

WEBVTT

1

00:00:02.570 --> 00:00:11.759

Stephanie Suerth: So, good morning, everybody. Thank you for making the time, as always, to join us, and we will go ahead and start the meeting with roll call. Commissioner Suerth present.

2

00:00:12.500 --> 00:00:15.039

Janssen Evelyn: Commissioner Evelyn President, good morning.

3

00:00:15.190 --> 00:00:16.070

Stephanie Suerth: Good morning.

4

00:00:16.870 --> 00:00:18.870

Eileen Levitt: Commissioner Levitt present.

5

00:00:20.490 --> 00:00:22.340

Angela Scott: Commissioner Scott, present.

6

00:00:23.240 --> 00:00:23.690

Noah Metheny: Commissioner.

7

00:00:23.690 --> 00:00:25.270

Kimberly Prescott: permission of correcting that.

8

00:00:25.550 --> 00:00:27.500

Kimberly Prescott: Oh, sorry. Sorry, go ahead.

9

00:00:28.470 --> 00:00:30.670

Kimberly Prescott: Commissioner Prescott present.

10

00:00:31.500 --> 00:00:33.180

Noah Metheny: Commissioner Metheny present.

11

00:00:36.920 --> 00:00:38.850

Cleveland Horton II: I think that's all the commissioners, right?

12

00:00:39.170 --> 00:00:40.300

Stephanie Suerth: That's all I see.

13

00:00:40.300 --> 00:00:43.509

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

14

00:00:44.210 --> 00:00:46.680

Glendora Hughes: Glendora Hughes, General Counsel present.

15

00:00:47.270 --> 00:00:49.929

Nicolette Young: Nicolette Young, Assistant Director, present.

16

00:00:49.930 --> 00:00:53.929

Spencer Dove: And Spencer Dove, Special Assistant to the Executive Director Prescott.

17

00:00:55.490 --> 00:01:02.110

Stephanie Suerth: Now, I am going to let you guys know I can't see all the participants. Do we have any members of the public joining us? I'm sorry.

18

00:01:02.480 --> 00:01:03.140

Spencer Dove: do that.

19

00:01:03.530 --> 00:01:04.180

Stephanie Suerth: Okay.

20

00:01:04.510 --> 00:01:12.020

Stephanie Suerth: So, I will start with my report, and just to let you know that I'm going to keep it incredibly brief, and I apologize

21

00:01:12.020 --> 00:01:27.719

Stephanie Suerth: I'm still recovering from rotator cuff surgery, as you can see by the accoutrements here. This is my dominant hand, so right now, I am stuck using left-handed everything, and I say stuck because I am not

22

00:01:28.250 --> 00:01:29.400

Stephanie Suerth: Skilled at it.

23

00:01:30.390 --> 00:01:38.639

Stephanie Suerth: I will say, though, I also have a new appreciation for individuals who are left-handed, because it took me 4 attempts to find a mouse that worked with any kind of...

24

00:01:40.010 --> 00:01:57.100

Stephanie Suerth: regularity, and didn't jump around the screen every time I tried to do something. I just want to remind everybody that our gala is coming up at the end of the month. As of right now, I am theoretically on track, so I am hopeful to still be able to join everybody. Very excited to see everybody in person.

25

00:01:57.100 --> 00:02:17.720

Stephanie Suerth: Please make sure you save the date and make every effort to join us. It is always a wonderful time. I'd like to thank the staff and the members of MCCR for all of their hard work on that, and everything that they do every day. And then, again, because I'm keeping it short, I just want to do a quick check-in and make sure that everybody is okay.

26
00:02:21.440 --> 00:02:23.270
Stephanie Suerth: I'm seeing a lot of head nods.

27
00:02:23.540 --> 00:02:27.140
Cleveland Horton II: I'm doing good, Madam Chad. Thanks for checking in and wishing you a speedy recovery.

28
00:02:27.230 --> 00:02:29.960
Janssen Evelyn: You know, when was your, when was your surgery?

29
00:02:30.210 --> 00:02:31.830
Stephanie Suerth: One month ago yesterday.

30
00:02:31.990 --> 00:02:45.969
Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, my... my wife's was 2 weeks ago, and yeah, wrote... and she's also like you, unfortunately not being... not... she wasn't born left-handed, so, I feel bad for y'all.

31
00:02:46.860 --> 00:02:49.309
Stephanie Suerth: And I will say, I don't know if,

32
00:02:50.490 --> 00:02:54.449
Stephanie Suerth: I don't know what the heck just popped up, give me one quick second, I'm sorry.

33
00:02:55.980 --> 00:02:59.899
Stephanie Suerth: If she has it, but a cold therapy machine is a game changer.

34
00:03:00.060 --> 00:03:02.060
Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, we have one.

35
00:03:02.420 --> 00:03:07.230
Stephanie Suerth: I gotta... that's what all of the... It is a picture.

36
00:03:07.840 --> 00:03:27.199
Stephanie Suerth: honestly be able to, you know, do everything being attached to it, but it has been an absolute game changer. So, I wish her a very speedy recovery, and a positive one as well. So, the first month, you're... I'm sure you know, you're not allowed to use it at all. Like, it's totally...

37
00:03:27.630 --> 00:03:34.270
Janssen Evelyn: No, I was a kid... I felt like I was dealing with a toddler, so, no, I...

38
00:03:34.700 --> 00:03:41.349
Janssen Evelyn: I hear that. So, but yeah, speedy recovery to you, and thank you for checking in, even in spite of your current infirmities.

39
00:03:41.870 --> 00:03:45.450
Stephanie Suerth: Yeah, absolutely. And tell her it gets better?

40
00:03:48.390 --> 00:03:58.610
Cleveland Horton II: I will say, you know, Janssen, you're a brave man referring to your wife as a toddler on a recorded meeting, but hey, you are a brave man.

