
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

*GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

November 19, 2025
10:06 a.m.

PRESENT

HONORABLE WES MOORE

Governor

HONORABLE BROOKE E. LIERMAN

Comptroller

HONORABLE DERECK E. DAVIS

Treasurer

JOHN GONTRUM

Secretary, Board of Public Works

ATIF CHAUDHRY

Secretary, Department of General Services

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

THOMAS HICKEY

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

VALERIE RADOMSKY

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

LISA GRIGSBY

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning.

(Chorus of Good Morning.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, please take a seat. Please take a seat. Good morning and welcome to today's BPW meeting. We will go ahead and get started with the business of the day.

Mr. Secretary, good morning. Good to see you.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. Good to see you. Good morning to you, Madam Comptroller and Mr. Treasurer. There are 19 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and one report of an emergency procurement contract award. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

Do we have any comments or concerns?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I have a question.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Oh, wonderful.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, okay. Great.

Hi, everybody. Good morning. (Indiscernible) recommendations from the Board of Public Works General Council to indefinitely bar several individuals and companies from doing business with the State. And I'm often asked about the debarment process, and so I wondered if Ms. Hershey could answer a few questions.

Thanks, good to see you.

MS. HERSHEY: It's good to see you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good to see you too.

MS. HERSHEY: First time --

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: At the podium -- well --

MS. HERSHEY: First or second.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: -- in this role, yes.

(Laughter.)

MS. HERSHEY: Good morning Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Rachel Hershey. I'm General Counsel to the Board. Happy to answer any questions about the debarment.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you so much. So my understanding is there's two types of debarments: by operation of law, which is mandatory, and then discretionary.

MS. HERSHEY: That's correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And these that we are presented with today are the mandatory type?

MS. HERSHEY: They are.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And the key difference, I assume, is that for discretionary somebody needs to propose that they're debarred because it's a discretionary process?

MS. HERSHEY: Yes, it's a different process from the mandatory debarments. They are related to bribery convictions and -- or bribery-related convictions. And so at the point of the conviction, they become debarred. We then have to put them on our list, of course. With the discretionary debarments, information comes to the Board through various channels -- circuit court clerks, OAG investigations, prosecutors, secretaries of agencies, procuring agencies themselves. That information goes to the Attorney General's Office. That brings recommendation to the Board to debar on the discretionary grounds.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So if any secretary would propose to you and the Attorney General's Office that a company being proposed -- for it

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to be added to the debarment list?

MS. HERSHEY: That's correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And if there is a settlement with the Attorney General's Office -- for instance, I'm thinking of a contractor who did not pay taxes. So much so that it was fraudulent and the Attorney General's Office took the case as a criminal matter. Would the AG then refer that company for debarment, or is that something that our office should do, or how does that work?

MS. HERSHEY: So the BPW itself has a ground for debarment. That if it sees conduct that's egregious enough to debar somebody from participating in the contract system, it could then have the Attorney General's Office come with an administrative complaint. But regardless of where the information comes, it does kind of come through the Attorney General's Office with an administrative complaint. How that information gets to the Attorney General can be the Board, it can be -- you know.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

MS. HERSHEY: Yes, exactly.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And do members of the public ever propose it or does it have to be from an executive boss?

MS. HERSHEY: Any time a agency, or the Board, or anyone becomes aware of information that would constitute grounds for debarment, the Board could refer that information to the Attorney General.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And the activities that are considered grounds for debarment, do those activities include things like worker misclassification, failure to meet contract roles -- like MBE or VBSE participation, or wage theft?

MS. HERSHEY: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: (Indiscernible)?

MS. HERSHEY: Yes, there's -- depending on how you count, there are roughly 70 different grounds for debarment. Typically, we have seen -- and historically we have seen -- only criminal conduct, but there's a wide range and an increasing number in recent years of new debarment grounds.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And how often is the publicly accessible list of debarred individuals and companies updated?

MS. HERSHEY: Has not been updated in the past eight years, so.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: How can we remedy that?

