

WEBVTT

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00:00:02.880 --> 00:00:07.419

Stephanie Suerth: And we will, as always, start with roll call. Commissioner Seworth present.

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00:00:08.480 --> 00:00:10.730

Gina McKnight-Smith: Commissioner McKnight-Smith present.

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00:00:12.900 --> 00:00:14.840

Eileen Levitt: Commissioner Levitt present.

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00:00:16.290 --> 00:00:18.220

Kimberly Prescott: Commissioner Prescott, present.

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00:00:19.390 --> 00:00:21.790

Cleveland Horton II: Cleveland Horton, Executive Director, present.

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00:00:22.910 --> 00:00:25.270

Nicolette Young: Nicolette Young, Assistant Director, present.

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00:00:25.720 --> 00:00:28.199

Glendora Hughes: Blendora Hughes, General Counsel present.

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00:00:28.570 --> 00:00:32.170

Candice Crenshaw: Candace Crenshaw, Education and Outreach Director, present.

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00:00:32.680 --> 00:00:36.470

Spencer Dove: Spencer Dove, Assistant to the Executive Director, present.

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00:00:40.950 --> 00:00:42.679

Cleveland Horton II: Raphael, you can introduce yourself.

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00:00:42.680 --> 00:00:47.819

Rafiel Bowen: Oh, sorry, Rafael Gomo. It's my first commissioner's unit.

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00:00:47.820 --> 00:00:48.740

Cleveland Horton II: You're good, you're good.

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00:00:48.740 --> 00:00:49.740

Rafiel Bowen: You could.

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00:00:50.310 --> 00:00:52.630

Stephanie Suerth: And welcome, we're delighted that you're here.

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00:00:52.970 --> 00:00:54.580

Rafiel Bowen: Absolutely. Thanks for having me.

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00:00:55.730 --> 00:01:01.939

Stephanie Suerth: I am looking at the participants. I don't see any members of the public, but I'll open it up in case I'm missing anyone.

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00:01:06.890 --> 00:01:11.069

Spencer Dove: I'm also monitoring just in case, but yeah, there's nobody from the public on.

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00:01:12.100 --> 00:01:13.750

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you, Spencer, I appreciate that.

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00:01:15.530 --> 00:01:24.489

Stephanie Suerth: And I have a very short report. First off, I just want to remind all the commissioners to attend our strategic planning session on Friday.

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00:01:24.770 --> 00:01:39.320

Stephanie Suerth: As I recall, we're doing it as a hybrid, but for those that can attend in person, please make the effort. I would really like to see our full participation. It is essential, and the reason it is essential is

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00:01:39.900 --> 00:01:56.060

Stephanie Suerth: I cannot overstate this. Things are changing so rapidly, especially when it comes to the federal civil rights landscape. I mean, just two weeks ago was the Supreme Court decision that really dealt a significant blow to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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00:01:56.080 --> 00:02:01.409

Stephanie Suerth: I think we're going to continue to see a very rapidly changing landscape.

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00:02:01.510 --> 00:02:06.810

Stephanie Suerth: For the rest of this year, and for the next few years, and probably even years after that.

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00:02:06.950 --> 00:02:20.830

Stephanie Suerth: So, thinking about what we want to do and where we want to go strategically is really going to be essential, not just for us, not just for the staff of the Commission, but also for the people that we serve.

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00:02:20.860 --> 00:02:29.430

Stephanie Suerth: It really is moments like this that remind us why the Commission exists, why it matters. And so, this isn't just a luxury, guys, it's a necessity.

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00:02:29.430 --> 00:02:41.499

Stephanie Suerth: And now that I've gotten off that soapbox, I'll move on to my next. I also want to remind

Commissioners to continue to support our gala preparations. I know some of us have been very participatory, myself not included, yet.

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00:02:41.760 --> 00:02:46.490

Stephanie Suerth: But it is very appreciative. I want to make sure that all of our voices are heard.

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00:02:46.700 --> 00:02:56.770

Stephanie Suerth: And then finally, Cleveland, I am going to jump on your thunder a little bit and let everyone know that we're going to be convening an executive session after today's public meeting.

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00:02:57.680 --> 00:03:01.529

Stephanie Suerth: And that is, like I said, a very short report from me.

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00:03:01.730 --> 00:03:03.609

Stephanie Suerth: Cleveland, I will turn it over.

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00:03:04.160 --> 00:03:12.359

Cleveland Horton II: I appreciate it. Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everybody. Hopefully, everybody is off to a great start.

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00:03:12.840 --> 00:03:20.080

Cleveland Horton II: I wanted to highlight just a few things. The first thing is our staff appreciation cookout.

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00:03:20.140 --> 00:03:29.069

Cleveland Horton II: Which we are... it is Thursday, May the 21st. It will be in Centennial Park, in Howard County, so...

