

End of License Year Report – 2017-2018 – Board of Liquor License Commissioners

Throughout the 2017-2018 License Year (LY18), which runs from May 1 to April 30 of each year, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (Board) continued its efforts to ensure that agency operations were efficient, effective, and transparent to all stakeholders. The Board remains actively engaged in Mayor Catherine Pugh's violence reduction initiative and continues to collaborate with City and State agencies. Additionally, the Board attended numerous community association meetings, increased its inspection production, produced a revenue surplus in fiscal year (FY) 18 that exceeded FY17, increased the number of transfer/new application and violation hearings held.¹

This past year the Commission also experienced a change in its composition. On January 29, 2018 Mayor Catherine E. Pugh appointed Elizabeth A. Hafey to the Board to fill the term of outgoing Commissioner Dana P. Moore, who resigned from the Board in November of 2017 to become Deputy Solicitor of the Law Department for the City of Baltimore. On February 16, 2018 the Maryland State Senate confirmed Ms. Hafey's nomination to the Board.

During LY18, the Board continued to improve upon the processes and procedures put into place to address the structural and operational recommendations stipulated in the 2013 and 2016 Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) Reports.

Below are some of the efforts the Board initiated and implemented in LY18 to improve agency operations, increase transparency, and hold all stakeholders accountable for compliance with the law:

- In concert with the Attorney General's Office, Department of Human Resources for the City of Baltimore and OLA, the BLLC reviewed, amended, published, and distributed the agency's Standard Operating Procedures for 2018
- Continued to update the BLLC's On-line Library detailing all licensed establishments within the City.
- Continued to utilize data performance analysis (LiquorStat and AccountingStat) to monitor and improve inspection and administrative outcomes.
- Expanded the community outreach initiative by proactively scheduling and attending meetings with community associations, business groups, and other stakeholders
- Received a \$25,000 grant from the Behavioral Health Systems of Baltimore (BHSB) to conduct underage sting operations with the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office and Baltimore City Police Department at licensed locations across the City.
- Partnered with Police, Fire, and Health departments through the Social Club Taskforce to conduct proactive joint inspections and integrate enforcement resources to reduce violence as a component of the Mayor's Violence Reduction Initiative.

Due to the measures put into place by the Board, the agency has achieved the following results:

- Returned a \$560,000 surplus to the General Fund for FY17, which constituted an 18% increase over FY16 (\$475,000 returned to the General Fund in FY16).
- Increased number of Inspections Performed for LY18 (5222) over LY17 (4442) by 18%.
- Increased the number of new/transfer/hardship/expansion hearings held for LY18 (184) over LY17 (149) by 23%.
- Increased the number of violation hearings held in LY18 (123) over LY17 (86) by 43%.
- Increased conviction rate of licensees charged with violations from 94% (LY17) to 96% (LY18).

¹ Fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of each year.