41
00:03:58.610 --> 00:04:03.600
Janssen Evelyn: I don't think she might not... I won't tell her... I won't tell her to watch this most.

42
00:04:04.580 --> 00:04:06.399
Janssen Evelyn: Don't tell her to watch this movie's Meeting.

43
00:04:07.550 --> 00:04:08.650
Janssen Evelyn: I think we're good.

44
00:04:09.690 --> 00:04:12.239
Janssen Evelyn: You all don't say anything when you meet her. We don't see him.

45
00:04:12.240 --> 00:04:13.299
Glendora Hughes: Next month, you know what?

46
00:04:13.300 --> 00:04:14.590
Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, you don't say anything.

47
00:04:14.590 --> 00:04:15.230
Stephanie Suerth: Exactly right.

48
00:04:15.230 --> 00:04:16.449
Cleveland Horton II: You don't know.

49
00:04:16.450 --> 00:04:18.200
Janssen Evelyn: say anything to her at the golf.

50
00:04:18.570 --> 00:04:28.569
Stephanie Suerth: I will tell you, you know what, with my husband, and this is a joke, I swear it's a joke, I keep telling him, don't make me get the Shillelagh, I know how to use it in both hands. So if she needs to borrow my Shillelagh, let me know.

51
00:04:31.750 --> 00:04:39.470
Stephanie Suerth: Alright, sorry to take everybody off topic. That is, unfortunately, the totality of my report, because again, I can't type.

52

00:04:39.910 --> 00:04:45.740

Stephanie Suerth: So I will turn it over to, I'm sure, our much more eloquent Executive Director.

53

00:04:45.740 --> 00:04:58.580

Cleveland Horton II: No problem. Thank you, Madam Chair, and good morning, everybody. Hopefully, everybody had an opportunity to enjoy their holiday weekend, whether it was spending time with family, friends, barbecuing, or whatever you did, just relaxing, maybe reading a book.

54

00:04:58.620 --> 00:05:10.199

Cleveland Horton II: It's also interesting to know that everybody in Commissioner Prescott's family is a lefty, so kudos to the left-handed family.

55

00:05:10.810 --> 00:05:30.320

Cleveland Horton II: As you all will see by the report submitted in reference to intake and case processing, our intakes continue to be historically high. Last month, we received about 267 intakes, so we continue to be on a significantly high side of intakes.

56

00:05:30.350 --> 00:05:42.850

Cleveland Horton II: We also did receive an email from our federal partner, EEOC, requesting that, due to that backlog, that we absorb about 150 cases from the EEOC.

57

00:05:42.860 --> 00:05:56.130

Cleveland Horton II: So you'll see that reflected in our next report, because we haven't received all of them as of yet. Or at the time we had done this report, I think we had only received about 80 of them, which won't be on this report, so the full 100 or 150 or so.

58

00:05:56.150 --> 00:06:11.230

Cleveland Horton II: EOC will also add to our number of intakes for next month as a result of that. So, we do anticipate that this will be an ongoing effort. We know that EEOC has a significant backlog of cases, and they are trying to figure out how they're going to get through

59

00:06:11.230 --> 00:06:23.330

Cleveland Horton II: The cases that they have with the lack of staff that they have. So a lot of the work is going to fall on state and local agencies like ours, so we don't anticipate our intake numbers dropping anytime soon.

60

00:06:23.800 --> 00:06:25.710

Cleveland Horton II: We are on track.

61

00:06:25.780 --> 00:06:34.029

Cleveland Horton II: To satisfy our EEOC contract, the EEOC contract ends at the end of this month. At the last time I checked, we were about maybe 10.

62

00:06:34.100 --> 00:06:47.210

Cleveland Horton II: or less than 10 cases away from satisfying that contract. So we are fully confident that we will meet our contractual obligations with EEOC again this contractual year.

63

00:06:47.880 --> 00:06:50.519

Cleveland Horton II: We do continue to have some struggles with

64

00:06:50.540 --> 00:07:05.230

Cleveland Horton II: On the HUD side, with our training funds, as you all know, we've kind of been going back and forth with HUD on a number of different issues. One of those issues has been the use of our training funds. So every year, we typically get

65

00:07:05.230 --> 00:07:16.979

Cleveland Horton II: about \$50,000 to \$60,000 in training funds to be used for housing-specific training. Well, with this new administration, we haven't been able to utilize those training funds.

66

00:07:17.030 --> 00:07:35.490

Cleveland Horton II: they put the stipulation that initially it was that it had to be HUD-sponsored training. Well, as many of you all know, HUD isn't sponsoring any training right now, so we haven't been able to use our training funds for any HUD-sponsored training. Then they kind of reverted back to the old way, where it had to be HUD-sponsored or HUD-approved.

67

00:07:35.710 --> 00:07:50.970

Cleveland Horton II: they also... they also aren't approving anything outside of HUD training, right? So, we do have a significant backlog of HUD training funds that we still have, but we simply can't use, because HUD is not

68

00:07:51.060 --> 00:08:04.440

Cleveland Horton II: approving any housing-specific training if it's not their training, and HUD is also not offering any housing training, so we are in a little bit of a quagmire as it pertains to the use of our training funds for our housing staff.

69

00:08:04.440 --> 00:08:23.120

Cleveland Horton II: But we continue to try to work through that. I have reached out to the director of the Fair Housing Equal Opportunity Division of HUD to schedule a meeting, to get some clarity around the use of these training funds, and I will update you all as we get any updates on the use of these federal training funds.

70

00:08:23.440 --> 00:08:39.389

Cleveland Horton II: As Madam Chair indicated, we are approaching our gala, so we are asking... and first, I want to thank all those commissioners who have already bought tickets, who will be in the building on September the 26th, but we also want to make sure those commissioners who have not had the opportunity to do so.

