
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

*GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE
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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 & Real Property Initiatives,
University System of Maryland

VALERIE RADOMSKY

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning. Thank you so much.

Good morning. Welcome to today's BPW meeting. I, first, just want to take a moment to recognize the passing and the extraordinary life of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

You know, someone who inspired us to be better, who pushed us to be better, and someone who reminded this country in any way and every -- every day in every way that we have a solemn responsibility, that we are all God's children, and that by definition we all have value and worth that needs to be lifted and needs to be respected. You know, a person who didn't make just a significant impact on the state of Maryland, but the United States of America and the world.

And so on behalf of the entire state, we just want to give our deepest condolences to the Jackson family. We want to thank them for sharing their family member with us and to say that because he was here, we are all (indiscernible) because of it. And may he rest in eternal peace.

I also -- before we get started, I know that everybody has seen the President's tweet about the sewage pipe spill. It is typically unhinged. It is riddled with insults, but it's also riddled with massive inaccuracies. And while we do not have the time and I do not have the energy to fact check the President of the United States, I do think it is worth time to actually be able to correct the record and to talk about -- accurately -- what actually happened and what's been done.

As you might know, on January 19th of 2026, a section of the Potomac Interceptor Sewage Line collapsed near the Clara Barton Parkway and I-495. But the President's tweet actually failed to mention a few things. First, that

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for the past century, the federal government has been responsible for the Potomac Interceptor. The sewage pipe that he is talking about is on federal land. And over these past four weeks, the Trump-Vance Administration has failed to act. This federal administration has been shirking its responsibilities and putting people's health at risk.

The second thing, on Friday, Maryland agencies and DC Water presented in a -- presented a major two-hour legislative hearing in the Maryland General Assembly and provided updates on the clean-up and also the status of water quality. Trump's EPA was invited and they refused to attend. Maryland, on the other hand, has stepped up to protect its residents, to protect drinking water, and to ensure accountability.

Third, Maryland officials were on site within hours of the leak to do our part to coordinate the response and to ensure that the public was protected. Since the spill occurred, the Maryland Department of the Environment has been monitoring bacteria levels, coordinating with local jurisdictions, and conducting multiple site inspections. MDE issued a precautionary closure to a shellfish harvesting area from Charles County to Route 301.

And in coordination with the Maryland Department of Health, counties have issued public health advisories and will track ongoing water quality sampling. Testing shows bacteria levels decreasing over time and significantly lower concentrations farther downstream from the site of the initial spill. So Maryland will continue monitoring and remain engaged throughout the full remediation, and continue to partner with leaders in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia as part of our larger coordinated response.

So I want to be very, very clear. This is a D.C. pipe on federal land. The two reasons that Maryland decided to intervene, and I ordered our agencies to support, are two reasons. One, we wanted to protect the health of

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Marylanders and any type of contamination or contagion. And the second, we believe in being good neighbors. And when our neighbors are in trouble, we are going to find ways to help and support them.

But to blame Maryland in this when this is a DC pipe on federal land, is asinine. It is disingenuous, absurd, and politically motivated. If this federal administration wants to show up to take action, Maryland will work collaboratively, as we always do, to be responsive and help to keep our people informed about the plan and to remediate change. But if the President wants me to ask nicely, my response is this: please, Mr. President, do your job.

And with that, we'll get started with the business of the day. Good morning, Secretary Gontrom.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. And good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller.

There are 24 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and one report of an emergency procurement contract award. There are 24 items including two hand-carried items, Governor. Item 23 contains updates to COMAR 21, the State Procurement regulations. And Item 24 contains a new BPW advisory to agencies on the inclusion of climate and sustainability information on Board of Public Work's action agenda items. At the request of Maryland Environmental Service, I'm withdrawing Item 19. Leaving the 23 items and the emergency procurement report for your consideration this morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much.

First, I would like to take a moment to both thank and congratulate the Comptroller on the new climate and sustainability advisory that the Board will be issuing later today.

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: I want to thank you because I know this

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has been a priority for you since the transition. And your leadership in making this advisory happen is why it is happening, so I just want to say thank you and congratulations.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you. I appreciate that.

