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# **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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

**March 4, 2026**  
**9:08 a.m.**

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# PRESENT

## **HONORABLE WES MOORE**

Governor

## **HONORABLE DERECK E. DAVIS**

Treasurer

## **HONORABLE BROOKE E. LIERMAN**

Comptroller

## **JOHN GONTRUM**

Secretary, Board of Public Works

## **ATIF CHAUDHRY**

Secretary, Department of General Services

## **EMILY WILSON**

Director of Legislative and Constituent Services,  
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, everybody. Good morning and welcome to the start of today's Board of Public Works meeting. First, I just want to say thank you to everybody for accommodating and allowing us to start a little earlier than our normal standard time. I'll be attending the family funeral of my great uncle, who was a good man. But I want to thank everybody for the accommodation and moving the time around.

Also want to -- I know Treasurer Davis wants to start with some remarks as well. Mr. Treasurer?

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you. Good morning, everybody.  
(Chorus of Good Morning.)

TREASURER DAVIS: Over the weekend -- well, if you noticed. If you look to your right, we have a -- we normally have three people in these seats. You all know Cherise and Megan, and there was a third seat next to her that we normally have. It was for a young lady on my staff by the name of Nakia Wright. She's normally here every week -- or every time we have BPW. But over the weekend, she passed. She unexpectedly passed and that is a tremendous loss for all of us.

I only knew Nakia for three years the year -- you know, when I hired her. When I met her, a friend of mine, a former Prince George's County councilmember, Nakia was interested in running for his seat, and he told me I should meet with her. And I told him, you know, I had already committed to someone else, but if you think I should, I will. So I talked to her and she was -- I saw why he was supporting her. Right away, she was very delightful, smart, funny. She is the first lady at a church called The Gathering in Forestville, which

was my old district.

And you know, working for me is not easy. And you know, I'm -- not in a way that most people say it. Like I'm not sitting there hounding you and all of that, not that way. But you know that kid in school that picked on everybody and always had something to say? That was me. And so I brought that and the rest of the staff didn't like to deal with me. So whenever they wanted something, they would make Nakia ask me. You know, they would go through her. And we had such -- and I'm going to wrap this up, Governor.

We had such great conversations about just a lot of things. She was a church lady without being, as she'd say, "churchy". You know, that she wasn't -- because I would challenge that. You know, I would test her faith.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: You know, we would talk and just the way she could sort of -- I don't know, just sort of settle me down or we'd have good conversations. Like, we were talking about her son one day and, you know, and I asked his name and she says Semaj. So I'm figuring it's like something in the Bible. You know, first lady -- or ancestry. You know, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Semaj. Just, I figured I forgot.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: I figured I forgot. You know, my mom kept elbowing me in church to wake up. So you know, I figured I forgot. So one day I said I'll just ask. I'm going to make myself look stupid and I'm going to ask because, well, like I said, I'm sure it's somebody really biblical or, you know, a strong ancestral name, and I wanted to know. And so I said, "Where did that come from? Where did you get the name Semaj?" And she said, "Oh, it's just James spelled backwards." And I, you know, I didn't want to, you know, wrote it out. And I said, "Is that it?" "Yeah, that's it." "Okay."

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And we sort of left it, and so, but I say that to say that's the kind of fun we used to have -- how we kept it lighthearted. She was just a tremendous staffer. I really enjoyed working with her. Her timing was very -- her passing very unsettling. I appreciate the call the Governor and the First Lady gave, and the Comptroller. They called me the next day after her passing. I've been in contact with her husband. You know, the family's doing as well as can be expected. So I will conclude just by saying for those of you who pray, I ask that you pray for her family, and her friends, and comfort, and --

Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, and we're so sorry.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: She was a -- she really was a tremendous and a very sweet soul. She loved working with you. She loved working with this entire team.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

TREASURER DAVIS: Oh, they all do. That's another job requirement.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, she was really special.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Our deepest condolences go to the entire Wright family and to all the extended family. May she rest in eternal peace.

Before we get started, I also just wanted to say a few words about the President's illegal tariffs and the work that I'm proud to stand with this body to be able to have a response to that. Because two weeks ago, the United States Supreme Court in a 6-3 decision ruled that the Trump/Vance Administration's tariffs are unconstitutional and illegal.

And last week, I was proud to join the Comptroller and the

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Treasurer, and we sent a joint letter to President Donald Trump where we formally demanded reimbursements of tariff revenues imposed by the Trump/Vance Administration on Maryland consumers, Maryland businesses, and Maryland residents. That because of these illegal tariffs, Maryland businesses and consumers paid an estimated \$4 billion in direct and indirect costs.

