

---

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

**July 5, 2023**  
**10:22 a.m.**

---

# PRESENT

**HONORABLE WES MOORE**

Governor

**HONORABLE ARUNA MILLER**

Lieutenant Governor

**HONORABLE DERECK DAVIS**

Treasurer

**HONORABLE BROOKE LIERMAN**

Comptroller

**JOHN GONTRUM**

Secretary, Board of Public Works

**ATIF CHAUDHRY**

Secretary, Department of General Services

**JOSH KURTZ**

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

**HELENE GRADY**

Secretary, Department of Budget and Management

**CAROLYN SCRUGGS**

Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

**VALERIE RADOMSKY**

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

**THOMAS HICKEY**

Director of Procurement and Real Property Initiatives,  
University System of Maryland

**LISA GRIGSBY**

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

**HUNT REPORTING COMPANY**

Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

# CONTENTS

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Witness</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Payment of Settlement to Resolve Claims in U.S. Department of Labor Investigation of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services</b>	SEC 31, p. 39	John Gontrum Patrick Moran Carolyn Scruggs Helene Grady	11
<b>Compensation to Erroneously Confined Individual Mr. John Huffington</b>	SEC 21, p. 23	John Gontrum	17
<b>Grant to African Art Museum of Maryland</b>	SEC 4, p. 6	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Art and Culture</b>	SEC 5, p. 7	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Beloved Community Services Corporation</b>	SEC 6, p. 8	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Chesapeake Bay Trust</b>	SEC 7, p. 9	John Gontrum Greg Burks	19
<b>Grant to College Park City-University Partnership</b>	SEC 8, p. 10	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Foundation for the Advancement of Music and Education</b>	SEC 9, p. 11	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Historic Annapolis Foundation</b>	SEC 10, p. 12	John Gontrum	19

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
 Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
 Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
 410-766-HUNT (4868)  
 1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

---

<b>Grant to Historic Sotterley</b>	SEC 11, p. 13	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Maryland Association of Boards of Education</b>	SEC 12, p. 14	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Maryland Council on Economic Education</b>	SEC 13, p. 15	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore</b>	SEC 14, p. 16	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Mack Lewis Boxing Gym</b>	SEC 15, p. 17	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Olney Civic Fund</b>	SEC 16, p. 18	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Prince George's County Links</b>	SEC 17, p. 19	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Signal 13 Foundation</b>	SEC 18, p. 20	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to Western Maryland Scenic Railroad</b>	SEC 19, p. 21	John Gontrum	19
<b>Grant to York Road Partnership</b>	SEC 20, p. 22	John Gontrum	19
<b>DNR Agenda</b>	DNR	Josh Kurtz	23

---

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
 Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
 Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
 410-766-HUNT (4868)  
 1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

<b>USM Agenda</b>	USM	Tom Hickey	24
<b>DOT Agenda</b>	DOT	Valerie Radomsky	25
<b>Grant to the Board of Directors of the Olney Theatre Center for Arts, Inc.</b>	DGS 4-CGL, p. 90	Atif Chaudhry	27
<b>Approval of Clarification of Restrictive Covenant Language in Confirmatory Deed</b>	DGS 46-RP, p. 168	Atif Chaudhry	27
<b>Comprehensive Landscaping Services for Annapolis Public Buildings and Grounds</b>	DGS 43-M, p. 162	Atif Chaudhry Patrick Moran	28
<b>Grant to Board of Directors of Uplift Foundation</b>	DGS 42-CGL, p. 161	Atif Chaudhry	29

---

# PROCEEDINGS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good morning, everyone, and I want to welcome you to today's meeting. But with today's meeting begins a very tragic situation that we have just recently heard.

Yesterday, we celebrated the nation's 247th birthday, a nation that celebrates liberty, justice, and opportunities for all, but a nation that also must support safety for all. And this morning, the Governor right now is on the phone with the County Executive of Wicomico County, Julie Giordano, talking about an incident that just happened: another mass shooting, in Salisbury. A 14-year-old has died and seven others have been injured.

This continues to happen throughout our nation and in our State, and I can tell you that Governor Moore, myself, our entire administration, the Comptroller, the Treasurer, everyone in State government, our number one priority is public safety. And especially when we see the loss of innocent lives of young children, this has to stop. But we all need to work together to make it stop. We have to heal our State and our communities. We just have to work together.

