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*STATE OF MARYLAND*  
**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
*ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

**June 3, 2020**  
**10:06 a.m.**

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# PRESENT

## **HONORABLE BOYD RUTHERFORD**

Lieutenant Governor

## **HONORABLE NANCY KOPP**

Treasurer

## **HONORABLE PETER FRANCHOT**

Comptroller

## **JOHN GONTRUM**

Secretary, Board of Public Works

## **ELLINGTON CHURCHILL**

Secretary, Department of General Services

## **DAVID BRINKLEY**

Secretary, Department of Budget and Management

## **GREG SLATER**

Secretary, Department of Transportation

## **JEANNIE HADDAWAY-RICCIO**

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

## **MIKE LEAHY**

Secretary, Department of Information Technology

## **JIMMY RHEE**

Special Secretary

Office of Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs

## **LISA GRIGSBY**

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## PROCEEDINGS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Good morning, everyone. Welcome back to today's virtual Board of Public Works meeting. As you all know, we started this with the coronavirus pandemic and making sure that we're all exercising physical distance. I don't want to say social distance because we're still sociable, just physically distant. But I do want to give a quick update from the Department of Health with regard to cases of coronavirus in the State of Maryland.

We are now up to 54,982 cases. That's an increase of 807 positive diagnoses since yesterday, or I should say through yesterday. Unfortunately, we've had 45 additional fatalities and that raises that total of confirmed deaths associated with COVID-19 to 1,519. As reported earlier, we greatly increased our testing capacity and are pleased to see a consistent downward trend with regard to hospitalizations. Since April 30th, overall COVID-related hospitalizations are down 35 percent, and a decrease in ICU patients of 20 percent. And so I don't want these encouraging statistics to change the perspective. You know, we understand, and I think most people remember, that in early April, late March, we were facing a dire picture. There were projections and models that were showing that we might see 4,100 or more deaths in the State and that we needed 6,000 beds, additional, I should say additional hospital beds and close to 1,800 ventilators. And as you

remember, we were at that time witnessing what was going on in New York City and what was happening in Italy. And the data was suggesting that we were just a couple of weeks behind those places.

Now, fortunately, you know, thanks to the determination of our fellow Marylanders, and of course the grit of our first frontline healthcare workers, we've been able to flatten that curve. And so we're in a position that we can begin to, you know, reopen the State slowly and cautiously, to you know, get people back to work and get production working and get back to some, maybe a new form of normal, at least for a period of time.

Now, unfortunately, you know, America has witnessed the tragic murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis, a Minneapolis police officer. And like the rest of the country, you know, I watched over the course of this past weekend, where thousands of people came together to protest that senseless killing and the racism that even now, in 2020, exists just under the surface in many institutions and in some that are meant to protect American citizens, just as it is in the larger society.

But I want to be clear that I have the utmost respect for our honorable men and women in law enforcement, who go to work every day to serve and protect our communities. A few fortunate, you know, I feel fortunate, I should say, to count a number of these men and women as friends, as well as family

members. And in my position as Lieutenant Governor, I have the privilege, the immense privilege, of having some dedicated State Troopers from the Maryland State Police that protect me. And I'm incredibly grateful to them, not only for their service to the State and to me, but also the positive relationship and the friendships that we've developed, that we enjoy, not only between myself and them but also my family and their families as well.

Unfortunately, though, there are too many men and women across the country that look just like me who instead of feeling safe and protected when they see a law enforcement officer, they feel anxious. And in some cases afraid. And while I know that there are thousands of hardworking and dedicated and caring law enforcement officers across the country doing great things in their communities every day, that positive work can be overshadowed in an instant by those who will abuse their power and authority that they have received by having a badge and uniform.

So as I said earlier this week, I stand with every man and woman across this great nation who has condemned the indefensible murder of George Floyd and any innocent people who have died at the hands of such injustice. In so many ways, we're at a turning point in our nation, unlike any that we've experienced before, or at least in my lifetime. And it's time for all of us, no matter what our race, age, gender, or creed is, to look deeply within ourselves to

acknowledge that there is work to be done, work that must be done so that our nation may finally live up to the ideals of our founding and ensure life and liberty for every American once and for all.

Now as most people know, I was born in Washington, D.C. only three years after *Brown v. Board of Education* and the *Bolling* decision. I was raised there and in my early years, segregation was still common. As a teenager, I experienced disparate treatment at the hands of law enforcement, I would say not necessarily with D.C. Police, but in Prince George's County. And it was common in those days, and we were all told, that if you were responding or had to, you know, deal with the Prince George's County Police, you had to be extremely careful, venturing into the county and coming from D.C.

I was a freshman in Boston during the expanded phase one bussing at the time when the iconic photo was taken of the African American lawyer who was attacked with the staff of the American flag. And I was told by a Bostonian roommate of mine that I could not go to South Boston or East Boston after dark, which I just thought was, I just could not understand it. I remember another guy from Philly was sitting in the room with us and he and I were like, what do you mean? I can't go to a certain portion of town? And it was, you know, it was just, you know, shocking to me.



And so, believe me when I say that I'm not a stranger to discrimination and racism, you know, and examples of, you know, the failure of the ideology or ideals of our founding. But just as I condemn, you know, as strongly as possible the murder of George Floyd, you know, and too many others, I also condemn those who would use this time of pain in our community to spread violence and destruction. And overshadowing the legitimate peaceful protests that communities who for far too long have been denied fundamental rights are, you know, it just, it takes away from the legitimate protest and demonstration.

Nevertheless, I do want to praise our Marylanders, our fellow Marylanders, who have expressed their rights to protest in a peaceful manner. I am particularly proud of the young people who organized Monday's huge protest, and a peaceful protest I should say, in Baltimore City, and the young people who did the very same thing for a very successful and huge protest in Columbia, Maryland just yesterday. And there were several smaller protests that happened around the State that were equally as successful and examples for the rest of the country.

I especially want to commend those members of the Baltimore community and members of the Baltimore City Police Department who worked together to calm the crowds on Monday night in Baltimore. It was great to see where some of the demonstrators identified and turned in to the Police a non-resident who had thrown a firework at the police line. So I hope Maryland can

continue to be a model for the country on how you can protest and demonstrate and express your concerns in a peaceful manner and not allow, you know, outside agitators to take over or hijack the message that we're trying to send.

Lastly, yesterday was primary day in Maryland. There were reports of several challenges associated with it. There is some information that's coming out today with regard to some challenges in Baltimore City. I have not had a chance to review it, but with regard to the ballots and in the First Councilmanic District that is just another example of challenges that have been occurring with the State Board of Elections. And I did say earlier in a radio interview that I really think it's time for the Administrator at the Board of Elections to step down. I think it's time for new leadership there. And to be done early, before we, with enough time to correct all of these issues before we get to November's General Election. And so I call on the Senate to work with us to find new leadership and I encourage the Administrator to step down.

That said I'd like to turn it over to Treasurer Kopp for opening remarks. Thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you, Governor. I must say that I, like millions of others, watched the video last week, something I had never seen before, a policeman forcing his knee between the shoulder and the head of a man whom he forced lying down, on the ground, and doing it for more than eight minutes until

the man died. Never in my life would I think to see such a thing. And other policemen standing around watching him.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: That's right.

TREASURER KOPP: I -- this simply can't happen in America. And I must say I took part in a large number of protests 50 years ago, 40 years ago. I'm embarrassed and ashamed that I didn't continue doing it. This is really, this is not America, and I think we know that.

I agree completely that the majority of our law enforcement officers are honest and good and don't like it any more than we do. After all, they are being fingered as bad guys because of the rotten apples among them.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Mm-hmm.

TREASURER KOPP: They've got to be stopped. It's got to be stopped. And I'm very pleased that the Legislature, as our legislatures across the country, taking up the project immediately of looking at our laws and seeing what have to be changed in order to hold people with such power accountable to the people.

Protest is a wonderful, American institution. To hear the President of the United States apparently regard it as the next thing to insurrection and revolution is frightening and wrong. And I think the State of Maryland thus far has shown that to him. I'm very proud of the way the Governor has spoken to the

people of Maryland, and look forward to hearing him speak to the President with the same words that he uses when he speaks here, stressing the importance of protest, the legitimacy and justice of the concerns, and the resolution to correct them now. I trust everyone agrees with me. Everyone in this room I know does, and I think the vast proportion of Americans of all colors and all religions agree with this. And we have to stand up and say so right now.

Having said that, I can't think of anything more important except to say good morning to you both.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you very much. Mr. Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor and thank you, Madam Treasurer. I couldn't be prouder to associate myself with the remarks of both of you and thank you for making those statements.

Obviously, the senseless death of George Floyd underscores that our nation continues to have a cancerous system of injustice and oppression, a system that has plagued African Americans in the United States for centuries. But of course, George Floyd isn't the first African American to be murdered by officers of the law who swore an oath to protect all the citizens: there was Freddie Gray, there was Philando Castile, there was Walter Scott, there was Eric Garner, so many others whose unjustified deaths have marked sad chapters in our nation's history.

And regretfully, absent of real and meaningful reforms, we're not going to see an end to these senseless deaths anytime soon.

