

BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

October 2024

BLLC In Your Community

If your community association or civic group wants to learn more about BLLC and have questions answered by our staff, please reach out and contact Community Liaison Matt Achhammer – matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov, or 410-241-6525. We are happy to present at meetings or attend community safety walks, such as the walk we recently joined in the Belair Edison neighborhood, pictured below.



Above: Belair Edison Safety Walk with Association President Ms. Rita Crews. BLLC staff present: Deputy Executive Secretary Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Chief Inspector John Chrissomallis, and Community Liaison Matt Achhammer.

Sign Up to Receive Email Notices from BLLC

If you do not currently receive BLLC emails when Hearing Schedules are published, please be sure to [send your email to Kimberly Kerns](#), BLLC Executive Assistant, and ask to be added to the distribution list.

Reminder - Preventing Underage Alcohol Sales

The BLLC would like to remind all of our stakeholders, especially our licensees, that it is highly important to prevent the underage sales of alcohol. Licensees should work to make sure best practices are in place to prevent such sales, including, but not limited to: ID checks, ID scanners, signs and notices, and making sure all employees are appropriately trained or take an alcohol awareness course.

What should a community do if they suspect an establishment is selling to minors?

Anyone with such a concern should submit a 311 request as a “Liquor License Complaint,” and may also directly contact the agency. The BLLC has a special task force that works with Sheriff’s Department and Baltimore Police Department cadets in an undercover capacity to test whether an establishment is properly checking ID and complying with BLLC Rules and Regulations. If a licensed establishment sells to a cadet in these cases, the licensee is then brought before the Board for a public violation hearing, at which time community members may further testify to the impact of the violation.



October Underage Sales Operation Report

A recent example of one underage operation with the Baltimore Sheriff’s Department had the following results: 7 establishments tested across the South, Southeast, and Central parts of the City – 4 Failures, 3 Passes. Licensed establishments that failed the test will be brought before the Board for a violation hearing in the coming months. Those that passed receive a letter noting this, though they do not know when the operation may have occurred.

Halloween 2024: BLLC, City Agencies, Work to Prepare for Festivities

Every year, Halloween celebrations are hosted throughout the City, especially in areas with multiple licensed locations in close proximity, such as Fell’s Point and Federal Hill. As usual, the BLLC Inspection Division is working in collaboration with City agencies to prepare for these Halloween festivities. This year, there are two authorized Pub Crawls that will take place on Saturday, October 26th: Federal Hill-o-ween in the Federal Hill area, and the Baltimore Halloween Crawl in Fell’s Point. Under state law, *Pub Crawl* organizers must apply well in advance and follow guidelines in order to operate within the City ([Pub Crawl Permit](#) and [FAQ](#)).

The weekend before Halloween and on October 31st, BLLC Inspectors, Executive Staff, and the Community Liaison will be present across the City to ensure that establishments are checking IDs, mitigating noise levels, and engaging in smart crowd control so that communities are not negatively impacted by Halloween festivities involving liquor.