MS. HERSHEY: That's a good question. I think there has not been a lot of activity in the past ten years. This information is deep within the State Finance and Procurement Article. I think there's an opportunity here for some education to those entities that are responsible for bringing information to the Board.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And who maintains that public list?

MS. HERSHEY: The Board.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: BPW does?

MS. HERSHEY: The Board.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: It's on the BPW website?

MS. HERSHEY: It's on the BPW website.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: How do we get that updated?

MR. GONTRUM: Well, it is updated to the extent that it reflects the actions of the Board in debarring vendors. So the lack of activity in the updating of the list is a reflection of the fact that the Board has not in many years taken an action to debar a vendor.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I see, so it's been just a long time

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that -- okay, so that's why. Understood.

Okay. So the actions that we're taking today, if we do in fact debar these individuals or companies, that will be added to the list of debarred individuals on BPW's website?

MR. GONTRUM: Yes, Madam Controller.

MS. HERSHEY: Exactly.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate it. I think it's important that we uphold and strengthen the integrity of our procurement process by holding bad actors accountable. And I certainly look forward to continuing work with you all, and DoSEM, and other partners, and the AG's Office to strengthen the process to ensure other wrongdoers are, in fact, held accountable and we're not spending tax dollars to them. Thank you.

MS. HERSHEY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Are there any other any other comments for the Secretary's Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: Governor, if I can?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Sure.

TREASURER DAVIS: Just two quick things. First of all, I want to congratulate Morgan State University. (Indiscernible)?

MR. GONTRUM: Item 16?

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes. On their new science center and MBE (indiscernible) goals.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

TREASURER DAVIS: They're very impressive. And I know that a lot of time (indiscernible) on that, so I wanted to tell them congrats and good work. But my question is on Item 19. I'm not going to get into what I usually get into, but I am curious about something. In this settlement with the Banner, the

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amount talked about I guess attorney fees, litigation costs, and statutory damages.

Can we sort of delineate a little bit what constitutes statutory damages?

MR. GONTRUM: Do we have Ms. Clarke here or Ms. Bearden from the Attorney General's Office? Thank you.

(Pause.)

MS. BEARDEN: Good morning, Mary Bearden from the Attorney General's Office. The statutory damages are damages that are laid out in statute that must be -- I believe that there's a \$1,000 statutory damage for a violation of a PIA request response, so I believe that's what that's referring to. That's a minute portion of what this judgment is. The majority of this judgment is attorney's fees.

TREASURER DAVIS: So then what's the breakdown of the judgment? Like how much for litigation costs, how much for attorney's fees, how much for statutory damages?

MS. BEARDEN: Yes, there is. So it says there's 1,600 -- I'm sorry -- 165,741 for attorney's fees. And then there's 8,239.94 for litigation costs, and then \$1,000 for statutory damages. And that's the total, so the statutory damages is the minimal -- most minimal portion of that.

TREASURER DAVIS: What's the purpose of it?

MS. BEARDEN: It's just --

TREASURER DAVIS: Just a money grab? Oh, I'm getting --

MS. BEARDEN: It was something the Legislature put in there for --

TREASURER DAVIS: You couldn't answer it right away.

MS. BEARDEN: Well, it was -- you know, it was added into the statute as a penalty to encourage people not to violate PIA perhaps, so.

TREASURER DAVIS: But does that -- but that goes to plaintiff

as well?

MS. BEARDEN: It does.

TREASURER DAVIS: All right. It's a money grab.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I think I might have added that to
statute.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: And why?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I know.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thanks.

MS. BEARDEN: Do you have any further questions on that?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

May I have a motion to approve the Secretary's 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.

We'll move on to the Department of Natural Resources. Secretary
Kurtz, good morning, sir.

MR. KURTZ: Morning, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, and
Mr. Treasurer. For the record, Josh Kurtz for the Department of Natural
Resources. The Department has eight items for your consideration today, and I'm
happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

TREASURER DAVIS: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a motion to approve the DNR

Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DNR

Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

MR. KURTZ: Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: (Indiscernible) the Secretary.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Next up, we have the University System
of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, good morning.

