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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

March 22, 2022; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Frank Divilio

Corey W. Pack

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome, everybody.</p> <p>4 We got a nice crowd tonight. Welcome,</p> <p>5 everybody. Welcome, kids. There you go.</p> <p>6 Okay.</p> <p>7 So what we're going to do, first thing</p> <p>8 we're going to let Mr. Leshner do the prayer and</p> <p>9 then we're going to stand for the Pledge of</p> <p>10 Allegiance of the Flag. If you don't mind</p> <p>11 standing, please.</p> <p>12 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>14 Okay.</p> <p>15 Let's start tonight's agenda for</p> <p>16 March 22nd before us. Are there any additions,</p> <p>17 deletions, or corrections?</p> <p>18 MR. DIVILIO: I have two that I would like</p> <p>19 to bring. We would like to swap the place of</p> <p>20 item 11 with item 12 and just switch those.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>4 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Next is the minutes.</p> <p>8 Council has the minutes of February 22nd before</p> <p>9 us. Are there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>10 corrections to the agenda?</p> <p>11 MR. LESHNER: To the minutes.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: To the minutes. Okay.</p> <p>13 Hearing none, the chair moves that the agenda</p> <p>14 be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Minutes.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Minutes. I'm sorry.</p> <p>17 Disbursements, okay, from March 15th and</p> <p>18 March 22nd. Are there any additions,</p> <p>19 corrections, or deletions on the disbursements?</p> <p>20 Hearing none, the chair moves that the</p> <p>21 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: So we'll have the update on</p> <p>2 Connect Broadband just before the American</p> <p>3 Rescue Plan Act.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: And if we could, seeing the</p> <p>6 age of the audience, I thought it might be nice</p> <p>7 to bump the Proclamation Recognition of ICU</p> <p>8 Nurses ahead of Dr. Maguire's presentation.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Which number is that? Oh.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we're going to</p> <p>11 swap them?</p> <p>12 MR. DIVILIO: Yes.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. A motion.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHNER: I'll second.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, we</p> <p>16 got a motion and a second. Could you please</p> <p>17 call the roll.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p>	<p>1 Okay.</p> <p>2 MR. DIVILIO: Now to the ICU.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Now to people that</p> <p>4 take care of us, and we appreciate it. I can</p> <p>5 tell you that. All right.</p> <p>6 So up tonight are the nurses from the</p> <p>7 Shore Regional Health. Would you guys come on</p> <p>8 up? Just a couple of them sit down and the</p> <p>9 other ones can be behind them. That would be</p> <p>10 great.</p> <p>11 MS. SATCHELL: Hi, Chuck.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, there. How are you?</p> <p>13 You got your troops behind you now. You're</p> <p>14 good, you're good.</p> <p>15 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and</p> <p>16 read the proclamation, please.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition to</p> <p>18 ICU nurses, University of Maryland Medical</p> <p>19 System, Shore Regional Health.</p> <p>20 Whereas, nurses are a vital part of health</p> <p>21 care delivery systems around the world by</p>

Page 6	Page 8
<p>1 responding to emergencies, monitoring patients,                  2 administering medications, assisting patients                  3 with basic needs, and updating the progress of                  4 their patients.                  5 And whereas, intensive care unit, ICU,                  6 nurses are highly specialized trained nurses                  7 who have completed thousands of hours of                  8 clinical and/or additional educational                  9 requirements to provide care to patients who                  10 are extremely ill or injured who are fighting                  11 for their lives.                  12 And whereas, while all nurses must act                  13 quickly and remain calm to address patient                  14 needs, ICU nurses must do so often under                  15 extreme pressure in the face of catastrophic                  16 situations, while managing multiple priorities.                  17 And whereas, since the beginning of the                  18 COVID-19 pandemic, all medical professionals,                  19 particularly ICU nurses, have gone above and                  20 beyond the circumstances for which they trained                  21 in order to provide care to the enormous number</p>	<p>1 MS. SATCHELL: Thank you, Chuck.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: You want to say a few                  3 words.                  4 MS. SATCHELL: One of our docs has                  5 something prepared.                  6 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, okay. That's great.                  7 MS. SATCHELL: Dr. Otmishi.                  8 MR. CALLAHAN: Come on up. Welcome.                  9 DR. OTMISHI: Hello, Council Members. I                  10 want to thank you first for allowing us to                  11 recognize these nurses.                  12 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.                  13 DR. OTMISHI: In the past few years, the                  14 COVID-19 pandemic has been increasingly onerous                  15 to our health care system nationwide. This                  16 pandemic has exhausted our resources and                  17 challenged our will to fight.                  18 But in no small part to our nursing heroes,                  19 we have endured and beaten every surge of this                  20 pandemic.                  21 Since the intensive care unit takes care</p>
Page 7	Page 9
<p>1 of patients hospitalized due to COVID-19, while                  2 also caring for patients hospitalized by other                  3 circumstances, putting their own lives and                  4 sometimes possibly the lives of their loved                  5 ones at risk in order to honor their commitment                  6 to their fellow human beings.                  7 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of                  8 Talbot County, do here recognize the months of                  9 dedication and sacrifice of the ICU nurses at                  10 University of Maryland Medical System, Shore                  11 Regional Health to the Talbot County community                  12 to care for their neighbors, friends, loved                  13 ones, and total strangers.                  14 Given under our hands in the great seal of                  15 Talbot County this 22nd day of March in the                  16 year of our Lord, 2022.                  17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.                  18 Ms. Satchell.                  19 MS. SATCHELL: Yes.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: First of all,                  21 congratulations on your new position.</p>	<p>1 of many of the sickest patients in the                  2 hospital, the nurses in this unit are highly                  3 trained to work under pressure.                  4 Due to acuity of the patients' illnesses,                  5 the ICU nurses generally treat fewer number of                  6 patients per shift than other units in the                  7 hospital. However, each surge of the pandemic                  8 led to significant increase in the sheer number                  9 of critically ill patients that overwhelmed our                  10 hospital and especially our intensive care                  11 unit.                  12 The nurses in the ICU stepped up to this                  13 challenge and worked harder than ever before.                  14 Often the ICU resembled a war zone, with                  15 patients coding throughout the day, while still                  16 other patients waited in the ER to be admitted                  17 to the ICU.                  18 Additionally, critical patients in other                  19 medical wards required the care of our critical                  20 care teams. Often we were understaffed,                  21 leading to working extended hours and taking</p>

Page 10

1 care of more acutely ill patients than ever  
 2 before.  
 3 This is despite the nurses having their  
 4 own families and children at their own home  
 5 that also needed their help and their help and  
 6 calming during these difficult times.  
 7 It certainly takes a special person to  
 8 take care of these critically ill patients, who  
 9 no longer have any control of their fate of  
 10 their life, while consoling their families, who  
 11 were not able to see their loved ones in the  
 12 ICU. These men and women are heroes.  
 13 My partners are proud to join our county  
 14 to honor them as heroes.  
 15 As quoted by Christopher Reeve, the hero  
 16 is an ordinary individual who finds strength to  
 17 preserve and endure in spite of overwhelming  
 18 obstacles.  
 19 So I'd like to congratulate them for being  
 20 heroes.  
 21 SPEAKER: Thank you.

Page 11

1 MR. CALLAHAN: You're welcome.  
 2 So we've got...  
 3 MR. PACK: So moved.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.  
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Second.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we got a  
 7 motion and a second to approve the  
 8 proclamation.  
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 14 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 16 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 18 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: If you want to come up  
 20 front here, everybody come up front, he's going  
 21 to give you your proclamation. Come up.

Page 12

1 MR. STAMP: The taller ones in the back,  
 2 shorter ones in the front.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Let's all stand.  
 4 MR. STAMP: Very good.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Good.  
 6 MR. LESHNER: We're witnessing some caring  
 7 going on right as we speak.  
 8 MR. STAMP: There you go.  
 9 SPEAKER: I think we have everybody. Very  
 10 good. Thank you.  
 11 SPEAKER: Thank you.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.  
 13 MR. LESHNER: Mr. Callahan, would it be  
 14 appropriate for us to reflect on this just for  
 15 a moment?  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, sure, absolutely.  
 17 Yeah, absolutely.  
 18 MR. LESHNER: The COVID-19 pandemic  
 19 impacted everybody, but those burdens fell  
 20 unevenly. And we are honoring tonight some of  
 21 those people who bore those burdens most

Page 13

1 heavily.  
 2 And I want to thank Dr. Otmishi for  
 3 bringing this to my attention and for all of  
 4 those who we are honoring here tonight, those  
 5 ICU nurses. Thank you for your service to this  
 6 community. Really, you've been heroes, as  
 7 Dr. Otmishi said.  
 8 DR. OTMISHI: Thank you.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda  
 10 is the Health Department. Dr. Maguire,  
 11 welcome.  
 12 DR. MAGUIRE: Thank you. Good evening,  
 13 everybody. And I'm glad they went before me  
 14 because I love me some ICU nurses. They have  
 15 saved my butt on several occasions.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. That's great.  
 17 DR. MAGUIRE: So good evening, President  
 18 Callahan, Council Members, everyone. We have a  
 19 great audience tonight.  
 20 And I do finally bring some good news,  
 21 Mr. Callahan.

Page 14

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yay.

2 MS. PRICE: It's wonderful to see your

3 face.

4 DR. MAGUIRE: And yeah. You're probably

5 noticing that I'm not wearing a mask, which is

6 really great news, right.

7 So just to get started, I have branched

8 out tonight, and I wanted to give a more

9 broader overview, infectious disease update. I

10 do have to talk a little bit about COVID, but a

11 bit less so than previously.

12 So tonight I wanted to hit on some issues

13 we've been dealing with in the Health

14 Department, including, of course, COVID,

15 influenza this year, tuberculosis, a little bit

16 of HIV, and then an avian flu situation that

17 we're dealing with.

18 So to get started, since I last spoke here

19 in mid-January, that was probably actually the

20 worst day of our Omicron surge. And ever since

21 then, our cases of COVID in Talbot County have

Page 15

1 really come down quite a lot. So we can, you

2 know, very confidently say that that surge has

3 ended.

4 This graph gives us a view of the surges,

5 the history of the surges that we dealt with.

6 And it really underscores just how bad that

7 Omicron surge was in January. Certainly put,

8 as we just noted, a lot of stress on the

9 hospital system. But the good news is we're

10 out of that now and we're in a different place.

11 This is just a close-up graph of the case

12 rate since over the past two months just

13 showing that very, very steady decline in the

14 new cases that we at the Health Department are

15 aware of.

16 And along with that, we've seen our

17 testing positivity decline. And I just wanted

18 to point out that during the Omicron peak, we

19 were seeing almost 30 percent of our tests in

20 Talbot County come back positive for COVID.

21 And right now, today we're seeing only about

Page 16

1 three percent of tests.

2 And across Maryland, it's actually lower

3 than that. It's been in the one to two percent

4 range over the past few weeks, which is really

5 excellent.

6 And the good news is that now we're seeing

7 testing be more widely available. So it's

8 always when we have these surges that there's,

9 you know, less availability of testing. But

10 now we do have more testing available. We have

11 at-home tests available. We've been

12 distributing them to the libraries, to other

13 community venues.

14 So if people are feeling sick, if they

15 need to travel, get a pre-op, they have a need

16 for a pre-op test, then they should be able to

17 obtain a test.

18 And we are still operating our Health

19 Department testing site five days a week, even

20 though they're not terribly busy right now.

21 We'll still continue to operate them for the

Page 17

1 next several months.

2 And then I just wanted to look at the

3 deaths that occurred in Talbot County since the

4 beginning of the pandemic. So really even

5 though the Omicron surge, which occurred, I'm

6 just hovering over when that occurred, in this

7 January time frame, it wasn't -- we did have

8 about 20 more deaths during that surge. But it

9 wasn't quite as steep of an increase in deaths

10 as last January, which was what happened here.

11 These number are just the cumulative

12 numbers of deaths that we saw in Talbot County.

13 And you know, the deaths do always lag, but we

14 are starting to see that really stop from

15 resulting from the Omicron surge.

16 When we look at who, unfortunately, died

17 due to COVID, this is the age breakdown.

18 Fortunately, no one under 20 in the county.

19 And this is cumulative from the way beginning

20 of the pandemic. And we do see the

21 predominance of the seniors. So the 60, 70,

Page 18

1 80, and even 90-year-old range.  
 2 We also did some analysis that showed that  
 3 in almost 20 percent of individuals who died of  
 4 COVID, the primary cause was actually heart  
 5 issues. I'm going to touch a little bit on  
 6 some of these secondary issues that we're  
 7 seeing with COVID-19. And so --  
 8 MS. PRICE: Can I ask?  
 9 DR. MAGUIRE: Oh, please.  
 10 MS. PRICE: Question. You have 86 total.  
 11 But when you look at your bar chart, it's way  
 12 more than that. You've got just of the 70 and  
 13 up, you've got 50 and 35 and 20 something.  
 14 That's over 100. So that's a little off.  
 15 DR. MAGUIRE: You know what, that is  
 16 correct. I'm sorry. The scale must be wrong  
 17 on that. No.  
 18 But yeah, it is correct that the  
 19 cumulative number is 86. The proportions  
 20 should be correct, though. So I can send a  
 21 corrected version if needed.

Page 19

1 Yeah. Sorry about that. Sometimes you  
 2 don't catch these things when you're deep into  
 3 them.  
 4 So I've been getting some questions about  
 5 what is the future going to hold for COVID, are  
 6 we still in an epidemic, pandemic state, what's  
 7 this BA2 variant.  
 8 I think I've mentioned the BA2 variant on  
 9 some of our EOC calls. So basically that's a  
 10 sub-variant of what we saw in Omicron. And  
 11 that's actually accounting for 35 percent of  
 12 new COVID cases in the US over the past week.  
 13 So it is taking a greater share of cases. But  
 14 just keep in mind that the overall problems of  
 15 new cases of COVID is way, way, way down.  
 16 And should we care? Should we be worried  
 17 whenever there's a new variant? Well, this one  
 18 is a bit more infectious, more contagious than  
 19 the Omicron one. And we saw that in other  
 20 countries like Denmark and the UK, where  
 21 they're seeing quite a lot of cases. But it

Page 20

1 does not appear to be more severe. And so  
 2 importantly, that means that we shouldn't  
 3 hopefully see as much demand on our systems as  
 4 we saw in January.  
 5 And fortunately, a result of having so  
 6 many people having gotten infected in January  
 7 is that we do have more immunity from that  
 8 natural infection as well as so many people who  
 9 have gotten vaccinated. So we're hoping that  
 10 that does offer some protection.  
 11 We do anticipate there will be some future  
 12 surges, but we're hoping that they're much  
 13 smaller and more manageable.  
 14 And good news is that now we have some  
 15 newer guidelines that the CDC released at the  
 16 end of February. And so I used to talk about  
 17 the transmission level and how that sort of  
 18 determined how risky things were in Talbot  
 19 County and Maryland.  
 20 They have changed how they determine and  
 21 define risk for locations. And basically

Page 21

1 instead of just looking at how many cases are  
 2 there, they're now combining how many cases  
 3 plus what your hospitalization rate is. So  
 4 that helps add kind of a level of how severe is  
 5 it, because in a sense, you know, while we  
 6 don't want a huge amount of COVID, if we're not  
 7 having a lot of stress on our systems, then  
 8 that's a better thing than having a lot of  
 9 people hospitalized.  
 10 So the new risk indicator from the CDC  
 11 does take into account these two metrics. And  
 12 then from that, emerges one of three levels.  
 13 And I apologize for this being kind of small  
 14 text, but all I wanted really to show here was  
 15 that when this new level, this new risk  
 16 assessment took effect at the end of February,  
 17 about only 30 percent of the population was in  
 18 what we call low level. Most of Maryland was  
 19 actually in low level at that time.  
 20 And then since then, just over the past  
 21 not even month, more than 99 percent of the US

Page 22

1 is in a location with low or medium risk level.  
 2 And right now, actually, all of Maryland, so  
 3 all 24 jurisdictions in Maryland are in low  
 4 level.  
 5 So what does that actually mean? So  
 6 again, it has to do with how many cases are  
 7 happening, as well as how many  
 8 hospitalizations. Fortunately, we haven't had  
 9 a new Talbot resident hospitalized since I  
 10 believe March 6th. So our hospital level is  
 11 really low for our population.  
 12 So basically the recommendations are if  
 13 you're in a low level, so that's the green,  
 14 then you should get vaccinated and boosted and  
 15 follow those recommendations. If you're sick  
 16 and there's a chance you were exposed, get  
 17 tested. And you may choose to wear a mask if  
 18 you want to. But there's not a general  
 19 recommendation for mask wearing, as there are  
 20 in other risk levels.  
 21 When you're in the yellow, which is

Page 23

1 medium, again, get vaccinated, get tested when  
 2 you need to. But if you're at increased risk  
 3 or potentially you could get really sick from  
 4 COVID, that's when you should talk to your  
 5 health care provider about wearing a mask in  
 6 more places. So people who are  
 7 immunosuppressed, who are, you know, have  
 8 increased risk factors. So it's a more  
 9 targeted recommendation.  
 10 And then in the high level, that, again,  
 11 they recommend getting vaccinated, staying up  
 12 to date with that, getting tested if you're  
 13 sick. And that's when they go back to  
 14 recommending mask wearing for the general  
 15 population in indoors, indoor settings.  
 16 There are still requirements now to  
 17 continue to wear masks in certain settings. So  
 18 that involves travel. So if you're on an  
 19 airplane, you're going to have to wear a mask.  
 20 If you're in a health care setting, like at the  
 21 doctor in a hospital. And so but we'll see if

Page 24

1 that requirement changes over time as well.  
 2 And again, if you're traveling  
 3 internationally, you will probably need to get  
 4 tested in order to arrive at your destination.  
 5 And then when you return to the US, you do need  
 6 a test within 24 hours in order to board your  
 7 plane.  
 8 So currently, there are no COVID outbreaks  
 9 in Talbot County. Usually we were having  
 10 several in different locations, including  
 11 schools. But right now, all of our outbreaks  
 12 have closed.  
 13 There is actually an outbreak we're  
 14 following in a school, but it's related to the  
 15 GI bug. And I think that's probably a result  
 16 of when we eliminated the requirement for  
 17 masks, now kids are sharing kind of the more  
 18 normal diseases, such as, you know, the  
 19 vomiting ones.  
 20 So kids will always catch -- I'm calling  
 21 it that they're catching up on their illnesses

Page 25

1 that they were behind on. You know, I have a  
 2 six-year-old, and she has been catching up.  
 3 So why this refocusing on monitoring,  
 4 surveilling COVID in communities? Well,  
 5 they're shifting from just looking at numbers  
 6 to looking at the impact on the community. And  
 7 this is due to the fact that we've got a lot of  
 8 people vaccinated, a lot of people have had  
 9 infection induced protection. And now there is  
 10 broad access to not only vaccines, but also  
 11 therapeutics and testing. And I'll get into  
 12 therapeutics in a little bit.  
 13 And just as a reminder, if you are sick  
 14 with COVID, because we do still have a few  
 15 cases coming up here and there, it is  
 16 recommended that, you know, you do continue to  
 17 isolate for five days at home, stay home from  
 18 work, don't try to spread it to other people.  
 19 And then after that five days, you really  
 20 should wear a mask when you're in public  
 21 settings not to spread it to other people.

Page 26

1 So continuing on, there are now some  
 2 therapeutics, some treatments for COVID on the  
 3 market. And they are becoming a bit more  
 4 available than they had been. So previously,  
 5 we only really had things like monoclonal  
 6 antibodies. These are given in the vein. You  
 7 have to go to a special place. They're really  
 8 for higher risk people, but now we do have a  
 9 pill available. And then there's also even an  
 10 injection meant for people as sort of a  
 11 preventive measure. So those are for people  
 12 who are super high risk.

13 So just to very quickly go over this.  
 14 Monoclonal antibodies, that's basically  
 15 antibodies that, you know, similar to what you  
 16 would develop from vaccination but we give it  
 17 to you in your veins. And that helps keep your  
 18 infection from worsening. And so that's for  
 19 people who are really at high risk of severe  
 20 disease.

21 The pill, there's two. Paxlovid is one.

Page 27

1 Molnupiravir are another. Those are available  
 2 at some pharmacies. I believe in Talbot  
 3 County, they're available at two pharmacies.  
 4 And so that's a prescription you need from your  
 5 doctor.

6 And then this Evusheld. This is the  
 7 injection that is meant for very high risk  
 8 individuals. It's not available in Talbot  
 9 County. So your doctor has to refer you to a  
 10 certain center.

11 But these are some therapeutics that will  
 12 help prevent, you know, additional deaths, will  
 13 help prevent, you know, the demand on the  
 14 hospital system, keep people hopefully at home.

15 So you know, our recommendation is if  
 16 you're sick, especially if you're at high risk  
 17 of severe illness, definitely call your doctor  
 18 because there are things out there that can  
 19 help you.

20 And if someone is on the list of -- if  
 21 they're board certified in -- if they have a

Page 28

1 license in Maryland, so a physician, they get a  
 2 weekly therapeutics e-mail. So your physician  
 3 should be aware of these and know about these  
 4 and have information on how to refer you.

5 I want to quickly just touch on something  
 6 I don't believe I've touched on before, which  
 7 is some of long-term considerations that we've  
 8 seen come out in research about COVID. So  
 9 some -- a lot of people have heard about long  
 10 COVID, how some people have these, you know,  
 11 prolonged symptoms and just can't get over  
 12 COVID. But we've also noticed in some studies  
 13 that we're seeing increased risk of some heart  
 14 issues like strokes, rhythm, heart  
 15 inflammation, such as myocarditis and  
 16 pericarditis are two of those types, heart  
 17 failure, where the heart doesn't pump  
 18 effectively, and also heart attack.

19 And so these, some studies have shown that  
 20 these issues occurred in individuals sometimes  
 21 who weren't even really that severely sick,

Page 29

1 they weren't hospitalized. So this is  
 2 something we need to definitely follow with,  
 3 you know, studies to see what the effect is  
 4 long term.

5 And then, again, the long COVID. This is  
 6 where you have fatigue, shortness of breath,  
 7 you know, you have that brain fog sometimes for  
 8 months. And we have seen that it's less likely  
 9 to occur in vaccinated individuals. So that's  
 10 one of the many reasons that we definitely  
 11 recommend people get vaccinated is because  
 12 you're less likely to suffer from some of these  
 13 additional complications.

14 We're also seeing some studies emerge  
 15 about neurologic issues, like some cognitive  
 16 impairment. That is higher in COVID survivors  
 17 a year after infection than in people who did  
 18 not have COVID of similar age and background.  
 19 And so that's an issue that, especially in our  
 20 county where we have a lot of seniors, you  
 21 know, the increased demand on care for



Page 30

1 dementia.

2 And then, of course, a lot of people have

3 brought up the issue about the increased mental

4 health issues we've been seeing over the past

5 couple of years. There's definitely been a

6 significant increase in people reporting

7 stress, anxiety, depression, insomnia symptoms.

8 And that's occurred at a time when with this

9 increased demand, people are having trouble

10 seeking care for that.

11 So I think, you know, we'll have to

12 continue to follow these issues. We do have a

13 special work group that has been set up in the

14 county where we've been starting to meet about

15 some mental health issues after the pandemic.

16 And so these are all things we need to continue

17 to monitor and be aware of.

18 It's not, you know, we have often talked

19 about, okay, COVID is going to be here to stay.

20 And that may be more the kind of acute sick.

21 But there may be some other complications.

Page 31

1 MS. PRICE: Dr. Maguire, before you move

2 off this slide. So obviously, we've had three

3 main variants, and the Omicron is very new.

4 So as far as the long-term considerations,

5 it's really those, it seems like when you're

6 talking about months or a year after the

7 infection, that really we don't -- that would

8 be more Alpha and Delta because --

9 DR. MAGUIRE: Right.

10 MS. PRICE: -- we haven't had a chance to

11 see.

12 DR. MAGUIRE: Right.

13 MS. PRICE: And those were, as you said,

14 they were less contagious but more severe. And

15 Omicron was very contagious but less severe.

16 So these things are things to consider,

17 but it maybe even more for the first two

18 variants than we experienced and we really just

19 don't know with the less severe Omicron whether

20 these things would happen.

21 DR. MAGUIRE: Yeah. And that's why we

Page 32

1 just have to do studies because we don't know.

2 Is it related to which variant or is it

3 something that's consistent across all of the

4 different types of COVID variants.

5 So yeah. And that's why a lot of times,

6 you know, you need the time to be able to get

7 the data. And so sometimes we don't know the

8 effect of a current illness until it's been

9 around a while and we have the time to do some

10 retrospective look-backs.

11 So yeah. So I mean I certainly hope that

12 Omicron does not have these long-term effects.

13 But of course, that remains to be seen.

14 So moving on, what is on the horizon for

15 COVID? There's been applications from Pfizer

16 and Merck to get approval for what is called a

17 fourth booster. So a fourth dose. We'll see

18 if that is being a recommendation.

19 We are getting a lot of questions at the

20 Health Department about that. And currently,

21 that is not an FDA approved thing, to get a

Page 33

1 second booster.

2 And then the very youngest of kids, so

3 kids under the age of five, still are not able

4 to get vaccinated against COVID. But they are

5 likely to get an approval in April we

6 anticipate. So those are some of the

7 vaccination changes on the horizon.

8 I wanted to move on to a different

9 infectious disease, influenza. So right now,

10 influenza activity in the US and Maryland is

11 low. It is increasing a bit in most of the

12 country. The places where it's at its highest

13 levels are in central and south central US.

14 So far, the CDC is estimating there's been

15 almost 3 million flu illnesses, 20,000

16 hospitalizations, and 1,700 deaths, 13 of which

17 have been in children. The predominant strain

18 we're seeing is flu A. There's really two

19 types, flu A, flu B. And then they are often

20 called by these H and N numbers.

21 So the one we're seeing the vast majority

Page 34

1 of is called H3N2, in case you see that  
 2 mentioned in new reports.  
 3 So in hospitalizations, in terms of how  
 4 many people are hospitalized, we're definitely  
 5 seeing more hospitalizations this season than  
 6 last season, but much, much fewer than in the  
 7 previous pre-pandemic seasons. This is likely  
 8 because this respiratory illness has been sort  
 9 of crowded out by COVID. And also there was  
 10 the protective effect of social distancing and  
 11 masks.  
 12 But now that we are not, we don't have a  
 13 lot of those protective effects in -- people  
 14 aren't wearing masks as much, that we'll  
 15 probably see these other common illnesses like  
 16 flu spread.  
 17 And flu is one of those endemic diseases.  
 18 So the US right now mostly is in minimal flu  
 19 activity, except for Oklahoma and Arkansas. So  
 20 Maryland is definitely in that minimal range.  
 21 This graph actually shows, it's a little

Page 35

1 hard to see, but the red line is the current  
 2 season's, 21/22, flu hospitalization rate. So  
 3 it is a tiny bit higher than last year's. But  
 4 much lower than previous years. And really  
 5 that 2017/18 flu was a very bad year. I  
 6 remember that very well.  
 7 And so it remains to be seen really what  
 8 is going to happen with flu because the sort of  
 9 normal schedule has been disrupted by COVID.  
 10 Usually we see flu get really bad between  
 11 December and March. But because of COVID,  
 12 things have been really out of schedule.  
 13 And we've seen that with other viruses,  
 14 too, that don't get quite the news attention  
 15 where they've been occurring at kind of the  
 16 wrong season.  
 17 This graph shows these two peaks are the  
 18 pre-pandemic and 2018 and 2019 seasons. And  
 19 this is actually showing pediatric death due to  
 20 flu. And really just the past, you know,  
 21 couple of seasons. So this year and last year,

Page 36

1 we did not see really any. And I believe  
 2 that's strongly due to the protective effect of  
 3 the masks and other measures we were taking for  
 4 COVID.  
 5 This graph I included mostly to show to  
 6 compare flu, the effect of flu and COVID. So  
 7 the yellow bumps, so we start off in 2018, '19,  
 8 '20, and '21 as you go along this bottom axis.  
 9 And so the yellow bumps are the influenza  
 10 deaths, and the purple bumps are actually COVID  
 11 death. You can really tell on this chart just  
 12 how different the mortality has been from the  
 13 seasonal flu compared to COVID.  
 14 And what is another little interesting  
 15 point is that the CDC that made this graph  
 16 includes this wavy line, which is called an  
 17 epidemic threshold. And that's when they sort  
 18 of change the classification from the disease  
 19 being endemic, when it's in the community, to  
 20 epidemic, when it's really a much higher level  
 21 than one would expect.

Page 37

1 Of course, with COVID, we are definitely  
 2 still in pandemic status because it's wide  
 3 ranging, worldwide, and it's causing outbreaks  
 4 and everything. But we do anticipate it will  
 5 get down to a more endemic level where it's  
 6 circulating at a normal level but not really  
 7 causing outbreaks. When that will happen,  
 8 remains to be seen still.  
 9 So again, in Maryland, over the past week,  
 10 the flu prevalence has been minimal. So far  
 11 this season in Maryland, there have been nine  
 12 influenza deaths in adults, none in children,  
 13 and 11 people hospitalized.  
 14 And this is a graph of the  
 15 hospitalizations for Maryland comparing  
 16 different years. This year is the green line,  
 17 2020 was blue line. And again, mimicking the  
 18 US rates.  
 19 In terms of who has been hospitalized in  
 20 Maryland so far, again, as we expect, it  
 21 predominantly affects older, but also some very

Page 38

1 young.

2 So in terms of vaccination, you know,

3 there are vaccines for flu and there are

4 therapeutics, antivirals for flu. Right now,

5 the rate of vaccination against flu is a lot

6 lower than it usually is. So that's something

7 we want to make sure people don't forget about.

8 We've been talking a lot about COVID

9 vaccination, but flu vaccination is very

10 important because, again, it's a bit uncertain

11 what we're going to experience this year.

12 Moving on to a different infectious

13 disease. Tuberculosis is one that we often

14 don't think about. It's not what we call an

15 endemic disease in the US, but it is something

16 that is a reportable illness, which COVID is

17 right now. That means anytime there's a

18 positive case, then it has to be reported to

19 the public health authorities. Flu is not

20 reportable. So that we have surveillance

21 through other means, but you don't have to

Page 39

1 report every instance of flu. But tuberculosis

2 you do.

3 And we have to get involved in the active

4 cases. And usually we really don't have many

5 or any tuberculosis in Talbot County. I looked

6 back. And in 2010, there was an outbreak where

7 two people were affected. And then in 2017,

8 there was one where we had three people

9 infected with active tuberculosis.

10 And then for some reason the past two

11 years, tuberculosis has decided to rear its

12 ugly head and we've actually had more cases

13 than ever, which put additional demand on our

14 contact tracing abilities and everything.

15 And so with tuberculosis, it's something

16 where similar to what we've done with COVID, we

17 have to do contact tracing where we investigate

18 who has been around the person infected. It's

19 extremely, it's extremely infectious but also

20 extremely serious. Some instances of

21 tuberculosis are highly resistant to the

Page 40

1 treatments we have. So it's something we

2 really do want to stamp out.

3 We also have some cases of what's called

4 latent TB. And that's where someone has been

5 infected, but the disease is pretty much

6 asleep. But the reason we do treat it is

7 because it could get reactivated at some point

8 and turn into active. We usually see about

9 five or so of those cases per year, and they

10 also require medication. But we don't really

11 do contact tracing for that necessarily.

12 So that is something that we have been

13 spending some effort on in the Health

14 Department. And I really hope that the cases

15 slow down a bit. But it will be interesting to

16 see if this trend persists of these

17 unexpectedly high rates of tuberculosis in the

18 community.

19 And it doesn't -- I mean five or four

20 cases doesn't sound like a lot, but it is a lot

21 for our size population.

Page 41

1 MS. PRICE: Is that trending nationwide or

2 is it more regional?

3 DR. MAGUIRE: No. What happened this year

4 was some unexpected situations. We typically

5 think of the more common cases of someone who

6 comes from a country where it's endemic. You

7 know, we think of someone who is in a

8 congregate setting, you know, like jails or

9 something like that. We've had some unusual

10 cases this year. So I do wear -- I can't go

11 into too much depth.

12 So I do think that this year is an

13 outlier. I haven't seen evidence that there's

14 a significant increase like what we've seen.

15 And again, our numbers are so low that one or

16 two more cases really throws it off because our

17 normal is zero, you know. But I do hope we get

18 back to zero next year.

19 Another infectious disease, and this one

20 is also reportable, is HIV. So in Talbot

21 County, the newest numbers we have are for the

Page 42

1 end of 2020. So there are, at that time, 79  
 2 people living with HIV in Talbot County. And  
 3 on the graph, you can see that Talbot County is  
 4 yellow. And that is the rate of HIV diagnosis  
 5 compared to other jurisdictions in Maryland.  
 6 So we're kind of in the middle range. We're a  
 7 bit higher than our neighbors, but certainly  
 8 much, much lower than Baltimore City, where  
 9 really it's the highest.

10 In the past, in 2020, there were two  
 11 people diagnosed with HIV in Talbot County.  
 12 And over the past five years, there's been six  
 13 new diagnoses. But the good thing about HIV  
 14 treatment is that it's been around so long,  
 15 that now we're seeing a lot of people really  
 16 able to live more normal lives and longer lives  
 17 and really almost, you know, manage their  
 18 disease such that they have undetectable viral  
 19 levels. So that's been a really good trend  
 20 just nationally.

21 We do test for HIV in the Health

Page 43

1 Department. You can get tested by really any  
 2 provider. And then coming soon, we have over  
 3 the past year and a half purchased some mobile  
 4 testing units. So one of the things we'll be  
 5 using them for as we shift out of focusing on  
 6 COVID is conducting testing for HIV and also  
 7 hepatitis C. And we also offer rapid testing  
 8 for both of those diseases.

9 The last infectious disease I wanted to  
 10 touch on is one that's actually experiencing an  
 11 outbreak in the region. Not in Talbot County  
 12 itself, but in the region. And that is avian  
 13 flu. So this is a highly contagious  
 14 respiratory flu virus that spreads amongst  
 15 birds. It affects all sorts of poultry, both  
 16 wild and I guess domesticated.

17 And what's happened recently is that a  
 18 version of H5N1, so, again, like human flu,  
 19 there's those H and N terms. This one is  
 20 called H5N1. They have noticed wild birds in  
 21 14 states, and 13 states have seen cases in

Page 44

1 commercial and what we call backyard poultry.  
 2 In Talbot, we actually had, during 2020,  
 3 one backyard poultry case, who was actually a  
 4 pet and got successfully treated.

5 But in Maryland right now, there are two  
 6 outbreaks, in Cecil County and one in Queen  
 7 Anne County. And these are occurring at  
 8 commercial poultry farms. But it is the most  
 9 recent outbreak or the first outbreak since  
 10 2004. The outbreak was first actually noted in  
 11 Delaware. And then what they think happened is  
 12 that maybe some wild birds transmitted it to  
 13 these other counties.

14 So State and federal officials have  
 15 dramatically expanded their surveillance to  
 16 protect the poultry industry in the Delmarva  
 17 Peninsula. And I believe I read that  
 18 14 percent of all commercial poultry birds are  
 19 on the Eastern Shore. So it's an important  
 20 industry for our region.

21 And so what they've done is they've

Page 45

1 quarantined the birds. And some have been  
 2 depopulated. And what they wanted to assure  
 3 the public is that none of the infected birds  
 4 at all entered the food system. So there's  
 5 really actually minimal risk to humans.

6 It is possible theoretically that humans  
 7 could get infected, but there have been no  
 8 cases in the US. I believe there was one case  
 9 in the UK. And so the CDC wants to assure  
 10 people that this is not something that's a  
 11 significant risk that people should be  
 12 concerned about, but it has gotten a tiny bit  
 13 of news coverage recently locally.

14 And so again, it does not affect poultry  
 15 meat or eggs. So those are safe to eat.

16 And some things to note is there are no  
 17 commercial chicken farms in Talbot County. So  
 18 we're actually not directly involved in this  
 19 outbreak. But it is affecting our neighbors,  
 20 but we do have some residents who have backyard  
 21 poultry who have chickens for their own uses

Page 46

1 who lay their own eggs, and those could get  
 2 infected theoretically by wild birds. So it's  
 3 very important for owners of those poultry to,  
 4 you know, wash their hands after interacting  
 5 with them.

6 And this is an example of a situation that  
 7 touches on a theory called One Health, if you  
 8 ever heard about that. So One Health is this  
 9 idea, this philosophy that diseases between  
 10 animals and humans and agricultural are all  
 11 very interconnected. And so sometimes you hear  
 12 about, well, an illness jumped from one species  
 13 to another.

14 And that is actually what we saw with  
 15 COVID, where I think they determined it  
 16 probably originated from a food market where  
 17 there were infected I'm going to say bats. And  
 18 so that ended up jumping from one species.  
 19 Usually it's from a wild species to a  
 20 domesticated animal species, then to a -- or a  
 21 species that we eat, then to humans.

Page 47

1 And so we've been sort of worried about  
 2 this often with influenza. So if you remember  
 3 back about 12-ish years, there was "swine" flu.  
 4 So that was something where you saw this in,  
 5 you know, pigs.

6 And so avian flu is one of those things  
 7 where it's an influenza virus. Theoretically  
 8 it could affect humans. But sometimes you have  
 9 to have some mutations to allow it to jump from  
 10 one species to another.

11 So there are some people in academic  
 12 settings who are focusing on trying to reduce  
 13 that risk. And we definitely saw it with  
 14 COVID.

15 So that is my update on some infectious  
 16 disease issues which we're working on at the  
 17 Health Department.

18 I do want to mention a couple of pieces of  
 19 news. So we, the county was able to get a  
 20 Community Block Development Grant and that  
 21 helped us have our early Head Start program

Page 48

1 move into a beautiful new location. We do  
 2 anticipate an open house for that location  
 3 later this spring. And they are hoping to  
 4 expand their services to actually an older  
 5 population, to three-year-olds. And we do have  
 6 a waiting list even for that program now.

7 I wanted to also mention that this week is  
 8 LGBTQ Health Week. So this is a week we're  
 9 trying to empower individuals in the LGBTQ  
 10 community to ensure that they are able to  
 11 access quality health care.

12 And then in a couple of weeks, it will be  
 13 National Public Health Week, and we'll be  
 14 having some events during that week.

15 So I hope everyone is enjoying their first  
 16 week of spring. And I wish you all a happy  
 17 spring. And hopefully I was able to provide  
 18 some interesting and maybe better news than  
 19 last time.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, thank you, thank you.  
 21 So let's open it up.