I know the solutions don't seem like they are out there, but they are out there and we need to hear from every one of you on how we can keep our young people safe and to continue their full potential and their lives. And they shouldn't lose their lives so senselessly to gun violence.

So right now, the Governor is on the phone so I apologize for the delay in this meeting. But I don't want to delay it any further. But let us keep our thoughts, prayers, and love for the family and the victims of another mass shooting. And I think, Comptroller, you wanted to talk a little bit about what happened to the district that you once represented as well.

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Lieutenant Governor. And certainly I want to just, you know, all of our hearts go out to the folks in Salisbury. And you're right; our number one priority is keeping people safe and keeping our kids safe so that they can realize their full potential. And the gun violence is, sometimes it feels overwhelming, frankly, but we have to give up and we have to keep moving forward because there is no other alternative.

And today, I wanted to talk a little bit about Brooklyn. So thank you for giving me a couple of moments. First, I want to thank the Governor for his incredible outreach support and the personal touch he brought to the residents in Brooklyn yesterday and to the First Lady. The leadership that they have shown, that you have shown over the past few days have been really remarkable, our Senate President, the delegation, City Councilwoman Phylcia Porter, our Mayor, and all. But I wanted to take a moment to talk about Brooklyn, which is a community that I had the honor of getting to know when I represented it for eight years as a State Delegate.

I went by yesterday and it was really wonderful to see folks there, who I hadn't had the opportunity to see since I don't have the chance to be there as much as I used to be. And while we were there, Mayor Scott reminded us that at the start of his administration, we on Team 46 took him on a walking tour of this very large and diverse neighborhood to show him how challenged it was. And challenged it is.

This is a neighborhood that was annexed by Baltimore in the early 1900s from Anne Arundel County. It was a working class and middle class neighborhood for decades, totally connected to the Port and the shipyard and the industries around it, had good wages and good jobs, family supporting jobs. The closures started the long slide of the neighborhood that used to have multiple grocery stores, hotels, the State's largest walnut tree. Most Baltimoreans now, I

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

think we can honestly say, they have never been there because they don't have a reason to go. And challenged it is, but it's also truly amazing.

I fell in love with the neighborhood of Brooklyn when I first started door knocking there in 2013 and I decided to run for State Delegate because I was one of those Baltimoreans who had never been there. Talking with residents there, it was humbling and inspiring. And some days I would get in my car and cry after door knocking for hours because I was so overwhelmed with the challenges that the neighbors faced, but how gracefully they were handling them. They deal with circumstances and situations I have never had to live with, and many of them feel failed, and have been failed, by economics and the government over and over. But they endure. And frankly, they do so much more than endure. They make things better for their neighbors and for their families, each in their own way.

Like local moms, a local mom and leader of the PTO at Maree Farring Elementary-Middle School, a school by the way that is the most overcrowded school in Baltimore City. For years and years, we have been trying to get an expansion built there and the former IAC blocked us at most turns because it was so difficult to get adequate funding to rebuild the school there. That mom reached out to us and said, well, can we at least get a new playground? And we worked with KABOOM! and got it done. Or the residents of Brooklyn Homes, who were frustrated because none of their streetlights worked, so we worked with HABC and the City to prioritize it and get things done. Also, the amazing Safe Streets workers there. They were there the evening it happened. They will continue to show up and be there to work with residents, and that program is funded by the State's Violence Intervention and Prevention Program. And then there are the residents, who constantly amaze me, they are so amazing, and they set aside historical differences to work Saturday morning after Saturday

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)



morning, when most families are taking their kids to soccer or just having lazy Saturday mornings, they would get up and go to meetings Saturday after Saturday to work with their brothers and sisters in Cherry Hill, Westport, Lakeland, and more, to form the SB6 and the SB7. And those who came together for night meeting after night meeting, sometimes bringing their kids, sitting for hours to talk about a vision and a plan for Brooklyn and what it should look like to create the now five-year-old community development corporation, the Greater Baybrook Alliance. Many of you may have seen that the Bank of America made its first ever building donation in Maryland when it donated its bank to GBA earlier this year.

But despite horrible housing conditions, slum landlords, failing infrastructure, food deserts, rows of empty tree pits, gun violence, and being physically cut off from the rest of the City, these families show up again and again. And honestly, they are my heroes. They inspire me every day.