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00:03:29.070 --> 00:03:45.120

Cleveland Horton II: If any of the commissioners are available, it will be from 11 to 3, I believe is the time frame. So, we would love to have all the commissioners there, present, if you all are able to be, present on that day. Again, it's Thursday, April... I said April.

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00:03:45.630 --> 00:03:46.509

Cleveland Horton II: I'm backwards, I'm going backwards.

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00:03:46.510 --> 00:03:48.060

Eileen Levitt: May 21st, 11...

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00:03:48.060 --> 00:03:52.820

Cleveland Horton II: 1st, 11 to 3, and Centennial Park, so all commissioners...

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00:03:53.380 --> 00:03:54.659

Eileen Levitt: which pavilion?

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00:03:54.780 --> 00:03:55.880
Cleveland Horton II: Pavilion D.

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00:03:56.220 --> 00:03:56.870
Eileen Levitt: Okay.

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00:03:57.700 --> 00:04:05.469
Cleveland Horton II: Yep, all commissioners are welcome, to attend and show up and have a good time, with the staff.

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00:04:05.850 --> 00:04:07.340
Cleveland Horton II: We...

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00:04:07.560 --> 00:04:25.570
Cleveland Horton II: you all will see a press release that will go out later on today. We have signed our most recent MOU with Maryland Realtors, so you all know that part of my priority has been establishing a more intimate relationship with the local realtor associations.

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00:04:25.630 --> 00:04:39.590
Cleveland Horton II: So this is aligned with that. We have already signed the MOU with the Maryland Commission on Real Estate Appraisals, and now we have one with the Maryland, Realtors Association as well.

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00:04:39.590 --> 00:04:56.339
Cleveland Horton II: And that press release will go out, later on today. As a result of the initiative to really figure out how do we further promote fair housing in our state, and connecting with the local realtor associations, we have been contacted by the National Association of Realtors as well.

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00:04:56.340 --> 00:05:09.350
Cleveland Horton II: to discuss how we can also be in closer partnership with them, and the establishment of an MOU with us on the national level as well. So I'll keep you all updated as we continue to have those conversations.

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00:05:09.350 --> 00:05:24.940
Cleveland Horton II: We are right now the only enforcement agency throughout the country that is engaging in this type of partnership relationship with the local realtor association, so we have been contacted by our California counterparts and our Texas counterparts.

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00:05:24.940 --> 00:05:35.459
Cleveland Horton II: Because they are interested in really kind of duplicating the work that we're doing here around establishing, these partnerships, so just wanted to, update you all on that.

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00:05:35.990 --> 00:05:51.810
Cleveland Horton II: Also, wanted to update you all from an intake perspective. As you all know, we've been inundated with inquiries and folks who want to file complaints of discrimination during this kind of difficult and divisive time. Our inquiries have doubled. At one point in time, our intakes

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00:05:51.810 --> 00:06:03.579

Cleveland Horton II: It was taking us probably about 4 to 5 months to kind of get through and assign and schedule folks for intakes. We have successfully been able to bring that down to about a 30-day turnaround time, so...

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00:06:03.580 --> 00:06:22.190

Cleveland Horton II: I do want to highlight the work that our intake staff has done to really make sure that we are really taking a look at all of our processes to be more efficient, to make sure that we are able to address the high number of volume that we now see at our agency. So, currently, we don't have any outstanding PQs. All the PQs that...

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00:06:22.190 --> 00:06:38.340

Cleveland Horton II: have come into our agency, have been scheduled for our intake, and all of them are scheduled within 30 days. So, again, at one point, we were about 4 to 5 months out, which is obviously adding to our time and process. So what we've done, really, in terms of looking at our time and process.

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00:06:38.340 --> 00:06:52.300

Cleveland Horton II: is really be able to kind of break down the different phases of our processes to attack them individually. So this is just one of the phases that we are attacking from an intake standpoint to help drive down our time and process, which will have a significant impact

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00:06:52.300 --> 00:07:00.369

Cleveland Horton II: On our total time and process numbers as well, so I just wanted to update you all in reference to where we are from an intake perspective.

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00:07:00.790 --> 00:07:16.119

Cleveland Horton II: Also, as you all will notice, we do have Raphael Bowen, who is one of our superstar leads here at the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. He has been charged with leading our internal efforts and external from an AI standpoint, so we all know that

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00:07:16.120 --> 00:07:40.629

Cleveland Horton II: AI is the sexy topic of today, and we wanted to make sure, as an agency, that we were staying in front of AI, internally and externally. So we have created a committee on artificial intelligence and civil rights internally. Rafael Vohn is leading that effort with a team of, I think we got about 9 staff persons that are part of this,

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00:07:40.630 --> 00:07:54.150

Cleveland Horton II: committee, and really their charge will be figuring out what can we do, and kind of going through a workflow analysis for us around where can we deploy AI internally, and what that looks like for us, what are the benefits?