MR. HICKEY: Morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam
Comptroller. Tom Hickey representing the University System of Maryland.
There are five items on our agenda for your consideration. Happy to answer any
questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, I don't like to mess with Maryland.
(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Motion to approve the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the USM

Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: We will now move on to the MDOT

Agenda. Ms. Radomsky, good morning.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Governor, Madam
Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky,
Chief Procurement Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation.
Today, we are presenting eight agenda items for your consideration and we have
representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I would just like to say that I'm
very happy to see SHA bring up some MBE participation. I know for a couple of
years I have been complaining about SHA, so I appreciate on 4-M the 19 percent.
And on another maintenance, there is some as well. So appreciate that that is
happening and that SHA is taking our concerns about MBE seriously. Thank you.

MS. RADOMSKY: (Indiscernible.)

TREASURER DAVIS: -- couple days ago, (indiscernible)
working on it. It's very helpful and so forth, so I wanted to thank you for that. If
you worked for me, I'd give you a raise.

(Laughter.)

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you, Mr. Treasurer.

TREASURER DAVIS: I'm feeling it this morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, the same. Motion to approve the
MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the MDOT
Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: And we'll move on with the DGS

Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Morning, sir. Mr. Governor, Madam
Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland
Department of General Services. Today, the Department is presenting 44 items
on our agenda, including one report of an expedited procurement.

Our agenda does feature 24 capital grants and loans totaling more
than \$24.9 million. I did want to highlight one in particular, and that's Item 15-
CGL, which provides \$600,000 to the New Hampshire Estates Neighborhood
Park in Montgomery County. This includes renovation of aging recreational
facilities that's currently in active use, and the project includes replacement of the
existing playground, addition of a new picnic pavilion, an athletic field with a
lighted soccer field, stormwater management, and improved ADA accessibility.
We are withdrawing the one report of an expedited procurement, Item A1-EX.

As we continue to keep an eye on minority business participation,
our contract does feature four contract actions to certify minority business totaling
more than \$1.9 million. And we have Agency representatives here to answer any
questions you may have.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Why are you withdrawing A1-EX?
Are you withdrawing A1-EX?

MR. CHAUDHRY: We are withdrawing A1-EX.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Why are you withdrawing it?

MR. CHAUDHRY: I think it would need to be -- I think since it's
being updated, I believe.

Do you know? Yeah, some additional updates are being made to
the report.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: (Indiscernible), okay. Okay,

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thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: (Indiscernible)?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Well, I thought it was -- no, maybe that was last -- yeah. Yes, it is late. Okay, okay. It's already late so let's get it soon and get it right.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Yes, yes. We'll follow up week or so.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And I understand we have a few speaker requests this morning as well. In the interest of time, we'll just ask that you limit your remarks to three minutes. And Secretary, I'd ask you to be timekeeper on that.

First one we have is for Item 16, which is a request to award \$250,000 capital grant to Salvation Army to renovate and establish a new core community center, which is a (indiscernible) of essential services for the community. And we have Captain Jeremy Mockabee -- there he is, good to see you -- who's going join as a person in support. So, Captain, good to see you. Good morning.

CAPTAIN MOCKABEE: Good morning. Governor, thank you for allowing me to be here. Madam Comptroller and Mr. Treasurer, thank you so much. I'm the new Area Commander for the Salvation Army of Central Maryland. I just moved here with my wife and family about five months ago from Florida. I apologize for not bringing any of the heat with us, but nevertheless, the Salvation Army has been serving Maryland for 156 years. And we are a dedicated staff to make an impact on the community that we serve, in particular the Sandtown-Winchester area. We're about to invest a \$40 million community center that is going to have a massive, massive impact on West Baltimore.

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We appreciate the consideration for your support. You guys have been a wonderful support in the past, you currently are very supportive, and we look forward to our relationship in the future. But the impact that that's going to have on Sandtown is just phenomenal. We're looking forward, we're excited. We're working with people in the community to make the biggest impact that we can.

We're not there to add value to that community. We're not there to give value to that community. We're there to add value to a community that already has made up of some amazing, amazing people that I've had the privilege to meet day in and day out. So thank you so much for your time this morning and thank you for the consideration.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks. Thank you and welcome aboard. We're grateful for you and your family, but also just the work of Salvation Army. You guys do really remarkable work, so thank you.

CAPTAIN MOCKABEE: Well, it's good to be back. I was actually born in Baltimore in 1981, so it's good to be back here in the hometown -- so, yeah.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: You may not know this, but actually the Office of the Comptroller has a long-standing partnership with the Salvation Army as well. So we work with you all every year for a food drive and have folks come in.

CAPTAIN MOCKABEE: Fantastic. Thank you so much. Appreciate the time. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

We also have a speaker request on Item 33, which is a request from DGS to approve a new lease in the City of Annapolis for a property located in a major gateway at downtown Annapolis. I believe my mayor is here -- there he is.

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Good to see you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR BUCKLEY: (Indiscernible).

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I know, you're really charging us a lot. I'm not sure that that's --

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: I know.

(Laughter.)

MAYOR BUCKLEY: This is fun.

(Laughter.)

MAYOR BUCKLEY: So we want to thank the State for considering this application here for the City of Annapolis, entrusting us with this piece of property. This piece of property -- it had up to a nearly a dozen homeless people on the property. It was down to three homeless individuals. And we relocated those three homeless individuals, spent \$120,000 on a massive cleanup there.

Every tree in that piece of property is covered in invasives, so I want you to imagine this. I want you to imagine driving into the City of Annapolis, driving past Graul's, then the State Troopers, and then the Archives, and then seeing a sign that says the Jimmy Carter-John McCain Gateway Park. And people will be like, "I didn't know that a president went to school in Annapolis."

And then as you got to the bridge, you'd look up at St. Anne's Cemetery and you'll see all those invasives on the right-hand side all taken away and a nice bike trail and pedestrian trail going down underneath the road, Boulevard Bridge, and cutting back across College Creek to a boardwalk. That's water access for people, and also a bike lane that will connect the city all the way to Severna Park and the B&A Trail. So all those improvements. The park has

amazing vistas, but it's been forgotten.

So we'll have a great nature trail there. People from the Archives will be able to sit at one of the vistas and look at the State House, look at St. John's, look at the Naval Academy. It will be a very natural park, but it'll be another great asset to the City of Annapolis. And we want to thank you guys for considering this. Thank you so much. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Really exciting time. We're very grateful to you, Mr. Mayor, and also just for all the leadership that you've shown all throughout the years. And I know that we'll have more and more years in different capacities to continue to work together. So I just want to publicly say thank you for your leadership.

MAYOR BUCKLEY: Thank you. It's been great to be part of the team. Thank you all. Thank you. And I can tell that these (indiscernible) people are amazing to work with and I just want to commend them for how easy it was. I'm sure some of them are in the audience here. I can't recognize them because I'm not on the Zoom.

(Laughter.)

MAYOR BUCKLEY: So thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

I'd like to highlight a few items as well. First is Item 37. In celebration that this is American Education Week, Item 37 is a request from the Maryland Department of Education to award a \$2.8 million contract to Teach.org, which is a statewide teacher recruitment and marketing platform focusing on how we can strengthen the pipeline into the teaching profession.

You know, we're all very clear that education is just the foundation that everything else runs upon. We get public education right, everything else

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details. We get public education wrong, everything else is just in details. And so we've all collectively just worked hard, during our time, to make sure that we are addressing what I really believe is one of the most significant obstacles that we've had, which is the educator and the teacher shortage that we have within the State.