The anger that has erupted across this country, and yes, across the world, is a loud and forceful repudiation of a society that continues to deprive African Americans and people of color with equal justice under the law. The fact that in this day, African Americans continue to experience racial profiling, are arrested illegally, abused, and in some tragic cases killed, contradicts the values and principles of our nation. It is truly un-American. The injustice and inequality cannot and must not continue. Obviously, we must all play an active role in this most critical endeavor.

Millions of Americans, as the Treasurer and the Lieutenant Governor mentioned, have engaged in peaceful protests to demand action from the government they empowered to cure the societal ailments that continue to divide our nation. And these ailments inspire racism and bigotry against our fellow citizens. So I want to just follow the Lieutenant Governor and the Treasurer, complimenting Governor Hogan but also the people of the State of Maryland where thousands have participated in marches, some of them led by children this past Monday.

The people who protested in Baltimore and in cities across Maryland and the United States, they are crying out and demanding action from their leaders.

We obviously need to listen and we need to act. And I salute Treasurer Kopp for mentioning the actions of our Legislature, also the Congress, according to Speaker Pelosi this morning, has a full agenda to begin to address some of this.

But like everyone else, what we saw in Lafayette Square outside the White House on Monday, June 1st in the evening, still light, still daylight, that has to be marked down in America's political history as such a degradation of the presidency and a flagrant abuse of power. Tear gassing peaceful demonstrators, firing rubber bullets, setting off flash bang grenades, having federal law enforcement on large horses looking like some kind of cavalry, so that the President of the United States can have a photo op in front of a church. That's pretty unprecedented.

In a time when our economy is crashing, and tens of millions of Americans are unemployed as we speak, when over 107,000 people have perished from a deadly pandemic, when there are riots, looting in dozens of cities around the country, when there is innocent, commendable protest against police brutality all over the country, how exactly is this being described as making America great again? Let me just mention that again: 107,000 people dead, 40 million Americans unemployed, police brutality all over the front pages, and looting and burning in our major cities.

So obviously, the fight for justice and equality is going to continue. Obviously, the President has done nothing but fan the flames of racism and bigotry and hatred. He has repeatedly abdicated the responsibilities of his office. He happens to be, in my opinion, an embarrassment to the presidency of the nation at this point, and I would also include the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I would remind them that a very similar historic incident comparable to June 1st, tear gassing of innocent, peaceful demonstrators, occurred in 1932, in July of 1932, when 17,000 veterans and 27,000 members of their families were camped out in Anacostia petitioning the Congress to give them their back pay. President Hoover, who was then heavily predicted to be reelected in the fall election, decided to be super tough. He called General Douglas MacArthur, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and ordered him to clear out the veterans, and they proceeded with tanks, U.S. Army soldiers with bayonets on, tear gas, arrested hundreds, injured hundreds, drove all of the veterans away from their encampment, and burned all of their possessions. For several days after that, President Hoover really strutted around like a peacock, according to the press, claiming how tough he is on law and order. Guess what? Disastrous consequences for President Hoover at the polls that November. Just a complete wipe out for that kind of policy, where U.S. Army troops were authorized to attack fellow veterans.

So I don't mean to go back to 1932, but I would suggest to folks that are walking around now thumping their chests saying how tough they are, they really should look at history a little bit because the American public, as the Lieutenant Governor and the Treasurer have noted, and frankly people at all levels of government, support constitutional rights to protest and demand action and systemic reforms. And I think we are going to collectively rise to the occasion once and for all to enact policies that are going to deliver justice, equality, and fairness. But I would urge folks that think everything is just great to go out and, you know, pound innocent people with these horrible weapons. And I guess apparently they are calling these pepper bullets, not tear gas. Hey, I'd love to see one of them hit with a pepper bullet and see what their response is. And these were innocent people, as I say, perfectly orderly and peaceful.

And the fact that the Attorney General was involved in this and the Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was dressed in camouflage and went over, across the street, stood in front of a church, hijacked it, held up this prop of a Bible, apparently upside down. But the fact that the Secretary of Defense and the AG and the Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff would participate in this kind of charade is just very regrettable. But as 1932 showed, we always have redress, thank goodness, in the United States. And sorry to go on, guys. But boy --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: It's all right.



COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- has this really touched a nerve, I think, in the public.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: That's quite okay. It's, you know, I didn't go back to 1932. I wasn't around --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I apologize.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- I don't think you were around there, either. But and I know it's not the same situation. But the images reminded me of Kent State, quite frankly. You know? And I know that was far worse because there were fatalities there. But it just, that came to mind when I saw that. So.

TREASURER KOPP: Well I think we all, I hope you are right about a change, Peter. But I think we all still have to be on guard in the near and immediate future. Because the President has made it clear, he wants to take over, he wants the military to go into the states. And this is not going to disappear tomorrow. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well --

TREASURER KOPP: But on that happy note --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- continue to speak. Thank you. I guess we have the Secretary's Agenda, John Gontrum.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Yes. Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. We have 12 items on the Secretary's Agenda and 80 reports of emergency procurement. Emergency reports A4, A5, and A19 have been revised. Item A19 Sub-Item 4 is being withdrawn at the request of the submitting agency. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

TREASURER KOPP: Well I still have some questions about A19 -

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SECRETARY GONTRUM: This Sub-Item 4, the one portion, that one award that's being withdrawn by the agency at this time.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Madam Treasurer, do you want to ask your question? Or questions?

TREASURER KOPP: I'm sorry. I'm having, as I told you, John --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: (Indiscernible).

TREASURER KOPP: -- (indiscernible) I'm having a great deal of difficulty with reception here, and I apologize. I don't know exactly what I can do about it.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well one thing, one thing you could possibly do, if it's just audio, like I did on one occasion is take the audio over the phone. John, I don't know if that's something we can do now.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: It is a possibility. Madam Treasurer, if the audio is clear, if you can hear us, we can certainly hear you clearly for the most part. So if you want to continue talking --

TREASURER KOPP: Well, the point is I can't hear you --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: You cannot hear us? Okay.

TREASURER KOPP: -- clearly. So why don't somebody else talk for one moment and I'll call in.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: One possibility, Madam Treasurer, is to turn off, if you have a device near your computer. So if you have a cell phone or another laptop --

TREASURER KOPP: I don't.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I have some questions on other items that I would be happy to --

TREASURER KOPP: Yes, please.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Filibuster for a little bit. Okay.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- fill in until the Treasurer is all comfortable with her operation, there.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you. Thank you.

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COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So Agenda Item A1 is an emergency procurement for the acquisition of 30,000 reagent kits and other items for COVID-19 test kits to be operational and deployed. Obviously, I appreciate Governor Hogan and his very commendable decision to try to expand testing across the State. I guess the question from a fiscal standpoint is have the reagent kits arrived? How have they been utilized? Has the department been able to acquire more reagent kits? And I understand this is imminently connected to our ability to --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I believe --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- test people and we have seen a significant rise in availability of tests. Excuse me? So how many test kits have been made available to the county -- I'm not sure we have that information.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Mr. Comptroller, we have Dana Dembrow, the Director of Procurement at the Department of Health, available to answer questions about this item.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Oh. Good. Delegate Dembrow, someone that I like a lot. Where are you?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Dana?

MR. DEMBROW: Mr. Comptroller, Lieutenant Governor, Madam Treasurer, I'm sorry. I was muted there for a couple of seconds. For the record,

this is Dana Dembrow, Director of the Office of Procurement and Support Services of the Maryland Department of Health. Today's meeting is unprecedented with so many emergency procurements for you to review that my role today will be a little unusual in that we have nearly 20 presenters on the WebEx line ready to respond to your questions. So I will mostly be just introducing them. And if you'll indulge me for just a moment, I want to thank all of them for their extraordinary work and let you know that they represent only a small fraction of the innumerable dedicated public servants in the executive branch, not only at the Department of Health but also at the Offices of Procurement of the Department of General Services and other agencies who leapt into action ten weeks ago and accomplished all of the emergency work that you see presented to you today marking Maryland as the envy of other states in our coronavirus response efforts.

With respect to Item A1, we have on the line the Director of the Maryland Laboratories Administration Dr. Robert Meyers.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Mr. Dembrow, just for the future, I understand you are calling in by phone. If you could mute your computer's audio and you can still listen to the meeting through your phone line. We're getting some echo on the line, I apologize.

TREASURER KOPP: Excuse me. John?

MR. DEMBROW: -- I'm not calling in on my phone. I'm on the computer, just so you know.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Okay.

TREASURER KOPP: John? I think it might be me.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Okay.

TREASURER KOPP: I've got my phone on now.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay.

TREASURER KOPP: Do I turn off --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: So Madam Treasurer, you can use your phone. If you've entered the audio PIN onto the audio tab on the control panel on the right side of your screen, you'll see a PIN for you to enter. Once you've entered the PIN and hit the pound sign, you'll be able to use your phone's audio and you can turn off your computer's audio and you'll be linked into the meeting.