71

00:08:39.400 --> 00:08:44.659

Cleveland Horton II: time is not out. You still have time to buy a table or two, and Madam Chair, I see you got your hand up.

72

00:08:45.810 --> 00:08:57.440

Stephanie Suerth: I know I still need to buy mine. As you know, I was waiting to make sure that I was

gonna get the medical clearance, so my appointment's tomorrow. As soon as I get official clearance. I'm not gonna be able to drive, but, you know, that's my husband's job.

73

00:08:57.880 --> 00:09:12.760

Stephanie Suerth: And then I'll let you know what I can do. But I apologize, and I'm the one who's always cheerleading this, and I am the one who is behind. So I will own that as hopefully incentive to the rest of the commissioners, that they also, if they need to, move forward.

74

00:09:13.060 --> 00:09:30.619

Cleveland Horton II: Yeah. Buy a table or two, right? You can never buy too many tickets. Feel free to buy as many tickets as you like. We look forward to having you and all your friends and colleagues at the gala on September the 26th. If anybody still needs the information to purchase a ticket, let us know, we'll get that sent out to you. Commissioner Evelyn?

75

00:09:30.620 --> 00:09:42.050

Janssen Evelyn: Yes, and since this is being recorded, it's not for my curiosity or education, but you might as well just let the public know.

76

00:09:42.370 --> 00:09:45.890

Janssen Evelyn: The price of a single ticket, as well as the price of the table.

77

00:09:46.100 --> 00:10:03.899

Cleveland Horton II: Yeah, the price of a single ticket is \$200, the price for a standard admission VIP ticket is \$375. A table for a standard is \$1,600, that's the easy math, right? The VIP table, I think, is probably somewhere around \$24, \$25 and some change.

78

00:10:03.900 --> 00:10:12.870

Cleveland Horton II: So... but you can get all that information on our website to grab a ticket, or a table, or two. Bring a friend, don't leave anybody home, bring everybody with you.

79

00:10:13.400 --> 00:10:14.020

Cleveland Horton II: Right.

80

00:10:14.020 --> 00:10:15.709

Janssen Evelyn: You guys have layaway, right?

81

00:10:15.710 --> 00:10:35.460

Cleveland Horton II: We... well, I'm... I don't know. I don't think we do Affirm, or Klarnet, or any of those other ones, but I'm sure it's something that we may want to look into. Now, if you purchase a ticket, table, right, they are... they are, tax deductible. You can do that through our foundation, and get a tax write-off for the purchase of a table, so...

82

00:10:35.460 --> 00:10:36.949

Eileen Levitt: Value of your meal.

83

00:10:37.290 --> 00:10:37.930

Cleveland Horton II: Yep.

84

00:10:38.520 --> 00:10:39.370

Cleveland Horton II: Correct.

85

00:10:40.310 --> 00:10:47.370

Cleveland Horton II: Yeah, so again, if folks are interested, please share the information with your colleagues. We look forward to having

86

00:10:47.370 --> 00:11:05.910

Cleveland Horton II: another fabulous event. Our keynote speaker, again, will be Roland Martin. We look forward to having him. There will be an intimate conversation between me and Roland Martin in our VIP reception, and then he will be our keynote speaker for our event, but we are looking forward to another fabulous event on September the 26th.

87

00:11:06.620 --> 00:11:26.119

Cleveland Horton II: I did have the opportunity to attend MACO again this year. I had the opportunity to see some familiar faces. I know I had the opportunity to see Commissioner Evelyn. I did miss Commissioner Prescott, but I did get some of that iced coffee again, and it was good again, so appreciate Prescott HR sponsoring the iced coffee break.

88

00:11:26.120 --> 00:11:34.520

Cleveland Horton II: Dorian Mako. I also did have the opportunity, to meet with Senator Kagan, and Delegate Fair in reference to our education bill.

89

00:11:34.520 --> 00:11:47.039

Cleveland Horton II: Which I'm sure Glendora may mention during her, report, so I won't steal her thunder in reference to kind of where we are with that piece. Myra is having its annual civil rights conference on October the 6th.

90

00:11:47.040 --> 00:12:02.950

Cleveland Horton II: As many of you all may remember, we did this before in 2024 at Howard Community College, where there was a staff track and there was a commissioner track. We are doing that again this year at Howard Community College. Again, it is October the 6th. We'll make sure the calendar invite

91

00:12:02.950 --> 00:12:11.840

Cleveland Horton II: is sent out to you all. We would ask that commissioners can attend. Please do attend. There will be another commissioner track again for you all.

92

00:12:12.040 --> 00:12:28.130

Cleveland Horton II: There'll be a combined welcome, combined lunch, and then a combined closing. But the individual breakouts, will be, set up for staff and for commissioners separately. But we do ask that if you all can make time in your schedules to attend.

93

00:12:28.130 --> 00:12:34.810

Cleveland Horton II: On October the 6th at Howard Community College, we would greatly appreciate it.

94
00:12:34.810 --> 00:12:39.429
Eileen Levitt: I'm sorry that I will be in Paris for my 60th birthday.

95
00:12:39.430 --> 00:12:41.150
Cleveland Horton II: Oh, man, well...

96
00:12:41.150 --> 00:12:41.930
Glendora Hughes: thing.

97
00:12:41.930 --> 00:12:47.790
Cleveland Horton II: Horror thing, it sounds... you know, would you... do you want me to give you a note so you can be excused from going to Paris and attend the.

98
00:12:47.790 --> 00:12:50.290
Eileen Levitt: For my 60th birthday.

99
00:12:50.290 --> 00:12:51.529
Glendora Hughes: She don't think so.