Do you want me to talk about it now --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: -- or later?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, please. Absolutely.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. I'll do it now. Okay. Well, thank you, Governor. I really -- that means a lot. I really do appreciate it.

Change is happening at the Board of Public Works today in a number of ways. And as the Executive Secretary said, today we are going to adopt a new advisory requiring every agency when bringing certain items before us to demonstrate how that item advances or aligns with our state's climate goals. Because when we spend taxpayer dollars, build infrastructure, or enter into contracts on behalf of the people of Maryland, we have an obligation, a real and serious obligation to understand how those decisions will shape our state's future and to act to ensure best value.

Our state has some of the most ambitious climate goals in the nation, but goals, however ambitious, are only as meaningful as the decisions that they inform. This Board oversees billions of dollars in contracts and capital projects annually. That is not merely an administrative function, it is a profound responsibility and a genuine opportunity to ensure our public investments reflect our values and our vision.

So I want to acknowledge Treasurer Nancy Kopp, who first championed this idea. Nancy understood, as I know this Board understands, that fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship are not competing priorities.

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They are, in fact, inseparable ones. Climate risk is financial risk, full stop. That is not a political statement. It is the assessment of economists, insurers, and investors around the world. And it must be front of mind for every decision maker at every level of government.

This advisory is the product of collaboration with my colleagues on this Board -- Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Governor, thank you -- with the agencies who will carry out this work and with my dedicated -- and with dedicated public servants, including my Board of Public Works team, and also Kim Pezza, my Climate Resilience Director, who have all worked to make this moment possible.

We will not solve the climate crisis in a single day or with a single policy, but we will address it together deliberately and with accountability built into the process. This advisory makes visible the work that agencies are already doing and ensures that work is connected to our larger mission. I've always believed that transparency is one of the most powerful tools available to government. When we open processes to scrutiny, we do not weaken them, we strengthen them. We build the public trust that makes durable progress possible. A more transparent, climate conscious Board of Public Works means a stronger, more resilient Maryland and a future our children and grandchildren will be better equipped to face.

So thank you, Mr. Governor. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, Drake, Manny, Joanna, Tom, Michele, the whole team, for helping to bring us here. Mr. Treasurer, as well. And thank you to all of our partners in this important work. I appreciate it.

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

And I understand we have a few speaker requests for this morning. So in the interest of time, I would just ask that the speakers would limit their

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remarks to two minutes. And I'd like -- and I'd ask Mr. Secretary to serve as timekeeper on that. We have a request for Item 21, which is a request from the Maryland Stadium Authority to award a \$61.2 million contract to Clark Construction Group for the redevelopment of Maryland's racing facilities. I'd like to recognize Mr. Ray Baker representing the Baltimore-DC Building and Construction Trades Council.

Mr. Baker, it is great to see you. And please join us.

MR. BAKER: Good morning. Good morning, Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, Treasurer Davis. For the record, I am Ray Baker, the Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades Council. I want to express the Council's deep desire that this GMP and future GMPs on the Maryland Racing Facility Project be done with the highest labor standards. We believe it is the best and most ethical use of the State's resources.

Unfortunately, despite all the progress we've made in the State of Maryland, a reality is that wage theft is still rampant in the State -- especially in trades that are captured in this GMP. Now, during the May 7th, 2025, Board of Public Works meeting, I addressed the Board sharing our eagerness to work with the Maryland Stadium Authority to reach -- develop workforce development goals, local hiring goals, and to prevent wage theft through project labor agreements.

However, following our meeting with Clark Construction, we came away clearly understanding that they would not enter into a PLA unless directed to do so by the Maryland Stadium Authority. As a result, we're concerned that this project is especially susceptible to the kind of wage theft that we've seen in Maryland. It disproportionately affects vulnerable black, brown, and immigrant workers, especially prevalent in carpentry work, which is in fact included in the scope of work in this GMP.