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00:07:54.330 --> 00:08:05.739

Cleveland Horton II: and some of the challenges of deploying AI in certain ways internally. Also, they will be charged with really understanding how AI is being deployed externally, so as we go out and investigate cases.

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00:08:05.740 --> 00:08:11.160

Cleveland Horton II: We are better trained and equipped to do so, to better understand the tools and systems that are being used.

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00:08:11.160 --> 00:08:25.849

Cleveland Horton II: within AI, so that we can more accurately investigate those types of complaints. So, I wanted to really introduce Raphael to you all as commissioners, and give Raphael... there's an opportunity... Raphael, anything you want to add, speak to? The floor is yours, sir.

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00:08:26.380 --> 00:08:36.570

Rafiel Bowen: No, thank you, Cleveland, for the introduction. Pretty much echoing everything Cleveland said. Currently we're in the midst of, creating the sort of structure

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00:08:36.630 --> 00:08:51.630

Rafiel Bowen: policy, internal policies and things of that nature going forward as it, as it relates to, utilizing AI to our advantage. Sort of what Clean said, there's also a, there's an other side to AI, on top of obstacles and...

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00:08:51.630 --> 00:09:05.559

Rafiel Bowen: and making sure that the work isn't compromised as well. So, as Cleveland said, as we sort of usher in the new age of AI, I'm happy to sort of facilitate that and bring the commission into the future, per se. So, I'm excited to get started.

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00:09:06.020 --> 00:09:25.639

Cleveland Horton II: Cool. Thank you, Raphael. So, we are excited for this new committee in terms of what it will do for our agency internally, and also excited for what it will do for the communities that we serve externally as well. So, I just wanted to highlight that as well. So, with that, I will take any questions that you all may have.

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00:09:27.380 --> 00:09:32.429

Stephanie Suerth: Just a shout-out for, you know, being innovative and forward-thinking about how to use AI.

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00:09:32.670 --> 00:09:33.680

Stephanie Suerth: as...

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00:09:34.060 --> 00:09:45.020

Stephanie Suerth: a way to build capacity. You know, we're doing that at our institution. I think a lot of them are, especially if you're a state institution with budget and everything else. That's really exciting.

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00:09:45.020 --> 00:09:58.689

Stephanie Suerth: So, thank you for that, and thank you as always. And, real quickly, before we move on, I just also want to, acknowledge that a couple more commissioners have joined since our roll call, so that they're on the recording.

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00:09:58.690 --> 00:10:02.239

Stephanie Suerth: So, guys, you wanna say hello this morning, please?

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00:10:03.310 --> 00:10:04.400

Stephanie Suerth: I see 3.

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00:10:04.830 --> 00:10:06.020

Angela J. Scott: Everybody.

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00:10:06.980 --> 00:10:08.690

Angela J. Scott: Commissioner Scott present.

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00:10:09.010 --> 00:10:09.859

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you.

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00:10:10.320 --> 00:10:12.650

Noah Metheny: Hi, Commissioner Matheny, present.

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00:10:13.060 --> 00:10:14.440

Janssen Evelyn: Oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.

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00:10:15.910 --> 00:10:17.180

Stephanie Suerth: God, Jansen, he did.

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00:10:17.660 --> 00:10:23.930

Janssen Evelyn: Oh, yes, I'll try it this time. Third time's a charm. Good morning. Commissioner Evelyn's present.

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00:10:24.760 --> 00:10:27.400

Stephanie Suerth: Thanks, guys, I just wanted to make sure it was marked in.

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00:10:27.860 --> 00:10:30.990

Cleveland Horton II: No problem. Any other, questions for me?

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00:10:33.700 --> 00:10:35.270

Stephanie Suerth: Not from me, but thank you.

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00:10:35.270 --> 00:10:45.029

Cleveland Horton II: No problem. Last thing, I just want to highlight and give kudos to Commissioner Prescott. In case you all don't know, Commissioner Prescott is in those streets, and in a good way, right? So she shows up.

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00:10:45.030 --> 00:10:58.130

Cleveland Horton II: So I just wanna, I just wanna highlight her for... for showing up whenever possible, and really supporting the efforts of this agency, so I did want to just publicly thank her for just continuing to show up and, you know.

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00:10:58.410 --> 00:11:00.889
Cleveland Horton II: Being in those streets, so we appreciate you.

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00:11:03.840 --> 00:11:06.829
Cleveland Horton II: I will, with that, I will pass it off to Nicolette.

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00:11:08.200 --> 00:11:21.239
Nicolette Young: Good morning, everyone. I hope that you all had a pleasant Mother's Day. My report has been submitted for your review. At this point in time, we have expended 74.3% of the agency's budget.

