

WEBVTT

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00:00:00.110 --> 00:00:06.870

Cleveland L. Horton II: I don't think, though, Madam Chair, you have a you don't have a quorum as of yet.

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00:00:07.620 --> 00:00:08.670

Stephanie Suerth: Understood.

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00:00:09.940 --> 00:00:11.400

Spencer Dove: You should be good to go.

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00:00:12.200 --> 00:00:18.860

Stephanie Suerth: Excellent. So I am just pulling this up to make sure I have everything in front of me. I'm sorry I have too many screens going, as I'm sure you all know

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00:00:19.400 --> 00:00:24.850

Stephanie Suerth: the feeling, so we'll start with roll call. Commissioner Sewerth, present.

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00:00:26.540 --> 00:00:28.450

Eileen Levitt: Commissioner Levitt, Present.

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00:00:29.980 --> 00:00:31.579

Magdalena Navarro: Is there Magdalena present.

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00:00:32.290 --> 00:00:32.850

noah metheny: Sorry.

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00:00:33.120 --> 00:00:34.059

Stephanie Suerth: No, you're good.

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00:00:37.160 --> 00:00:46.739

Cleveland L. Horton II: Cleveland Horton, executive director, President, and Yolanda, somelier deputy director, is present as well.

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00:00:48.110 --> 00:00:48.899

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you.

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00:00:55.690 --> 00:00:57.030

Stephanie Suerth: Spencer. Alicia.

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00:00:57.030 --> 00:01:01.820

Alesha.Bell: Good morning. Everyone. Alicia Bell, supervisor Enforcement Supervisor.

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00:01:03.170 --> 00:01:07.960

Spencer Dove: Here I have myself on mute Spencer Dove, assistant to the executive director, present.

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00:01:09.360 --> 00:01:14.789

Cleveland L. Horton II: And we do have Nicolette and Candace are both in leadership training

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00:01:15.173 --> 00:01:29.389

Cleveland L. Horton II: today. So they will not be here with us today, but if there are any questions for either of their reports, I will do my best to answer them for you all. But if not, I will follow up with them and have them provide you all with a response.

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00:01:30.520 --> 00:01:31.200

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you.

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00:01:31.200 --> 00:01:32.110

Cleveland L. Horton II: No problem.

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00:01:33.510 --> 00:01:37.180

Stephanie Suerth: I do not see any members of the public that have joined us today.

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00:01:40.670 --> 00:01:42.010

Stephanie Suerth: and the thing.

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00:01:42.010 --> 00:01:43.559

Cleveland L. Horton II: Members of the public. Madam Chair.

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00:01:43.940 --> 00:01:50.301

Stephanie Suerth: Great. Then I will move on to my report, and we may get done in time today. So who knows?

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00:01:50.920 --> 00:01:52.670

Stephanie Suerth: And of course I lost my thing.

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00:01:52.850 --> 00:02:19.509

Stephanie Suerth: so I just wanted to start off by sort of acknowledging the significant and rapid changes that are occurring across the Federal level, and even at the state level. Specifically regarding civil rights protections. These changes include multiple executive orders at the Federal level which relate to a wide swath of issues from gender identity and transgender rights, health care that relate to those issues

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00:02:19.510 --> 00:02:33.850

Stephanie Suerth: implementing policies related to transgender and sports. Additionally, Dei initiatives across federal agencies and also across private organizations that are influenced by federal funding are being scaled back or limited.

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00:02:34.260 --> 00:02:59.969

Stephanie Suerth: Our actions. Other actions include expanding religious exemptions from nondiscrimination requirements creating a task force to address alleged anti-christian bias and implementing additional measures to combat anti-semitism, particularly on college campuses. There's also been extensive Federal activity concerning undocumented individuals and those seeking to migrate to the United States.

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00:03:00.070 --> 00:03:10.210

Stephanie Suerth: And what's really important about this is the pace and scope of these changes make it really challenging for us to fully assess their impact on us and our communities professionally and personally.

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00:03:10.380 --> 00:03:14.390

Stephanie Suerth: Again, at the State level, Maryland legislation session is underway.

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00:03:14.490 --> 00:03:24.240

Stephanie Suerth: and we anticipate civil rights, related policy shifts, albeit at a slower pace, some of which may be responsive to or supportive of, the activities that are occurring at the federal level.

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00:03:24.800 --> 00:03:33.640

Stephanie Suerth: and additionally, budget constraints that are facing the State and its agencies are also providing challenges to us that affect civil rights, protections, and enforcement.

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00:03:33.910 --> 00:03:43.150

Stephanie Suerth: I just want to say, during this period of uncertainty and turbulence, our commitment to protecting and advancing the civil rights of all Marylanders must remain steadfast.

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00:03:43.470 --> 00:03:53.450

Stephanie Suerth: I know I've done this before, and I'd like to do it again, especially under these circumstances, and just check in with our commissioners and staff, and see how everyone's doing during this turbulent time.

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00:03:53.910 --> 00:03:55.259

Stephanie Suerth: Is everybody okay?

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00:03:57.040 --> 00:03:58.670

Cleveland L. Horton II: Good on my end, ma'am, too.

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00:04:00.060 --> 00:04:02.440

Stephanie Suerth: Thanks for your thanks for your check in.

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00:04:02.440 --> 00:04:07.029

Eileen Levitt: It's I'm just immersing myself in funny dog meats.

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00:04:09.140 --> 00:04:10.160

Stephanie Suerth: Understood.

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00:04:10.160 --> 00:04:22.370

Eileen Levitt: Yeah, I mean, you know there's a lot of them, and if you like them, and you continue to like them, more will appear on your Facebook feed into the point where that is all. You see.

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00:04:22.470 --> 00:04:24.329

Eileen Levitt: I highly recommend it.

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00:04:27.130 --> 00:04:28.610

Stephanie Suerth: Good mental wellness.

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00:04:28.750 --> 00:04:31.549

Stephanie Suerth: Yeah, that's all I'm saying. You know.

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00:04:32.390 --> 00:04:38.559

Magdalena Navarro: I would like to ask if the Commission has received any more.

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00:04:40.860 --> 00:04:55.119

Magdalena Navarro: comments, or critics or people reaching out because they need information, or they have been discriminated at work. Have they been increased numbers of people reaching out to the Commission.

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00:04:55.120 --> 00:05:02.170

Cleveland L. Horton II: We have seen an uptick in a number of inquiries coming into our agency. All of them obviously don't fall within our wheelhouse.

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00:05:02.608 --> 00:05:17.269

Cleveland L. Horton II: But we are just seeing, as you all are saying, right, an increased level of uncertainty for a number of folks. We are also receiving a number of calls from Federal employees. Unfortunately, we can't help those Federal employees because we don't have authority over that.

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00:05:17.350 --> 00:05:23.450

Cleveland L. Horton II: but it is one of the biggest things that we are beginning to see. So we are trying, through our education, outreach efforts

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00:05:23.520 --> 00:05:52.809

Cleveland L. Horton II: to really just reassure folks that their protections here in the State have not changed. We still have our full enforcement authority, and we still are here committed and dedicated to using, utilizing that enforcement authority to the full extent of the law. So we did issue a statement in regards to that. We are working with other State agencies to develop some kind of know your rights materials that I'll talk a little bit about in my report, but really we are actively trying to engage.

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00:05:52.810 --> 00:06:01.300

Cleveland L. Horton II: and any and everything that we can to get the messaging out to the public to reassure the public. We think during this time it is

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00:06:01.470 --> 00:06:21.629

Cleveland L. Horton II: ever so important for us to control the narrative right as we hear the narrative coming from the Federal Administration. It is our responsibility to make sure that we're telling our story and not allowing other individuals to tell the story for us. So we, you know, as we just had our protecting civil rights during challenging times. Symposium.

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00:06:21.760 --> 00:06:41.509

Cleveland L. Horton II: part of that was to do exactly, that is, to control the narrative to get the information out to the public, the individuals that need it, those underserved and marginalized communities, just to kind of reassure folks that we are here to make sure that everybody's rights are protected, as we kind of navigate through these challenging times.

