

# Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board)



# The BUZZ

## ***Not Just Another News Letter***

*The Buzz provides licensees and community members with industry updates, topics of interest and rules & regulations of the BOLC.*



**Terence Sheppard, Director**

### **OPERATION CLEAN CREATES AWARENESS**

Operation Clean was a Board of License Commissioners effort to ensure licensed alcoholic beverage establishments are operating within County and State standards regarding trash and debris on their premises, as well as an over abundance of signage on the property. The focus of this operation was to concentrate on liquor stores operating in Prince George's County. Liquor Inspectors were responsible for examining the premises and surroundings in search of trash, debris, and excess commercial or public display signs that were visible in the property's front window.

This effort was in collaboration with Prince George's County Growing Green With Pride Initiative which promotes beautification and keeping communities appealing in Prince George's County.

Establishments found to be non-compliant were given an opportunity to make corrections within 15 days. The operation was a resounding success which created awareness within the community.



### **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

#### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

License renewal season is quickly approaching. The main reason for delays in the renewal process is tax holds. Please be sure to resolve all tax holds before submitting your renewal packet. Below is a list of the renewal timeframes for all license classes. Do not wait until the final day to complete and submit your paperwork. Waiting until the last day does not allow you sufficient time to resolve any issues with your renewal. The office is extremely busy during the last week of renewal. If you come during that time, please be prepared for a lengthy wait.

- ◆ Class A Renewal Applications are due on or before March 1, 2023.
- ◆ Class B Renewal Applications are due on or before April 1, 2023.
- ◆ Class C and D Renewal Applications are due on or before May 1, 2023.

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION



On October 26, 2022, family, friends, and colleagues gathered to celebrate the achievements of the Board of License Commissioners' (BOLC) three (3) newest Liquor Inspectors. Kudos to Inspectors Clinkscales, Johnson, and Price of Session 002, whose names are added to the rank of Inspectors. During the graduation, the new Liquor Inspectors took their solemn oath to serve the Prince George's County community, uphold the Alcoholic Beverage Annotated Code of Maryland, and the BOLC's Rules and Regulations. Completion of the Liquor Inspectors training is a significant milestone in the new Inspectors journey. This training took approximately sixty (60) days to complete, and as part of their ongoing training cycle, the recent graduates have also completed a field training program where they were assigned to senior Liquor Inspectors.

With great pride, the BOLC welcomes Prince George's County's newest Liquor Inspectors as they begin their successful careers in the education and enforcement of alcoholic beverage laws. This training, coupled with their strong work ethics and personal character, will serve as a foundation in their ongoing service and pledge to the County.

The Liquor Inspectors who make up Session 002 are reflective of the BOLC's commitment to seeking individuals from all backgrounds who possess the necessary qualifications to serve Prince George's County's diverse and inclusive community.

Additionally, Inspectors Bowden, Carraway, Hamilton, North and Patterson of Session 001 received the Director's Certificate of Training. These Inspectors completed their training in 2020, however, due to COVID restrictions the BOLC was unable to celebrate their significant milestone.

Finally, Inspectors Bagby, Bowden, Glenn, North and Tredway were recognized as field training officers and received the Director's Certificate of Instructors in recognition of their compassion and commitment to the BOLC.

## TEAM BUILDING

“TopGolf”



**Who’s your Caddy?** It was fun a day on October 18, 2022, as the Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) staff participated in a team-building exercise, while supporting the community at one of its licensed establishments “TopGolf”. During this exercise, the staff discussed strategies and best practices for upcoming projects and assignments. In doing so, staff discovered that commitment and preparation for success is similar to preparing for a fun round of golf.

Below are a few golf lessons/tips:

- 1) How to grip the club properly,
- 2) Align and position your body to properly swing,
- 3) Scoring,
- 4) Make it FUN!!!

In perspective, this is similar to what we do as a team at the BOLC.

- ◆ With a firm grip on the Rules and Regulations of the Board, we process applications and inspect licensed establishments with extreme confidence.
- ◆ We align and position ourselves with the laws of the Annotated Code of Maryland and the expectations of Prince George’s County concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- ◆ We score each day when we have satisfied customers.
- ◆ Make it fun. Working with the citizens of Prince George’s County and local establishments helps build a sense of community within our workplace.