86
00:11:21.240 --> 00:11:28.340
Nicolette Young: We currently have 3 vacancies, of which, the Assistant General Counsel position will hopefully.

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00:11:28.340 --> 00:11:33.220
Nicolette Young: The posting for the recruitment ad will go up sometime this week.

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00:11:33.220 --> 00:11:40.170
Nicolette Young: When it does, we will absolutely send that information over to you, so you can distribute that out to your contacts.

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00:11:40.330 --> 00:11:59.230
Nicolette Young: Since the last meeting, when I mentioned that we did not have access to the, HUD ELOCs for... to do the drawdown, we have regained access, which I'm very happy to share with you all. But we did have a shortfall of about \$209,000. We have...

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00:11:59.560 --> 00:12:16.440
Nicolette Young: notify the Department of Budget and Management of that federal fund shortfall, and we will work with them, for year-end closeout, to figure out how to address the shortfall. We are in the process of submitting our Quarter 3 projections.

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00:12:16.520 --> 00:12:36.490
Nicolette Young: We have been notified by the Department of Budget and Management to expect, and also that we will have to do a reversion of some general funds, and we will probably have to do some shifting of the federal funds in order to cover the general funds. And I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

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00:12:45.480 --> 00:12:47.849
Nicolette Young: Thank you. Enjoy the rest of your week.

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00:12:48.130 --> 00:12:51.880
Stephanie Suerth: Thank you, absolutely. Appreciate all your efforts on...

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00:12:52.140 --> 00:12:54.100
Stephanie Suerth: Keeping us on track on budget.

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00:12:54.430 --> 00:12:55.870

Nicolette Young: My pleasure, thank you.

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00:12:57.000 --> 00:13:02.020

Cleveland Horton II: Thank you for that, Nicolette, and with that, we will pass it over to Glendora.

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00:13:08.490 --> 00:13:10.859

Cleveland Horton II: You're on mute. You're on mute, Glendora.

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00:13:13.360 --> 00:13:14.959

Glendora Hughes: Good morning, everyone.

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00:13:15.190 --> 00:13:17.370

Glendora Hughes: You have my reports.

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00:13:17.490 --> 00:13:22.400

Glendora Hughes: I'll update the cases when we go in executive session.

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00:13:22.610 --> 00:13:29.070

Glendora Hughes: Only other thing I just wanted to highlight that we had an interesting... one of the bar associations

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00:13:29.510 --> 00:13:32.270

Glendora Hughes: Had a...

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00:13:32.410 --> 00:13:48.709

Glendora Hughes: a, what they call a conversation with the EEOC Chair and the Department of Labor rep, and it went as we thought it would. It was very interesting, both, emphasizing the,

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00:13:49.390 --> 00:14:07.659

Glendora Hughes: the work being focused on encouraging white males to file, discrimination cases and labor cases. If you notice on the national level, they have been going after big corporations like Coca-Cola, Nike.

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00:14:08.170 --> 00:14:19.610

Glendora Hughes: And a couple others for having DEI programs and alleging discrimination against white males, and that that was the gist of their

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00:14:19.950 --> 00:14:25.040

Glendora Hughes: Q... in the Q&A and their justification for

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00:14:25.640 --> 00:14:30.050

Glendora Hughes: This particular policy and this particular emphasis.

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00:14:30.250 --> 00:14:40.309

Glendora Hughes: folks just sort of, that were on the call were pretty much not, asking too many questions. They were sorta like.

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00:14:40.670 --> 00:14:51.330

Glendora Hughes: you are who we thought you were, and we just wanted to verify it in person. So, that was a very awkward and interesting webinar that,

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00:14:51.500 --> 00:15:01.469

Glendora Hughes: Or... So-called conversation with the heads of these two agencies, and highlighted how very dangerous and some of the

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00:15:02.040 --> 00:15:14.659

Glendora Hughes: dismantling of things, particularly the Department of Labor not keeping data anymore on certain things that, you know, we rely on to do analysis, and to be able to track

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00:15:14.830 --> 00:15:17.949

Glendora Hughes: Discriminatory activity.

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00:15:18.150 --> 00:15:23.690

Glendora Hughes: They're pretty much... it's two-fold. You, you have, they're just not...

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00:15:24.790 --> 00:15:32.670

Glendora Hughes: As a policy, not doing it, and then what they do have, they have people who have no idea what they're doing, and doing it wrong, so...

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00:15:33.820 --> 00:15:41.180

Glendora Hughes: That was, you know, something that, concerned everyone, particularly those who practice in the

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00:15:41.240 --> 00:15:57.729

Glendora Hughes: Department of Labor and the... those who practice before the National Labor Relations Board, as well, and they're rolling back some of their regulations and policies that deal with, labor, the labor market.

