

# BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

January 2021

## COVID-19 January Update

For the latest information, [view the COVID-19 section of our website.](#)

**Office Remains Closed to General Public:** Please remember, the BLLC requests that all applications, correspondence, and related materials be **mailed in to the office at 1 North Charles St., Suite 1500, Baltimore, MD, 21201.** Phone lines will remain open from 8:30am to 4:30pm each day, though no one will be available in person at the offices.

### COVID-19 Newest Restrictions

On January 21, 2021 the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) released guidance for Baltimore City's licensed establishments concerning Baltimore City Mayor Brandon M. Scott's Mayoral Executive Order Restricting Gatherings and Indoor and Outdoor Dining. To see a copy of the BLLC's guidance, please click [here](#). To see a copy of Mayor Scott's Executive Order and Phase One Flyer, please click [here](#) and [here](#). To see a copy of the Contract Tracing Restaurant Sign-In Sheet provided by the Baltimore City Health Department and Mayor Scott, please click [here](#).

### Virtual Hearings:

The BLLC held its first virtual hearing on May 7, 2020. All hearings are available for [viewing on CharmTV](#). The next hearing will be February 11, 2021, [click here for more information.](#)

## Community Engagement 6 Month Summary

The Community Engagement Initiative 6 Month summary (July 2020 to December 2020) is now available to view. Please [click here](#).

The BLLC engaged with 94 associations across the City from July 2020 to December 2020. Most visits are now happening virtually. If you would like us to visit your association, please contact our Community Liaison at [matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov)

## Maryland General Assembly In Session



The Maryland General Assembly convened for the 2021 Session on January 13<sup>th</sup>. State law guides the operations of the BLLC. Each session, new legislation is passed which will affect alcoholic beverage licensing in the City and State. To follow along with the 2021 Session, visit the MD General Assembly website at: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>

## New Deputy Executive Secretary, Inspector I

The BLLC welcomed new members to the team in January, and recognized the work of outgoing Deputy Executive Secretary Tom Akras for his tenure and exemplary contributions to the agency. Chair of the Board Albert J. Matricciani declared, "During my entire tenure as Chair of the Liquor Board, I've had the privilege of working with Tom. In my experience, Tom has been involved in all aspects of the operation and has done an outstanding job. We wish him well in his future endeavors."

The role of Deputy Executive Secretary will be filled by Mr. Nicholas Blendy, who comes to the BLLC having most recently served as Deputy Director of Government Relations under former Baltimore City Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young. Mr. Blendy holds a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law (2008) and is an admitted member of the Maryland State Bar. He has served in various local governmental positions including as Assistant County Attorney for Baltimore County (2019), as the Chief Legislative Officer for former Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz (2016-2018). "I'm excited to join the BLLC and look forward to serving the Board and the citizens of Baltimore City in my new role," Blendy said.

Additionally, the Liquor Board welcomed Ms. April Bennett-Burman as a Liquor Board Inspector I. Ms. Bennett-Burman comes to the BLLC with a history in corrections, most recently in her role as Correctional Officer Captain at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

## In Memoriam: Community Leader Ms. Joyce Adamski

The Board and Staff of BLLC wish to note the passing of Ms. Joyce Adamski and to honor her life and record of service to Baltimore. Ms. Adamski most recently served as the President of the Police Department's Southeastern District Community Relations Council (CRC), and as a Police Chaplain. She was very active in developing a strong and resilient community through partnerships with many different groups. Executive Secretary Douglas Paige remembers Ms. Adamski by noting "her integrity, commitment, and service to the community was beyond reproach. She will be dearly missed."