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00:06:42.710 --> 00:06:54.860

Magdalena Navarro: If I may, if I may say to answer what you just mentioned, that, Cleveland. There is a lot of uncertainty within the federal workforce, and people do not understand their rights.

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00:06:55.565 --> 00:07:17.019

Magdalena Navarro: So I'm glad that they are reaching out to the Commission would be nice to see if from the administration, and even Opm, who is the one that gives it rights for the Federal workers, what really are their rights? And they're very unsure. So if you if you find something like that that you could post on the website, I think it would be very useful.

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00:07:17.280 --> 00:07:19.530

Cleveland L. Horton II: There was actually here.

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00:07:20.020 --> 00:07:26.778

Cleveland L. Horton II: I wanna say there was a there was a meeting. I wanna say, maybe last week out in Howard County

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00:07:27.100 --> 00:07:57.060

Cleveland L. Horton II: with. I think it actually was at Howard Community College, right after we had our symposium that dealt with Federal workers specifically, and what their rights were so as we hear that information, I didn't. I just happened to catch it on the news. I didn't know about it ahead of time, but as we get information like that, we'll absolutely make sure that we are, you know, again relaying that message out to the public. So individuals know, you know, just from a resource standpoint. What are other resources and support mechanisms that they can utilize again because we don't have authority over Federal employees.

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00:07:57.870 --> 00:07:58.320

Glendora.Hughes: Also

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00:07:59.190 --> 00:08:22.140

Glendora.Hughes: also the Maryland Washington Employment Lawyers Association. I'm a member of that organization. And I see on their website a lot of them are getting a lot of cases Federal cases, and they are providing services and representation and information to

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00:08:22.160 --> 00:08:31.790

Glendora.Hughes: friendly employees. And most of those lawyers, those attorneys are down in the Prince George's Montgomery County area. So they, too, are

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00:08:31.850 --> 00:08:47.220

Glendora.Hughes: providing information and representation to some of these lawsuits. You see, that have been filed that have gotten injunctions. They have been a part of it, as well as the legal defense fund, and Aclu.

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00:08:48.690 --> 00:09:00.860

Eileen Levitt: With these freezes happening? Does that impact the Eeoc agreement that the Maryland Civil Rights Commission has, and the ability to draw down those funds.

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00:09:00.860 --> 00:09:06.649

Cleveland L. Horton II: Yeah, so right now, we haven't been impacted fiscally as of yet. We are.

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00:09:07.190 --> 00:09:27.560

Cleveland L. Horton II: I want to say eagerly, but we are anxiously awaiting to see what the impact will be, not just to Eoc, but also to the department of housing and urban development, to see. So if there is any significant reduction in their budgets, we would anticipate that that reduction will be passed on to us as a fipa or us as a fap.

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00:09:27.640 --> 00:09:34.019

Cleveland L. Horton II: So we are working as a leadership team now and talking about contingency plans, working with the Administration

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00:09:34.020 --> 00:09:58.169

Cleveland L. Horton II: because there may be a need for us. Submit a supplemental in order to again counter any significant reduction in Federal funds. So that's really what we're waiting for now we have it from a freeze standpoint. Obviously, we know that that's going through litigation right now. Right? So that's actually not in play at the moment. But we do anticipate moving forward. So our concern is.

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00:09:58.170 --> 00:10:13.159

Cleveland L. Horton II: he may not be able to impact our current contract with Eoc or HUD, but this administration may be able to impact the next contract right, because every year we renew, and if there is a freeze or halt on Federal funds

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00:10:13.160 --> 00:10:32.180

Cleveland L. Horton II: pending us, signing a new contract, then that might be where the impact will be addition to that, if he, if the I want to say he, if the Federal administration does reduce the budget, the overall budget for eeoc or HUD, then we could also see a reduction in our Federal funds that way, so we could get hit

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00:10:32.260 --> 00:10:42.830

Cleveland L. Horton II: 2 different ways. So we are bracing ourselves to kind of figure out what that would look like, and how we would maneuver around that fiscally, if that if those things would happen.

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00:10:43.200 --> 00:10:44.510

Eileen Levitt: JH.