100
00:12:52.720 --> 00:12:54.289
Cleveland Horton II: No problem at all.

101
00:12:54.290 --> 00:12:59.350
Eileen Levitt: You know, I know that I only look like 30 or so, but I am...

102
00:12:59.350 --> 00:13:02.020
Cleveland Horton II: I was gonna say 25. I was gonna say 25.

103
00:13:02.020 --> 00:13:05.530
Eileen Levitt: Yeah, so I turned 60 October 6th.

104
00:13:05.730 --> 00:13:07.589
Cleveland Horton II: Congratulations, that's my mother's birthday.

105
00:13:07.760 --> 00:13:17.649
Eileen Levitt: October 6th? It's apparently one of the most popular days of birth in the year, because it is 40 weeks post

106
00:13:17.870 --> 00:13:22.620
Eileen Levitt: Or, the holidays. January 1st. January 1st.

107
00:13:22.620 --> 00:13:23.130
Cleveland Horton II: Mmm.

108

00:13:23.130 --> 00:13:23.850

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah.

109

00:13:25.280 --> 00:13:25.640

Eileen Levitt: Yeah.

110

00:13:25.640 --> 00:13:27.879

Janssen Evelyn: I'm also a Libra, yes.

111

00:13:28.030 --> 00:13:28.640

Eileen Levitt: Yeah.

112

00:13:28.900 --> 00:13:30.760

Janssen Evelyn: People enjoy the holidays.

113

00:13:31.010 --> 00:13:37.999

Eileen Levitt: Yeah, it is, apparently. Like, that week is, like, the most popular week, or something like that.

114

00:13:38.180 --> 00:13:41.749

Stephanie Suerth: My mom is just a few days behind you, hers is, 10-11.

115

00:13:42.100 --> 00:13:43.610

Eileen Levitt: 10, 11, yeah.

116

00:13:43.830 --> 00:13:58.270

Eileen Levitt: My mom, yeah, so my mom is 9'24, my aunt is 10'9", my brother is 10'10", my grandmother, when she was alive, was 10'1", my niece is 10'7". We have a lot of people that are...

117

00:13:58.490 --> 00:14:00.270

Eileen Levitt: Apparently, you know.

118

00:14:00.910 --> 00:14:01.870

Kimberly Prescott: Yeah...

119

00:14:01.870 --> 00:14:05.339

Janssen Evelyn: Tell all your nieces and nephews, don't party with y'all on the holidays.

120

00:14:05.340 --> 00:14:09.069

Cleveland Horton II: But I say, I know what y'all do during the holidays. I know what y'all.

121

00:14:09.070 --> 00:14:09.940

Kimberly Prescott: That's my...

122

00:14:09.940 --> 00:14:11.070

Cleveland Horton II: My kids.

123

00:14:11.070 --> 00:14:12.699

Eileen Levitt: July and August.

124

00:14:12.930 --> 00:14:13.520

Janssen Evelyn: Whoa!

125

00:14:13.900 --> 00:14:14.460

Kimberly Prescott: The floor?

126

00:14:14.460 --> 00:14:17.409

Eileen Levitt: My kids are in July and August. It's, it's not...

127

00:14:17.410 --> 00:14:20.280

Cleveland Horton II: If not, it's gonna be 9 to 5, Commissioner Prescott.

128

00:14:20.480 --> 00:14:20.820

Eileen Levitt: Yeah.

129

00:14:20.820 --> 00:14:27.669

Kimberly Prescott: Okay, yeah, I'll be returning from Ocean City, because I'm at a conference, so I won't be able to come.

130

00:14:27.670 --> 00:14:31.899

Cleveland Horton II: Okay, but we'll still send out the calendar invite for those who can.

131

00:14:31.900 --> 00:14:33.700

Eileen Levitt: That's not as fun as Paris, just saying.

132

00:14:33.700 --> 00:14:46.389

Cleveland Horton II: We ask for those commissioners who can attend to please attend. I also had the opportunity to meet with the Secretary of Appointments to talk about the vacancy that we currently have on our Board of Commissioners.

133

00:14:46.390 --> 00:15:03.400

Cleveland Horton II: We... I did express in conversations with our chair, that we would... we would like to be able to fill that slot with another individual that represents the disability community. As we had Jeff Rosen, we've lost Jeff, but we want to make sure that community is still represented on the commission. So...

134

00:15:03.400 --> 00:15:08.510

Cleveland Horton II: We did express that to her as well, so they are working to try to fill that vacant slot.

135

00:15:08.510 --> 00:15:08.859

Stephanie Suerth: and did.

136

00:15:08.860 --> 00:15:13.550

Eileen Levitt: And then I recommend someone who... yeah, she's hearing impaired.

137

00:15:14.520 --> 00:15:16.559

Cleveland Horton II: If you, if you have, if you have a person...

138

00:15:16.560 --> 00:15:17.060

Eileen Levitt: gift.

139

00:15:17.190 --> 00:15:22.480

Cleveland Horton II: Send it over to us, send us our contact information, we'll send them a link, because there's an application you gotta complete.

140

00:15:22.480 --> 00:15:24.599

Eileen Levitt: She did. She went through the whole thing.

141

00:15:24.600 --> 00:15:28.409

Cleveland Horton II: Oh, so if you send me a name, I can send it over to Secretary Ball.

142

00:15:29.020 --> 00:15:31.500

Eileen Levitt: Okay, yeah, I thought I did, but maybe I didn't.

143

00:15:31.500 --> 00:15:36.789

Stephanie Suerth: And I want to follow up on that, too, with you, Cleveland, and the nominations as well.

144

00:15:37.050 --> 00:15:37.760

Cleveland Horton II: Yep. Stop.