Broken down, that is approximately \$1,744 per household that paid for these tariffs that the Supreme Court have deemed illegal, and our people deserve a refund. And so the federal courts established a refund mechanism in the 1990s when the harbor maintenance fee was struck down as unconstitutional. So there is precedent. And we know the restitution at scale is both legally appropriate and administratively feasible.

Now, I've long said before the Supreme Court's decision that tariffs are an important tool of international trade. But they are a tool that should be used wisely and strategically, not emotionally or as a form of retaliation. President Trump and Vice President Vance have used them as a form of punishment, and the effect of these tariffs have served as essentially a tax on each and every one of us. So this is not just bad policy. This is about the Supreme Court making it clear that these unilateral actions were illegal, and this \$4 billion represents real money taken away from Maryland families. And now the Trump Administration needs to do what's right and pay Marylanders back.

And so I want to give a moment for comments also from the Comptroller and the Treasurer.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure. Thank you, Governor.

I'm certainly proud to stand with this body together in pushing back on these illegal tariffs. As Comptroller, I have a responsibility to safeguard our state's fiscal interests and that means standing up when unlawful federal action takes money out of the pockets of our residents and our businesses.

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And as the Governor said, we should be clear, these tariffs, they are taxes. They are taxes paid by Maryland families, businesses, and nonprofits who now have to navigate unpredictable cost spikes that thin margins and threaten livelihoods. Now, there's a manufacturer in Salisbury that suddenly needs to pay more for imported components, or a nonprofit food pantry whose packaging costs tripled overnight squeezing a already thin margin. These are not theoretical costs. These are real costs that we have all had to pay. And as the Governor said, our estimate is \$4 billion of costs.

To make matters worse, Marylanders could be asked to pay twice. First, we paid for high costs driven by these tariffs. And again, we may pay again through tax dollars used to cover refunds to businesses from the General Fund. Marylanders deserve better. Americans deserve better. Marylanders deserve leaders who demand accountability when their constituents is wrong -- are wronged. And that is why the Governor, the Treasurer, and I -- that's why I was proud to stand with you to make that formal demand of President Trump. You know, we all deserve transparency and leadership grounded in respect for the rule of law. And with our demand, we're standing up on behalf of all Marylanders. So thank you, Governor, for your leadership and the collaboration.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

With that, we will get started with the business of the day.  
Secretary Gontrum, good morning. Thank you.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. Thank you, sir.  
And good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. There are 22 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning. I am happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any questions or comments on the Secretary's Agenda?

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Not on the Secretary's Agenda.

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

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

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much, Mr.  
Secretary.

We will proceed with the Department of Natural Resources. Ms.  
Wilson, good morning. Good to see you.

MS. WILSON: Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller,  
Emily Wilson with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Mr.  
Governor, I'm very sorry for your loss. And Mr. Treasurer, for you and your staff  
as well -- your office. Very sorry to hear that.

We do have nine items on our agenda today for your review. I'm  
happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

Is there any discussion on the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DNR  
Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you.

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Thank you so much, Ms. Wilson.

MS. WILSON: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Next up, University System of Maryland.

Mr. Hickey, good morning.

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

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you. Any discussion on the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No discussion.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. May I have a 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 so much.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. We will 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 10 agenda items for your consideration after withdrawing Items 5-RP and 8-M. We are seeking approval of one award to a duly-certified MBE and small business totaling 239,000, and two awards to certified small businesses totaling 2.4 million. And we have representatives

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available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

Is there any discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Motion to approve the MDOT  
Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the MDOT  
Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much, Ms.  
Radomsky.

We will conclude with the DGS Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry,  
good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, sir. Mr. Governor, Madam  
Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of  
the Maryland Department of General Services. Today, the Department is  
presenting 48 items on our agenda. Our agenda does feature 30 capital grants and  
loans totaling more than \$27.6 million.

I did want to highlight one in particular -- and that's Item 3-CGL,  
which provides funding to the board of directors for Mercy Medical Center for the  
renovation and creation of a new 10,864 square foot facility adjacent to its current  
primary care offices. This expansion will allow for the addition of seven new  
primary care providers, increasing Mercy's capacity to serve an estimated 10,500  
additional patients annually.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great news.