We know that it's something that has not just been a challenge for Maryland post-COVID, it's something that's been a nationwide challenge. And so during the 2023 Legislative session, we prioritized and worked with the General Assembly to enact the Maryland Educator Shortage Reduction Act, which is focused on aiming and recruiting teaching fellows and focusing on a teaching fellows scholarship program to get more people into the teaching profession, to provide more support for career changers and those who want to enter into the classroom for ways to become licensed teachers. And we have now seen that in the past two and a half years, we have reduced the teacher shortage in the state of Maryland by now over 25 percent.

During this past year's Legislative session, we introduced the Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act, which is really used to further drive down those vacancies. And under this time, the Maryland Department of Education has been charged with implementing a full comprehensive statewide teacher recruitment campaign to both aspiring teachers and also encouraging licensed teachers from other states to leave other states like Florida and come to the state of Maryland. And it really is our whole goal to be able to build the best educated workforce inside the nation because when we uplift our educators, we know that not just the students win but Maryland is going to win as well.

I'd also like to call up Item 43, which is a request from the Department of Information Technology to award a 203 and a half million dollar contract to Motorola Solutions to the statewide public safety wireless communication system that we know as Maryland FiRST. And we have

Secretary Savage up here to speak more about this item.

Madam Secretary, it is great to see you. Thank you.

MS. SAVAGE: Good morning, Mr. Governor, and Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. My name is Katie Savage. I'm the Secretary of the Department of Information Technology. I'm here to speak about the critical importance of the Maryland FiRST public safety radio system and the new contract with Motorola Solutions to maintain this large and complex system.

Maryland FiRST is a massive public safety radio system that provides reliable, secure radio communications to first responders across the state keeping Marylanders safe when disaster strikes. This system is used by over 130,000 first responders across the state including 130 State agencies, counties, federal agencies, and in neighboring state territories.

First responders have used Maryland FiRST in response to large-scale events that broke national headlines, including the just-in-time call made by dispatchers to police officers to close traffic right before the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse. Also including more localized emergencies, such as the recent events in Allegany County, where school children were rescued from fast moving floodwaters that hit their school.

The initial Maryland Public Safety Communications System contract was competitively bid and approved by the Board of Public Works on November 17th, 2010, and was awarded to Motorola Solutions. The construction of the radio system, later named Maryland FiRST, was completed in geographical phases and finished in April of 2023. Today, the Maryland FiRST infrastructure consists of a backbone of over 150 communication tower sites, stretching from the far corners of western Maryland to Ocean City.

The scope of the initial contract was primarily the construction of the core radio system, and maintenance was added later to the construction -- later

to the contract -- after the phases of the project came out of warranty. Under the 2010 contract, Motorola meant a 20 percent MBE participation goal throughout the contract term through project-specific efforts, such as site construction, real estate leasing, training of new technologies, and microwave backhaul implementation.

The contract before you today differs from the 2010 contract in nature. It only covers the maintenance and emergency repair of Motorola's own system. The work associated with system maintenance also pulls from a very limited pool of trained resources and contractors. In 2022, DoIT committed to a competitive solicitation to replace this contract. As a result, there are now three separate contract vehicles.

One, the statewide master communications contract for equipment and hardware, which is currently under evaluation and will come before this body in January. Two, task orders issued off of Cats Plus for the construction of Maryland FiRST Infrastructure. There is an opportunity for vendor diversification and more MBE participation across those two contract vehicles. The contract before you today is a sole source maintenance contract for Motorola to continue to maintain their own system.

Given the proprietary nature of Motorola technology and after reviewing Motorola's MBE documentation, DGS's procurement review group initially approved a 2.8 percent MBE goal for this contract. Yet in partnership, Motorola and DoIT more than doubled the MBE participation from 2.8 to 6 percent on the new maintenance contract in ways such as, one, transitioning network maintenance from a non-MBE to an MBE with a commitment to train the MBE resources to fill the new roles, which will also improve MBE's marketability. Two, shifting end of life battery replacement equipment and services to an MBE. And three, hiring a system manager at position through an

MBE.

