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STATE OF MARYLAND  
**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**  
FOR BALTIMORE CITY  
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To: Honorable Council President Bernard "Jack" Young and Members of the City Council  
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Albert J. Matricciani, Jr., Chairman, Board of Liquor License Commissioners of Baltimore City

Date: January 29, 2018

Re: City Council Bill No. 18-0178  
Indoor Smoking – Hookah Lounges

The Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 18-0178 for the purpose of excepting hookah lounges from the City's indoor-smoking restrictions, subject to certain conditions; repealing two obsolete exceptions that have been preempted by more stringent State law and; as such, are invalid; and generally relating to the operation of hookah lounges.

While the BLLC neither supports or opposes the passage of this legislation, the intent of this bill is to create an exception to Baltimore City's indoor smoking prohibition for hookah lounges. This exception may have serious public health and safety implications, and thus the BLLC respectfully defers to the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Cc: Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office of Baltimore City