MR. CHAUDHRY: As we continue to keep an eye on our

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minority business participation, our agenda does feature nine contract actions to certified minority businesses totaling more than \$11.7 million. And we have nine contract actions to certified small businesses totaling more than \$13.6 million. And we have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, Secretary. Thank you so much.

And I understand we have a few speaker requests this morning as well. In the interest of time, we'd ask that the speakers would limit their comments to more than two minutes. And Secretary Gontrum, I ask that you serve as timekeeper on that.

First, we have speaker request for Item 2, which is a request to award a \$50,000 capital grant to the Kiwanis Club of Commodore Mayo for renovations for the club's roof and also its primary bathroom. Good morning.

MR. HOWARD: Good Morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: First, I'd like to recognize former Maryland Delegate Carolyn Howard is going to join us virtually. And then we're going to come back to you, Delegate Howard.

MR. HOWARD: That's okay.

GOVERNOR MOORE: But we'll start with former Maryland Delegate Carolyn Howard in support of this item.

(Pause.)

MR. GONTRUM: Delegate Howard, you're self-muted. There we go.

MS. HOWARD: Hello, my name is Carolyn Howard. I will keep my comments short and just thank everyone on the Board. And I didn't have any comments prepared in addition to our request, other than just that I'm here for support and here to answer any questions. Thank you very much for your time.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Excellent. Thank you so much. It's good to hear your voice.

We'd also like to recognize current Delegate Howard as well. This time Seth Howard, who will join us to speak in support of both this item and also Item 9, which is a request to award a \$2.3 million capital grant to Anne Arundel County for the design and construction of the new community recreation center over in Edgewater.

So Delegate Howard, it's great to have you up there.

MR. HOWARD: Great to be here. Great to see everyone. Former Chair Davis, fantastic to see you as always. Also, my colleague now the Comptroller, it's fantastic to see you as well.

I'm here to support the \$50,000 grant agreement proposal submitted by the Kiwanis Club of Commodore Mayo to acquire, plan, design, construct, repair, and renovate the Kiwanis Club of Mayo including a roof, a bathroom replacement. These improvements are essential to ensuring the club can continue providing valuable programs and services to the community in a safe and functional place.

I also support the \$2.25 million grant agreement proposal to plan, design, renovate, repair, and reconstruct a new community center in Edgewater. This project represents a significant investment in the future of our community, and will provide residents with expanded opportunities for recreation and community engagement.

And it's my understanding that as far as the Kiwanis Club, I think it's like the only one in the state. Regionally, there's only about seven of them when I put this in through a legislative bond initiative. And as far as the community center in Edgewater, it would -- absolutely is a resource that South County needs. And I just appreciate the attention and the agreements and I'm here

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to be -- you know, answer any questions should you have any, sir.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great, thank you, Delegate.

Any questions?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope, nice to see you Delegate.

MR. HOWARD: Good to see you as well.

TREASURER DAVIS: Good stuff, thank you.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

We have an additional speaker request for Item 4, which is a request to award a \$500,000 capital grant to the Maryland Tech Council in support of the purchase of a state-of-the-art lab equipment for BioHub Maryland's headquarters in in Montgomery County. This is located at the heart of the 270 Life Sciences corridor. And this is going to offer just real-world training in biopharma manufacturing, life sciences, military veterans, Marylanders who do not have college degrees. Really covering down on a lot of focus areas that we know as a State are going to be important and necessary.

Maryland is home to over 2,700 life science companies and 54,000 industry workers. This is one of our most important economic engines contributing billions of dollars to our state every single year. And so we are proud to have invested roughly \$4 million in funding BioHub Maryland including a \$2 million -- \$2 million in my proposed budget for Fiscal Year '27.

And we are so thankful to have you here, Secretary Shultz, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Maryland Tech Council and has signed up in support of this item. So Madam Secretary, great to have you here and thanks for your leadership.

MS. SCHULZ: Well, it's wonderful to be here, Governor. And hello to my former chair. It's good to see you, Treasurer Davis, and Madam

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Comptroller. I do extend my condolences to the members who have experienced loss in the last week.

For the record, my name is Kelly Schulz and I am the CEO of the Maryland Tech Council. I am here to support the current \$500,000 request that is in the General Services budget for the Maryland -- BioHub Maryland, which is powered by the Maryland Tech Council. The equipment is being purchased for this -- I'm going to talk a little bit about how important the equipment is. That is long lasting. It's scheduled to be around for more than 15 years, but it has been identified to be able to have automatic workstations that can grow, filter, and purify delicate biological material.

It enables trainees to learn in a simulated environment how to keep medicines sterile and safe from outside contamination. This provides hands-on experience to workforce trainees. Instead of just reading about it, students actually learn by doing ensuring that they are job ready for roles in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. By training workers on this equipment, BioHub helps the industry produce these advanced therapies more reliably and with fewer errors.

One thing that separates the Maryland biotech ecosystem from other states is that really we have a special emphasis on CAR-T and cell therapies, which are the bedrock really of our life science community here. And these are the types of cell therapies that our students are learning on to go directly into the market, sometimes with only a high school diploma, where they can get our training and go and earn really good wages within the industry.

So I just thank all of you for supporting this. I thank the Department of General Services for working on an initiative that is a little different when purchasing life science equipment, but we've gotten through and here we are. And I'm very appreciative of all of that, sir. So thank you for your

support.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And  
thanks for your support on this as well. Thank you.

MS. SCHULZ: Ugh.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: I was just stretching my arm.

(Laughter.)

MS. SCHULZ: Thank you all very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

MS. SCHULZ: Have a great day.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Next, we have a speaker request for Item  
21, which is a request to award a \$1.3 million capital grant to the Baltimore  
Symphony Orchestra for improvements and modernization of symphony spaces.  
This is one of the best orchestras that you are going to find anywhere inside the  
United States. And Mark, it's great to see you -- the president and CEO of the  
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, who joins us in support of this item. I apologize,  
Mark.

Mr. Hanson, good morning and it is wonderful to have you here.

MR. HANSON: Good morning, Madam Comptroller, Mr.  
Governor, Mr. Treasurer. Thank you very, very much.

On behalf of the Baltimore -- for the record, I am Mark Hanson,  
the President and CEO of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. On behalf of the  
Baltimore Symphony Endowment, our music director, Jonathon Heyward, our 85  
worldclass musicians, and the 350,000 patrons that attended the Meyerhoff last  
year, I'm here to express our collective thanks.

The Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall is more than the BSO's

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Baltimore home. We're honored to welcome audiences of all ages and backgrounds for programs featuring not only the orchestra, but the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras and our OrchKids musicians as well as events of all genres and kinds. Thanks to our new Live at the Meyerhoff series as well as long-standing partners such as the Baltimore Speaker Series, it is a space for civic gatherings whether one is graduating, or attending a community celebration, or concert. And thanks to the State including the Moore-Miller Administration, leadership, and the legislators, it is an anchor venue in the 40th District experiencing its first major modernization in 40 years.

The capital grants included in today's agenda are one part of a now multi-year public investment in the Meyerhoff fueling projects that are designated to make our facility a more functional, nimble, and efficient hall for all. In 2023, a State capital grant underwrote a new escalator ensuring comfortable access for patrons to more than 70 percent of the Meyerhoff's 2,400 seats as well as the first phase in a multi-year modernization back of house project.

The two grants being advanced today have underwritten the second phase in this project, reimagining our green room, which connects the lobby to backstage and the musician lounge. And we're excited to be in the position to reimburse the BSO and our vendors for important work that is already changing the way the BSO does business, serving more community partners, and catching the attention of more rental clients.

Future capital grants included in the 2026 budget and in the Governor's 2027 capital budget will fuel further modernization projects across more spaces, as well as to begin to replace or repair original systems -- mechanical, electrical, and plumbing. Such projects are essential to keep the facility functionally open. Just as the hall was built as a public-private partnership with the State matching the extraordinary private support of the late Joseph

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Meyerhoff, its next era is only possible with great public support. We're honored by your ongoing recognition, the power of the arts, and the cultural, economic, and educational benefits of a more vibrant and functional Meyerhoff Hall.

Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Mr. Hanson. And thanks to the leadership and thank you too. And please share our thanks to the entire orchestra for the joy that they truly bring not just to Baltimore, but to the entire state. So really appreciate you.

MR. HANSON: We look forward to welcoming you all back to the Meyerhoff and Strathmore. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: That's right. Thank you, thank you.

Next, we have a request for Item 46, which is a request to forgive the repayment of \$500,000 in grant funding in the capital grant to Howard County for the sale of a property located at 8095 Main Street in Ellicott City. I would like to recognize Brian Shepter, who's a Deputy Chief of Staff to County Executive Calvin Ball, who joined us to speak in support of this item.

Mr. Shepter, good morning.