145

00:15:37.760 --> 00:15:38.289

Stephanie Suerth: We can do that.

146

00:15:38.290 --> 00:15:42.740

Eileen Levitt: Yeah, cause she's, she's a lot of things.

147

00:15:43.430 --> 00:15:44.640

Cleveland Horton II: Cool.

148

00:15:45.110 --> 00:15:47.230

Stephanie Suerth: Sectionality, it sounds like, so that would be lovely.

149

00:15:47.230 --> 00:15:49.900

Eileen Levitt: Intersectionality, that's the right word.

150

00:15:50.130 --> 00:15:50.940

Cleveland Horton II: Yep.

151

00:15:50.940 --> 00:15:51.670

Eileen Levitt: Yeah.

152

00:15:51.800 --> 00:15:57.189

Cleveland Horton II: just send me, a name, and we can follow up, and then, Madam Chair, we can follow up as well.

153

00:15:57.340 --> 00:16:15.960

Stephanie Suerth: Excellent. And like I've always said, I know that none of us are, you know, the voices for the entirety of any of the communities and dimensions of diversity that we have or represent, but at the same time, it's always good to have individuals that have real-life experience in those different dimensions to make sure that those lenses are available to us and we're hearing their voices directly.

154

00:16:17.120 --> 00:16:17.830

Cleveland Horton II: Yep.

155

00:16:18.010 --> 00:16:29.120

Cleveland Horton II: Lastly, I'll add in, we, as many of you all may have seen, we did issue, our emotional support animal guidance. As many of you all know, HUD has

156

00:16:29.430 --> 00:16:42.689

Cleveland Horton II: restricted, their receipt and acceptance of housing complaints as it pertains to emotional support animals. So I do want to give a shout out to our legal team, who did go out and create

157

00:16:42.690 --> 00:17:01.150

Cleveland Horton II: our guidance, and the Q&A that we've submitted that's online, it's on our website, as well as the guidance that we've issued publicly, so that folks better understand kind of where we are as a state agency, and that we're still taking complaints based... with emotional support animals. We were receiving a number of calls and emails

158

00:17:01.150 --> 00:17:20.200

Cleveland Horton II: And I think even hand-delivered letters, to us in reference to, emotional support animals, so I do want to lift up the great work that our legal team has done, to create the guidance and have that issued so the public understands that our position as it relates to emotional support animals

159

00:17:20.230 --> 00:17:28.580

Cleveland Horton II: has not changed. So, with that, I will end my report. If there are any questions for me, I will take them at this time.

160

00:17:33.880 --> 00:17:38.839

Janssen Evelyn: I actually have a quick, well, not a question, but maybe thought, for the...

161

00:17:39.050 --> 00:17:47.290

Janssen Evelyn: upcoming conference. I know you said there's gonna be a commissioner track, as well as, I guess a staff track?

162

00:17:47.290 --> 00:17:48.000

Cleveland Horton II: Yep.

163

00:17:48.000 --> 00:18:04.750

Janssen Evelyn: Okay, so I don't know if there's any space, because there's a lot of, as you know, all the major Big 7 jurisdictions outside of Baltimore City are going through transitions with their respective governmental administrations, so...

164

00:18:04.750 --> 00:18:09.830

Janssen Evelyn: I know a lot of times conferences like Mako and whatnot will do, like.

165

00:18:10.750 --> 00:18:22.360

Janssen Evelyn: new electives or whatever type track, and I don't know if that would be a good opportunity to maybe say, hey, some of you individuals, particularly county executives that are coming in.

166

00:18:22.570 --> 00:18:42.969

Janssen Evelyn: like, invite them so they can get to learn more about the space that this... this world that you're in, so that they kind of at least go into their respective offices, understanding some of the challenges and the opportunities that they have. So, it's just a... just a thought, even if it's not for this conference, it's something that...

167

00:18:42.970 --> 00:18:47.499

Janssen Evelyn: You all could and should be thought leaders on...

168

00:18:47.500 --> 00:18:51.969

Janssen Evelyn: Especially in light of the federal climate and the loss of...

169

00:18:51.970 --> 00:18:59.870

Janssen Evelyn: some... or not loss, but the unshakiness and jeopardy of some of your long-time federal funding. Just a thought.

170

00:19:00.430 --> 00:19:08.190

Cleveland Horton II: No, it's a good thought. I'll make sure that I take that back to the group, and reference to that, and see what the group comes up with, but that's a great suggestion.

171

00:19:09.680 --> 00:19:11.590

Cleveland Horton II: Yep. Thank you for that.

172

00:19:11.770 --> 00:19:12.809
Janssen Evelyn: Oh, no worries.

173
00:19:13.450 --> 00:19:16.000
Cleveland Horton II: Any other questions for me?

174
00:19:18.890 --> 00:19:22.890
Cleveland Horton II: Alright, hearing none, I will pass it over to Nicolette.

175
00:19:23.160 --> 00:19:25.680
Stephanie Suerth: So, thank you. Sorry, it takes me forever to find the mute button.

176
00:19:25.680 --> 00:19:27.640
Cleveland Horton II: Hell no, you're fine.

177
00:19:28.670 --> 00:19:30.200
Cleveland Horton II: Nicolette, the floor is yours.

178
00:19:30.560 --> 00:19:37.640
Nicolette Young: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. I hope that you all had a nice holiday weekend. My report has been submitted for your review.

179
00:19:37.730 --> 00:19:53.450
Nicolette Young: Just to highlight, we did close out FY2026 in the Black and General Funds, but we do have a deficiency in our federal funds. We are currently working on our FY2028 budget request submission.

180
00:19:53.520 --> 00:20:10.850
Nicolette Young: And we'll probably be submitting a deficiency request for the lack of the shortfall in federal funds that we received, and we will work with the Department of Budget and Management to ensure that we are able to cover that shortfall.