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00:10:44.820 --> 00:11:01.305

Eileen Levitt: Because that's my honestly, that's my biggest concern when I see all this, because, even though there's litigation that says you can't do that. My, I've just been reading. And again, this is what happens when I leave my dog memes that

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00:11:02.370 --> 00:11:08.179

Eileen Levitt: that it is still think contracts that are in force are not being honored.

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00:11:08.180 --> 00:11:09.126

Cleveland L. Horton II: Yeah, correct.

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00:11:09.860 --> 00:11:28.159

Cleveland L. Horton II: So right now, we haven't had that issue that issue. Fiscally, we did get notice from HUD that they're going through a different process now in terms of when we do request reimbursement. There is a separate approval process now, but we haven't been denied any reimbursements as of yet. Through that process.

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00:11:29.690 --> 00:11:30.370

Eileen Levitt: Okay.

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00:11:33.010 --> 00:11:34.810

Stephanie Suerth: No, you you doing okay?

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00:11:35.770 --> 00:11:38.279

noah metheny: Just taking it day by day. Unfortunately.

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00:11:38.620 --> 00:11:43.790

noah metheny: all of my former colleagues@usa. have been laid off and are on admin leave, so I've been providing

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00:11:44.000 --> 00:11:48.670

noah metheny: as much support to them as they process these rapid changes. So.

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00:11:49.440 --> 00:11:50.260

Eileen Levitt: Not further.

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00:11:50.260 --> 00:11:50.720

noah metheny: Yeah.

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00:11:50.720 --> 00:11:51.510

Stephanie Suerth: Understood.

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00:11:53.560 --> 00:11:55.339

Stephanie Suerth: Are you doing? Okay, Glendora.

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00:11:59.180 --> 00:12:02.582

Glendora.Hughes: Dancing as fast as I can, juggling everything.

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00:12:04.990 --> 00:12:05.690

Stephanie Suerth: Understood.

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00:12:07.310 --> 00:12:13.850

Stephanie Suerth: So I just like to sort of sum up with saying, You know, as these changes are going to continue to unfold rapidly.

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00:12:14.530 --> 00:12:19.399

Stephanie Suerth: just. You know, it is collectively through our dedication

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00:12:19.610 --> 00:12:29.179

Stephanie Suerth: and our dedication to our mission here at the Commission and to civil rights generally, is just so very important, and we need to support each other as we support our communities.

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00:12:31.720 --> 00:12:33.290

Stephanie Suerth: That's the end of my report.

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00:12:34.960 --> 00:12:51.100

Cleveland L. Horton II: Well, I'll hop in. Good morning, everybody. I do want to echo Madam. Chair sentiments. I think right now more than ever. It's important for us to support each other. I think that you know we've heard it over and over again, but we really are in different times.

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00:12:51.512 --> 00:13:05.259

Cleveland L. Horton II: Most of us have never seen anything to this magnitude before, so we are kind of navigating in uncharted territory. Which I think makes it even more important for us to support each other.

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00:13:05.300 --> 00:13:35.240

Cleveland L. Horton II: to figure out how we become more collaborative and collective during these times, because the magnitude of work that needs to be done is impossible to do it alone. So it is very imperative for us now, as we think about partners, as we think about collaborating with other organizations and agencies that we do so in an aggressive way, as we see the Federal Administration, and I will give them credit for this. They had a plan, and they've implemented the plan.

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00:13:35.320 --> 00:13:49.190

Cleveland L. Horton II: Now is the time for us to respond accordingly, with a plan being collaborative and being collective in terms of how we address these issues that are coming through the Federal administration. Fortunately we live in a

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00:13:49.860 --> 00:13:52.179

Cleveland L. Horton II: what I would say, a more progressive state.

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00:13:52.210 --> 00:14:06.500

Cleveland L. Horton II: and we have State laws that are protecting us, and allow us to protect the citizens of our great state, and we'll continue to do that. But I think it's also keen for us to be mindful of those who are still being impacted directly

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00:14:06.500 --> 00:14:26.309

Cleveland L. Horton II: by this Federal administration. I know Commissioner Noah talked about his friends and colleagues at Usaid. Right? You have those individuals who are afraid, those in the immigrant communities who are afraid to come outside, who are afraid to go to work and afraid of being deported. I was at a meeting the other night with the city of Salisbury.