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We were disappointed to learn that some workers in Baltimore City have filed complaints on wage theft on a project at Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School that's governed by MSA. The redevelopment of Pimlico should be a flagship project for our state. It is critically important that this Board ensures that MSA does not allow issues that have plagued other projects to tarnish this. We're happy to work with you all to ensure that we make sure that Marylanders and Baltimoreans are getting good work and good wages.

Thank you for your time.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: Question.

MR. BAKER: Yes, sir.

TREASURER DAVIS: Am I to understand correctly, you're saying on this particular project, the Stadium Authority, that there's been wage theft?

MR. BAKER: On this project that we're talking about with regard to 21 GMP -- no, sir, I'm not alleging. What I am suggesting is that there have been evidence and allegations on other MSA projects, and we hope that this project does not have that happen to it. And we want to work toward that via the use of a project labor agreement.

TREASURER DAVIS: Let me follow that up --

MR. BAKER: Yes, sir.

TREASURER DAVID: -- because I, having served on economic matters for the State, I'm a little familiar with this process. Is this -- are these state allegations or federal? Meaning -- or what I'm asking, have you all been through the process -- well, wage theft is an allegation. And it very well could be true, but that's sort of a process issue.

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Have they gone through the process and received a ruling, whether in fact it was that or is this still at just an allegation?

MR. BAKER: This is still a complaint at this point, and the suit has been filed in court. And we wanted to bring this to the attention, so that the Board could help be oversight -- provide oversight to Maryland Stadium Authority to ensure that their subcontractors, at least not the ones mentioned in the allegation, would be those that were liable to get this type of work moving forward.

TREASURER DAVIS: If it hasn't been adjudicated or whatever, how do we know that there's been a wrongdoing?

MR. BAKER: Oh, we want to raise your attention to it prior to it happening with (indiscernible), Treasurer. And I understand your point, and I appreciate the point. A shame we would face would be the event that there was an allegation here, and for some reason, a similar sized subcontractor or the same one's named got more work from the State through a MSA project, and we found that it was happening again.

Now, we do have anecdotal, and I respect the limitations of anecdotal evidence, from our organizers on sites that we have this more than just in this complaint. But the complaint that had been filed is the most formal of its kind. And we wanted to bring it to the Board's attention, so that MSA could follow up on that.

TREASURER DAVIS: And lastly, because I know project labor agreements --

MR. BAKER: Yes, sir.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- that's been an issue for quite a while, I believe, Governor, you did an executive order a couple years ago. Have there been any PLA, since that executive order that you guys have been

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awarded or are we still waiting on anything?

MR. BAKER: Two have been put forward. One had an opportunity for full exemption for MBE contractors, the other does not have that and we look forward to working on that and demonstrating how effective and how well that serves Marylanders, the workers, the State, and everybody. And we look forward to more work and we believe that the directive from the Governor's executive order,- around \$35 million for State-financed projects would be perfect to apply to Maryland Stadium Authority projects, particularly in the Baltimore area.

TREASURER DAVIS: And I definitely want to say that because I remember that sort of had the Black Caucus in -- in a bind on the one hand. Obviously, we want to support those in labor, but the health and --

MR. BAKER: Yes, sir.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- welfare, so to speak, of our minority businesses, that's also a competing concern, so it's kind of --

MR. BAKER: Mr. Treasurer, a last point on that with full deference and respect to you there. I am very good friends and frat brothers (indiscernible) with our new chair, caucus chairs, in Scott -- Delegate N. Scott Phillips. I've been in conversations working with him, and I've also met with Senator Augustine, because we believe that we can ensure that those contractors that the Black Caucus were concerned about aren't -- do not face any additional hurdles or burdens when we put project labor agreements on that. And we look forward to the support of the Board to help us bridge that gap. And I think we're doing that in your home county, in Prince George's County, with the schools project.

TREASURER DAVIS: You said your frat brothers with --

MR. BAKER: It was a bit of a dig at the Governor because, with

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regard to Brother Scott, we've got him outnumbered here.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I know.

TREASURER DAVIS: (Indiscernible).

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, yeah.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

MR. BAKER: Thank you, Treasurer.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Mr. Baker, thank you so much.

You know, we've worked -- I think my agency has worked with many of the building trades on some of the wage theft issues. My only request for all speakers -- I said this to previous speakers, so I need to say it to you too -- is to make sure that we stay on the issue that we're actually seeing.

MR. BAKER: Yes, ma'am.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So thank you.

MR. BAKER: Thank you. We thought it was germane for the GMP. But yes, ma'am. Well received, and we'll adhere to that moving forward.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

MR. BAKER: Thank you, kindly. Thank you, all.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

Any further discussion on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nothing.

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a motion to approve the Secretary's Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: Motion to approve the Secretary's Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

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TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

Next, we'll proceed with the Department of Natural Resources
Agenda. Secretary Kurtz, good morning.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Mr. Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and
Madam Comptroller. For the record, Josh Kurtz, Secretary of the Department of
Natural Resources. The Department has 12 items for your consideration today.
We are going to withdraw Item 6A. And I'm available, and my staff is available,
to answer any questions you may have.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No discussion.

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.
Secretary.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Will 6A be coming back?

TREASURER DAVIS: I hope so.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, I know. That's why I was --

MR. KURTZ: No, it won't be because they've gotten federal funds
for it.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh, okay. Got it. Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

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Next up, the University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, good morning.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey representing the University System of Maryland. There are five items on our agenda. I am withdrawing Item 5-S. And I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

Is there is there any discussion on the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope. I just want to thank Mr. Hickey, the University of Baltimore, the University System for answering all our questions and working with us. Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you for meeting with us.

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. Thanks so much, Mr. Hickey.

We'll proceed with 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 18 agenda items including one report of an expedited procurement for your consideration. We're seeking approval of three awards to duly certified MBE and certified small businesses totaling \$9.7 million

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and two awards to duly certified VSBE and certified small businesses totaling \$5.9 million. And we have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great, thank you so much.

Discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure, I just have a couple of points. You know -- thanks, Ms. Radomsky. Good to see you. And thank you, Mr. Governor.

There are a few requests for contract extensions to maintain continuity of service. And yes, this is routine and all of our agencies have had to do them. I just want to note though that in this agenda alone, there are over \$20 million. And so you know, when agencies obviously don't anticipate their needs, it's going to limit competition. And I know that this is a priority for Acting Secretary Thomson, we've talked about procurements and the need for more procurement staff. And I just wanted to highlight that as a continuing issue.

And then also, I wanted to highlight 16-M. We just talked about the new climate advisory and I want to commend agencies like MDOT and USM, who've already been doing this work voluntarily. In this agenda item, you, MDOT, outline how their solicitation incorporates review by the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee requirements, selecting native plants, best practices for outdoor pest management, and specifications for landscaping mulch. So just really appreciate the work that you're doing to highlight this and also actually doing the work. It's important. Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

Any further discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Not on MDOT.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay.

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May I have a 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: Outstanding. Thank you so much, Ms. Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And we'll conclude with the DGS Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

But also before we start, I just want to give a special shout out to you and the entire DGS team. When the Walk of Peace happened and the monks made their way to Annapolis, in days' notice, you all did a spectacular job in preparing this entire complex for what -- we had no idea it was going to be this size. It turned into 12,000 plus people who then came to the complex. And the work that you all did to be able to make sure that everyone was going to be safe. And it turned into a pretty remarkable and memorable day for everybody. I just want to give you and your entire team a shout out because it could not have happened without you. So really well done, Secretary.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Well done.

TREASURER DAVIS: Well done.

MR. CHAUDHRY: And I wanted to recognize the Maryland Capitol Police, Office of Facilities Management within DGS, as well as our partners, Annapolis Police Department and Maryland State Police, that coordinated on that regard. As we were escorting the monks, I was just in awe of the amount of outpouring and support that was received by them and the emotions of everyone that was there. And it just goes to show that in this political climate

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that we live in today, people are just looking for hope. They're just looking for hope and just for peace. And it was a very peaceful event, thankfully. It exceeded what our expectations, but we were so so happy just to be a part of this. Just to be a part of this and celebrate them coming here to our great state, and I think it's just -- it was just -- we just needed it here in this state and across the country as well.

