

# BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

November 2019

## In Your Community



October 19<sup>th</sup> 40<sup>th</sup> District Community-Wide Forum held at BCCC. (Picture courtesy BCCC.).

On Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at the invitation of Maryland State Senator Antonio Hayes of the 40<sup>th</sup> District, BLLC staff participated in the 40<sup>th</sup> District Community-Wide Forum “Turning Planning Into Action.”

Deputy Executive Secretary Thomas Akras and Community Liaison Matt Achhammer joined a panel which included Delegate Nick Mosby of the 40<sup>th</sup> District, Michelle Werzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs for the Baltimore Police Dept., Ms. Cassandra Griesen from the Baltimore Good Neighbors Coalition, and Mr. Mario Chang from KAGRO of Maryland.

The panel focused on how communities and licensed establishments can coexist in a safe and supportive manner. Other topics included how all stakeholders can work together to address problems in the community.

If you know of an upcoming forum in your Councilmatic or Legislative District, don't hesitate to invite us by contacting [Community Liaison Matt Achhammer](#).

## Special Sunday Licenses

As authorized by Alcoholic Beverages Article 12-2003(a)(1)(ii) and 12-2004(a)(1)(ii), a holder of Class "A" Beer & Wine License or Class "A" Beer, Wine & Liquor Licenses may request a Special Sunday License Privilege which allows the license holder to open the Sundays that fall between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day. The establishment may operate between the hours of 1pm and 9pm only and must conspicuously display the provided Special Sunday License. To view these, click on the link below: <https://llb.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Special%20Sundays%202019.pdf>

## YouTube Archives of Board Hearings

Did you know you can watch recordings of the Liquor Board hearings from all the way back to 2014? These videos are found on [CharmTV's Citizen Hub on YouTube](#). This archive is a great asset for anyone looking to come before the Board, from communities to licensees. Coupled with the [BLLC archived hearing schedules](#), you can find the type of case you are looking for (e.g. transfer, violation, protest, etc.) and see how different parties presented themselves before the Board.

## Community Questions

Each month our Community Liaison receives questions from neighborhood associations and business organizations across the City concerning licensed establishments. In October of 2019, the BLLC visited 10 community associations, engaged with 302 people, and answered 33 questions from citizens on a wide range of topics. The BLLC also participated in Mayor's Safety Walks in the Southwestern, Western, Northern and Northwestern Police Districts. The BLLC was also pleased to participate in the 40<sup>th</sup> District Community Wide Forum.

One common question the BLLC receives concerns how a community member or interested party can view files relating to a license that has been issued. Our online database (back online after the recent ransomware attack) is an excellent resource to find information on a licensed establishment. Files that can be searched and accessed include original and renewal applications, violation hearing results, inspector reports, and other supporting documents. For instructions on how to search and access the database, [use this link](#). To access the database directly, [use this link](#).

We are also asked how the agency conducts its underage sales enforcement efforts. The BLLC partners with the Baltimore Police Department to “test” whether or not a licensed establishment is checking ID and verifying the age of patrons. Using undercover police cadets, the underage task force conducts operations and cites establishments that serve minors. If a sale occurs, the BLLC charges the licensee, who is brought before the Board at a public hearing. Establishments that pass this test are acknowledged with a letter.

**Fun Fact:** The first six pack of beer was sold from National Bohemian (then based in Baltimore) during the 1940's. It is said the six pack was decided on since 4 was too few and 8 too many. ([Source](#))