Page 49

1 MR. DIVILIO: Couldn't have been worse.  
 2 I greatly appreciate you providing this  
 3 information to us and keeping it in the  
 4 forefront. And certainly take it to heart and  
 5 try to keep everybody safe.

6 MR. LESHER: Thank you.

7 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,  
 8 Dr. Maguire, for the presentation. I will say  
 9 that you took on a heavy task when you became  
 10 health officer here and stepped right in and  
 11 was able to keep things moving in a positive  
 12 direction, albeit it was a very fluid situation  
 13 from the State level, from the CDC. That you  
 14 were able to keep things moving forward.

15 And you're certainly correct regarding the  
 16 flu. The one thing I would recommend is don't  
 17 get the same shot on the same day in the same  
 18 arm, as I did. You don't want to do that.

19 And it's great news to hear that the early  
 20 Head Start is finally in their own building. I  
 21 know we have been housing them at our Bay

Page 50

1 Street location probably since Cathy Foster was  
 2 here. So two health officers ago when they  
 3 first moved into that building. So to finally  
 4 have them in their own space is great news to  
 5 hear. So congratulations on that. And let us  
 6 know when the open house is going to be.  
 7 DR. MAGUIRE: Will do. We're trying to  
 8 get the playground built so everyone can see,  
 9 but it will be soon.  
 10 MR. PACK: Okay. Great.  
 11 DR. MAGUIRE: Thank you so much, everyone.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. All right.  
 13 Next up we got a proclamation,  
 14 International Transgender Day of Visibility.  
 15 Madam Secretary, could you read the  
 16 proclamation, please.  
 17 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition,  
 18 International Transgender Day of Visibility.  
 19 Whereas, transgender people come from all  
 20 walks of life and are our coworkers, family,  
 21 and neighbors and are a diverse community

Page 51

1 representing all racial, ethnic, and faith  
 2 backgrounds.  
 3 And whereas, International Transgender Day  
 4 of visibility celebrates transgender  
 5 representation, activism, and equality and is  
 6 honored each year on March 31st as a time to  
 7 celebrate transgender people around the world,  
 8 their courage to live openly and authentically,  
 9 while also raising awareness around the  
 10 discrimination transgender individuals still  
 11 face.  
 12 Whereas, we honor the bravery of the many  
 13 transgender individuals who live and work in  
 14 our community in their authentic gender and  
 15 reaffirm our commitment to promote the full  
 16 inclusion of transgender individuals in our  
 17 community.  
 18 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of  
 19 Talbot County, do hereby recognize March 31,  
 20 2022, as Transgender Day of Visibility in  
 21 Talbot County and encourage all citizens to

Page 52

1 treat each other with dignity and respect  
 2 without exception.  
 3 Given under our hands in the great seal of  
 4 Talbot County this 22nd day of March in the  
 5 year of our Lord, 2022.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.  
 7 Welcome, Tina Jones. Come on up.  
 8 MS. JONES: Got smaller guests with us as  
 9 well.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I see that, I see that.  
 11 MS. JONES: Good evening, Council. Thank  
 12 you very much for issuing this proclamation.  
 13 I am Tina Jones. I am the chair of the  
 14 Board of Delmarva Pride Center, probably one of  
 15 the newest nonprofits that's headquartered here  
 16 in Talbot County. Joining me is Lisa Berry,  
 17 who is another member of our board. We serve  
 18 not just the transgender community but the LBGT  
 19 community for the entire midshore area.  
 20 One of the things that we do have is a  
 21 transgender support group called Delmarva

Page 53

1 Gender Expression Movement that meets here in  
 2 Easton on the third Tuesday of every month at  
 3 6:30 at Unitarian Universal Fellowship of  
 4 Easton.  
 5 We're very happy that you've taken the  
 6 opportunity to provide this proclamation. Last  
 7 year, 2021, was the deadliest year on record  
 8 for transgender people in this country. Most  
 9 people don't realize that.  
 10 It's nice to have leaders in our  
 11 communities stand up and recognize that  
 12 transgender people are people just like  
 13 everyone else, you know. And the words that  
 14 you included in there, that you're reaffirming  
 15 your commitment to promote the full inclusion  
 16 of people. And this for us is not just  
 17 transgender people, but all people regardless  
 18 of their sexual orientation, their gender  
 19 identity, their race, their ethnic background.  
 20 You know, it's so important that leaders  
 21 take that opportunity to do that and that you

Page 54

1 encourage our citizens to also do the same  
 2 thing.  
 3 And most importantly, treat each of us  
 4 with dignity and respect. That's what this  
 5 board is all about.  
 6 I mean there's so much hate that we see  
 7 right now.  
 8 Councilman Leshner, you were speaking in  
 9 your opening prayer about the hate that's going  
 10 on. We see what's going on in the world. We  
 11 see what's going on in Ukraine.  
 12 It is time for us to stop. It's time for  
 13 us just to come together and love one another  
 14 and reach out and get to know each person as a  
 15 person first before we pass a judgment.  
 16 And so we cannot thank you enough for  
 17 taking the time out of your busy schedules at  
 18 this meeting to recognize this day. This is  
 19 not just for the transgender community. This  
 20 is for all of us. So thank you.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Thank you.

Page 55

1 Appreciate that.  
 2 MR. LESHER: Tina, I want to thank you for  
 3 your leadership, for your visibility in this,  
 4 and your work, which is bringing both support  
 5 and comfort to many of our citizens in this  
 6 county. So thank you for your good work.  
 7 MS. JONES: Thank you. I know this is not  
 8 always easy for you, either. I know not  
 9 everybody is as accepting as this Council is.  
 10 And it takes courage on your behalf to  
 11 stand up for people like me, people like Lisa.  
 12 And we appreciate that.  
 13 Again, that's what makes all of us free.  
 14 That's what makes all of us safe and happy. So  
 15 thank you.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 17 MR. PACK: Thank you very much. I would  
 18 echo -- I'm just watching the little guy here.  
 19 I will echo Mr. Leshner's statements thanking  
 20 you for your leadership.  
 21 I think this is your fourth year.

Page 56

1 MS. JONES: It's our third year. But the  
 2 first year was the first year of COVID. So  
 3 this is the first year I've been able to come  
 4 in person.  
 5 MR. PACK: That's right. This is our  
 6 third year of doing this with you all. And it  
 7 seems like you've already put some things  
 8 together with the Delmarva Pride Center. So it  
 9 looks like you're getting some traction in the  
 10 community as far as, as you said, a day of  
 11 visibility so that people can see you for you.  
 12 And again, thank you for your courage and  
 13 for your leadership for you all coming here and  
 14 doing this and putting a spotlight on, as you  
 15 said before, just treating people with a little  
 16 bit more humanity and stop all the division.  
 17 I wish it was as easy as you said, we just  
 18 need to stop. As Mr. Leshner said in his  
 19 opening prayer, there's so much hatred going on  
 20 in the world, so much killing going on in the  
 21 world. I wish it was just as easy just to say

Page 57

1 stop and let it be done. But unfortunately, we  
 2 know that that's not the case.  
 3 So for this little guy and for that young  
 4 girl, let's continue working together to make  
 5 this a better place.  
 6 MS. JONES: Absolutely. Thank you.  
 7 And again, just one quick plug, if I may.  
 8 So we are going to have a pride festival in  
 9 Easton. It is going to be the weekend of  
 10 June 17th through the 19th. So it will be a  
 11 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday event.  
 12 On Friday, from three to seven, we will be  
 13 having -- Free State Justice will be joining us  
 14 and providing a free legal clinic to LGBTQ  
 15 folks of limited means. So they can get any  
 16 services they may need, be that a gender marker  
 17 change, a name change, issues, if they have any  
 18 disputes with anyone, if they need to work on  
 19 wills, anything at all that's a legal matter.  
 20 They're going to be providing that service for  
 21 free that afternoon.

Page 58

1 We are going to have a drag show and dance  
 2 at the Hummingbird Inn that evening.  
 3 Saturday will be our festival, which will  
 4 be on Harrison Street from 11 until three.  
 5 We're very excited about that.  
 6 We've been talking with the county Art  
 7 Museum, BAAM, and the Harriet Tubman -- or  
 8 Frederick Douglass Society regarding their  
 9 Juneteenth event. So that will be happening on  
 10 the Saturday as well. We're hoping that folks  
 11 will come out for both because they're both  
 12 about inclusion and acceptance.  
 13 And then on Sunday, we're going to do a  
 14 brunch, again, back at the Hummingbird Inn.  
 15 So we're very excited about this. We hope  
 16 everybody will come out. It's going to be a  
 17 great day for everyone. We have activities for  
 18 kids as well.  
 19 And so we invite you to come, join, and be  
 20 a part of the community with all of us. So  
 21 thank you.

Page 59

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, thank you.  
 2 One last thing. Madam Secretary.  
 3 MR. PACK: So moved.  
 4 MR. LESHER: I'll second.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: I got a motion and a  
 6 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 7 vote, please.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 13 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 15 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 17 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it.  
 19 MS. JONES: Thank you.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 21 MS. BERRY: Thank you.

Page 60

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Come on up.  
 2 MS. JONES: Let's get your picture.  
 3 MR. STAMP: Thank you.  
 4 MS. JONES: Thank you.  
 5 MR. LESHER: Thank you. Congratulations.  
 6 MS. JONES: Thank you so much.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: You guys did a great job,  
 8 great job.  
 9 Okay. Next on the agenda, we've got our  
 10 introduction of administrative resolution.  
 11 Madam Secretary, could you read that in the  
 12 record please for us, please.  
 13 SECRETARY: A resolution authorizing  
 14 Talbot County to file an application with the  
 15 Maryland Transit Administration, the Maryland  
 16 Department of Transportation for a section  
 17 5303, 5304, 5307, 5309, 5310, and 5311 grant  
 18 under the Federal Transit Act.  
 19 Whereas, the Maryland Transit  
 20 Administration is a designated recipient in  
 21 Maryland for grants under the Federal Transit

Page 61

1 Act.  
 2 And whereas, the administrator of the  
 3 Maryland Transit Administration of the Maryland  
 4 Department of Transportation is authorized to  
 5 make grants to counties and to local  
 6 governments for a mass transportation program  
 7 of projects.  
 8 And whereas, the contract for financial  
 9 assistance will impose certain obligations upon  
 10 the applicant, including the provision by the  
 11 contract of the local share of the project  
 12 costs in the program.  
 13 And whereas, it is required by the United  
 14 States Department of Transportation in  
 15 accordance with the provisions of Title Six of  
 16 the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that in connection  
 17 with the filing of an application for  
 18 assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the  
 19 applicant given assurance that it will comply  
 20 with Title Six of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
 21 and the United States Department of



Page 62	Page 64
<p>1 Transportation requirements thereunder.</p> <p>2 And whereas, it is the goal of the</p> <p>3 applicant that minority business enterprise be</p> <p>4 utilized to the fullest extent possible in</p> <p>5 connection with this project and that definite</p> <p>6 procedures shall be established and</p> <p>7 administered to ensure that minority business</p> <p>8 should have the maximum construction contract</p> <p>9 supplies, equipment contracts for consultant,</p> <p>10 and other services.</p> <p>11 Now, therefore, be it resolved by Talbot</p> <p>12 County, Maryland, the filing of the aforesaid</p> <p>13 application be endorsed and be it further</p> <p>14 resolved that copies of this resolution be sent</p> <p>15 to the Maryland Transit Administration of the</p> <p>16 Maryland Department of Transportation.</p> <p>17 Now, therefore, the County Council of</p> <p>18 Talbot County, Maryland, hereby endorses this</p> <p>19 resolution, thereby indicating approval</p> <p>20 thereof.</p> <p>21 Given under our hands in the great seal of</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>2 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>4 a second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>5 vote, please.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we have</p> <p>17 another administrative resolution. Could you</p> <p>18 read that one, too, please.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: It's a little wordy.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: It is a little wordy. You</p> <p>21 can do the short version.</p>
Page 63	Page 65
<p>1 Talbot County this 22nd day of March in the</p> <p>2 year of our Lord, 2022.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>4 Good job.</p> <p>5 Open it up, Council.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Is it worth having staff just</p> <p>7 for the public benefit explain what this is</p> <p>8 about?</p> <p>9 MR. DIVILIO: This is bringing the Bay</p> <p>10 Bridge to St. Michaels.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Actually, Mr. Leshner. This</p> <p>12 should have been included in the March 8th</p> <p>13 agenda.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHER: This is the follow on --</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: With part of the Delmarva</p> <p>16 Community Transit.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: It's the standard we do every</p> <p>18 year.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: It inadvertently was omitted.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: Well, with that, I'll move</p> <p>21 the resolution.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: An administrative resolution</p> <p>2 entitled a resolution of Talbot County,</p> <p>3 Maryland, the county, authorizing the issuance</p> <p>4 and sale of consolidated public improvement</p> <p>5 general obligation bonds in a principal amount</p> <p>6 not exceeding \$600,000, pursuant to the</p> <p>7 authority of Bill Number 1493, enacted by the</p> <p>8 County Council of Talbot County, Maryland, on</p> <p>9 September 14, 2021, the public local law,</p> <p>10 section 10-203 of the Local Government Article</p> <p>11 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 2013</p> <p>12 replacement volume, as amended, the enabling</p> <p>13 act, and section 623 of the Charter of Talbot</p> <p>14 County, Maryland, the charter. The bonds to be</p> <p>15 designated Talbot County, Maryland, general</p> <p>16 obligation bonds, St. Michaels wastewater</p> <p>17 system belt filter. The net proceeds of the</p> <p>18 sale thereof to be used and applied for the</p> <p>19 public purpose of financing or refinancing</p> <p>20 rehabilitation improvements to certain</p> <p>21 wastewater facilities located within the</p>

Page 66	Page 68
<p>1 county, as more particularly described herein.</p> <p>2 Together with financing or refinancing of the</p> <p>3 acquisition of all necessary property rights</p> <p>4 and equipment and related architectural,</p> <p>5 financial, legal, planning, and engineering</p> <p>6 expenses. Prescribing the form and tenor of</p> <p>7 the bonds and the terms and conditions for the</p> <p>8 issuance and sale thereof at private sale to</p> <p>9 the United States of America. Acting through</p> <p>10 Rural Utility Service, United States Department</p> <p>11 of Agriculture, USDA. Authorizing the</p> <p>12 consolidation of separate series of bonds into</p> <p>13 one or more bonds, providing for the prompt</p> <p>14 payment of maturing principal of and interest</p> <p>15 on the bonds, covenanting to levy and collect</p> <p>16 all taxes necessary to provide for the payment</p> <p>17 of the principal of and interest on such bonds,</p> <p>18 subject to the limitations set forth in section</p> <p>19 614 the county Charter, and generally relating</p> <p>20 to the issuance, sale, and delivery of the</p> <p>21 bonds.</p>	<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Second?</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Second.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>5 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>6 vote, please.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>10 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,</p> <p>18 introduction to legislation. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>19 could you please read the title of the bill</p> <p>20 into the record, please.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 24,</p>
Page 67	Page 69
<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Council.</p> <p>2 Thank you, Madam Secretary, any discussion</p> <p>3 on this?</p> <p>4 MS. PRICE: So someone give...</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Ray is back there.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.</p> <p>7 MR. CLARKE: Yes, Council. This is</p> <p>8 associated with the belt filter press that we</p> <p>9 have at the St. Michaels wastewater treatment</p> <p>10 plant.</p> <p>11 Ultimately, the current press that we had</p> <p>12 failed. So this is going to be a replacement</p> <p>13 press.</p> <p>14 Currently, we're waiting for that press to</p> <p>15 be delivered. Hopefully in May we'll have that</p> <p>16 press online.</p> <p>17 This is basically part of the process</p> <p>18 that's securing the loan that we've applied for</p> <p>19 through Rural Development.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. Make a</p> <p>21 motion?</p>	<p>1 boards, committees, and commissions, of the</p> <p>2 Talbot County Code in order to add a new</p> <p>3 Article Five entitled Police Accountability</p> <p>4 Board and Administrative Charging Committee.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Thomas, you want</p> <p>6 to help us on this one?</p> <p>7 MR. THOMAS: Sure. So briefly, the</p> <p>8 Maryland Police Accountability Board Act of</p> <p>9 2022 requires each county to create a Police</p> <p>10 Accountability Board and Administrative</p> <p>11 Charging Committee.</p> <p>12 Much of the language in this bill is</p> <p>13 what's required under the act and regulations</p> <p>14 that are being considered by the Maryland</p> <p>15 Police and Correctional Training Commission.</p> <p>16 So that's what this is.</p> <p>17 We've had a couple of public work sessions</p> <p>18 about it.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Okay.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: I just want to send my thanks</p> <p>21 out to Sheriff Gamble, Chief Smith, and all the</p>

Page 70

1 other associated chiefs and municipalities for  
 2 coming out and helping out with this. I know  
 3 that this was all new to them.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 5 MR. PACK: And of course, working with  
 6 Patrick to kind of get the wording straight.  
 7 As Patrick indicated, most of the wording  
 8 was already in place through the language of  
 9 the legislation. We just had to tailor some of  
 10 it according to the way Talbot County wanted to  
 11 proceed with it.  
 12 So this is the first step in this process  
 13 of enacting these bodies, is to get them in  
 14 Chapter 24. And therefore, I certainly will  
 15 support moving forward.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.  
 17 Appreciate that.  
 18 Any other comments?  
 19 I'd like to thank all the sheriffs and the  
 20 chiefs working together and Patrick. You guys  
 21 for the last three months, you've been working

Page 71

1 really hard to put all this together. So I  
 2 want to thank everybody for doing that. Okay.  
 3 Madam Secretary, you want to raise our  
 4 hands.  
 5 MR. LESHAR: You want sponsors first?  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That's what I'm  
 7 doing. Raise your hand to sponsor.  
 8 MR. LESHAR: By Council.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Would you please  
 10 announce the number of the bill and public  
 11 hearing, the day and time, please.  
 12 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as  
 13 Bill Number 1497, and the public hearing will  
 14 be on Tuesday, April 12th, at 6:30 p.m.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next up is public  
 16 hearing on the Community Block Grant. Mary  
 17 Kay, you want to come on up? Welcome.  
 18 MS. VERDERY: Hi, thank you very much.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: How you doing?  
 20 MS. VERDERY: Thank you for having me this  
 21 evening.

Page 72

1 MS. PRICE: No problem.  
 2 MS. VERDERY: The Department of Housing  
 3 and Community Development requires that  
 4 projects that receive Community Development  
 5 Block Grant funds to hold a second public  
 6 hearing to update the Council and the public on  
 7 the progress of the spending and the progress  
 8 of the project. We have a couple of projects  
 9 before you today.  
 10 The first is the Food Program. Talbot  
 11 County applied for a CDBG grant in June of 2020  
 12 and executed an agreement with the Department  
 13 of Housing and Community Development in August  
 14 of 2020. We received \$250,000 grant from the  
 15 State, which was divided into two separate food  
 16 programs.  
 17 The countywide program received \$150,000  
 18 and was administered by the St. Michaels  
 19 Community Center. These funds supported staff  
 20 costs, kitchen equipment, food and supplies to  
 21 serve the low-to-moderate income beneficiaries.

Page 73

1 The Senior Food Program was administered  
 2 by the Upper Shore Aging, and they received  
 3 \$100,000 for food delivery for homebound senior  
 4 citizens.  
 5 The countywide Food Program, we signed a  
 6 sub-recipient agreement with the St. Michaels  
 7 Community Center in July of 2020. And they  
 8 were able to purchase new kitchen equipment and  
 9 have spent nearly all the funds, having only a  
 10 small balance in food and supplies remaining.  
 11 The grant required that they serve 420  
 12 beneficiaries and 370 of those had to be in low  
 13 or moderate income. As of October 2021, they  
 14 had met that beneficiary count, having served  
 15 over 467 persons.  
 16 This is a few of the items that were  
 17 purchased with the grant funding. They were  
 18 able to purchase new ovens, immersion blenders,  
 19 induction burner, they also purchased new  
 20 racks, pins, prep tables, storage shelving, and  
 21 other kitchen essentials.

Page 74

1 The Senior Food Program signed a  
 2 sub-recipient agreement with the Upper Shore  
 3 Aging in July of 2020. The grant provided  
 4 \$100,000. And Upper Shore Aging provided just  
 5 over 43,000 in project administration.  
 6 The grant funds were used to prepare,  
 7 pack, and distribute meals to homebound senior  
 8 citizens. And the grant funds were distributed  
 9 between August of 2020 and August of 2021.  
 10 They were able to meet their beneficiary count  
 11 of 30 within the first quarter of the grant  
 12 cycle.  
 13 These are a few of the volunteers and the  
 14 Upper Shore Aging workers as they prepared the  
 15 meals and prepared them for distribution.  
 16 The Senior Centers of the Upper Shore  
 17 Aging and the Meals on Wheels program continue  
 18 to offer services and to serve our local senior  
 19 population.  
 20 We want to say thank you to the staff and  
 21 the volunteers of the St. Michaels Community

Page 75

1 Center, the Upper Shore Aging, and the Meals on  
 2 Wheels members and also the community that  
 3 helped to assist and volunteer with these  
 4 programs as well.  
 5 So I would ask if there's any members of  
 6 the St. Michaels Community Center or Upper  
 7 Shore Aging that would like to say anything in  
 8 regard to the program, to come forward.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. I know Robbie wants  
 10 to come up.  
 11 MR. ROFE: Hi. Thank you for having me  
 12 speak. My name is Patrick Rofe. I'm the new  
 13 executive director at St. Michaels Community  
 14 Center.  
 15 And I just want to, again, say thank you  
 16 for following the grant through our  
 17 organization because you saw that there were  
 18 467 individuals served. But one of the things  
 19 that you don't see is what that means is we  
 20 served about, over the course of the grant,  
 21 about 215,000 meals. That's about 2,000 meals

Page 76

1 a week. And we were distributing, at the peak  
 2 of the pandemic last year, not last year, the  
 3 year before, about 500 ten-pound pantry bags  
 4 every week to the community as well as over 500  
 5 meals to the community in the Bay Hundred area  
 6 every week.  
 7 And that really hasn't abated too much.  
 8 It's been cut in half about. But we've been  
 9 seeing new clients every week. So the need is  
 10 still there, and we're very appreciative for  
 11 the support. So it's made a huge difference in  
 12 our community. Thank you.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 14 MS. BROOKS: Good evening. I think all of  
 15 you know me. I'm Childlene Brooks. I'm the  
 16 manager of Brookletts Place, the Talbot County  
 17 Senior Center.  
 18 And I can't thank Mary Kay enough for  
 19 keeping us on track, number one.  
 20 But I cannot thank the volunteers enough  
 21 because without them, we would not have been

Page 77

1 able to do what we did. At the peak of the  
 2 pandemic, we were sending out over 800 meals  
 3 per week. This is just through Meals on  
 4 Wheels. And that's not counting the food  
 5 pantry that we are doing in conjunction with  
 6 St. Marks.  
 7 But the volunteers came in. They helped  
 8 to pack the stuff, they delivered. I mean it  
 9 was just amazing.  
 10 And as Patrick said, the need is still  
 11 there. Of course, we're not sending out that  
 12 many meals now. We're doing a little over 700  
 13 a week, but the need is still there. There's  
 14 still people in this community that need meals  
 15 and that are not taking advantage of it.  
 16 So thank you also very much for all of  
 17 your support.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys. We really  
 19 appreciate everything you do. You are very,  
 20 very valuable to all these communities and  
 21 everything. That's a lot of meals. We can't

Page 78

1 thank you enough.  
 2 Council.  
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Transportation has always  
 4 been a hot button for me. I want our seniors  
 5 to be able to stay in their homes as long as  
 6 possible and be as comfortable in their homes  
 7 as possible.  
 8 We know that they can't always afford a  
 9 car or don't always have the option to get out  
 10 to get the food that they need.  
 11 So thank you for being there and  
 12 organizing volunteers to make sure that  
 13 everyone is able to get a meal who requests  
 14 one. Thank you.  
 15 MS. BROOKS: And thank you for being one  
 16 of our Meals on Wheels --  
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Sh.  
 18 MS. BROOKS: I'm sorry. I thought maybe  
 19 we can bribe the rest of them.  
 20 MR. DIVILIO: That truck will hold a lot.  
 21 MR. LESHER: This is such an important

Page 79

1 program. And it is just one of the programs  
 2 that our senior centers and our Upper Shore  
 3 Aging are delivering on. You are a valuable  
 4 part of this community, and this is just one  
 5 shining example of why that is the case.  
 6 Thank you.  
 7 MR. PACK: Yeah, absolutely. Thank you  
 8 very much, Patrick. Nice meeting you. And of  
 9 course, we see Ms. Brooks nearly at least once  
 10 a month.  
 11 But yes, let me echo what my colleagues  
 12 have just said. Thank you for all that you've  
 13 done over the last two and a half years dealing  
 14 with the COVID crisis. You know, food, getting  
 15 food into families' homes became a big push  
 16 when we sat down and had our team meetings, how  
 17 we're going to get the food distributed to  
 18 people.  
 19 I don't think the community realizes what  
 20 the St. Michaels Community Center does. That  
 21 small little building that you operate out of

Page 80

1 and how many people that you serve.  
 2 I read a statistic not too long ago. When  
 3 you look at food insecure homes, you don't  
 4 think about food insecure homes in agricultural  
 5 communities because you think hey, they're  
 6 growing food, why are they food insecure. But  
 7 the largest block of food insecure homes  
 8 actually comes out of our community.  
 9 So the work that you're doing is still  
 10 vital, although we're producing the corn, we're  
 11 producing the grain and so forth. We still  
 12 have a great need in the community for those  
 13 homes that are food insecure.  
 14 We hear about food deserts where we go  
 15 through blocks of neighborhoods, mostly in  
 16 urban settings, where they don't have a market.  
 17 Well, St. Michaels was that way for a while,  
 18 if you remember a couple of years back when you  
 19 didn't have a market.  
 20 So again, tip our hat to you all for all  
 21 the great work you're doing, all the great work

Page 81

1 the USA. Gary, thank you for all that you're  
 2 doing back there. We appreciate it and we need  
 3 you as a partner, we really do.  
 4 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.  
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Not a lot left to say. My  
 7 colleagues have done a great job in recognizing  
 8 all the great work that you do.  
 9 I just want to give out a shout to Mary  
 10 Kay just because now that we are able to have  
 11 somebody that's dedicated to just working on  
 12 these grants, the block grants and all of that,  
 13 I think it makes it a lot more efficient.  
 14 And I think one thing we learned through  
 15 COVID is how much can get done. And so going  
 16 forward, we have all the tools for how to get  
 17 this done. Even though we don't want to be in  
 18 a crisis again, we have that opportunity to get  
 19 things done when we need to do so. And it  
 20 takes a team, and we certainly have a great  
 21 one.

Page 82

1 So thank you very much.  
 2 MS. VERDERY: Thank you.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, guys. Thank you.  
 4 Appreciate it.  
 5 You want to go to the next one?  
 6 MS. VERDERY: Yes.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 8 MS. VERDERY: So the next grant that we  
 9 want to talk about, again, having to meet the  
 10 requirement for DHCD of having our second  
 11 public hearing, I want to talk about the  
 12 Perkins Family YMCA Bay Hundred Senior Center.  
 13 The county applied for Community  
 14 Development Block Grant through DHCD in June of  
 15 2018 and the grant agreement was signed in  
 16 November of 2018.  
 17 The project was for a 24,000 square foot  
 18 addition to the St. Michaels High School  
 19 campus to be used as a shared space for a  
 20 senior center and a YMCA located on Seymour  
 21 Avenue in St. Michaels.

Page 83

1 The CDBG grant offer \$200,000 for site  
 2 work. And our other sources and State grants  
 3 provided over \$8 million for additional site  
 4 work, construction, and project administration.  
 5 The county entered into a sub-recipient  
 6 agreement with Upper Shore Aging and the Young  
 7 Men's Christian Association of the Chesapeake  
 8 in December of 2018. And grant funds were  
 9 distributed June through October of 2019.  
 10 The agreement required 850 low-to-moderate  
 11 income beneficiaries to be served, and 288 of  
 12 those beneficiaries had been served by  
 13 December 2021. The mandatory closure of senior  
 14 centers through the COVID crisis had an impact  
 15 on some of the abilities to serve. So that's  
 16 why we haven't met the number yet, but they are  
 17 definitely continuing on and providing the  
 18 services and tracking again now that they have  
 19 reopened.  
 20 So a relatively quick construction project  
 21 from ground breaking in mid to late 2018 to the

Page 84

1 ribbon cutting in June of 2019.  
 2 Some of the new facility amenities include  
 3 a central kitchen, dual dining room and  
 4 gymnasium area, meeting space, a warm water  
 5 exercise pool, wellness center, exercise and  
 6 locker rooms, sauna, child care, nursery  
 7 center.  
 8 And site work, this just shows some the  
 9 site work in the beginning phases of the  
 10 construction. These are a few photographs of  
 11 the interior space, the swimming pool  
 12 construction, and common and reception area.  
 13 Governor Hogan did visit the Oxford and  
 14 St. Michaels area and toured the new YMCA  
 15 Senior Center in August of 2021.  
 16 And the completed Senior Center facility  
 17 offers the opportunity for learning and for  
 18 socializing and for gatherings.  
 19 Due to the mandatory State closure of all  
 20 the senior centers during the COVID pandemic,  
 21 the Senior Center got creative and offered

Page 85

1 classes through online services and Zoom  
 2 classes. The county coordinated with DHCD to  
 3 get approval of the attendees of those online  
 4 classes as beneficiaries to count toward their  
 5 goal. So that was a creative way for them to  
 6 still be able to provide some services.  
 7 They offered several different classes;  
 8 watercolors, knitting, and computer help. I  
 9 think we all needed the computer help during  
 10 the pandemic.  
 11 The opportunity for, construction of, and  
 12 future success of the facility is in large part  
 13 due to community involvement, again.  
 14 The children that are pictured here are  
 15 from the Critchlow Adkins Child Care facility  
 16 and to the left are several of the community  
 17 members, volunteers, and Upper Shore Aging  
 18 staff.  
 19 And last but certainly not least, again,  
 20 is the thank yous to all of those that are  
 21 listed here and to the many others who provided

Page 86	Page 88
<p>1 support, partnerships, grants, donations,                  2 volunteerism.                  3 The facility was able to get grants                  4 through the Governor's Office. The county                  5 provided support for this particular project.                  6 So we just want to thank everyone who                  7 participated either as a volunteer or through                  8 the grants and donations that helped make this                  9 project come to fruition. So we thank you very                  10 much.                  11 And again, we have members and                  12 representatives from the Senior Center and                  13 Upper Shore Aging that we'd like to have.                  14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Come on up. Welcome,                  15 guys. How are you?                  16 MR. GILL: Good to see you.                  17 MR. CALLAHAN: Good seeing you.                  18 MS. DeMART: I'm Ann DeMart. I'm the                  19 manager of the Bay Hundred Senior Center.                  20 I want to thank you all for your support                  21 of this. It's been a challenge because we were</p>	<p>1 Robbie Gill, CEO for the YMCA. Tracy Eutsler                  2 runs that Y and makes the impact. She's the                  3 one that does heavy lifting.                  4 I just want to say thank you for your                  5 vision and leadership and willingness to think                  6 out of the box. This is the first model of                  7 this type where you've got a YMCA sitting on                  8 school property that is also a senior center.                  9 So when we look way back in the day about                  10 a small community blending all that together,                  11 it really works. And so while COVID has had an                  12 impact, I will tell you there are 2,300 members                  13 of the YMCA in that community in the Bay                  14 Hundred area. And you take the Senior Center                  15 program that's being served as well. And then                  16 all the work that we're doing and partnering                  17 and collaborating with the kids that are on                  18 site there, that Y/Senior Center is serving                  19 three out of four people in the Bay Hundred                  20 area. So it is a model to lift up.                  21 It's been lifted up at the State level by</p>
Page 87	Page 89
<p>1 actually closed longer than we were open. We                  2 opened in June of 2019. We reopened in July.                  3 We put off the reopening a little bit because                  4 they had summer camp programs going on and we                  5 wanted to make sure the seniors were safe.                  6 But people have returned in force. We're                  7 so happy. And we've added some new programs.                  8 But the best news. I ran some stats the                  9 other day just to see. We've signed up 66 new                  10 members just since we reopened. And part of                  11 that is due to some new programs. We initiated                  12 tai chi and then also a program that Brookletts                  13 and St. Michaels are doing called aging                  14 mastery, which is a ten-week program of how to                  15 enhance the later years.                  16 So thank you very much. You've made many                  17 seniors and many of their adult children very                  18 happy. They're feeling very connected and                  19 enjoying the center very much. Thank you.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.                  21 MR. GILL: Council, good to see you.</p>	<p>1 the governor, the comptroller as well, and is                  2 going to be replicated in Centreville,                  3 Maryland, as they closed their senior center                  4 back in 2012.                  5 So I just want to say thank you for your                  6 vision. I mean it's a great model in a rural                  7 community of how you can work together to make                  8 an impact. And I just greatly appreciate it.                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.                  10 MS. PRICE: That facility is amazing. I                  11 remember the ribbon cutting.                  12 And you know, I remember Mr. Pack being a                  13 little like hum, I don't know if that can work.                  14 And then through your vision and how we saw it                  15 all come together and work together in a                  16 community, I am all for projects where we can                  17 multitask.                  18 And you don't need to build three                  19 different gymnasiums necessarily, you know.                  20 The school working together with the community                  21 and auditoriums and all that kind of stuff, in</p>

Page 90

1 a small community we do need to be efficient.  
 2 And we found a wonderful way to do that.  
 3 And it's amazing that it's going to be  
 4 replicated. It should be all over place.  
 5 MR. GILL: And I would -- that's a great  
 6 point, Laura.  
 7 I would also say, too, that total project  
 8 was 8.3 million. 6.9 million of that came  
 9 through private donations in this community.  
 10 Over 200 people who believed in that model and  
 11 believed it can make an impact. And so that  
 12 says a lot, too, when you've got that many  
 13 people in our community willing to step up and  
 14 say hey, we think this can make a difference  
 15 for the next 80 years.  
 16 So the State played a role, you guys  
 17 played a tremendous role.  
 18 Jessica is just a beast in making that  
 19 happen back in the day. I will always be  
 20 grateful for her efforts.  
 21 But it's something. I go in there every

Page 91

1 day that I'm there and I see Bob Perkins'  
 2 picture. One of my great sadnesses is he  
 3 passed away before that Y opened. I'll cry  
 4 thinking about him. But I tap him. I know the  
 5 staff thinks what is he doing hitting that  
 6 picture. But I miss him, but I know he's  
 7 looking down and he's so proud of the work  
 8 that's happening there.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.  
 10 MR. PACK: I will say, Robbie, thank you  
 11 and Childlene for your vision.  
 12 As Laura alluded to, I do remember those  
 13 early meetings when myself and Mr. Hollis sat  
 14 down with you. And I did not see this working.  
 15 I did not see how you could put a senior  
 16 population in with a bunch of kids, how is this  
 17 going to work.  
 18 And once we got around to listening to you  
 19 two figure it out and say we can make it work,  
 20 just get out of our way and let us do it, you  
 21 did, you did. And it came out to be very, very

Page 92

1 successfully done.  
 2 Ann came on board to run the day-to-day  
 3 down there. And Tracy, of course, she's a rock  
 4 star.  
 5 So you guys have a good thing there in,  
 6 again, little St. Michaels that is a model for  
 7 our YMCA intergenerational partnerships around  
 8 the state. It's done very well.  
 9 I remember Childlene sent out a survey to  
 10 see what kind of services the Bay Hundred  
 11 community wanted to see out of that Senior  
 12 Center down there so it would not be  
 13 duplicating services or introducing something  
 14 that people didn't want. And it turned out  
 15 very well.  
 16 So hats off to all of you.  
 17 MR. LESHAR: Well, and on top of that, I  
 18 know that the State did not make it easy. The  
 19 system was not set up to be able to do this  
 20 cooperative arrangement on school property.  
 21 And you persevered.

Page 93

1 And even though you had the vision, and  
 2 you were patient with us until we found a way  
 3 to make this work. And so I'm grateful for  
 4 your partnership in getting us to this point.  
 5 Thank you.  
 6 MR. GILL: Thank you. It's a great team  
 7 effort.  
 8 MR. DIVILIO: One of the types of ways to  
 9 diversify a group is by age. So by including  
 10 different generations, telling different  
 11 stories, sharing experiences, it energizes. So  
 12 I think it's a great concept.  
 13 I remember hearing about the programming  
 14 and what was the intent was coming. And then  
 15 COVID came. I'm excited to see what is going  
 16 to come out of there now that we're back open  
 17 and excited.  
 18 So enjoy the energy and enjoy the ride.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: I would agree, too, with  
 20 all my colleagues. We're real proud of all you  
 21 guys and all you did.



Page 94

1 And it's a great feeling to be involved in  
 2 something like that because everybody was a  
 3 little apprehensive at first. But you guys  
 4 pulled it off. And I'll tell you, like you  
 5 say, all of you are rock stars. That's for you  
 6 sure. And the community has benefited from  
 7 that.  
 8 So appreciate everything.  
 9 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.  
 10 MR. GILL: Thanks.  
 11 MS. PRICE: So is there now some kind of  
 12 public hearing about all this or is this  
 13 just --  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 15 MR. PACK: Ask if anybody wants to come  
 16 up.  
 17 MR. GILL: You guys have a tough job.  
 18 Thank you for all you do. We all appreciate  
 19 it.  
 20 MR. PACK: We'll figure it out.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

Page 95

1 MS. VERDERY: Again, I would just like to  
 2 say that the CDBG grant projects require a lot  
 3 of communication and tracking and working with  
 4 each of these agencies to do reporting and  
 5 financial reports, beneficiary tracking. So it  
 6 goes both ways. They put a lot of work into  
 7 making sure that this happens and that we meet  
 8 the requirements that we need to to spend these  
 9 funds. So I appreciate the working  
 10 relationship that I have with each of them as  
 11 well.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good.  
 13 MR. PACK: Anyone from the public wants to  
 14 speak.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I'm going to ask  
 16 anybody over here to my left, if anybody would  
 17 like to come up and speak about it, you're  
 18 welcome to come up.  
 19 Anybody here on the right?  
 20 We appreciate everything.  
 21 MS. VERDERY: Thank you.