DR. MEYERS: Hello, I'm Robert Meyers. I'm the Director of the Maryland Department of Health Laboratories Administration. Can you hear me?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Yes, sir.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

DR. MEYERS: Good morning. Yes, to explain what this purchase was about. We have needed, we ran into supply chain issues early on during the pandemic that the CDC based test that we were running, we could not increase our

testing capacity. Abbott Laboratories had testing reagents available that were compatible with an existing automated testing platform that we have at the MDH Laboratory. So we purchased these test reagents so that we could increase our testing capacity and it's been implemented. All 30,000 test reagents have been received. They are being utilized almost on a daily bases at the MDH Lab to produce test results for clients throughout the State, including the local health departments. Approximately I would say 20 to 30 percent of our daily workload is pushed through this Abbott system. So it really was another testing platform to increase the capacity of the MDH Lab to perform COVID-19 PCR-based testing. And I'm here to answer any other questions.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well, let me just add a couple of questions on different items here. I completely understand the emergency situation that was created frankly by the, in my opinion, by the federal government not properly stockpiling the type of equipment that the states needed in order to do testing and contact follow-up, etcetera. So this is not, I'm not critical of the agency, nor am I critical necessarily of the Governor. I'm just trying on behalf of the taxpayers to understand how much of the, how many reagent kits have actually arrived, how many have been utilized, have we been able to acquire new reagent kits, and are we within the market rates of what these items typically cost, or do we

have to pay a premium because of the fact that we were competing against all of the other states and countries around the world?

DR. MEYERS: Mr. Comptroller, the pricing was standardized pretty much across the United States on this. I don't think the companies were marking up. We had a previous business relationship with Abbott. Their instrument was used in our laboratory for many years for doing HIV viral load testing. So we were told by HHS that this was a way to increase our capacity and overcome some of our supply chain issues. All 30,000 test reagents have been received. They have a fairly long expiration date. I'd say on a given day about 200 tests are pushed through this system with the current staffing that we have. We intend to increase our staffing and run a third shift overnight and then be able to use the system even more to produce up to maybe 400 tests per day.

I can't give you an exact number of how many of those test kits have been utilized, but we have had this test on board for about 30 days. And as I said before, it's used consistently. It's allowed us to leverage different people in the laboratory who can operate that test system independent of the other test systems and the other staffing that we have. So it has been beneficial for us to increase our testing capacity. If we have the need to be resupplied for this, I think we would go out and again request additional procurement. But at the present time, we have an adequate supply to take us through the next several months. We don't want to be



stuck with reagents that, if our testing numbers were to decrease, that we would not want to have reagents that would expire on our hands and be unusable. We do have the ability and we have been told that Abbott has adequate production capability to keep most of the state labs that have these particular instruments supplied into the immediate future.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. And thank you for that. That makes sense. Before I turn it back to the Treasurer, who I see is rejoining us, Madam Treasurer, by the way, there but for fortune go me, as far as figuring out the technology we're all using.

If I could ask the doctor just quickly, because Item 2 is about contact tracing. Is that something you are informed about as far as --

DR. MEYERS: No, sir, it's not. That would be the epidemiologists from MDH. I'm the laboratory portion. We actually physically perform the tests. But we're not involved in the tracing of contacts.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. Well let me hand it back, Lieutenant Governor, to you, and I'll ask my question of the right person after the Treasurer.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Yeah, I think Vicki Fretwell is here from the Department of Health. She's going to ask the contact tracing information. I don't know if you wanted to wait until --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, I'll wait.

TREASURER KOPP: No, no. I'm happy to go, to --

MR. DEMBROW: So if I may introduce Vicki, Lieutenant Governor. She is the Special Assistant and Senior Advisor to the Secretary. And she can talk about the contract with the National Opinion Research Center based out of the University of Chicago, one of the world's most famous academic institutions, as the Treasurer will testify. We also have Geoff Dougherty on the line. He's Deputy Director of the Population Health Administration and they can talk about the NORC contract for contact tracing.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. So this is Item A2. If you could just help me understand how many total contacts have been made in Maryland and cases handled by the contact tracing call center. It sounds as if we're ramping up the center. What does the future hold as far as contact testing, I guess?

MS. FRETWELL: So thank you for that question. We started a soft launch with Baltimore City and NORC on Monday with 20 callers. Yesterday we had 50 callers and today we have increased that number. Through yesterday, we did 823 outbound calls on 225 cases and identified -- excuse me, 312 cases -- and identified 225 contacts.

Each day this week we'll be ramping up. We'll be adding later in the week half of the health department, local health departments, and their contact

tracers one day, and then the subsequent day the other half of the health departments and their contact tracers. And when the full deployment is done we'll have 1,395 contact tracers active in the system. Our anticipation is we will have no less than 1,000 cases handled on the daily basis.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent. I have one other item, Lieutenant Governor, same line, and it may be this individual or someone Delegate Dembrow wants --

TREASURER KOPP: Could I, excuse me Comptroller, just ask a question of number two. I am -- are you hearing an echo?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Yes, Madam Treasurer. Can you mute your computer's audio?

TREASURER KOPP: I'm not using the computer's audio. I'm using the phone.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: So you can't hear us through your computer, you can only hear us through your phone?

MS. FRETWELL: Madam Treasurer, we can determine what you are saying, even though there is an echo.

TREASURER KOPP: Okay. The question, while I think highly of NORC, is why are they worth \$8 million more?

MS. FRETWELL: Madam Secretary, when the group of us that were evaluating the contracts that had been submitted and then making recommendations to leadership at both DoIT and the Maryland Department of Health, we felt strongly that we needed to have a partner that had significant experience in public health and had a long history of doing this type of calling and would be a successful partner for us. The contract at its core is a unit price of \$192 per case they investigate. The \$34,500,000 would be the full price should we do 180,000 contact tracings through them during the six-month period. Is that helpful?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Uh-oh.

TREASURER KOPP: Yes, that is helpful. Thank you. I appreciate that.

MS. FRETWELL: You're welcome. Mr. Comptroller, did you have another question about contact tracing?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No, I didn't. But I had one last item number A6 before the, I'm sure the Treasurer has something to offer on 19, I think. But --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: That is a report from the Department of Health so this is also Mr. Dembrow.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah. So this is the Maryland VEIP program, where we've changed them thank goodness from emissions testing,

which is one of the all-time aggravations of Maryland citizens I sympathize with since I have to take my cars up there also, and they are old, etcetera, but anyway, that's been suspended and we are now doing, using the VEIP facilities for drive-through testing, which obviously is something very successfully done by South Korea to aggressively test their citizens, which I think has contributed to a much different experience over in South Korea with coronavirus than we have here in the states. So I guess the question, Delegate Dembrow, is can you tell us how many tests have been conducted at the State emissions VEIP facilities?

MR. DEMBROW: I'm sorry. Item A6 is the Maryland Partnership for Prevention staffing at the VEIP stations. And to answer those questions, Dr. Jinlene Chan is available. She is the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent.

DR. CHAN: Hi, good morning, Comptroller, Lieutenant Governor, and Treasurer Kopp. This is Jinlene Chan with the Maryland Department of Health. Thank you for your question, Comptroller. So to date, we have about 13,560 tests that have been conducted at the VEIP locations. We have about nine VEIP locations open and operational across the State right now and they are variably staffed by local health departments as well as some of the MPP staff.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And if I could just follow up, there's some confusion among folks in Maryland as to whether you need a doctor's prescription or whether you need an appointment or whether you need some other characteristic that may or may not be present and what about just allowing people to drive up and get tested, as opposed to making them make a grant application?

DR. CHAN: So the VEIP locations are able to accept orders through the CRISP process and make appointments through that process. For many of the VEIP locations, they are not in neighborhoods that may always be able to accommodate traffic. And so we've been cautious in terms of neighbor relations and traffic control and safety issues, as well, to ensure that people can get their tests safely. We are looking at ways to open up that testing and access to it across the State, whether it's in VEIP locations or other locations such as Six Flags and in Timonium where they are able to handle the greater volume and the capacity in those locations. So we are trying to expand access in different ways as well.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. Let me just suggest something, because I, like a lot of grandparents in the State of Maryland, am unable to see my grandkids. A, because of the travel problems, and also because of concern that either we would infect them or they would infect us. So I'm going to see my grandkids in July. That's pretty definite. I've asked my kids and to have their kids tested. I would like to be tested with my wife. I have no medical reason why I

should be tested. I'm certainly not going to be asked to be tested because I'm the Comptroller. But I do think there ought to be some system set up in the State somewhere where people go to get tested simply asymptotically and voluntarily. I'm not exactly sure whether we are going to ever get to that point. But let me --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: (Indiscernible).

Let me interrupt. Dr. Chan, we have that now. Six Flags is available on demand. And as you mentioned, Timonium is on demand. Some of the VEIP stations can handle, but they just, when we first announced it they really couldn't handle that volume and it backed up communities. And so we've suggested for many of the VEIP stations that you make an appointment. But you don't have to have a doctor's note or anything. If you make the appointment, you can go through much quicker and you're not standing in lines. But with Six Flags and the Timonium Fairgrounds, we have much more space. So it is on demand right now --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent. I didn't realize that.

That's terrific. I'm very pleased to hear that.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: And CVS is rolling out more locations also that you can go to CVS at no charge as well and they don't need a doctor's note for the CVS. Now we, I believe we've put up some of the locations on the Department of Health's website, that CVS is already opened up

and as I understand, what I was told this morning, there are going to be additional CVS locations opened up for testing as well.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you. And if the staff could just confirm that in fact CVS and others are not putting people through an application process, I would be grateful. I understand what you are saying about the appointments. That kind of makes sense. All I'm suggesting is cutting through some of the red tape here is important --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: We want to make it as easy, yeah, you want to make it as easy as possible and we agree with you.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: That's all I'm suggesting. Madam Treasurer --

DR. CHAN: Thank you. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

TREASURER KOPP: -- follow up on your point, Governor. Now it's worse than it was before. Sorry.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, it's good to hear you multiple times.

