



June 16, 2017

Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City  
231 E. Baltimore Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the board of directors and membership of the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association, I would like to convey our community's deep concern with the underage drinking and subsequent violent crimes that occurred at Banditos Bar and Kitchen on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This dangerous and illegal behavior impacts not only the patrons of Bandito's and other neighborhood businesses; it is also detrimental to the quality of life and reputation of our community.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, Banditos' co-owners Drew Dunlap and Sean White met with our board to discuss the event and subsequent actions they have taken to better safeguard their patrons and the community at large. We were encouraged to learn Banditos is now contracting with a new, better-vetted security firm and are also utilizing ID scanners. They are reaching out to other Federal Hill bars and restaurants in an attempt to collaborate on ways to enhance overall security in the area. They are working with Major Ward and the BPD on ways to remediate unsafe conditions and are considering employing off-duty police officers to actively monitor streets around the establishment on the weekends when crowds are heaviest and trouble is more likely to occur.

We appreciate that Messrs. Dunlap and White took the time to speak with us. We are encouraged with the progress they have made and will hopefully continue to make in the name of public safety. We feel the hiring of off-duty police officers is a key step in the process.

Our request is simple. Banditos needs to be held accountable for the violations that

allowed this incident to occur. The owners need to follow through with their plans for significant upgrades to public safety. The responsibility of curbing underage drinking and illegal activity involves relatively modest tasks (carding, counters, scanners), while the cost of not doing them can be extremely high as we witnessed the morning of May 12<sup>th</sup>. If changes are not implemented as promised, consequences should be significant.

Finally, we firmly believe that the liquor board and other city authorities need to step up to the level of watchfulness and enforcement that are exercised on these issues by other cities of similar size. Without this accountability, it is just a matter of time before we are faced with another violent episode.

Respectfully yours,

*elizabeth whitmer*

Beth Whitmer

President

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association