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STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
FOR BALTIMORE CITY
200 ST. PAUL PLACE, SUITE 2300
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-5994
PHONE: (410) 396-4377

October 29, 2025

Honorable Zeke Cohen
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 400
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: City Council Bill 25-0108 - Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation – Liquor License Board – \$454,415

City Council Bill 25-0108 provides a supplemental appropriation of \$454,415 to the Board of Liquor License Commissioners to cover the budget deficit experienced by the agency in FY 25. We know that it is our responsibility to function within the constraints of the annual budget provided to the agency by the Mayor and City Council. We take that duty very seriously.

In FY24 the agency experienced some difficulties in satisfying financial obligations through Workday. As a result of those complications, several invoices were not satisfied in FY24 but in FY25, which contributed to the overall deficit.

In addition, due to staff turnover at the time when the FY25 budget was due to be submitted, several items were inadvertently left off and/or under budgeted. Working closely with the agency's fiscal analyst we ensured that the FY26 budget better reflects the actual costs associated with providing the alcohol beverage licensing and enforcement services that the community and the City Council rely upon the agency to fulfill. We also instituted greater controls to ensure that purchasing and overtime allotment were conducted strategically and within the budget. As a result of these efforts, the current projection from Finance shows a fiscally responsible surplus of approximately \$150,000.

We humbly request that you approve this bill. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at michelle.wirzberger@baltimorecity.gov or 443-826-8739. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle B. Wirzberger".

Michelle B. Wirzberger, Esq.
Deputy Executive Secretary.

cc: Douglas Paige, BLLC Executive Secretary
Sophia Reid-Marsh, BLLC Accountant
Matt Achhammer, BLLC Community Liaison/Legislative Assistant
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations