



















Ms. Padilla, we are deeply grateful for your contributions and dedication. We wish you the very best in your retirement. And now, we invite you to the podium -- or you know, up to the podium right here to share any remarks you would like to make.

MS. PADILLA: Of all the days I decided not to come to Annapolis.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

MS. PADILLA: Can you hear me?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: We can hear you.

MS. PADILLA: Okay. Great. Well, thank you so much for that wonderful tribute. I am just overwhelmed. It's been such a pleasure to be here working for the State, and I have enjoyed my tenure very much. So I've given up my -- the bottom of my heart and this job has meant so much to me. And it's with real regret -- it's bittersweet leaving because I love the work I do, I love the people I work with, I really enjoy working with the State, but it's time. So thank you so much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Ms. Padilla. We're looking forward to the next chapter of your life story. We're excited about the next adventure. And congratulations again and thank you for your service to the State of Maryland.

MS. PADILLA: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: With that, is there any other further discussion on that item or any other item in the Secretary's agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. May I have a motion to approve the agenda with the exception of Item Number 4?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve the Secretary's

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agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Now, we're going to proceed to the Department of Natural Resources agenda.

Good morning, Secretary Kurtz.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller. And happy early birthday, Mr. Treasurer. Thank you for the (indiscernible) today. For the record, my name is Josh Kurtz. I'm the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The Department has 15 items on the agenda for your consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions. I have staff available to answer any questions as well.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there any discussion on the DNR agenda? May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Next up is the University System of Maryland.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey representing the University System of Maryland. There are five items on the agenda for your consideration. And I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Director Hickey. Is there any discussion on the USM agenda? May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Sure. Now, let's proceed to the MDOT agenda. Good morning, Chief Procurement Officer Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Madam Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Happy birthday, Mr. Treasurer. I'm Valerie Radomski, for the record, Chief Procurement Officer of the Maryland Department of Transportation. We have 13 items on our agenda this morning, including one hand-carried item.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Is there any discussion on the MDOT agenda? May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: This is going really well, isn't it?

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Now, we'll conclude with the DGS agenda. Good morning, Secretary Chaudhry.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. I hope to keep this momentum going here.

(Laughter.)

MR. CHAUDHRY: For the record, I am Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today, the Department is

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presenting 96 items in our agenda. We will be withdrawing three items: Item 19-C, Item 24-S, as well as Item 66-IT Section 1.4. Our agenda does feature \$17.8 million in capital grants and loans.

I did want to highlight one of those in particular. And that is Item, 8-CGL, which provides \$300,000 in State support to the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center. The Klein Family Crisis Center provides round the clock care for people in the Harford County area that are experiencing both mental health as well as substance use disorder issues. This project will increase the current number of outpatient therapy suites to six total, and a new community engagement and group therapy room that will accommodate up to 30 people.

As we continue to keep an eye on our minority business participation in contracting, our agenda does feature 12 contract awards and modifications to certified minority businesses totaling more than \$9.6 million. And we have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. It's my understanding that we have speakers requests today on two items on the DGS agenda. So in the best interest of time, we kindly request all speakers to limit their remarks to five minutes. And we're going to have Secretary Gontrum, who's going to be the timekeeper. So just warning everyone, please keep it to five minutes.

So first, I'll go to 32-S, which is a request from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to award a contract to Centurion of Maryland for medical and mental health services for pre-trial detention facilities. So first, we'll recognize Deputy Secretary Joh Sedtal to introduce the item.

Good morning, Mr. Deputy Secretary.

MR. SEDTAL: Good morning. Sorry for killing the momentum.

(Laughter.)

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MR. SEDTAL: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Joh Sedtal, Deputy Secretary of Administration for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. I'm speaking today on behalf of Secretary Carolyn J. Scruggs, who could not be in attendance today. She's at the memorial for the dedication for a fallen officer.

The Department brings before you today Item 32-S pre-trial, medical and mental health care and utilization services. This contract provides for medical and mental health care for Department's pre-trial population. Much like the Division of Corrections contract brought before the Board three weeks ago, we recognize the substantial sum proposed by this recommendation and we recognize the Board's concerns to award in the face of a protest. The Department would not be taking this action, bringing this before you now, if we did not believe that an award without delay protects the substantial state interest to provide mental and medical health care to the population under its protection to the best of our abilities.

We believe this contract will provide more innovative, more comprehensive, and more robust care. We believe this award represents that. And we believe that providing that care is not something that can or should be delayed. On a fundamental level, the restructuring of this contract into a specific realm of care for the pre-trial population, encompassing both somatic and mental health care, ensures that the medical and mental health professionals caring for their patients will be able to coordinate, collaborate, and synthesize care in the most efficient and effective manner.

We recognize that adequate staffing has been one of the principal challenges of the Department has faced in executing its mission to provide community standard health care to the incarcerated population. We believe that

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changes to the way this RFP was structured will dramatically reduce those concerns and ensure that appropriate accountability can be levied if expectations are not met, though we fully anticipate success in this facet of care.

This proposed contract offers a myriad of benefits to the State and those we serve. These include enhancements to telemedicine opportunities, on-site specialty care, and comprehensive continuity of care designed to facilitate successful reentry into the community, as well as increase staff to provide that care. Compared to the current contract, the proposed contract sets significantly higher goals for minority business enterprise and veteran-owned small business enterprise participation.

Under proposed new contract, the Department anticipates an increased level of performance and quality of service for a better value to the State. Along with the enhancement of health care infrastructure, there is a plan in place to attract more qualified professionals and solve the current vacancy issues. The aim for the award to be based on the needs of the population rather than the type of care, provides a cohesive system that ensures that the quality of care remains consistent and uninterrupted for the incarcerated individuals across all of the Department's pre-trial facilities.

Now, you're likely to hear from the incumbent's representatives that this action is unnecessary, that we should continue operating as we currently are until the MSBCA has been able to rule on the appeals presented by the incumbent's protest. They'll tell you the wonderful work they're doing, and how there's no need to move forward because everything is going great. I would never denigrate the hard work of the medical professionals employed by the incumbent, and I'm thankful for the work they've done, but RFPs are best value awards, and having a low bid does not automatically ensure a successful proposal.

The Department, after reviewing the proposals presented by both

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companies, deemed Centurion so technically superior that we believe that even with the increased costs, the best value to the State of Maryland, to the taxpayers is by recommending award to Centurion. Further, we believe that better healthcare shouldn't wait. These are immediate needs, and good enough isn't good enough for this Department.

Under the Moore-Miller Administration, the executive team at the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has a primary focus on securing communities and restoring lives. Working to prepare incarcerated individuals with the tools to reintegrate into society better than when they left. These individuals, their families, and the communities that they will return to deserve nothing less.

I hope I said that quick enough. I'm trying to keep that under five minutes. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you so much, Deputy Secretary Sedtal. I appreciate that. We'll now go to Ms. Deana Johnson, who represents Centurion and is speaking in support of this item. Welcome.

MS. JOHNSON: Good morning, Madam Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer. My name is Deana Johnson and I am the Chief Legal Officer for Centurion, but you will be happy to know I am not here standing in front of you today to speak as a lawyer. I'm here to speak to you as someone who has spent over 30 years in correctional health care and 27 years with this amazing company. I'm here on behalf of the 10,000 Centurion employees nationwide, as well as some of our just unbelievable leadership from the Baltimore team, as well as our statewide leaders, and to express our excitement to be able to expand the long-standing partnership that we have had with DPSCS.

So it would be hard not to talk about partnership without starting by recognizing this Administration's amazing commitment to create opportunities

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for Maryland minority business enterprises. And with this procurement, clearly the State made it a priority that that was going to happen. So when we were here a few weeks ago, one of our competitors stood up and asked a question: "Well, how is it possible that Centurion could meet this 31.5 percent goal while keeping costs contained?" Right, the competing interest that you always have?

The easy answer to that would be to say we have decades of experience in creating and running successful MBE partnerships. But I'm going to steal a catchphrase from our fabulous Maryland leader and say it really is our commitment to servant leadership. And what does that mean in the context of MBEs? It means we're the prime, right? We're the big Goliath. We have all of the resources. And it would be easy for us to just look at a list of vendors and say, "Okay, this vendor sells widgets. We're going to buy widgets from them." That's not going to get you a 31.5 percent commitment on this type of contract.

What it takes is recognizing partners, and some of our long-standing partners that are here, helping them grow their business, to recognize risks, to insure against risks, to ensure success by showing month over month here are the financials that we're showing to the State to show that we're meeting the commitment. We're not waiting until the end. And so the last on that topic is we're very excited to partner with the State to show that this unbelievably lofty goal is not only achievable, but it really should become the standard for these types of contracts all over the country.

Couple of other items on partnership. Again, I told you I wasn't going to speak about being a lawyer but the Duvall settlement, right, is certainly a large component of this contract. Centurion has shown over the life of our contract that we have met all of the mental health measures for that litigation. It'd be easy to stand up here and thank everybody and say we did that on our own, but that's just not the truth. It is all about the partnership. We could never have

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achieved that without the partnership of Secretary Scruggs, both in her current position and her prior position, and then the leadership in Baltimore, both on the security side, Commissioner Friday is here, and Dr. Bonieskie on the clinical side. So it is through that partnership that we were able to meet all of those measures. And we have every confidence that going forward with the new contract award we will be able to achieve those same results on the medical measures.

Just a few other ideas and things we're excited to partner with and expand services are your medication-assisted treatment to comply with House Bill 116 and expand those services and hand-in-hand with that, the reentry -- wraparound reentry services. It is very easy to hand someone a referral when they're leaving a jail for a next mental health appointment. And then if the patient doesn't make that appointment or maybe doesn't make the follow up, it's a tsk-tsk that's on the patient, right, we gave them every opportunity when, in fact, that's not true. Right?

How did we determine how are they getting to their appointment. Right? Did we arrange for transportation? How is it getting paid for? If they have all of these other competing factors that are going into it, work, medical appointments, how did we set everyone up for success fully? And so that's one thing that we're excited with the ability to do both the medical and mental health services under this contract.

So in closing, Centurion appreciates the opportunity and the award. And we reiterate our commitment to always put the people of Maryland first in our performance, whether those are our patients, our amazing employees, and our State partners. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Ms. Johnson. And we'll conclude with Mr. Philip Andrews, who represents YesCare and is speaking in opposition of the award.

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Good morning, Mr. Andrews.

MR. ANDREWS: Good morning, Lieutenant Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. My name is Phil Andrews. I'm outside counsel in Maryland for YesCare. The two people standing behind me had also hoped to speak. Perhaps you'll want to hear from them after I'm done, maybe instead of me, but I just want to introduce them for the record.

Right here directly behind me is Ms. Deaira Ray, who is the CEO of Monumental Health Systems. She would testify as to -- about MBE. That she is an MBE success story in a big way under the YesCare contract going from a company with a negative net worth to an extremely successful set of companies doing MBE work.

Next to Ms. Ray is Latasha McMillan, who is the vice president for operations for Maryland. She would tell you about all the extra contractual -- that is work outside the contract -- that YesCare has done including standing up, at its own expense, an opioid use disorder program, helping with Hep C -- I'm sorry, Hep C testing, doing incredible things during COVID. Again, that was at YesCare's expense and she would tell you about that. So if there's an opportunity for them to speak after I'm done, that would be great. That's a very brief summary of what they would say. I'm sure they would say it much better than I.

Let me get to my point here today, and I appreciate the opportunity to address you. The only issue for this Board is whether or not it's going to follow its own rule. There's a long-standing rule in COMAR that says that when timely appeals are pending of a protest before the Board of Contract Appeals, and there are such timely appeals here, the Board does not award the contract. Doing so is an exception. It's supposed to be rare. Doesn't happen often.

And for that exception to apply, the Department of Public Safety has to demonstrate two things. One, they have to show substantial State interests.

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And I emphasize interests, plural, and substantial. And the other thing they have to show is that it is necessary right now to award the contract to protect those substantial State interests. Now, we submitted a letter on June 3rd to the Board and I'm not, obviously, going to read the letter to you.

There's a lot more detail in there. But I do want to hit the high points because it is very clear that the Department has not met that standard. You have bullet points. Mr. Sedtal mentioned a few things earlier. Those are generalities. They're conclusory. They're speculative. They're the kinds of general things you would say about any new contract in any industry.

So for example, contract performance is going to be enhanced. Question is Centurion and YesCare bid to the same contract requirements. I didn't see anything in this agenda item that said where YesCare fell short. And things are going to get better? Centurion has less than minimal jails experience. You don't have to take my word for it. As we quoted in the June 3rd letter, the Wyoming proposal that Centurion submitted said "Our focus, our intentional work is on big state systems. We don't want to be distracted by jails."

And they've done three jails, as far as we can tell. One (indiscernible) longer they're doing in Florida. The Baltimore City facility, the mental health holding which is a much lesser burden, if you will, than medical. And the other is in a place that has -- in Minnesota, an average inmate population of 600. It's just nothing like what's faced in the Baltimore pre-trial facilities.

And so we heard some other things a few minutes ago. MBE and better MBE goals. And that's terrific. And YesCare, Ms. Ray is a living testament to that. YesCare strongly believes in MBE. But I've looked at the revised agenda item. It already shows that Centurion is chipping away at MBE. They've already asked for a waiver for MBE, and they've pretty much gutted the Asian-American sub goal. So again, all the same goals. I didn't see anything in

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the substantial State interest that said YesCare wasn't doing what it should be doing with respect to MBEs.

And these sorts of conclusory kinds of things saying, "Well, everything will be better. Staffing will be better," the question there is in terms of pricing, YesCare's pricing was 28 percent above what -- the minimum of the RFP. YesCare also has a labor peace agreement, which Centurion doesn't have. Centurion's been in this State for six years, never sought to have a labor peace agreement. YesCare has one for the contract going forward. YesCare has more experience in helping governmental entities get out from under consent decrees or federal settlement agreements. And Duvall, which was mentioned a moment ago, is the perfect example of that.

MR. GONTRUM: That's five minutes, Mr. Andrews.

MR. ANDREWS: Thank you. One more thing I would say, just pointing out the respect to the June 3rd letter from me, you don't have to take my word for the excellent job YesCare has done in helping with Duvall. No time to change that situation now. YesCare, you can read what the quarterly report said from the Department.

MR. GONTRUM: Thank you, Mr. Andrews.

MR. ANDREWS: YesCare is doing great work.

MR. GONTRUM: Thank you.

MR. ANDREWS: I appreciate your consideration and urge you, urge you not to award the contract at this juncture.

MR. GONTRUM: Thank you, Mr. Andrews.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Andrews. And Ms. Ray and Ms. McMillan, thank you for being here as well. We have limited each party to one speaker only. So thus, we're kind of under time limit here but we thank you for being here.

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Now at this time, I'd like to call back Deputy Secretary Sedtal back to the podium for any closing remarks he may have.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Madam Governor, can I ask a question of him?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks. Hi, Joh. Can you just talk a little bit about, you know, obviously, there does, in terms of the substantial State interests, is it necessary to award to protect State interests? My understanding, my memory, does it serve me correct that we've already given an extension to YesCare once to ensure a smooth transition; is that correct?

MR. SEDTAL: That's correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And if we were to allow this appeal to continue, that would require another extension; is that correct?

MR. SEDTAL: It's entirely possible. I wish I could predict how quickly MSBCA can move things but it would be possible. And as I'm sure you're aware, any sort of extension after the standardized renewal term requires bilateral negotiation.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. So we would be -- hence, we would have to go back to the bargaining table, so to speak, with YesCare, if this extension were to -- if we were to have to create another extension necessitated by a drawn-out appeal, correct?

MR. SEDTAL: With limited leverage, yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. And so when you were -- but when you were going through this and when you were going through the proposal and through the appeal, you have now denied, I want to say it's been twice now, the denials. There was a letter, original denial letter and then a second denial letter or explanation yesterday; is that correct?

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MR. SEDTAL: I think we might be on three, actually.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh, sorry.

MR. SEDTAL: I think it's the second supplementary protest.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Oh, the second  
supplementary --

MR. SEDTAL: The protest and then two supplementals.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. Okay. That's helpful. And  
if I'm reading correctly that, in fact, Centurion on -- their headquarters is in  
Northern Virginia, and they have an office here in Lutherville. And almost a  
quarter of their staff, corporate staff, even reside here in Maryland; is that correct?

MR. SEDTAL: Yes, ma'am.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And my understanding as well is  
that they have committed to meeting with AFSCME and understand the stance, at  
least of my office, I don't want to speak for my fellow members, of the  
importance of labor peace; is that accurate?

MR. SEDTAL: That is.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. SEDTAL: I believe it's scheduled for next week.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yep. Okay. Great. Thank you.  
Go ahead.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mr. Treasurer?

TREASURER DAVIS: Were you getting ready to (indiscernible)?  
So I have --

MR. SEDTAL: I'm happy to answer your questions.

TREASURER DAVIS: I probably should wait until you finish.

MR. SEDTAL: I didn't really have a lot to say as far as closing  
statements, or rebuttals, or anything like that. I would say that Centurion does

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have significant jail experience across a myriad of places across the country, including Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Arizona, Florida, I believe, Minnesota -- if I can read my notes correctly. You did mention they are and agreed to meet with AFSCME in the next week. And not to tell things out of school, but any contention that Centurion is chipping away at the MBE goal with a .008 goal coming from some organization that asked for, I believe, it's a 12 or an 18 percent waiver, I'll let you draw your own conclusions on that one.

Again, I think ultimately the State does believe that there is a substantial State interest. These contracts are different than what we're currently doing. Right? There is increased staffing. There are more FTEs that are included within these RFPs. So not only, as Madam Comptroller was stating, that there's obviously a negotiating issue if this were to be extended beyond and continue, but I think one of the Department's chief stances here is we want to provide better care. And moving to these new contracts within this new structure allows us to do that. It puts more people in the facilities to provide health care, and that's what's important.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Please, Mr. Treasurer.

TREASURER DAVIS: Here's my take on this. And I hope everyone was listening, and listening intently, to what was being said regarding this. We heard about MBE goals and the like, labor, peace and so forth. We heard about all the business aspects. And I get it, this is -- I mean, we are talking about a contract, but unless I missed it -- and that very well could have happened, we didn't really hear much about health care for the individuals that are being served. That was not front and center. I didn't hear anybody talk about the quality of care that they're providing and how they intend to do better, or what changes were going to be made, what programmatic changes.

That's really what this is supposed to be about. And too often we

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come here and, yes, I can't say it enough, I do get that this is essentially a business meeting. But if you're trying to sell me on something, let's show a little compassion, a little conversation. Not about who's making money, because that's all this is really talking about. Who's making money or what labor, government or business agreement that can be made, who can be satisfied in that regard. It seems that the care for the inmates is secondary. I mean, it just is.

You didn't hear it. For anybody that would shake their head no, did you hear that discussion come up? Did you hear anybody mention that? That's what -- you would think that would be the selling point, but it wasn't. It was MBE goals, or I think my contract is better than theirs, or we got a labor peace agreement and they don't. All of that is ancillary to me, every bit of it. I'm not worried about which rich company gets this contract over that rich company. Totally irrelevant to me. We're talking about the quality of care for the people that we have served. No matter the circumstances that landed them there, we're still responsible for it. And that's where the attention needs to be made, and it's not. And I think it speaks poorly -- I'll, let me let that go.

But that's where the focus needs to be. That's how you sell yourself to me, anyway, about what you're going to do with this contract. These are Marylanders or they're in Maryland's care. And that should be your pitch, nothing else. So I said my piece. I appreciate it. But I hope for those who are here as well that -- take time to think about what you heard, maybe I heard it differently, and ask yourself are we being served as a state in the best possible way when the focus is on who gets paid versus who's earning their pay and how. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Treasurer. No, thank you for reminding us all the importance of what our work leads to.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: And it is serving the people of Maryland, so thank you.

Mr. Deputy Secretary, do you have any more comments?

MR. SEDTAL: All I can say to that is, again, thank you for highlighting that, but we are very confident. And within this procurement it's a best value award, technical and financial. And we felt that Centurion technical -- the people, the program, the system of providing care was so superior. And that's why we're recommending award to someone who is more expensive in this case because that's absolutely what we care about, making sure that the individuals in our care are in a better position walking out from behind our doors than when they walk in. And healthcare, mental, and medical is a critical component of that. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Next, we'll move to Item 46-S-MOD. Which is a request from the Department of Labor to modify a service contract with Accenture to provide virtual call center services for the unemployment insurance program.

First, we'd like to ask Secretary Portia Wu from the Department of Labor to formally introduce the item. Good morning, Secretary Wu.

MS. WU: Good morning. Thank you. This is a modification extension of a contract with Accenture to provide call services for unemployment insurance. In the month of May, the call center fielded 70,000 calls from individuals. They also stood up a specialized court worker response hotline, which received over 5,000 calls since the beginning of April. Without these services, the Department will not have any ability to have call center abilities.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic or some years ago, we got rid of our internal call center abilities so we are completely dependent on this

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contract. Now, we understand there is concern about extending this. And the Department has been moving towards bringing our own services back in-house. There's a role for contractor services to help, of course, in exigent circumstances which is what happened during pandemic, and how this contract got stood up. But we really want to make sure, especially given the merit system requirements under unemployment insurance, that we work to provide the best service to people who are out of work -- and have our own capabilities in-house.

BPW previously approved a contract to be able to do that last fall. Unfortunately, that vendor was not able to perform. They indicated they would not be able to meet the MBE goals so we had canceled that contract. We are moving towards a new contractual vehicle. It is my understanding that the State actually has developed a vehicle. And so we are seeing if we can use those services in a way that's more efficient for taxpayers, provides consistent service, and of course meets the needs of the program. However, we do need this item to bridge for the next few months so we can move to that other vehicle and have it in place.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sorry. Can I follow up on that for a second?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So the State is creating an -- has a contract with an external call center; is that what you're saying?

MS. WU: Yes, they --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MS. WU: I believe they have recently awarded a statewide contract, and so we are seeing how we can take advantage of those services. Obviously, we have family and medical leave insurance coming on board too. So thinking about how we can do that in a consistent manner. But of course, we need

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to be mindful of the specific requirements of the unemployment insurance program as well.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure. And did you -- so you are interested in the future in moving some of this in-house, but having an Accenture or something like -- a contract like this, if there are exigent circumstances. Is that what you're saying you envision in the coming years?

MS. WU: I think our hope is to -- we need to understand better the terms and capacity of the State contract. Part of the problem is we don't even have the technology --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right.

MS. WU: -- to do the lines anymore. And then we also have to staff them. So I think we understand -- and the Port was a perfect example. Sometimes, we need surge capacity. Sometimes, we need temporary needs. And of course, we need to think about how to address those emergency needs as well. But unemployment insurance, we know we have a consistent need. There are always folks, no matter what the economy, will be calling us and we need to provide that service.

And so our hope is to bring that capacity in-house. Obviously, work with the appropriate labor units to figure out how that can be done under the appropriate contracts and requirements under federal as well as State law. But absolutely, we think the merit staff know the program, and they're able to provide and perform certain services that outside contractors are not.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mr. Treasurer, do you have any questions?

TREASURER DAVIS: No, I'm good. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. Madam

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Secretary, thank you so much. Next, we're going to be joined virtually by Sean Santmyire from AFSCME, who has signed up to speak in opposition to this item.

MR. SANTMYIRE: Can you folks hear me okay?

Hello?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yes, good morning.

MR. SANTMYIRE: Good morning. Can you guys hear me okay?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

MR. SANTMYIRE: Thank you for inviting me here this morning.

My name is Sean Santmyire, and I work in Allegany County for the Maryland Department of Labor as a Workforce Development Specialist. I've been doing this work for over 20 years. I do this work because Maryland is my home. My family has lived in Maryland for five generations and I want to be a good neighbor, I want to be a good friend, and I want to be a good community person. So that's why I chose public service.

I'm speaking here today against the continued privatization of the essential work that State employees do, and to call on the Department of Labor to transition the work that Accenture is doing back to the State employees as soon as possible. Let me repeat that. I'm speaking here today against the continued privatization of the essential work that State employees do, and to call on the Department of Labor to transition the work that Accenture is doing back to State employees as soon as possible.

To me, it is deeply upsetting that rather investing in our State employees, the State chooses to work with Accenture to perform the vital services related to the distribution of unemployment benefits. This is work that full-time State employees should be doing. Instead, the work that we routinely -- pardon me -- instead, the work we that we do is routinely and unfairly being contracted out to companies like Accenture, who do not have our residents' best interests at

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heart.

I've been here for five generations. The people for Accenture, you know, we don't know where they're at or even what planet they're on. Many of us who have worked for the State Department of Labor during this contract know all too well how much harm this Accenture contract is doing. Coworkers have told me how workers contracted by Accenture often tell customers who call that they do not have to look for work when the claimants are, in fact, required to do so.

These contractual workers have erroneously told claimants to go in-person to an office where no employment -- no unemployment insurance staff even work. One time they even told two claimants on the same day that lived in Baltimore that they had to go all the way to Washington and Allegany County. And in some cases, Accenture has not even allowed those who are self-employed -- pardon me -- Accenture has even allowed those who are self-employed to file claims. For those of us who have worked here for a while, it is well known fact that these contractual workers do not even read the claims before making decisions about them.

In the February 2nd Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee Meeting in Annapolis earlier this year, Secretary Wu stated the State has gotten rid of its own call system but we are in the process of going back and saying we were going to stand up our own call center. Because honestly, it's costing an arm and a leg to do it with an outside vendor. It will be more cost effective, and we're going to staff it with staff who can actually help people and answer -- pardon me -- who can actually help answer people's questions and help work resolve -- help to work to resolve the issues which currently the contractor -- pardon me -- which currently, the contractor just can't do because they're not allowed under law.

We must immediately transition this work in-house to ensure that

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the people performing this vital State service are experts in what they're doing, and that State residents who are relying on these benefits can reliably receive them. We know that State employees can operate call centers because call centers at the MTA and at the Office of the Comptroller are already operated by us, AFSCME. We are looking toward -- pardon me -- my final statement here is we are looking forward to working with Secretary Wu to immediately staff this call center to ensure that Maryland residents are able to access and receive the unemployment benefits they need. Thank you.

It's been a big honor to speak to you folks. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Santmyire and thank you for joining us from mountain Maryland. And we are looking forward to you and your team working together with Secretary Wu.

MR. SANTMYIRE: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I also want to -- I also want to say thank you for joining us today and raising those important points. As the head of an agency that has its own in-house call center, I'm certainly very proud of the work that our team members do. Also understand Secretary Wu's commitment to exploring how to create a call center over the long term within the Department of Labor. Given that these are ongoing needs, it may be that there are exigent circumstances throughout the life of an agency that call for this kind of need.

But of course, we all want -- where there are needs that are on an ongoing, annual, regular basis, whether it's people needing help with their taxes or people needing to file unemployment, we want to be able to staff that. I think it's a better value, of course, over the long term with our own State employees. So I appreciate, Secretary Wu, your commitment. And thank you for joining us today.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mr. Treasurer, do you have any?

TREASURER DAVIS: No, that was --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. Lastly, I'd like to highlight Item 78, which is a request from the Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation Board to approve \$31.8 million in funding to purchase 6,370 acres of agriculture preservation. The item represents one of the largest acquisitions in the program's history. I know that Treasurer Davis and Comptroller Lierman are members of MALPF Board. And I want to thank them both for their leadership and support of the critical mission of this organization. So thank you so much.

For more than 45 years, MALPF has successfully protected 2,699 individual farms conserving almost 362,000 acres of Maryland's valuable farmland. These acres will be forever restricted from development, ensuring that preservation of our agriculture heritage for generations to come. The addition of these 55 farms on today's BPW agenda underscores the continued strong interest of landowners in the MALPF program.

