FACTS WORTH NOTING:

- THE HARFORD COUNTY LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD (“BOARD”) IS COMPRISED OF FIVE (5) COMMISSIONERS INCLUDING ONE (1) CHAIR AND ONE (1) VICE CHAIR

- COMMISSIONERS ARE NOMINATED BY THE HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO THE HARFORD COUNTY DELEGATION TO THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH DELEGATION IN TURN APPROVES OR REJECTS THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S NOMINATION

- ONCE APPROVED BY THE DELEGATION, COMMISSIONERS ARE THEN CONFIRMED IN THEIR NOMINATION PROCESS BY THE HARFORD COUNTY COUNCIL
THE BOARD:

- EACH INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONER SERVES A CONSECUTIVE THREE (3)-YEAR TERM AND MAY BE REAPPOINTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

- TERMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS ARE STAGGERED IN RELATION TO ONE ANOTHER IN ORDER TO AVOID THE TOTAL TURNOVER OF THE BOARD EVERY THREE (3) YEARS
BOARD ADMINISTRATION:

- THE BOARD CURRENTLY HAS A STAFF OF FIVE (5) MEMBERS:
  - ADMINISTRATOR (AND BOARD COUNSEL)
  - INSPECTOR
  - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
  - SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR
  - ACCOUNTANT
BOARD DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- BOARD PERSONNEL OVERSEE THE DAILY ADMINISTRATION OF APPROXIMATELY 205 ACTIVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES (“LICENSES”)

- EACH OF THE LICENSES RENEWS EACH LICENSING YEAR (MAY 1 – APRIL 30) FOR THE PERIOD OF THE APPLICABLE ACTIVITY AND PROCESSES FOR RENEWAL PURPOSES AT THE SAME TIME EACH YEAR (FIRST QUARTER OF THE CALENDAR YEAR)
BOARD DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (CONTINUED):

- The Board primarily distinguishes between such licenses by class so as to distinguish by and between the type of alcohol (beer / wine / liquor) allowed thereby as well as the nature of the associated privilege (on-sale and/or off-sale)
BOARD DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (CONTINUED):

- Board personnel also oversee the daily administration of approximately 615 natural persons (affectionately known as “heartbeats”) and business entities all of which serve as alcoholic beverage licensees (“licensees”)

- Licensees are most commonly liquor stores (Class A), bars/restaurants (Class B) and clubs (Class C) but now include such diverse non-traditional opportunities as Harford Community College, (Class CC) and Horizon Cinemas in Fallston (class MT)
MORE ABOUT THE BOARD:

- The Board was created and is governed by State statutes so as to administer the same through its own Board Rules and Regulations.

- Those State statutes used to be set forth by Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland – that was however repealed and recodified as the Alcoholic Beverages Article effective 1 July 2016.
THE BOARD (CONTINUED):

- IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NOT ALL LIQUOR CONTROL BOARDS ARE CREATED EQUAL

- THE BOARD OPERATES MOST SIMILARLY TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD

- HOWEVER ALL COUNTY AND/OR CITY LIQUOR CONTROL BOARDS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND DO SERVE IN ASSOCIATED (PARALLEL) ENFORCEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND STATE COMPTROLLER, FIELD ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
THE BOARD (CONTINUED):

- The Board is a hybrid, quasi-governmental agency which is neither Maryland State nor Harford County Government in nature.

- The Board in turn receives no funding whatsoever from either the State or the County Government.

- The Board is instead funded through license-related fees and fines received from proposed and actual licensees.
BOARD HEARINGS AND RELATED MATTERS:

- The board collects fines and imposes associated penalties upon licensees for various violations of the Alcoholic Beverages Article and/or the board’s associated rules and regulations via administrative proceedings before the board known as “show cause hearings”

- Licensees may appear pro se or with counsel for the purposes of such hearings

- Licensees may appeal certain decisions of the board by filing a petition for judicial review with the Circuit Court for Harford County in a timely manner
BOARD HEARINGS AND RELATED MATTERS (CONTINUED):

- The board most commonly hears matters involving service of alcohol to persons under the legal drinking age of 21 (underage drinking).

- Such cases usually arise from compliance testing operations which are conducted in cooperation with and support from the Maryland State Police.

- Other problem areas of enforcement most commonly include over-service of alcohol (service to intoxicated persons).
MYTH BUSTERS FROM THE BOARD:

- THERE IS NO B.Y.O.B IN HARFORD COUNTY --- ISSUES RELATED TO LOCATIONS AND/OR EVENTS WHERE B.Y.O.B. OCCURS ARE SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT BY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE STATE COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE

- B.Y.O.L. EVENTS ARE HOWEVER PERMITTED WHEN PROPERLY ADVERTISED IN ADVANCE IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN ONE (1)-DAY (PER DIEM) LICENSES ISSUED TO LEGITIMATE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- NOT ALL PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES REQUIRES A ONE (1)-DAY (PER DIEM) LICENSE --- PRIVATE, INVITATION-ONLY AND/OR FREE EVENTS SUCH AS WEDDING RECEPTIONS OR COMPANY PARTIES ARE EXAMPLES OF SAME
MYTH BUSTERS FROM THE BOARD (CONTINUED):

- THE BOARD DOES NOT GENERALLY REGULATE MARYLAND BREWERIES, WINERIES AND/OR DISTILLERIES (EXCEPT FOR CLASS DBR IN RE: BREWERIES)

- STATEWIDE CATERERS VIA STATE COMPTROLLER AND MOBILE CATERERS VIA BOARD MUST CATER BOTH ALCOHOL AND FOOD (NOT NECESSARILY “SOUP TO NUTS”)
QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR CURIOSITIES ???

THANK YOU!