

BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

July 2021

COVID-19 July 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 Restrictions Lifted

Effective July 1st, both Governor Hogan and Mayor Scott have lifted all COVID-19 restrictions. Normal operations may now resume, and licensees should be aware of any efforts they must make to be current with licensing and permits.

The BLLC has issued guidance concerning the lifting of restrictions as well as the end of the Governor's Executive Order that lifted certain deadlines and dates. The guidance can be found [here](#). The Press Release can be found [here](#).

Members of the public or BLLC licensees may contact our office for further clarification or questions, as needed.

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 July 29th, 2021, [click here for more information](#).

BLLC Out in the Community

The BLLC staff has been out and about in recent weeks walking in many communities across the City in conjunction with the Mayor's Office and other City agencies such as the Main Streets program. These walks allow our team to visit licensed establishments, connect with community members, and hear concerns or praise for these establishments, as well as to address any issues that are observed while on the walk.

Executive Secretary Douglas Paige, Chief Inspector John Chrissomallis, and Community Liaison Matt Achhammer joined a few recent walks:

A Mayor's Safety Walk on Edmondson Ave. in West Baltimore going through the neighborhoods of Edgewood, Edmondson Village, and Allendale, in Council District 8; a walk organized by Main Streets on the 1500-1800 blocks of Pennsylvania Ave. in the Upton area; and another Main Streets walk in the Lauraville-Hamilton Main Streets area. Upcoming planned walks include a Mayor's Safety Walk in the Belair Edison area, as well as Main Streets walks in the Waverly Main Street and Pigtown Main Street areas.

If your community is holding safety or community walks in areas where there are licensed liquor establishments, please don't hesitate to invite us to join you on the walk, by emailing matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov with information and details.



Left to right: Mayor Scott addressing Safety Walk on Edmondson Ave., BLLC Executive Secretary, Chief Inspector, Community Liaison at Edmondson Ave. walk,, Main Streets walk in Upton on Pennsylvania Ave..

Community Questions

Each month our Community Liaison receives questions from neighborhood associations and business organizations across the City. This month, a community meeting focused on questions about live entertainment at an establishment and what is or isn't allowed. For questions about live entertainment, the answer may be very different for each specific case. Any licensed liquor establishment that wishes to provide live entertainment must seek to add this privilege to their license, and provide details and testimony through a public hearing process. The BLLC only authorizes live entertainment as it is set forth by the Baltimore Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA). Often, an establishment's zoning may have restrictions such as days and times or even locations of the live entertainment on the premises (inside or outside only, first or second floor only, etc.) and the permission may also be subject to any agreements with the surrounding community. If a licensed establishment has live entertainment, it will be listed on the license which should be publicly displayed at all times. As a reminder, citizens can use the [Liquor Board Online Database](#) for research on specific licenses, or can call our office at 410-396-4377 for more information or help in answering questions on specific cases.