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00:14:26.620 --> 00:14:51.100

Cleveland L. Horton II: and there was an individual from the Haitian community that was a part of that meeting, and what he said is that they are less concerned about being deported, more concerned about where they're being deported to right because they can't go back to Haiti because they're not welcome. So, in fact, if they're deported back to Haiti, they are being deported back to death right? Because they will be burned alive if they're deported back there. So

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00:14:51.120 --> 00:15:05.059

Cleveland L. Horton II: we all should just be mindful that, regardless of the impact that we have personally, there are individuals that are being impacted at very high levels. And we all should be mindful of that and continuously working to figure out.

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00:15:05.060 --> 00:15:24.170

Cleveland L. Horton II: how do we help protect individuals within our authority. So I just want us all to be mindful of that, because, even though we may be good and good in the sense that we haven't been directly impacted. The communities in which we serve are being impacted every day, and we should definitely keep that in the forefront and be mindful of that as we continue to move forward. So

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00:15:24.460 --> 00:15:53.710

Cleveland L. Horton II: with that, we've had a number of events meetings throughout the past 30 days. I'll just highlight a couple. I do want to thank Jansen, who attended our protecting civil rights during challenging times. Symposium that we had on February first. It was a great event. We were fortunate enough to be able to have the Governor to come and provide welcome remarks to those who were in attendance again. Just a great event, an opportunity for folks to kind of get together

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00:15:53.710 --> 00:16:18.450

Cleveland L. Horton II: to kind of fuel, that uncertainty with a level of optimism and hope, right and support. As we continue to move forward. So again, it was a great event. So again, I definitely want to thank Vice Chair Jansen, for showing up and representing the Commissioners during that symposium. Our goal is to create, to have another symposium on a different side of town, just to allow other individuals to engage in that conversation.

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00:16:18.450 --> 00:16:34.659

Cleveland L. Horton II: We are looking at Morgan State University as a possible location for that next symposium. So we are working with them to identify an appropriate date and time for that next symposium, and we'll keep you all updated. As we get more information about that.

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00:16:35.260 --> 00:16:57.770

Cleveland L. Horton II: Our budget hearings are completed right? We've completed our budget hearings for the House and the Senate. So I do definitely want to thank Glendora Spencer and Nicolette and our brand new deputy director, Yolanda Sonya, who participated in those budget hearings and helped answer questions and provide the legislators with the information that was requested. So I definitely want to thank them for their support

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00:16:57.770 --> 00:17:05.410

Cleveland L. Horton II: through getting us through yet another budget. Hearing session. Nicolette has followed up with some of the questions that were coming from

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00:17:05.410 --> 00:17:18.389

Cleveland L. Horton II: the house side in reference to some fiscal questions that they had, and what she has provided them all the information that they've requested. So for us we are completely done with our budget hearings again. It appeared to be very positive.

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00:17:18.390 --> 00:17:33.909

Cleveland L. Horton II: Most of the questions that came from the house side were around the allocation of those 15 pins potentially, and the need to have pins allocated to education outreach versus an investigation.

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00:17:33.910 --> 00:17:48.779

Cleveland L. Horton II: So we kind of did go through that conversation with those on the house side, and really explain how, as we move forward. We have to be more proactive than reactive, and part of allocating some of those pens or education outreach allows us to be a more proactive agency.

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00:17:48.780 --> 00:18:11.519

Cleveland L. Horton II: also allows us to address the need that so many individuals really don't know what their rights are, or who to go to if their rights are violated. So those pins going to Education outreach are critical to the mission of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. So, and we thought that landed pretty well, we had no follow up questions pertaining to that. So, but just wanted to kind of update you all in reference to where we are. With that

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00:18:11.650 --> 00:18:15.690

Cleveland L. Horton II: we did have the opportunity to be invited and attend the state of the State address.