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00:15:58.160 --> 00:16:08.110

Glendora Hughes: So, I will update you on a couple of cases that have resolved when we go into executive session. Any questions about my reports, or...

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00:16:08.420 --> 00:16:09.900

Glendora Hughes: Any other questions?

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00:16:11.580 --> 00:16:17.750

Glendora Hughes: And we will be doing a legislative update next, next commission meeting.

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00:16:18.150 --> 00:16:24.599

Glendora Hughes: By then, all the bills will be signed, and we can be assured that we're being accurate.

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00:16:30.140 --> 00:16:31.650

Cleveland Horton II: Well, thanks, Glendora.

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00:16:32.360 --> 00:16:38.590

Cleveland Horton II: Hearing no questions, I will pass it off to our wonderful Education and Outreach Director.

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00:16:39.080 --> 00:16:42.930

Candice Crenshaw: Good morning, everyone! Happy Tuesday! How are you all?

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00:16:44.320 --> 00:16:45.500

Cleveland Horton II: I'm doing great.

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00:16:45.890 --> 00:16:47.599

Stephanie Suerth: Hanging in there, thank you.

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00:16:47.600 --> 00:16:49.260

Janssen Evelyn: Excellent, excellent.

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00:16:49.260 --> 00:16:51.009

Candice Crenshaw: Okay, great, great, it's good to...

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00:16:51.010 --> 00:16:52.600

Janssen Evelyn: a shot of espresso.

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00:16:52.970 --> 00:17:15.470

Candice Crenshaw: All right, amen. Alright, well, it's so good to see your faces and hear your voices. I would like to highlight, a few points on the Education and Outreach, report. So I'm super excited. We started and launched our first 2026 cohort of Young Scholars Program at Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women yesterday, so we are facilitating for 7th graders.

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00:17:15.470 --> 00:17:39.919

Candice Crenshaw: And, they were super excited. We had 17 7th graders, so, I met with the assistant principals and their head principal as well, so you've seen on our report that we've had YSP on there, but we finally launched our first cohort of 2026, so we're so excited just to see the outcome of teaching the youth about civil rights, history, and now.

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00:17:39.920 --> 00:17:43.450

Candice Crenshaw: And seeing their, end of our cohort.

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00:17:43.450 --> 00:17:51.860

Candice Crenshaw: project that they have to facilitate. So I'm really, really excited and grateful for our team, to have had to be executing that.

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00:17:51.860 --> 00:18:16.270

Candice Crenshaw: Also, I want to highlight our advisory councils and regional approach. As you can see on our report, June 30th, we will be hosting two virtual informative sessions, for individuals, agencies, organizations to join, just in case if they're interested to join our advisory councils for each of our regions, in our state, such as Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, Southern Maryland.

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00:18:16.380 --> 00:18:35.659

Candice Crenshaw: Central Maryland, etc. So, we're excited just to build our partnerships and collaborations in each of our regions of the state. I also included our registration link and everything if anyone would like to join. And, I also want to just encourage everyone to tune into Let's Talk Civilly podcast. We've had some great guests.

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00:18:35.660 --> 00:19:00.659

Candice Crenshaw: on our podcast with our executive director, and it's so informational. If you see on our social media, you can see some of the clips that we have, so we just want to continue to be creative in the way that we are teaching and educating everyone in our state. And as you know, we are planning our Civil Rights Gala. We are finalizing a few logistics on our end so that when we meet with you all and hear any of your suggestions.

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00:19:00.660 --> 00:19:12.100

Candice Crenshaw: We have some concrete details. So, again, as always, you will receive an update, but we are just finalizing a few things so that when we meet with you all, our meeting is nice and organized.

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00:19:12.120 --> 00:19:14.919

Candice Crenshaw: At this time, I welcome any questions that you may have.

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00:19:20.100 --> 00:19:23.259

Candice Crenshaw: Alright, I take that as none. Thank you all for your support.

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00:19:24.120 --> 00:19:26.409

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you, and thank you for all the work that you do.

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00:19:26.660 --> 00:19:27.810

Candice Crenshaw: Absolutely.

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00:19:28.580 --> 00:19:31.669

Cleveland Horton II: Madam Chair, that is all of the staff reports.

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00:19:32.680 --> 00:19:39.380

Stephanie Suerth: Okay, so moving on to new business, I think I hit all of the highlights for myself.

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00:19:39.780 --> 00:19:46.559

Stephanie Suerth: In the report, does anybody have any additional new business that we need to discuss,

other than what needs to go in session?

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00:19:47.780 --> 00:19:54.220

Eileen Levitt: not new business, but, I don't know if you all saw

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00:19:54.900 --> 00:20:06.330

Eileen Levitt: there's a... I'm not sure how to phrase this, and I don't even know. There's a situation with, I think Chao Wu, where there's been just...

