

BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

March 2020

March 26, 2020 Hearing Canceled



The BLLC hearing scheduled for March 26th has been canceled. Individual cases will be rescheduled on a date to be determined. For more information, see [the Press Release here](#) or contact the BLLC offices with questions.

Resources for Licensees



The BLLC understands that these unprecedented times are difficult for our licensees. Licensees are encouraged to seek out help and resources from the State of Maryland and the Federal Government. The State of Maryland has created the [Maryland COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund for Businesses](#) as well as the [COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund](#). State businesses are also eligible for Federal Small Business Administration assistance. Links to these resources are on the [MD Business Express website, found here](#).

COVID-19 Updates

During the current COVID-19 health emergency, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) is committed to working with State and local partners to ensure compliance with the law and maintain the general safety, health, and welfare of communities. To that end, we adjust daily to the conditions and parameters put in place by State and City officials. BLLC continues to issue guidance in the form of letters and press releases to help our stakeholders understand how to comply with the Executive Orders. *Please note that the information in this newsletter is subject to change. We encourage you to check the BLLC website at llb.baltimorecity.gov for the most up-to-date information.*

New Office Procedures and Hours: Office closed to General Public

To ensure the safety of the general public and BLLC employees in light of Baltimore City Health Department recommendations regarding “social distancing” due to COVID-19, we have adopted the following new procedures:

Effective Monday March 23, 2020 the BLLC requests that all applications, correspondence, and related materials be **mailed in to the office at 1 North Charles St., 15th Floor, 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.

All materials received through these aforementioned policies will be reviewed for legal sufficiency and form. Copies of invoices for the receipt of any payment will be provided to licensees by mail. If any materials are deemed incomplete, licensees will be contacted via the contact information they have provided for further follow-up.

Operations of Licensed Establishments: As per Governor Lawrence J. Hogan’s most recent Executive Order, effective March 23, 2020 at 5:00pm, all non-essential businesses will be closed. This does not affect most of the BLLC licensed establishments, who should still follow the previous Executive Orders: all restaurants, bars, taverns, and other similar establishments within the State, including Baltimore City, shall cease and desist from selling food and beverages for on-premises consumption to the general public, operating for carry-out and delivery only.

On March 22, 2020, the BLLC **issued additional guidance** to licensed establishments in Baltimore City concerning carry out and delivery procedures for alcoholic beverage service. To see the list of guidelines, [please click here](#).

Extensions of time periods:

On March 20, 2020, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) decided to suspend the effect of all legal and procedural deadlines, due dates, time of defaults, time expiration, and periods of time as State law affecting renewal application deadlines and late fees, Protest of Renewal petitions, pending transfer applications, and other such matters effective March 12, 2020. To see a copy of the BLLC’s Press Release, [click here](#).