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00:18:15.730 --> 00:18:33.810

Cleveland L. Horton II: So that was a great experience for our agency. Again, the main theme around we're thinking

about. The state of the State really is about confronting conflict with courage. That is the messaging that you'll hear coming from the Administration. That is the messaging that the Administration is asking all the agencies to also uplift

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00:18:33.810 --> 00:18:53.210

Cleveland L. Horton II: and push out as well. So you'll begin to see some of our messaging kind of hashtagging that confronting conflict with courage. So just that you all know where it came from. It is the messaging that the Administration is asking. That is kind of consistent across the board that we all begin to use that language kind of in these dark times. Moving forward.

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00:18:53.210 --> 00:19:10.580

Cleveland L. Horton II: we also attended our 1st cabinet meeting, so we were invited to attend the most recent Cabinet meeting, so we had the opportunity to attend and engage the other secretaries. During that Cabinet meeting. The gist of that meeting really was around

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00:19:10.580 --> 00:19:32.830

Cleveland L. Horton II: the executive orders which we've all kind of talked about indirectly, one way or another. They also talked about the impact of the Federal freeze to the State as a whole right? So there is a significant concern that if the Federal Administration does freeze Federal dollars, what that will look like for the state budget. We all know that right now, we're in a 3 billion dollars deficit

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00:19:32.830 --> 00:19:47.360

Cleveland L. Horton II: from a budgetary standpoint from the State as a whole, any potential Federal freeze could impact us upwards to about 2 billion additional dollars from a deficit standpoint, and that would really be

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00:19:47.520 --> 00:20:12.470

Cleveland L. Horton II: detrimental to the budget moving forward. So they are keeping their eyes on that. They've asked all agencies to identify their Federal impact. Should there be a freeze. So Nicola is working with the Administration to highlight for them what our deficit would be from a Federal fund standpoint if those Federal funds were frozen, to provide that to the Administration in the event, as I mentioned earlier.

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00:20:12.470 --> 00:20:35.069

Cleveland L. Horton II: there's a need for us to submit a supplemental in the event that that happens. But to be honest. In the event that that would happen, all State agencies would be submitting supplementals, and it would be interesting to see how the State would handle that, because that would put us in again a significant deficit. Even with the current budget, as is allocated right now.

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00:20:35.330 --> 00:21:01.259

Cleveland L. Horton II: we also had the opportunity to meet with the members of Mara got together to talk about as agencies. What can we do to help each other navigate through these challenging times? We talked about strategies and best practices. We talked about creating more consistency throughout the State, whether that's through sops or procedures, so that all of our agencies are investigating cases, utilizing our enforcement efforts in more of a consistent manner, so

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00:21:01.260 --> 00:21:25.570

Cleveland L. Horton II: that conversation is to be continued. The leaders of all the local agencies are continuing to get together to kind of further that conversation moving forward. So we do think it's important for us to figure out, how do

we provide resources for each other and support for each other during this challenging times. A lot of the local well, most of the local agencies are really looking to us as the State agency to be the voice

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00:21:25.570 --> 00:21:36.510

Cleveland L. Horton II: for the the human and civil rights agencies throughout the State, and we are committed to doing that in a very strategic and targeted way as we continue to move forward. So

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00:21:36.949 --> 00:21:56.669

Cleveland L. Horton II: with that, I think the most important highlight for me in my report is that we do have our newly appointed deputy director, Yolanda Sonya, who is in my office with me today because she's having some some tech issues, and we are excited about having her.

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00:21:56.670 --> 00:22:09.330

Cleveland L. Horton II: She's taken the opportunity to kind of meet with Staff, go through some of our current processes and kind of determine how we can be more efficient. So I've told her that she's got a clean slate, you know, whatever she needs to do.

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00:22:09.610 --> 00:22:38.769

Cleveland L. Horton II: Then, you know, the flow is hers to do what she thinks she needs to do to make us be more efficient in the great work that we do. So we are all excited about having her. I know she's probably been in a million meetings since she started, because I think we had her working on day. Actually, I think she she attended an event on day one for us. So she has definitely hit the hit, the ground running, and we are appreciative to have her being a part of staff. So next month she will be delivering

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00:22:38.880 --> 00:22:47.699

Cleveland L. Horton II: her report to you all, and she looks forward to doing so. But with that being said, if there are any questions for me. I will take them at this time.