So my heart goes out to all of the victims, their families, and the entire community. I am so, so sorry that this happened. And none of us will rest until justice is served. I hope through this incredible tragedy, some of Maryland will get to know Brooklyn beyond the tragedy. Because it is more than a statistic. So I hope you get to know the amazing views from Garrett Park, or the wildness of Farring-Baybrook, the incredible work being done at Ben Franklin High School, and inspiring plans at City of Refuge Church, the delicious food at Sweet Home Jamaica and more. And although I may not be the Delegate for Brooklyn anymore, the community will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Comptroller Lierman, for your very thoughtful remarks. And our hearts and our pain we feel for the people of Brooklyn as well.

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So thank you for sharing your thoughts. And ladies and gentlemen, Governor Moore now. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks, everybody. Please take a seat.  
Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I apologize for coming on a little late. And I know we have a lot of business of the day that we're going to get to. But I just want to say thank you to the Comptroller for not just her wonderful remarks, but the wonderful sentiments around it. Thank you to our partner in this work, Lieutenant Governor, thank you for your remarks as well. Thank you for your leadership, Mr. Treasurer.

Our community is too good to continue to have to deal with this. And our children deserve so much more than this. Your remarks, you are absolutely right. You know, we live in communities and we serve communities that should be known for the greatness that they are developing, for the entrepreneurs that they are fostering, for the communities that they are building, and for the futures that they are molding, and not be known and synonymous with gun violence. We spend far too much time as a State dealing with the issue of guns and violence and not make enough progress. And it's not fair and it's not right and it's going to stop.

I know we have a lot of business to do today, so why don't we go ahead and get started with today's meeting. The first up is the Secretary's Agenda. So good morning, Mr. Secretary, and thank you, and please proceed.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor, and good morning, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. There are 32 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and two reports of emergency procurements. At

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

the request of Morgan State University, I am withdrawing Item 30, leaving 31 items and the two emergency procurement reports on the Secretary's Agenda. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. Thank you. And there are actually a few items that I would like to discuss in this Agenda. The first is I'd like to call up Item 31, which is a request from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to approve a \$13 million settlement that is arising from an investigation that was conducted by the Department of Labor.

This investigation that we are speaking about was found between 2018 and 2021, that the department that was under the previous administration violated federal wage laws by failing to pay overtime to 3,874 current and former correctional officers. This investigation, which was a department wide review, resulted from an initial investigation at the Jessup Correctional Institute, where the U.S. Department of Labor found that DPSCS was in violation of federal law and was required to pay \$468,000 in back pay in 2021. So while the Department of Labor's investigation is still ongoing, the one thing that we know is for certain: the federal government found that thousands of dedicated and hardworking employees were underpaid for hours of work they performed at the department. And we not only owe them this long overdue back pay, frankly we owe them an apology. An apology for having either inadequate timekeeping systems, and/or inappropriate places and policies in place. And an apology for the years that have gone by that the State has still not made them whole.

Since day one, my administration has worked in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor and with our friends in AFSCME to identify all the impacted employees and get the money owed to them as quickly as possible. And I want to take a moment just to thank Secretary Scruggs, Secretary Grady, the

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

Attorney General's Office, AFSCME, and so many others for their leadership and for their tireless work over these past several months in making this issue right.

Today as we vote on this settlement, my administration is committed to continuing to working closely with the Department of Labor as they ascertain whether more employees are owed back wages during this time period. So as we advance this item today, and make a commitment to continue cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor on this investigation, I also commit that we have taken and will continue to take the actions that will make sure that this never happens again. We will work with AFSCME to make sure that these employees are made whole, as well as any others that we uncover in other departments as well.

And so with that, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Patrick Moran, the President of AFSCME Council 3, who has requested time to speak on this incredibly important matter. Mr. Moran, as you come up I just want to say thank you for your partnership with this administration and thank you for your leadership on this critically important work.

MR. MORAN: Thank you, Governor. Thank you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. For the record, I'm Patrick Moran. I'm the President of AFSCME Council 3. We represent tens of thousands of public service employees across the State of Maryland, including 6,000 in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

I want to start by thanking you, Governor Moore, your staff, DBM Secretary Grady, Secretary of DPSCS Scruggs, and the Comptroller for working with us through this very difficult situation. We were able to get to this point because of your collaboration and understanding the need to make those that had their wages stolen whole and leave no folks behind.

