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STATE OF MARYLAND  
**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**  
FOR BALTIMORE CITY  
231 E. BALTIMORE STREET, 6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, 21202-3258  
PHONE: (410) 396-4377

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Thomas R. Akras  
Telephone: 410-396-4377  
[Thomas.Akras@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Thomas.Akras@baltimorecity.gov)

**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS CONDUCTS COMPLIANCE OPERATION WITH  
STATE AND CITY AGENCIES TO ENSURE UNLICENSED OPERATORS ARE SHUTDOWN**

**Baltimore, MD** – On October 7, 2016 the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) conducted a compliance operation with both State and City agencies to ensure an unlicensed operator could not run an illegal club to the detriment of the communities in Southeast Baltimore.

Upon receiving anonymous complaints from the community about the operation of an unlicensed establishment located at 1719 Eastern Avenue, the BLLC worked with the Maryland State Comptroller's Office, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Health Department, Police Department, and Fire Department to conduct an investigation into the establishment. Through their investigative and enforcement efforts these agencies were able to determine that a promoter was attempting to run a club without obtaining the necessary permits, licenses, or public approval before beginning operations.

Taking the lead, the BLLC issued a "Cease and Desist" letter to the unlicensed operator, informing the operator that if unlicensed activities were to occur that the operator could face criminal penalties. In addition, with the assistance of the aforementioned agencies, the BLLC conducted a sting operation at 1719 Eastern Avenue on October 7, 2016 to ensure that the unlicensed operator could not engage in any illegal activity.

"These 'fly-by-night' illegal operators can only be prevented through collaborative and proactive enforcement efforts by our citizens and public agencies. I want to thank the concerned citizens who contacted the BLLC and provided us with the information to initiate this investigation. I also want to thank all of the State and City agencies that worked with the BLLC to stop this illegal operator," said Chairman Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.

"I appreciate the proactive and coordinated effort made by all stakeholders, from concerned community members to City and State agencies, ensuring that we address these establishments that operate outside of the law," stated Senator Bill Ferguson who led the charge in bringing the parties together. He went on to say "I look forward to seeing the fruits of this continued partnership."

Matricciani added, "I encourage any citizen who believes that an unlicensed operator is attempting to run a club or restaurant in his or her neighborhood to call the City's 311 line or BLLC's Chief Inspector Mark Fosler at 410-396-4377 and report this allegation so that our agency can conduct a full investigation."

If interested, persons seeking more information may contact the BLLC via phone at (410) 396-4377. Inquiries may also be sent via email to Thomas R. Akras, Deputy Executive Secretary (Thomas.Akras@baltimorecity.gov).

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