GOVERNOR MOORE: We did.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes.

We will --

MR. CHAUDHRY: Oh, let me -- let me go.

GOVERNOR MOORE: DGS Agenda. Sorry, Mr. Secretary.

(Laughter.)

MR. CHAUDHRY: Secretary Gontrum would yell at me for not introducing things.

(Laughter.)

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services.

Today, the Department is presenting 92 items in our agenda. We have -- our agenda does feature 65 capital grants and loans totaling more than \$48.9 million. I did want to highlight one in particular and that's Item 8-CGL, which provides \$4 million to Howard County Housing Commission for the construction of a new theatrical and visual arts cultural center, as well as additional affordable housing units located in Columbia.

As we continue to keep an eye on our minority business participation, our agenda does include eight contract actions to certified minority

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businesses totaling more than \$28.3 million. And we have 12 contract actions as well to certified small businesses totaling more than \$31.9 million. And we have Agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great, thank you so much.

And I actually want to take a moment also just to recognize some of the great work that's receiving funding through our capital grants program. Across the 65 capital grants on today's agenda, we'll be awarding \$49 million to projects in 14 counties and Baltimore City. And that includes \$5.4 million in grants to Southern Maryland to support recreation, food security, and health services. It includes \$8 million in grants to Western Maryland for local revitalization and renovation of our schools. It includes \$7.3 million in grants to the Capital Region for 23 separate capital projects. And it includes \$15.7 million in grants to Baltimore City for public safety, medical care and research, and also our public parks.

And I just want to take a moment just to thank you again, and you and your team, for supporting all these grantees and supporting just really the remarkable work that's happening. And also, just the speed and efficiency in which these grants are getting approved and out. So thank you so much again.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you, Mr. Governor. I'm happy to do it. It's very much a team effort, working collaboratively to get these out and manage them. So thank you for that.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good work.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: This agenda might have my last bond bill as a legislator too.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Oh?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Patterson Park Pool was one of the last things we worked on my last year as a delegate. So it's great to see it coming

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through in under seven years, as they should.

GOVERNOR MOORE: That's right. That's right.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yep.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Lastly, we have a speaker request for Item 18, which is a request to award a \$75,000 capital grant to Spirit Fit and Health, Inc. for the expansion of their current facility to provide wellness classes, personal training, and inclusive fitness services to individuals with developmental and physical disabilities. And I'd like to recognize Jared Ciner, who is the founder and the CEO of the SPIRIT Club, who's going to join us virtually to speak on behalf of this item.

Mr. Ciner, good morning.

MR. GONTRUM: Unfortunately, Mr. Ciner is not online. If he's here in the room (indiscernible), but I'm not seeing him online. I don't believe he's in attendance.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Wonderful. Thank you so much. Any further discussion on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just wanted to give a shout out. Two things I'd like to give a shout out to.

One on 81-IT. Unlike other items on this agenda, I'm excited to point out this contract extension because for Sub-item 3.1, MDH is using this extension to bring in-house nine positions as full-time State employees. I think in-sourcing whenever we can to build up our State expertise saves us money on contractors and improves service quality, so it's great to see that.

And then, I also wanted to thank Secretary Chaudhry and his team. We opened our new Bel Air branch office today. So it's been a learning experience for everyone and I really appreciate your persistence in helping us, and we are excited to be open today for business.

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Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Excellent.

GOVERNOR MOORE: If there's no further discussion, I may have a 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. Thanks, Mr. Secretary. Before we conclude, I'd like to give it to the Treasurer for a few comments.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

First of all, this is unrelated to what we talked about. I want to thank you. I kid you a lot about the fraternity and sorority stuff, but you were very gracious hosting my guys when they were here last Thursday. They enjoyed the conversation and the chance to fellowship with you a bit, so I wanted to say thank you for that.

GOVERNOR MOORE: But there was like 80 of them, I couldn't say (indiscernible).

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: They travel in packs.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: But you know, the Governor and to everybody else that's listening right now, it's funny that you and the Comptroller, you know, started talking about the capital grants and loan program. Those are -- you know, some people derisively want to call it pork, but those are very important community-initiated projects --

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yep.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- that they may not otherwise have an ability to get funding for and they go on to do great things.