TREASURER KOPP: No. At least this isn't multiple. Can you hear me at all?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Yes.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh yes. Very good.

TREASURER KOPP: We'll try this one again. The drive in and the easy access made me think about a lot of people who don't have access to either cars, so the VEIP isn't so accessible. And the question is, are we making a particular point of trying to locate these alternatives, the CVS or whatever it is, where people actually can reach them? There are many areas that are, just as there are food deserts, there are also --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Right.

TREASURER KOPP: -- CVS deserts.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: And that's why, well, that's, you know, the CVS is one because they tend to be, you know, located throughout the State. And in some cases people can walk up or get there through public transit. When the Pimlico facility that has been opened in Baltimore was also taking walk-ups, and I know at least one of the CVS in Baltimore, I think on Charles Street, is taking people. But we can get more information to you all with regard to locations where you don't necessarily have to have, you know, drive to get there. And we'll work with the Health Department and get that information to you.

TREASURER KOPP: That would be great. I mean, I think that the VEIP stations are terrific and can really accomplish a lot. But there remains --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah.

TREASURER KOPP: -- a lot --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, Madam Treasurer, if I could just add on, I hope, Lieutenant Governor, this is given in a positive tone here. I hope the troops at the, in the front lines, the CVS personnel, for example, don't feel as if they have to interrogate people who want a test. Because right now when you go, you don't need a doctor's prescription, you are right. But as of yesterday, there was a question as to whether you needed to have symptoms, or whether you had to have this or that. So I understand people don't want to just willy-nilly give tests and they don't want to be overwhelmed. But I hope that the word gets out to the troops at the front of this process that if somebody wants a test, they should give them the test --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well at least the order from the Governor was that anyone, because we were looking for those asymptomatic individuals. The testing that we've done at the nursing homes have produced some asymptomatic staff members that, you know, they weren't showing any symptoms but by doing the universal testing at the nursing homes we're starting to find staff members who have the coronavirus but for whatever reason they are

not showing symptoms. But they can pass it on to those people who are most vulnerable. And so that is the reason for, you know, the expanded testing as well, is to be able to get the asymptomatic person who is not showing signs and they may only show mild symptoms at some point, but they are infectious, they can infect others. And so, yes, we can make sure that, I know the Governor has had conversations with the President of CVS and we can see what contacts they have to make sure that, you know, they are not discouraging people from coming. It is a balance, you know, we want people to go not only if they have symptoms but if they think that they have come in contact or, like in your case, that you want to visit, you know, your grandchildren but you don't want to be in a situation where you are infecting them.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you. I think that would be very helpful --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- across country, you know --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Oh, no. We're, right now we're talking about driving. But you know, everybody is kind of asking everyone else what it's like. So we'll see because it's not going to be until next month. But I don't mean to inject myself. Whenever I mention testing people say, well you're the Comptroller, you can go and get a test anytime you want to. Well, yeah, perhaps

that's the case. But the point is, ordinary people need to be treated carefully by the folks that are on the ground, and sometimes they, you know, well-intentionally steer people away, I think, still. So anything you can do, Lieutenant Governor, to just reinforce the Governor's executive order would be great.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah. Bedside manner, as they used to say, right?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Exactly.

TREASURER KOPP: Governor, one of the questions I was going to ask when my computer went strange on me with the contact tracing was that maybe you could get the department to just summarize, not now, someday, what the process is for contact tracing, and how they observe appropriate privacy issues.

MS. FRETWELL: We will get that to you, Madam Treasurer. This is Vicki. We'll be happy to get something to you.

TREASURER KOPP: Terrific. Thank you. I do have a question about 19, to get back to where we were --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yep.

TREASURER KOPP: -- 20 minutes ago. I understand number four, which is the one that has raised the issue in the press, has been removed from the list to find out more about it, I assume.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Correct. I can't speak to the reason for its withdrawal, but Madam Treasurer, that sub-item has been withdrawn. Item 19 is a report of 80, now 80, it was 81, now 80 emergency procurements by the Department of General Services. We have Secretary Churchill, along with Danny Mays and Mike Haifley available to answer questions.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you. I had a question about number four because when questions were raised about it, we went to look at our files in the Treasurer's Office, the financials. As you know, a department puts out a purchase order. They send (indiscernible) to the Comptroller's Office. The Comptroller's Office looks at them and runs an expenditure (indiscernible). Am I getting through? I'm hearing this terrible sound.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: There's a beeping. But I'm hearing you, but there's something happening.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: We do hear it as well, Madam Treasurer. It may be good now. To correct the record, there is 80 emergency procurements total now. Now this Item 19 contains 63 (indiscernible).

TREASURER KOPP: Okay. (Indiscernible).

SECRETARY GONTRUM: My apologies, Madam Treasurer. Is your phone line still active?

TREASURER KOPP: No, I went back to the computer.

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COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well, you sound fine now. So carry on.

TREASURER KOPP: Okay. Thank you, Comptroller. I went back to look at these papers, and to tell you the truth, we did not find the name Coast to Coast Strategies anywhere except on this item, on this voucher (indiscernible) warrants, not anywhere. So I was going to raise a question about that. And then I noticed the Blue Door Pharma right above it, total price \$2.4 million. I believe that that is correct but originally it was significantly more than that. It was pulled back and Mr. Secretary, you said you would try with \$2.489 million to get the ventilators that were needed and I gather that's what's recorded here. But the original procurement isn't recorded here.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Some --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Mr. Mays, I believe your microphone is active, sir.

TREASURER KOPP: The funds were sent out. It was (indiscernible) recovered. My question is, I don't have the background information, the purchase order, the actual expenditures on all of these items. You note it's only 60-something items, Mr. Gontrum. But until we have that sort of information, I am not comfortable with this chart. I know that the Department of the Treasury, the federal Department of Treasury and OMB are talking about

turning many of these CARES expenditures into items susceptible to the federal single audit. These are going to be audited at some point, but it seems to me before the Board of Public Works approves them, before the federal government audits them, we ought to have a file that contains the entire information for all of these emergency procurements, and we don't have that. And since there are only 60-something, it seems to me it would not be that difficult to bring those all together. So I just want to say, I'm very hesitant to vote for these until all the material is made public because a couple of things have already raised issues and we don't know enough about the others.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Could I follow up? Because I happen to partially agree with the Treasurer in her concern. And I'm not exactly sure what the remedy is, but we're spending obviously huge amounts of taxpayer money and I understand the conditions, as I mentioned earlier, were forced upon us. It wasn't something we voluntarily assumed. But the question is, are we continuing to pay money? How much money are we continuing to pay? What are the fulfillment of the different contracts that are here? How many have been cancelled? And what's being done to complete their orders? And then there's this group BlueFlame, that I guess the Treasurer was specifically asking about. I guess what I'm asking for is, or suggesting, is that I kind of sympathize with the State, Lieutenant Governor, your situation, and the tremendous pressure that everyone

had. But I'm wondering whether we could get tightened up, here. The Treasurer and I are concerned I think from a fiscal standpoint that we're spending taxpayer dollars for contracts that quite frankly, you know, I have some questions about them. So I wonder if we could provide the Board with a biweekly update on the status of these emergency contracts so we're not just presented with them in a, at a given time, and but we receive biweekly updated copies of the procurement report chart that was attached to this item, for example, that includes completion status and quantities delivered and as the weeks progress completed, obviously. So that's coming from me. That's a little different than the hesitation articulated by the Treasurer. But I wonder what your thoughts are about that.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I guess I would turn to the Secretary to see if that kind of information is available. But let me go back to just the Treasurer. If the Treasurer is asking for additional, I guess, backup material, like you said you want purchase orders and there are a number of other items. So that's a question I would ask the Secretary if that information can be provided to the Treasurer so that she could feel more comfortable.

TREASURER KOPP: No, I, Governor, let me just say, I would like to see the information that I believe you have. I'm not doubting that you have it. But the information which allows these expenditures to be reconciled to the general ledger, which the Comptroller's Office keeps. And all of the components that go



into that. I'm sure that's what the federal audit is going to want to see. And it seems to me that the sooner we get it together and the more accustomed we are to providing this information and showing the reconciliation, the easier it will be for everyone in the long term.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Mr. Secretary?

MR. CHURCHILL: Good morning to the Board, Madam Treasurer, Governor, Mr. Comptroller. Concerning the questions that were asked in a number of parts. The department would not have an issue with supplying any of those, or to members of the Board staff to understand, to help you understand the nature of any of the procurements. I cannot speak at this moment, I think I partly need to have a conversation concerning reconciling to the general ledger just to make sure that we understand what that means in terms of the documentation that is being looked at. I can tell you that because these are federal funds, that we are compiling information that would be in response to the federal requirements. So I think, don't believe we'll have an issue. I just need to fully understand the level of documentation that the Board staff would need to move this item.

TREASURER KOPP: My question, I think, you should not have difficulty doing. That there are folks in your office, the Comptroller's Office, the Treasurer's Office, who can and obviously the Board of Public Works Head of Procurement, provide necessary information and guidelines.

MR. CHURCHILL: Well we have a full file for the, these are commodities releases.

TREASURER KOPP: Mm-hmm.