Let me be clear: we do not know the depth of this theft of our

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

members' wages. This scheme was cooked up in DPSCS and covered up by the Hogan administration and it went on for years. Our members dating back to at least 2017 met with leaders of the DPSCS and questioned them about how their timesheets were possibly being manipulated. This issue was raised time and time again at the departmental level, at the local level, and our members were told repeatedly that there was no problem, there was no time manipulation. Very simply, they were lied to by the department. Because individuals in management had to plan, they had to authorize, and execute this plan. It was not a computer glitch because it happened in every single institution across the State. We are only here because of the dogged efforts of our membership. Their efforts led to a federal DOL investigation that the Governor referenced by the Wage and Hour Division. We worked with, provided evidence to, and set up interviews of dozens of our members about the DPSCS stealing our members' wages.

Now, after 18 months, we are finally seeing a glimmer of hope. Some issues remain unresolved. Who created this scheme? Who okayed this? Who knew and turned a blind eye?

The settlement before the BPW today would represent the second largest wage theft settlement for correctional officers in United States history. Who is being held accountable for stealing at least \$13 million from the hardworking correctional staff? If one of our members were to knowingly alter their timesheet without authorization, they would be fired, no questions, no defense. But to our knowledge, no one in management has been disciplined for this illegal wage theft. I have heard they are no longer with the department, or they have moved on. Then where to? In another arm of State government? We don't know.

People need to be held accountable because they stole employees' money. They thought that people working for free was acceptable. It is not

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

acceptable, ever, in any situation. We will continue to work with your administration, Governor Moore, to make our members and the department whole, staff it properly, and keep our community safe. Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. And thank you for your tireless advocacy.

MR. MORAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Because we are just simply talking about (indiscernible) what people were promised, and people who were doing really, really difficult work and making sure they are not short-changed. So thank you for your, thank you for your hard work and advocacy. With that, any questions from my colleagues?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I'd just like to make a quick comment.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please. Please.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you, Governor. I want to start by thanking you and Secretary Grady and Secretary Scruggs and your administration for the thorough work that you have undertaken from the earliest days, frankly, of your administration to work with this. And thank Secretary Scruggs for her letter to the Board of Public Works regarding this matter, and being transparent about what happened with all State workers and with the public is essential. And as the Secretary wrote in her letter and the Governor referenced, this matter isn't over. It is not finished. As the department and AFSCME and the U.S. Department of Labor work together to review what other classes of employees are still owed money.

In another item, we are going to be reviewing remuneration for stealing years of a life. And in this item, we are approving remuneration for

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

stealing years of thousands of people's livelihoods. So I also want to apologize on behalf of the State that this happened and let our workers know how unacceptable this practice was. It was a blatant violation of the long established Fair Labor Standards Act and trained professionals should have and did know better. As an attorney, I had the honor of representing many workers doing Fair Labor Standards Act cases where employers were stealing their hard earned wages and it is shocking for me to see that a State agency engaged in this type of behavior. Because it is called wage theft for a reason. Patrick, you said, you know, if your employees had manipulated the time clock to show, they would have been fired. I would say they probably would have been prosecuted for fraud or theft and had to pay it all back as well.

So I'm glad that because of the work of AFSCME and the investigation by USDOL thousands of dedicated public servants will finally receive compensation for their work, which was rightly owed to them in the first place. I think this is a lesson to all of us, and all of our agencies, and I say this as, you know, we have the Central Payroll Bureau in our department, to be mindful of all of our wage and hour laws. Because the State must be a model employer, a model employer for all, to make sure that we are showing everybody what we should be doing. So I'm glad that DPSCS has changed operations and I believe it is imperative. I know that the Governor is making sure that all of our systems and processes which allowed this stuff to happen in the first place will be given a second look statewide to ensure that something like this can never happen again in any agency. Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Madam Comptroller. Please?

TREASURER DAVIS: Is there someone from the agency that I can ask a question of?

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes. Thank you, Patrick.

MS. SCRUGGS: Good morning.

TREASURER DAVIS: This is notwithstanding the question, I mean, the comments of the Governor and the Comptroller. This is a little bit different. I'm just curious. It said that the settlement if approved in the amount of \$13,023,474.09, it is coming out of the department's budget. The agency has that kind of money laying around? How do you just come up -- I mean, and it's not you. But I'm just saying, how do you just have \$13 million in a budget that to write a check for? Not that it shouldn't be written, it absolutely should be. But I guess I'm wondering, who has that kind of money laying around?

MS. SCRUGGS: Thank you. I'm doing to defer to the Secretary of DBM.