So why am I bringing that up? About a couple of weeks ago, a couple of the fraternities and sororities, they came to me and said, "Listen, there's a hot issue out in the community dealing with data centers." You might have heard of that. "But we need a -- we'd like to have a forum on it to educate the public, so they can ask questions and make informed decisions and so forth. Can you help us get a place?" And you know, they needed some place for about 100, 125 people or so. And I said, "Sure, I will try to help you."

And they wanted -- it's not just Prince George, it's just some of the adjacent counties but Prince George's is just sort of in the middle. So within that, I tried to get a place within the middle of that -- you know, in the middle between North and South County -- and you know, for the adjacent counties as well. So I called up Prince George's Community College. I wasn't going to name names, but I am now.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: I called them up and said, "Hey --" And I explained it just as I explained to you all. I said, "Can we have a place 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. to have this meeting?" And they said, "Sure, \$1,700." I said, "It's a meeting. It's not a fundraiser. We're not having a social event. None of that, it's just a place to sit and talk." Didn't move anything. Okay. So then I called Bowie. \$2,200, you know, with the facility alone was that and then stuff that was already paid for it had to be paid for again, \$2,200.

And then, I started getting annoyed, and you know how I can be, so they lowered it to \$1,200. And I was like, "Nah, we'll talk. You know, we'll have this conversation again right here." And so then -- and I know how this

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works, so I called Jazz Lewis at the University of Maryland and said, "Jazz, what's going on?" And I said, "What can you all do?" And I put them in touch and I wasn't in the negotiations, but I got back to Jazz.

I was like, "By the way, how did that work out?" She said, "We were able to do it and they told me the cost was \$400." \$400. Now we can argue whether or not that should be done, but the point I'm getting at is this. This is not their money, the capital grants loans. Most of the places, the taxpayers paid for it. We built the place and you're treating it like it's -- I don't know, Constitution Hall or someplace -- MGM, whatever.

These are not private facilities. These are publicly-funded facilities that the taxpayers paid for that they want to use to have a meeting, and you're basically holding them hostage. And it happens around the state because I've talked to other legislators about -- they happen to randomly mention it as well. So it's not just at these two facilities that I had an issue with, it's around there.

Now, I compare that with a high school in my district, Bishop McNamara High School. It's a private school. And they've received what I think is significant State money as well to build out and so forth, but they're very much a part of the community. Senator Charles and the current delegates, as well as past delegates from our district, will tell you anytime we call McNamara and say, because it's also centrally located in our district, "Can we have a meeting there? Or you know, we want to have like a legislative wrap." Sine die every year, they would, you know, have people come and present, you know, what happened in the budget and all that.

They always opened their doors. They didn't charge for things that they were going to do anyway. Like the trash was going to be taken out the next morning anyway, so they didn't have that charge. They didn't nickel and dime is

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what I'm trying to say. And to Dr. Barnhardt and before him, Dr. Clark, the CEO -- President and CEO of that school, they said, "Delegate Davis", at that time, "we want to be a part of the community. We don't want to just accept -- take, but we want to be able to extend as well. We're not just an academic institution; we're part of the community."

So, and I conclude with this, when you come and ask -- the way I feel -- if you come and you're asking for State resources, you have an obligation to give back. You're not entitled to that money. And see, you know, higher ed sometimes feel put upon, but this is why. It's just selfish as hell to think you're going to nickel and dime everything you're going to get. And it's a conversation I'm certainly going to have with the legislators. Because if you can't give back, then I can't support you. I can't support you.

So Governor, and Comptroller, and everybody thank you for giving me this opportunity. But I wanted to be clear of what goes on and how certain institutions do not, in this State, do not feel like they're part of the community when it comes to giving back, but when it comes time to take, their hands are out front. And feel free to call me. Anybody that don't like this, call me.

Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

With that, that concludes today's BPW meeting. The next one will be on March 4th. Thank you, all. And meeting is adjourned.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

(Whereupon, at 10:53 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)