

# BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

February 2019

## Happy Retirement!

### BLLC Agent John Howard



At the end of January, Agent John Howard retired from his work with the BLLC after 13 years with the agency, adding to his total of 43 years working for Baltimore City. The Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City and its staff would like to extend our best wishes and heartfelt gratitude for his work, service, and comradery. His presence will be missed and we wish him a very happy retirement. Thanks, Agent Howard!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

### Community Outreach Calendar

Our Community Liaison is scheduling for March, April, and May. [Email Matt at matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov) to have the BLLC come to your business or community association meeting.

## 2019 License Renewal

Every year, license holders are required to submit an application for renewal in order to continue operating for the new license year. The renewal period is from March 1 – March 31, and new licenses are issued for the license year which starts on May 1.

The BLLC website offers information and assistance on the renewal process, including the following documents:

- [Renewal Letter to Licensees 2019](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Renewal 2019](#)
  - [Application for Renewal 2019](#)
  - [License Fee List 2019](#)
  - [Food Form 46th District 2019](#)
- [Request for Previous Year Application Form](#)

## Community Questions – Protests of Renewal

Each month our Community Liaison takes questions from neighborhood and business Associations across the City. In January, we visited 8 associations, engaged with 162 people, and answered 22 questions from citizens on a wide range of topics.

A frequent question throughout the year, and more timely right now, is about the process known as a Protest of Renewal. As noted above, each year all licensees must submit a renewal application. By law, a protest can be filed against a license renewal after which a public hearing must be held to determine renewal.

*The BLLC staff has created a presentation* that will help walk community members through the process and highlight some of the most important considerations. [Please find it at this link](#), and use it as a resource.

### Some important notes and a brief summary of the process:

- The protest must be received by the BLLC or if mailed be postmarked by March 31, 2019.
- The protest of renewal must be signed by 10 individual signatories within immediate vicinity of the establishment. These can not be license holders or applicants for a license.
- At the public hearing, parties must present a case in a two phase process:
  - Phase one: The protest must be based on a specific complaint (violation, etc.) within the previous license year (May 1, 2018 to March 30, 2019).
  - Phase two: The Board will consider other evidence and must determine that there is “substantial evidence” entered into the record that merits non-renewal of the license.
- Research on a license can be done by calling our office at 410-396-4377, or using the online liquor license library: <https://llb.baltimorecity.gov/liquor-license-online-library>

**Fun Fact:** Maryland has 24 Counties or county-equivalents, including Baltimore City. Each County has its own unique way of approving and regulating licensed establishments. Some have liquor boards, some use the County commissions, others use their County councils.