Page 96

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 2 MR. PACK: Thanks, Mary Kay.  
 3 MS. VERDERY: Thank you.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: We're going to take a  
 5 few-minute break, get Mr. Leshner's mike  
 6 straight.  
 7 (Recess taken.)  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's get going on  
 9 the update for the Talbot County or the  
 10 Connection Talbot Broadband project.  
 11 We're welcoming these guys. Hugh, you  
 12 want to introduce your team?  
 13 MR. GRUNDEN: I'd like to. Good evening,  
 14 President Callahan and Council. I thank you  
 15 for giving us the time this evening to come  
 16 before you and talk about this important  
 17 project.  
 18 My name is Hugh Grunden. I'm the  
 19 president and CEO of Easton Utilities. And I  
 20 have a couple of my colleagues here with me  
 21 tonight. Steve Ochse, our chief financial

Page 97

1 officer. And Ted Book, who is the director of  
 2 Velocity, which is our cable and Internet and  
 3 phone business.  
 4 We're here this evening to update an  
 5 update on Connect Talbot. And it is a  
 6 transformational project, and you folks know  
 7 that. And the initiative is to secure  
 8 broadband access for all the unserved residents  
 9 of Talbot County.  
 10 A partnership was developed between Easton  
 11 Utilities and Talbot County back in 2018 to  
 12 address this issue. And I'm pleased to tell  
 13 you tonight we are well underway.  
 14 An important side note is this partnership  
 15 in no way precludes any other Internet service  
 16 provider, known as an ISP, from providing  
 17 service anywhere in Talbot County.  
 18 As you're well aware, this is a  
 19 competitive market space. There are already  
 20 multiple Internet service providers in the  
 21 county providing service mainly in the

Page 98

1 populated areas.

2 So what this partnership has done, has

3 given us access to State and federal funding to

4 solve the rural broadband problem. And that's

5 the only way that it would be solved, is with

6 funds coming from the State and fed programs.

7 So it unlocked those funds for us to move

8 forward on our mission.

9 I hope that you received a two-sided

10 document in your advance material. It is up on

11 the screen as well. There are many, many

12 bullets divided up into different areas, such

13 as history and what we're going to do in the

14 future and then a map on the back.

15 In deference to your time this evening,

16 I'm not going to go through every one of those

17 points, but I'm more than happy to address any

18 questions you may have as you review those.

19 Rather what I'm going to do this evening

20 is provide a status update on the project and

21 outline the remaining gap in the funding, which

Page 99

1 is a customer contribution. Otherwise, known

2 as a contribution in aid of construction. This

3 is the customer's share of their rural

4 broadband infrastructure to bring this service

5 to their property line.

6 A second component of the customer

7 contribution are the costs to install the

8 facilities, particularly the fiber, along the

9 long farm lanes; driveways, private roadways.

10 Many of those in Talbot County, the private

11 roadways service multiple houses.

12 This is something we did not have built

13 into our project in the first iteration. And

14 instead, you may recall we put together a

15 portfolio of funding. And we included the

16 customers in there. So I'll get back to that

17 in a second. Just bear that in mind that

18 there's an element of customer contribution and

19 I want to come back to that at the end of my

20 presentation.

21 But first I'd like to talk a little bit

Page 100

1 about where we stand with Connect Talbot.

2 Counting the county's initial commitment,

3 several grants that we've secured, and the USDA

4 reconnect grant, that was the largest program

5 that we got started with, we've been awarded

6 \$20 million for the Connect Talbot project,

7 which will reach 92 percent of the unserved

8 locations in Talbot County, or approximately

9 3,300 parcels. And we intend to do this in the

10 next 48 months.

11 In January of this year, we applied to the

12 State of Maryland, the broadband infrastructure

13 program, for a grant of \$3.8 million to

14 complete the final eight percent. Remember,

15 our objective was to cover 100 percent of the

16 unserved.

17 And we committed to you when we

18 established our partnership we would continue

19 to pursue funding sources so we can get to that

20 100 percent. So we're awaiting word on that.

21 Those unserved areas are really the

Page 101

1 western areas of the county, places like

2 Neavitt, Bozman, Claiborne, and Tilghman. And

3 it's about 300 locations, but extremely rural

4 in those locations. Only about between one and

5 five homes in different pockets.

6 But back to the Reconnect project. That

7 was the big application that we submitted

8 initially and we were awarded in 2020. As soon

9 as we finished the design for that project,

10 which was last year, we started building this

11 new system with some minor contracts that were

12 allowed by the USDA.

13 We call these quick win areas because they

14 were closer to our system. And this early work

15 has provided access to about 100 parcels. And

16 we have provisionally connected about 40

17 customers.

18 Now, we haven't made a splash about that.

19 We were trying to -- we were getting out of the

20 gate softly.

21 But I'm here to tell you tonight that we

Page 102

1 reached a major milestone about two weeks ago.  
 2 And we received the final approval from the  
 3 USDA for our Reconnect contract. I won't  
 4 belabor the point of how laborious that was to  
 5 go through the federal process, but we got the  
 6 ball cross the finish line and that contract is  
 7 now approved.  
 8 You may have noticed as you've gone about  
 9 the county multiple contractors are actively  
 10 working in the county installing the backbone  
 11 of this new fiber system. In the industry,  
 12 many times we call this the middle mile. But  
 13 you build the foundation of the house first and  
 14 then you move on. So that's what you see going  
 15 on in the county right now.  
 16 An interactive construction map is being  
 17 added to our Connect Talbot website for  
 18 customers to see where constructed activity is  
 19 actually occurring. And then as we finish  
 20 those areas, you get those areas ready for  
 21 connection, customers will be able to go

Page 103

1 online, potential customers, go online and see  
 2 when service is ready in their area.  
 3 On the back part of your advance document,  
 4 we did some shading. And you can see in that  
 5 shading that basically the yellow sort of  
 6 waffle pattern, those are the three areas we  
 7 actually have contractors working in right now.  
 8 So instead of serially doing separate  
 9 parts of the county, we've been able to secure  
 10 contractors and equipment and materials to  
 11 attack, if you will, or go into multiple areas  
 12 of the county at one time. Hopefully that's  
 13 going to materially speed up the time to finish  
 14 this project.  
 15 And there's a lot of work to be done  
 16 certainly. But again, our goal is to complete  
 17 this in the next 48 months.  
 18 At this time, the only grant funded  
 19 program that we're working in the county is  
 20 this USDA. And the only one that is requiring  
 21 a customer contribution is the Reconnect

Page 104

1 program, the largest program, the red part of  
 2 that.  
 3 And again, the landscape changed. We  
 4 started working on this application in 2019,  
 5 but things have changed. And I'll get to the  
 6 ask in a moment. But it is the only grant that  
 7 we've secured for the county that requires a  
 8 customer contribution. And again, this  
 9 customer contribution is for the contribution  
 10 aid of construction, building that foundation  
 11 and then lengthy or difficult service drops.  
 12 And we didn't -- we're in this situation  
 13 as a result of being early to the game, if you  
 14 will, with the Reconnect project. And again,  
 15 the landscape has changed and we'll talk about  
 16 that a little bit.  
 17 And we've mitigated much of the cost  
 18 associated with this project, but we're unable  
 19 to find funding to alleviate this customer  
 20 contribution requirements.  
 21 One of the things that we did do, as soon

Page 105

1 as we received the notice back in 2000 (sic.),  
 2 we started securing all the materials necessary  
 3 to construct this project. We had no idea  
 4 there was going to be a supply change shortage,  
 5 but it turns out that between supply chain  
 6 difficulties and inflation, those materials are  
 7 increasingly difficult to obtain and they are  
 8 certainly more expensive.  
 9 We've got about 1.2 million feet of fiber  
 10 sitting on the yard, physically on the yard  
 11 ready to go. We did not want to be in a  
 12 situation where we got final approval from the  
 13 feds only to find out we couldn't get the  
 14 materials to move forward with the project.  
 15 So we're doing a lot of those sorts of  
 16 things to secure an early completion to this  
 17 project, and also that is going to help with  
 18 the funding or the cost of the project.  
 19 Because when we priced this job, it was late  
 20 2017, 2018 pricing. Those of you who have  
 21 tried to build anything recently understand

Page 106

1 that the cost of materials and labor has gone  
 2 up appreciably. So I think we've hedged  
 3 ourselves well, and I think that's just going  
 4 to help in our success in this project.  
 5 The total cost of these customer  
 6 contributions and the USDA Reconnect portion of  
 7 the Connect Talbot project is \$4 million. A  
 8 million and a half of that is the contribution  
 9 in aid of construction. The remaining 2.5 is  
 10 for those complex and lengthy service drops  
 11 that I talked about, mostly on the customer  
 12 premises, going up driveways, farm lanes, that  
 13 sort of thing again.  
 14 So the ask this evening is we're  
 15 requesting the County Council to provide  
 16 1.75 million of their American Rescue Plan Act  
 17 funding to close this gap for the customers  
 18 that are going to benefit from this project.  
 19 Combined with an anticipated State Block Grant  
 20 of \$1 million, and Easton Utilities is able to  
 21 put up \$1.25 million to solve this problem, the

Page 107

1 \$1.5 million contribution from the county would  
 2 eliminate this barrier to entry for the  
 3 customers.  
 4 And it's a very progressive act as well  
 5 inasmuch as the contribution in aid of  
 6 construction was the same for all customers no  
 7 matter your economic status or where you lived  
 8 or anything else. So the use of I'll call it  
 9 the ARPA funds, the American Rescue Plan Act  
 10 funds, by using them in this manner, not only  
 11 are you not just picking individual winners and  
 12 losers, but we're benefiting all of our  
 13 constituents in the county.  
 14 The other point I want to make is time is  
 15 of the essence in this request. And what I  
 16 mean by that is, as I indicated, we are on the  
 17 eve of putting out collateral material and  
 18 inviting folks to sign up for service and  
 19 really getting the sign-ups well underway.  
 20 We want to be able to tell the customers  
 21 do you have to put up a contribution the day of

Page 108

1 construction, do you have an extra cost for  
 2 this long service drop. If you do, we're going  
 3 to have to say that upfront. You can't go back  
 4 and say it.  
 5 What we'd rather do is contribute our part  
 6 of it, have the State contribute a piece, and  
 7 have the county contribute a piece in order to  
 8 eliminate this what I think is a barrier to  
 9 entry and certainly a cost to our county  
 10 constituents.  
 11 And certainly not wanting to discount the  
 12 negative impacts the pandemic has had on just  
 13 about every aspect of our life, one bright spot  
 14 is the substantial funding that has been made  
 15 widely available. The CARES Act, ARPA, the  
 16 infrastructure bill that passed. There's not a  
 17 bill, any one of those bills where broadband is  
 18 not mentioned. So it's terrific that the  
 19 necessity for broadband, particularly rural  
 20 areas, unserved people, has gained the  
 21 attention of the State and federal government.

Page 109

1 And that makes funds widely available.  
 2 So Talbot County I think through our  
 3 partnership is making very, very good use of  
 4 and accessing those funds.  
 5 So we trust, I hope this update, as I'm  
 6 being differential to your time this evening as  
 7 the hour grows late, but this is a very cursory  
 8 overview of our progress.  
 9 I am thrilled to come before you tonight  
 10 and say we are well underway. So several years  
 11 ago we talked about is this even possible. And  
 12 it is. And we're making it happen right now.  
 13 What I would ask you to consider is  
 14 relieving the county constituents of the burden  
 15 of a construction contribution in aid of  
 16 construction and these longer drops.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack.  
 18 MR. PACK: Yeah. Thanks, Hugh. The 40  
 19 that's already connected, were they assessed  
 20 the capital charges?  
 21 MR. GRUNDEN: They were told there was the

Page 110	Page 112
<p>1 likelihood of a capital charge.</p> <p>2 I noted them as provisional connections.</p> <p>3 So as soon as we get a clear answer, we have to</p> <p>4 go back to those 40 and firm up whether, in</p> <p>5 fact, they are going to be charged that</p> <p>6 contribution in aid of construction.</p> <p>7 They have been advised that charge is</p> <p>8 sitting out there. But and we didn't promise</p> <p>9 anything. We didn't bind you folks to promise</p> <p>10 anything for sure, but we termed those</p> <p>11 provisional.</p> <p>12 We can get them on so quickly. We just</p> <p>13 didn't want to wait. So we'll have to go back</p> <p>14 to those folks.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: So it's sitting there on their</p> <p>16 account. They're not being --</p> <p>17 MR. GRUNDEN: That's right.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: -- the monthly --</p> <p>19 MR. GRUNDEN: That's right.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Okay. On your map, just the</p> <p>21 green horizontal area that reads in the ledger</p>	<p>1 vertical green, you should see horizontal as</p> <p>2 well. It should look like a square check</p> <p>3 pattern.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: No, not really.</p> <p>5 MR. GRUNDEN: Okay.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: I mean if you look outside of</p> <p>7 Oxford, those are just horizontal.</p> <p>8 SPEAKER: The Community Connect is right</p> <p>9 here.</p> <p>10 MR. GRUNDEN: I'm sorry. I misunderstood</p> <p>11 you. I thought you said just vertical.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Well, in the ledger --</p> <p>13 MR. GRUNDEN: We'll start over, Mr. Pack.</p> <p>14 I've confused us completely.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: That's okay. So you're saying</p> <p>16 that the horizontal green is Rural Broadband?</p> <p>17 MR. GRUNDEN: Yes. State of Maryland.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: So the vertical, which now</p> <p>19 you're saying is actually, now that I see it is</p> <p>20 actually --</p> <p>21 MR. GRUNDEN: It's actually a funding</p>
<p>Page 111</p> <p>1 at the bottom.</p> <p>2 MR. GRUNDEN: Yeah.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Maryland. What does that</p> <p>4 signify?</p> <p>5 MR. GRUNDEN: So I think we ended up with</p> <p>6 five different grants. And in order to get out</p> <p>7 in that area, and you see just a little further</p> <p>8 to the west, see it hatches vertically as well?</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Right. There's a vertical</p> <p>10 green --</p> <p>11 MR. GRUNDEN: So that was, the vertical,</p> <p>12 the cross hatching, if you will, was a</p> <p>13 combination of the USDA Community Connect. And</p> <p>14 in order to cover the rest of that area, we</p> <p>15 filed an application with the State of Maryland</p> <p>16 Office of Rural Broadband. Those are the</p> <p>17 horizontal green lines.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Okay. That's Rural Broadband.</p> <p>19 And what about the vertical green that</p> <p>20 says Community Connect?</p> <p>21 MR. GRUNDEN: Right. Everywhere you see</p>	<p>Page 113</p> <p>1 overlay.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Okay. So that's some Rural</p> <p>3 Broadband money along with what?</p> <p>4 MR. GRUNDEN: USDA Community Connect.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: USDA money, okay. And so --</p> <p>6 MR. GRUNDEN: You don't often see two</p> <p>7 grants overlapping. In fact, that's the only</p> <p>8 place you see it. But that's the way the</p> <p>9 mapping was in the grant application process.</p> <p>10 So we overlaid the two.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Okay, okay. That makes sense.</p> <p>12 And the rest of the ledger I can read.</p> <p>13 That's all I have, Chuck.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Thanks.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: I note that the standard has</p> <p>18 changed a bit for what people's expectations</p> <p>19 are of high speed broadband. From the</p> <p>20 beginning of this project and to what you're</p> <p>21 able to deliver now, I know that these grants,</p>

Page 114

1 you've had to promise to deliver a certain  
 2 minimum speed.  
 3 But what are you actually going -- what do  
 4 you actually expect to delivery to these  
 5 customers?  
 6 MR. GRUNDEN: I can answer it, but I  
 7 brought Ted with me.  
 8 MR. BOOK: The grant requires us to be  
 9 able to offer 100 by 100 service. So 100 megs  
 10 of metric service.  
 11 We're going to be mimicking our speeds in  
 12 Easton under our normal, on our regular  
 13 business. So the tiers that we have today for  
 14 our Easton customers will be the same in the  
 15 county.  
 16 However, we will have the ability to offer  
 17 higher speeds if people choose to pay for a  
 18 premium service for higher speeds.  
 19 The service we're putting in is actually  
 20 ten gigabit. It's a ten gigabit PON service.  
 21 So we can go, you know, higher than -- we can

Page 115

1 go gigabits of metric or higher.  
 2 So we're setting ourselves up. I mean ten  
 3 gigabit PON service right now is like the top  
 4 of the line of what you can do today at the  
 5 price point. So we're not going in with the  
 6 bare minimum. We're going in with the ability  
 7 to grow into higher levels because, as you  
 8 know, customers, 100 megs today is going to be  
 9 gigabit tomorrow is going to be ten gig five  
 10 years from now.  
 11 MR. LESHER: So this infrastructure that  
 12 you're putting in has that capacity to serve  
 13 increased needs over time?  
 14 MR. BOOK: Yes, absolutely.  
 15 MR. GRUNDEN: Absolutely.  
 16 MR. BOOK: Does that answer your question?  
 17 MR. LESHER: Thank you.  
 18 MR. BOOK: You're welcome.  
 19 MR. GRUNDEN: It is, at least  
 20 commercially, it's a state of the art passive  
 21 optical network. That's the equipment we've

Page 116

1 purchased. That's the equipment we're  
 2 installing with your funds, our funds, and the  
 3 other funds that we've been able to secure.  
 4 MR. PACK: And just one. You alluded to  
 5 the fact all the grants, the CARES grant money  
 6 had some piece in there for broadband. Of  
 7 course, this money now through ARPA has some  
 8 broadband piece in it, as well as the  
 9 infrastructure bill that hopefully will get  
 10 passed later this year.  
 11 And I think the one thing that the  
 12 legislature realized is that if we don't have  
 13 the ability for people to work remotely, we're  
 14 not going to get the jobs done.  
 15 God forbid this pandemic hit us around  
 16 1995. There would be no home schooling. There  
 17 would be no working from home. We probably  
 18 would have come to a standstill economically.  
 19 So because we had the infrastructure in  
 20 place in 2020, you can just easily switch and  
 21 go to home schooling, although I lost a lot of

Page 117

1 hair doing that.  
 2 But anyway, I think that is one thing we  
 3 need to give our legislators credit for, having  
 4 that foresight to put broadband measures in  
 5 those bills because we have to get -- and we're  
 6 actually, US is behind the game. There are  
 7 some places around the world that already have  
 8 this in place and redundant lines in place.  
 9 MR. GRUNDEN: Yup. Not only -- we've all  
 10 understood there has to be ubiquitous access to  
 11 broadband at some point. And we planned that  
 12 in our strategic planning maybe going out  
 13 eight, nine, ten years.  
 14 COVID brought that all to today. When you  
 15 talk about telemedicine, business, education,  
 16 shopping from home to have your groceries  
 17 delivered so you don't have to leave your home.  
 18 It came crashing in in 2020.  
 19 MR. PACK: Right.  
 20 MR. GRUNDEN: Starting I believe  
 21 March 13th is when Clay Stamp was with us and

Page 118

1 said we're shutting down. So I think a Friday  
 2 the 13th.  
 3 MR. STAMP: Never forget it.  
 4 MR. GRUNDEN: But it absolutely has  
 5 brought it to the fore. And you're right, the  
 6 legislators have tuned into that and said this  
 7 is essential and this must be done.  
 8 MR. PACK: Yeah.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 10 MR. LESHER: And what you need is one and  
 11 three-quarter million from the ARPA funding to  
 12 close the deal and make this work?  
 13 MR. GRUNDEN: Yes.  
 14 MR. LESHER: Okay.  
 15 MR. DIVILIO: And I just want to go on the  
 16 record and say that, transparency, I didn't  
 17 realize that I'm going to be connected to this  
 18 until I just recently saw them in my yard  
 19 running the fiber, which was very exciting.  
 20 MR. GRUNDEN: You're welcome.  
 21 MR. DIVILIO: So thank you.

Page 119

1 MR. PACK: You may have to recuse  
 2 yourself, Mr. Divilio.  
 3 MR. DIVILIO: I was thinking about that.  
 4 MR. GRUNDEN: We weren't looking to where  
 5 you live.  
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. I know that wasn't in  
 7 the determination.  
 8 But when looking at the map, I see that  
 9 it's going to expand out and cover the Chapel  
 10 District Elementary School, which is an area  
 11 where there's no cell phone service, something  
 12 that we've been battling for a long time.  
 13 So any ability to increase communication  
 14 out there, I greatly appreciate it. I know  
 15 that will be a big improvement for that.  
 16 So I'm excited. There's a lot of things  
 17 that we don't even -- haven't even thought  
 18 about that this is going to benefit.  
 19 And again, I said it earlier, it's always  
 20 been my goal for our constituents to age in  
 21 place at their home. And right now, we've all

Page 120

1 seen it. You can have your pharmacy, your  
 2 prescriptions delivered to you. Everything is  
 3 on the Internet, all the information you need.  
 4 People are at home watching this right now.  
 5 So without that, their lives are  
 6 drastically different. And so I thank you for  
 7 going that extra mile with this and coming up  
 8 with the best case scenario and being such a  
 9 great partner with this Council to provide it.  
 10 I feel like it's the 1900s and electricity in  
 11 Appalachia or something. I can't believe that  
 12 in my life I'm doing something like that, but  
 13 that's how important this is.  
 14 MR. GRUNDEN: There's a real parallel.  
 15 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. To individuals. So  
 16 I'm excited for it.  
 17 MR. GRUNDEN: Great. Thank you.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody else?  
 19 MR. DIVILIO: I was extra loud because my  
 20 light's not on.  
 21 MR. GILL: Well, thank you for your time.

Page 121

1 And as always, should you have any questions,  
 2 should you require additional information,  
 3 we're a phone call away. Thank you.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Great job.  
 5 MR. BOOK: Thank you. Appreciate it.  
 6 MR. PACK: Good job.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So next up,  
 8 Cassandra is going to come up and she's going  
 9 to talk about the American Rescue Plan Act that  
 10 she's been working really hard on, her and Vice  
 11 President Leshner and her committee.  
 12 So you want to go ahead and bring us up on  
 13 speed on how we're helping the community.  
 14 MS. VANHOOSER: All right.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 16 MS. VANHOOSER: Good evening, President  
 17 Callahan and County Council Members. I know  
 18 y'all are tired and I only have 26 slides. So  
 19 I will try to make it snappy.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: This is important stuff.  
 21 MS. VANHOOSER: This is very important.

Page 122

1 MR. CALLAHAN: This is one of the reasons  
 2 that we're all up here right now giving back to  
 3 the community.  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, it is a real  
 5 pleasure to be with you here tonight.  
 6 I'm going to be talking about the State  
 7 and local fiscal recovery funds that Talbot  
 8 County received as part of the American Rescue  
 9 Plan Act. We received about \$7.2 million. And  
 10 I'm going to report briefly on the program just  
 11 to give a brief overview to you and to our  
 12 listeners and those who are watching and are  
 13 here tonight.  
 14 And I'm also going to give the results of  
 15 the survey that we did asking our citizens to  
 16 comment on how they would like to see these  
 17 funds distributed.  
 18 And then I'm going to share the  
 19 recommendations from the task force.  
 20 First I want to introduce, though, the  
 21 members of the task force who worked really

Page 123

1 hard on this initiative. We've been led by  
 2 Councilman Leshner and Clay Stamp, Jessica  
 3 Morris are on the committee. Joye Nagle and  
 4 Ken Calcagnini, who is our grants clerk. Ray  
 5 Clarke, who I believe is still with us. And  
 6 Nancy Andrew of the Talbot Family Network. And  
 7 of course, myself.  
 8 We have been thoughtful, deliberate, and  
 9 thorough in our assessment of the opportunity  
 10 that Talbot County has been given. And we're  
 11 ready to make recommendations on the first  
 12 portion of the funding.  
 13 And how did we get to these decisions?  
 14 Well, as I said, we asked our citizens.  
 15 I wanted to go over just really briefly  
 16 over the allowable expenditures for this money  
 17 because it is somewhat narrow. Everything  
 18 okay?  
 19 MR. STAMP: Yeah.  
 20 MS. VANHOOSER: I'm sorry. Investments in  
 21 infrastructure certainly are allowable

Page 124

1 expenditures. That includes water, sewer, and  
 2 broadband. Investments in public health. At  
 3 the end of the day, this is an effort by the  
 4 Congress to help us have the resources we need  
 5 to continue the fight against COVID-19.  
 6 Assistance to households and assistance to  
 7 businesses to spur the economic recovery and to  
 8 help those who need it.  
 9 Investments in tourism was on our survey.  
 10 And to some, that seemed like a non-sequitur.  
 11 But the program allows for support to targeted  
 12 industries that have been hit hardest. And  
 13 when we did our survey, tourism was the only  
 14 one listed that has since been expanded to  
 15 others as you can prove it as to how you choose  
 16 to use your money.  
 17 And then, of course, economic recovery.  
 18 And I think this is really important because  
 19 every federal treasury webinar that we've sat  
 20 through, they've stressed this. And you know,  
 21 we had these resources to build a strong,

Page 125

1 resilient, equitable recovery.  
 2 Things it cannot be used for: Tax  
 3 refunds, pension plans, debt service or  
 4 replenishing reserves, or anything that goes  
 5 against CDC guidelines. But these are pretty  
 6 narrow things. And we have no regard to using  
 7 them in this way, either.  
 8 So the timeline. We received the first  
 9 tranche. Tranche is your word of the day.  
 10 It's a French word that is the first payment.  
 11 We received our money in May of 2021. And  
 12 that's the first half of the money. We have  
 13 until December 31, 2024, to entail these funds.  
 14 And then December 31, 2026, to spend these  
 15 funds.  
 16 So what did our survey say? 634 people  
 17 responded when we asked them how that we should  
 18 spend this money. 52 percent of the  
 19 respondents were from Easton, with responses  
 20 coming from every corner of Talbot County.  
 21 And we engaged Beacon at Salisbury



Page 126

1 University to do this survey for us. And they  
 2 thought these were extraordinary results,  
 3 especially since we launched the weekend before  
 4 Christmas and ended January 16th with our  
 5 survey. They asked me if I was giving out  
 6 cookies to get people to answer the survey. I  
 7 said no, indeed, we have a very engaged  
 8 populous and we're very glad to hear from them  
 9 about this.

10 So of the six categories that I've  
 11 identified, these three rank the highest:

12 Infrastructure, and specifically expansion  
 13 of broadband for education, remote work, and  
 14 telehealth.

15 The number two was public health. This is  
 16 a direct quote from the 97-page report, which  
 17 I'm not going to make you all read. I've gone  
 18 through it, made detailed notes. And this is a  
 19 direct quote. We've learned from the pandemic  
 20 that public health is vital.

21 And of course, assistance to households.

Page 127

1 People should always be first when considering  
 2 such issues. And this is, again, a direct  
 3 quote from our people.

4 When you look at that top ranking segment,  
 5 broadband was number one. 45 percent of those  
 6 answering the survey ranked expansion of  
 7 broadband to unserved and underserved portions  
 8 of the county as very important.

9 Continuing to fight the pandemic, the  
 10 COVID-19 pandemic, is the core, again, of the  
 11 ARPA legislation. And our people ranked that  
 12 number two in number of priorities.

13 And a new EMS station in the north part of  
 14 the county and a back-up 911 Center topped the  
 15 list, followed by improvements in our Health  
 16 Department.

17 And I noted Mr. Leshler's prayer tonight  
 18 when he prayed for us all to have a generous  
 19 heart. Well, I can say with authority that our  
 20 people have a generous heart because they  
 21 ranked having a helping hand for those in need

Page 128

1 as very important. Assistance to households  
 2 and small businesses and nonprofits ranked  
 3 third and fourth and were very close together.

4 Other needs that were identified and  
 5 mentioned, we had an open-ended question on  
 6 every one of our -- every segment had an  
 7 open-ended question with it, which is why the  
 8 survey is 97 pages long in the report.

9 Other things that people said were  
 10 important, a new hospital, the cell towers in  
 11 remote parts of the county, multi-modal  
 12 transportation trails that take bikes and  
 13 walkers and what have you also mentioned a  
 14 number of times. And education, of course.

15 And 426 of the respondents took time to  
 16 fill out the open-ended questions, which is  
 17 also extraordinary.

18 So what are we recommending to you?  
 19 Investments in infrastructure, of course,  
 20 ranked number one. And we are recommending as  
 21 a group that we fund the \$1.75 million for

Page 129

1 broadband.

2 And we are committed. We started this in  
 3 2015 and engaged Easton Utilities through an  
 4 RFI process and are committed to seeing that  
 5 every person in this county has access to  
 6 broadband. And so we're going to plant our  
 7 flag hard and we're going to plant it here and  
 8 ask for \$1.75 million for broadband.

9 I think Hugh has done a really good job of  
 10 explaining what that money would be for.

11 We're also recommending \$105,000 for the  
 12 Chesapeake Center. They have a failing septic  
 13 system. There are no other funds at this time  
 14 to replace that. They're pumping and hauling.  
 15 Some of the members of that organization are  
 16 here tonight to support this request. So we  
 17 think this supports a nonprofit and helps the  
 18 environment. So we're asking for \$105,000 to  
 19 replace their septic system.

20 MR. LESHNER: To hook it to the county  
 21 sewer system.

Page 130

1 MS. VANHOOSER: Oh, excuse me. To hook it  
 2 to the county sewer system.  
 3 This is why Mr. Leshner is going to help me  
 4 our tonight and Mr. Stamp.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 6 MS. VANHOOSER: Investments in public  
 7 health. We're recommending \$1 million to be  
 8 put toward the building of the 911 Center in  
 9 the north county and the backup 911 Center, to  
 10 build a BMS station there. And this will  
 11 offset the cost that you'll already see in the  
 12 capital improvement projects for your budget.  
 13 An additional \$300,000 for an ambulance  
 14 for the Department of Emergency Services.  
 15 And \$500,000 for a fire company grant. We  
 16 know that the pandemic has hurt fire companies.  
 17 They are essential to our county. And we're  
 18 going to ask you to put \$500,000 aside for a  
 19 grant fund for them to be able to apply for  
 20 equipment and other needs that can be, that  
 21 this fund can be used for.

Page 131

1 MR. LESHER: And this would be a two-year  
 2 funding opportunity.  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: Yeah.  
 4 MR. LESHER: To provide equipment. It's  
 5 specific to equipment for the fire companies.  
 6 MS. VANHOOSER: Yes. Investments for the  
 7 public good. \$250,000 toward a nonprofit grant  
 8 fund. We think this could be low, but it's  
 9 about double of what we already had for our  
 10 grant program from DHCD late last year. And so  
 11 we thought that we would fund it at this level,  
 12 see what the needs are. Preference will be  
 13 given to those who help those who are  
 14 underserved.  
 15 We also have asked for \$150,000 for the  
 16 food banks. This continues our efforts to feed  
 17 the hungry that has come through the Emergency  
 18 Operations Center. And the food banks would be  
 19 able to replenish their shelves. And it is a  
 20 multiyear grant that they would be able to take  
 21 advantage of for their needs. And also if they

Page 132

1 have equipment needs, because some of the  
 2 organizations I believe have some equipment  
 3 needs.  
 4 And we're recommending \$50,000 for the  
 5 Talbot County Free Library. This is an anchor  
 6 institution that serves all the people. And I  
 7 believe that they have requested money for a  
 8 new audio system or AV system for the library.  
 9 And we're making a recommendation that we fund  
 10 \$50,000 from the ARPA money.  
 11 And then Talbot County government. We're  
 12 recommending \$160,000 for cyber security  
 13 upgrades. And this would be through our IT  
 14 Department. You hear it every single day in  
 15 the news. Cyber security is an issue and an  
 16 increasing issue throughout the pandemic.  
 17 And \$245,000 for administrative costs.  
 18 This covers some salaries but also some other  
 19 things that have been, including our survey,  
 20 would be covered by these administrative funds.  
 21 And I think it actually should be, to come out

Page 133

1 even, it should be 235.  
 2 But we're recommending a total of  
 3 \$4.5 million for the first round.  
 4 We did want to hold money in reserve. We  
 5 tried to focus on the things that we had firm  
 6 figures on that we know our people have asked  
 7 for and that we're prepared to implement now.  
 8 And so that leaves \$2.7 million in reserve for  
 9 additional funding recommendations at a later  
 10 date.  
 11 MS. PRICE: Question. The last thing you  
 12 had for 235, 245 administrative costs. They're  
 13 okay with some of the money, grant money going  
 14 to salaries and things like that?  
 15 MS. VANHOOSER: Oh, absolutely. That is  
 16 an allowable expenditure and administrative  
 17 costs for any grant. And of course, we have a  
 18 grants person on staff to handle these things.  
 19 So we have been sitting through the  
 20 federal treasury webinars to make sure that all  
 21 of the things that we have recommended are

Page 134

1 allowable expenditures. And this, in fact, is.

2 MS. PRICE: Thank you.

3 MS. VANHOOSER: One last thing. I put

4 together this little word cloud for you. So I

5 said we had been thoughtful and deliberate and

6 thorough in our recommendations. Well, I was

7 very, very pleased to see that in our survey,

8 our people were thoughtful and respectful and

9 thorough in their recommendations.

10 And I took some of the words straight from

11 the survey. People recognize that this is

12 transformational money, that we should make

13 bold investments that move the county forward

14 that benefit everyone. It's once in a lifetime

15 opportunity to be a driving force for change

16 and to impact the lives of our citizens.

17 And we, your task force who worked on this

18 for a number of months now, believe that these

19 recommendations are sound. And we're asking

20 you to approve these expenditures.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.

Page 135

1 MR. LESHER: Cassandra, thank you very

2 much for this clear presentation. Thanks to

3 the whole staff committee for all the work.

4 Ken, for doing the work, making sure that

5 everything that was being put forward was

6 indeed eligible under the federal guidelines

7 for this.

8 An awful lot of staff work has gone into

9 the vetting of this and to getting these

10 numbers to where we are.

11 I think it's really important, too, that

12 we are not, at this point, seeking to commit

13 all of the funds, that we're holding something

14 in reserve, both for needs that we know are out

15 there but we don't yet have solid numbers for.

16 But also for projects that we haven't yet

17 identified.

18 We know that this is a one-time

19 opportunity. We should not be spending this on

20 funds, on programs that will require follow-up

21 funding. These are largely capital items.

Page 136

1 These are one-time items. These are infusions

2 that are in some cases intended to compensate

3 for the impacts of the pandemic. I think

4 really all of these are intended to compensate

5 for the impacts of the pandemic and to move us

6 forward.

7 And this is the broad -- the way these

8 funds can be broadly applied and where we have

9 the liberty to allocate them, it's a one-time

10 opportunity. And we need to be very careful

11 about how this is done.

12 And so I thank the staff committee for

13 bringing us to this point.

14 MS. PRICE: Thank you.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.

16 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Leshner, for

17 leading this. And Cassandra and the entire

18 group that worked on this.

19 And you know, I don't know how many other

20 communities did the amount of effort that we

21 did, that you did to really identify the needs,

Page 137

1 not just what we think the needs are but what

2 the community thinks the needs are. So I

3 really hope that other communities did the same

4 thing.

5 But I think it was a few weeks ago, I'm

6 not sure which call or whatever we were on,

7 talking about the fact that the response that

8 we got. Because I believe this was -- was it

9 the whole Eastern Shore or a regional thing and

10 most of the responses were from Talbot County.

11 MS. VANHOOSER: No, no. That's a

12 different survey. That's our business

13 sentiment.

14 These are all from Talbot County, although

15 there were, there's a small number who are not

16 residents of Talbot County, but I believe these

17 are second homeowners, because we distributed

18 this through our networks.

19 MS. PRICE: So not only did we do one

20 survey well, we did two surveys well.

21 MS. VANHOOSER: Did two surveys well.

Page 138

1 MS. PRICE: And you must be making  
 2 cookies. No. With you, it's pie. I know  
 3 that.  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: That's right.  
 5 MS. PRICE: But to have that kind of input  
 6 and just, you know, the open-ended questions  
 7 and all of that, it's just amazing.  
 8 I know we have all these love fests up  
 9 here. But we truly are appreciative of all of  
 10 our staff and volunteers and I think all  
 11 supportive of all of the things that you've  
 12 mentioned here.  
 13 So thank you so much for putting all that  
 14 together.  
 15 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you. I do think  
 16 this is an extraordinary document. When you  
 17 have time to leaf through it, there's a lot of  
 18 information in here. And I want to thank our  
 19 citizens for taking the time to respond to the  
 20 survey and to help us make the decisions,  
 21 because, you know, it's really not easy to make

Page 139

1 choices when they're all good choices.  
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. I would really like  
 3 to make sure that the community knows how well  
 4 all these open-ended questions were answered.  
 5 I was just trying to read through them  
 6 today. And hearing all the different people,  
 7 seeing all the different needs, this survey is  
 8 incredibly valuable. And I hope it gets  
 9 applied to many different things.  
 10 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Divilio, I agree. I  
 11 think that while we implemented this survey for  
 12 the distribution of ARPA, this can serve us in  
 13 terms of measuring need in Talbot County for --  
 14 can go far beyond the scope of the \$7.2 million  
 15 that has been allocated to us through this  
 16 particular federal program.  
 17 MS. VANHOOSER: And we will post this  
 18 online and make sure that people have access to  
 19 it.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Pack.  
 21 MR. PACK: Great work. Probably want to

Page 140

1 look at some of these in a little bit more  
 2 detail. So I'm not prepared to move forward  
 3 with it this evening. Some of them I could  
 4 probably say yes to tonight, but I want to look  
 5 at it a little bit closer.  
 6 But I agree with the fact that surveys are  
 7 always a good way of getting a pulse check.  
 8 I was remarking earlier when Childlene was  
 9 here regarding the survey that she did down in  
 10 the Bay Hundred area when we were putting  
 11 together the intergenerational center because  
 12 you want to make sure that you're checking back  
 13 in with the citizens as far as what they want  
 14 to see happen.  
 15 So well done. And I haven't had a chance  
 16 to look at that document, either. So I'll scan  
 17 that as well.  
 18 MS. VANHOOSER: Okay. Great. Thank you.  
 19 MS. PRICE: Just one question. We just  
 20 had Hugh and Easton Utilities up here. And  
 21 they said time was of the essence as far as

Page 141

1 plugging that \$1.75 million.  
 2 Do we need to take some action this  
 3 evening on that?  
 4 MR. STAMP: If you could.  
 5 MR. LESHHER: I would recommend that we do  
 6 that.  
 7 And I would ask Mr. Clarke about the  
 8 infrastructure item, the sewer system,  
 9 whether --  
 10 MS. PRICE: Chesapeake.  
 11 MR. LESHHER: -- there's a particular  
 12 urgency that we should be moving forward on  
 13 that as well.  
 14 MR. DIVILIO: While Mr. Clarke comes up,  
 15 Mr. Pack, I had the same reservations that you  
 16 had.  
 17 MR. PACK: I would like us, Laura -- I  
 18 mean the urgency is not immediate.  
 19 MR. DIVILIO: But --  
 20 MR. PACK: I think we can certainly do  
 21 something within the next week or two.

