

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



BOARD OF ETHICS  
OF BALTIMORE CITY

LINDA B. "LU" PIERSON, Chair  
AVERY AISENSTARK, Director  
626 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

July 21, 2017

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Fourth Floor, City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

**Re: Council Bill 17-0095 {"Public Ethics Law – City Board of Liquor License  
Commissioners – Conformance to New State Law"}**

You have referred Council Bill 17-0095 to the Ethics Board for its report and comments. As indicated in the Title to Council Bill 17-0095, the bill's purpose is to:


amen[d] the Baltimore City Public Ethics Law to comply with Chapter 519, 2017 Acts of the General Assembly, which subjects the members and employees of ... the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners ... to the restrictions and requirements of the Maryland Public Ethics Law ....

Chapter 519 amends the Maryland Public Ethics Law, effective October 1, 2017, to subject virtually *all* local liquor control boards and local boards of liquor license commissioners, including the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners, to the Maryland Public Ethics Law, subject to exclusive ethics oversight by the State Ethics Commission. (A copy of Chapter 519 is attached.) Thus, as of October 1, 2017, the City Public Ethics Law no longer will have any applicability to or jurisdiction over the City Board of Liquor License Commissioners.

Council Bill 17-0095, in turn, is purely corrective: It would simply amend the City Public Ethics Law, also effective October 1, 2017, to delete that law's then-to-be obsolete references to the City Board of Liquor License Commissioner, its officers and employees.

The Ethics Board respectfully requests your consideration and approval of this bill.

Very truly yours,



Avery Aisenstark

xc: Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

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