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Hon. Brandon M. Scott
President, Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Suite 400
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Council Bill 19-0173R - "Approval for the Exchange of a Class B-D-7 License to a Class A-7 License – License Moving Location from 604 South Exeter Street to 711 South Central Street"

President Scott,

I write to you today concerning City Council Bill 19-0173R, which was introduced by Councilman Zeke Cohen. If adopted this resolution would allow for the holder of a Class BD7 Beer, Wine, and Liquor (BWL) license, currently located at 604 South Exeter Street to apply with the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) to exchange said license for a Class A-7 BWL License for use at 711 South Central Street, upon approval by the Board and completion of a transfer application filed with the BLLC.

In 2018 the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) passed SB519, which allowed Class BD7 BWL license holders to exchange their licenses for a Class A-7 BWL license contingent upon passage of a City Council Resolution in support of the exchange. Only the holders of a Class BD7 BWL license prior to July 1, 2018 are eligible for such an exchange. In addition, the Board may not issue a Class A-7 BWL license after July 1, 2020.

The Class A-7 BWL license authorizes its holder to sell Beer, Wine, and Liquor at retail for off-premise consumption from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm 7-days per week. In 2019, the MGA passed HB637, which – effective July 1, 2019 – eliminated the prohibition on Class BD7 BWL license holders not located within a Planned Unit Development (PUD) in the 46th Legislative District from exchanging their licenses.

As such, Alc. Bev. Art. 12-902(c)(1), now allows the current holder of the Class BD7 BWL license located at 604 South Exeter Street and transferring to 711 South Central Street (Neither of these locations are in a PUD as per confirmation from the Mr. Matthew Desantis from the Baltimore City Planning Department on November 27, 2019) to exchange their Class BD7 license, which was issued prior to July 1, 2018, for a Class A-7 BWL license, contingent on the adoption of Council Bill 19-0173R. The BLLC has no objections to the adoption of this resolution.

If you have any other questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-396-4385.

Sincerely,


Thomas R. Akras
Deputy Executive Secretary