Page 142

1 MR. DIVILIO: Sorry. I had a but. But  
 2 I'm going to ask that we try to move forward on  
 3 a couple of these big issue tickets tonight  
 4 because there are some that I think are  
 5 clear-cut needs.  
 6 We heard things of saving the environment,  
 7 providing infrastructure, health benefits, the  
 8 Chesapeake Center connecting to that sewer line  
 9 is something that is just invaluable to that  
 10 organization. And I'm not one to allow septic  
 11 systems to just sit there and failing and  
 12 polluting the environment.  
 13 I can't think of many organizations like  
 14 the Chesapeake Center that provide such a great  
 15 benefit to Talbot County that I would like to  
 16 jump right on, as well as the infrastructure  
 17 for the broadband.  
 18 Those are two that I would like to knock  
 19 out tonight if we could, if not a couple more.  
 20 MS. PRICE: Is that a motion for those  
 21 two?

Page 143

1 MR. LESHER: Could we also do the one for  
 2 the fire companies, the equipment for the fire  
 3 companies?  
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Is that --  
 5 MR. LESHER: That's half a million.  
 6 And if we're not comfortable, that's  
 7 actually a two-year commitment. If we want to  
 8 just bite off the first year commitment, we  
 9 could do the 250,000 for the first year of this  
 10 to the fire companies and revisit the rest.  
 11 But I think that's also, there's an urgency  
 12 there as well.  
 13 MS. PRICE: Right. And that's part of our  
 14 budget. You know, as we're going through the  
 15 budget, we had a budget work session earlier  
 16 today and talking about the fire companies, and  
 17 we actually brought that up.  
 18 So I think that's something we should try  
 19 to get out of the way so that we can move  
 20 forward with the budget.  
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Due to technology, I ask

Page 144

1 that you make the motion.  
 2 MR. PACK: Was this the 500,000 that was  
 3 in that budget line that we talked about  
 4 earlier?  
 5 MR. STAMP: So this would provide in part  
 6 coverage for that. This would open the door to  
 7 allow us to work with the Firemen's Association  
 8 to offset their request and to create a process  
 9 by which they could spend any additional funds.  
 10 So what is eligible in their request we  
 11 could cover with this and what is not we can't.  
 12 And the what we can't, and there are additional  
 13 funds, it's an opportunity for fire companies  
 14 to work with the association to come up with a  
 15 grant process.  
 16 So if you budgetarily allocate the money  
 17 out of the ARPA, that would allow me to engage  
 18 the fire service, the association, to begin a  
 19 process.  
 20 MR. PACK: And I think I left my budget  
 21 papers in the back.

Page 145

1 MR. STAMP: 221,000 was their request over  
 2 last year's. And that's an operational  
 3 request, all fire companies --  
 4 MR. PACK: Then there was a supplemental  
 5 request.  
 6 MR. STAMP: The supplemental is 221,000.  
 7 MR. PACK: 221. Would this cover that  
 8 200?  
 9 MR. STAMP: In part.  
 10 MR. PACK: That was the question I had  
 11 earlier.  
 12 MR. STAMP: In part. Because what we have  
 13 to do is we have to go through that and see  
 14 what is eligible and what is not eligible.  
 15 MR. PACK: Right. And again, my  
 16 hesitation is for these kind of questions to be  
 17 vetted out so we can know exactly what it is  
 18 that we can and cannot do.  
 19 Not that I don't want to spend the money.  
 20 I just want to make sure.  
 21 I mean yes. Broadband, we've been

Page 146

1 fighting about broadband forever. So that's  
 2 the lower hanging fruit, the 1.7.  
 3 But there's some other ones I would like  
 4 to just get some more information on before we  
 5 proceed with them.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: So are you okay with --  
 7 MR. PACK: I'm okay with the 1.7. I think  
 8 the 1.7 contains what we were initially trying  
 9 to deal with with the broadband. Yeah.  
 10 MS. PRICE: Right.  
 11 MR. PACK: I don't know what's  
 12 (inaudible).  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion.  
 14 MR. LESHER: Well, let me -- hold on. Let  
 15 me turn back to the staff and ask, Mr. Clarke,  
 16 on the Chesapeake Center one, if we approve  
 17 this tonight as opposed to three weeks from now  
 18 at our next meeting, will that, in fact, be  
 19 able to accelerate the connection?  
 20 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir. And they're  
 21 currently pumping and hauling right now, which

Page 147

1 is very costly to do that.  
 2 MR. PACK: Is this a failed septic system  
 3 or break in -- they were never --  
 4 MR. CLARKE: They have a failed septic  
 5 system right now. And they're currently  
 6 pumping and hauling. And this would actually  
 7 make the connection to the line in Maryland  
 8 Route 33.  
 9 MR. PACK: Yeah, yeah.  
 10 MR. CLARKE: Part of Resolution 235. So  
 11 this is basically to get them connected.  
 12 What we need to do now is we need to get  
 13 the contractor lined up as well as getting the  
 14 public works agreement signed between us and  
 15 the Chesapeake Center. So that's a game plan  
 16 right now.  
 17 MR. STAMP: I think, Mr. Clarke, you  
 18 probably have sought other grant  
 19 opportunities --  
 20 MR. CLARKE: Yeah. We looked at Bay  
 21 Restoration funds. We were unable to use Bay

Page 148

1 Restoration funds at this time.  
 2 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 3 MR. LESHER: And let me just ask the staff  
 4 to, in particular those of you who have been on  
 5 the committee, if there are any other items  
 6 that we need to earmark that have that -- I  
 7 know a number of these things three weeks  
 8 delay, five weeks delay is not going to make a  
 9 difference. But if there are any others where  
 10 this will make a difference?  
 11 MR. STAMP: My only other recommendation  
 12 other than what we've talked about is to send a  
 13 message that you'd like to allocate that money  
 14 toward the fire companies and allow us to start  
 15 coming up with a process.  
 16 The item with regard to the county, we can  
 17 certainly dig into those and talk about the  
 18 merits of them when we come back at the next  
 19 meeting.  
 20 MR. LESHER: And that would include the  
 21 cyber security?

Page 149

1 MR. STAMP: Yes.  
 2 MR. LESHER: Okay.  
 3 MR. PACK: That would include --  
 4 MR. LESHER: Well, in that case, I will  
 5 move that we approve allocations from our  
 6 American Rescue Plan Act funds of \$1.75 million  
 7 for the broadband project.  
 8 MS. PRICE: Chesapeake Center.  
 9 MR. LESHER: \$105,000 for the Chesapeake  
 10 Center, and \$500,000 for equipment for the fire  
 11 companies.  
 12 MS. PRICE: I'll second that.  
 13 MR. PACK: And that -- discussion?  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 15 MR. PACK: Okay. And that 500,000, you  
 16 said you were going to verify whether or not  
 17 those are the same figures we talked about  
 18 earlier today?  
 19 MR. STAMP: So again, let me try to be  
 20 clearer. So the fire companies this year --  
 21 the Council provides operational support to the

Page 150

1 fire companies.  
 2 MR. PACK: Sure.  
 3 MR. STAMP: And this year, they've asked  
 4 for an increase.  
 5 MR. PACK: Right.  
 6 MR. STAMP: And that increase totals...  
 7 MR. PACK: A hundred and something  
 8 thousand.  
 9 MR. STAMP: 221,000.  
 10 MR. PACK: 221,000.  
 11 MR. STAMP: Now, what we have to do is  
 12 look at how much of that is eligible to be  
 13 covered by the ARPA funds each year. And  
 14 whatever is not covered by the ARPA funds is an  
 15 opportunity for the fire companies to meet some  
 16 of their needs equipment wise.  
 17 So we're not looking to just cover. I  
 18 mean it would be great if we could cover the  
 19 whole thing. And if we can, we can. If we  
 20 can't, we'll cover what we can and then we'll  
 21 identify opportunities for the fire companies.

Page 151

1 MR. PACK: As long as it's not debt  
 2 service or replenishing services.  
 3 MR. STAMP: Of course not.  
 4 MR. PACK: Right. Then you would think  
 5 all of it would be covered, the whole 200,000.  
 6 You would think. I mean it's not refund  
 7 for taxes, it's not to pay pensions. So it's  
 8 operational dollars.  
 9 So that, if that's the case, I will  
 10 certainly support that.  
 11 Didn't they have a supplemental as well or  
 12 no? Okay. I thought they had some more money  
 13 they wanted.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: You all right down there?  
 15 MR. PACK: Yeah. I'm writing it down.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Right, right. Okay. So we  
 17 have a motion and a second, Madam Secretary, to  
 18 do the 1.75 for the broadband, the 105,000 for  
 19 the Chesapeake Center, and \$500,000 for the  
 20 fire department.  
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

Page 152

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 5 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 7 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 9 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 11 MR. STAMP: So we'll add that more  
 12 detailed discussion in our upcoming budget  
 13 meeting so you'll be prepared by next meeting.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds great.  
 15 MR. LESHER: Thank you all for your  
 16 attention to this. I think this is really  
 17 important. This is, frankly, transformational  
 18 for our community.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner, for  
 20 your leadership.  
 21 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.

Page 153

1 MR. CALLAHAN: And your whole team that  
 2 helped. Thank you, Cassandra.  
 3 MR. PACK: Thanks, Cassandra.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You're on deck.  
 5 MR. STAMP: Okay. Thank you.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Ready to go.  
 7 MR. STAMP: Mr. Council President, Members  
 8 of the Council, your county manager report.  
 9 So I have three board and committee  
 10 appointment requests for you this evening.  
 11 The first one is Agricultural Land  
 12 Preservation Advisory Board. Requesting the  
 13 reappointment of Glen Gannon to that board.  
 14 MR. PACK: So moved.  
 15 MS. PRICE: Second.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we got a  
 17 motion and a second. Could you call the vote.  
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

Page 154	Page 156
<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>4 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>7 MR. STAMP: Next item is the Commission on</p> <p>8 Aging. Requesting the reappointment of Marion</p> <p>9 Donahue, Lee Newcomb, and Ellen Taggart to</p> <p>10 that.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: So moved.</p> <p>12 MR. DIVILIO: Second.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: We have a motion and a</p> <p>14 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>15 vote, please.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: Mr. Clarke, you want to come</p> <p>5 forward. We have a request from the Department</p> <p>6 of Public Works to award Bid Number 21-04,</p> <p>7 Talbot County Senior Center parking lot</p> <p>8 expansion.</p> <p>9 As you read in your agenda packet,</p> <p>10 requesting Council approval to award Bid 21-04</p> <p>11 to the low bidder, Duvall Brothers,</p> <p>12 Incorporated, in the amount of \$129,220.</p> <p>13 A total of three bids were received.</p> <p>14 There are sufficient funds in the budget</p> <p>15 for this project, and Mr. Clarke is here to</p> <p>16 answer any questions.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: So moved.</p> <p>18 MS. PRICE: Second.</p> <p>19 MR. DIVILIO: This is just paving?</p> <p>20 MR. CLARKE: This is actually we've bought</p> <p>21 land. And ultimately we're building a new I</p>
Page 155	Page 157
<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>5 MR. STAMP: The next is the Parks and</p> <p>6 Recreational Advisory Board. The Town of</p> <p>7 Easton is recommending the appointment of Tom</p> <p>8 Klein as their representative to the Parks and</p> <p>9 Recreation Advisory Board.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: So moved.</p> <p>11 MR. DIVILIO: Second.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and a</p> <p>13 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>14 vote.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p>	<p>1 guess parking lot, an extension to the parking</p> <p>2 lot to the Senior Center. So it's basically a</p> <p>3 new parking lot that's next to their existing</p> <p>4 parking lot.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Expanding the parking for the</p> <p>6 Senior Center.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: The area next door.</p> <p>8 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. I knew that. I was</p> <p>9 just surprised by one of the bidders.</p> <p>10 MR. CLARKE: And it's also storm water</p> <p>11 management. We had to do storm water</p> <p>12 management, a pond.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. Madam</p> <p>14 Secretary, we got a motion and second. Can you</p> <p>15 call the vote.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>



Page 158

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 2 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 4 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 5 MR. STAMP: One of the tougher ones for  
 6 you this evening; wasn't it?  
 7 The next item I have is a request from the  
 8 Finance Office. And this is a third step in  
 9 the three-step process with regard to the belt  
 10 filter press that you passed the administrative  
 11 resolution on this evening.  
 12 The Finance Office is requesting approval  
 13 from the United States Department of  
 14 Agriculture loan resolution related to the  
 15 county's financing of a replacement belt filter  
 16 press at Region II, St. Michaels wastewater  
 17 treatment plant. With the adoption of the  
 18 administrative resolution earlier this evening,  
 19 the second step is to approve the Finance  
 20 Office's request.  
 21 MR. PACK: So moved.

Page 159

1 MS. PRICE: Second.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we got a  
 3 motion and second. Could you call the vote.  
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 9 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 11 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 13 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 14 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Clarke. Thank  
 15 you, Council.  
 16 Now I ask that Micah Risher come up.  
 17 Micah, thank you.  
 18 We have a request this evening from Easton  
 19 Airport for the approval of airport consultant  
 20 AECOM's price proposal for general professional  
 21 engineering services, a full program design

Page 160

1 improvements to runway safety area and runway  
 2 4-22 extension program.  
 3 As you read in your agenda packet,  
 4 requesting Council approval to AECOM's price  
 5 proposal in the amount of \$1,885,261 to design  
 6 the full program for the runway 4-22 safety  
 7 improvements. FAA AIP, Aviation Improvement  
 8 Plan.  
 9 Is that right?  
 10 MR. RISHER: Right. The Airport  
 11 Improvement Program. That's the grant fund.  
 12 MR. STAMP: Okay. And the actual cost to  
 13 the Easton Airport will only be \$188,526.10.  
 14 And that could be supported by the airport's  
 15 budget.  
 16 And Micah is here to talk to you about  
 17 that.  
 18 And that will roll into the next request,  
 19 if you want to combine the two. And that is  
 20 they are requesting to -- well, actually I did  
 21 them in reverse.

Page 161

1 MR. RISHER: That's fine. So the big  
 2 picture here is this is our annual submission  
 3 to FAA for the AIP funds.  
 4 So we're requesting it's a \$1.8 million  
 5 grant request. So we need your approval to  
 6 submit the application. And then if approved,  
 7 they'll make the offer. We'd also like to be  
 8 able to accept that grant if they offer it to  
 9 us.  
 10 And then only contingent upon it, once we  
 11 have the offer, we would like to move forward  
 12 with AECOM's price proposal.  
 13 So we will not be hitting the go button on  
 14 \$1.8 million until we're sure that we have the  
 15 grant money flowing in.  
 16 MR. PACK: So moved.  
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Second.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: A motion and second. Madam  
 19 Secretary, call the vote.  
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

Page 162

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 4 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 6 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 8 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 9 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Micah.  
 10 MS. PRICE: I just want to make a comment.  
 11 Don't leave. Sit back down.  
 12 MR. RISHER: Uh-oh.  
 13 MS. PRICE: No. This is one grant program  
 14 and the way this all works. And I like to  
 15 remind people is that this is not taxpayer  
 16 dollars.  
 17 When we get grants for the airport, they  
 18 are from user fees, people who are actually out  
 19 flying. And part of your airplane ticket you  
 20 pay goes to that. This is a completely  
 21 different type of grant, which makes a lot more

Page 163

1 sense to me. It's actual user fees.  
 2 And then the fact that the airport is a  
 3 true enterprise department for us that, again,  
 4 there's no taxpayer dollar subsidies in this,  
 5 that it's all generated from the revenue that  
 6 you bring in at the airport.  
 7 So that's why I love the airport so much,  
 8 because you do a great job and your predecessor  
 9 did as well. But this is one thing that's not  
 10 a burden on the taxpayer at all. And I really  
 11 appreciate that.  
 12 MR. RISHER: Well, thank you, Ms. Price.  
 13 And you're right. It is always important  
 14 to point out that these are from the aviation  
 15 trust fund, well established. So no federal  
 16 tax dollars. So these are all from user fees.  
 17 And we always like to remind people that your  
 18 airport has been self sustaining since 1992.  
 19 MR. PACK: Good job.  
 20 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Micah.  
 21 MR. RISHER: Have a good evening.

Page 164

1 MR. STAMP: And we'll have Preston Peper,  
 2 your director of Parks and Recreation, come  
 3 forward. He's requesting to award Bid 21-09,  
 4 master plan, Bill Burton Fishing Pier State  
 5 Park.  
 6 He's requesting that Bid 21-09 be awarded  
 7 to the low bidder, A. Morton & Thomas, in the  
 8 amount of \$55,464 and allow staff to negotiate  
 9 best and final price to meet the budget set  
 10 forth as well as the scope of work.  
 11 A total of eight bids were received, and  
 12 the budget for this is \$50,000.  
 13 MR. PACK: So moved.  
 14 MS. PRICE: Second.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.  
 16 Can you call the vote.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

Page 165

1 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 3 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 5 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 6 MR. PEPER: Thank you.  
 7 MR. STAMP: Preston, did you have anything  
 8 to add?  
 9 MR. PEPER: No.  
 10 MR. PACK: I knew that.  
 11 MR. STAMP: And the final item I have is  
 12 an announcement of the regional agricultural  
 13 scrap tire event hosted by Mid-Shore Regional  
 14 Landfill in Caroline County, which will be on  
 15 March 21st through 25th and again on March 28th  
 16 through April 1, 2022.  
 17 And that concludes your county manager  
 18 report.  
 19 MR. DIVILIO: You missed G.  
 20 MR. PACK: One more.  
 21 MR. STAMP: I'm sorry. I wanted to make

Page 166	Page 168
<p>1 that announcement. There's one more item that 2 I have.</p> <p>3 Patrick is here. And he's requesting that 4 you approve a letter be sent to the Department 5 of the Environment in response to their letter 6 of February 3, 2022, requesting clarification 7 of the county's position regarding the proposed 8 Lakeside Trappe East project.</p> <p>9 I'm going to turn it over to Patrick for 10 any additional information on that.</p> <p>11 MR. THOMAS: Yes. At the Council's 12 direction, I drafted a letter in response to 13 Lee Curry's February 3rd letter explaining what 14 happened with respect to Resolution Numbers 308 15 and 313 at the March 8th meeting. I also noted 16 the introduction of Resolution 327.</p> <p>17 Before the meeting, I spoke with Council 18 Vice President Leshner and Council Member Price. 19 They requested that I make a couple of 20 revisions to the letter, which I had no issue 21 with.</p>	<p>1 And then what was the other one, the other 2 change?</p> <p>3 MR. THOMAS: To strike the first two 4 sentences in the second full paragraph on the 5 second page.</p> <p>6 MR. DIVILIO: I make a motion that we send 7 the letter as drafted.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Second.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we got a 10 motion and a second. Call the roll, please.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: Nay.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>18 MS. PRICE: No.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>21 MR. STAMP: And then I do have one more</p>
<p>Page 167</p> <p>1 The first was to delete the word final in 2 the second paragraph on page one. And then to 3 strike the first two sentences on the second 4 full paragraph on page two.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: You might as well just send it 6 back out again, man.</p> <p>7 MS. PRICE: It's just two sentences.</p> <p>8 MR. DIVILIO: You're going to take action 9 again on 308 and 313?</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: You might as well rewrite this 11 and send it back out again.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: You lost me.</p> <p>13 MR. DIVILIO: They want to take action on 14 308 and 313 again.</p> <p>15 MS. PRICE: No.</p> <p>16 MR. THOMAS: To say the Council took 17 action, instead --</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: -- letter, you might as well 19 rewrite it and send it back out again.</p> <p>20 MR. DIVILIO: I'm sorry. So you want to 21 do that.</p>	<p>Page 169</p> <p>1 announcement. The Mid-Shore household hazard 2 waste drop-off day will be Saturday, April 2nd, 3 at eight a.m. to two p.m., Queen Anne's County 4 Public Works facility, 312 Safety Drive, off 5 Maryland Route 301 in Centreville. Rain or 6 shine. Any questions, please contact the 7 Maryland Environmental Service and 443-685-4073 8 or the Department of Public Works at 9 410-770-8170.</p> <p>10 And that does conclude the county manager 11 report.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Mr. Stamp. 13 Did a good job. Appreciate it. Okay.</p> <p>14 Next on the agenda is public comments. 15 Yes, sir. Come on up.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: You want me to keep time? 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, sure. Okay.</p> <p>18 MR. STEPP: Good evening, Council. Dave 19 Stepp from Easton, Maryland. Thank you for 20 your time tonight.</p> <p>21 Members of the Talbot County Council,</p>

Page 170

1 thank you for your time and attention as well  
 2 as for your service to our county and  
 3 community.  
 4 As already discussed this evening, you are  
 5 charged with creating a new article in Article  
 6 Five to the Talbot County Code establishing a  
 7 Police Accountability Board and Administrative  
 8 Charging Committee. This action is, of course,  
 9 in response to Maryland HB670, more commonly  
 10 referred to as Maryland's Police Reform Bill.  
 11 Please remember that your actions moving  
 12 forward on this topic should reflect how your  
 13 bipartisan constituents of Talbot County feel.  
 14 In recent chronological order, Talbot County  
 15 voters have spoken and this Council has enacted  
 16 the following legislation.  
 17 Number one. Question D on the 2020 ballot  
 18 being passed by a solid 59.5 percent majority  
 19 vote to temporarily increase taxes above the  
 20 tax revenue cap in Talbot County. This action  
 21 has and will continue to positively benefit our

Page 171

1 Sheriff's Department as well as our Department  
 2 of Emergency Services.  
 3 Number two, this Council's funding of  
 4 LEOPS last year, which has led to Talbot County  
 5 being able to retain our existing men and women  
 6 in uniform long-term, as well as attract our  
 7 next generation of law enforcement talent.  
 8 Three, this Council's passing of Talbot  
 9 County Bill 1492 last year, allowing for an  
 10 increase in our pay for our sheriff elected in  
 11 2022. This action puts our Talbot County  
 12 sheriff's pay more in line with other sheriffs'  
 13 pay in the State of Maryland.  
 14 Based upon the wonderful and positive  
 15 policing history we have had here in Talbot  
 16 County, I, as well as many other Talbot County  
 17 residents, feel that the Police Accountability  
 18 Board and Administrative Charging Committee are  
 19 simply not needed. It creates problems where  
 20 problems do not exist.  
 21 This board and committee will hurt our

Page 172

1 officers' ability to police. It creates blurry  
 2 use of force thresholds, and it removes the  
 3 ability of local law enforcement leadership to  
 4 appropriately discipline their officers.  
 5 Additionally, it will be an unnecessary  
 6 tax burden on the citizens of Talbot County in  
 7 the form of additional officer training,  
 8 lawyers' fees, judges' fees, and court costs.  
 9 Those additional tax burdens could run well  
 10 into the six-figure range for the Talbot County  
 11 taxpayer.  
 12 That being said, seating this board and  
 13 committee in any way that goes against how the  
 14 citizens of Talbot County already feel would be  
 15 a mistake.  
 16 The State of Maryland continues their  
 17 attack on law enforcement to this day. I  
 18 encourage the Council as well as every Maryland  
 19 citizen to research Senate Bill 896. If Senate  
 20 Bill 896 passes, it will further remove the  
 21 ability for local and even elected law

Page 173

1 enforcement leadership to manage and discipline  
 2 within their respective departments.  
 3 Now that the time is upon you to sit this  
 4 board and committee, I'd like to revisit my  
 5 comments from last year to the Council, which  
 6 still apply today.  
 7 My asks verbatim were to please utilize  
 8 common sense when sitting this board and please  
 9 choose unbiased, responsible, non-politically  
 10 charged individuals who not only understand law  
 11 and order, but also understand the daily  
 12 sacrifices and split-second decisions that our  
 13 men and women in uniform have to face daily.  
 14 Thank you again, Council, for your time,  
 15 attention, service, and most importantly  
 16 action.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot. Appreciate  
 18 it. Okay.  
 19 The next gentleman up is Mr. Patrick Rofe.  
 20 MS. MORRIS: I believe he spoke earlier  
 21 during Mary Kay's.

Page 174

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem.  
 2 Yes. Come on up, Hugh.  
 3 MR. GRUNDEN: I hope it goes without  
 4 saying, but thank you very much for your  
 5 consideration of the ARPA fund allocation.  
 6 We will use it well and make you proud  
 7 that you made that allocation.  
 8 And thank you for your prompt action on it  
 9 tonight. It really does help us to be able to  
 10 move that along. So thank you.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 12 MS. PRICE: You're welcome.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it.  
 14 Anybody else? Okay.  
 15 We're down to Council comments.  
 16 MS. PRICE: I'm ready.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: You ready. Go ahead.  
 18 MS. PRICE: So I'm going to give you a  
 19 little update from Annapolis. I'm going to  
 20 start with one of our local bills that we asked  
 21 Senator Eckhardt to sponsor for us, SB996,

Page 175

1 which was the correctional officers bill, which  
 2 is the authorization to apply that we needed  
 3 that.  
 4 Senator Eckhardt asked if I would sit next  
 5 to her as she did this bill to the pension  
 6 subcommittee in budget and tax. We did that  
 7 last week. It passed immediately out of the  
 8 subcommittee and full approval from the budget  
 9 and tax committee. So that was a really good  
 10 thing for the county.  
 11 I was happy to be able to sit next to our  
 12 Senator and do that and have that pass so  
 13 swiftly out. And I expect that it will have no  
 14 problem getting out of the full --  
 15 MR. STAMP: It passed the Senate  
 16 unanimously this afternoon.  
 17 MS. PRICE: All righty, then. So we even  
 18 have that. Yay.  
 19 MR. PACK: Call Terry.  
 20 MS. PRICE: So sometimes, you know, we  
 21 talk about all the counties. But it was really

Page 176

1 great to be able to do something that was  
 2 really just affecting us.  
 3 And the bills stopped coming about three  
 4 weeks ago. And we've been furiously following  
 5 all of the hearings and testifying at hearings.  
 6 The highway user revenues. The hearings  
 7 were amazing. I guess it was about two weeks  
 8 ago. And we had probably 20 county elected  
 9 officials. Almost I think every county  
 10 executive came. They ushered us in first.  
 11 They took the first hearing. And we were a  
 12 force to be reckoned with. Sitting in person  
 13 in the Senate and we all testified.  
 14 And you couldn't have written the script  
 15 any better because we all had something  
 16 different to say. Well, we all knew our county  
 17 numbers, the pieces that we all spoke on were  
 18 different. And it was a great hearing.  
 19 The next day, it was most of the same ones  
 20 of us but it was a House virtual hearing. And  
 21 while it went well, it didn't feel the same,

Page 177

1 you know, not being able to testify in person.  
 2 I will tell you that the House has made,  
 3 and I'm not going to be shy about saying this,  
 4 mincemeat of that bill. They went up by a  
 5 couple of tenths of a percent over the next  
 6 three years to go -- we are currently, the  
 7 counties are 3.2 percent, where we used to be  
 8 over 15 percent. And so they get up to  
 9 3.6 percent. And then we're going to fall off  
 10 the cliff again.  
 11 And for those who have been following  
 12 this, there's a cliff effect, where what little  
 13 bit of funding we've increased from one and a  
 14 half to three percent stops in two more fiscal  
 15 years and reverts back to lose all the funding  
 16 that we had gained.  
 17 And so leadership marched their amendments  
 18 over to the House, and then we get basically  
 19 nothing.  
 20 And the Senate, from what I understand,  
 21 Senator McCray -- it was 26 bipartisan sponsors

Page 178

1 actually on both the House and the Senate. But  
 2 Senator McCray has been a champion. I don't  
 3 know if they got it out yet today, but I think  
 4 they're going to pass it out of budget and tax  
 5 fully intact, which means what we're trying to  
 6 accomplish right now is to get this to a  
 7 conference committee.  
 8 So we're not going to get 100 percent.  
 9 But hopefully we're going to get something more  
 10 than what the House did.  
 11 And it's a shame when you go and you  
 12 testify and you hear that. And this is the way  
 13 it was designed and the way this whole program  
 14 was built for 40 years. Forty years we got  
 15 this funding, and it was supposed to come back  
 16 before. So kind of passionate about that one,  
 17 and we're working really, really hard.  
 18 The EMS bill, which is right now we get  
 19 \$100 but only if we transport, per ambulance  
 20 ride, but only if we transport to a hospital.  
 21 It doesn't recognize if we go to an urgent care

Page 179

1 facility or possibly to a doctor's office or  
 2 treat on site.  
 3 And that one, it's been kind of stuck. We  
 4 got it out of one side. I can't remember  
 5 which, the Senate or the House. And it's just,  
 6 they just keep looking at the fact that the  
 7 fiscal note on it. But what they're not  
 8 recognizing is the savings. When you don't --  
 9 the State of Maryland doesn't end up having to  
 10 pay for a hospital stay, the ER stay. It's a  
 11 lot less expensive to go to an urgent care or  
 12 Your Doc's Inn or something like that. And so  
 13 we're working really hard to try to get them to  
 14 recognize where the savings is.  
 15 Tomorrow night, since we didn't have our  
 16 opening session reception, we are doing that  
 17 tomorrow since everything is nice and open and  
 18 the world is open. That's great.  
 19 And we're going to definitely be talking  
 20 to delegates and senators tomorrow night as we  
 21 feed them crab cakes and wine and beer. And

Page 180

1 hopefully we can make a little bit more  
 2 progress.  
 3 We're going to get a whole bunch more  
 4 issue updates, and I'm sure I'll be back at it  
 5 trying to update with you guys. But I wanted  
 6 to give you the highlights of those two, along  
 7 with the correctional officers bill.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
 9 Ms. Price. Really appreciate that good hard  
 10 work and all you're doing for us in Talbot  
 11 County up there. Appreciate it.  
 12 MS. PRICE: Thank you very much.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.  
 14 Mr. Pack.  
 15 MR. PACK: Well, I mean the CORS Bill,  
 16 allowing our local Detention Center officials  
 17 to go into the CORS system is going to be  
 18 really huge. The gentleman mentioned last year  
 19 this Council approving the LEOPS for our  
 20 sheriff's deputies. Well, the same thing  
 21 applies to our Detention Center workers.

Page 181

1 We have, you may not realize this, but we  
 2 have had inmates at that Detention Center for  
 3 over five years, over five years. And it is  
 4 only supposed to be an 18-month stay. So we've  
 5 been holding people for more than five years at  
 6 the Detention Center.  
 7 So they're seeing the same class of  
 8 individuals that a State correction officer  
 9 would see and deal with. And with all the  
 10 other changes that have come down from  
 11 Annapolis, House Bill 1116 with the  
 12 requirements on opioid treatment and those  
 13 things, the demand is even greater on our  
 14 correctional officers.  
 15 So yeah. Salute certainly Senator  
 16 Eckhardt for pushing this through. Hopefully  
 17 it will pass the House, I don't think we'll  
 18 have any issue there, because we need to send a  
 19 clear signal to our Detention Center workers  
 20 that we have their back when it comes to  
 21 retirement.

Page 182

1 A 30, 35-year system is not the place to  
 2 be in when you're dealing with a certain  
 3 clientele like that. It's just not.  
 4 So very happy to hear that. Thanks for  
 5 reporting that, Laura. That really means a lot  
 6 to me personally.  
 7 Other than that, great to be back a second  
 8 time in a row here. I hope this continues on.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 10 MR. PACK: Great report from Dr. Maguire.  
 11 Everything is trending down.  
 12 So yeah. Looks good. Thanks.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 14 Mr. Divilio.  
 15 MR. DIVILIO: So spring has sprung. The  
 16 weather is starting to turn. That means that  
 17 people are going to start taking the covers off  
 18 their pools or start shopping to put a pool in  
 19 or a dock or put in the patio, the paver patio  
 20 out back for people to hang out in.  
 21 It also means that people are going to

Page 183

1 start doing renovation projects as the ground  
 2 is drying out.  
 3 So to all of those individuals who have  
 4 been waiting on permits, I'd like to go ahead  
 5 and apologize to them for not being persuasive  
 6 enough to end the Lakeside discussion, when  
 7 we're directing growth next to a municipality  
 8 that's going to have two ENR wastewater  
 9 treatment facilities.  
 10 I can't think of a better scenario. It's  
 11 across Route 50 because it's farther away from  
 12 the water. Another win. It's in a  
 13 municipality that needs growth. Another win.  
 14 And the waste is going to be treated to ENR  
 15 standards. Another win. With two facilities.  
 16 And we still have other failing ones. So  
 17 if you're in Tilghman and you're flushing the  
 18 toilet, I'm sorry, but you're polluting the  
 19 water worse than what's going on over there.  
 20 And I haven't taken the time to fix that  
 21 or address that. I haven't taken the time to

Page 184

1 meet with Planning and Zoning and apologize to  
 2 them for all the extra work that they've had to  
 3 do to explain to me about the Trappe project.  
 4 And the hours upon hours that aren't billable  
 5 that are costing Talbot County a fortune.  
 6 Our department heads are not cheap. And  
 7 they're spending a lot of time and a lot of  
 8 their resources not getting permits issued,  
 9 which is what their job is.  
 10 So I apologize for not being a better  
 11 politician and being able to fix this, but I've  
 12 got a clear e-mail here from Dan Watson that  
 13 was dated March 7th at 7:43 in the morning  
 14 where Resolution 308 which contained the  
 15 recession language on our petition from last  
 16 summer will be withdrawn or defeated tomorrow  
 17 night. But don't worry. It served us all very  
 18 well. It raised Lakeside up as an issue.  
 19 I kept asking. I had a lot of  
 20 frustration. What's the issue? Do you not  
 21 want it? How do you stop it? Nobody told me

Page 185

1 how to stop it. Nobody who was against it  
 2 could tell me how to stop it. Nobody could  
 3 tell me what better way to treat the water than  
 4 an ENR treatment facility. There isn't  
 5 anything better.  
 6 So I'm not real sure what discussion we're  
 7 going to keep having on this issue, but I'll  
 8 tell you what, we're going to miss out on a lot  
 9 pool parties while people are waiting on  
 10 permits that are already taking 12 weeks and  
 11 they're going to be even longer.  
 12 So to Talbot County staff, I apologize.  
 13 To Talbot County residents, I apologize. I'll  
 14 try to do better.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.  
 16 Vice President.  
 17 MR. LESHAR: I have nothing further for  
 18 this evening. Thank you.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, I just want  
 20 to, once again, I want to thank Hugh and your  
 21 team. You guys have been, you know, really

Page 186	Page 188
<p>1 this is what it's all about, what you guys are                  2 doing, what we're doing, working together                  3 collaboratively and making this happen. I mean                  4 this is huge for Talbot County and the                  5 residents.                  6 And I can't thank you guys enough for                  7 working hard.                  8 Pete, your team and Cassandra. This was a                  9 very, very important meeting when with all the                  10 money that's been handed out. And that's what                  11 we're all here for, to help the citizens live a                  12 better life. Housing, food, broadband.                  13 And I'm very proud to be a part of it.                  14 And we're all doing good stuff.                  15 The last thing I'm going to tell you is a                  16 couple of weeks ago, Chuck Callahan got                  17 engaged. So the way I did it, I got to tell                  18 you guys, because I've been trying to do this                  19 now for about a couple years here. So Julie's                  20 grandmother turned 100 years old. And I bent                  21 down in front of the whole family with her</p>	<p>1 deliberations on Tuesday, March 29th, at                  2 four o'clock p.m., Thursday, March 31st, at                  3 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, April 5th, at                  4 four o'clock p.m.                  5 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn                  6 this meeting and reconvene as noted?                  7 MS. PRICE: So moved.                  8 MR. DIVILIO: Second.                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  10 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  11 vote, please.                  12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.                  15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.                  16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshler.                  17 MR. LESHER: Aye.                  18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.                  19 MS. PRICE: Aye.                  20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.                  21 MR. PACK: Aye.</p>
Page 187	Page 189
<p>1 birthday and right in front of her turning 100                  2 years old and did it right in front of Mom-Mom.                  3 MR. PACK: That is classy.                  4 MR. CALLAHAN: So it was great. So just                  5 wanted everyone to know.                  6 MS. MORRIS: Congratulations.                  7 MR. PACK: Congratulations, Chuck.                  8 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshler, you want to put                  9 us away here.                  10 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next                  11 meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12th,                  12 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will                  13 be convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and                  14 then adjourning into closed session to discuss                  15 real estate, legal, and personnel matters, as                  16 listed on the statement for closing that                  17 meeting.                  18 The Council will be in a closed session on                  19 Thursday, March 12th, at four o'clock p.m. to                  20 discuss personnel matters.                  21 The Council will be holding budget</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot for                  2 being here.                  3 (Meeting concluded at: 9:03 p.m.)                  4                  5                  6                  7                  8                  9                  10                  11                  12                  13                  14                  15                  16                  17                  18                  19                  20                  21</p>



1 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,  
 3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot  
 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me  
 4 at the time and place herein set according to law,  
 was interrogated by counsel.

5  
 I further certify that the examination was  
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 in a true and accurate manner.

8  
 I further certify that the stipulations  
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 presence.

10  
 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.

13 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 29th  
 day of March, 2022, at Easton, MD.