MS. GRADY: Treasurer Davis, I'm happy to answer that question on behalf of Secretary Scruggs. I'm Helene Grady, Secretary of Budget and Management. I think Mr. Moran raised the fact that this was brought to the administration's attention, this issue, in the very early days of the administration in January. From that point, the Governor took control to prioritize the addition of \$15 million in his supplemental budget for the fiscal '23 budget for Department of Public Safety in order to ensure we had the funding available in the Public Safety budget to make these employees whole. You might remember that that was at the same time as a significant revenue write down, and so made that all that more challenging to do. But I give the Governor significant credit for prioritizing this among all the other requests and needs of various agencies.

TREASURER DAVIS: And don't get me wrong. I don't want anybody to misunderstand. I'm not saying that it shouldn't have been done. I was just wondering, like, how does an agency have the resources. But it looks like it was anticipated so we were able to properly plan for this. That was it.

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)



MS. SCRUGGS: Thank you, sir.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. And actually, transitioning to another item that I'd like to call up is Item 21. And this actually continues on the theme of truth and reconciliation, about for us to be able to move forward as a society we really need to be able to have hope. And for Item 21, it directs \$2.9 million in compensation through the Walter Lomax Act to Mr. John Huffington for being wrongfully convicted and incarcerated for more than three decades. Erroneously convicted in 1981 for two counts of first degree felony murder, Mr. Huffington spent 32 years behind bars. Ten of those years were on death row. In May 2013, the Frederick County Circuit Court vacated his erroneous convictions and ordered a new trial. And on July 22, 2013, almost a decade ago, he was released from incarceration, becoming the 191st person, death row prisoner, to be exonerated since 1973.

In 2021, the Maryland Supreme Court took the rare but necessary action to disbar the Harford County State's Attorney at the time who represented the State in the case for prosecutorial misconduct in withholding exculpatory evidence that would have proven Mr. Huffington's innocence. Mr. Huffington, John, was wrongfully incarcerated for 11,575 days, 11,575 days. He was robbed of time being spent away from family and loved ones, holidays, birthdays, missed milestones, opportunities denied, injustice time and time again. And it would be understandable to grow angry at the criminal justice system or just society as a whole, who frankly failed him. He was literally sentenced to death for crimes that he never committed.

But when he was released in 2013, that wasn't the route that Mr. Huffington took. Instead, he chose to give back to his community generously and selflessly. He worked as a logistics manager for Second Chance, which provides job training programs for those experiencing unemployment challenges in

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

Baltimore, including ex-offenders. He then worked at the Living Classroom Foundation as Director of Workforce Development, responsible for developing job training efforts for its reentry program. And now, he is a Corporate Social Responsibility Director for a holdings management company and is the Vice President and COO of Kinetic Capital Community Foundation. He has been involved in Project SERVE. He has sat on numerous nonprofit and governmental boards. He authored a book, which I am proud to say I have his signature inside of my office and it's a very good book. He has given numerous speeches, presentations, interviews to raise awareness about his experiences and the flaws within our criminal justice system.

John has become a friend. I'm thankful not just because he is willing to share his story. But he has been willing to take his pain and turn it into purpose. He is joined here today along with his girlfriend Chrissy, his legal team, his tribe, his friends. Good to see you (indiscernible). Mr. Huffington, John, I cannot say enough how inspired I am by you, how grateful I am for you, how sorry I am for what you had to go through. But how amazed by the power that you have to turn this experience into something that we as a State should and will learn from. And as the State's Chief Executive, and as a very proud Marylander, that you have chosen to share your talents and passion with your community is nothing short of remarkable. John, would you please stand up so we all can recognize you?

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: We are honored by your presence here today and your presence here today frankly serves as a reminder that our State hasn't always gotten it right. But we are always going to keep searching to make sure that we do. Your presence here today reminds us not just of an injustice that happened, but the fact that progress is possible as long as we stay committed and