181
00:20:11.620 --> 00:20:14.779
Nicolette Young: The agency currently has 4 vacancies.

182
00:20:14.810 --> 00:20:31.949
Nicolette Young: One, vacancy was because we had one housing supervisor that retired, September 1st, and we do have an internal candidate that we do hope to bring on board, as the new housing supervisor, having that person come on board September 16th.

183
00:20:32.590 --> 00:20:47.860
Nicolette Young: We have an administrative specialist position in my unit that's vacant, and we have just completed the recruitment and have received the certified list, and plan to do interviews for that position to bring them on board sometime in October.

184
00:20:48.110 --> 00:20:58.389

Nicolette Young: And there is one contractual civil rights officer in our intake unit that is currently vacant, and we hope to have that position filled, sometime during this fall.

185

00:20:59.270 --> 00:21:08.460

Nicolette Young: We have been working with the Department of General Services to ensure that we have everything that we need for this upcoming office relocation.

186

00:21:08.520 --> 00:21:24.540

Nicolette Young: We have signed the certified letter, that's been approved by the Department of Budget and Management. They will cover, the shortfall that we have in federal funds, with general funds, to cover, the cost for the office relocation.

187

00:21:24.540 --> 00:21:35.089

Nicolette Young: Unfortunately, I can't tell you where we're going just yet, because it has not been, public, made public yet, but there, hopefully by the next...

188

00:21:35.380 --> 00:21:41.740

Nicolette Young: by the October meeting, we'll be able to share, that office location with the group.

189

00:21:41.780 --> 00:21:56.730

Nicolette Young: But it will... we do anticipate that the Board of Public Works will be able to approve that lease agreement at the October 28th, Board of Public Works meeting. And I am happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

190

00:21:59.370 --> 00:22:03.809

Eileen Levitt: So, I have a question, and it's this massive spreadsheet.

191

00:22:03.930 --> 00:22:07.809

Eileen Levitt: What am I supposed to... okay, so how do you want...

192

00:22:08.030 --> 00:22:21.029

Eileen Levitt: you sent all this detail. What is it that you want us to glean from this? Because, you know, I... I have several financial degrees, and I'm looking at this going, what is this, all this detail?

193

00:22:21.870 --> 00:22:27.879

Nicolette Young: Well, this is just how... this is... this is the full breakdown of our budget.

194

00:22:27.880 --> 00:22:28.220

Eileen Levitt: Yeah.

195

00:22:28.220 --> 00:22:39.199

Nicolette Young: But what I wanted you to see was just kind of where... where the money goes. What are the cost centers? So, as you can, see from the... let's just...

196

00:22:39.520 --> 00:22:47.560

Nicolette Young: use the example of the FY27 budgetary appropriation. If you go to that

197

00:22:48.340 --> 00:22:59.599

Nicolette Young: second page, the appropriation breakdown, I just wanted to highlight where the money goes. So, based on what our 2027 budget is.

198

00:22:59.860 --> 00:23:02.630

Nicolette Young: 85% of it is personnel.

199

00:23:03.000 --> 00:23:17.589

Nicolette Young: 5% statewide costs, 4% discretionary operating costs, 3% contractual personnel cost, and then 3% is... goes towards the gala. So, I wanted to just make sure that you all had the detail

200

00:23:18.110 --> 00:23:19.709

Nicolette Young: Of where...

201

00:23:19.830 --> 00:23:34.120

Nicolette Young: the, you know, how we spend our... how we spend our budget, and what's appropriated for each, each section. Now, if you don't want this much detail, I am happy to... I don't know.

202

00:23:34.120 --> 00:23:44.979

Eileen Levitt: I mean, I mean, we do have some fiduciary responsibility, but when I saw that detail, I thought, is there something, you know, that she wants us to see in here?

203

00:23:44.980 --> 00:23:53.479

Nicolette Young: No, no, no, nothing in particular. Like I said, I just wanted to give you the actual breakdown of all of the sub-objects

204

00:23:53.480 --> 00:24:05.070

Nicolette Young: and all, you know, what... how it's appropriated based on the different funding sources that we have. So there's a breakdown on, you know, how much... how much of the general fund goes towards

205

00:24:05.070 --> 00:24:08.369

Nicolette Young: Personnel, and other operating costs.

206

00:24:08.370 --> 00:24:15.929

Nicolette Young: As well as for, like, our federal fund appropriation and our special funds as well. So, this is just a FYI.

207

00:24:16.010 --> 00:24:24.170

Nicolette Young: It's nothing for you really to react to, but I just wanted to ensure that I'm being as transparent as possible.

208

00:24:24.260 --> 00:24:34.869

Nicolette Young: Okay. With the group, so you know how we are spending our money, as well as how, you

know, what our budget looks like for this current fiscal year that we're in.

209

00:24:35.230 --> 00:24:39.059

Eileen Levitt: Right. So then, a question I have, because someone... I did get asked this once.

210

00:24:39.060 --> 00:24:39.780

Nicolette Young: Sure.

211

00:24:39.780 --> 00:24:52.979

Eileen Levitt: appropriation breakdown, the 3% gala. So the gala, there's money that comes... that's appropriated for the gala. I assume that the expenses... the income and expenses balance, yes?

212

00:24:53.250 --> 00:25:12.340

Nicolette Young: So, yes, it is. So it's gonna be a little different this year, because we do have the foundation, so the foundation will be directly paying for some items. Okay. That was not the case. The foundation was not created when this FY27 budget was put together.

213

00:25:12.340 --> 00:25:13.740

Nicolette Young: last year.