14  
 15 

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diane Houlihan  
 Notary Public

17  
 18  
 19  
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2025

21

<b>&amp;</b>	<b>150,000</b> 72:17	72:14 73:7 74:3,9	<b>3.2</b> 177:7
<b>&amp;</b> 164:7	131:15	101:8 116:20	<b>3.6</b> 177:9
<b>1</b>	<b>15th</b> 4:17	117:18 170:17	<b>3.8</b> 100:13
<b>1</b> 106:20 130:7	<b>16</b> 190:20	<b>2021</b> 53:7 65:9	<b>30</b> 15:19 21:17
165:16	<b>160,000</b> 132:12	73:13 74:9 83:13	74:11 182:1
<b>1,700</b> 33:16	<b>16th</b> 126:4	84:15 125:11	<b>300</b> 101:3
<b>1,885,261</b> 160:5	<b>17th</b> 57:10	<b>2022</b> 1:7 7:16	<b>300,000</b> 130:13
<b>1.2</b> 105:9	<b>18</b> 181:4	51:20 52:5 63:2	<b>301</b> 169:5
<b>1.25</b> 106:21	<b>188,526.10.</b>	69:9 165:16 166:6	<b>308</b> 166:14 167:9
<b>1.5</b> 107:1	160:13	171:11 190:13	167:14 184:14
<b>1.7</b> 146:8	<b>19</b> 6:18 7:1 8:14	<b>2024</b> 125:13	<b>31</b> 51:19 125:13
<b>1.7.</b> 146:2,7	12:18 18:7 36:7	<b>2025</b> 190:20	125:14
<b>1.75</b> 106:16	124:5 127:10	<b>2026</b> 125:14	<b>312</b> 169:4
128:21 129:8	<b>1900s</b> 120:10	<b>21</b> 36:8	<b>313</b> 166:15 167:9
141:1 149:6	<b>1964</b> 61:16,20	<b>21-04</b> 156:6,10	167:14
151:18	<b>1992</b> 163:18	<b>21-09</b> 164:3,6	<b>31st</b> 51:6 188:2
<b>1.8</b> 161:4,14	<b>1995</b> 116:16	<b>21/22</b> 35:2	<b>327</b> 166:16
<b>10-203</b> 65:10	<b>19th</b> 57:10	<b>215,000</b> 75:21	<b>33</b> 147:8
<b>100</b> 18:14 100:15	<b>2</b>	<b>21st</b> 165:15	<b>35</b> 18:13 19:11
100:20 101:15	<b>2,000</b> 75:21	<b>22</b> 1:7	182:1
114:9,9,9 115:8	<b>2,300</b> 88:12	<b>221</b> 145:7	<b>370</b> 73:12
178:8,19 186:20	<b>2.5</b> 106:9	<b>221,000</b> 145:1,6	<b>3rd</b> 166:13
187:1	<b>2.7</b> 133:8	150:9,10	<b>4</b>
<b>100,000</b> 73:3 74:4	<b>20</b> 17:8,18 18:3,13	<b>22nd</b> 2:16 4:8,18	<b>4</b> 106:7
<b>105,000</b> 129:11,18	36:8 100:6 176:8	7:15 52:4 63:1	<b>4-22</b> 160:2,6
149:9 151:18	<b>20,000</b> 33:15	<b>235</b> 133:1,12	<b>4.5</b> 133:3
<b>11</b> 2:20 37:13 58:4	<b>200</b> 90:10 145:8	147:10	<b>40</b> 101:16 109:18
<b>1116</b> 181:11	<b>200,000</b> 83:1	<b>24</b> 22:3 24:6 68:21	110:4 178:14
<b>12</b> 2:20 47:3	151:5	70:14	<b>410-770-8170</b>
185:10	<b>2000</b> 105:1	<b>24,000</b> 82:17	169:9
<b>129,220</b> 156:12	<b>2004</b> 44:10	<b>245</b> 133:12	<b>420</b> 73:11
<b>12th</b> 71:14 187:11	<b>2010</b> 39:6	<b>245,000</b> 132:17	<b>426</b> 128:15
187:19	<b>2012</b> 89:4	<b>250,000</b> 72:14	<b>43,000</b> 74:5
<b>13</b> 33:16 43:21	<b>2013</b> 65:11	131:7 143:9	<b>443-685-4073</b>
<b>1362</b> 190:15	<b>2015</b> 129:3	<b>25th</b> 165:15	169:7
<b>13th</b> 117:21 118:2	<b>2017</b> 39:7 105:20	<b>26</b> 121:18 177:21	<b>45</b> 127:5
<b>14</b> 43:21 44:18	<b>2017/18</b> 35:5	<b>288</b> 83:11	<b>467</b> 73:15 75:18
65:9	<b>2018</b> 35:18 36:7	<b>28th</b> 165:15	<b>48</b> 100:10 103:17
<b>1492</b> 171:9	82:15,16 83:8,21	<b>29th</b> 188:1 190:13	<b>4:30</b> 187:13 188:3
<b>1493</b> 65:7	97:11 105:20	<b>2nd</b> 169:2	<b>5</b>
<b>1497</b> 71:13	<b>2019</b> 35:18 83:9	<b>3</b>	<b>50</b> 18:13 183:11
<b>15</b> 177:8	84:1 87:2 104:4	<b>3</b> 33:15 166:6	<b>50,000</b> 132:4,10
	<b>2020</b> 37:17 42:1	<b>3,300</b> 100:9	164:12
	42:10 44:2 72:11		

<p><b>500</b> 76:3,4  <b>500,000</b> 130:15,18                  144:2 149:10,15                  151:19  <b>52</b> 125:18  <b>5303</b> 60:17  <b>5304</b> 60:17  <b>5307</b> 60:17  <b>5309</b> 60:17  <b>5310</b> 60:17  <b>5311</b> 60:17  <b>55,464</b> 164:8  <b>59.5</b> 170:18  <b>5th</b> 188:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p> <p><b>90</b> 18:1  <b>911</b> 127:14 130:8                  130:9  <b>92</b> 100:7  <b>97</b> 126:16 128:8  <b>99</b> 21:21  <b>9:03</b> 189:3</p>	<p><b>access</b> 25:10 48:11                  97:8 98:3 101:15                  117:10 129:5                  139:18  <b>accessing</b> 109:4  <b>accomplish</b> 178:6  <b>account</b> 21:11                  110:16</p>	<p>83:3 121:2 130:13                  133:9 144:9,12                  166:10 172:7,9  <b>additionally</b> 9:18                  172:5  <b>additions</b> 2:16 4:9                  4:18  <b>address</b> 6:13                  97:12 98:17                  183:21  <b>adjourn</b> 188:5  <b>adjourning</b>                  187:14  <b>adkins</b> 85:15</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>a</b></p> <p><b>a.m.</b> 169:3  <b>abated</b> 76:7  <b>abilities</b> 39:14                  83:15  <b>ability</b> 114:16                  115:6 116:13                  119:13 172:1,3,21  <b>able</b> 10:11 16:16                  32:6 33:3 42:16                  47:19 48:10,17                  49:11,14 56:3                  73:8,18 74:10                  77:1 78:5,13                  81:10 85:6 86:3                  92:19 102:21                  103:9 106:20                  107:20 113:21                  114:9 116:3                  130:19 131:19,20                  146:19 161:8                  171:5 174:9                  175:11 176:1                  177:1 184:11</p>	<p><b>accountability</b>                  69:3,8,10 170:7                  171:17  <b>accounting</b> 19:11  <b>accurate</b> 190:7  <b>acquisition</b> 66:3  <b>act</b> 3:3 6:12 60:18                  61:1,16,18,20                  65:13 69:8,13                  106:16 107:4,9                  108:15 121:9                  122:9 149:6  <b>acting</b> 66:9  <b>action</b> 141:2 167:8                  167:13,17 170:8                  170:20 171:11                  173:16 174:8                  190:12  <b>actions</b> 170:11  <b>active</b> 39:3,9 40:8  <b>actively</b> 102:9  <b>activism</b> 51:5  <b>activities</b> 58:17  <b>activity</b> 33:10                  34:19 102:18  <b>actual</b> 160:12                  163:1  <b>acuity</b> 9:4  <b>acute</b> 30:20  <b>acutely</b> 10:1  <b>add</b> 21:4 69:2                  152:11 165:8  <b>added</b> 87:7 102:17  <b>addition</b> 82:18  <b>additional</b> 6:8                  27:12 29:13 39:13</p>	<p><b>administered</b> 62:7                  72:18 73:1  <b>administering</b> 6:2  <b>administration</b>                  60:15,20 61:3                  62:15 74:5 83:4  <b>administrative</b>                  60:10 64:17 65:1                  69:4,10 132:17,20                  133:12,16 158:10                  158:18 170:7                  171:18  <b>administrator</b>                  61:2  <b>admitted</b> 9:16  <b>adoption</b> 158:17  <b>adult</b> 87:17  <b>adults</b> 37:12  <b>advance</b> 98:10                  103:3  <b>advantage</b> 77:15                  131:21  <b>advised</b> 110:7  <b>advisory</b> 153:12                  155:6,9  <b>aecom's</b> 159:20                  160:4 161:12  <b>affect</b> 45:14 47:8  <b>afford</b> 78:8</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>absolutely</b> 12:16                  12:17 57:6 79:7                  115:14,15 118:4                  133:15  <b>academic</b> 47:11  <b>accelerate</b> 146:19  <b>accept</b> 161:8  <b>acceptance</b> 58:12  <b>accepted</b> 4:14,21  <b>accepting</b> 55:9</p>	<p><b>act</b> 3:3 6:12 60:18                  61:1,16,18,20                  65:13 69:8,13                  106:16 107:4,9                  108:15 121:9                  122:9 149:6  <b>acting</b> 66:9  <b>action</b> 141:2 167:8                  167:13,17 170:8                  170:20 171:11                  173:16 174:8                  190:12  <b>actions</b> 170:11  <b>active</b> 39:3,9 40:8  <b>actively</b> 102:9  <b>activism</b> 51:5  <b>activities</b> 58:17  <b>activity</b> 33:10                  34:19 102:18  <b>actual</b> 160:12                  163:1  <b>acuity</b> 9:4  <b>acute</b> 30:20  <b>acutely</b> 10:1  <b>add</b> 21:4 69:2                  152:11 165:8  <b>added</b> 87:7 102:17  <b>addition</b> 82:18  <b>additional</b> 6:8                  27:12 29:13 39:13</p>	<p><b>administrative</b>                  60:10 64:17 65:1                  69:4,10 132:17,20                  133:12,16 158:10                  158:18 170:7                  171:18  <b>administrator</b>                  61:2  <b>admitted</b> 9:16  <b>adoption</b> 158:17  <b>adult</b> 87:17  <b>adults</b> 37:12  <b>advance</b> 98:10                  103:3  <b>advantage</b> 77:15                  131:21  <b>advised</b> 110:7  <b>advisory</b> 153:12                  155:6,9  <b>aecom's</b> 159:20                  160:4 161:12  <b>affect</b> 45:14 47:8  <b>afford</b> 78:8</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 83:3  <b>8.3</b> 90:8  <b>80</b> 18:1 90:15  <b>800</b> 77:2  <b>850</b> 83:10  <b>86</b> 18:10,19  <b>896</b> 172:19,20  <b>8th</b> 63:12 166:15</p>	<p><b>absolutely</b> 12:16                  12:17 57:6 79:7                  115:14,15 118:4                  133:15  <b>academic</b> 47:11  <b>accelerate</b> 146:19  <b>accept</b> 161:8  <b>acceptance</b> 58:12  <b>accepted</b> 4:14,21  <b>accepting</b> 55:9</p>	<p><b>8</b> 83:3  <b>8.3</b> 90:8  <b>80</b> 18:1 90:15  <b>800</b> 77:2  <b>850</b> 83:10  <b>86</b> 18:10,19  <b>896</b> 172:19,20  <b>8th</b> 63:12 166:15</p>

<p><b>aforesaid</b> 62:12  <b>afternoon</b> 57:21  175:16  <b>age</b> 3:6 17:17  29:18 33:3 93:9  119:20  <b>agencies</b> 95:4  <b>agenda</b> 2:15 4:10  4:13 13:9 60:9  63:13 68:17 156:9  160:3 169:14  <b>aging</b> 73:2 74:3,4  74:14,17 75:1,7  79:3 83:6 85:17  86:13 87:13 154:8  <b>ago</b> 50:2 80:2  102:1 109:11  137:5 176:4,8  186:16  <b>agree</b> 93:19  139:10 140:6  <b>agreement</b> 72:12  73:6 74:2 82:15  83:6,10 147:14  <b>agricultural</b> 46:10  80:4 153:11  165:12  <b>agriculture</b> 66:11  158:14  <b>ahead</b> 3:8 5:15  113:16 121:12  174:17 183:4  <b>aid</b> 99:2 104:10  106:9 107:5  109:15 110:6  <b>aip</b> 160:7 161:3  <b>airplane</b> 23:19  162:19  <b>airport</b> 159:19,19  160:10,13 162:17  163:2,6,7,18  <b>airport's</b> 160:14  <b>albeit</b> 49:12</p>	<p><b>allegiance</b> 2:10,12  <b>alleviate</b> 104:19  <b>allocate</b> 136:9  144:16 148:13  <b>allocated</b> 139:15  <b>allocation</b> 174:5,7  <b>allocations</b> 149:5  <b>allow</b> 47:9 142:10  144:7,17 148:14  164:8  <b>allowable</b> 123:16  123:21 133:16  134:1  <b>allowed</b> 101:12  <b>allowing</b> 8:10  171:9 180:16  <b>allows</b> 124:11  <b>alluded</b> 91:12  116:4  <b>alpha</b> 31:8  <b>amazing</b> 77:9  89:10 90:3 138:7  176:7  <b>ambulance</b> 130:13  178:19  <b>amend</b> 68:21  <b>amended</b> 65:12  <b>amendments</b>  177:17  <b>amenities</b> 84:2  <b>america</b> 66:9  <b>american</b> 3:2  106:16 107:9  121:9 122:8 149:6  <b>amount</b> 21:6 65:5  136:20 156:12  160:5 164:8  <b>analysis</b> 18:2  <b>anchor</b> 132:5  <b>andrew</b> 123:6  <b>animal</b> 46:20  <b>animals</b> 46:10  <b>ann</b> 86:18 92:2</p>	<p><b>annapolis</b> 174:19  181:11  <b>anne</b> 44:7  <b>anne's</b> 169:3  <b>annotated</b> 65:11  <b>announce</b> 71:10  <b>announcement</b>  165:12 166:1  169:1  <b>annual</b> 161:2  <b>answer</b> 110:3  114:6 115:16  126:6 156:16  <b>answered</b> 139:4  <b>answering</b> 127:6  <b>antibodies</b> 26:6,14  26:15  <b>anticipate</b> 20:11  33:6 37:4 48:2  <b>anticipated</b>  106:19  <b>antivirals</b> 38:4  <b>anxiety</b> 30:7  <b>anybody</b> 94:15  95:16,16,19  120:18 174:14  <b>anytime</b> 38:17  <b>anyway</b> 117:2  <b>apologize</b> 21:13  183:5 184:1,10  185:12,13  <b>appalachia</b> 120:11  <b>appear</b> 20:1  <b>appeared</b> 190:3  <b>applicant</b> 61:10  61:19 62:3  <b>application</b> 60:14  61:17 62:13 101:7  104:4 111:15  113:9 161:6  <b>applications</b> 32:15  <b>applied</b> 65:18  67:18 72:11 82:13  100:11 136:8</p>	<p>139:9  <b>applies</b> 180:21  <b>apply</b> 130:19  173:6 175:2  <b>appointment</b>  153:10 155:7  <b>appreciably</b> 106:2  <b>appreciate</b> 5:4  49:2 55:1,12  59:18 70:17 77:19  81:2 82:4 89:8  94:8,18 95:9,20  119:14 121:5  163:11 169:13  173:17 174:13  180:9,11  <b>appreciative</b>  76:10 138:9  <b>apprehensive</b> 94:3  <b>appropriate</b> 12:14  <b>appropriately</b>  172:4  <b>approval</b> 32:16  33:5 62:19 85:3  102:2 105:12  156:10 158:12  159:19 160:4  161:5 175:8  <b>approve</b> 11:7  134:20 146:16  149:5 158:19  166:4  <b>approved</b> 32:21  102:7 161:6  <b>approving</b> 180:19  <b>approximately</b>  100:8  <b>april</b> 33:5 71:14  165:16 169:2  187:11 188:3  <b>architectural</b> 66:4  <b>area</b> 52:19 76:5  84:4,12,14 88:14  88:20 103:2</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>110:21 111:7,14 119:10 140:10 157:7 160:1 <b>areas</b> 98:1,12 100:21 101:1,13 102:20,20 103:6 103:11 108:20 <b>arkansas</b> 34:19 <b>arm</b> 49:18 <b>arpa</b> 107:9 108:15 116:7 118:11 127:11 132:10 139:12 144:17 150:13,14 174:5 <b>arrangement</b> 92:20 <b>arrive</b> 24:4 <b>art</b> 58:6 115:20 <b>article</b> 65:10 69:3 170:5,5 <b>aside</b> 130:18 <b>asked</b> 123:14 125:17 126:5 131:15 133:6 150:3 174:20 175:4 <b>asking</b> 122:15 129:18 134:19 184:19 <b>asks</b> 173:7 <b>asleep</b> 40:6 <b>aspect</b> 108:13 <b>assessed</b> 109:19 <b>assessment</b> 21:16 123:9 <b>assist</b> 75:3 <b>assistance</b> 61:9,18 124:6,6 126:21 128:1 <b>assisted</b> 190:7 <b>assisting</b> 6:2 <b>associated</b> 67:8 70:1 104:18</p>	<p><b>association</b> 83:7 144:7,14,18 <b>assurance</b> 61:19 <b>assure</b> 45:2,9 <b>attack</b> 28:18 103:11 172:17 <b>attendees</b> 85:3 <b>attention</b> 13:3 35:14 108:21 152:16 170:1 173:15 <b>attract</b> 171:6 <b>audience</b> 3:6 13:19 <b>audio</b> 132:8 190:3 <b>auditoriums</b> 89:21 <b>august</b> 72:13 74:9 74:9 84:15 <b>authentic</b> 51:14 <b>authentically</b> 51:8 <b>authorities</b> 38:19 <b>authority</b> 65:7 127:19 <b>authorization</b> 175:2 <b>authorized</b> 61:4 <b>authorizing</b> 60:13 65:3 66:11 <b>av</b> 132:8 <b>availability</b> 16:9 <b>available</b> 16:7,10 16:11 26:4,9 27:1 27:3,8 108:15 109:1 <b>avenue</b> 82:21 <b>avian</b> 14:16 43:12 47:6 <b>aviation</b> 160:7 163:14 <b>awaiting</b> 100:20 <b>award</b> 156:6,10 164:3 <b>awarded</b> 100:5 101:8 164:6</p>	<p><b>aware</b> 15:15 28:3 30:17 97:18 <b>awareness</b> 51:9 <b>awful</b> 135:8 <b>axis</b> 36:8 <b>aye</b> 3:19,21 4:2,4 4:6 11:10,12,14 11:16,18 59:9,11 59:13,15,17 64:7 64:9,11,13,15 68:8,10,12,14,16 152:1,3,5,7,9 153:19,21 154:2,4 154:6,17,19,21 155:2,4,16,18,20 156:1,3 157:17,19 157:21 158:2,4 159:5,7,9,11,13 161:21 162:2,4,6 162:8 164:18,20 165:1,3,5 168:12 168:14,20 188:13 188:15,17,19,21</p>	<p><b>backbone</b> 102:10 <b>background</b> 29:18 53:19 <b>backgrounds</b> 51:2 <b>backs</b> 32:10 <b>backup</b> 130:9 <b>backyard</b> 44:1,3 45:20 <b>bad</b> 15:6 35:5,10 <b>bags</b> 76:3 <b>balance</b> 73:10 <b>ball</b> 102:6 <b>ballot</b> 170:17 <b>baltimore</b> 42:8 190:2 <b>banks</b> 131:16,18 <b>bar</b> 18:11 <b>bare</b> 115:6 <b>barrier</b> 107:2 108:8 <b>based</b> 171:14 <b>basic</b> 6:3 <b>basically</b> 19:9 20:21 22:12 26:14 67:17 103:5 147:11 157:2 177:18 <b>bats</b> 46:17 <b>battling</b> 119:12 <b>bay</b> 49:21 63:9 76:5 82:12 86:19 88:13,19 92:10 140:10 147:20,21 <b>beacon</b> 125:21 <b>bear</b> 99:17 <b>beast</b> 90:18 <b>beaten</b> 8:19 <b>beautiful</b> 48:1 <b>becoming</b> 26:3 <b>beer</b> 179:21 <b>beginning</b> 6:17 17:4,19 84:9 113:20 187:12</p>
		<p><b>b</b></p>	
		<p><b>b</b> 33:19 <b>ba2</b> 19:7,8 <b>baam</b> 58:7 <b>back</b> 12:1 15:20 23:13 39:6 41:18 47:3 58:14 67:5 80:18 81:2 88:9 89:4 90:19 93:16 97:11 98:14 99:16 99:19 101:6 103:3 105:1 108:3 110:4 110:13 122:2 127:14 140:12 144:21 146:15 148:18 162:11 167:6,11,19 177:15 178:15 180:4 181:20 182:7,20</p>	

<b>behalf</b> 55:10	<b>bikes</b> 128:12	<b>boards</b> 69:1	145:21 146:1,9
<b>beings</b> 7:6	<b>bill</b> 65:7 68:19,21	<b>bob</b> 91:1	149:7 151:18
<b>belabor</b> 102:4	69:12 71:10,13	<b>bodies</b> 70:13	186:12
<b>believe</b> 22:10 27:2	108:16,17 116:9	<b>bold</b> 134:13	<b>broader</b> 14:9
28:6 36:1 44:17	164:4 170:10	<b>bonds</b> 65:5,14,16	<b>broadly</b> 136:8
45:8 117:20	171:9 172:19,20	66:7,12,13,15,17	<b>brookletts</b> 76:16
120:11 123:5	175:1,5 177:4	66:21	87:12
132:2,7 134:18	178:18 180:7,15	<b>book</b> 97:1 114:8	<b>brooks</b> 76:14,15
137:8,16 173:20	181:11	115:14,16,18	78:15,18 79:9
<b>believed</b> 90:10,11	<b>billable</b> 184:4	121:5	81:4 94:9
<b>belt</b> 65:17 67:8	<b>bills</b> 108:17 117:5	<b>boosted</b> 22:14	<b>brothers</b> 156:11
158:9,15	174:20 176:3	<b>booster</b> 32:17 33:1	<b>brought</b> 30:3
<b>beneficiaries</b>	<b>bind</b> 110:9	<b>bore</b> 12:21	114:7 117:14
72:21 73:12 83:11	<b>bipartisan</b> 170:13	<b>bottom</b> 36:8 111:1	118:5 143:17
83:12 85:4	177:21	<b>bought</b> 156:20	<b>brunch</b> 58:14
<b>beneficiary</b> 73:14	<b>birds</b> 43:15,20	<b>box</b> 88:6	<b>budget</b> 130:12
74:10 95:5	44:12,18 45:1,3	<b>bozman</b> 101:2	143:14,15,15,20
<b>benefit</b> 63:7	46:2	<b>brain</b> 29:7	144:3,20 152:12
106:18 119:18	<b>birthday</b> 187:1	<b>branched</b> 14:7	156:14 160:15
134:14 142:15	<b>bit</b> 14:10,11,15	<b>bravery</b> 51:12	164:9,12 175:6,8
170:21	18:5 19:18 25:12	<b>break</b> 96:5 147:3	178:4 187:21
<b>benefited</b> 94:6	26:3 33:11 35:3	<b>breakdown</b> 17:17	<b>budgetarily</b>
<b>benefiting</b> 107:12	38:10 40:15 42:7	<b>breaking</b> 83:21	144:16
<b>benefits</b> 142:7	45:12 56:16 87:3	<b>breath</b> 29:6	<b>bug</b> 24:15
<b>bent</b> 186:20	99:21 104:16	<b>bribe</b> 78:19	<b>build</b> 89:18
<b>berry</b> 52:16 59:21	113:18 140:1,5	<b>bridge</b> 63:10	102:13 105:21
<b>best</b> 87:8 120:8	177:13 180:1	<b>brief</b> 122:11	124:21 130:10
164:9	<b>bite</b> 143:8	<b>briefly</b> 69:7	<b>building</b> 49:20
<b>better</b> 21:8 48:18	<b>blenders</b> 73:18	122:10 123:15	50:3 79:21 101:10
57:5 176:15	<b>blending</b> 88:10	<b>bright</b> 108:13	104:10 130:8
183:10 184:10	<b>block</b> 47:20 71:16	<b>bring</b> 2:19 13:20	156:21
185:3,5,14 186:12	72:5 80:7 81:12	99:4 121:12 163:6	<b>built</b> 50:8 99:12
<b>beyond</b> 6:20	82:14 106:19	<b>bringing</b> 13:3 55:4	178:14
139:14	<b>blocks</b> 80:15	63:9 136:13	<b>bullets</b> 98:12
<b>bid</b> 156:6,10 164:3	<b>blue</b> 37:17	<b>broad</b> 25:10 136:7	<b>bump</b> 3:7
164:6	<b>blurry</b> 172:1	<b>broadband</b> 3:2	<b>bumps</b> 36:7,9,10
<b>bidder</b> 156:11	<b>bms</b> 130:10	96:10 97:8 98:4	<b>bunch</b> 91:16 180:3
164:7	<b>board</b> 24:6 27:21	99:4 100:12	<b>burden</b> 109:14
<b>bidders</b> 157:9	52:14,17 54:5	108:17,19 111:16	163:10 172:6
<b>bids</b> 156:13	69:4,8,10 92:2	111:18 112:16	<b>burdens</b> 12:19,21
164:11	153:9,12,13 155:6	113:3,19 116:6,8	172:9
<b>big</b> 79:15 101:7	155:9 170:7	117:4,11 124:2	<b>burner</b> 73:19
119:15 142:3	171:18,21 172:12	126:13 127:5,7	<b>burton</b> 164:4
161:1	173:4,8	129:1,6,8 142:17	

<b>business</b> 62:3,7 97:3 114:13 117:15 137:12 <b>businesses</b> 124:7 128:2 <b>busy</b> 16:20 54:17 <b>butt</b> 13:15 <b>button</b> 78:4 161:13	93:19 94:14,21 95:12,15 96:1,4,8 96:14 109:17 113:14,16 118:9 120:18 121:4,7,15 121:17,20 122:1 130:5 134:21 136:15 139:20 146:6,13 149:14 151:14,16,21 152:1,10,14,19 153:1,4,6,16,18 153:19 154:13,16 154:17 155:12,15 155:16 157:13,16 157:17 159:2,4,5 161:18,20,21 164:15,17,18 167:12 168:9,11 168:12 169:12,17 173:17 174:1,11 174:13,17 180:8 180:13 182:9,13 185:15,19 186:16 187:4,8 188:9,12 188:13 189:1 <b>called</b> 32:16 33:20 34:1 36:16 40:3 43:20 46:7 52:21 87:13 <b>calling</b> 24:20 <b>calls</b> 19:9 <b>calm</b> 6:13 <b>calming</b> 10:6 <b>camp</b> 87:4 <b>campus</b> 82:19 <b>cap</b> 170:20 <b>capacity</b> 115:12 <b>capital</b> 109:20 110:1 130:12 135:21 <b>car</b> 78:9 <b>care</b> 5:4,21 6:5,9 6:21 7:12 8:15,21	8:21 9:10,19,20 10:1,8 19:16 23:5 23:20 29:21 30:10 48:11 84:6 85:15 178:21 179:11 <b>careful</b> 136:10 <b>cares</b> 108:15 116:5 <b>caring</b> 7:2 12:6 <b>caroline</b> 165:14 <b>case</b> 15:11 34:1 38:18 44:3 45:8 57:2 79:5 120:8 149:4 151:9 <b>cases</b> 14:21 15:14 19:12,13,15,21 21:1,2 22:6 25:15 39:4,12 40:3,9,14 40:20 41:5,10,16 43:21 45:8 136:2 <b>cassandra</b> 121:8 135:1 136:17 153:2,3 186:8 <b>catastrophic</b> 6:15 <b>catch</b> 19:2 24:20 <b>catching</b> 24:21 25:2 <b>categories</b> 126:10 <b>cathy</b> 50:1 <b>cause</b> 18:4 <b>causing</b> 37:3,7 <b>cdbg</b> 72:11 83:1 95:2 <b>cdc</b> 20:15 21:10 33:14 36:15 45:9 49:13 125:5 <b>cecil</b> 44:6 <b>celebrate</b> 51:7 <b>celebrates</b> 51:4 <b>cell</b> 119:11 128:10 <b>center</b> 27:10 52:14 56:8 72:19 73:7 75:1,6,14 76:17 79:20 82:12,20	84:5,7,15,16,21 86:12,19 87:19 88:8,14,18 89:3 92:12 127:14 129:12 130:8,9 131:18 140:11 142:8,14 146:16 147:15 149:8,10 151:19 156:7 157:2,6 180:16,21 181:2,6,19 <b>centers</b> 74:16 79:2 83:14 84:20 <b>central</b> 33:13,13 84:3 <b>centreville</b> 89:2 169:5 <b>ceo</b> 88:1 96:19 <b>certain</b> 23:17 27:10 61:9 65:20 114:1 182:2 <b>certainly</b> 10:7 15:7 32:11 42:7 49:4,15 70:14 81:20 85:19 103:16 105:8 108:9,11 123:21 141:20 148:17 151:10 181:15 <b>certificate</b> 5:17 50:17 <b>certified</b> 27:21 <b>certify</b> 190:3,5,8 190:10 <b>chain</b> 105:5 <b>chair</b> 4:13,20 52:13 <b>challenge</b> 9:13 86:21 <b>challenged</b> 8:17 <b>chambers</b> 1:10 <b>champion</b> 178:2 <b>chance</b> 22:16 31:10 140:15
<b>c</b>			
<b>c</b> 43:7 <b>cable</b> 97:2 <b>cakes</b> 179:21 <b>calcagnini</b> 123:4 <b>call</b> 3:17 21:18 27:17 38:14 44:1 59:6 64:4 68:5 101:13 102:12 107:8 121:3 137:6 153:17 154:14 155:13 157:15 159:3 161:19 164:16 168:10 175:19 188:10 <b>callahan</b> 1:14 2:3 2:13,21 3:4,10,13 3:15,18,19 4:7,12 4:16 5:3,12 7:17 7:20 8:2,6,8,12 11:1,4,6,9,10,19 12:3,5,12,13,16 13:9,16,18,21 14:1 48:20 50:12 52:6,10 54:21 55:16 59:1,5,8,9 59:18,20 60:1,7 63:3 64:1,3,6,7,16 64:20 67:1,6,20 68:2,4,7,8,17 69:5 69:19 70:4,16 71:6,9,15,19 75:9 76:13 77:18 81:5 82:3,7 86:14,17 87:20 89:9 91:9			

<p><b>change</b> 36:18 57:17,17 105:4 134:15 168:2 <b>changed</b> 20:20 104:3,5,15 113:18 <b>changes</b> 24:1 33:7 181:10 <b>chapel</b> 119:9 <b>chapter</b> 68:21 70:14 <b>charge</b> 110:1,7 <b>charged</b> 110:5 170:5 173:10 <b>charges</b> 109:20 <b>charging</b> 69:4,11 170:8 171:18 <b>chart</b> 18:11 36:11 <b>charter</b> 65:13,14 66:19 <b>cheap</b> 184:6 <b>check</b> 112:2 140:7 <b>checking</b> 140:12 <b>chesapeake</b> 83:7 129:12 141:10 142:8,14 146:16 147:15 149:8,9 151:19 <b>chi</b> 87:12 <b>chicken</b> 45:17 <b>chickens</b> 45:21 <b>chief</b> 69:21 96:21 <b>chiefs</b> 70:1,20 <b>child</b> 84:6 85:15 <b>childlne</b> 76:15 91:11 92:9 140:8 <b>children</b> 10:4 33:17 37:12 85:14 87:17 <b>choices</b> 139:1,1 <b>choose</b> 22:17 114:17 124:15 173:9 <b>christian</b> 83:7</p>	<p><b>christmas</b> 126:4 <b>christopher</b> 10:15 <b>chronological</b> 170:14 <b>chuck</b> 1:14 5:11 8:1 113:13 186:16 187:7 <b>circulating</b> 37:6 <b>circumstances</b> 6:20 7:3 <b>citizen</b> 172:19 <b>citizens</b> 51:21 54:1 55:5 73:4 74:8 122:15 123:14 134:16 138:19 140:13 172:6,14 186:11 <b>city</b> 42:8 190:2 <b>civil</b> 61:16,20 <b>claiborne</b> 101:2 <b>clarification</b> 166:6 <b>clarke</b> 67:7 123:5 141:7,14 146:15 146:20 147:4,10 147:17,20 156:4 156:15,20 157:10 159:14 <b>class</b> 181:7 <b>classes</b> 85:1,2,4,7 <b>classification</b> 36:18 <b>classy</b> 187:3 <b>clay</b> 117:21 123:2 <b>clear</b> 110:3 135:2 142:5 181:19 184:12 <b>clearer</b> 149:20 <b>clerk</b> 123:4 <b>clientele</b> 182:3 <b>clients</b> 76:9 <b>cliff</b> 177:10,12 <b>clinic</b> 57:14 <b>clinical</b> 6:8</p>	<p><b>close</b> 15:11 106:17 118:12 128:3 <b>closed</b> 24:12 87:1 89:3 187:14,18 <b>closer</b> 101:14 140:5 <b>closing</b> 187:16 <b>closure</b> 83:13 84:19 <b>cloud</b> 134:4 <b>code</b> 65:11 69:2 170:6 <b>coding</b> 9:15 <b>cognitive</b> 29:15 <b>collaborating</b> 88:17 <b>collaboratively</b> 186:3 <b>collateral</b> 107:17 <b>colleagues</b> 79:11 81:7 93:20 96:20 <b>collect</b> 66:15 <b>combination</b> 111:13 <b>combine</b> 160:19 <b>combined</b> 106:19 <b>combining</b> 21:2 <b>come</b> 5:7 8:8 11:19,20,21 15:1 15:20 28:8 50:19 52:7 54:13 56:3 58:11,16,19 60:1 71:17 75:8,10 86:9,14 89:15 93:16 94:15 95:17 95:18 96:15 99:19 109:9 121:8 131:17 132:21 144:14 148:18 156:4 159:16 164:2 169:15 174:2 178:15 181:10</p>	<p><b>comes</b> 41:6 80:8 141:14 181:20 <b>comfort</b> 55:5 <b>comfortable</b> 78:6 143:6 <b>coming</b> 25:15 43:2 56:13 70:2 93:14 98:6 120:7 125:20 148:15 176:3 <b>comment</b> 122:16 162:10 <b>comments</b> 70:18 169:14 173:5 174:15 <b>commercial</b> 44:1 44:8,18 45:17 <b>commercially</b> 115:20 <b>commission</b> 69:15 154:7 190:20 <b>commissions</b> 69:1 <b>commit</b> 135:12 <b>commitment</b> 7:5 51:15 53:15 100:2 143:7,8 <b>committed</b> 100:17 129:2,4 <b>committee</b> 69:4,11 121:11 123:3 135:3 136:12 148:5 153:9 170:8 171:18,21 172:13 173:4 175:9 178:7 <b>committees</b> 69:1 <b>common</b> 34:15 41:5 84:12 173:8 <b>commonly</b> 170:9 <b>communication</b> 95:3 119:13 <b>communities</b> 25:4 53:11 77:20 80:5 136:20 137:3 <b>community</b> 7:11 13:6 16:13 25:6</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



36:19 40:18 47:20 48:10 50:21 51:14 51:17 52:18,19 54:19 56:10 58:20 63:16 71:16 72:3 72:4,13,19 73:7 74:21 75:2,6,13 76:4,5,12 77:14 79:4,19,20 80:8 80:12 82:13 85:13 85:16 88:10,13 89:7,16,20 90:1,9 90:13 92:11 94:6 111:13,20 112:8 113:4 121:13 122:3 137:2 139:3 152:18 170:3 <b>companies</b> 130:16 131:5 143:2,3,10 143:16 144:13 145:3 148:14 149:11,20 150:1 150:15,21 <b>company</b> 130:15 <b>compare</b> 36:6 <b>compared</b> 36:13 42:5 <b>comparing</b> 37:15 <b>compensate</b> 136:2 136:4 <b>competitive</b> 97:19 <b>complete</b> 100:14 103:16 <b>completed</b> 6:7 84:16 <b>completely</b> 112:14 162:20 <b>completion</b> 105:16 <b>complex</b> 106:10 <b>complications</b> 29:13 30:21 <b>comply</b> 61:19 <b>component</b> 99:6	<b>comptroller</b> 89:1 <b>computer</b> 85:8,9 190:7 <b>concept</b> 93:12 <b>concerned</b> 45:12 <b>conclude</b> 169:10 <b>concluded</b> 189:3 <b>concludes</b> 165:17 <b>conditions</b> 66:7 <b>conducting</b> 43:6 <b>conference</b> 178:7 <b>confidently</b> 15:2 <b>confused</b> 112:14 <b>congratulate</b> 10:19 <b>congratulations</b> 7:21 50:5 60:5 187:6,7 <b>congregate</b> 41:8 <b>congress</b> 124:4 <b>conjunction</b> 77:5 <b>connect</b> 3:2 97:5 100:1,6 102:17 106:7 111:13,20 112:8 113:4 <b>connected</b> 87:18 101:16 109:19 118:17 147:11 <b>connecting</b> 142:8 <b>connection</b> 61:16 62:5 96:10 102:21 146:19 147:7 <b>connections</b> 110:2 <b>consent</b> 4:14,21 <b>consider</b> 31:16 109:13 <b>consideration</b> 174:5 <b>considerations</b> 28:7 31:4 <b>considered</b> 69:14 <b>considering</b> 127:1 <b>consistent</b> 32:3	<b>consolidated</b> 65:4 <b>consolidation</b> 66:12 <b>consoling</b> 10:10 <b>constituents</b> 107:13 108:10 109:14 119:20 170:13 <b>construct</b> 105:3 <b>constructed</b> 102:18 <b>construction</b> 62:8 83:4,20 84:10,12 85:11 99:2 102:16 104:10 106:9 107:6 108:1 109:15,16 110:6 <b>consultant</b> 62:9 159:19 <b>contact</b> 39:14,17 40:11 169:6 <b>contagious</b> 19:18 31:14,15 43:13 <b>contained</b> 184:14 190:9 <b>contains</b> 146:8 <b>contingent</b> 161:10 <b>continue</b> 16:21 23:17 25:16 30:12 30:16 57:4 74:17 100:18 124:5 170:21 <b>continues</b> 131:16 172:16 182:8 <b>continuing</b> 26:1 83:17 127:9 <b>contract</b> 61:8,11 62:8 102:3,6 <b>contractor</b> 147:13 <b>contractors</b> 102:9 103:7,10 <b>contracts</b> 62:9 101:11	<b>contribute</b> 108:5,6 108:7 <b>contribution</b> 99:1 99:2,7,18 103:21 104:8,9,9,20 106:8 107:1,5,21 109:15 110:6 <b>contributions</b> 106:6 <b>control</b> 10:9 <b>convening</b> 187:13 <b>cookies</b> 126:6 138:2 <b>cooperative</b> 92:20 <b>coordinated</b> 85:2 <b>copies</b> 62:14 <b>core</b> 127:10 <b>corey</b> 1:17 <b>corn</b> 80:10 <b>corner</b> 125:20 <b>correct</b> 18:16,18 18:20 49:15 <b>corrected</b> 18:21 <b>correction</b> 181:8 <b>correctional</b> 69:15 175:1 180:7 181:14 <b>corrections</b> 2:17 4:10,19 <b>cors</b> 180:15,17 <b>cost</b> 104:17 105:18 106:1,5 108:1,9 130:11 160:12 <b>costing</b> 184:5 <b>costly</b> 147:1 <b>costs</b> 61:12 72:20 99:7 132:17 133:12,17 172:8 <b>council</b> 1:1,4,10 1:13 4:8 7:7 8:9 13:18 51:18 52:11 55:9 62:17 63:5 65:8 67:1,7 71:8 72:6 78:2 87:21
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