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00:20:06.870 --> 00:20:10.419

Eileen Levitt: And I just wanted to make people aware that it's not...

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00:20:10.850 --> 00:20:14.249

Eileen Levitt: doesn't speak well for our state, is all I'm saying.

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00:20:15.240 --> 00:20:16.920

Eileen Levitt: So, you can Google it.

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00:20:17.970 --> 00:20:18.840

Gina McKnight-Smith: Can you say...

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00:20:18.840 --> 00:20:20.399

Cleveland Horton II: Can you say it one more time, the name again?

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00:20:20.400 --> 00:20:20.890

Eileen Levitt: So...

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00:20:20.890 --> 00:20:21.560

Cleveland Horton II: I couldn't hear you.

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00:20:21.560 --> 00:20:24.359

Eileen Levitt: There's... you know, y'all know who Chao Wu is, right?

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00:20:24.360 --> 00:20:25.500

Cleveland Horton II: In Howard County?

155

00:20:25.950 --> 00:20:40.649

Eileen Levitt: Yeah, he's at the House of Delegates, and there's just a situation where, back and forth, that just doesn't look nice for our state. Thank you, Spencer. It just doesn't make our state look civil, as we'd all like to.

156

00:20:40.980 --> 00:20:42.729

Eileen Levitt: it to be. That's all.

157
00:20:44.920 --> 00:20:46.730
Cleveland Horton II: We'll definitely take a look at it and see if.

158
00:20:46.730 --> 00:20:47.620
Eileen Levitt: Yeah.

159
00:20:47.620 --> 00:20:50.180
Cleveland Horton II: Thank you for bringing that to the forefront. I think.

160
00:20:50.180 --> 00:20:50.950
Eileen Levitt: I don't...

161
00:20:50.950 --> 00:20:56.780
Cleveland Horton II: I think I saw... I think I saw a statement from somebody that's on this call.

162
00:20:57.490 --> 00:21:08.949
Cleveland Horton II: I don't know if he's gonna... I don't know if he's gonna speak to it or not, but I just happened to see a statement from an individual that looks very similar to somebody that's on this call today, so...

163
00:21:09.360 --> 00:21:10.730
Janssen Evelyn: So, so yeah, just to follow...

164
00:21:10.730 --> 00:21:11.959
Eileen Levitt: I didn't see that.

165
00:21:12.140 --> 00:21:14.590
Eileen Levitt: But I saw someone else's.

166
00:21:14.760 --> 00:21:21.719
Janssen Evelyn: on what the Commissioner's, Commissioner Levitt said. Yeah, there were... there... there are two Republican...

167
00:21:21.940 --> 00:21:32.640
Janssen Evelyn: lawmakers, Delegates Fisher, Delegate Chisholm, ones from Calvert, one's from Adirondo County, they did a video that's on, Twitter slash acts presently.

168
00:21:32.640 --> 00:21:33.180
Eileen Levitt: still there.

169
00:21:33.180 --> 00:21:46.360
Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, where they made fun of Dr. Chow... Delegate Dr. Chao Wu from Howard County, because of his accent. They claim that he's a spy for the Chinese government,

170

00:21:46.360 --> 00:21:55.470

Janssen Evelyn: And they... throughout the entire 15-minute video, they kept making reference to how he... to how he spoke with regards to his accent and everything, so...

171

00:21:56.090 --> 00:21:58.730

Janssen Evelyn: It's a pretty... Disrespect.

172

00:21:58.730 --> 00:21:59.429

Eileen Levitt: fingers sensitive.

173

00:21:59.430 --> 00:22:04.440

Janssen Evelyn: video, and it's happening... yeah, and it's happening during, I mean, of all times, Ace.

174

00:22:04.440 --> 00:22:04.940

Eileen Levitt: AA.

175

00:22:04.940 --> 00:22:12.969

Janssen Evelyn: AAPI Appreciation Month. So, yeah, definitely take a look at it. It's been condemned by every... whether it's the

176

00:22:13.240 --> 00:22:23.650

Janssen Evelyn: AAPI caucus, the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, even the leader of the House Republican Caucus said it was out of line, so we should all strongly denounce it.

177

00:22:24.060 --> 00:22:33.850

Cleveland Horton II: So, Janice, I got a question for you. Do you have, or really not just for you, for anybody on the call, does anybody have direct, close connections to the delegate?

178

00:22:33.910 --> 00:22:46.590

Cleveland Horton II: And the reason I ask is because if you can connect us to him, we would very much appreciate that. So what we are doing now is developing our podcast for AAPI Month this month.