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

determined. And the fact that you are such an important part of that progress now in the work that you are doing says everything to everybody about who you are. So bless you, man. And thank you so much. And on behalf of the entire State of Maryland, we are deeply, deeply sorry, and we are deeply, deeply inspired by the work that you are doing now. So bless you and thank you so much. With that, I'd like to -- sure, Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I'd just like to associate myself with that. No, John, you are an inspiration to all of us. I brought my son today because I wanted him to be able to witness and understand that failure, that government makes massive failures sometimes. But we have to put people in place to try to correct those. And I am just so inspired by you and the work that you do. You know, you, I recognize that no dollar amount can ever make up for what was stolen from you. But I hope that today's action brings some solace, some vindication. It is wonderful to see you living life to its full potential. I am so inspired by everything you do. Thank you so much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Comptroller. Thank you. And lastly, we have a number of operating grants. Items 4 through 20 which we are approving today. And with these State investments, it is underscoring a strong commitment that the partnership that the administration, the General Assembly, and the Board of Public Works has with our local jurisdictions and our nonprofit organizations. And so I am proud of the incredible investments that we are advancing today, funding the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, the Maryland Zoo, the Historic Annapolis Foundation, the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, just to name a few. And we are so proud that these investments really are making not just a meaningful impact on our communities, but also making a meaningful impact on the direction of our State as a whole. And so Mr. Greg Burks of the Urban Trees, who is the Urban Trees

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

Program Manager of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, has requested to speak in support of Item 7. Mr. Burks? Please, come up to the hot seat. Thank you so much for being here. Thank you so much for being here. Thank you for the incredible work that you and your colleagues are doing. And we are thankful to have you on behalf of Item 7. So thank you so much.

MR. BURKS: Thank you so much. It is an honor to be here. So thank you, Comptroller Lierman, Treasurer Davis, and of course Governor Moore. Again, it is an honor to be here. For the record, my name is Greg Burks and I manage the Urban Trees Grant Program at the Chesapeake Bay Trust. And again, I am here to talk about being considered today to manage two programs totaling \$11.5 million that will make significant impacts on many lives here in our State of Maryland.

For the first \$1.5 million of the \$11.5 million is to be applied in statute to the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps. To give a little bit of history, that program was established in 2010 by the Maryland General Assembly to provide one time stipends supported by terms of service to youth 18 to 25 to experience opportunities in natural resources fields. And you know, it's a great opportunity. Fast forward to 2022, the Climate Solutions Now Act actually expanded the program to include that \$1.5 million per year to include climate justice themes and increase the stipends for those Corps members, which is really exciting. So today, I am happy to announce we have identified over 50 Corps members who are really excited to start their terms this August. These young, youthful, energetic youth are really going to make some significant strides and really make significant impacts in environmental restoration, community engagement, sustainable agriculture, energy conservation, and even forestry. We are so proud of these youth. These youth are really our future. They are the next stewards of restoration and improving the health and well-being for everyone in

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

our State. But really, it is about the impact on them and their lives. So we are so proud of them and actually (indiscernible) they are about to experience. What a wonderful way to build opportunities in these young youth. So honestly, thank you. So we're really excited.

The next program I'd like -- oh, so before I go ahead, might I add that \$1.5 million is also joined by DNR, BGE, the Trust, and the National Park Service. So it is a collaborative effort there as well.

Now, the next part of the funding, the \$10 million out of the \$11.5 million, is the Urban Trees Grant Program, which came out of the Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021, which stated out of the statute that trees are to be planted in urban underserved communities that have high unemployment, low income, any neighborhood that has been red lined in its history and communities where there's any public housing. The statute and the Urban Trees Program is to bring communities together to plant trees in neighborhoods really to focus on urban heat island effect, air quality, shade, all the things that improve the lives and well-being for individuals across the State of Maryland. We had the opportunity last year to present to the Board of Public Works to kick off the program. At the time, we identified 36 individuals (indiscernible) across the State. And those individuals have (indiscernible) off the ground running. They are already approaching their second planting season. They have mobilized. They are ordering native tree species. They are doing so much work in communities to really have conversations about why trees are important, what are the needs, what are the benefits. And we're really talking about the lasting impact of trees in the neighborhood. And it has just been so phenomenal to see these groups come together. I have had the opportunity to walk in many neighborhoods across our State and hear communities so excited about this initiative. And I'm only one person reporting. But the weight and impact of these groups having this

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

discussion, seeing trees on the ground. Every time I drive into the City and I see a white tag in a tree, I'm like, those are our trees, they are popping up. And it is just so amazing to see the impact that they are going to have on these communities. So just so phenomenal.

Right now, the funding we are going to discuss today is that additional \$10 million. We have identified another 28 groups who are ready to get started in the fall. They are also excited. They are ready to mobilize their groups and we are just so appreciative of the funding to help get them going.