Farmland preservation isn't only about acres protected, it's about the stories woven into the land's fabric and the promise that the preserved lands hold for a sustainable and resilient future. We extend our gratitude to these farmers for their commitment to preserving their farms for future generations. I want to thank and commend Secretary Kevin Atticks and his team from the Maryland Department of Agriculture for their leadership and stewardship.

And Secretary Atticks, would love for you to come up to the podium if you'd like to share a few words. And I'm really excited to see you right now because I'm hoping you bought all of us ice cream.

(Laughter.)

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Right?

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Because it is 2024's Maryland's Best Ice Cream Trail that just started yesterday, I believe. Is that right?

TREASURER DAVIS: He didn't bring us anything.

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: He didn't bring us anything. (Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: Nothing.

(Laughter.)

MR. ATTICKS: The Treasurer knows that look on my face.

(Laughter.)

MR. ATTICKS: Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak about this. If I could address the ice cream first.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

MR. ATTICKS: It officially launched yesterday. And we have a, I guess unofficial, but ribbon cutting -- I should say scoop tasting tomorrow at one of our creameries in Baltimore County. But I would encourage everyone to go to [Marylandsbest.net](http://Marylandsbest.net) to see the full list of creameries. We've added nine creameries this year to our list and they're in all parts of the State. And last summer was a 32-scoop summer for me.

(Laughter.)

MR. ATTICKS: And so with that addition, it will be a 49 to 50 scoop. So anyone who would like to come along, I'll put you on my "when's Kevin going to eat ice cream" list.

(Laughter.)

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MR. ATTICKS: About land preservation, what you have before you is a critical achievement for us. 6,300 acres before you that is being preserved. When you think about how we've met our 30 by 30 goal six years early and we're already cruising forward on our 40 by 40 goal, the Maryland Ag Land Preservation Foundation, Michelle Cable is our Executive Director here, their goal is not just preserving land for land preservation's sake. It is to keep that land profitable and available for agriculture in perpetuity. We have park preservation, open space preservation programs. This one is specifically so that we can grow food and grow things that help us create food. And so thank you very much for your support. This has been a very successful program. And we're looking for many, many more acres to come.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Great. Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary.

And Director Hickey, you may want to check out this ice cream tour. Right? If I recall, you told us your favorite ice cream flavor before. All right.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: What is it? What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

MR. HICKEY: Salted caramel.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Salted caramel.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: How about yours Madam Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I'm a mint chocolate chip girl.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mint chocolate chip. Mr. Treasurer?

TREASURER DAVIS: Whatever you've got.

(Laughter.)

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mr. Secretary, whatever you got, chocolate chip girl.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Mint chocolate chip. What about yours? What about yours?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I would say anything and everything. Right? Yeah, I'm with Mr. Treasurer. Anything you've got.

TREASURER DAVIS: I mean, have you ever really had bad ice cream?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

TREASURER DAVIS: I mean, really.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: That's so true.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: You've got to work hard to create bad ice cream.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: With that, is there any other further discussion besides ice cream on the remainder of the DGS agenda? Madam Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Madam Governor, thanks. I just wanted to briefly note that DGS Agenda Item 65-IT-MOD, is a request from our agency to modify our contract with RSI for our new integrated tax system. This is a small but necessary modification to implement a variety of legislation, the BFRA. Changes in the BFRA that were enacted during the 2024 legislative session.

Wanted to note that I'm incredibly grateful to the General Assembly, to Speaker Jones, President Ferguson, for their partnership and support of our legislative package, and for working with us to make sure that we can implement the changes that we need administratively through the policies that they're passing. So just wanted to note that as well.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. So if there's no further discussion, may I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can I make one comment?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks. Before we close, I just want to make a comment and sort of admonish those listening, both the agencies and vendors, not to test this Board of Public Works. I just want to reemphasize my comments from the January 31st meeting that agencies should not look to the Board of Public Works to resolve award protests unless the circumstances are extenuating, but also to add that vendors should not file frivolous appeals in the hopes of putting the State in a posture in which we have limited leverage.

As an attorney, it's imperative to me perhaps now more than ever given our national climate that as elected officials we should respect and not railroad our administrative and judicial processes. The Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals exists to resolve those procurement issues, not the Board of Public Works. However, we will not allow the State to be taken advantage of and for Marylanders to suffer when vendors bring forward frivolous appeals. So we will continue to bring a keen eye in our judgment to the contracts that are coming to us. And we'll look forward to doing that with the Governor and the Treasurer in the future. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Madam Comptroller.

Mr. Treasurer, any comments?

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TREASURER DAVIS: What she said.

