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**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS HOLDS INAUGURAL EVENING SESSION
HEARING TO INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Baltimore, MD – On December 8, 2016, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) held its inaugural evening session hearing at City Hall. The purpose of the evening hearing was to ensure an additional opportunity for citizens and other stakeholders to observe and participate in the Board's work. At the hearing the Board ruled on cases ranging from an application for a new license to a violation of the BLLC's Rules and Regulations.

Chairman Albert J. Matricciani Jr. stated "Throughout the fall of 2016, the Board had the opportunity to meet with various community associations across the City to answer questions and discuss any concerns citizens had regarding the operation of the agency." He added, "An area of concern raised by residents across the City was the limited access for community engagement due to the Board's policy of holding day-time hearings." Matricciani concluded, "The Board decided to hold this inaugural evening session in order to accommodate this legitimate concern expressed by community leaders."

Commissioner Dana Moore stated, "It is the Board's intention to hold quarterly evening sessions during 2017 to increase the opportunities for engagement by the community." Moore said, "With increased accessibility to the BLLC's hearing schedule, communities around the City have greater opportunities to engage the Board on liquor licensing issues that affect their neighborhoods."

Commissioner Aaron Greenfield said, "The decision by the Board to hold this hearing was the direct result of listening to the citizen's concerns through our community outreach effort and responding with a plan of action." He added, "I look forward to further engagement with the residents of Baltimore on liquor licensing issues and I want to take this opportunity to thank Baltimore City Comptroller Joan Pratt and her staff for working with the Board to schedule our inaugural evening session."

Interested persons seeking more information or comments 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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