



## ***News Release***

**Department of Labor & Economic Growth  
Michigan Liquor Control Commission**

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**Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor  
Keith W. Cooley, Director**

### **Liquor Control Commission Chairperson Samona Speaks at Michigan Local Government Management Association Winter Institute**

*Outlines Licensing Issues at Local Level*

**February 5, 2008** – Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) Chairperson Nida Samona recently spoke with city management professionals and township authorities from across the state on the topic of responsible alcohol licensing and economic development/redevelopment areas. Her presentation was to the Michigan Local Government Management Association which held a conference in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Chairperson Samona described her presentation as, “a blend of education and background information about the Commission and the role it plays as a licensing and regulatory agency with a focus on responsible economic improvement initiatives.”

Samona said, “A misconception exists that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission is solely a strong-arm-of-the-law type agency when we do so much more to promote responsible, successful business opportunities!”

One of Samona’s goals for 2008 is to get the word out about the cooperative development programs that the Commission partners on with industry representatives, local government officials and other state agencies in order to promote responsible alcohol consumption, accurate licensing and prevention of service or sales to minors.

“By the end of 2008 people will know a lot more about this Commission,” Samona said.

A great deal of the discussion was pertaining to economic development approaches and the Development District Authority (DDA) provisions outlined in the Michigan Liquor Code, specifically MCL 436.1521a (1)(a) and MCL 436.1521a(1)(b), which created additional licenses for cities that have redevelopment project districts and for those communities that have an established development district under certain sections of the Michigan Liquor Code.

The Development District licenses go hand-in-hand with Governor Granholm’s Cool Cities initiatives and were written to allow cities to enhance the quality of life for their residents and visitors to their communities. Many leaders feel these licenses, permitted in addition to those allowed by population quota standards, will stimulate economic growth, create jobs and encourage entrepreneurs to open new businesses.

To learn more about the conference and other events scheduled for 2008 with the Michigan Municipal League visit: <http://www.mml.org/events/> .

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