The Urban Tree Program has just been, like I said, I am one person. But what I can tell you is the impact and hearing stories from residents about air quality and shade, and shaded playgrounds for youth, and bus stops, and how important that is really makes this, it brings the program to life. And why the impact on human health and the connection to trees is so important.

So again, the Urban Tree Program, it focuses on tree planting. It covers everything from staff time, maintenance, tools, supplies, many elements to make sure that communities applying to this program get what they need to hit the ground running, get those trees in the ground, and make sure that they get what they need to survive and thrive for many years to come.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Your energy is contagious.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: My God, I'm ready to go, like go plant some trees.

(Laughter.)

MR. BURKS: Yeah, it really is important. I mean, I've put some trees in the ground myself. I just feel so inspired. So (indiscernible) but we want to get trees in the ground because it really does make an impact. So --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes, we do.

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

MR. BURKS: -- thank you for that feedback. I appreciate it. And we're just honored to be here because it's about the impact. It's about our youth, our State, the folks involved, and air quality, and shade. So that all those elements, it's so important. So we thank you. We appreciate it.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Amen. Amen. Well, thank you. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your remarks. But importantly, thank you and thank the Chesapeake Bay Trust for your leadership. This is the kind of stuff that makes our State better. Not just because of its larger impact, but because it is bringing everyone else along with it. So thank you for your time and thank you for being here today.

MR. BURKS: Thank you, Governor. I appreciate it.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good job. Any further discussion on the remainder of the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the Secretary's Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much. The next up is the Department of Natural Resources. Secretary Kurtz, good morning.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. For the record, my name is Josh Kurtz. I'm the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. It's good to be here today, tough to follow Mr. Burks there. I love the enthusiasm. We're really big fans of the program here at DNR as well. Today the department has seven items for your

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. I have staff on hand as well. So thank you for your consideration.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. We're moved by your enthusiasm, too, Mr. Secretary.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there any discussion on the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No discussion.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Great. May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much. The next up, University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, as always, good morning. It's great to see you, and please proceed.

MR. HICKEY: Governor, good morning, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey, representing University System of Maryland. There are six items on the Agenda for your consideration, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much, Mr. Hickey. Is there any discussion on the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any discussion?

TREASURER DAVIS: No discussion.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve the Agenda.

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)



GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks so much, Mr. Hickey. Thank you.  
We'll proceed onto the MDOT Agenda. Ms. Radomsky, good morning.

MS. RADOMSKY : Good morning. It's great to see you. Good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation. Today, the department is seeking approval of ten Agenda items. Included are two contract actions being awarded to certified minority and small business enterprises, totaling approximately \$1.3 million. Additionally, three contract actions appearing on DGS' Agenda totaling more than \$1.2 million are being awarded to dually certified Maryland based vendors. Representatives are available to answer any questions you may have pertaining to our Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much, Ms. Radomsky. Is there any discussion on MDOT's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.  
Thanks. And we will conclude with the DGS Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning. Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer, for the record I am Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

Maryland Department of General Services. Today, the department is presenting 46 items on our Agenda. We will be withdrawing two items today, Item 16-AE-MOD and Item 29-S-OPT. Our Agenda features nearly \$18 million in capital grants and loans. I just want to highlight a few of those.

I want to highlight Item 3-CGL, which is \$1 million for the reconstruction and site improvements for Baltimore's Washington Monument and the surrounding squares in Mount Vernon Place. This project will restore the largest greenspace in this area of Baltimore City. Not only will the project restore the historic park, but it will also create a more beautiful and pedestrian friendly Mount Vernon Place through improvements to accessibility, safety, maintenance, as well as sustainability.

I wanted to also highlight Item 6-CGL, which is for the renovation of the Langley Park Boys & Girls Club in Prince George's County. This is a wonderful program that is committed to creating a positive environment for youth, as well as changing their lives.

And finally, I want to conclude by highlighting Item 9-CGL, which is \$2 million for the Girl Scouts' 34-acre Camp Woodlands property located in Anne Arundel County in Broad Creek. This investment will provide for the construction of new year-round cabins and lodges, as well as upgrades to the stormwater management system, ADA compliant improvements to the buildings and grounds, and upgraded plumbing and electrical systems as well.

Our Agenda also includes nine contracts with new awards or modifications to contracts with MBE prime contractors totaling over \$27 million.

We have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much. And there are actually a few items that I would just like to highlight as well.

