

BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

February 2024

2024 CIAA Tournament



The BLLC would like to remind the public and our licensees about the CIAA Tournament being held in Baltimore from February 26-March 2, 2024. BLLC Inspections Division will be working across the City with other agencies to ensure safety and compliance of CIAA Related Permitted events. [More information about applying the Permit for CIAA Related Events can be found here.](#)

WE'VE MOVED! BLLC NEW OFFICE LOCATION

On Friday, February 16, 2024 the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) moved its offices to 200 St. Paul Place, Suite 2300, Baltimore, MD 21202, and will closed its office previously located at 1 N. Charles St., Suite 1500.

Effective Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. the BLLC opened for business to the public to conduct all regularly scheduled business at its **new offices located at 200 St. Paul Place, Suite 2300.**

[Read the official Press Release here.](#)

2024 BLLC License Renewal Begins March 1!

Every year license holders are required to submit a renewal application in order to continue operating for the new license year. The renewal period is from March 1 – March 31. New licenses are issued for the license year which starts on May 1 and ends April 30 of each year. Look for details and application materials on the BLLC website on March 1. (<https://llb.baltimorecity.gov/renewal>).

2024 Maryland General Assembly Session

In the past few weeks, BLLC staff has been asked by Delegates and Senators to testify on the impact of certain bills being considered. Recently, on Monday February 19th, Deputy Executive Secretary Michelle Wirzberger provided testimony in front of the House Economic Matters Committee on legislation such as [HB 1089](#) and [HB 1198](#). The Maryland General Assembly convened for the 2024 Session on January 10th. As you may know, State law guides the operations of the BLLC. Each session, new legislation is passed which may affect alcoholic beverage licensing in the City and State. To follow along with the 2024 Session, visit the MD General Assembly website at: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>



Above (left to right): BLLC Deputy Executive Secretary Michelle Wirzberger testifying alongside Deputy Mayor Justin Williams and 46th Dist. Del. Luke Clippinger, DES Wirzberger with Tom Akras, Director of Legal and Legislative Division of ATCC, Deputy Mayor Williams, and Mayor's Office of Govt. Relations Director Nina Themelis, and DES Wirzberger testifying alongside 40th District Del. Marlon Amprey.

Protest of Renewal Information

The BLLC has created a [presentation about the Protest of Renewal process.](#)

Additionally, the following resources may be helpful:

- Past Protest of Renewal hearings are archived on [Charm City TV's Citizens' Hub](#)
- [This archive](#) will correspond with the dockets for each hearing, in April of each year.

Some important notes and a brief summary of the Protest of Renewal process:

- The protest must be received by the BLLC or be postmarked by March 31, 2024.
- The protest of renewal must be signed by 10 individual signatories within immediate vicinity of the establishment. These cannot 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 (violations, etc., excluding zoning issues) within the previous license year.

---Phase two: The Board will consider other evidence and must determine that there is "substantial evidence" that merits non-renewal of the license.

[More information can be found on the BLLC website "Protests" page.](#)