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So this concludes the business portion of today's meeting. We will recess and reconvene at 12:10 p.m. to conduct the bond sale. All guests are invited to remain present, if they so choose. Otherwise, you are free to depart.

The Board stands in recess until 12:10 p.m. Thank you.

(Recess)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good afternoon. At this time, I'd like to call up what we've all been waiting anxiously for which is the Secretary's agenda, Item Number 4. And recognize the Treasurer for the purposes of making motions to ratify the bond sale.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you, Governor. It's noticeably thinner in here, isn't it?

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: I'm going to need to go through this five times, and we have the lawyers in here. So I'm going to read this because they told me if I get anything wrong, we got to start all over and do it again. So I want to make sure I read this correctly.

I move that the Board adopt the resolutions before us today concerning the State and Local Facilities Loan of 2024 First Series. In particular, number one, I move that the Board ratify and approve the preliminary official statement dated May 29th, 2024, the summary notice of sale for the 2024 First Series Bonds posted on TM3 on May 22nd, 2024, and the resolutions adopted by the Board on May 1st, 2024, with respect to the bonds. And with that Governor, I would request a second on the motion.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I moved to approve.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And I second.

TREASURER DAVIS: All in favor signify by aye.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Aye.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Aye.

TREASURER DAVIS: Opposed, nay.

Motion carries.

Number two, I move that Bank of Am -- B of A Securities, be declared the successful bidder for Group 1 of the First Series A Tax-Exempt Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$351,630,000 with a net premium of \$47,013,500.30 and a true interest code of 2.972461 percent. And I further move that Group 1 of the First Series A Bonds be issued in the amounts and maturities and at the interest rates and prices set forth in the successful bid for the bonds. Is there a second on the bidding Group 1 First Series A motion?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I moved to approve.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

TREASURER DAVIS: All in favor signify by aye.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Aye.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Aye.

TREASURER DAVIS: Opposed, nay. Let the record reflect all present voted aye.

Number three, I move that Morgan Stanley and Company, LLC for Group 2 of the First Series A Tax-Exempt Bonds and the aggregate principal amount of \$300,505,000 with a net premium of \$51,594,835.50 in a true interest cost of 3.138746 percent. I further move that Group 2 of the First Series A Bonds be issued in the amounts and maturities and at the interest rates and prices set forth in the successful bid for the bond. Is there a second?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I move to approve.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

TREASURER DAVIS: All in favor signify by aye.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Aye.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Aye.

TREASURER DAVIS: Opposed, nay. Let the record reflect all present voted aye.

Number four, I move that J.P. Morgan Securities, LLC for Group 3 of the First Series A Tax-Exempt Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$347,865,000 with a net premium of \$54,533,681.62 and a true interest cost of 3.565892 percent. I further move that Group 3 of the First Series A Bonds be issued in the amount and maturities and at the interest rates and prices set forth in the successful bid for the bond -- for the bonds, excuse me. Is there a motion?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I move to approve.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

TREASURER DAVIS: All in favor signify by aye.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Aye.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Aye.

TREASURER DAVIS: Opposed, nay. Let the record reflect all present voted aye.

Number five, I move that Wells Fargo, National Association be declared the successful bidder for the First Series B Taxable Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$200 million with a true interest cost of 4.519999 percent and a net discount of \$120,110.10. And I further move that the First Series B Bonds be issued in the maturities and at the interest rates set forth in the successful bid for the bonds. Is there a motion?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I move to approve.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

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TREASURER DAVIS: Moved and seconded. All in favor signify by aye.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Aye.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Aye.

TREASURER DAVIS: Opposed, nay. Let the record reflect all present voted aye.

And finally, I move that the Board authorize and approve the issuance of the final official statement for the bonds. Is there a motion?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I move to approve.

TREASURER DAVIS: Is there a second?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

TREASURER DAVIS: All in favor signify by aye.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Aye.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Aye.

TREASURER DAVIS: Let the record reflect all present voted aye. Back to you, Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Thank you, Mr. Treasurer. Secretary's Agenda Item Number 4 is adopted. Congratulations, Mr. Treasurer, to you and your team for another successful bond sale. Those were a lot of numbers.

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I failed to write down the third for the winning bidder for First Series A, Bidding Group 3. They won after Morgan Stanley. Who is that one?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wells Fargo.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I thought that was for taxable? It was for both?

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MR. GONTRUM: J.P. Morgan.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: J.P. Morgan? Thank you. Sorry.

TREASURER DAVIS: You can have this if you want.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: It's my fault. It's my fault. I didn't write it down. Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: It is a lot to hear.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: It is a lot, yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: This concludes the meeting of the Board of Public Works. And we will see you all on July 3rd. We are now adjourned. Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thanks, guys.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 12:21 p.m., the meeting was concluded.)