

## CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT Economic Development Department

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Charles County Commissioners Charles County Government 200 Baltimore Street La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Commissioners,

The Departments of Economic Development and Recreation Parks and Tourism are writing to express our strong support for the legislative request put forth by the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs to amend the current Charles County stadium liquor license (AB 18-1001) to permit the sale and consumption of all alcoholic beverages, including liquor, throughout the Regency Furniture Stadium. This amendment will enable the Blue Crabs to expand their offerings and enhance the fan experience, aligning with trends in other modern ballparks, such as the recently opened stadium in Hagerstown, MD.

As you may be aware, customer preferences have evolved in recent years, with fans increasingly favoring a wide variety of beverages, including mixed drinks, canned cocktails, and other innovative combinations. The ability to offer these options is not just a matter of convenience, but a significant opportunity to enhance the overall experience for patrons of Regency Furniture Stadium, making it a more attractive and competitive venue for hosting a wide range of events.

The success of the new ballpark in Hagerstown, which boasts several outdoor group gathering areas, including fullservice bars offering beer, wine, and mixed drinks, demonstrates the growing demand for such amenities. The "Summit Social" in left field, essentially an outdoor bar and restaurant, has become a popular attraction, showcasing the value of offering a more diverse range of beverages in a modern, flexible setting.

The Southern Maryland Blue Crabs are committed to developing similar open group-gathering areas within Regency Furniture Stadium, which would not only elevate the fan experience but also drive significant economic benefits for both Charles County and the broader region. By securing the necessary liquor license and permits, the Blue Crabs will be able to attract more visitors, boost revenue, and further support the local economy by prioritizing the purchase of locallyproduced beer, wine, and spirits.

To achieve this goal, the Blue Crabs require the support and approval of the Charles County Board of Commissioners, the County Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board), and ultimately, the Maryland State Legislature. The requested amendment to the stadium liquor license is straightforward: modify the language in section (c)(3) of AB 18-1001 to include "liquor" and remove restrictive language that currently limits alcohol sales within the stadium. This change will align Regency Furniture Stadium with other similar venues and allow for a seamless, enhanced experience for all attendees.

We strongly urge you to consider and support this legislative request, which will play a crucial role in ensuring the continued success and growth of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, as well as contribute positively to the local economy and community.



10665 Stanhaven Place, Suite 206 | White Plains, Maryland 20695 Maryland Relay: 7-1-1 (TDD: 1-800-735-2258) Equal Opportunity Employer www.MeetCharlesCounty.com Thank you for your time and consideration. We are confident that with your support, we can make Regency Furniture Stadium a premier destination for sports and entertainment in the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Kelly Robertson-Slagle (Sep 9, 2024 14:13 EDT)

Kelly Robertson-Slagle (Sep 9, 2024 14:13 EDT) Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Director (EDD)

Kelli Beavers Kelli Beavers, Director(RPT)

## 2016

Final Audit Report

2024-09-09

Created:	2024-09-09 (Eastern Daylight Time)
Ву:	Lacey Herbert (HerbertL@charlescountymd.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAApzx9PcDypDDc-Yaj11bi_yuHunHo04Vt

## "2016" History

- Document created by Lacey Herbert (HerbertL@charlescountymd.gov) 2024-09-09 - 2:09:35 PM EDT
- Document emailed to Kelly Robertson-Slagle (slaglekr@meetcharlescounty.com) for signature 2024-09-09 2:09:41 PM EDT
- Email viewed by Kelly Robertson-Slagle (slaglekr@meetcharlescounty.com) 2024-09-09 - 2:13:41 PM EDT
- Document e-signed by Kelly Robertson-Slagle (slaglekr@meetcharlescounty.com) Signature Date: 2024-09-09 - 2:13:58 PM EDT - Time Source: server
- Document emailed to Kelli Beavers (beaversk@charlescountymd.gov) for signature 2024-09-09 - 2:14:00 PM EDT
- Email viewed by Kelli Beavers (beaversk@charlescountymd.gov) 2024-09-09 - 2:25:56 PM EDT
- Document e-signed by Kelli Beavers (beaversk@charlescountymd.gov) Signature Date: 2024-09-09 - 2:26:26 PM EDT - Time Source: server
- Agreement completed. 2024-09-09 - 2:26:26 PM EDT

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