179

00:22:46.610 --> 00:23:02.980

Cleveland Horton II: So there may be an opportunity for us to support him and have him come on to the podcast, so we can talk about AAPI hate, and show even more support for him through our podcast. So if you can connect him with us, that may be a perfect opportunity for us as an agency

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00:23:02.980 --> 00:23:10.399

Cleveland Horton II: to show our... our support for him and the work that he does. So, if you can connect us to him, we can try to make something happen for that.

181

00:23:11.880 --> 00:23:30.600

Janssen Evelyn: Alright, I just text you his phone number. Okay. That's his personal cell. You can just reach out to him, tell him that you got it for me in a capacity as an MCCR, and... and you guys can... I mean, and so it obviously makes sense, you as the Executive Director of the MCCR, to be reaching out to him as well,

so you have it now, sir.

182

00:23:30.840 --> 00:23:32.510

Cleveland Horton II: Gotcha. Thank you, I appreciate it.

183

00:23:32.970 --> 00:23:51.400

Eileen Levitt: I didn't see your statement, Jansen, I'm sorry. I just saw everyone else's statement, and I watched earlier this morning, I watched parts of that pod... I tried to watch the whole podcast before I would comment. I struggled to finish it because it was very upsetting.

184

00:23:51.990 --> 00:23:55.970

Janssen Evelyn: It was very upsetting, and no, you don't have to apologize for... no, I mean, no, I...

185

00:23:55.970 --> 00:24:03.300

Eileen Levitt: You should, if you comment on something, you should have the full context. But I feel like I got enough context from the part... from...

186

00:24:03.620 --> 00:24:07.519

Eileen Levitt: You know, the begin- from the first 5 minutes of it.

187

00:24:08.010 --> 00:24:19.959

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, it was... it was... I watched maybe 12 minutes of it, and I'm like, the... and these... these are grown men that are, like, laughing... laughing at this, and I'm like, what in the world is wrong with you?

188

00:24:20.410 --> 00:24:41.530

Eileen Levitt: So, also for context, and this is also called stereotyping, one of... there's a mayor in somewhere in California who admitted... who happens to be Asian American, who admitted to spying for the Chinese, so, you know, they, of course, accused him of being a spy for the Chinese, purely because she was, which...

189

00:24:43.190 --> 00:24:46.290

Eileen Levitt: Hello, can you define the word stereotype any better?

190

00:24:46.810 --> 00:25:00.869

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, and it's fortunate that we're at this age where... this age in America's history where people think that making statements without any basis or grounded in fact is something that's allowable. It's not cool.

191

00:25:01.120 --> 00:25:08.190

Eileen Levitt: But as of, like, mmm... let me see... 7... 6.30, 7 this morning, it was still up.

192

00:25:08.790 --> 00:25:10.240

Eileen Levitt: their Twitter post.

193

00:25:10.820 --> 00:25:15.020

Eileen Levitt: their Twitter post to their whatever you want to call it.

194

00:25:15.890 --> 00:25:17.459

Eileen Levitt: Podcast? I don't know.

195

00:25:17.460 --> 00:25:18.250

Janssen Evelyn: Yes.

196

00:25:20.080 --> 00:25:21.510

Eileen Levitt: And it's been shared.

197

00:25:21.810 --> 00:25:26.649

Eileen Levitt: You know, not by... You know, it's been shared as fact.

198

00:25:27.160 --> 00:25:31.469

Eileen Levitt: Which then will generate into AI to generate fact.

199

00:25:32.220 --> 00:25:32.830

Eileen Levitt: more.

200

00:25:34.560 --> 00:25:36.070

Eileen Levitt: alternate facts.

201

00:25:36.650 --> 00:25:39.689

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, alternative facts, aka lies.

202

00:25:39.690 --> 00:25:40.290

Eileen Levitt: Yeah.

203

00:25:40.660 --> 00:25:43.200

Eileen Levitt: So, yeah. That's, you know.

204

00:25:44.050 --> 00:25:45.060

Eileen Levitt: Good times.

205

00:25:46.410 --> 00:25:47.380

Eileen Levitt: Anyway...

206

00:25:48.760 --> 00:25:50.640

Cleveland Horton II: No problem, we'll do what we can to connect with him.

207

00:25:50.640 --> 00:25:56.259

Eileen Levitt: Spencer put a target... Spencer put a link. That's the article I read this morning.

208

00:25:56.260 --> 00:26:06.339

Cleveland Horton II: Cool. Well, thanks for... thanks for bringing that forward, Commissioner Levitt, and we'll do what we can to connect with him and show our support as an agency, for Delegate Wu, so thanks for bringing that forward.

209

00:26:11.980 --> 00:26:13.650

Cleveland Horton II: And I think... Right. Okay.

210

00:26:13.650 --> 00:26:18.110

Stephanie Suerth: Sorry about that. Like I said, I'm just trying to juggle a little bit. I apologize profusely.