96:14 106:15 120:9 121:17 149:21 153:7,8 156:10 159:15 160:4 166:17,18 167:16 169:18,21 170:15 172:18 173:5,14 174:15 180:19 187:12,18 187:21 190:3 <b>council's</b> 166:11 171:3,8 187:10 <b>councilman</b> 54:8 123:2 <b>counsel</b> 190:4,9,10 190:11 <b>count</b> 73:14 74:10 85:4 <b>counties</b> 44:13 61:5 175:21 177:7 <b>counting</b> 77:4 100:2 <b>countries</b> 19:20 <b>country</b> 33:12 41:6 53:8 <b>county</b> 1:1,1 7:7,8 7:11,15 10:13 14:21 15:20 17:3 17:12,18 20:19 24:9 27:3,9 29:20 30:14 39:5 41:21 42:2,3,11 43:11 44:6,7 45:17 47:19 51:18,19,21 52:4,16 55:6 58:6 60:14 62:12,17,18 63:1 65:2,3,8,8,14 65:15 66:1,19 69:2,9 70:10 72:11 76:16 82:13 83:5 85:2 86:4 96:9 97:9,11,17 97:21 99:10 100:8 101:1 102:9,10,15	103:9,12,19 104:7 106:15 107:1,13 108:7,9 109:2,14 114:15 121:17 122:8 123:10 125:20 127:8,14 128:11 129:5,20 130:2,9,17 132:5 132:11 134:13 137:10,14,16 139:13 142:15 148:16 153:8 156:7 165:14,17 169:3,10,21 170:2 170:6,13,14,20 171:4,9,11,16,16 172:6,10,14 175:10 176:8,9,16 180:11 184:5 185:12,13 186:4 187:10 190:2,3 <b>county's</b> 100:2 158:15 166:7 <b>countywide</b> 72:17 73:5 <b>couple</b> 5:8 30:5 35:21 47:18 48:12 69:17 72:8 80:18 96:20 142:3,19 166:19 177:5 186:16,19 <b>courage</b> 51:8 55:10 56:12 <b>course</b> 14:14 30:2 32:13 37:1 70:5 75:20 77:11 79:9 92:3 116:7 123:7 124:17 126:21 128:14,19 133:17 151:3 170:8 <b>court</b> 172:8 <b>covenanting</b> 66:15 <b>cover</b> 100:15 111:14 119:9	144:11 145:7 150:17,18,20 <b>coverage</b> 45:13 144:6 <b>covered</b> 132:20 150:13,14 151:5 <b>covers</b> 132:18 182:17 <b>covid</b> 6:18 7:1 8:14 12:18 14:10 14:14,21 15:20 17:17 18:4,7 19:5 19:12,15 21:6 23:4 24:8 25:4,14 26:2 28:8,10,12 29:5,16,18 30:19 32:4,15 33:4 34:9 35:9,11 36:4,6,10 36:13 37:1 38:8 38:16 39:16 43:6 46:15 47:14 56:2 79:14 81:15 83:14 84:20 88:11 93:15 117:14 124:5 127:10 <b>coworkers</b> 50:20 <b>crab</b> 179:21 <b>crashing</b> 117:18 <b>create</b> 69:9 144:8 <b>creates</b> 171:19 172:1 <b>creating</b> 170:5 <b>creative</b> 84:21 85:5 <b>credit</b> 117:3 <b>crisis</b> 79:14 81:18 83:14 <b>critchlow</b> 85:15 <b>critical</b> 9:18,19 <b>critically</b> 9:9 10:8 <b>cross</b> 102:6 111:12 <b>crowd</b> 2:4 <b>crowded</b> 34:9	<b>cry</b> 91:3 <b>cumulative</b> 17:11 17:19 18:19 <b>current</b> 32:8 35:1 67:11 <b>currently</b> 24:8 32:20 67:14 146:21 147:5 177:6 <b>curry's</b> 166:13 <b>cursor</b> 109:7 <b>customer</b> 99:1,6 99:18 103:21 104:8,9,19 106:5 106:11 <b>customer's</b> 99:3 <b>customers</b> 99:16 101:17 102:18,21 103:1 106:17 107:3,6,20 114:5 114:14 115:8 <b>cut</b> 76:8 142:5 <b>cutting</b> 84:1 89:11 <b>cyber</b> 132:12,15 148:21 <b>cycle</b> 74:12
			<b>d</b>
			<b>d</b> 170:17 <b>daily</b> 173:11,13 <b>dan</b> 184:12 <b>dance</b> 58:1 <b>data</b> 32:7 <b>date</b> 23:12 133:10 <b>dated</b> 184:13 <b>dave</b> 169:18 <b>day</b> 7:15 9:15 14:20 49:17 50:14 50:18 51:3,20 52:4 54:18 56:10 58:17 63:1 71:11 87:9 88:9 90:19 91:1 92:2,2 107:21 124:3 125:9 132:14

<p>169:2 172:17 176:19 190:13 <b>days</b> 16:19 25:17 25:19 <b>deadliest</b> 53:7 <b>deal</b> 118:12 146:9 181:9 <b>dealing</b> 14:13,17 79:13 182:2 <b>dealt</b> 15:5 <b>death</b> 35:19 36:11 <b>deaths</b> 17:3,8,9,12 17:13 27:12 33:16 36:10 37:12 <b>debt</b> 125:3 151:1 <b>december</b> 35:11 83:8,13 125:13,14 <b>decided</b> 39:11 <b>decisions</b> 123:13 138:20 173:12 <b>deck</b> 153:4 <b>decline</b> 15:13,17 <b>dedicated</b> 81:11 <b>dedication</b> 7:9 <b>deep</b> 19:2 <b>defeated</b> 184:16 <b>deference</b> 98:15 <b>define</b> 20:21 <b>definite</b> 62:5 <b>definitely</b> 27:17 29:2,10 30:5 34:4 34:20 37:1 47:13 83:17 179:19 <b>delaware</b> 44:11 <b>delay</b> 148:8,8 <b>delegates</b> 179:20 <b>delete</b> 167:1 <b>deletions</b> 2:17 4:9 4:19 <b>deliberate</b> 123:8 134:5 <b>deliberations</b> 188:1</p>	<p><b>deliver</b> 113:21 114:1 <b>delivered</b> 67:15 77:8 117:17 120:2 <b>delivering</b> 79:3 <b>delivery</b> 5:21 66:20 73:3 114:4 <b>delmarva</b> 44:16 52:14,21 56:8 63:15 <b>delta</b> 31:8 <b>demand</b> 20:3 27:13 29:21 30:9 39:13 181:13 <b>demart</b> 86:18,18 <b>dementia</b> 30:1 <b>denmark</b> 19:20 <b>department</b> 13:10 14:14 15:14 16:19 32:20 40:14 43:1 47:17 60:16 61:4 61:14,21 62:16 66:10 72:2,12 127:16 130:14 132:14 151:20 156:5 158:13 163:3 166:4 169:8 171:1,1 184:6 <b>departments</b> 173:2 <b>depopulated</b> 45:2 <b>depression</b> 30:7 <b>depth</b> 41:11 <b>deputies</b> 180:20 <b>described</b> 66:1 <b>deserts</b> 80:14 <b>design</b> 101:9 159:21 160:5 <b>designated</b> 60:20 65:15 <b>designed</b> 178:13 <b>despite</b> 10:3 <b>destination</b> 24:4</p>	<p><b>detail</b> 140:2 <b>detailed</b> 126:18 152:12 <b>detention</b> 180:16 180:21 181:2,6,19 <b>determination</b> 119:7 <b>determine</b> 20:20 <b>determined</b> 20:18 46:15 <b>develop</b> 26:16 <b>developed</b> 97:10 <b>development</b> 47:20 67:19 72:3 72:4,13 82:14 <b>dhcd</b> 82:10,14 85:2 131:10 <b>diagnosed</b> 42:11 <b>diagnoses</b> 42:13 <b>diagnosis</b> 42:4 <b>diane</b> 1:21 190:2 190:16 <b>died</b> 17:16 18:3 <b>difference</b> 76:11 90:14 148:9,10 <b>different</b> 15:10 24:10 32:4 33:8 36:12 37:16 38:12 85:7 89:19 93:10 93:10 98:12 101:5 111:6 120:6 137:12 139:6,7,9 162:21 176:16,18 <b>differential</b> 109:6 <b>difficult</b> 10:6 104:11 105:7 <b>difficulties</b> 105:6 <b>dig</b> 148:17 <b>dignity</b> 52:1 54:4 <b>dining</b> 84:3 <b>direct</b> 126:16,19 127:2 <b>directing</b> 183:7</p>	<p><b>direction</b> 49:12 166:12 <b>directly</b> 45:18 <b>director</b> 75:13 97:1 164:2 <b>disbursements</b> 4:17,19,21 <b>discipline</b> 172:4 173:1 <b>discount</b> 108:11 <b>discrimination</b> 51:10 <b>discuss</b> 187:14,20 <b>discussed</b> 170:4 <b>discussion</b> 67:2 149:13 152:12 183:6 185:6 <b>disease</b> 14:9 26:20 33:9 36:18 38:13 38:15 40:5 41:19 42:18 43:9 47:16 <b>diseases</b> 24:18 34:17 43:8 46:9 <b>disputes</b> 57:18 <b>disrupted</b> 35:9 <b>distancing</b> 34:10 <b>distribute</b> 74:7 <b>distributed</b> 74:8 79:17 83:9 122:17 137:17 <b>distributing</b> 16:12 76:1 <b>distribution</b> 74:15 139:12 <b>district</b> 119:10 <b>diverse</b> 50:21 <b>diversify</b> 93:9 <b>divided</b> 72:15 98:12 <b>divilio</b> 1:16 2:18 3:1,5,12,20,21 5:2 11:5,11,12 49:1 59:10,11 63:9 64:2,8,9 68:1,9,10</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

78:3,17,20 81:6 93:8 118:15,21 119:2,3,6 120:15 120:19 139:2,10 141:14,19 142:1 143:4,21 152:2,3 153:20,21 154:12 154:18,19 155:11 155:17,18 156:19 157:8,18,19 159:6 159:7 161:17 162:1,2 164:19,20 165:19 167:8,13 167:20 168:6,13 168:14 182:14,15 185:15 188:8,14 188:15 <b>division</b> 56:16 <b>doc's</b> 179:12 <b>dock</b> 182:19 <b>docs</b> 8:4 <b>doctor</b> 23:21 27:5 27:9,17 <b>doctor's</b> 179:1 <b>document</b> 98:10 103:3 138:16 140:16 <b>doing</b> 56:6,14 71:2 71:7,19 77:5,12 80:9,21 81:2 87:13 88:16 91:5 103:8 105:15 117:1 120:12 135:4 179:16 180:10 183:1 186:2,2,14 <b>dollar</b> 163:4 <b>dollars</b> 151:8 162:16 163:16 <b>domesticated</b> 43:16 46:20 <b>donahue</b> 154:9 <b>donations</b> 86:1,8 90:9	<b>door</b> 144:6 157:7 <b>dose</b> 32:17 <b>double</b> 131:9 <b>douglass</b> 58:8 <b>dr</b> 3:8 8:7,9,13 13:2,7,8,10,12,17 14:4 18:9,15 31:1 31:9,12,21 41:3 49:8 50:7,11 182:10 <b>drafted</b> 166:12 168:7 <b>drag</b> 58:1 <b>dramatically</b> 44:15 <b>drastically</b> 120:6 <b>drive</b> 169:4 <b>driveways</b> 99:9 106:12 <b>driving</b> 134:15 <b>drop</b> 108:2 169:2 <b>drops</b> 104:11 106:10 109:16 <b>drying</b> 183:2 <b>dual</b> 84:3 <b>due</b> 7:1 9:4 17:17 25:7 35:19 36:2 84:19 85:13 87:11 143:21 <b>duplicating</b> 92:13 <b>duvall</b> 156:11	<b>east</b> 166:8 <b>eastern</b> 44:19 137:9 <b>easton</b> 1:10 53:2,4 57:9 96:19 97:10 106:20 114:12,14 125:19 129:3 140:20 155:7 159:18 160:13 169:19 190:13 <b>easy</b> 55:8 56:17,21 92:18 138:21 <b>eat</b> 45:15 46:21 <b>echo</b> 55:18,19 79:11 <b>eckhardt</b> 174:21 175:4 181:16 <b>economic</b> 107:7 124:7,17 <b>economically</b> 116:18 <b>education</b> 117:15 126:13 128:14 <b>educational</b> 6:8 <b>effect</b> 21:16 29:3 32:8 34:10 36:2,6 177:12 <b>effectively</b> 28:18 <b>effects</b> 32:12 34:13 <b>efficient</b> 81:13 90:1 <b>effort</b> 40:13 93:7 124:3 136:20 <b>efforts</b> 90:20 131:16 <b>eggs</b> 45:15 46:1 <b>eight</b> 100:14 117:13 164:11 169:3 <b>either</b> 55:8 86:7 125:7 140:16 <b>elected</b> 171:10 172:21 176:8	<b>electricity</b> 120:10 <b>element</b> 99:18 <b>elementary</b> 119:10 <b>eligible</b> 135:6 144:10 145:14,14 150:12 <b>eliminate</b> 107:2 108:8 <b>eliminated</b> 24:16 <b>ellen</b> 154:9 <b>emerge</b> 29:14 <b>emergencies</b> 6:1 <b>emergency</b> 130:14 131:17 171:2 <b>emerges</b> 21:12 <b>employee</b> 190:11 <b>empower</b> 48:9 <b>ems</b> 127:13 178:18 <b>enabling</b> 65:12 <b>enacted</b> 65:7 170:15 <b>enacting</b> 70:13 <b>encourage</b> 51:21 54:1 172:18 <b>ended</b> 15:3 46:18 111:5 126:4 128:5 128:7,16 138:6 139:4 <b>endemic</b> 34:17 36:19 37:5 38:15 41:6 <b>endorsed</b> 62:13 <b>endorses</b> 62:18 <b>endure</b> 10:17 <b>endured</b> 8:19 <b>energizes</b> 93:11 <b>energy</b> 93:18 <b>enforcement</b> 171:7 172:3,17 173:1 <b>engage</b> 144:17 <b>engaged</b> 125:21 126:7 129:3
	<b>e</b>		
	<b>e</b> 1:18 28:2 184:12 <b>earlier</b> 119:19 140:8 143:15 144:4 145:11 149:18 158:18 173:20 <b>early</b> 47:21 49:19 91:13 101:14 104:13 105:16 <b>earmark</b> 148:6 <b>easily</b> 116:20		

186:17 <b>engineering</b> 66:5 159:21 <b>enhance</b> 87:15 <b>enjoy</b> 93:18,18 <b>enjoying</b> 48:15 87:19 <b>enormous</b> 6:21 <b>enr</b> 183:8,14 185:4 <b>ensure</b> 48:10 62:7 <b>entail</b> 125:13 <b>entered</b> 45:4 83:5 190:9 <b>enterprise</b> 62:3 163:3 <b>entire</b> 52:19 136:17 <b>entitled</b> 65:2 69:3 <b>entry</b> 107:2 108:9 <b>environment</b> 129:18 142:6,12 166:5 <b>environmental</b> 169:7 <b>eoc</b> 19:9 <b>epidemic</b> 19:6 36:17,20 <b>equality</b> 51:5 <b>equipment</b> 62:9 66:4 72:20 73:8 103:10 115:21 116:1 130:20 131:4,5 132:1,2 143:2 149:10 150:16 <b>equitable</b> 125:1 <b>er</b> 9:16 179:10 <b>especially</b> 9:10 27:16 29:19 126:3 <b>essence</b> 107:15 140:21 <b>essential</b> 118:7 130:17	<b>essentials</b> 73:21 <b>established</b> 62:6 100:18 163:15 <b>establishing</b> 170:6 <b>estate</b> 187:15 <b>estimating</b> 33:14 <b>ethnic</b> 51:1 53:19 <b>eutsler</b> 88:1 <b>eve</b> 107:17 <b>evening</b> 13:12,17 52:11 58:2 71:21 76:14 96:13,15 97:4 98:15,19 106:14 109:6 121:16 140:3 141:3 153:10 158:6,11,18 159:18 163:21 169:18 170:4 185:18 <b>event</b> 57:11 58:9 165:13 <b>events</b> 48:14 <b>everybody</b> 2:3,5 11:20 12:9,19 13:13 49:5 55:9 58:16 71:2 94:2 <b>evidence</b> 41:13 <b>evusheld</b> 27:6 <b>exactly</b> 145:17 <b>examination</b> 190:5 <b>example</b> 46:6 79:5 <b>exceeding</b> 65:6 <b>excellent</b> 16:5 <b>exception</b> 52:2 <b>excited</b> 58:5,15 93:15,17 119:16 120:16 <b>exciting</b> 118:19 <b>excuse</b> 130:1 <b>executed</b> 72:12 <b>executive</b> 75:13 176:10	<b>exercise</b> 84:5,5 <b>exhausted</b> 8:16 <b>exist</b> 171:20 <b>existing</b> 157:3 171:5 <b>expand</b> 48:4 119:9 <b>expanded</b> 44:15 124:14 <b>expanding</b> 157:5 <b>expansion</b> 126:12 127:6 156:8 <b>expect</b> 36:21 37:20 114:4 175:13 <b>expectations</b> 113:18 <b>expenditure</b> 133:16 <b>expenditures</b> 123:16 124:1 134:1,20 <b>expenses</b> 66:6 <b>expensive</b> 105:8 179:11 <b>experience</b> 38:11 <b>experienced</b> 31:18 <b>experiences</b> 93:11 <b>experiencing</b> 43:10 <b>expires</b> 190:20 <b>explain</b> 63:7 184:3 <b>explaining</b> 129:10 166:13 <b>exposed</b> 22:16 <b>expression</b> 53:1 <b>extended</b> 9:21 <b>extension</b> 157:1 160:2 <b>extent</b> 62:4 <b>extra</b> 108:1 120:7 120:19 184:2 <b>extraordinary</b> 126:2 128:17 138:16	<b>extreme</b> 6:15 <b>extremely</b> 6:10 39:19,19,20 101:3 <b>f</b> <b>f</b> 1:14 <b>faa</b> 160:7 161:3 <b>face</b> 6:15 14:3 51:11 173:13 <b>facilities</b> 65:21 99:8 183:9,15 <b>facility</b> 84:2,16 85:12,15 86:3 89:10 169:4 179:1 185:4 <b>fact</b> 25:7 110:5 113:7 116:5 134:1 137:7 140:6 146:18 163:2 179:6 <b>factors</b> 23:8 <b>failed</b> 67:12 147:2 147:4 <b>failing</b> 129:12 142:11 183:16 <b>failure</b> 28:17 <b>faith</b> 51:1 <b>fall</b> 177:9 <b>families</b> 10:4,10 79:15 <b>family</b> 50:20 82:12 123:6 186:21 <b>far</b> 31:4 33:14 37:10,20 56:10 139:14 140:13,21 <b>farm</b> 99:9 106:12 <b>farms</b> 44:8 45:17 <b>farther</b> 183:11 <b>fate</b> 10:9 <b>fatigue</b> 29:6 <b>fda</b> 32:21 <b>february</b> 4:8 20:16 21:16 166:6 166:13
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>fed</b> 98:6	<b>finally</b> 13:20	<b>fix</b> 183:20 184:11	<b>forever</b> 146:1
<b>federal</b> 44:14	49:20 50:3	<b>flag</b> 2:10 129:7	<b>forget</b> 38:7 118:3
60:18,21 61:18	<b>finance</b> 158:8,12	<b>flowing</b> 161:15	<b>form</b> 66:6 172:7
98:3 102:5 108:21	158:19	<b>flu</b> 14:16 33:15,18	<b>forth</b> 66:18 80:11
124:19 133:20	<b>financial</b> 61:8	33:19,19 34:16,17	164:10
135:6 139:16	66:5 95:5 96:21	34:18 35:2,5,8,10	<b>fortunately</b> 17:18
163:15	<b>financing</b> 65:19	35:20 36:6,6,13	20:5 22:8
<b>feds</b> 105:13	66:2 158:15	37:10 38:3,4,5,9	<b>fortune</b> 184:5
<b>feed</b> 131:16	<b>find</b> 104:19	38:19 39:1 43:13	<b>forty</b> 178:14
179:21	105:13	43:14,18 47:3,6	<b>forward</b> 49:14
<b>feel</b> 120:10 170:13	<b>finds</b> 10:16	49:16	70:15 75:8 81:16
171:17 172:14	<b>fine</b> 161:1	<b>fluid</b> 49:12	98:8 105:14
176:21	<b>finish</b> 102:6,19	<b>flushing</b> 183:17	134:13 135:5
<b>feeling</b> 16:14	103:13	<b>flying</b> 162:19	136:6 140:2
87:18 94:1	<b>finished</b> 101:9	<b>focus</b> 133:5	141:12 142:2
<b>fees</b> 162:18 163:1	<b>fire</b> 130:15,16	<b>focusing</b> 43:5	143:20 156:5
163:16 172:8,8	131:5 143:2,2,10	47:12	161:11 164:3
<b>feet</b> 105:9	143:16 144:13,18	<b>fog</b> 29:7	170:12
<b>fell</b> 12:19	145:3 148:14	<b>folks</b> 57:15 58:10	<b>foster</b> 50:1
<b>fellow</b> 7:6	149:10,20 150:1	97:6 107:18 110:9	<b>found</b> 90:2 93:2
<b>fellowship</b> 53:3	150:15,21 151:20	110:14	<b>foundation</b> 102:13
<b>festival</b> 57:8 58:3	<b>firemen's</b> 144:7	<b>follow</b> 22:15 29:2	104:10
<b>fests</b> 138:8	<b>firm</b> 110:4 133:5	30:12 63:14	<b>four</b> 40:19 88:19
<b>fewer</b> 9:5 34:6	<b>first</b> 2:7 7:20 8:10	135:20	187:19 188:2,4
<b>fiber</b> 99:8 102:11	31:17 44:9,10	<b>followed</b> 127:15	<b>fourth</b> 32:17,17
105:9 118:19	48:15 50:3 54:15	<b>following</b> 24:14	55:21 128:3
<b>fight</b> 8:17 124:5	56:2,2,3 70:12	75:16 170:16	<b>frame</b> 17:7
127:9	71:5 72:10 74:11	176:4 177:11	<b>frank</b> 1:16
<b>fighting</b> 6:10	88:6 94:3 99:13	<b>food</b> 45:4 46:16	<b>frankly</b> 152:17
146:1	99:21 102:13	72:10,15,20 73:1	<b>frederick</b> 58:8
<b>figure</b> 91:19 94:20	122:20 123:11	73:3,5,10 74:1	<b>free</b> 55:13 57:13
172:10	125:8,10,12 127:1	77:4 78:10 79:14	57:14,21 132:5
<b>figures</b> 133:6	133:3 143:8,9	79:15,17 80:3,4,6	<b>french</b> 125:10
149:17	153:11 167:1,3	80:6,7,13,14	<b>friday</b> 57:11,12
<b>file</b> 60:14	168:3 176:10,11	131:16,18 186:12	118:1
<b>filed</b> 111:15	<b>fiscal</b> 122:7	<b>foot</b> 82:17	<b>friends</b> 7:12
<b>filing</b> 61:17 62:12	177:14 179:7	<b>forbid</b> 116:15	<b>front</b> 11:20,20
<b>fill</b> 128:16	<b>fishing</b> 164:4	<b>force</b> 87:6 122:19	12:2 186:21 187:1
<b>filter</b> 65:17 67:8	<b>five</b> 16:19 25:17	122:21 134:15,17	187:2
158:10,15	25:19 33:3 40:9	172:2 176:12	<b>fruit</b> 146:2
<b>final</b> 100:14 102:2	40:19 42:12 69:3	<b>fore</b> 118:5	<b>fruition</b> 86:9
105:12 164:9	101:5 111:6 115:9	<b>forefront</b> 49:4	<b>frustration</b> 184:20
165:11 167:1	148:8 170:6 181:3	<b>foresight</b> 117:4	<b>full</b> 51:15 53:15
	181:3,5		159:21 160:6

167:4 168:4 175:8 175:14 <b>fullest</b> 62:4 <b>fully</b> 178:5 <b>fund</b> 128:21 130:19,21 131:8 131:11 132:9 160:11 163:15 174:5 <b>funded</b> 103:18 <b>funding</b> 73:17 98:3,21 99:15 100:19 104:19 105:18 106:17 108:14 112:21 118:11 123:12 131:2 133:9 135:21 171:3 177:13,15 178:15 <b>fun</b> ds 72:5,19 73:9 74:6,8 83:8 95:9 98:6,7 107:9,10 109:1,4 116:2,2,3 122:7,17 125:13 125:15 129:13 132:20 135:13,20 136:8 144:9,13 147:21 148:1 149:6 150:13,14 156:14 161:3 <b>furiously</b> 176:4 <b>further</b> 62:13 111:7 172:20 185:17 190:5,8,10 <b>future</b> 19:5 20:11 85:12 98:14	<b>gannon</b> 153:13 <b>gap</b> 98:21 106:17 <b>gary</b> 81:1 <b>gate</b> 101:20 <b>gatherings</b> 84:18 <b>gender</b> 51:14 53:1 53:18 57:16 <b>general</b> 22:18 23:14 65:5,15 159:20 <b>generally</b> 9:5 66:19 <b>generated</b> 163:5 <b>generation</b> 171:7 <b>generations</b> 93:10 <b>generous</b> 127:18 127:20 <b>gentleman</b> 173:19 180:18 <b>getting</b> 19:4 23:11 23:12 32:19 56:9 79:14 93:4 101:19 107:19 135:9 140:7 147:13 175:14 184:8 <b>gi</b> 24:15 <b>gig</b> 115:9 <b>gigabit</b> 114:20,20 115:3,9 <b>gigabits</b> 115:1 <b>gill</b> 86:16 87:21 88:1 90:5 93:6 94:10,17 120:21 <b>girl</b> 57:4 <b>give</b> 11:21 14:8 26:16 67:4 81:9 117:3 122:11,14 174:18 180:6 <b>given</b> 7:14 26:6 52:3 61:19 62:21 98:3 123:10 131:13 <b>gives</b> 15:4	<b>giving</b> 96:15 122:2 126:5 <b>glad</b> 13:13 126:8 <b>glen</b> 153:13 <b>go</b> 2:5 5:15 12:8 23:13 26:7,13 36:8 41:10 80:14 82:5 90:21 98:16 102:5,21 103:1,11 105:11 108:3 110:4,13 113:16 114:21 115:1 116:21 118:15 121:12 123:15 139:14 145:13 153:6 161:13 174:17 177:6 178:11,21 179:11 180:17 183:4 <b>goal</b> 62:2 85:5 103:16 119:20 <b>god</b> 116:15 <b>goes</b> 95:6 125:4 162:20 172:13 174:3 <b>going</b> 2:7,8,9 3:10 11:20 12:7 18:5 19:5 23:19 30:19 35:8 38:11 46:17 50:6 54:9,10,11 56:19,20 57:8,9 57:20 58:1,13,16 67:12 79:17 81:15 87:4 89:2 90:3 91:17 93:15 95:15 96:4,8 98:13,16 98:19 102:14 103:13 105:4,17 106:3,12,18 108:2 110:5 114:3,11 115:5,6,8,9 116:14 117:12 118:17 119:9,18 120:7 121:8,8	122:6,10,14,18 126:17 129:6,7 130:3,18 133:13 142:2 143:14 148:8 149:16 166:9 167:8 174:18,19 177:3,9 178:4,8,9 179:19 180:3,17 182:17 182:21 183:8,14 183:19 185:7,8,11 186:15 <b>good</b> 5:14,14 12:4 12:5,10 13:12,17 13:20 15:9 16:6 20:14 42:13,19 52:11 55:6 63:4 67:20 76:14 86:16 86:17 87:21 91:9 92:5 95:12 96:13 109:3 121:6,16 129:9 131:7 139:1 140:7 157:13 163:19,21 169:13 169:18 175:9 180:9 182:12 186:14 <b>gotten</b> 20:6,9 45:12 <b>government</b> 65:10 108:21 132:11 <b>governments</b> 61:6 <b>governor</b> 84:13 89:1 <b>governor's</b> 86:4 <b>grain</b> 80:11 <b>grandmother</b> 186:20 <b>grant</b> 47:20 60:17 71:16 72:5,11,14 73:11,17 74:3,6,8 74:11 75:16,20 82:8,14,15 83:1,8 95:2 100:4,13
<b>g</b>			
<b>g</b> 165:19 <b>gained</b> 108:20 177:16 <b>gamble</b> 69:21 <b>game</b> 104:13 117:6 147:15			

103:18 104:6 106:19 113:9 114:8 116:5 130:15,19 131:7 131:10,20 133:13 133:17 144:15 147:18 160:11 161:5,8,15 162:13 162:21 <b>grants</b> 60:21 61:5 81:12,12 83:2 86:1,3,8 100:3 111:6 113:7,21 116:5 123:4 133:18 162:17 <b>graph</b> 15:4,11 34:21 35:17 36:5 36:15 37:14 42:3 <b>grateful</b> 90:20 93:3 <b>great</b> 5:10 7:14 8:6 13:16,16,19 14:6 49:19 50:4 50:10 52:3 54:21 58:17 60:7,8 62:21 80:12,21,21 81:7,8,20 87:20 89:6 90:5 91:2 93:6,12 94:1 120:9,17 121:4 139:21 140:18 142:14 150:18 152:14 163:8 176:1,18 179:18 182:7,10 187:4 <b>greater</b> 19:13 181:13 <b>greatly</b> 49:2 89:8 119:14 <b>green</b> 22:13 37:16 110:21 111:10,17 111:19 112:1,16 <b>groceries</b> 117:16	<b>ground</b> 83:21 183:1 <b>group</b> 30:13 52:21 93:9 128:21 136:18 <b>grow</b> 115:7 <b>growing</b> 80:6 <b>grows</b> 109:7 <b>growth</b> 183:7,13 <b>grunden</b> 96:13,18 109:21 110:17,19 111:2,5,11,21 112:5,10,13,17,21 113:4,6 114:6 115:15,19 117:9 117:20 118:4,13 118:20 119:4 120:14,17 174:3 <b>guess</b> 43:16 157:1 176:7 <b>guests</b> 52:8 <b>guidelines</b> 20:15 125:5 135:6 <b>guy</b> 55:18 57:3 <b>guys</b> 5:7 12:12 60:7 70:20 77:18 82:3 86:15 89:9 90:16 92:5 93:21 94:3,17 96:11 180:5 185:21 186:1,6,18 <b>gymnasium</b> 84:4 <b>gymnasiums</b> 89:19	<b>hand</b> 71:7 127:21 190:13 <b>handed</b> 186:10 <b>handle</b> 133:18 <b>hands</b> 7:14 46:4 52:3 62:21 71:4 <b>hang</b> 182:20 <b>hanging</b> 146:2 <b>happen</b> 31:20 35:8 37:7 90:19 109:12 140:14 186:3 <b>happened</b> 17:10 41:3 43:17 44:11 166:14 <b>happening</b> 22:7 58:9 91:8 <b>happens</b> 95:7 <b>happy</b> 48:16 53:5 55:14 87:7,18 98:17 175:11 182:4 <b>hard</b> 35:1 71:1 121:10 123:1 129:7 178:17 179:13 180:9 186:7 <b>harder</b> 9:13 <b>hardest</b> 124:12 <b>harriet</b> 58:7 <b>harrison</b> 58:4 <b>hat</b> 80:20 <b>hatches</b> 111:8 <b>hatching</b> 111:12 <b>hate</b> 54:6,9 <b>hatred</b> 56:19 <b>hats</b> 92:16 <b>hauling</b> 129:14 146:21 147:6 <b>hazard</b> 169:1 <b>hb670</b> 170:9 <b>head</b> 39:12 47:21 49:20 <b>headquartered</b> 52:15	<b>heads</b> 184:6 <b>health</b> 5:7,19,20 7:11 8:15 13:10 14:13 15:14 16:18 23:5,20 30:4,15 32:20 38:19 40:13 42:21 46:7,8 47:17 48:8,11,13 49:10 50:2 124:2 126:15,20 127:15 130:7 142:7 <b>hear</b> 46:11 49:19 50:5 80:14 126:8 132:14 178:12 182:4 <b>heard</b> 28:9 46:8 142:6 <b>hearing</b> 4:13,20 71:11,13,16 72:6 82:11 93:13 94:12 139:6 176:11,18 176:20 <b>hearings</b> 176:5,5,6 <b>heart</b> 18:4 28:13 28:14,16,17,18 49:4 127:19,20 <b>heavily</b> 13:1 <b>heavy</b> 49:9 88:3 <b>hedged</b> 106:2 <b>held</b> 187:11 <b>hello</b> 8:9 <b>help</b> 10:5,5 27:12 27:13,19 69:6 85:8,9 105:17 106:4 124:4,8 130:3 131:13 138:20 174:9 186:11 <b>helped</b> 47:21 75:3 77:7 86:8 153:2 <b>helping</b> 70:2 121:13 127:21 <b>helps</b> 21:4 26:17 129:17
	<b>h</b>		
	<b>h</b> 33:20 43:19 <b>h3n2</b> 34:1 <b>h5n1</b> 43:18,20 <b>hair</b> 117:1 <b>half</b> 43:3 76:8 79:13 106:8 125:12 143:5 177:14		



<b>hepatitis</b> 43:7	<b>homebound</b> 73:3 74:7	<b>hour</b> 109:7	<b>identity</b> 53:19
<b>hero</b> 10:15	<b>homeowners</b> 137:17	<b>hours</b> 6:7 9:21 24:6 184:4,4	<b>ii</b> 158:16
<b>heroes</b> 8:18 10:12 10:14,20 13:6	<b>homes</b> 78:5,6 79:15 80:3,4,7,13 101:5	<b>house</b> 48:2 50:6 102:13 176:20 177:2,18 178:1,10 179:5 181:11,17	<b>illness</b> 27:17 32:8 34:8 38:16 46:12
<b>hesitation</b> 145:16	<b>honor</b> 7:5 10:14 51:12	<b>household</b> 169:1	<b>illnesses</b> 9:4 24:21 33:15 34:15
<b>hey</b> 5:12 80:5 90:14	<b>honored</b> 51:6	<b>households</b> 124:6 126:21 128:1	<b>immediate</b> 141:18
<b>hi</b> 5:11 71:18 75:11	<b>honoring</b> 12:20 13:4	<b>houses</b> 99:11	<b>immediately</b> 175:7
<b>high</b> 23:10 26:12 26:19 27:7,16 40:17 82:18 113:19	<b>hook</b> 129:20 130:1	<b>housing</b> 49:21 72:2,13 186:12	<b>immersion</b> 73:18
<b>higher</b> 26:8 29:16 35:3 36:20 42:7 114:17,18,21 115:1,7	<b>hope</b> 32:11 40:14 41:17 48:15 58:15 98:9 109:5 137:3 139:8 174:3 182:8	<b>hovering</b> 17:6	<b>immunity</b> 20:7
<b>highest</b> 33:12 42:9 126:11	<b>hopefully</b> 20:3 27:14 48:17 67:15 103:12 116:9 178:9 180:1 181:16	<b>huge</b> 21:6 76:11 180:18 186:4	<b>immunosuppres...</b> 23:7
<b>highlights</b> 180:6	<b>hoping</b> 20:9,12 48:3 58:10	<b>hugh</b> 96:11,18 109:18 129:9 140:20 174:2 185:20	<b>impact</b> 25:6 83:14 88:2,12 89:8 90:11 134:16
<b>highly</b> 6:6 9:2 39:21 43:13	<b>horizon</b> 32:14 33:7	<b>hum</b> 89:13	<b>impacted</b> 12:19
<b>highway</b> 176:6	<b>horizontal</b> 110:21 111:17 112:1,7,16	<b>human</b> 7:6 43:18	<b>impacts</b> 108:12 136:3,5
<b>history</b> 15:5 98:13 171:15	<b>hospital</b> 9:2,7,10 15:9 22:10 23:21 27:14 128:10 178:20 179:10	<b>humanity</b> 56:16	<b>impairment</b> 29:16
<b>hit</b> 14:12 116:15 124:12	<b>hospitalization</b> 21:3 35:2	<b>humans</b> 45:5,6 46:10,21 47:8	<b>implement</b> 133:7
<b>hitting</b> 91:5 161:13	<b>hospitalizations</b> 22:8 33:16 34:3,5 37:15	<b>hummingbird</b> 58:2,14	<b>implemented</b> 139:11
<b>hiv</b> 14:16 41:20 42:2,4,11,13,21 43:6	<b>hospitalized</b> 7:1,2 21:9 22:9 29:1 34:4 37:13,19	<b>hundred</b> 76:5 82:12 86:19 88:14 88:19 92:10 140:10 150:7	<b>important</b> 38:10 44:19 46:3 53:20 78:21 96:16 97:14 120:13 121:20,21 124:18 127:8 128:1,10 135:11 152:17 163:13 186:9
<b>hogan</b> 84:13	<b>hosted</b> 165:13	<b>hungry</b> 131:17	<b>importantly</b> 20:2 54:3 173:15
<b>hold</b> 19:5 72:5 78:20 133:4 146:14	<b>hot</b> 78:4	<b>hurt</b> 130:16 171:21	<b>impose</b> 61:9
<b>holding</b> 135:13 181:5 187:21	<b>houlihan</b> 1:21 190:2,16	<b>i</b>	<b>improvement</b> 65:4 119:15 130:12 160:7,11
<b>hollis</b> 91:13		<b>icu</b> 3:7 5:2,18 6:5 6:14,19 7:9 9:5,12 9:14,17 10:12 13:5,14	<b>improvements</b> 65:20 127:15 160:1,7
<b>home</b> 10:4 16:11 25:17,17 27:14 116:16,17,21 117:16,17 119:21 120:4		<b>idea</b> 46:9 105:3	<b>inadvertently</b> 63:19
		<b>identified</b> 126:11 128:4 135:17	<b>inasmuch</b> 107:5
		<b>identify</b> 136:21 150:21	