To ensure further growth and spend with MBEs moving forward, Motorola has made a commitment to develop the Maryland MBE landscape and train future MBE partners. Specifically, Motorola will add a dedicated employee to identify, grow, and develop MBE training to other Maryland MBEs to enable them to work with Motorola on a diverse array of projects outside of Maryland FiRST. In the future with more MBE partners, we believe Motorola can achieve a higher MBE subcontracting percentage.

So in conclusion, the new sole source Motorola maintenance contract before you will help maintain the State's critical public safety radio network. Maryland FiRST is the go-to interoperable communication system for Maryland FiRST responders and is a critical part of our public safety infrastructure. For these reasons, I ask that you strongly consider to approve this contract today and I'm happy to answer any questions or schedule additional time to discuss.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you, Governor. First of all, I certainly recognize how important this is and am certainly supportive of it. But I'm just going to speak to the MBE piece of it, and then I'll let it go. Not to be petty about it, but I can't really give them too much credit for doubling that goal. They only did it when the Comptroller and I said we weren't going to vote for it.

It was 2.8 percent, which is embarrassingly low. And when, you know, we both express -- I don't want to speak for the Governor -- but since she said it publicly, I'm comfortable restating her position. It was only after we said we couldn't vote for it that they came back and it went from 2.8 to 6 percent.

I bring that up because in looking at the history of it, I know that the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, the original contract, they also had a problem with the MBE percentage goals. So I'm glad to hear about the efforts

that they're undertaking because I was looking at some of the language that said the scope of work limits the MBE to (indiscernible) due to limited Motorola-certified providers.

I didn't know Motorola-certified was part of the interpretation. But if they're certifying firms as well, then I'm glad they're taking the proactive steps to go out and recruit. You can't say that the participation is limited when you didn't make any effort to , you know, to grow the people that you work with it.

Again, I know I'm being redundant from past statements, but I think it's important, especially in this climate, that we're making an effort to be as inclusive in our contracting and our procurement opportunities that we can. So thank you, Secretary Savage, for, you know, working to achieve our joint goals in this particular matter.

MS. SAVAGE: Absolutely, and just to respond to that. You know, as I understand it, you know, a lot of -- there is a limited pool of break-fix radio shops. And to your point, Motorola should be engaged in training and upskilling those shops. So we'll absolutely continue that commitment.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, I just echo the Treasurer's sentiments and add -- you know, this is sort of a trust but verify solution for me too. So I look forward to hearing from Motorola six months from now, and a year from now, on what their new employee has done to identify, grow, and develop MBE partners across the State.

You know, that is important for Motorola. It's important for the State. It's also -- it's important for our economy and it ensures that we are growing the pool of MBEs who can do this work, which means better value for the citizens of Maryland -- or for our residents of Maryland and our taxpayers. Also, just, you know, I do think it's interesting to see how you're splitting out the contract. I think that's good because I am concerned. You know, more and more

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we are reliant on proprietary technologies that are necessary but pose a risk to the State because we have less leverage then when we're negotiating and we have fewer protections.

You know, if Motorola decided to double the cost of what they were doing, that would be a huge challenge for us. So you know, all agencies are facing this challenge with IT, not just you. I mean, certainly we have right now our mainframe we have to get work on. It's in here and it's a sole source for IBM, right? So we want to get off the mainframe. So I just wanted to say out loud, you know, the challenge that these proprietary technologies pose for state governments across the country.

MS. SAVAGE: I echo that, especially coming from DOD, where it's really hard to challenge a single vendor in what a missile should cost. So you know, it's, you know on all scales, I think to your point, you know, we're facing that challenge. And so it is part of the, you know, our major driver of splitting it into these three vehicles so that we, you know, aren't so reliant just on one vendor.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, no, that's good. Thank you and I look forward to seeing the follow up from Motorola.

MS. SAVAGE: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any further comments on the DGS Agenda? Motion to approve the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

This concludes the meeting of the Board of Public Works. The next meeting is December 3rd. I wish all of you and your families a wonderful

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and blessed Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 10:37 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)