online Library. Acting Executive Secretary Douglas K. Paige stated, "The BLLC will be conducting training throughout the month of August 2016 so that staff members have the capacity to review, scan, index, and upload documents into the Online Library." Paige further commented, "We are excited to offer this service and look forward to hearing from all stakeholders as to how to develop this tool to better suit their needs."

If 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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