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**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**  
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**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS HOLDS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH EVENT  
FOR LIQUOR LICENSEES IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY, ALONGSIDE THE MAYOR'S OFFICE  
OF IMMIGRANT AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**Baltimore, MD** – On November 29, 2016, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs held an educational outreach event with licensees within the Latino community. The event was held at the Orleans branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The purpose of this event was to discuss and answer any questions or concerns from licensees regarding the expectations of ownership and operations.

A number of licensees within the Latino community were in attendance and participated in the event. The BLLC worked with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs to develop an agenda to address topics of interest which included:

- The Mission and Divisions of the BLLC
- The types of alcoholic beverages licenses that the BLLC regulates
- How to file a Transfer application for an alcoholic beverages license within Baltimore City
- How to file a New Class B application for an alcoholic beverages license within Baltimore City
- The Standards of Operation required by State law and BLLC rules and regulations

Chairman Albert J. Matricciani Jr. hailed the joint effort, stating "This initiative is a good example of government working proactively with the Latino community and those who own liquor licenses to provide information on how to improve their operations for the benefit of their community and customers." He added, "I hope and expect that this is the first of many educational outreach events conducted by our agencies in a mutual effort to engage various communities in the City of Baltimore."

In attendance that evening on behalf of the BLLC were Acting Executive Secretary Douglas Paige, Deputy Executive Secretary Thomas R. Akras, Chief Inspector Mark Fosler, Assistant Chief Inspector Tom Karanikolis, Inspector John Chrissomallis, and newly minted Inspector Andy Perez, the agency's first bilingual Spanish speaking inspector. Inspector Perez stated, "When I started as an Inspector in July of 2016 the Commission had already started community meetings. This Hispanic Outreach Initiative is an extension of that." Perez added, "With a number Latino licensees and a language divide, our mission was to bring the community together to make sure they understood the laws and knew I was available if they had questions. I think we succeeded on both fronts and look forward to continuing this relationship."

"I really appreciate the Commission and Mayor's Office holding this event," said, Carlos Cruz, owner of Carlos O 'Charlie's Sports Bar at 3508 Eastern Avenue. He went on "I now have a better understanding of how the liquor commission operates and who we can contact if we have any questions."

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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