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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR BALTIMORE CITY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR RETURN TO IN-PERSON HEARINGS AND PARTIAL REOPENING OF OFFICE TO PUBLIC

Baltimore, MD – On Friday, April 1st, 2022 the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) announced plans to resume in-person hearings beginning April 28th.

All BLLC Staff will report to the office each business day, starting on Monday, April 4th. Due to staffing limitations and capacity concerns, public access will be by **appointment only** until the end of renewal season on May 31st. Announcements will be made in the month of May announcing a general reopening without appointments, provided the COVID-19 pandemic trajectory remains positive.

Hearings will return to City Hall, Room 215, on April 28th for Protest of Renewal cases. Masks will remain required, and attendees will need to adhere to City Hall's entrance guidelines and policies, including presenting identification.

The following guidelines are in place to protect staff and public safety:

- BLLC Offices will remain *generally* closed to the public until after 2022 Renewals are processed (approximately May 31st).
 - *BLLC Offices are located in a non-City owned building and BLLC lacks the staff capacity to control crowd size in a manner that meets the safety standards outlined by Mayor Scott's Administration.*
- If a licensee or an attorney has **specific** questions about BLLC license file or application **other than a renewal application**, the BLLC Deputy Executive Secretary and Assistant Executive Secretary are available to meet **by appointment only**.
 - Please email Nicholas.Blendy3@baltimorecity.gov and Staci.Russell@baltimorecity.gov to request an appointment.
- The public remains on notice that correspondence may still be delivered daily via courier, United States Postal Service and there is also an approved and secured drop box outside our office entrance.

Chair Albert J. Matricciani, Jr. welcomed the changes, remarking, "We are pleased to begin the move to in-person activities, in a manner that protects the health and safety of our staff and the public. We hope to return to standard operations at the end of May."

If you have questions, contact Deputy Executive Secretary Nicholas Blendy at 410-396-4377, or Nicholas.Blendy3@baltimorecity.gov.

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