March 20, 2020

As you may know, yesterday Governor Hogan issued the attached Executive Order to allow restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries and distilleries to deliver alcoholic beverages, exempting state law during this period of emergency. We are the only county in the state which has their own liquor laws and Talbot County’s liquor laws pre-empt state law to the extent that state law is inconsistent with our local laws. We wish to support the business community during this time of crisis to ensure that Talbot County liquor license holders can take advantage of the opportunities granted by the Governor’s Executive Order.

Therefore, by this letter we grant authority to Talbot County liquor license holders who serve food to sell alcoholic beverages as a part of their carry-out and delivery services for so long as the Governor’s Executive Order is in effect under the following conditions:

1. They have a current local liquor license and, before this emergency, sold food on premises;
2. The person who delivers the alcohol must be over the age of twenty one (21) and have completed alcohol awareness training/TIPS, as required under current law;
3. Deliveries/carry out for alcoholic beverages should only occur during the hours allowed for alcohol service under your Talbot County liquor license;
4. The alcoholic beverage must be served in a container that is sealed; and
5. All other laws related to the service of alcohol to the public remain in effect.

Breweries, wineries and distilleries can deliver as allowed under the Governor’s Executive Order and their state license.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Liquor Board office by phone at 410-770-8019 or by email through the Board Secretary, Patricia Finneyfrock, at pfinneyfrock@talbotcountymd.gov

Sincerely,
COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY

Corey W. Pack
President

CWP/swm