This was a day of fun for one and all. We are proud to be members of the BOLC team.

## FIND THE CURE

Breast cancer is currently the most common cancer globally, accounting for 12.5% of all new cancer cases worldwide. Of those cases, a significant portion are not discovered during early onset and have a higher risk of ending in fatality.



October serves as a time to spread awareness in an attempt to combat this phenomenon. The Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) supported Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink in the office throughout the month.

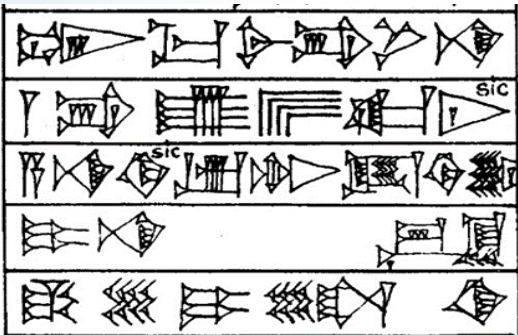
Additionally, our inspectors wore Breast Cancer Awareness ribbon pins while conducting inspections at licensed establishments. This effort was to show the BOLC’s support for this cause and those affected by this life-threatening disease. To anyone battling breast cancer, we stand with you and hope for a cure soon!

On September 21, 2022, staff from the Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) visited Shmidt Spirits, a distillery located in Beltsville, Maryland. The purpose was to have a behind-the-scenes look at how liquor is made. The owner, Arthur Shmidt, guided the staff through the distilling process from start to finish. The Individuals learned about the ingredients needed to make various liquors, as well as the fermentation, distillation, and barrel storage processes. Mr. Shmidt is quite knowledgeable about how liquor is produced, and the staff undoubtedly learned a lot from the tour.

## Taking The Lid Off



## THE HISTORIAN



*Rule 111 from Babylonia 1792 -1750 BCE*

Sale of Alcohol on Credit - The Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) does not allow the sale of any alcoholic beverages on credit. Rules and Regulations NO. 13 – SALES ON CREDIT: The only form of credit that a licensee, his agents or employees may accept for payment of alcoholic beverage is a bona fide and generally recognized credit/debit card.

This was not always how alcohol consumption on credit was enforced. Come take a journey to the past with the BOLC.

During the reign of Hammurabi in Babylonia 3,800 years ago, the rules were a little different. If you went to a bar and had a drink on credit, you were permitted to pay your bill after the harvest was collected.



# KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW

## NEW OR UPDATED POLICIES

The Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) serves a quasi-judicial function in administering and enforcing the Alcoholic Beverage Laws of the State of Maryland and the Rules and Regulations of the BOLC. Over the past few months the BOLC drafted new and revised several Rules and Regulations that have been approved. Below is the list of new/revised Rules and Regulations:

***RR #44—Residency Requirements***

***RR #56—Death of a Licensee***

***RR #81—Special Sunday Off Sale Permit***

***RR #83—Alcohol Awareness***

***RR #86—Conversion (NEW)***

To download the new Rules and Regulations you may go to the BOLC website at [www.bolc@mypgc](mailto:www.bolc@mypgc) or contact our office at 301-583-9980.

## COMPLIANCE: IT'S THE LAW

Pursuant to Sections 6-304 and 26-2707 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, a licensee or any of his/her employees or agents, may not sell, serve, furnish or allow the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverages at any time to any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years.

During the 2022 calendar year, the BOLC conducted underage compliance check on a small percentage of licensed establishments. Forty-nine (49) businesses passed the compliance check by verifying the underage purchaser's age and refused to sell alcoholic beverages to minors.

## FACT CHECK

### R.R. NO. 5 – SALES TO INTOXICATED OR DISORDERLY PERSONS:

Licensees, his/her agents, or employees may not knowingly sell or furnish alcohol to anyone who is disorderly in conduct or is a habitual drunkard or with an intellectual disability or to any person whose parent, guardian, husband, wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, partner or other person with a substantive relationship has given notice in writing to the licensee explaining why the person should not be sold or furnished alcoholic beverages.