MR. SHEPTER: Good morning, Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis. My name is Brian Shepter. It's my pleasure to serve as Deputy Chief of Staff to Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. I'm before you today to request the Board's approval of Item 46-CGL. This is a request for permission to sell property in historic Ellicott City that received grant funds to perform necessary flood-proofing work.

This building is one of six remaining in County ownership in this stretch of Main Street that were acquired following the most recent devastating flood in 2018. I'll note that a similar item was approved by this body about a month ago, on January 28th. We want to thank you. The State has been an

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unwavering partner to Howard County and Ellicott City in recent years through substantial investment in the form of grants and loans, as well as permitting necessary to advance our comprehensive flood mitigation program, the EC Safe and Sound Plan.

Together, we have completed three of the five massive stormwater management ponds and we are making measurable progress in the construction of the monumental Extended North Tunnel Project, which remains on schedule for substantial completion in fall of 2027. The County's goal with this request before you is to reactivate the lower end of Main Street by returning these properties to the private sector.

The subject buildings have been vacant since they washed out in 2018, and the County does not have the resources at this time necessary to prepare them for re-occupancy. Our aim is to issue a request for proposals inviting offers to purchase, renovate, and reoccupy these properties, which will bring commercial traffic and investment back to the District and tax revenue back to the State and County.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued partnership.  
I am available, if there are any additional questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Mr. Shepter.

Are there any questions?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great.

Thank you so much. And please give the County Executive our best, please tell him we said hello. Thank you very much.

MR. SHEPTER: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And lastly, I'd like to call up Item 32, which is a request from the Department of Human Services to award a 115 and 7

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million dollar contract to eight vendors for one-on-one support services for youth receiving out-of-care services with the State. This contract establishes the first ever statewide standard for one-on-one service providers and it will make sure that we have -- will make sure that we have the safety and well-being of our youth in our care as the top priority, as well as the safety and well-being of others in the placement setting.

And I would like to invite Interim Secretary Gloria Brown Burnett to share a few words about this contract. Secretary Burnett, good morning.

(Pause.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Has she checked in, or?

MR. GONTRUM: I'm not seeing Secretary Burnett online, Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Do we have -- is there anybody who's checked in from DHS that we have here?

(Pause.)

TREASURER DAVIS: Great project. It's going to help a lot of kids.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: (Indiscernible).

TREASURER DAVIS: She told me.

GOVERNOR MOORE: She told you?

MR. GONTRUM: All right, Governor. I don't see anyone from DHS on the hold.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can I go then?

TREASURER DAVIS: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, I think that's fine.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

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I had a question first, but also I can go to 33. I just have a quick comment on 33.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, (indiscernible).

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: This is just a sort of interesting -- on item -- I want to take just a quick moment to talk about Item 33 because members of the public may not know that this is the program for the Federal Worker Emergency Loan Program. This was created in 2019 under Treasurer Davis's leadership after a federal shutdown. Remember way back then, Mr. Treasurer? That was, at the time, the longest in history.

And of course, at that point, shutdowns were rare. So rare, in fact, that the program didn't have to be fully built out because another shutdown didn't happen until last year. And of course, we all remember when the federal government shut down last year, we experienced the new longest shutdown in American history. But because of this program, Maryland was ready.

And so I just want to call out the partnership between the Department of Labor and the Comptroller's Office because together our team and DOL were able to issue more than 2,000 emergency loans to Marylanders who were thrown into crisis overnight. And unfortunately, shutdowns aren't rare anymore. Today is day 19 of a partial shutdown, and around 4,000 DHS employees living here in Maryland are already feeling the impact.

So I just wanted to publicly recognize that this program is here, that the Comptroller's Office, in partnership with the Department of Labor, stands ready to help our federal workers. And the Governor and the Treasurer, I know, are very supportive and, you know, celebrate this program as well. And we're sorry that it is needed, but we're glad that it can be there for people.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Amen.

So I would -- are there any other comments on the DGS Agenda?

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. So Mr. Secretary, what I'd like to  
do --

MR. CHAUDHRY: Governor, we'd like to actually withdraw Item  
32 for now and then we can bring it back.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Just --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: (Indiscernible).

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah. Okay. Sounds good.

So with the exception of the hold on the 32, may I have a motion to  
approve the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS  
Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much, Mr.  
Secretary.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

GOVERNOR MOORE: This concludes today's meeting of the  
Board of Public Works. Next one will be March 18th. We are adjourned. And  
thank you, everybody.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 9:38 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)