



**LOCAL BILL MC 20-17:
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - CLASS A LICENSES**

LOCAL BILL HEARING

DECEMBER 7, 2016

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC") **supports MC 20-17**, which authorizes the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners to issue a second Class A alcoholic beverages license to an individual that already holds a Class A license issued by any board of license commissioners in the State. The license may be used in Montgomery County by that individual, a partnership, a corporation, an unincorporated association, or a limited liability company.

When businesses succeed, our community prospers. At the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), our goal is to accelerate the success of our members. To that end, MCCC supports efforts that seek to update Prohibition-era laws and regulations related to the wholesale distribution and retail sale of alcoholic beverages in Montgomery County. We believe that MC 20-17 addresses one of the many concerns with the current system by granting one additional license in Montgomery County to a Class A license holder.

Total Wine & More is a member of MCCC. We are delighted that they recently relocated to a larger location in Bethesda as they continue to oversee their tremendous national growth and success from their headquarters here in Montgomery County. As they grow nationally, they are adding jobs right here in Montgomery County. But due to an archaic State law, they are unable to operate a store in Montgomery County.

This bill allows retailers like Total Wine & More to expand modestly by adding one additional store. A second location for a store means new jobs, new orders, more economic activity. The bill does not guarantee every license holder an additional store, only those who apply and are granted an additional license.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report on MC 20-17**.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

Gigi Godwin, President and CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800 Rockville, MD 20850
301-738-0015
www.montgomerycountychamber.com