MR. CHURCHILL: So, yeah, the team is fully equipped to answer your question. I just want to go back to the Comptroller's question about regular reporting on the progress. That's what we attempted to do today based on a date on your report of 6/1 in terms of progress and we would be able to do that periodically to the Board, if that's what the Board would like us to do. And then I want to clarify because there's a couple of vendors in the report that have blue in their title. I believe the Treasurer was referring to Blue Door Pharma, which is a Maryland company, where you were asking about a purchase order that had been issued first and we attempted a wire transfer and that was not successful. And so that never formally hit our records. We pulled that back. But the official P.O. to Blue Door Pharma is represented on Item 3. That's the materials that were contracted and some of that has been returned.

TREASURER KOPP: And that's the sort of information, Mr. Secretary, that's the sort of reconciliation I'm talking about would document.

MR. CHURCHILL: And that's really the only transaction of that nature. You know, the other cancellations and they are noted are fairly straightforward. And of course Item 61 is BlueFlame Medical, which is what I

believe the Comptroller may have been referring to, which is the contract that, or P.O. that has been cancelled with the vendor.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I'm not sure what the direction is that my colleagues wanted to go, but if the Secretary were to commit to submitting every two weeks updated copies of the procurement report chart that we have right now for these over the last few months, we're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money, I would be very happy if that were able to be delivered to us or committed to us. And I'm not sure if I need a motion, or just have Secretary Churchill agree to that. But I think the issue here is that we've come through a period when there was tremendous pressure on DGS. They have performed very, very capably in my opinion. But you know, it's \$230 million and some question mark payments here. So I think it would be best if going on from here we have every two weeks a status report so that questions that the Treasurer and I have could be answered in real time. I defer of course to the Lieutenant Governor and the Treasurer as to whether they want to require that or how they would do it.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Let me ask a question, and this goes to both of you, the Treasurer and the Comptroller. I know that the Treasurer for the items that are before us today (indiscernible) background information, you know, on these procurements, these emergency procurements.

Then to go to the two-week, are we going to be providing within that two-week, you know, the full background similar to what we're going to be providing for the 60 items in A19? So I don't know what the turnaround is for the Secretary of General Services but we're going to, I guess it appears as though, and the Treasurer hasn't made it an official motion but I think it's going to be a motion to defer these items subject to coming back with more detailed information on the items, purchase orders, and the reconciliation on some of the items that the Treasurer may have some additional questions on.

TREASURER KOPP: My thought, Governor, is that we have these commodities and they are coming in. This is --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: -- an emergency approval of what has been done.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Right.

TREASURER KOPP: As I understand it, it would not stop any masks that have been ordered and paid for from coming in if this were deferred for two weeks to allow you the opportunity to put all the material together and to set up a process so that your staff can make this material, the documents, appropriate for you as you send them on to us.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: If I might clarify the options available to the Board, Madam Treasurer --

TREASURER KOPP: Yes. Good.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: -- because you are absolutely correct in the posture of these procurements. The standard items taken up by the Board, as you all know, are awards, are recommendations that come in prospective by an agency, such as to award a contract or to disburse grant funding. These items are in a little bit of a different posture. So these are reports of emergency procurement actions already taken by agencies. The options in front of the Board are to accept the report or to remand the report back to the agency. As we discussed at the last meeting, under State procurement law, under COMAR 21.05.06.02, the Board can take any action it deems appropriate with respect to the emergency procurement. So if the Board wanted to accept the report, or to remand the report with specific instructions such as to return with additional information, that is absolutely within the authority of the Board.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well, I'd like to hear from the Lieutenant Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, what I was saying is, you know, let's take the remand approach, remanding it with the request for the additional information. Then in, it looks like two weeks, I think the next

Board meeting is two weeks, will that also include the Comptroller's request for any additional items, and then the detail, too. So that's, that was the question. And then I was turning to General Services in terms of being able to provide, you know, the update as well as these 60 items and the full background information.

MR. CHURCHILL: Well, there's a couple of things to consider as a part of this. In terms of updating this chart, yes, we can do that on a regular basis. That would require a great deal more for the department manpower of our procurement officers, who are still engaged in procurements, to put together the commodities background. And so the department may, I'm just going to say the department may ask for more time to be able to assemble the information for the chart presently, which is procurements through April 26th. We still have another emergency report for the procurements after that date that have to be submitted. And so that is the current challenge that the department may have to fully comply. I have no doubt that we can meet the Board's requirements. It's timing.

TREASURER KOPP: Well, let me just make it clear. The documents I'm talking about are the purchase orders and the invoices that come, that justify what comes before us when the Comptroller warrants an expenditure and we print a check and he sends it out. That information should be readily at hand. It's not very difficult. And I would think because of the questions that have arisen, for instance going back to one of these now, that has \$2.4 million for a total

price. The original disbursement from our office was over \$9 million. And then we put a hold on some of that. You wouldn't know that. And unless you had all the background material, you wouldn't know, although we do and we don't disagree with you, know that the 2.4 is related to the 9.9, and somehow some of the money has I trust come back, just as I trust the Attorney General will be able to recoup some of the BlueFlame money.

All of this, the documentation is simple, Mr. Secretary. It's not complicated and shouldn't take a lot of people. And I know you have the basic documents there, and the Comptroller's Office has theirs, and we have ours. So I don't think that we are asking for a huge amount of staff time. And that's why I feel pretty comfortable agreeing with the Lieutenant Governor that we should remand it, expect it in two weeks. If it can't be done, it can't be done. I understand that. But I'm not sure it will take as much time as you think it will. And I know that our staff, the Comptroller's staff, the Board of Public Works staff, are happy to work with your folk on this.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I think, Mr. Secretary, I think, you know, the question is, at least my question, would be I would think that you could produce at least the 60 that are here in a two-week period. And if you need more time for those that you were scheduling to bring to the next Board, that you can put in a request before the Board meeting saying that we're going to,

you know, produce those additional ones, you know, at either the next Board or get a status report to, before the Board meeting but to the Board members so they can see it before it comes to the Board in the next meeting. So it may be three weeks, an additional week to get those that come after this existing report. Does that all make sense? It made sense to me, but I don't know how it sounded to everyone else, particularly Mr. Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No. I'm happy as long as the information for the future reports are included and happy to join with my colleagues in what the Lieutenant Governor and the Treasurer are talking about. Obviously, we're just protecting the taxpayers here. Obviously, we have some knowledge of the fact that everybody was working under extraordinary emergency conditions. It's, all we're trying to do here, I think, not taking and putting words into anyone's mouth, we're just trying to protect the taxpayers and do what is the right fiscal situation without getting into a lot of speculation, etcetera, etcetera.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And so I'm happy to do that, as long as, you know, I have a lot of confidence in Secretary Churchill. I think all of the work that's been done has been basically done out of a well-intentioned, highly stressful period. I think things will now begin to hopefully calm down a little bit.



But I'm happy to have a unified front as far as making sure that our citizens are not getting defrauded in any way, I guess is my way to put it.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, I will make a motion that this item is remanded with instructions to bring it back with the underlying documents that the Treasurer had asked for, she explained it, it's in the record, that they come back in two weeks. You know, and of course the information will be provided to the Treasurer and the Comptroller's Office, to the Board, before it's actually, the date, because it will be in the Agenda. But that underlying information is brought back in two weeks. And then I would ask that the Secretary explore what he can do with regard to the next round of emergencies and if he's able to provide that information along with the information that is requested in this remand. If he can provide it, to provide it. If he needs additional time, to notify the Board of how much time he's going to need to get those additional items in. So that, I think that motion, hopefully that motion was relatively clear.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I would second that. Thank you. And I think that, you know, is a clear, non -- let me just say, I think that, from a fiscal standpoint, is the right thing to do, Lieutenant Governor, thank you. Madam Treasurer --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: It is. We have to make sure that we have, you know, all the Is dotted and Ts crossed. Because as the

Treasurer rightfully said, either at the State level or but definitely at the federal level, there's going to be a closer look at this. And particularly since we're going to be billing this to the federal government, they are going to make sure that this is done properly. So if we can, and you know for the credibility of the Board, I think we do need to see as much information as possible. So with that said, I will ask, though, the, and this isn't a motion, ask the Secretary, are we seeing a decrease in the emergency procurements because we're, these items are starting to come in? I know they come, the requests come in through WebEOC. Are we getting less requests coming in through MEMA and their WebEOC?

MR. CHURCHILL: I believe that requests are still coming in to WebEOC. Not at the volume that they were ten weeks ago. Maryland is in a fortunate situation. Based on the execution of these emergency procurements, that material that has been ordered is flowing freely into the warehouses of the Maryland Department of Health. And that will continue and for a period of time. The department is shifting its strategy to deal with the phase two part of our procurements, which will be more of an additional invitation for bid and response by the community concerning the PPE and other medical equipment required for this emergency. And so we're happy to turn to the second phase of our ordering strategy.

TREASURER KOPP: Could I ask about, Mr. Secretary, for the second phase will hopefully not be as grave as the first phase. We don't know. Will the process -- I'm concerned about things like MBE requirements and all the normal parts of State procurement. Will that be worked in more into this second phase?

