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BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
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TO: The Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Deputy Executive Secretary

RE: House Bill 1293 Baltimore City – Office of the Sheriff – Neighborhood Services Unit

DATE: February 25, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee, please be advised that the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City Supports House Bill 1293.

If enacted, House Bill 1293 would officially establish the Baltimore City Sheriff Office's (BCSO) Neighborhood Services Unit. This unit would centralize much of the services already being performed by the BCSO to ensure proper chain of command and management of these functions.

Starting in 2022, after the change in Sheriff's administration, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners and BCSO have worked diligently to expand and strengthen their collaborative effort to ensure the public's safety in and near liquor licensed establishments. The agencies have done this by regularly engaging in joint operations to charge those licensees engaging in alcoholic beverage sales to minors, hold licensees accountable for compliance with established law relating to Class "BD7" tavern licenses and promptly address public consumption of alcohol. House Bill 1293 would sanction the development of an MOU wherein the agencies could clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of these and other initiatives.

This bill will allow for an expanded partnership which will further allow the agencies to protect communities against nonviolent criminal activity and nuisance behaviors that can be associated with liquor licensed establishments. Therefore, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1293.