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

First, I just wanted to give a very quick shout out to Item 4-CGL, which is an \$11 million capital grant for renovations at the Olney Theatre. I have had a chance to attend a few events over at the Olney Theatre, most recently back in April with our Lieutenant Governor and the Second Gentleman and the First Lady. We had a chance to attend the play *Nice Indian Boy*.

TREASURER DAVIS: You didn't call me.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: (Indiscernible). But that was a good play, I've got to say. That was good.

TREASURER DAVIS: Oh, rub it in.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: But it is a wonderful community jewel, a wonderful facility. I can't wait to get there again with the Treasurer at some point

--

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: And next also I'd like to just highlight Item 46-RP, which is a request by Washington College to amend -- good to see you (indiscernible) -- to amend and clarify a deed that was signed by members of the Board of Public Works in 2012, when it transferred ownership of the Chestertown Armory to the Town of Chestertown, who then sold it to Washington College. This item, which really, really what it does it just makes a simple clarification, has taken years, years to make a simple clarification. And it stood in the way of the college being able to advance their very, very exciting plans to be able to expand, build a hotel and a conference center right in the heart of Chestertown, which is going to have a significant impact, not just on the community but a significant impact on economic activity as well. So Mr. President, and also Mayor Foster, thank you both for joining us today. Thank you

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

both for your leadership. Thank you both also just for your determination. Because this has not been simple. It should have been more simple.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And we are glad, honored, and thankful to be the BPW that can finally take this action today and to allow this game-changing project to be able to move forward. I am very supportive of this project. I'm excited about the momentum, and all the positive energy, and all the positive impact that we are seeing in Chestertown and the Eastern Shore, and all throughout the State. And so we just want to take a moment to say to you both and to your teams, thank you for continuing to push. And we are very, very excited that today is finally here. So thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

And lastly, we have a speaker request, and that is on Item 43-M, from Mr. Patrick Moran from AFSCME. Welcome back. We didn't mean to scuttle you off quickly earlier. But it's good to have you back, and thank you, Patrick.

MR. MORAN: Thank you, Governor. Members of BPW again, my name is Patrick Moran, AFSCME Maryland Council 3. Our union represents tens of thousands of State employees across the State of Maryland and we take our public service work very seriously.

Unfortunately, we have seen over the multiple administrations the outsourcing of State services. This DGS landscaping and grounds contract is yet another example of this, and we oppose this. AFSCME represents workers in bargaining unit A, the labor and trades unit. This includes groundskeepers, people who would do the outlined work in this contract. And we don't believe that corporations should be making money off the State. We would rather see paying our public servants fair wages and benefits directly as an alternative.

We put together a list from the last year of millions of dollars in

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

contracts like this that pay market rate to private employers who do the work of State employees. It should not be the policy of the State to enrich private corporations when they could and should be employing public servants to do this work and have middle class jobs here in Maryland.

We want to partner with the BPW to rein in this outsourcing of State services so that we together can be good stewards of the taxpayers' money here in Maryland. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks so much, Patrick, as always. And we appreciate your thoughts, not just on this particular contract at all, but also just your continued leadership. And you have my administration's commitment and we will be working in partnership to make sure that we are both rebuilding State government, and to make sure that we are rebuilding properly going forward. So thank you, thank you so much.

With that, is there any further discussion on the DGS Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: If I can, Governor, before we get back, I need to separate out Item 42-CGL. The recipient of this grant has a relationship with the organization, a fraternal organization I am affiliated with. So in the interests of full disclosure and transparency, I would like to separate that one out.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you. With that, is there a motion to approve the Agenda with the inclusion of -- the exclusion?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, with the inclusion of the exclusion.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Excluding Item 42-CGL. And also, I just did also want to say to Patrick, I am fully committed with you and with the Governor to making sure that we are looking for ways to insource moving

HUNT REPORTING COMPANY  
Court Reporting and Litigation Support  
Serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia  
410-766-HUNT (4868)  
1-800-950-DEPO (3376)

forward, which I think we have said in previous meetings as well, and we will continue to do that. So excluding Item 42, I move the rest of the Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Yes, I'm sorry, and then for the vote on Item 42, considering the exclusion, is there a vote to move forward?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move Item 42.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And you vote.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And I vote yes. I vote yes. This concludes today's Board meeting. The next meeting will be on July 19th. Thank you all. We are officially adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:28 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)