MR. CHURCHILL: It's an excellent question, Madam Treasurer. And yes, the procurement is almost ready for prime time and our strategy is to of course have a State contract that any department can order off of for their needs. And there will be two. There will be not only the baseline procurement, but there will also be the same procurement as an SBR so that we capture as many vendors as possible and have a very diverse pool of vendors for State organizations to secure their products from.

TREASURER KOPP: Great.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Madam Treasurer, I apologize. I missed your vote on the Lieutenant Governor's motion. I heard the Comptroller's second. The motion to remand A19?

TREASURER KOPP: I vote aye.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Are there any other questions on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes. Item A17.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Bingo.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Item A17 is a report by the State Board of Elections. We have Administrator Lamone, as well as Deputy Administrator Charlson available by phone. That's Administrator Ms. Linda Lamone and Deputy Administrator Ms. Nikki Charlson.

MS. LAMONE: Good morning. Linda Lamone, Administrator of Elections.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Good morning.

MS. LAMONE: Good morning.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So this is the Comptroller and obviously we have already gone over the fact that the ballots that are being counted now had the incorrect date printed on them. There have been reports that the information about drop off locations were given to voters in a language other than their own language. There were reports about postage being required, reports about ballots being mailed late, ballots not being received at all, errors in reporting of results, so on and on. I guess what is the situation now, Madam Administrator, with the election results, particularly in Baltimore City, but also around the State? There are some other races that I guess have not been fully reported. And I take it you put some results up, or someone put results up, and then took them down again?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So what's going on, I guess?

MS. LAMONE: Well, let me just preface my answer with saying that this election indeed presented some unanticipated challenges, unprecedented challenges with the virus and having to plan for the election in the middle of that health situation, and the fact that people were basically confined to their homes for weeks at a time unless they were essential. And then we had the horrible situation with George Floyd getting killed, murdered, and then the protest that followed that. I think while it was a tragedy about him, it really motivated a lot of people to get involved in the democratic process, which was a good thing. I'm sorry, did somebody ask me a question?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, the question is, you know -

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MS. LAMONE: Okay. I know.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- we got reports that some people actually showed up to vote in person and they were told that they had already had an absentee ballot sent in. And they said no, we didn't do it. So I guess there are some real concerns about security here, and about obviously the election in November now is front and center. And I guess do you have any thoughts as to what we're going to have to do in November to have a safe election that's a little

less confusing and marred, I guess, by situations like what I just talked about? I mean, that is just, I assume if we have an in-person election in November, you're going to have the proper precautions. But we're talking about some long lines there, obviously, and some health issues. If we're not going to, if we're going to have a mail-in, frankly that really causes me real concern. Because this has not been smooth, either a month ago or now.

MS. LAMONE: Well, of course the big difference is we have time to plan for November, whereas we had virtually no time to plan for the two elections that were held a month apart, all by mail and something frankly that we had never done before. So we're going to do what we always do. We're going to look to see how we can make things better and work with the local boards of elections as well as our friends and stakeholders in the community to deliver the best election possible.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Can I just say I understand what you're saying but I'm not particularly, I don't feel comfortable with it. Because I'm thinking back, and maybe Treasurer Kopp recalls her days when she ran as a Delegate. I was a Delegate from District 20. When I made a mailing to, oh whatever it was, 4,000 or 5,000 voters, I used to literally visit the print shop and make sure it was printed. I followed it in my car over to the Post Office when they mailed it. I talked to the Post Office people about the need to get something out,

that it can't just sit in the back room. But this was 3.5 million ballots that apparently you were misinformed had been printed, and hadn't been printed, or had been sent, but hadn't been sent. How can that, I just find that to be unbelievable, that, and this is, it's not the first time, this is a more recent experience, that your team was not all over the vendors that you hired to make sure that there was no delay in delivering, in mailing ballots.

MS. LAMONE: Well, they were. And then the vendor simply didn't tell us the truth. And I don't know how you overcome that.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well, the vendor has publicly disagreed with you.

MS. LAMONE: The vendor publicly disagreed entirely with us but it was unfortunate. The candidates for Mayor in Baltimore City had specifically asked us to delay the Baltimore City ballots for some time because they didn't want the voters in Congressional 7 District to get a ballot for the City election right on top of the ballots they had just voted for the congressional race. So we did that, and that was, I'm not blaming them, but that was, you know, part of everything that was going on. We were trying to run a congressional election and also prepare for the presidential primary. And as I said before, I'm really proud of the way everybody pitched in and helped and tried to make everything work as best as they could.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well I, you heard the Lieutenant Governor at the beginning of this. I hesitate to ask for anybody's resignation, but I think it's time for some retirements and some new leadership, and I'm particularly concerned about the fact that, you know, as competent as you are, Linda, and as, you know, your staff reveres you, there is something going on over there that is just completely unacceptable. And I actually would include in the suggestion for some retirement the Baltimore City Director. I think it's Armstead Jones. I mean, we just need some new, fresh leadership now rather than come November.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah. I agree. I said it earlier. I've lost faith and I have said in previous Board meetings going back to the first of April that I don't think that the, the thought process in terms of where the challenges could be. If the City is asking for a delay, and I said in a previous meeting, I received my ballot in Howard County two weeks after the special election. So the Baltimore City ballots could have been sent whenever my ballot was sent because it arrived two weeks after the special. There wouldn't have been any confusion. And I just, as the Comptroller just stated with regard to any mailings, and I said that on the first, April first, that the concern is you're always going to have people who move. And it didn't seem as though there really was a lot of attention on that. The response initially was, well, we're getting information from Motor Vehicles. Well, on April 1st the Motor Vehicles locations were closed.



So it's, that's not enough. People don't always change their addresses. There are a lot of people who vote at the precinct where they used to live. And so your information was going to be difficult. So there were some additional steps that needed to take place.

I wasn't pleased with the PR firm that was hired. You know, there's a lot of talk about a politically connected or politically connected vendors on our emergency contracts, but these were a politically connected PR firm and no one's saying anything about that. So I have lost faith. I think it is time for some change, some new blood, some new thinking. I, like the Comptroller, rarely ask, you know, people to step down. But I just think it's time. We need to, you know, maybe it's just a new thought, you bring in a new coach from time to time, even a coach that can be doing relatively well. Sometimes it's just a little bit more to get the team over the hump and to be prepared for the new environment that we're in. I think mail-in voting is going to be here for, you know, for a long time. You know, until we get to online voting, which I think is something that's going to be the next step. So I echo the words of the Comptroller who was echoing my words, and just say thank you for your service.

TREASURER KOPP: Can I just say, I'm not part of the echo and I'm not prepared to fell the Administrator. But I am very concerned, as you know, about this next election. The lessons learned in the past, in the special election and

then now in the primary, we have to understand what happened. I gather there were more people who showed up in person than anticipated. In retrospect, I hope we will not make that mistake. I agree with the Lieutenant Governor. I think there's going to be a lot by mail. I'm not so sure about electronic in terms of security.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: At some point. At some point.

TREASURER KOPP: At some point. A lot by mail. We have to revamp and reorient our process. I'm not convinced, Linda, that you can't do that, that you're not the person to do that. I think that the switch in midstream brings its own problems. But I do feel that in order for people to have faith and trust in the system, they have to understand more clearly exactly what is happening and what provisions are being made to assure a full fair election. And unfortunately, that means repeating to us and to the public over and over again the same material, being open and transparent about problems, and just laying out what steps are being taken and what problems. You say you found problems but they have been addressed. Well, we have to know what problems and how they are addressed, and by whom. The sort of documentation I guess that you would expect an accounting office to be asking for, we need too, we, the public, need too.

These elections in November are going to be one of the most critical in the history in the United States of America. We can't mess them up. And I just,

while I don't agree with the Comptroller and the Governor about who makes the decision of who goes and who stays, I do think that we need a complete new reorientation of the agency and of the Board of Elections, and of the county boards, to be focused with a laser like intensity on making sure that these elections run smoothly and transparently and people understand what the problems are. If you need more assistance, if you need more funds to do things correctly, then it's incumbent on you to tell us so. That's my position.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Are there any more questions on this Agenda item, or any of the others?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No, thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Madam Treasurer, any more questions on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Thank you, Secretary Gontrum. Department of Natural Resources?

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Hi, good morning, Governor, and Madam Treasurer, and Mr. Comptroller. For the record, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We're seeking

approval for nine items on our Real Property Agenda today and we're happy to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I don't have any.

TREASURER KOPP: I wish we could find a problem. I don't know. Jeannie, this is the 17th in a row.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well we can --

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: My staff is really good. I give them all the credit.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: We can go through item by item and talk about the concession building at the Holly Avenue Rec Center in Allegany County. And I will say, Madam Secretary, I think we are planning to do a park visit now that the parks are open. Is it next week or the week after that we're going down to Calvert Cliffs?

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Yes, sir. I'm very much looking forward to that.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, I'm going to restart my park tours. You all should go with us on some of these --

TREASURER KOPP: I would love to go.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, we'll let you know.

TREASURER KOPP: -- a great idea.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah. I mean, it's been wonderful. You know, because you just, for me, I didn't realize that we have, what 75 parks --

TREASURER KOPP: Yeah.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: We have 75 State parks.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: In addition to our Natural Resources Management Areas and our Wildlife Management Area. So, lots of opportunities for outdoor recreation in Maryland. And I'm happy to report that Maryland citizens are definitely taking advantage of that during these tough times. But we're, you know, we're happy to be able to host all of the visitors to our State parks and allow people to test their cabin fever and get some time outside during these hard times.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, get out in the fresh air.