<p><b>inaudible</b> 146:12  <b>include</b> 84:2  148:20 149:3  <b>included</b> 36:5  53:14 63:12 99:15  <b>includes</b> 36:16  124:1  <b>including</b> 14:14  24:10 61:10 93:9  132:19  <b>inclusion</b> 51:16  53:15 58:12  <b>income</b> 72:21  73:13 83:11  <b>incorporated</b>  156:12  <b>increase</b> 9:8 17:9  30:6 41:14 119:13  150:4,6 170:19  171:10  <b>increased</b> 23:2,8  28:13 29:21 30:3  30:9 115:13  177:13  <b>increasing</b> 33:11  132:16  <b>increasingly</b> 8:14  105:7  <b>incredibly</b> 139:8  <b>indicated</b> 70:7  107:16  <b>indicating</b> 62:19  <b>indicator</b> 21:10  <b>individual</b> 10:16  107:11  <b>individuals</b> 18:3  27:8 28:20 29:9  48:9 51:10,13,16  75:18 120:15  173:10 181:8  183:3  <b>indoor</b> 23:15  <b>indoors</b> 23:15</p>	<p><b>induced</b> 25:9  <b>induction</b> 73:19  <b>industries</b> 124:12  <b>industry</b> 44:16,20  102:11  <b>infected</b> 20:6 39:9  39:18 40:5 45:3,7  46:2,17  <b>infection</b> 20:8  25:9 26:18 29:17  31:7  <b>infectious</b> 14:9  19:18 33:9 38:12  39:19 41:19 43:9  47:15  <b>inflammation</b>  28:15  <b>inflation</b> 105:6  <b>influenza</b> 14:15  33:9,10 36:9  37:12 47:2,7  <b>information</b> 28:4  49:3 120:3 121:2  138:18 146:4  166:10  <b>infrastructure</b>  99:4 100:12  108:16 115:11  116:9,19 123:21  126:12 128:19  141:8 142:7,16  <b>infusions</b> 136:1  <b>initial</b> 100:2  <b>initially</b> 101:8  146:8  <b>initiated</b> 87:11  <b>initiative</b> 97:7  123:1  <b>injection</b> 26:10  27:7  <b>injured</b> 6:10  <b>inmates</b> 181:2  <b>inn</b> 58:2,14 179:12</p>	<p><b>input</b> 138:5  <b>insecure</b> 80:3,4,6  80:7,13  <b>insomnia</b> 30:7  <b>install</b> 99:7  <b>installing</b> 102:10  116:2  <b>instance</b> 39:1  <b>instances</b> 39:20  <b>institution</b> 132:6  <b>intact</b> 178:5  <b>intend</b> 100:9  <b>intended</b> 136:2,4  <b>intensive</b> 6:5 8:21  9:10  <b>intent</b> 93:14  <b>interacting</b> 46:4  <b>interactive</b> 102:16  <b>interconnected</b>  46:11  <b>interest</b> 66:14,17  <b>interested</b> 190:12  <b>interesting</b> 36:14  40:15 48:18  <b>intergenerational</b>  92:7 140:11  <b>interior</b> 84:11  <b>international</b>  50:14,18 51:3  <b>internationally</b>  24:3  <b>internet</b> 97:2,15  97:20 120:3  <b>interrogated</b>  190:4  <b>introduce</b> 96:12  122:20  <b>introducing</b> 92:13  <b>introduction</b>  60:10 68:18  166:16  <b>invaluable</b> 142:9  <b>investigate</b> 39:17</p>	<p><b>investments</b>  123:20 124:2,9  128:19 130:6  131:6 134:13  <b>invite</b> 58:19  <b>inviting</b> 107:18  <b>involved</b> 39:3  45:18 94:1  <b>involvement</b> 85:13  <b>involves</b> 23:18  <b>ish</b> 47:3  <b>isolate</b> 25:17  <b>isp</b> 97:16  <b>issuance</b> 65:3 66:8  66:20  <b>issue</b> 29:19 30:3  97:12 132:15,16  142:3 166:20  180:4 181:18  184:18,20 185:7  <b>issued</b> 184:8  <b>issues</b> 14:12 18:5  18:6 28:14,20  29:15 30:4,12,15  47:16 57:17 127:2  <b>issuing</b> 52:12  <b>item</b> 2:20,20 141:8  148:16 154:7  158:7 165:11  166:1  <b>items</b> 73:16  135:21 136:1  148:5  <b>iteration</b> 99:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>j</b></p> <p><b>jails</b> 41:8  <b>january</b> 14:19  15:7 17:7,10 20:4  20:6 100:11 126:4  <b>jessica</b> 90:18  123:2  <b>job</b> 60:7,8 63:4  81:7 94:17 105:19  121:4,6 129:9</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

163:8,19 169:13 184:9 <b>jobs</b> 116:14 <b>join</b> 10:13 58:19 <b>joining</b> 52:16 57:13 <b>jones</b> 52:7,8,11,13 55:7 56:1 57:6 59:19 60:2,4,6 <b>joye</b> 123:3 <b>judges</b> 172:8 <b>judgment</b> 54:15 <b>julie's</b> 186:19 <b>july</b> 73:7 74:3 87:2 <b>jump</b> 47:9 142:16 <b>jumped</b> 46:12 <b>jumping</b> 46:18 <b>june</b> 57:10 72:11 82:14 83:9 84:1 87:2 <b>juneteenth</b> 58:9 <b>jurisdictions</b> 22:3 42:5 <b>justice</b> 57:13	92:10 94:11 138:5 145:16 178:16 179:3 <b>kitchen</b> 72:20 73:8 73:21 84:3 <b>klein</b> 155:8 <b>knew</b> 157:8 165:10 176:16 <b>knitting</b> 85:8 <b>knock</b> 142:18 <b>know</b> 15:2 16:9 17:13 18:15 21:5 23:7 24:18 25:1 25:16 26:15 27:12 27:13,15 28:3,10 29:3,7,21 30:11 30:18 31:19 32:1 32:6,7 35:20 38:2 41:7,8,17 42:17 46:4 47:5 49:21 50:6 53:13,20 54:14 55:7,8 57:2 70:2 75:9 76:15 78:8 79:14 89:12 89:13,19 91:4,6 92:18 97:6 113:21 114:21 115:8 119:6,14 121:17 124:20 130:16 133:6 135:14,18 136:19,19 138:2,6 138:8,21 143:14 145:17 146:11 148:7 175:20 177:1 178:3 185:21 187:5 <b>known</b> 71:12 97:16 99:1 <b>knows</b> 139:3	<b>lakeside</b> 166:8 183:6 184:18 <b>land</b> 153:11 156:21 <b>landfill</b> 165:14 <b>landscape</b> 104:3 104:15 <b>lanes</b> 99:9 106:12 <b>language</b> 69:12 70:8 184:15 <b>large</b> 85:12 <b>largely</b> 135:21 <b>largest</b> 80:7 100:4 104:1 <b>late</b> 83:21 105:19 109:7 131:10 <b>latent</b> 40:4 <b>launched</b> 126:3 <b>laura</b> 1:18 90:6 91:12 141:17 182:5 <b>law</b> 65:9 171:7 172:3,17,21 173:10 190:4 <b>lawyers</b> 172:8 <b>lay</b> 46:1 <b>lbgt</b> 52:18 <b>lbgtq</b> 48:8,9 57:14 <b>leaders</b> 53:10,20 <b>leadership</b> 55:3,20 56:13 88:5 152:20 172:3 173:1 177:17 <b>leading</b> 9:21 136:17 <b>leaf</b> 138:17 <b>learned</b> 81:14 126:19 <b>learning</b> 84:17 <b>leave</b> 117:17 162:11 <b>leaves</b> 133:8 <b>led</b> 9:8 123:1 171:4	<b>ledger</b> 110:21 112:12 113:12 <b>lee</b> 154:9 166:13 <b>left</b> 81:6 85:16 95:16 144:20 <b>legal</b> 57:14,19 66:5 187:15 <b>legislation</b> 68:18 70:9 127:11 170:16 <b>legislators</b> 117:3 118:6 <b>legislature</b> 116:12 <b>lengthy</b> 104:11 106:10 <b>leops</b> 171:4 180:19 <b>lesher</b> 1:15 2:8,13 3:14 4:1,2,11 11:13,14 12:6,13 12:18 49:6 54:8 55:2 56:18 59:4 59:12,13 60:5 63:6,11,14,20 64:10,11 68:11,12 71:5,8 78:21 92:17 113:17 115:11,17 118:10 118:14 121:11 123:2 129:20 130:3 131:1,4 134:21 135:1 136:15,16 139:10 141:5,11 143:1,5 146:14 148:3,20 149:2,4,9 152:4,5 152:15,19 154:1,2 154:20,21 155:19 155:20 157:5,20 157:21 159:8,9 162:3,4 164:21 165:1 166:18 168:15,16 185:17 187:8,10 188:16 188:17
<b>k</b>	<b>l</b>		
<b>kay</b> 71:17 76:18 81:10 96:2 <b>kay's</b> 173:21 <b>keep</b> 19:14 26:17 27:14 49:5,11,14 169:16 179:6 185:7 <b>keeping</b> 49:3 76:19 <b>ken</b> 123:4 135:4 <b>kept</b> 184:19 <b>kids</b> 2:5 24:17,20 33:2,3 58:18 88:17 91:16 <b>killing</b> 56:20 <b>kind</b> 21:4,13 24:17 30:20 35:15 42:6 70:6 89:21	<b>labor</b> 106:1 <b>laborious</b> 102:4 <b>lag</b> 17:13		

<b>lesher's</b> 55:19 96:5 127:17	<b>little</b> 14:10,15 18:5,14 25:12	<b>looked</b> 39:5 147:20	151:17 153:16 154:14 155:13
<b>letter</b> 166:4,5,12 166:13,20 167:18 168:7	34:21 36:14 55:18 56:15 57:3 64:19 64:20 77:12 79:21	<b>looking</b> 21:1 25:5 25:6 91:7 119:4,8 150:17 179:6	157:13 159:2 161:18 168:9 188:10
<b>level</b> 20:17 21:4 21:15,18,19 22:1 22:4,10,13 23:10 36:20 37:5,6 49:13 88:21 131:11	87:3 89:13 92:6 94:3 99:21 104:16 111:7 134:4 140:1 140:5 174:19 177:12 180:1	<b>looks</b> 56:9 182:12	<b>maguire</b> 13:10,12 13:17 14:4 18:9 18:15 31:1,9,12 31:21 41:3 49:8 50:7,11 182:10
<b>levels</b> 21:12 22:20 33:13 42:19 115:7	<b>live</b> 42:16 51:8,13 119:5 186:11	<b>lord</b> 7:16 52:5 63:2	<b>maguire's</b> 3:8
<b>levy</b> 66:15	<b>lived</b> 107:7	<b>lose</b> 177:15	<b>mail</b> 28:2 184:12
<b>liberty</b> 136:9	<b>lives</b> 6:11 7:3,4 42:16,16 120:5 134:16	<b>losers</b> 107:12	<b>main</b> 31:3
<b>libraries</b> 16:12	<b>living</b> 42:2	<b>lost</b> 116:21 167:12	<b>major</b> 102:1
<b>library</b> 132:5,8	<b>loan</b> 67:18 158:14	<b>lot</b> 15:1,8 19:21 21:7,8 25:7,8 28:9 29:20 30:2 32:5 32:19 34:13 38:5 38:8 40:20,20 42:15 77:21 78:20 81:6,13 90:12 95:2,6 103:15 105:15 116:21 119:16 135:8 138:17 156:7 157:1,2,3,4 162:21 169:12 173:17 179:11 182:5 184:7,7,19 185:8 189:1	<b>majority</b> 33:21 170:18
<b>license</b> 28:1	<b>local</b> 61:5,11 65:9 65:10 74:18 122:7 172:3,21 174:20 180:16	81:6,13 90:12 95:2,6 103:15 105:15 116:21 119:16 135:8 138:17 156:7 157:1,2,3,4 162:21 169:12 173:17 179:11 182:5 184:7,7,19 185:8 189:1	<b>making</b> 90:18 95:7 109:3,12 132:9 135:4 138:1 186:3
<b>life</b> 10:10 50:20 108:13 120:12 186:12	<b>locally</b> 45:13	119:16 135:8 138:17 156:7 157:1,2,3,4 162:21 169:12 173:17 179:11 182:5 184:7,7,19 185:8 189:1	<b>man</b> 167:6
<b>lifetime</b> 134:14	<b>located</b> 65:21 82:20	138:17 156:7 157:1,2,3,4 162:21 169:12 173:17 179:11 182:5 184:7,7,19 185:8 189:1	<b>manage</b> 42:17 173:1
<b>lift</b> 88:20	<b>location</b> 22:1 48:1 48:2 50:1	157:1,2,3,4 162:21 169:12 173:17 179:11 182:5 184:7,7,19 185:8 189:1	<b>manageable</b> 20:13
<b>lifted</b> 88:21	<b>locations</b> 20:21 24:10 100:8 101:3 101:4	157:1,2,3,4 162:21 169:12 173:17 179:11 182:5 184:7,7,19 185:8 189:1	<b>management</b> 157:11,12
<b>lifting</b> 88:3	<b>locker</b> 84:6	157:1,2,3,4 162:21 169:12 173:17 179:11 182:5 184:7,7,19 185:8 189:1	<b>manager</b> 76:16 86:19 153:8 165:17 169:10
<b>light's</b> 120:20	<b>long</b> 28:7,9 29:4,5 31:4 32:12 42:14 78:5 80:2 99:9 108:2 119:12 128:8 151:1 171:6	<b>loud</b> 120:19	<b>managing</b> 6:16
<b>likelihood</b> 110:1	<b>longer</b> 10:9 42:16 87:1 109:16 185:11	<b>love</b> 13:14 54:13 138:8 163:7	<b>mandatory</b> 83:13 84:19
<b>limitations</b> 66:18	<b>look</b> 17:2,16 18:11 32:10 80:3 88:9 112:2,6 127:4 140:1,4,16 150:12	<b>loved</b> 7:4,12 10:11	<b>manner</b> 107:10 190:7
<b>limited</b> 57:15		<b>low</b> 21:18,19 22:1 22:3,11,13 33:11 41:15 72:21 73:12 83:10 131:8 156:11 164:7	<b>map</b> 98:14 102:16 110:20 119:8
<b>line</b> 35:1 36:16 37:16,17 99:5 102:6 115:4 142:8 144:3 147:7 171:12		<b>lower</b> 16:2 35:4 38:6 42:8 146:2	<b>mapping</b> 113:9
<b>lined</b> 147:13		<b>m</b>	<b>march</b> 1:7 2:16 4:17,18 7:15 22:10 35:11 51:6 51:19 52:4 63:1 63:12 117:21 165:15,15 166:15 184:13 187:19
<b>lines</b> 111:17 117:8		<b>madam</b> 3:15 5:15 7:17 11:6 50:15 52:6 59:2,6 60:11 63:3 64:4,16 67:2 68:5,18 71:3	
<b>lisa</b> 52:16 55:11			
<b>list</b> 27:20 48:6 127:15			
<b>listed</b> 85:21 124:14 187:16			
<b>listeners</b> 122:12			
<b>listening</b> 91:18			

<p>188:1,2 190:13  <b>marched</b> 177:17  <b>marion</b> 154:8  <b>marker</b> 57:16  <b>market</b> 26:3 46:16  80:16,19 97:19  <b>marks</b> 77:6  <b>mary</b> 71:16 76:18  81:9 96:2 173:21  <b>maryland</b> 1:1,10  5:18 7:10 16:2  20:19 21:18 22:2  22:3 28:1 33:10  34:20 37:9,11,15  37:20 42:5 44:5  60:15,15,19,21  61:3,3 62:12,15  62:16,18 65:3,8  65:11,14,15 69:8  69:14 89:3 100:12  111:3,15 112:17  147:7 169:5,7,19  170:9 171:13  172:16,18 179:9  190:1,2  <b>maryland's</b>  170:10  <b>mask</b> 14:5 22:17  22:19 23:5,14,19  25:20  <b>masks</b> 23:17 24:17  34:11,14 36:3  <b>mass</b> 61:6  <b>master</b> 164:4  <b>mastery</b> 87:14  <b>material</b> 98:10  107:17  <b>materially</b> 103:13  <b>materials</b> 103:10  105:2,6,14 106:1  <b>matter</b> 57:19  107:7 190:7  <b>matters</b> 187:15,20</p>	<p><b>maturing</b> 66:14  <b>maximum</b> 62:8  <b>mccray</b> 177:21  178:2  <b>md</b> 190:13  <b>meal</b> 78:13  <b>meals</b> 74:7,15,17  75:1,21,21 76:5  77:2,3,12,14,21  78:16  <b>mean</b> 22:5 32:11  40:19 54:6 77:8  89:6 107:16 112:6  115:2 141:18  145:21 150:18  151:6 180:15  186:3  <b>means</b> 20:2 38:17  38:21 57:15 75:19  178:5 182:5,16,21  190:7  <b>meant</b> 26:10 27:7  <b>measure</b> 26:11  <b>measures</b> 36:3  117:4  <b>measuring</b> 139:13  <b>meat</b> 45:15  <b>medical</b> 5:18 6:18  7:10 9:19  <b>medication</b> 40:10  <b>medications</b> 6:2  <b>medium</b> 22:1 23:1  <b>meet</b> 30:14 74:10  82:9 95:7 150:15  164:9 184:1  <b>meeting</b> 1:4 54:18  79:8 84:4 146:18  148:19 152:13,13  166:15,17 186:9  187:11,17 188:6  189:3  <b>meetings</b> 79:16  91:13</p>	<p><b>meets</b> 53:1  <b>megs</b> 114:9 115:8  <b>member</b> 52:17  166:18  <b>members</b> 1:13 8:9  13:18 75:2,5  85:17 86:11 87:10  88:12 121:17  122:21 129:15  153:7 169:21  <b>men</b> 10:12 171:5  173:13  <b>men's</b> 83:7  <b>mental</b> 30:3,15  <b>mention</b> 47:18  48:7  <b>mentioned</b> 19:8  34:2 108:18 128:5  128:13 138:12  180:18  <b>merck</b> 32:16  <b>merits</b> 148:18  <b>message</b> 148:13  <b>met</b> 73:14 83:16  <b>metric</b> 114:10  115:1  <b>metrics</b> 21:11  <b>micah</b> 159:16,17  160:16 162:9  163:20  <b>michaels</b> 63:10  65:16 67:9 72:18  73:6 74:21 75:6  75:13 79:20 80:17  82:18,21 84:14  87:13 92:6 158:16  <b>mid</b> 14:19 83:21  165:13 169:1  <b>middle</b> 42:6  102:12  <b>midshore</b> 52:19  <b>mike</b> 96:5  <b>mile</b> 102:12 120:7</p>	<p><b>milestone</b> 102:1  <b>million</b> 33:15 83:3  90:8,8 100:6,13  105:9 106:7,8,16  106:20,21 107:1  118:11 122:9  128:21 129:8  130:7 133:3,8  139:14 141:1  143:5 149:6 161:4  161:14  <b>mimicking</b> 37:17  114:11  <b>mincemeat</b> 177:4  <b>mind</b> 2:10 19:14  99:17  <b>minimal</b> 34:18,20  37:10 45:5  <b>minimum</b> 114:2  115:6  <b>minor</b> 101:11  <b>minority</b> 62:3,7  <b>minute</b> 96:5  <b>minutes</b> 4:7,8,11  4:12,15,16  <b>missed</b> 165:19  <b>mission</b> 98:8  <b>mistake</b> 172:15  <b>misunderstood</b>  112:10  <b>mitigated</b> 104:17  <b>mobile</b> 43:3  <b>modal</b> 128:11  <b>model</b> 88:6,20  89:6 90:10 92:6  <b>moderate</b> 72:21  73:13 83:10  <b>molnupiravir</b> 27:1  <b>mom</b> 187:2,2  <b>moment</b> 12:15  104:6  <b>money</b> 113:3,5  116:5,7 123:16  124:16 125:11,12</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

125:18 129:10 132:7,10 133:4,13 133:13 134:12 144:16 145:19 148:13 151:12 161:15 186:10 <b>monitor</b> 30:17 <b>monitoring</b> 6:1 25:3 <b>monoclonal</b> 26:5 26:14 <b>month</b> 21:21 53:2 79:10 181:4 <b>monthly</b> 110:18 <b>months</b> 7:8 15:12 17:1 29:8 31:6 70:21 100:10 103:17 134:18 <b>morning</b> 184:13 <b>morris</b> 123:3 173:20 187:6 <b>mortality</b> 36:12 <b>morton</b> 164:7 <b>motion</b> 3:13,16 11:7 59:5 64:3 67:21 68:1,4 142:20 144:1 146:13 151:17 153:17 154:13 155:12 157:14 159:3 161:18 164:15 168:6,10 188:5,9 <b>move</b> 31:1 33:8 48:1 63:20 98:7 102:14 105:14 134:13 136:5 140:2 142:2 143:19 149:5 161:11 174:10 <b>moved</b> 11:3 50:3 59:3 153:14 154:11 155:10 156:17 158:21	161:16 164:13 188:7 <b>movement</b> 53:1 <b>moves</b> 4:13,20 <b>moving</b> 32:14 38:12 49:11,14 70:15 141:12 170:11 <b>multi</b> 128:11 <b>multiple</b> 6:16 97:20 99:11 102:9 103:11 <b>multitask</b> 89:17 <b>multiyear</b> 131:20 <b>municipalities</b> 70:1 <b>municipality</b> 183:7,13 <b>museum</b> 58:7 <b>mutations</b> 47:9 <b>myocarditis</b> 28:15 <b>n</b> <b>n</b> 33:20 43:19 <b>nagle</b> 123:3 <b>name</b> 57:17 75:12 96:18 <b>named</b> 190:3 <b>nancy</b> 123:6 <b>narrow</b> 123:17 125:6 <b>national</b> 48:13 <b>nationally</b> 42:20 <b>nationwide</b> 8:15 41:1 <b>natural</b> 20:8 <b>nay</b> 168:16 <b>nearly</b> 73:9 79:9 <b>neavitt</b> 101:2 <b>necessarily</b> 40:11 89:19 <b>necessary</b> 66:3,16 105:2 <b>necessity</b> 108:19	<b>need</b> 16:15,15 23:2 24:3,5 27:4 29:2 30:16 32:6 56:18 57:16,18 76:9 77:10,13,14 78:10 80:12 81:2 81:19 89:18 90:1 95:8 117:3 118:10 120:3 124:4,8 127:21 136:10 139:13 141:2 147:12,12 148:6 161:5 181:18 <b>needed</b> 10:5 18:21 85:9 171:19 175:2 <b>needs</b> 6:3,14 115:13 128:4 130:20 131:12,21 132:1,3 135:14 136:21 137:1,2 139:7 142:5 150:16 183:13 <b>negative</b> 108:12 <b>negotiate</b> 164:8 <b>neighborhoods</b> 80:15 <b>neighbors</b> 7:12 42:7 45:19 50:21 <b>net</b> 65:17 <b>network</b> 115:21 123:6 <b>networks</b> 137:18 <b>neurologic</b> 29:15 <b>never</b> 118:3 147:3 <b>new</b> 7:21 15:14 19:12,15,17 21:10 21:15,15 22:9 31:3 34:2 42:13 48:1 69:2 70:3 73:8,18,19 75:12 76:9 84:2,14 87:7 87:9,11 101:11 102:11 127:13 128:10 132:8	156:21 157:3 170:5 <b>newcomb</b> 154:9 <b>newer</b> 20:15 <b>newest</b> 41:21 52:15 <b>news</b> 13:20 14:6 15:9 16:6 20:14 35:14 45:13 47:19 48:18 49:19 50:4 87:8 132:15 <b>nice</b> 2:4 3:6 53:10 79:8 179:17 <b>night</b> 179:15,20 184:17 <b>nine</b> 37:11 117:13 <b>non</b> 124:10 173:9 <b>nonprofit</b> 129:17 131:7 <b>nonprofits</b> 52:15 128:2 <b>normal</b> 24:18 35:9 37:6 41:17 42:16 114:12 <b>north</b> 127:13 130:9 <b>notary</b> 190:2,17 <b>note</b> 45:16 97:14 113:17 179:7 <b>noted</b> 15:8 44:10 110:2 127:17 166:15 188:6 <b>notes</b> 126:18 190:6 <b>notice</b> 105:1 <b>noticed</b> 28:12 43:20 102:8 <b>noticing</b> 14:5 <b>notorial</b> 190:13 <b>november</b> 82:16 <b>number</b> 3:9 6:21 9:5,8 17:11 18:19 65:7 71:10,13 76:19 83:16
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>126:15 127:5,12 127:12 128:14,20 134:18 137:15 148:7 156:6 170:17 171:3 <b>numbers</b> 17:12 25:5 33:20 41:15 41:21 135:10,15 166:14 176:17 <b>nursery</b> 84:6 <b>nurses</b> 3:8 5:6,18 5:20 6:6,6,12,14 6:19 7:9 8:11 9:2 9:5,12 10:3 13:5 13:14 <b>nursing</b> 8:18</p>	<p><b>officer</b> 49:10 97:1 172:7 181:8 <b>officers</b> 50:2 172:1 172:4 175:1 180:7 181:14 <b>officials</b> 44:14 176:9 180:16 <b>offset</b> 130:11 144:8 <b>oh</b> 3:9 8:6 18:9 130:1 133:15 162:12 <b>okay</b> 2:3,6,14,21 3:4,10,13,15 4:12 4:17 5:1 8:6 13:9 30:19 50:10 59:1 60:9 64:1,3 67:1 67:20 68:4,17 69:5,19 71:2,9,15 82:3,7 95:12 96:8 110:20 111:18 112:5,15 113:2,5 113:11,11,14 118:9,14 121:7 123:18 133:13 139:20 140:18 146:6,7 148:2 149:2,15 151:12 151:16 152:10 153:4,5 157:13 160:12 169:13,17 173:18 174:1,14 180:8 185:19 188:9 189:1 <b>oklahoma</b> 34:19 <b>old</b> 18:1 25:2 186:20 187:2 <b>older</b> 37:21 48:4 <b>olds</b> 48:5 <b>omicron</b> 14:20 15:7,18 17:5,15 19:10,19 31:3,15 31:19 32:12</p>	<p><b>omitted</b> 63:19 <b>once</b> 79:9 91:18 134:14 161:10 185:20 <b>onerous</b> 8:14 <b>ones</b> 5:9 7:5,13 10:11 12:1,2 24:19 146:3 158:5 176:19 183:16 <b>online</b> 67:16 85:1 85:3 103:1,1 139:18 <b>op</b> 16:15,16 <b>open</b> 48:2,21 50:6 63:5 87:1 93:16 128:5,7,16 138:6 139:4 144:6 179:17,18 187:13 <b>opened</b> 87:2 91:3 <b>opening</b> 54:9 56:19 179:16 <b>openly</b> 51:8 <b>operate</b> 16:21 79:21 <b>operating</b> 16:18 <b>operational</b> 145:2 149:21 151:8 <b>operations</b> 131:18 <b>opioid</b> 181:12 <b>opportunities</b> 147:19 150:21 <b>opportunity</b> 53:6 53:21 81:18 84:17 85:11 123:9 131:2 134:15 135:19 136:10 144:13 150:15 <b>opposed</b> 146:17 <b>optical</b> 115:21 <b>option</b> 78:9 <b>order</b> 6:21 7:5 24:4,6 69:2 108:7 111:6,14 170:14 173:11</p>	<p><b>ordinary</b> 10:16 <b>organization</b> 75:17 129:15 142:10 <b>organizations</b> 132:2 142:13 <b>organizing</b> 78:12 <b>orientation</b> 53:18 <b>originated</b> 46:16 <b>otmishi</b> 8:7,9,13 13:2,7,8 <b>outbreak</b> 24:13 39:6 43:11 44:9,9 44:10 45:19 <b>outbreaks</b> 24:8,11 37:3,7 44:6 <b>outcome</b> 190:12 <b>outlier</b> 41:13 <b>outline</b> 98:21 <b>outside</b> 112:6 <b>ovens</b> 73:18 <b>overall</b> 19:14 <b>overlaid</b> 113:10 <b>overlapping</b> 113:7 <b>overlay</b> 113:1 <b>overview</b> 14:9 109:8 122:11 <b>overwhelmed</b> 9:9 <b>overwhelming</b> 10:17 <b>owners</b> 46:3 <b>oxford</b> 84:13 112:7</p>
<b>o</b>			<b>p</b>
<p><b>o'clock</b> 187:12,19 188:2,4 <b>objective</b> 100:15 <b>obligation</b> 65:5,16 <b>obligations</b> 61:9 <b>obstacles</b> 10:18 <b>obtain</b> 16:17 105:7 <b>obviously</b> 31:2 <b>occasions</b> 13:15 <b>occur</b> 29:9 <b>occurred</b> 17:3,5,6 28:20 30:8 <b>occurring</b> 35:15 44:7 102:19 <b>ochse</b> 96:21 <b>october</b> 73:13 83:9 <b>offer</b> 20:10 43:7 74:18 83:1 114:9 114:16 161:7,8,11 <b>offered</b> 84:21 85:7 <b>offers</b> 84:17 <b>office</b> 86:4 111:16 158:8,12 179:1 <b>office's</b> 158:20</p>			<p><b>p.m.</b> 1:7 71:14 169:3 187:12,13 187:19 188:2,3,4 189:3 <b>pack</b> 1:17 3:9 4:5 4:6,15 11:3,17,18 49:7 50:10 55:17 56:5 59:3,16,17 63:17 64:14,15 67:5 68:3,15,16</p>

69:20 70:5,16 74:7 77:8 79:7 81:5 89:12 91:10 94:15,20 95:13 96:2 109:17,18 110:15,18,20 111:3,9,18 112:4 112:6,12,13,15,18 113:2,5,11,15 116:4 117:19 118:8 119:1 121:6 139:20,21 141:15 141:17,20 144:2 144:20 145:4,7,10 145:15 146:7,11 147:2,9 148:2 149:3,13,15 150:2 150:5,7,10 151:1 151:4,15 152:8,9 153:3,14 154:5,6 154:11 155:3,4,10 156:2,3,17 157:7 158:3,4,21 159:12 159:13 161:16 162:7,8 163:19 164:13 165:4,5,10 165:20 167:5,10 167:18 168:8,19 168:20 169:16 175:19 180:14,15 182:10 187:3,7 188:20,21 <b>packet</b> 156:9 160:3 <b>page</b> 126:16 167:2 167:4 168:5 <b>pages</b> 128:8 <b>pandemic</b> 6:18 8:14,16,20 9:7 12:18 17:4,20 19:6 30:15 34:7 35:18 37:2 76:2 77:2 84:20 85:10 108:12 116:15	126:19 127:9,10 130:16 132:16 136:3,5 <b>pantry</b> 76:3 77:5 <b>papers</b> 144:21 <b>paragraph</b> 167:2 167:4 168:4 <b>parallel</b> 120:14 <b>parcels</b> 100:9 101:15 <b>park</b> 164:5 <b>parking</b> 156:7 157:1,1,3,4,5 <b>parks</b> 155:5,8 164:2 <b>part</b> 5:20 8:18 58:20 63:15 67:17 79:4 85:12 87:10 103:3 104:1 108:5 122:8 127:13 143:13 144:5 145:9,12 147:10 162:19 186:13 <b>participated</b> 86:7 <b>particular</b> 86:5 139:16 141:11 148:4 <b>particularly</b> 6:19 66:1 99:8 108:19 <b>parties</b> 185:9 190:11,11 <b>partner</b> 81:3 120:9 <b>partnering</b> 88:16 <b>partners</b> 10:13 <b>partnership</b> 93:4 97:10,14 98:2 100:18 109:3 <b>partnerships</b> 86:1 92:7 <b>parts</b> 103:9 128:11 <b>pass</b> 54:15 175:12 178:4 181:17	<b>passed</b> 91:3 108:16 116:10 158:10 170:18 175:7,15 <b>passes</b> 172:20 <b>passing</b> 171:8 <b>passionate</b> 178:16 <b>passive</b> 115:20 <b>patient</b> 6:13 93:2 <b>patients</b> 6:1,2,4,9 7:1,2 9:1,4,6,9,15 9:16,18 10:1,8 <b>patio</b> 182:19,19 <b>patrick</b> 70:6,7,20 75:12 77:10 79:8 166:3,9 173:19 <b>pattern</b> 103:6 112:3 <b>paver</b> 182:19 <b>paving</b> 156:19 <b>paxlovid</b> 26:21 <b>pay</b> 114:17 151:7 162:20 171:10,12 171:13 179:10 <b>payment</b> 66:14,16 125:10 <b>peak</b> 15:18 76:1 77:1 <b>peaks</b> 35:17 <b>pediatric</b> 35:19 <b>peninsula</b> 44:17 <b>pension</b> 125:3 175:5 <b>pensions</b> 151:7 <b>people</b> 5:3 12:21 16:14 20:6,8 21:9 23:6 25:8,8,18,21 26:8,10,11,19 27:14 28:9,10 29:11,17 30:2,6,9 34:4,13 37:13 38:7 39:7,8 42:2 42:11,15 45:10,11 47:11 50:19 51:7	53:8,9,12,12,16 53:17,17 55:11,11 56:11,15 77:14 79:18 80:1 87:6 88:19 90:10,13 92:14 108:20 114:17 116:13 120:4 125:16 126:6 127:1,3,11 127:20 128:9 132:6 133:6 134:8 134:11 139:6,18 162:15,18 163:17 181:5 182:17,20 182:21 185:9 <b>people's</b> 113:18 <b>peper</b> 164:1 165:6 165:9 <b>percent</b> 15:19 16:1,3 18:3 19:11 21:17,21 44:18 100:7,14,15,20 125:18 127:5 170:18 177:5,7,8 177:9,14 178:8 <b>pericarditis</b> 28:16 <b>perkins</b> 82:12 91:1 <b>permits</b> 183:4 184:8 185:10 <b>persevered</b> 92:21 <b>persists</b> 40:16 <b>person</b> 10:7 39:18 54:14,15 56:4 129:5 133:18 176:12 177:1 <b>personally</b> 182:6 190:3 <b>personnel</b> 187:15 187:20 <b>persons</b> 73:15 <b>persuasive</b> 183:5 <b>pet</b> 44:4
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



