

End of License Year Report 2018-2019

Board of Liquor License Commissioners

Throughout the 2018-2019 License Year (LY19), which runs from May 1 to April 30 of each year, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (Board) improved its efforts to ensure compliance from its licensees with Federal, State, and Local laws. The Board continued participation in Mayor's Safety Walks and collaborated with other City agencies through the Social Club Task Force, leading to numerous violations, suspensions, and further investigations. The Board built upon its Community Engagement Initiative by creating and funding a Community Liaison position, connecting communities with our work on a City-wide basis, and adapting the reports and feedback from communities into the work of the rest of the agency. Additionally, the Board once again produced a revenue surplus for FY19, increased the number of violation hearings held, and furthered efforts to increase transparency through Standard Operating Procedures.

In 2019, Commissioner Aaron Greenfield was reappointed by the City Council President, confirmed by the MD State Senate, and continued to serve on the Board. Chairman Matricciani was sworn in for a continued appointment.

Below are some of the efforts the Board initiated and implemented in LY19 to improve agency operations, increase transparency, and hold all stakeholders accountable for compliance with the law:

- In concert with the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Human Resources for the City of Baltimore, and the OLA, the BLLC reviewed, amended, published, and distributed the agency's Standard Operating Procedures for 2019, including updates for the Community Engagement Initiative and Community Liaison Position.
- The Board updated the BLLC Liquor License On-line Library to reflect new and current license year data.
- The Board continued partnerships with Police, Fire, Health, and Housing Departments through the Social Club Task Force to conduct proactive joint inspections and integrate enforcement resources.
- In March of 2019, through a process involving multiple stakeholders, the Board published new Rules and Regulations for the operation of the Cross Street Market license.
- The Board increased the number of underage task force operations, which contributed to a 58% increase in violations from FY18 to FY19.
- BLLC staff, including the Community Liaison, Chief Inspector, and Executive Secretary, participated in over 25 Safety walks with the Mayor and other City agencies in neighborhoods throughout the City.
- Through the Community Liaison position, the Board connected with over 3,000 citizen stakeholders at over 120 association meetings.
- The Board created Community Stat to reflect the work of the Community Liaison and to measure performance and impact.
- The Board created and published a monthly Community Connection newsletter for distribution to stakeholders.
<https://llb.baltimorecity.gov/community-engagement-initiative>

Due to measures put in place by the Board, the agency has achieved the following results:

- Returned a \$476,115 surplus to the General Fund for FY19. In FY17, FY18, and FY19 the Board returned a total of \$1,559,263 surplus to the General Fund.
- Performed 4564 inspections in LY19.
- Increased the number of new/transfer/hardship/expansion hearings held for LY19 (203) over LY18 (184) by 10%.
- Increased the number of violation hearings held for LY19 (194) over LY18 (123) by 58%.