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00:22:56.420 --> 00:23:05.793

Cleveland L. Horton II: seeing none. It looks like I will pass it on to Glenda. It's only a couple of us, Glendara, so you're next.

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00:23:10.080 --> 00:23:11.969

Cleveland L. Horton II: You're on mute, too, Gondor.

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00:23:16.700 --> 00:23:19.450

Glendora.Hughes: Okay. Good morning, everyone.

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00:23:19.870 --> 00:23:22.470

Glendora.Hughes: You have my report

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00:23:25.800 --> 00:23:31.134

Glendora.Hughes: board last month. It's legislative time and

127

00:23:32.220 --> 00:23:40.629

Glendora.Hughes: Things are beginning to pick up there. There should be probably going to hit 3,000 bills this year, the way it's looking, because it's already over 2,000

128

00:23:41.240 --> 00:23:43.490

Glendora.Hughes: bills that have been filed.

129

00:23:44.990 --> 00:23:45.840

Glendora.Hughes: There

130

00:23:46.060 --> 00:23:54.910

Glendora.Hughes: are a couple of bills that we are concerned about one in particular that we will discuss when we have our

131

00:23:56.610 --> 00:24:10.410

Glendora.Hughes: meeting on Thursday, because we are doing some reconnaissance work with some calls and getting some more information, so that I can share that with you when we have our call on on Thursday.

132

00:24:12.450 --> 00:24:17.650

Glendora.Hughes: I would like a few minutes of an executive session just to

133

00:24:18.160 --> 00:24:25.869

Glendora.Hughes: make you aware of a few lawsuits that have been filed against us in Federal court.

134

00:24:27.340 --> 00:24:37.249

Glendora.Hughes: and what? What their status, what the status of those those few are, and other than that.

135

00:24:40.090 --> 00:24:47.560

Glendora.Hughes: that is my report. If there are any questions from the written report or any other questions. I'll be happy to.

136

00:24:51.850 --> 00:24:52.750

Glendora.Hughes: All right.

137

00:24:53.710 --> 00:24:55.888

Glendora.Hughes: I'll talk to you after the meeting.

138

00:25:02.850 --> 00:25:20.339

Cleveland L. Horton II: Madam Chair, that is it, for that is all for our reports we do have again. Nicola and Candace are in leadership meetings. If there is any questions, though, about the Education Outreach report or the fiscal report. I will be happy to take those at this time. If anybody has any questions.

139
00:25:22.750 --> 00:25:24.790
Stephanie Suerth: Are there any questions? I didn't have any.

140
00:25:28.960 --> 00:25:30.949
Cleveland L. Horton II: Saying, none. The floor is yours, madam. Chair.

141
00:25:31.960 --> 00:25:38.990
Stephanie Suerth: Okay, so sorry again. One too many screens and open all at the same time.

142
00:25:42.080 --> 00:25:58.360
Stephanie Suerth: So we've been talking about old and new business. Obviously the new business is the ongoing legislative initiatives that are coming out. We have those calls on Thursday. Everyone is always encouraged to attend as possible.

143
00:25:58.909 --> 00:26:25.509
Stephanie Suerth: If, for whatever reason you are unable to attend, if you have comments, questions, or concerns, submit them in writing, you know, like, don't feel like if you're not there, that you do, that you have in some way lost your voice, so that away we can at least have those conversations. Thank you, everybody for jumping on when those things come up that can't wait for Thursday. Appreciate it very much. And then, is there any other old business or new business that anyone would like to bring to the floor.

144
00:26:30.120 --> 00:26:34.500
Stephanie Suerth: I think everybody's just a little shell shocked this week, prepping for bad weather.

145
00:26:35.530 --> 00:26:37.840
Eileen Levitt: Sure. That's why we're shell shocked.

146
00:26:37.840 --> 00:26:40.622
Stephanie Suerth: We're gonna go with that one today.

147
00:26:42.190 --> 00:26:45.500
Stephanie Suerth: Business mode, Selena. It looks like you're speaking, but I can't hear you. I'm sorry.

148
00:26:46.310 --> 00:26:47.240
Magdalena Navarro: Can you hear me?

