

Update on the Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) for Baltimore City Corrective Action Plan

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During the September 10, 2013 Joint Audit Committee meeting, the Office of Legislative Audits was asked to review the BLLC's Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and determine whether the intended actions address our March 2013 report.

We have reviewed the plan and have concluded that the actions specified in the plan address the report recommendations. The implementation timelines for most recommendations, particularly those relating to establishing policies for licensing and inspections activities, have target dates of April 2014 – June 2014.

We recently met with Mr. Paige, BLLC's Acting Executive Secretary, and have concluded that some progress has been made. For example, certain interim processes have been implemented to provide some management oversight of the licensing, inspection and complaint investigation processes.

However, BLLC's efforts to meet the CAP target dates may be hindered by vacancies at the management level. Mr. Paige is effectively the only management employee at BLLC. The necessity of addressing daily operational matters has diverted attention away from drafting and finalizing standard operating procedures, and establishing appropriate oversight functions.

It is our understanding that the hiring an Executive Secretary and other management positions is a priority and that Baltimore City government is assisting in several ways, such as developing an information system for the inspection process.

In summary, while some actions have been taken, significant work remains. The CAP implementation dates may not be realistic due to management vacancies. The Committee has requested that BLLC provide an update on its progress by January 1, 2014, which would give the Committee the opportunity to evaluate any additional actions it may wish to take.