TREASURER KOPP: Peter?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No, I'm going to defer and let you two go to the parks. I will take a firsthand report, of course. And I just want to thank the Secretary. You know, we never have real questions for you. You run a

very tight ship. And you know, congratulations to you, and also frankly to the administration for having you in charge.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Well, thank you all very much for your support. These projects are very meaningful to our local jurisdictions and to our State environmental goals. So we really appreciate the support that all three of you give our department.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Well, thank you, Madam Secretary. We're all in favor.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you very much. See you in about a week. Okay. University System?

MR. EVANS: Good morning. Joe Evans, representing the University System of Maryland. We have five items on the Agenda. We're here to answer any questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I just want to commend you on Item 4-C, the option small business reserve for an A/E contract. And I'm very appreciative. I was touting the University System, how they do a good job with the Small Business Reserve, to one of the small business advocates

just I think it was last week. And I was talking about how the University, along with State Highway, are kind of the stars in that area. I know DGS tries. I know Ellington is out there somewhere. But they do a very good job and so Joe, I want to thank you, particularly for this item, but generally the effort of the University System to work with the small businesses and utilize the Small Business Reserve program.

MR. EVANS: I'll pass that onto College Park.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you. Governor, could I just point out, I have no problem with it, but Item 1-GM, Bowie State University. I think the Comptroller would be interested to see, if he didn't notice it, the J.E. Proctor Building --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Right.

TREASURER KOPP: -- chiller replacement. It's a chiller replacement. The important thing is the J.E. Proctor, who was our former, our late colleague and dear friend Jim Proctor. And it's good to know that it's getting a new chiller. A great man, a great university, and an excellent program in his building, too.

I had a question about 3-S, the University of Maryland, Baltimore shuttle bus service, and just wondered what effort had been made to go to electric, and how you all are going to meet your goals if you don't start doing that.

MR. EVANS: On this particular item, it says we are contracting with the contractor to provide the actual buses. So it's a service. But we have done other things to --

TREASURER KOPP: Excuse me. The fact that it's a contract for service doesn't mean that one of the criteria can't be energy efficiency.

MR. EVANS: Yes, ma'am. I truly understand that. And honestly, I have to take full responsibility for that. This is my campus. I'm the procurement officer and --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Off with his head.

MR. EVANS: -- and I was involved in this procurement, and I kind of focused on something on the ADA part of those buses. But like I said, I take full responsibility for the part of looking at alternative fuel vehicles and/or electric vehicles for this particular project.

But on our campus, we have done other things to reduce emissions. In our garages now we have 18 dual chargers in all of our garages and that will service 36 vehicles. We are looking to put two additional chargers in each garage, but it is kind of been deferred at this moment. Our garages have 43 lower emission



fuel efficient spaces and that's in six of seven garages. We instituted back in 2017, and I was involved in this, negotiated with Nissan Leaf for their electric vehicles. The program started in 2017 for faculty, staff and students. There was like a \$10,000 rebate for those people that would buy the Leaf vehicle. We had numerous people on campus that bought those vehicles. Our parking and transportation service, the ones that are managing this particular contract, they have a lightweight electric truck currently that they are using, and we have publicized that on our website. Our public safety currently has two electric motorcycles that they are using in Baltimore City. We've got electric Segways and we have two electric bicycles. And in addition to that, the vehicles that we are buying, although they are not electric yet, they are all flex fuel vehicles and the majority of the vehicles that we purchase we are purchasing off of the DGS contract.

So we are trying to reduce the emissions from vehicles as it relates to the campus. But for the bus, and there are five of these buses, three that will be running over three routes and then backup and one option for night, again, like I said, I will take responsibility for not looking at whether or not it could be electric.

TREASURER KOPP: You're a good man, Joe Evans. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Joe gave a lot more information than I think we were all prepared for.

TREASURER KOPP: He did that. But the Lieutenant Governor has pointed out often that one of the problems with going electric, one of the impediments, is the lack of the infrastructure. So I think it actually is very important to know what you are doing, particularly in the garages, to enhance the infrastructure. That's good. Thank you.

MR. EVANS: Yes, ma'am.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: That reminds me, and maybe I'll ask Ellington when we get to the DGS Agenda, that we had discussions, Ellington and I had some discussions about DGS purchasing. I believe Ford now has an electric truck. They utilize pickup trucks down here in Annapolis and they have the facility to charge. And there was the possibility of being able to purchase it with some of the Volkswagen settlement money. So I just wanted to follow up. So be on the alert, Ellington. I'm going to ask about that. Any other questions on the University Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes, Item 5-S is a \$4.5 million one-year renewal with Thompson Hospitality Services at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for comprehensive dining services. It's a \$4.5 million extension. This is what the University System seems to be doing a lot of, which is going to privatized dining services. We can raise that issue at other times. But I think I read that the System's institutions issued partial refunds for housing and

dining plans that students prepaid at the beginning of last semester, which was cancelled back in March. And I'm wondering, Mr. Vice President, whether the vendors refunded to the State for services not rendered due to the unforeseen closure of the campuses back in March.

MR. EVANS: For this particular item, I would have to ask Lester Primus, who is the Vice President for Administration and Finance at University of Maryland Eastern Shore to field that question.

MR. PRIMUS: Good morning.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Good morning.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well, it's a generic question. I assume that the System, the reports that the System granted partial refunds for housing and dining, that makes perfect sense. The question is whether these fixed contracts, like the one we're about to vote on, whether, this is not concerning this contract because this is prospective, but retroactively did these vendors that have these contracts refund to the State some of the payments where appropriate?

MR. PRIMUS: Yes, Mr. Comptroller, this is Lester Primus, Vice President of Finance and Administration at UMES. It was not an automatic according to the contract, but we were able to negotiate with them at a lesser cost because of the early closure. So initially, we received an outstanding invoice for services rendered, particularly between March 23rd, the middle of March, all the

way up to the end of May 15th, which is according to the contract. When I received that, we did have a discussion. The vendor that we use was very understanding and there were some savings that will be obviously offset because of the refunds that we have given to our students.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Good. Because I, it appears as if the University System, not just including you guys, are planning to open. It's going to be some kind of creative combination of in-person college education come September and remote classes, I'm told. And in an article by the *Sun* last Friday, it was reported that universities were working to reduce student density both in living spaces and dining halls. Most schools will prohibit or limit the use of kitchens, lounges, or other community spaces, while several institutions will offer grab-and-go dining options to allow social distancing in dining halls. I'm just, I guess the question is just once again what you just mentioned. Are these contracts going to have an understanding that there should be refunds from the vendors if these kinds of changes are made?

MR. PRIMUS: Yes. Not only that, Mr. Comptroller, I have a meeting with our vendor sometime next week with our VP of Enrollment Services and we are going to talk about all of that.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Great. And I understand the students like the private concessions. So I'm not suggesting that is the case. I'm

just saying, if things change, hopefully if a refund is appropriate, that, or lowered payments going forward appropriate, that would be recognized in good faith by everybody. It sounds like it is.

MR. PRIMUS: Yes, so far it has. We have been having a good relationship with them. And as I mentioned earlier, with the early closing we were able to renegotiate. And as I stated, that we are going to be meeting our vendor at University of Maryland Eastern Shore to discuss all types of options and particularly looking at some of the contractual language with them. But so far, they have been very much understanding to the situation and have been working with us.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I'm glad to hear that. Thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: However, I think the Comptroller's original question was sort of system wide, and not just for this item. And I think we would be interested in general, Joe, not necessarily right now, to know how the System in its planning and then reflected in funding, financial issues, is dealing with the virus and changes in routine, like students being on campus part time and not dining, changes in the use of, you know, the buildings, you know, six feet, people being six feet from each other, etcetera, what the impact is and how that's impacting financing. Is that --

MR. EVANS: I understand your question. I will get with System headquarters and we will get an answer.

TREASURER KOPP: I think that's what you were asking.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, no, I am so glad the Treasurer is there because otherwise half of my questions would go unanswered, I guess. And I didn't even articulate it and she knows what I was concerned about. But it makes a lot of sense, Joe, obviously, system wide. If there are, you know, depending, some of these contracts are long term and not subject for review. So --

MR. EVANS: I think every, each one of the contracts would have to be looked at individually to see what kind of contract language was in there when the contract was first negotiated. But like Vice President Primus said, a lot of the contractors are willing to work with you. I know on my campus, I've got one that's working with us now. Although we don't have a traditional dining facility, we do have grab-and-go, and they are shut down now. And we're working through that with that vendor.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Great, I'll look forward to that.  
Thank you, Madam Treasurer.

TREASURER KOPP: Governor?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: In general at some point, not just because we are interested in higher education and --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: For a moment --

TREASURER KOPP: Not just because we --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Moment --

TREASURER KOPP: Yeah. Something else just popped up on my screen.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: You're back, though.