149
00:26:47.460 --> 00:26:48.360
Stephanie Suerth: Now I can thank you.

150
00:26:48.360 --> 00:27:01.059
Magdalena Navarro: Okay, as guidance comes out from the Commission, as as you mentioned, quivalent. And and you also rephrase Stephanie. These are very challenging times for many

151

00:27:01.906 --> 00:27:08.850

Magdalena Navarro: and there are a lot of people that are looking for anything that can make them

152

00:27:10.200 --> 00:27:14.319

Magdalena Navarro: feel better, feel more welcome in this country.

153

00:27:14.610 --> 00:27:20.200

Magdalena Navarro: I heard horrible stories of kids, not even being sent to school.

154

00:27:20.913 --> 00:27:33.010

Magdalena Navarro: Because they are afraid that they're going to snatch them or get to the parents, and so on. So anything and guidance that you put in the website about this.

155

00:27:33.800 --> 00:27:38.060

Magdalena Navarro: you know, let us know, so that we can share with others.

156

00:27:38.660 --> 00:27:52.049

Cleveland L. Horton II: We should we? We definitely will, I think we should, and I'll double check with Spencer, just to make sure everybody, all commissioners should be on our listserv. So all of the press releases that we send out you all should be receiving them through the Listserv.

157

00:27:52.050 --> 00:28:09.079

Cleveland L. Horton II: If you're not receiving them, though, we'll definitely check and make sure that we have all of the updated information for our commissioners. And what we can also do is just send a separate email to you all. When we do send those press releases or statements out so that you all have it firsthand via email. So we can make sure we do that for you, Commissioner Maglena.

158

00:28:10.500 --> 00:28:18.279

Magdalena Navarro: And then all those statements and guidance are easily accessible on the website as well. Because I can point people to the website.

159

00:28:18.280 --> 00:28:19.090

Cleveland L. Horton II: Correct.

160

00:28:20.720 --> 00:28:21.270

Magdalena Navarro: Okay.

161

00:28:21.270 --> 00:28:43.199

Cleveland L. Horton II: And if you all think of something, you know again, if there's something that you all think of as a group that hey? You know we need to address this, or you know again, you all as a group, have the ability to be able to do that. I would ask that you all reach out to Madam Chair, because you all do have the opportunity to address that as well. If there is something that as a body, you all would like to address directly. You all do have the authority to be able

to do that as well.

162

00:28:43.940 --> 00:28:44.590

Magdalena Navarro: Okay.

163

00:28:45.880 --> 00:28:46.730

Magdalena Navarro: Thank you.

164

00:28:46.730 --> 00:28:47.310

Cleveland L. Horton II: No.

165

00:28:48.320 --> 00:28:59.319

Stephanie Suerth: Yeah, any ideas or thoughts, you know. Please send them. I think collectively, we're we're able to be more cognizant of what's going on and and the impact on the community than we are individually. So

166

00:28:59.430 --> 00:29:00.470

Stephanie Suerth: please share

167

00:29:03.760 --> 00:29:05.350

Stephanie Suerth: okay, anything else.

168

00:29:07.140 --> 00:29:10.529

Stephanie Suerth: Hearing none. Glendor, as I recall, you, wanted an executive session.

169

00:29:10.880 --> 00:29:15.300

Glendora.Hughes: Yes, just to update you on litigation.

170

00:29:16.210 --> 00:29:20.039

Spencer Dove: Give me a moment so I can take the recording down.

171

00:29:20.380 --> 00:29:25.650

Magdalena Navarro: I was just gonna say, do I have a motion to adjourn to executive session motion to adjourn.

172

00:29:25.780 --> 00:29:26.240

noah metheny: Second.

173

00:29:26.240 --> 00:29:27.780

Stephanie Suerth: I did. I heard a second.

174

00:29:27.780 --> 00:29:28.450

Eileen Levitt: Bye.

175

00:29:28.450 --> 00:29:29.800

Stephanie Suerth: All in favor. Aye.

176

00:29:30.540 --> 00:29:31.330

Magdalena Navarro: I.

177

00:29:31.790 --> 00:29:32.640

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you.