214

00:25:13.880 --> 00:25:30.069

Nicolette Young: So the reason why the gala, why there's such a large percentage for the gala is based on how it was set up, you know, in prior years. But because the foundation has now been created, that 3% is gonna go down.

215

00:25:30.080 --> 00:25:34.890

Nicolette Young: And so we'll only show how much we've actually spent.

216

00:25:35.240 --> 00:25:45.360

Nicolette Young: For the gala from expenses that the agency incurred, not expenses for the, that were incurred by the foundation.

217

00:25:45.680 --> 00:25:46.390

Eileen Levitt: Okay.

218

00:25:50.240 --> 00:25:52.200

Nicolette Young: Are there any other questions?

219

00:25:56.320 --> 00:26:00.049

Nicolette Young: Okay, thank you so much. I hope you guys enjoy the rest of your week.

220

00:26:01.800 --> 00:26:03.200

Stephanie Suerth: Erin, thank you.

221

00:26:03.420 --> 00:26:04.380
Nicolette Young: Thank you.

222
00:26:04.770 --> 00:26:05.980
Cleveland Horton II: Glendora?

223
00:26:07.200 --> 00:26:14.250
Glendora Hughes: Good morning, everyone. You have my report, and I won't go through it

224
00:26:16.490 --> 00:26:21.620
Glendora Hughes: But there is several updates on the, case.

225
00:26:21.900 --> 00:26:26.369
Glendora Hughes: side that I'll do an executive session just to bring you

226
00:26:26.490 --> 00:26:30.799
Glendora Hughes: Abreast of, litigation that, has been...

227
00:26:31.090 --> 00:26:33.820
Glendora Hughes: Ongoing in the last 2 months.

228
00:26:34.600 --> 00:26:41.519
Glendora Hughes: As far as, other issues with,

229
00:26:41.720 --> 00:26:45.729
Glendora Hughes: Spencer and I have been doing the legislative tour.

230
00:26:45.970 --> 00:26:53.330
Glendora Hughes: With, meeting with various, partners and...

231
00:26:53.500 --> 00:27:02.709
Glendora Hughes: Stakeholders as regarding our education bill, which, we had approval from the governor's office to resubmit.

232
00:27:02.970 --> 00:27:11.170
Glendora Hughes: And, we have met with various state agencies and even opponents of the bill,

233
00:27:11.540 --> 00:27:20.080
Glendora Hughes: That, testified against it to, one, to see if there's any areas that we can,

234
00:27:20.250 --> 00:27:38.250
Glendora Hughes: have, collaborate on, or to just to make sure that we touch base with everyone that has an interest in it. And, as Cleveland mentioned, Senator Kagan, who is Vice Chair of the committee that... on the Senate side, that our bill

235

00:27:38.290 --> 00:27:42.710

Glendora Hughes: We'll go to... we, did have a meeting with her.

236

00:27:42.940 --> 00:27:56.419

Glendora Hughes: And what we suspected last year happened was that there was just, for that committee, there was just a chokehold of bills that came over, crossed over.

237

00:27:56.550 --> 00:28:05.179

Glendora Hughes: At the same time, and it made it very difficult for them to have an opportunity to pursue out the bill and understand it.

238

00:28:05.460 --> 00:28:19.529

Glendora Hughes: And, that's what was so challenging, because there were so many bills that have to have a hearing. So this year, hopefully, we're gonna file the bill on both sides, the House and the Senate, so that we don't get caught up in the crossover

239

00:28:19.580 --> 00:28:26.009

Glendora Hughes: That we would, have a hearing early enough on... on both, on, on both sides of the...

240

00:28:27.950 --> 00:28:40.590

Glendora Hughes: of legislation to, to make sure that we have an understanding. The draft of this bill, we will incorporate many of the amendments that we

241

00:28:40.690 --> 00:28:46.629

Glendora Hughes: Have, which is one of the other problems that happened last year, is that the bill came over and the amendments hadn't caught up.

242

00:28:46.910 --> 00:28:59.389

Glendora Hughes: Or it was very hard to read, the way that they do amendments, that it was very hard to read it into the bill, so this will be a clean bill with those amendments, and with,

243

00:28:59.390 --> 00:29:10.090

Glendora Hughes: Any possible changes that we agreed to do after talking to many of the partners and stakeholders,

244

00:29:10.110 --> 00:29:15.389

Glendora Hughes: That we have been, doing, over the last couple of months.

245

00:29:15.480 --> 00:29:25.410

Glendora Hughes: And, the only other thing, we're preparing to do regulations review. We've sent in our plan.

246

00:29:25.480 --> 00:29:44.870

Glendora Hughes: And what it will require from the commissioners is that you need to, you will... when we

are done drafting the regulations, that there needs to be a review by you all to sign off on the regulations to be submitted, when they're finally proposed.

247

00:29:45.080 --> 00:29:49.629

Glendora Hughes: It's a massive job, because we're reviewing all of our regs.

248

00:29:49.730 --> 00:30:02.520

Glendora Hughes: And we're doing it in the cycle of, first we're going to do the rules of procedure and the disability regulations, and then next we're going to do the housing.

249

00:30:02.570 --> 00:30:18.059

Glendora Hughes: And then the final group will be all the other regulations, like commercial non-discrimination, and new regulations that we have, needed to draft with, new, legislation that has passed.

250

00:30:18.130 --> 00:30:22.879

Glendora Hughes: In recent years. And so...

251

00:30:23.060 --> 00:30:32.349

Glendora Hughes: There may be, in fact, past experience has been that the commissioners set up a subcommittee

252

00:30:32.460 --> 00:30:46.229

Glendora Hughes: that when it was... when it's time for the regs to be submitted, that they will, the committee would do the review, make the recommendations. Right now, we're in the stage of,

253

00:30:46.340 --> 00:30:49.800

Glendora Hughes: Procedurally, we're in the stage of we submitted the plan.