TREASURER KOPP: It's my laptop. I apologize. I was going to say, not just because we are interested in higher education, which we all are individually, but also because of the financial ramifications, particularly as we go into a very tough budget situation. I think it would be interesting for this Board to know what the University sees as it looks out over the next 12 to 18 months in terms of their finances and their programs. I know that the System administration is pulling together and going through things and trying to understand what the impact of the coronavirus will be on attendance and funding, tuition, costs, etcetera. At some point, and I suppose they would be the ones to know when it's the appropriate point, when they have everything together, I think it would be useful to brief the Board of Public Works on this so we can understand as we look into the budget and

look into revenue forecasts and look into cuts to understand how the Board of Regents is looking at this.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, we can, I can reach out to the Board of Regents and ask that they give us a date when they think they feel comfortable coming and talking to us about their projections. Not what they are asking for, per se, in a budget --

TREASURER KOPP: Right. Right.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- but where they are projecting in terms of the, you know, attendance, revenue decline, tuition, the room and board questions. So it will be interesting to hear. And as I've mentioned a couple of times, I think they also need to be thinking in terms of, and particularly those who have the educational experience, what is the new world going to look like for education? Because people are getting and younger people are getting very used to this remote education. And I read just I want to say it was yesterday an article in the *Wall Street Journal* about these engineering students who put together an app which they did it for somewhat good reasons, but it was in an article about how these kids are spoofing their instructors because they know how to do these things on Zoom. But these engineering students or computer science students had put together an app that made it seem that they were sitting in the classroom, in the virtual classroom, when they weren't. But the computer science student who



created it said, I didn't want to sit in an 8:00 class virtually. So what I would do is I created this so the professor thinks I'm there, but I watch the lecture at 3:00 in the afternoon. So it's almost like our DVRs now, that we watch our shows when we want to watch them. They are getting the lecture when they want to get it versus when the professor is actually standing there. And I thought that was, you know, quite interesting. And it relates to something that Dr. Wilson at Morgan had told me about, students who use YouTube to watch a lecture on the subject that they are currently studying because they can relate to the lecturer, or he or she presents it in a way that they understand it better than the person who is standing in front of them in the classroom. So it really starts to change the whole, these professors almost become free agents. You know? It's going to be really a different world. And it may not be next year. But I think the universities and the education community has to start thinking about, you know, what's going to be the future of higher education.

TREASURER KOPP: Well, I'm sure they are thinking about it and they are trying to make some plans. But it's a new world, you're right.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah.

TREASURER KOPP: And it would be good to know where they are in their thinking.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Right. There's the two parts. There's the here and now, the immediate, and then the long term. So.

TREASURER KOPP: Right. Exactly.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Any other questions for the University System? And I will check with the Board of Regents and talk to them about coming in and talking to us.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I would move approval.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Do we have a second?

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Thank you.

MR. EVANS: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you, Joe.  
All right. Department of Transportation? Maryland Department of Transportation?

MR. SLATER: Good afternoon. How are you? Again, one minute after morning.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh, good afternoon.

MR. SLATER: Good morning, great to see everyone. Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, my name

is Greg Slater, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. Before I get started, I've been enjoying the conversation about a variety of topics, but Madam Treasurer, you would be interested to know that we just received a \$3 million grant from FTA for some zero emission buses for Baltimore City for MTA's fleet.

TREASURER KOPP: Great.

MR. SLATER: So we're going to be purchasing three 60-foot zero emission buses and be able to install some charging infrastructure with that grant as well. It will give us the opportunity to try these vehicles downtown and be able to kind of make some progress before we make a bigger, larger type of a purchase and see how it works for us through this FTA grant.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Very good.

TREASURER KOPP: Yeah, that's great. Always nice to do good things with other people's money.

MR. SLATER: Absolutely. Well, we have a little bit of our skin in the game as well as part of the match. But it's a great opportunity. The Maryland Department of Transportation is presenting 12 items for your consideration today. We have representatives as well as myself here to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I don't. Madam Treasurer or Mr. Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, I would move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: I don't. Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Thank you. That was easy.

MR. SLATER: Thank you. That was easy.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. General Services? Did we lose the --

MR. CHURCHILL: No, I am here. Good to see you again. This time, good afternoon, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, I'm Ellington Churchill, Secretary for the Maryland Department of General Services. Today we are presenting 21 items for your consideration and revisions have been submitted for Items 8, 9, 10, and 18. And we have representatives available to answer your questions. And Governor, I do have, I expected your question and we'll answer that accordingly at the time that you ask it again.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. I wanted to forewarn you. Okay.

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: On Item 1-C, and it's a simple question, any of these boiler repair operations are either MBE or SBR firms?

MR. CHURCHILL: Governor, I can get back to the group about these --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, if you don't have it in front of you, you can get back to me.

MR. CHURCHILL: You've got it, yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. And then I'm going to, if anyone has anything before we get to 18-IT, I've got a, well I can ask if anyone has any other questions on the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I did, on Item 17. This is I believe a commissary contract modification.

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes. Item 17 and we do have Secretary Green from Public Safety to respond.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. So I don't have any problem necessarily with this, but this has come before us now eight times. This is the eighth time. We've given modifications on seven other occasions. I believe that the department has indicated that there is a, finally a new procurement out for this contract and bids and proposals are due next Friday, June 15th. And I just want

to confirm that this is the case and that we're going to have a competitive procurement process after all of this with an October, I think, date for a contract awardee. Is that still kind of the schedule?

MR. GREEN: Good afternoon, Governor, Mr. Comptroller, and Madam Treasurer. That is correct. We are exercising this single six-month renewal. The department in fact went out to bid on April 1st. As you noted, Mr. Comptroller, that is due on June 15 and we anticipate bringing a new contract before the Board by October.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent. And if I could, Lieutenant Governor, just pivot for a second to one of my current frustrations, which is the Corizon contract. I'm a little frustrated, and I think my staff is also. We thought this would be on this week's Agenda with some clarification responses to the issues that were raised at the last meeting. But here we are and the item is not added back on the Agenda. So I certainly hope that we can expect and anticipate the Corizon contract to be on the Agenda for our June 17th meeting. I wonder if that makes sense to the Secretary, for the Secretary?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Comptroller, you can anticipate that. We received questions as late as Monday evening and we want to provide a full overview and a full rendering to all of the questions the Board has asked about that contract.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Great. We'll see you on the 17th.

Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Sure. I guess I'm just looking at 18-IT. I've been seeing a lot of the project managers coming up and I guess this is one specifically for MD THINK, which I think is something that -- I shouldn't say I think. I believe that this is something that will help us through the process and help us move forward. I don't really have a question. I'm just commenting that I think it's a good idea to make sure that we can get this going in the best manner.

Mr. Secretary, on the potential Ford electric truck?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: We talked about that a little while ago. Has there been any progress on that?

MR. CHURCHILL: Well, we have not moved to order but we are evaluating all our EV models in terms of small trucks and vans. And our Department of Facilities Management is very interested, especially since we have charging stations as part of our Annapolis complex. So we're working with DBM concerning, you know, that topic. In addition, I will just note that the department is also vetting and will be building with the help of our Office of Energy and Sustainability more charging stations at least five sites across the State. So.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, I think that one of the items that popped up, and maybe Secretary Grumbles, I don't know if he's still on the line, but I was led to believe with the settlement with Volkswagen a while ago that there was some funding that could be utilized for both charging stations, but also for the acquisition of these vehicles. And that's why when I saw that Ford had issued this truck, and I don't want to just send everything to Ford per se, but just I saw that. And I thought about your agency and also to a certain extent DNR, that those are two agencies that probably could utilize the electric pickups and really Transportation as well. Particularly since they have gotten away from that ugly yellow color on most of their vehicles, so.

MR. CHURCHILL: Right. Absolutely. And the department is working with the Department of Budget and Management concerning that topic in terms of funding for vehicles that fit that definition.

TREASURER KOPP: Governor, it's my recollection that the Department of Budget and Management in fact put out a letter saying that electric vehicles should be the default, or energy efficient vehicles should be the default unless an explanation can be made why they shouldn't be used. And it's also my impression that the Secretary and the gentleman, the former police officer or trooper who is in charge of the vehicle program, are quite enthusiastic about electric vehicles or at least hybrid electric.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay.

TREASURER KOPP: Electric and hybrid, hybrid electric. But there is a feeling that sometimes the folks in the other agencies or in the bureaucracy are not as comfortable, they haven't had them, they are not sure that they are reliable, etcetera. So maybe, Mr. Secretary, you could work with the Secretary of DBM and try to reach out to, you know, the folks in the field and your fellow cabinet members and the Lieutenant Governor and get them all together pushing so that it's a group effort instead of in silos or one department trying to bang on the others. Wouldn't that be helpful? Would that be helpful?

MR. CHURCHILL: Well a general conversation about strategy of course would be welcome. We will work with the Department of Budget and Management as they are the lead agency concerning this topic in any way that we can. And we will try to lead as we normally do, by example.

TREASURER KOPP: That's great. Maryland should be in the forefront. We should be an example for the nation. And I'm sure that Secretary Brinkley and his staff will do everything they can to support you and bring folks together.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Madam Treasurer, on behalf of my grandkids, thank you for your leadership. Because someday your efforts will be rewarded.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you. There are many problems before us, but this one is not going away while we deal with the short term crises, shorter term crises.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: And we can talk about geothermal at another time, Mr. Secretary.

TREASURER KOPP: Yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes.

MR. CHURCHILL: I look forward to it, Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Any other questions on the General Services Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you all. Thank you very much for another riveting Board of Public Works meeting. Take care.

TREASURER KOPP: You, too.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you. Goodbye.

(Whereupon, at 12:13 p.m., the meeting was concluded.)