211

00:26:18.380 --> 00:26:22.279

Stephanie Suerth: Is there any other additional new business?

212

00:26:26.840 --> 00:26:36.640

Stephanie Suerth: And I think the old business, again, talking about, making sure everybody's being as participatory as they can, and Eileen, I know you've been, for the gala.

213

00:26:36.780 --> 00:26:37.420

Stephanie Suerth: And then...

214

00:26:37.420 --> 00:26:42.839

Eileen Levitt: I volunteer. I haven't... now I know why we haven't... I haven't heard anything, but I volunteered for what, you know.

215

00:26:44.850 --> 00:26:52.940

Eileen Levitt: And then I've been keeping, like, some... I've been hold... I've been keeping a list of... of all kinds of things, but...

216

00:26:53.330 --> 00:26:53.910

Cleveland Horton II: Goodbye.

217

00:26:55.420 --> 00:26:57.019

Eileen Levitt: Thank you. Not very exciting.

218

00:26:58.180 --> 00:26:59.720

Stephanie Suerth: I'm still gonna say thank you.

219

00:26:59.720 --> 00:27:02.019

Eileen Levitt: You're welcome. And I'm still gonna say you're welcome.

220

00:27:02.450 --> 00:27:13.279

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you. As far as any other old business, I'm keeping the... the strategic planning

under new, in case anybody was wondering, because we haven't done it yet.

221

00:27:13.580 --> 00:27:14.659

Stephanie Suerth: Anything else?

222

00:27:16.190 --> 00:27:17.310

Stephanie Suerth: Oh, business?

223

00:27:17.730 --> 00:27:33.440

Cleveland Horton II: Just a reminder for those who may have, joined the call a little late and didn't hear, we do have the Staff Appreciation Cookout Thursday, May 21st, 11 to 4, Centennial Park. We invite all the commissioners who can't make it to please come out,

224

00:27:33.540 --> 00:27:49.359

Cleveland Horton II: And show your support for all the work that we all do, right? As commissioners and as staff, we'd love to have you all, at the cookout, if you all are available to attend. Again, Thursday, May the 21st, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

225

00:27:49.700 --> 00:27:52.530

Eileen Levitt: I put... I'll be there, I put it on my calendar, I know where that is.

226

00:27:53.790 --> 00:27:57.590

Cleveland Horton II: And it's Pavilion... I'm sorry, Pavilion D. Pavilion D.

227

00:27:57.590 --> 00:27:59.189

Eileen Levitt: Centennial, that's important.

228

00:27:59.190 --> 00:27:59.840

Cleveland Horton II: Yep.

229

00:28:00.480 --> 00:28:01.709

Janssen Evelyn: And you can have you guys...

230

00:28:01.710 --> 00:28:02.890

Cleveland Horton II: Send you a calendar invite.

231

00:28:03.510 --> 00:28:06.010

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, send me a calendar invite, too, please.

232

00:28:06.010 --> 00:28:08.809

Cleveland Horton II: No problem, we'll send all the commissioners a calendar invite.

233

00:28:09.500 --> 00:28:09.890

Cleveland Horton II: as we get older.

234

00:28:09.890 --> 00:28:15.219

Kimberly Prescott: Anything that you want me to be at, please send me a calendar invite.

235

00:28:15.220 --> 00:28:16.220

Cleveland Horton II: No problem.

236

00:28:17.760 --> 00:28:18.750

Cleveland Horton II: That's easy.

237

00:28:18.750 --> 00:28:19.310

Candice Crenshaw: Well...

238

00:28:19.310 --> 00:28:25.359

Stephanie Suerth: By the way, everybody that wasn't able to attend the meeting will also have the information, have an opportunity to participate. So, thank you.

239

00:28:25.580 --> 00:28:26.650

Cleveland Horton II: Yep, no problem.

240

00:28:27.670 --> 00:28:29.490

Stephanie Suerth: Alright, any other old business?

241

00:28:32.960 --> 00:28:35.989

Stephanie Suerth: Hearing none, seeing none, do I have a motion to adjourn?

242

00:28:36.670 --> 00:28:37.770

Eileen Levitt: So moved.

243

00:28:38.060 --> 00:28:39.459

Stephanie Suerth: Don't forget Executive Session.

244

00:28:40.630 --> 00:28:41.560

Kimberly Prescott: Second.

245

00:28:42.960 --> 00:29:00.430

Stephanie Suerth: Then we are adjourned from the public session. Thank you so much, everybody. I appreciate all of your help. For everybody moving into Executive, I have to drop off for about 30 seconds and then reconnect. I'm having a computer issue. I'm hoping by reconnecting it'll take away the, lovely reverb that I'm getting in the background of everything.

246

00:29:00.780 --> 00:29:01.719

Cleveland Horton II: Yup, no problem.