254

00:30:50.050 --> 00:30:59.149

Glendora Hughes: To the, what they call the ALR committee, which is the Administrative Executive Legislative Regulation Committee.

255

00:30:59.330 --> 00:31:11.710

Glendora Hughes: And they would review the plan, which basically gives, timelines of when we are going to do things. One of the... some of the things that we have to do is we have to reach out to,

256

00:31:11.780 --> 00:31:28.719

Glendora Hughes: stakeholders who use the Commission and get comments and their, any suggestions or inputs they may have. We also have to submit, we have to reach out to other state agencies that interact with us.

257

00:31:28.720 --> 00:31:47.500

Glendora Hughes: Like the Department of Budget and Management, like the Department of Labor, we have to get... receive their information, and then we have to respond to those comments, as well as decide which ones that we're going to agree to incorporate.

258

00:31:47.560 --> 00:31:59.579

Glendora Hughes: And those that we do not agree, we must, be prepared to, let the ALR committee know why we're not adding, submitting, or agreeing to those,

259

00:31:59.580 --> 00:32:07.779

Glendora Hughes: amendments. So it's a big task, but I just wanted to put you on notice that there is a major role, a part that

260

00:32:07.780 --> 00:32:21.890

Glendora Hughes: commissioners have to play in this process, and I will be giving you updates, in terms of timelines as to when, you all need to activate and be involved, but just to let you know, we're

261

00:32:21.890 --> 00:32:36.529

Glendora Hughes: We are doing them. We... even though we send in the plan, we are... we are incorporating staff and, and, and, executive staff's, comments and suggestions.

262

00:32:36.530 --> 00:32:46.169

Glendora Hughes: So that at least we'll have a template avail- completed that we can react to when we get everybody else's comments.

263

00:32:49.140 --> 00:32:52.090

Stephanie Suerth: And that makes my compliance heart sing, I gotta tell ya.

264

00:32:53.310 --> 00:32:59.669

Glendora Hughes: So, that's all I have, if you have any questions about my report, and then I will...

265

00:32:59.940 --> 00:33:04.789

Glendora Hughes: Give you updates on litigation in the executive session.

266

00:33:07.010 --> 00:33:07.920

Stephanie Suerth: Any questions?

267

00:33:09.970 --> 00:33:18.100

Cleveland Horton II: Thank you, Glendora. Hearing none, Madam Chair, Candace is... On vacation, so she'.

268

00:33:18.100 --> 00:33:19.420

Stephanie Suerth: How dare she?

269

00:33:19.420 --> 00:33:20.489

Cleveland Horton II: How dare she?

270

00:33:20.600 --> 00:33:32.929

Cleveland Horton II: But she just wanted me to remind everybody about, obviously, the gala. September 26th, get your tickets, get your tables, we look forward to seeing everybody. So, that is it for staff reports.

271

00:33:34.400 --> 00:33:42.109

Stephanie Suerth: Sounds good. Old and new business. Old business, I know that we were talking about getting some groups together to start

272

00:33:42.110 --> 00:34:01.210

Stephanie Suerth: brainstorming different topics and focuses the commissions would like to, you know, put forward and move forward with as far as either presentations or things like that, but obviously I have been out of commission, so I will own that and say as soon as I am able to type, I will be reaching out again on that one.

273

00:34:01.240 --> 00:34:11.030

Stephanie Suerth: And then I know we also have completed, or at least, and please correct me if I'm wrong, all of the Commissioner comments for the strategic plan.

274

00:34:11.250 --> 00:34:12.110

Stephanie Suerth: Correct?

275

00:34:14.860 --> 00:34:16.040

Cleveland Horton II: Yes, we have.

276

00:34:16.219 --> 00:34:22.149

Stephanie Suerth: Great. So those were the two old businesses on mine. Is there any new business anyone needs to bring forward?

277

00:34:22.289 --> 00:34:24.229

Stephanie Suerth: I do not have any at this time.

278

00:34:29.279 --> 00:34:34.719

Stephanie Suerth: Hearing none, I guess we'll wait till after the gala and the celebration of all that is...

279

00:34:35.459 --> 00:34:41.629

Stephanie Suerth: The work, then we can think about, moving forward with identifying new business as well.

280

00:34:42.269 --> 00:34:43.329

Stephanie Suerth: So...

281

00:34:43.330 --> 00:34:43.929

Cleveland Horton II: Sure.

282

00:34:44.159 --> 00:34:50.689

Stephanie Suerth: I know there's a request for executive session. Is there anything else that we need to address in general session?

283

00:34:54.469 --> 00:34:55.669
Stephanie Suerth: Going once?

284
00:34:58.919 --> 00:34:59.779
Stephanie Suerth: No?

285
00:35:00.929 --> 00:35:04.149
Stephanie Suerth: Do I have a motion to adjourn our general session?

286
00:35:04.790 --> 00:35:06.010
Eileen Levitt: So moved.

287
00:35:07.090 --> 00:35:09.450
Janssen Evelyn: A, and... Second.

288
00:35:09.950 --> 00:35:10.959
Stephanie Suerth: All in favor?

289
00:35:11.830 --> 00:35:12.550
Cleveland Horton II: Oh, boy.

290
00:35:12.550 --> 00:35:13.430
Stephanie Suerth: Aye.

291
00:35:13.570 --> 00:35:21.280
Stephanie Suerth: Show of hands, and we are now concluded. Thank you, everybody, as always, for all of your hard work and for your participation.

292
00:35:21.460 --> 00:35:24.620
Stephanie Suerth: Commissioners, we are going into executive session, please.

293
00:35:25.480 --> 00:35:27.109
Nicolette Young: Thank you all, have a great week.