<p><b>pete</b> 1:15 186:8  <b>petition</b> 184:15  <b>pfizer</b> 32:15  <b>pharmacies</b> 27:2,3  <b>pharmacy</b> 120:1  <b>phases</b> 84:9  <b>philosophy</b> 46:9  <b>phone</b> 97:3 119:11  121:3  <b>photographs</b>  84:10  <b>physically</b> 105:10  <b>physician</b> 28:1,2  <b>picking</b> 107:11  <b>picture</b> 60:2 91:2  91:6 161:2  <b>pictured</b> 85:14  <b>pie</b> 138:2  <b>piece</b> 108:6,7  116:6,8  <b>pieces</b> 47:18  176:17  <b>pier</b> 164:4  <b>pigs</b> 47:5  <b>pill</b> 26:9,21  <b>pins</b> 73:20  <b>place</b> 2:19 15:10  26:7 57:5 70:8  76:16 90:4 113:8  116:20 117:8,8  119:21 182:1  190:4  <b>places</b> 23:6 33:12  101:1 117:7  <b>plan</b> 3:3 106:16  107:9 121:9 122:9  147:15 149:6  160:8 164:4  <b>plane</b> 24:7  <b>planned</b> 117:11  <b>planning</b> 66:5  117:12 184:1  <b>plans</b> 125:3</p>	<p><b>plant</b> 67:10 129:6  129:7 158:17  <b>played</b> 90:16,17  <b>playground</b> 50:8  <b>please</b> 2:11 3:16  5:16 18:9 50:16  59:7 60:12,12  64:5,18 68:6,19  68:20 71:9,11  154:15 168:10  169:6 170:11  173:7,8 188:11  <b>pleased</b> 97:12  134:7  <b>pleasure</b> 122:5  <b>pledge</b> 2:9,12  <b>plug</b> 57:7  <b>plugging</b> 141:1  <b>plus</b> 21:3  <b>pockets</b> 101:5  <b>point</b> 15:18 36:15  40:7 90:6 93:4  102:4 107:14  115:5 117:11  135:12 136:13  163:14  <b>points</b> 98:17  <b>police</b> 69:3,8,9,15  170:7,10 171:17  172:1  <b>policing</b> 171:15  <b>politically</b> 173:9  <b>politician</b> 184:11  <b>polluting</b> 142:12  183:18  <b>pon</b> 114:20 115:3  <b>pond</b> 157:12  <b>pool</b> 84:5,11  182:18 185:9  <b>pools</b> 182:18  <b>populated</b> 98:1  <b>population</b> 21:17  22:11 23:15 40:21  48:5 74:19 91:16</p>	<p><b>populous</b> 126:8  <b>portfolio</b> 99:15  <b>portion</b> 106:6  123:12  <b>portions</b> 127:7  <b>position</b> 7:21  166:7  <b>positive</b> 15:20  38:18 49:11  171:14  <b>positively</b> 170:21  <b>positivity</b> 15:17  <b>possible</b> 45:6 62:4  78:6,7 109:11  <b>possibly</b> 7:4 179:1  <b>post</b> 139:17  <b>potential</b> 103:1  <b>potentially</b> 23:3  <b>poultry</b> 43:15 44:1  44:3,8,16,18  45:14,21 46:3  <b>pound</b> 76:3  <b>prayed</b> 127:18  <b>prayer</b> 2:8,12 54:9  56:19 127:17  <b>pre</b> 16:15,16 34:7  35:18  <b>precludes</b> 97:15  <b>predecessor</b> 163:8  <b>predominance</b>  17:21  <b>predominant</b>  33:17  <b>predominantly</b>  37:21  <b>preference</b> 131:12  <b>premises</b> 106:12  <b>premium</b> 114:18  <b>prep</b> 73:20  <b>prepare</b> 74:6  <b>prepared</b> 8:5  74:14,15 133:7  140:2 152:13</p>	<p><b>prescribing</b> 66:6  <b>prescription</b> 27:4  <b>prescriptions</b>  120:2  <b>presence</b> 190:9  <b>presentation</b> 3:8  49:8 99:20 135:2  <b>preservation</b>  153:12  <b>preserve</b> 10:17  <b>president</b> 13:17  96:14,19 121:11  121:16 153:7  166:18 185:16  <b>press</b> 67:8,11,13  67:14,16 158:10  158:16  <b>pressure</b> 6:15 9:3  <b>preston</b> 164:1  165:7  <b>pretty</b> 40:5 125:5  <b>prevalence</b> 37:10  <b>prevent</b> 27:12,13  <b>preventive</b> 26:11  <b>previous</b> 34:7 35:4  <b>previously</b> 14:11  26:4  <b>price</b> 1:18 4:3,4  11:15,16 14:2  18:8,10 31:1,10  31:13 41:1 59:14  59:15 64:12,13,19  67:4 68:13,14  72:1 89:10 94:11  115:5 133:11  134:2 136:14,16  137:19 138:1,5  140:19 141:10  142:20 143:13  146:10 149:8,12  152:6,7 153:15  154:3,4 155:1,2  155:21 156:1,18  158:1,2 159:1,10</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>159:11,20 160:4 161:12 162:5,6,10 162:13 163:12 164:9,14 165:2,3 166:18 167:7,15 168:17,18 174:12 174:16,18 175:17 175:20 180:9,12 188:7,18,19 <b>priced</b> 105:19 <b>pricing</b> 105:20 <b>pride</b> 52:14 56:8 57:8 <b>primary</b> 18:4 <b>principal</b> 65:5 66:14,17 <b>printed</b> 190:6 <b>priorities</b> 6:16 127:12 <b>private</b> 66:8 90:9 99:9,10 <b>probably</b> 14:4,19 24:3,15 34:15 46:16 50:1 52:14 116:17 139:21 140:4 147:18 176:8 <b>problem</b> 72:1 98:4 106:21 174:1 175:14 <b>problems</b> 19:14 171:19,20 <b>procedures</b> 62:6 <b>proceed</b> 70:11 146:5 <b>proceedings</b> 2:1 <b>proceeds</b> 65:17 <b>process</b> 67:17 70:12 102:5 113:9 129:4 144:8,15,19 148:15 158:9 <b>proclamation</b> 3:7 5:16 11:8,21 50:13,16 52:12</p>	<p>53:6 <b>producing</b> 80:10 80:11 <b>professional</b> 159:20 <b>professionals</b> 6:18 <b>program</b> 47:21 48:6 61:6,12 72:10,17 73:1,5 74:1,17 75:8 79:1 87:12,14 88:15 100:4,13 103:19 104:1,1 122:10 124:11 131:10 139:16 159:21 160:2,6,11 162:13 178:13 <b>programming</b> 93:13 <b>programs</b> 72:16 75:4 79:1 87:4,7 87:11 98:6 135:20 <b>progress</b> 6:3 72:7 72:7 109:8 180:2 <b>progressive</b> 107:4 <b>project</b> 61:11 62:5 72:8 74:5 82:17 83:4,20 86:5,9 90:7 96:10,17 97:6 98:20 99:13 100:6 101:6,9 103:14 104:14,18 105:3,14,17,18 106:4,7,18 113:20 149:7 156:15 166:8 184:3 <b>projects</b> 61:7 72:4 72:8 89:16 95:2 130:12 135:16 183:1 <b>prolonged</b> 28:11 <b>promise</b> 110:8,9 114:1</p>	<p><b>promote</b> 51:15 53:15 <b>prompt</b> 66:13 174:8 <b>property</b> 66:3 88:8 92:20 99:5 <b>proportions</b> 18:19 <b>proposal</b> 159:20 160:5 161:12 <b>proposed</b> 166:7 <b>protect</b> 44:16 <b>protection</b> 20:10 25:9 <b>protective</b> 34:10 34:13 36:2 <b>proud</b> 10:13 91:7 93:20 174:6 186:13 <b>prove</b> 124:15 <b>provide</b> 6:9,21 48:17 53:6 66:16 85:6 98:20 106:15 120:9 131:4 142:14 144:5 <b>provided</b> 74:3,4 83:3 85:21 86:5 101:15 <b>provider</b> 23:5 43:2 97:16 <b>providers</b> 97:20 <b>provides</b> 149:21 <b>providing</b> 49:2 57:14,20 66:13 83:17 97:16,21 142:7 <b>provision</b> 61:10 <b>provisional</b> 110:2 110:11 <b>provisionally</b> 101:16 <b>provisions</b> 61:15 <b>public</b> 25:20 38:19 45:3 48:13 63:7 65:4,9,19 69:17</p>	<p>71:10,13,15 72:5 72:6 82:11 94:12 95:13 124:2 126:15,20 130:6 131:7 147:14 156:6 169:4,8,14 190:2,17 <b>pulled</b> 94:4 <b>pulse</b> 140:7 <b>pump</b> 28:17 <b>pumping</b> 129:14 146:21 147:6 <b>purchase</b> 73:8,18 <b>purchased</b> 43:3 73:17,19 116:1 <b>purple</b> 36:10 <b>purpose</b> 65:19 <b>pursuant</b> 65:6 <b>pursue</b> 100:19 <b>push</b> 79:15 <b>pushing</b> 181:16 <b>put</b> 15:7 39:13 56:7 71:1 87:3 91:15 95:6 99:14 106:21 107:21 117:4 130:8,18 134:3 135:5 182:18,19 187:8 <b>puts</b> 171:11 <b>putting</b> 7:3 56:14 107:17 114:19 115:12 138:13 140:10</p>
			<b>q</b>
			<p><b>quality</b> 48:11 <b>quarantined</b> 45:1 <b>quarter</b> 74:11 118:11 <b>queen</b> 44:6 169:3 <b>question</b> 18:10 115:16 128:5,7 133:11 140:19 145:10 170:17</p>

<b>questions</b> 19:4 32:19 98:18 121:1 128:16 138:6 139:4 145:16 156:16 169:6 <b>quick</b> 57:7 83:20 101:13 <b>quickly</b> 6:13 26:13 28:5 110:12 <b>quite</b> 15:1 17:9 19:21 35:14 <b>quote</b> 126:16,19 127:3 <b>quoted</b> 10:15	<b>reads</b> 110:21 <b>ready</b> 102:20 103:2 105:11 123:11 153:6 174:16,17 <b>reaffirm</b> 51:15 <b>reaffirming</b> 53:14 <b>real</b> 93:20 120:14 122:4 185:6 187:15 <b>realize</b> 53:9 118:17 181:1 <b>realized</b> 116:12 <b>realizes</b> 79:19 <b>really</b> 13:6 14:6 15:1,6 16:4 17:4 17:14 21:14 22:11 23:3 25:19 26:5,7 26:19 28:21 31:5 31:7,18 33:18 35:4,7,10,12,20 36:1,11,20 37:6 39:4 40:2,10,14 41:16 42:9,15,17 42:19 43:1 45:5 71:1 76:7 77:18 81:3 88:11 100:21 107:19 112:4 121:10 122:21 123:15 124:18 129:9 135:11 136:4,21 137:3 138:21 139:2 152:16 163:10 174:9 175:9,21 176:2 178:17,17 179:13 180:9,18 182:5 185:21 <b>reappointment</b> 153:13 154:8 <b>rear</b> 39:11 <b>reason</b> 39:10 40:6 <b>reasons</b> 29:10 122:1	<b>recall</b> 99:14 <b>receive</b> 72:4 <b>received</b> 72:14,17 73:2 98:9 102:2 105:1 122:8,9 125:8,11 156:13 164:11 <b>reception</b> 84:12 179:16 <b>recess</b> 96:7 <b>recession</b> 184:15 <b>recipient</b> 60:20 73:6 74:2 83:5 <b>reckoned</b> 176:12 <b>recognition</b> 3:7 5:17 50:17 <b>recognize</b> 7:8 8:11 51:19 53:11 54:18 134:11 178:21 179:14 <b>recognizing</b> 81:7 179:8 <b>recommend</b> 23:11 29:11 49:16 141:5 <b>recommendation</b> 22:19 23:9 27:15 32:18 132:9 148:11 <b>recommendations</b> 22:12,15 122:19 123:11 133:9 134:6,9,19 <b>recommended</b> 25:16 133:21 <b>recommending</b> 23:14 128:18,20 129:11 130:7 132:4,12 133:2 155:7 <b>reconnect</b> 100:4 101:6 102:3 103:21 104:14 106:6	<b>reconvene</b> 188:6 <b>record</b> 53:7 60:12 68:20 118:16 <b>recorded</b> 190:6 <b>recovery</b> 122:7 124:7,17 125:1 <b>recreation</b> 155:9 164:2 <b>recreational</b> 155:6 <b>recuse</b> 119:1 <b>red</b> 35:1 104:1 <b>reduce</b> 47:12 <b>redundant</b> 117:8 <b>reeve</b> 10:15 <b>refer</b> 27:9 28:4 <b>referred</b> 170:10 <b>refinancing</b> 65:19 66:2 <b>reflect</b> 12:14 170:12 <b>refocusing</b> 25:3 <b>reform</b> 170:10 <b>refund</b> 151:6 <b>refunds</b> 125:3 <b>regard</b> 75:8 125:6 148:16 158:9 <b>regarding</b> 49:15 58:8 140:9 166:7 <b>regardless</b> 53:17 <b>region</b> 43:11,12 44:20 158:16 <b>regional</b> 5:7,19 7:11 41:2 137:9 165:12,13 <b>regular</b> 114:12 <b>regulations</b> 69:13 <b>rehabilitation</b> 65:20 <b>related</b> 24:14 32:2 66:4 158:14 190:11 <b>relating</b> 66:19 <b>relationship</b> 95:10
<b>r</b>			
<b>race</b> 53:19 <b>racial</b> 51:1 <b>racks</b> 73:20 <b>rain</b> 169:5 <b>raise</b> 71:3,7 <b>raised</b> 184:18 <b>raising</b> 51:9 <b>ran</b> 87:8 <b>range</b> 16:4 18:1 34:20 42:6 172:10 <b>ranging</b> 37:3 <b>rank</b> 126:11 <b>ranked</b> 127:6,11 127:21 128:2,20 <b>ranking</b> 127:4 <b>rapid</b> 43:7 <b>rate</b> 15:12 21:3 35:2 38:5 42:4 <b>rates</b> 37:18 40:17 <b>ray</b> 67:5 123:4 <b>reach</b> 54:14 100:7 <b>reached</b> 102:1 <b>reactivated</b> 40:7 <b>read</b> 5:16 44:17 50:15 60:11 64:18 68:19 80:2 113:12 126:17 139:5 156:9 160:3			

<p><b>relatively</b> 83:20  <b>released</b> 20:15  <b>relieving</b> 109:14  <b>remain</b> 6:13  <b>remaining</b> 73:10  98:21 106:9  <b>remains</b> 32:13  35:7 37:8  <b>remarking</b> 140:8  <b>remember</b> 35:6  47:2 80:18 89:11  89:12 91:12 92:9  93:13 100:14  170:11 179:4  <b>remind</b> 162:15  163:17  <b>reminder</b> 25:13  <b>remote</b> 126:13  128:11  <b>remotely</b> 116:13  <b>remove</b> 172:20  <b>removes</b> 172:2  <b>renovation</b> 183:1  <b>reopened</b> 83:19  87:2,10  <b>reopening</b> 87:3  <b>replace</b> 129:14,19  <b>replacement</b>  65:12 67:12  158:15  <b>replenish</b> 131:19  <b>replenishing</b>  125:4 151:2  <b>replicated</b> 89:2  90:4  <b>report</b> 39:1  122:10 126:16  128:8 153:8  165:18 169:11  182:10  <b>reportable</b> 38:16  38:20 41:20  <b>reported</b> 1:20  38:18</p>	<p><b>reporting</b> 30:6  95:4 182:5  <b>reports</b> 34:2 95:5  <b>representation</b>  51:5  <b>representative</b>  155:8  <b>representatives</b>  86:12  <b>representing</b> 51:1  <b>request</b> 107:15  129:16 144:8,10  145:1,3,5 156:5  158:7,20 159:18  160:18 161:5  <b>requested</b> 132:7  166:19  <b>requesting</b> 106:15  153:12 154:8  156:10 158:12  160:4,20 161:4  164:3,6 166:3,6  <b>requests</b> 78:13  153:10  <b>require</b> 40:10 95:2  121:2 135:20  <b>required</b> 9:19  61:13 69:13 73:11  83:10  <b>requirement</b> 24:1  24:16 82:10  <b>requirements</b> 6:9  23:16 62:1 95:8  104:20 181:12  <b>requires</b> 69:9 72:3  104:7 114:8  <b>requiring</b> 103:20  <b>rescue</b> 3:3 106:16  107:9 121:9 122:8  149:6  <b>research</b> 28:8  172:19  <b>resembled</b> 9:14</p>	<p><b>reservations</b>  141:15  <b>reserve</b> 133:4,8  135:14  <b>reserves</b> 125:4  <b>resident</b> 22:9  <b>residents</b> 45:20  97:8 137:16  171:17 185:13  186:5  <b>resilient</b> 125:1  <b>resistant</b> 39:21  <b>resolution</b> 60:10  60:13 62:14,19  63:21 64:17 65:1  65:2 147:10  158:11,14,18  166:14,16 184:14  <b>resolved</b> 62:11,14  <b>resources</b> 8:16  124:4,21 184:8  <b>respect</b> 52:1 54:4  166:14  <b>respectful</b> 134:8  <b>respective</b> 173:2  <b>respiratory</b> 34:8  43:14  <b>respond</b> 138:19  <b>responded</b> 125:17  <b>respondents</b>  125:19 128:15  <b>responding</b> 6:1  <b>response</b> 137:7  166:5,12 170:9  <b>responses</b> 125:19  137:10  <b>responsible</b> 173:9  <b>rest</b> 78:19 111:14  113:12 143:10  <b>restoration</b>  147:21 148:1  <b>result</b> 20:5 24:15  104:13</p>	<p><b>resulting</b> 17:15  <b>results</b> 122:14  126:2  <b>retain</b> 171:5  <b>retirement</b> 181:21  <b>retrospective</b>  32:10  <b>return</b> 24:5  <b>returned</b> 87:6  <b>revenue</b> 163:5  170:20  <b>revenues</b> 176:6  <b>reverse</b> 160:21  <b>reverts</b> 177:15  <b>review</b> 98:18  <b>revisions</b> 166:20  <b>revisit</b> 143:10  173:4  <b>rewrite</b> 167:10,19  <b>rfi</b> 129:4  <b>rhythm</b> 28:14  <b>ribbon</b> 84:1 89:11  <b>ride</b> 93:18 178:20  <b>right</b> 5:5 12:7 14:6  15:21 16:20 22:2  24:11 31:9,12  33:9 34:18 38:4  38:17 44:5 49:10  50:12 54:7 56:5  95:19 102:15  103:7 109:12  110:17,19 111:9  111:21 112:8  115:3 117:19  118:5 119:21  120:4 121:14  122:2 138:4  142:16 143:13  145:15 146:10,21  147:5,16 150:5  151:4,14,16,16  160:9,10 163:13  178:6,18 187:1,2</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>rights</b> 61:16,20 66:3 <b>righty</b> 175:17 <b>risher</b> 159:16 160:10 161:1 162:12 163:12,21 <b>risk</b> 7:5 20:21 21:10,15 22:1,20 23:2,8 26:8,12,19 27:7,16 28:13 45:5,11 47:13 <b>risky</b> 20:18 <b>roadways</b> 99:9,11 <b>robbie</b> 75:9 88:1 91:10 <b>rock</b> 92:3 94:5 <b>rofe</b> 75:11,12 173:19 <b>role</b> 90:16,17 <b>roll</b> 3:17 160:18 168:10 <b>room</b> 84:3 <b>rooms</b> 84:6 <b>round</b> 133:3 <b>route</b> 147:8 169:5 183:11 <b>row</b> 182:8 <b>run</b> 92:2 172:9 <b>running</b> 118:19 <b>runs</b> 88:2 <b>runway</b> 160:1,1,6 <b>rural</b> 66:10 67:19 89:6 98:4 99:3 101:3 108:19 111:16,18 112:16 113:2	<b>salaries</b> 132:18 133:14 <b>sale</b> 65:4,18 66:8,8 66:20 <b>salisbury</b> 125:21 <b>salute</b> 181:15 <b>sat</b> 79:16 91:13 124:19 <b>satchell</b> 5:11 7:18 7:19 8:1,4,7 <b>saturday</b> 57:11 58:3,10 169:2 <b>sauna</b> 84:6 <b>saved</b> 13:15 <b>saving</b> 142:6 <b>savings</b> 179:8,14 <b>saw</b> 17:12 19:10 19:19 20:4 46:14 47:4,13 75:17 89:14 118:18 <b>saying</b> 112:15,19 174:4 177:3 <b>says</b> 90:12 111:20 <b>sb996</b> 174:21 <b>scale</b> 18:16 <b>scan</b> 140:16 <b>scenario</b> 120:8 183:10 <b>schedule</b> 35:9,12 <b>schedules</b> 54:17 <b>school</b> 24:14 82:18 88:8 89:20 92:20 119:10 <b>schooling</b> 116:16 116:21 <b>schools</b> 24:11 <b>scope</b> 139:14 164:10 <b>scrap</b> 165:13 <b>screen</b> 98:11 <b>script</b> 176:14 <b>seal</b> 7:14 52:3 62:21 190:13	<b>season</b> 34:5,6 35:16 37:11 <b>season's</b> 35:2 <b>seasonal</b> 36:13 <b>seasons</b> 34:7 35:18 35:21 <b>seating</b> 172:12 <b>second</b> 3:14,16 11:5,7 33:1 59:4,6 64:2,4 68:2,3,5 72:5 82:10 99:6 99:17 137:17 149:12 151:17 153:15,17 154:12 154:14 155:11,13 156:18 157:14 158:19 159:1,3 161:17,18 164:14 164:15 167:2,3 168:4,5,8,10 173:12 182:7 188:8,10 <b>secondary</b> 18:6 <b>secretary</b> 3:15,18 3:20 4:1,3,5 5:15 5:17 7:17 11:6,9 11:11,13,15,17 50:15,17 52:6 59:2,6,8,10,12,14 59:16 60:11,13 63:3,11,15,19 64:4,6,8,10,12,14 64:16 65:1 67:2 68:5,7,9,11,13,15 68:18,21 71:3,12 151:17,21 152:2,4 152:6,8 153:16,18 153:20 154:1,3,5 154:14,16,18,20 155:1,3,13,15,17 155:19,21 156:2 157:14,16,18,20 158:1,3 159:2,4,6 159:8,10,12	161:19,20 162:1,3 162:5,7 164:17,19 164:21 165:2,4 168:9,11,13,15,17 168:19 188:10,12 188:14,16,18,20 <b>section</b> 60:16 65:10,13 66:18 <b>secure</b> 97:7 103:9 105:16 116:3 <b>secured</b> 100:3 104:7 <b>securing</b> 67:18 105:2 <b>security</b> 132:12,15 148:21 <b>see</b> 10:11 14:2 17:14,20 20:3 23:21 29:3 31:11 32:17 34:1,15 35:1,10 36:1 40:8 40:16 42:3 50:8 52:10,10 54:6,10 54:11 56:11 75:19 79:9 86:16 87:9 87:21 91:1,14,15 92:10,11 93:15 102:14,18 103:1,4 111:7,8,21 112:1 112:19 113:6,8 119:8 122:16 130:11 131:12 134:7 140:14 145:13 181:9 <b>seeing</b> 3:5 15:19 15:21 16:6 18:7 19:21 28:13 29:14 30:4 33:18,21 34:5 42:15 76:9 86:17 129:4 139:7 181:7 <b>seeking</b> 30:10 135:12
s			
<b>sacrifice</b> 7:9 <b>sacrifices</b> 173:12 <b>sadnesses</b> 91:2 <b>safe</b> 45:15 49:5 55:14 87:5 <b>safety</b> 160:1,6 169:4			

<p><b>seen</b> 15:16 28:8 29:8 32:13 35:7 35:13 37:8 41:13 41:14 43:21 120:1</p> <p><b>segment</b> 127:4 128:6</p> <p><b>self</b> 163:18</p> <p><b>senate</b> 172:19,19 175:15 176:13 177:20 178:1 179:5</p> <p><b>senator</b> 174:21 175:4,12 177:21 178:2 181:15</p> <p><b>senators</b> 179:20</p> <p><b>send</b> 18:20 69:20 148:12 167:5,11 167:19 168:6 181:18</p> <p><b>sending</b> 77:2,11</p> <p><b>senior</b> 73:1,3 74:1 74:7,16,18 76:17 79:2 82:12,20 83:13 84:15,16,20 84:21 86:12,19 88:8,14,18 89:3 91:15 92:11 156:7 157:2,6</p> <p><b>seniors</b> 17:21 29:20 78:4 87:5 87:17</p> <p><b>sense</b> 21:5 113:11 163:1 173:8</p> <p><b>sent</b> 62:14 92:9 166:4</p> <p><b>sentences</b> 167:3,7 168:4</p> <p><b>sentiment</b> 137:13</p> <p><b>separate</b> 66:12 72:15 103:8</p> <p><b>september</b> 65:9 190:20</p> <p><b>septic</b> 129:12,19 142:10 147:2,4</p>	<p><b>sequitur</b> 124:10</p> <p><b>serially</b> 103:8</p> <p><b>series</b> 66:12</p> <p><b>serious</b> 39:20</p> <p><b>serve</b> 52:17 72:21 73:11 74:18 80:1 83:15 115:12 139:12</p> <p><b>served</b> 73:14 75:18,20 83:11,12 88:15 184:17</p> <p><b>serves</b> 132:6</p> <p><b>service</b> 13:5 57:20 66:10 97:15,17,20 97:21 99:4,11 103:2 104:11 106:10 107:18 108:2 114:9,10,18 114:19,20 115:3 119:11 125:3 144:18 151:2 169:7 170:2 173:15</p> <p><b>services</b> 48:4 57:16 62:10 74:18 83:18 85:1,6 92:10,13 130:14 151:2 159:21 171:2</p> <p><b>serving</b> 88:18</p> <p><b>session</b> 143:15 179:16 187:13,14 187:18</p> <p><b>sessions</b> 69:17</p> <p><b>set</b> 30:13 66:18 92:19 164:9 190:4</p> <p><b>setting</b> 23:20 41:8 115:2</p> <p><b>settings</b> 23:15,17 25:21 47:12 80:16</p> <p><b>seven</b> 57:12</p> <p><b>severe</b> 20:1 21:4 26:19 27:17 31:14 31:15,19</p>	<p><b>severely</b> 28:21</p> <p><b>sewer</b> 124:1 129:21 130:2 141:8 142:8</p> <p><b>sexual</b> 53:18</p> <p><b>seymour</b> 82:20</p> <p><b>sh</b> 78:17</p> <p><b>shading</b> 103:4,5</p> <p><b>shame</b> 178:11</p> <p><b>share</b> 19:13 61:11 99:3 122:18</p> <p><b>shared</b> 82:19</p> <p><b>sharing</b> 24:17 93:11</p> <p><b>sheer</b> 9:8</p> <p><b>shelves</b> 131:19</p> <p><b>shelving</b> 73:20</p> <p><b>sheriff</b> 69:21 171:10</p> <p><b>sheriff's</b> 171:1,12 180:20</p> <p><b>sheriffs</b> 70:19 171:12</p> <p><b>shift</b> 9:6 43:5</p> <p><b>shifting</b> 25:5</p> <p><b>shine</b> 169:6</p> <p><b>shining</b> 79:5</p> <p><b>shopping</b> 117:16 182:18</p> <p><b>shore</b> 5:7,19 7:10 44:19 73:2 74:2,4 74:14,16 75:1,7 79:2 83:6 85:17 86:13 137:9 165:13 169:1</p> <p><b>short</b> 64:21</p> <p><b>shortage</b> 105:4</p> <p><b>shorter</b> 12:2</p> <p><b>shortness</b> 29:6</p> <p><b>shot</b> 49:17</p> <p><b>shout</b> 81:9</p> <p><b>show</b> 21:14 36:5 58:1</p>	<p><b>showed</b> 18:2</p> <p><b>showing</b> 15:13 35:19</p> <p><b>shown</b> 28:19</p> <p><b>shows</b> 34:21 35:17 84:8</p> <p><b>shutting</b> 118:1</p> <p><b>shy</b> 177:3</p> <p><b>sic</b> 105:1</p> <p><b>sick</b> 16:14 22:15 23:3,13 25:13 27:16 28:21 30:20</p> <p><b>sickest</b> 9:1</p> <p><b>side</b> 97:14 179:4</p> <p><b>sided</b> 98:9</p> <p><b>sign</b> 107:18,19</p> <p><b>signal</b> 181:19</p> <p><b>signature</b> 190:15</p> <p><b>signed</b> 73:5 74:1 82:15 87:9 147:14</p> <p><b>significant</b> 9:8 30:6 41:14 45:11</p> <p><b>signify</b> 111:4</p> <p><b>similar</b> 26:15 29:18 39:16</p> <p><b>simply</b> 171:19</p> <p><b>single</b> 132:14</p> <p><b>sir</b> 146:20 169:15</p> <p><b>sit</b> 5:8 142:11 162:11 173:3 175:4,11</p> <p><b>site</b> 16:19 83:1,3 84:8,9 88:18 179:2</p> <p><b>sitting</b> 88:7 105:10 110:8,15 133:19 173:8 176:12</p> <p><b>situation</b> 14:16 46:6 49:12 104:12 105:12</p> <p><b>situations</b> 6:16 41:4</p> <p><b>six</b> 25:2 42:12 61:15,20 126:10</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>172:10 187:12  <b>size</b> 40:21  <b>slide</b> 31:2  <b>slides</b> 121:18  <b>slow</b> 40:15  <b>small</b> 8:18 21:13  73:10 79:21 88:10  90:1 128:2 137:15  <b>smaller</b> 20:13 52:8  <b>smith</b> 69:21  <b>snappy</b> 121:19  <b>social</b> 34:10  <b>socializing</b> 84:18  <b>society</b> 58:8  <b>softly</b> 101:20  <b>solid</b> 135:15  170:18  <b>solve</b> 98:4 106:21  <b>solved</b> 98:5  <b>somebody</b> 81:11  <b>somewhat</b> 123:17  <b>soon</b> 43:2 50:9  101:8 104:21  110:3  <b>sorry</b> 4:16 18:16  19:1 78:18 112:10  123:20 142:1  165:21 167:20  183:18  <b>sort</b> 20:17 26:10  34:8 35:8 36:17  47:1 103:5 106:13  <b>sorts</b> 43:15 105:15  <b>sought</b> 147:18  <b>sound</b> 40:20  134:19  <b>sounds</b> 152:14  <b>sources</b> 83:2  100:19  <b>south</b> 33:13  <b>space</b> 50:4 82:19  84:4,11 97:19  <b>speak</b> 12:7 75:12  95:14,17</p>	<p><b>speaker</b> 10:21  12:9,11 112:8  <b>speaking</b> 54:8  <b>special</b> 10:7 26:7  30:13  <b>specialized</b> 6:6  <b>species</b> 46:12,18  46:19,20,21 47:10  <b>specific</b> 131:5  <b>specifically</b>  126:12  <b>speed</b> 103:13  113:19 114:2  121:13  <b>speeds</b> 114:11,17  114:18  <b>spend</b> 95:8 125:14  125:18 144:9  145:19  <b>spending</b> 40:13  72:7 135:19 184:7  <b>spent</b> 73:9  <b>spite</b> 10:17  <b>splash</b> 101:18  <b>split</b> 173:12  <b>spoke</b> 14:18  166:17 173:20  176:17  <b>spoken</b> 170:15  <b>sponsor</b> 71:7  174:21  <b>sponsors</b> 71:5  177:21  <b>spot</b> 108:13  <b>spotlight</b> 56:14  <b>spread</b> 25:18,21  34:16  <b>spreads</b> 43:14  <b>spring</b> 48:3,16,17  182:15  <b>sprung</b> 182:15  <b>spur</b> 124:7  <b>square</b> 82:17  112:2</p>	<p><b>st</b> 63:10 65:16  67:9 72:18 73:6  74:21 75:6,13  77:6 79:20 80:17  82:18,21 84:14  87:13 92:6 158:16  <b>staff</b> 63:6 72:19  74:20 85:18 91:5  133:18 135:3,8  136:12 138:10  146:15 148:3  164:8 185:12  <b>stamp</b> 12:1,4,8  40:2 60:3 117:21  118:3 123:2,19  130:4 141:4 144:5  145:1,6,9,12  147:17 148:11  149:1,19 150:3,6  150:9,11 151:3  152:11 153:5,7  154:7 155:5 156:4  158:5 159:14  160:12 162:9  163:20 164:1  165:7,11,21  168:21 169:12  175:15  <b>stand</b> 2:9 12:3  53:11 55:11 100:1  <b>standard</b> 63:17  113:17  <b>standards</b> 183:15  <b>standing</b> 2:11  <b>standstill</b> 116:18  <b>star</b> 92:4  <b>stars</b> 94:5  <b>start</b> 2:15 36:7  47:21 49:20  112:13 148:14  174:20 182:17,18  183:1  <b>started</b> 14:7,18  100:5 101:10</p>	<p>104:4 105:2 129:2  <b>starting</b> 17:14  30:14 117:20  182:16  <b>state</b> 19:6 44:14  49:13 57:13 72:15  83:2 84:19 88:21  90:16 92:8,18  98:3,6 100:12  106:19 108:6,21  111:15 112:17  115:20 122:6  164:4 171:13  172:16 179:9  181:8 190:1,2  <b>statement</b> 187:16  <b>statements</b> 55:19  <b>states</b> 43:21,21  61:14,21 66:9,10  158:13  <b>station</b> 127:13  130:10  <b>statistic</b> 80:2  <b>stats</b> 87:8  <b>status</b> 37:2 98:20  107:7  <b>stay</b> 25:17 30:19  78:5 179:10,10  181:4  <b>staying</b> 23:11  <b>steady</b> 15:13  <b>steep</b> 17:9  <b>stenographic</b>  190:6  <b>stenographically</b>  190:6  <b>step</b> 70:12 90:13  158:8,9,19  <b>stepp</b> 169:18,19  <b>stepped</b> 9:12  49:10  <b>steve</b> 96:21  <b>stipulations</b> 190:8</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p><b>stop</b> 17:14 54:12 56:16,18 57:1 184:21 185:1,2 <b>stopped</b> 176:3 <b>stops</b> 177:14 <b>storage</b> 73:20 <b>stories</b> 93:11 <b>storm</b> 157:10,11 <b>straight</b> 70:6 96:6 134:10 <b>strain</b> 33:17 <b>strangers</b> 7:13 <b>strategic</b> 117:12 <b>street</b> 50:1 58:4 <b>strength</b> 10:16 <b>stress</b> 15:8 21:7 30:7 <b>stressed</b> 124:20 <b>strike</b> 167:3 168:3 <b>strokes</b> 28:14 <b>strong</b> 124:21 <b>strongly</b> 36:2 <b>stuck</b> 179:3 <b>studies</b> 28:12,19 29:3,14 32:1 <b>stuff</b> 77:8 89:21 121:20 186:14 <b>sub</b> 19:10 73:6 74:2 83:5 <b>subcommittee</b> 175:6,8 <b>subject</b> 66:18 <b>submission</b> 161:2 <b>submit</b> 161:6 <b>submitted</b> 101:7 <b>subsidies</b> 163:4 <b>substantial</b> 108:14 <b>success</b> 85:12 106:4 <b>successfully</b> 44:4 92:1 <b>suffer</b> 29:12 <b>sufficient</b> 156:14</p>	<p><b>summer</b> 87:4 184:16 <b>sunday</b> 57:11 58:13 <b>super</b> 26:12 <b>supplemental</b> 145:4,6 151:11 <b>supplies</b> 62:9 72:20 73:10 <b>supply</b> 105:4,5 <b>support</b> 52:21 55:4 70:15 76:11 77:17 86:1,5,20 124:11 129:16 149:21 151:10 <b>supported</b> 72:19 160:14 <b>supportive</b> 138:11 <b>supports</b> 129:17 <b>supposed</b> 178:15 181:4 <b>sure</b> 8:12 12:16 38:7 69:7,19 75:9 78:12 87:5 94:6 95:7 110:10 133:20 135:4 137:6 139:3,18 140:12 145:20 150:2 161:14 169:17 180:4 185:6 <b>surge</b> 8:19 9:7 14:20 15:2,7 17:5 17:8,15 <b>surges</b> 15:4,5 16:8 20:12 <b>surprised</b> 157:9 <b>surveillance</b> 38:20 44:15 <b>surveilling</b> 25:4 <b>survey</b> 92:9 122:15 124:9,13 125:16 126:1,5,6 127:6 128:8</p>	<p>132:19 134:7,11 137:12,20 138:20 139:7,11 140:9 <b>surveys</b> 137:20,21 140:6 <b>survivors</b> 29:16 <b>sustaining</b> 163:18 <b>swap</b> 2:19 3:11 <b>swiftly</b> 175:13 <b>swimming</b> 84:11 <b>swine</b> 47:3 <b>switch</b> 2:20 116:20 <b>symptoms</b> 28:11 30:7 <b>system</b> 5:19 7:10 8:15 15:9 27:14 45:4 65:17 92:19 101:11,14 102:11 129:13,19,21 130:2 132:8,8 141:8 147:2,5 180:17 182:1 <b>systems</b> 5:21 20:3 21:7 142:11</p>	<p>42:11 43:11 44:2 45:17 51:19,21 52:4,16 60:14 62:11,18 63:1 65:2,8,13,15 69:2 70:10 72:10 76:16 96:9,10 97:5,9,11 97:17 99:10 100:1 100:6,8 102:17 106:7 109:2 122:7 123:6,10 125:20 132:5,11 137:10 137:14,16 139:13 142:15 156:7 169:21 170:6,13 170:14,20 171:4,8 171:11,15,16 172:6,10,14 180:10 184:5 185:12,13 186:4 190:3 <b>talent</b> 171:7 <b>talk</b> 14:10 20:16 23:4 82:9,11 96:16 99:21 104:15 117:15 121:9 148:17 160:16 175:21 <b>talked</b> 30:18 106:11 109:11 144:3 148:12 149:17 <b>talking</b> 31:6 38:8 58:6 122:6 137:7 143:16 179:19 <b>taller</b> 12:1 <b>tap</b> 91:4 <b>targeted</b> 23:9 124:11 <b>task</b> 49:9 122:19 122:21 134:17 <b>tax</b> 125:2 163:16 170:20 172:6,9 175:6,9 178:4</p>
		<b>t</b>	
		<p><b>tables</b> 73:20 <b>taggart</b> 154:9 <b>tai</b> 87:12 <b>tailor</b> 70:9 <b>take</b> 5:4 10:8 21:11 49:4 53:21 88:14 96:4 128:12 131:20 141:2 167:8,13 <b>taken</b> 53:5 96:7 183:20,21 <b>takes</b> 8:21 10:7 55:10 81:20 <b>talbot</b> 1:1 7:8,11 7:15 14:21 15:20 17:3,12 20:18 22:9 24:9 27:2,8 39:5 41:20 42:2,3</p>	



<p><b>taxes</b> 66:16 151:7 170:19</p> <p><b>taxpayer</b> 162:15 163:4,10 172:11</p> <p><b>tb</b> 40:4</p> <p><b>team</b> 79:16 81:20 93:6 96:12 153:1 185:21 186:8</p> <p><b>teams</b> 9:20</p> <p><b>technology</b> 143:21</p> <p><b>ted</b> 97:1 114:7</p> <p><b>telehealth</b> 126:14</p> <p><b>telemedicine</b> 117:15</p> <p><b>tell</b> 5:5 36:11 88:12 94:4 97:12 101:21 107:20 177:2 185:2,3,8 186:15,17</p> <p><b>telling</b> 93:10</p> <p><b>temporarily</b> 170:19</p> <p><b>ten</b> 76:3 87:14 114:20,20 115:2,9 117:13</p> <p><b>tenor</b> 66:6</p> <p><b>tenths</b> 177:5</p> <p><b>term</b> 28:7 29:4 31:4 32:12 171:6</p> <p><b>termed</b> 110:10</p> <p><b>terms</b> 34:3 37:19 38:2 43:19 66:7 139:13</p> <p><b>terribly</b> 16:20</p> <p><b>terrific</b> 108:18</p> <p><b>terry</b> 175:19</p> <p><b>test</b> 16:16,17 24:6 42:21</p> <p><b>tested</b> 22:17 23:1 23:12 24:4 43:1</p> <p><b>testified</b> 176:13</p> <p><b>testify</b> 177:1 178:12</p>	<p><b>testifying</b> 176:5</p> <p><b>testing</b> 15:17 16:7 16:9,10,19 25:11 43:4,6,7</p> <p><b>tests</b> 15:19 16:1,11</p> <p><b>text</b> 21:14</p> <p><b>thank</b> 2:13 7:17 8:1,10 10:21 12:10,11,12 13:2 13:5,8,12 48:20 48:20 49:6,7 50:11,12 52:6,11 54:16,20,21 55:2 55:6,7,15,16,17 56:12 57:6 58:21 59:1,19,20,21 60:3,4,5,6 63:3 67:1,2 70:16,19 71:2,18,20 74:20 75:11,15 76:12,13 76:18,20 77:16,18 78:1,11,14,15 79:6,7,12 81:1,4,5 82:1,2,3 85:20 86:6,9,20 87:16 87:19 88:4 89:5,9 91:10 93:5,6 94:9 94:18 95:21 96:1 96:3,14 115:17 118:21 120:6,17 120:21 121:3,5 134:2 135:1 136:12,14,15,16 138:13,15,18 140:18 152:15,19 152:21 153:2,5 159:14,14,17 162:9 163:12,20 165:6 169:19 170:1 173:14 174:4,8,10,11 180:8,12 182:13 185:15,18,20 186:6</p>	<p><b>thanking</b> 55:19</p> <p><b>thanks</b> 69:20 94:10 96:2 109:18 113:15 135:2 153:3 169:12 173:17 182:4,12 189:1</p> <p><b>theoretically</b> 45:6 46:2 47:7</p> <p><b>theory</b> 46:7</p> <p><b>therapeutics</b> 25:11,12 26:2 27:11 28:2 38:4</p> <p><b>thereof</b> 62:20 65:18 66:8</p> <p><b>thereunder</b> 62:1</p> <p><b>thing</b> 2:7 21:8 32:21 42:13 49:16 54:2 59:2 81:14 92:5 106:13 116:11 117:2 133:11 134:3 137:4,9 150:19 163:9 175:10 180:20 186:15</p> <p><b>things</b> 19:2 20:18 26:5 27:18 30:16 31:16,16,20 35:12 43:4 45:16 47:6 49:11,14 52:20 56:7 75:18 81:19 104:5,21 105:16 119:16 125:2,6 128:9 132:19 133:5,14,18,21 138:11 139:9 142:6 148:7 181:13</p> <p><b>think</b> 12:9 19:8 24:15 30:11 38:14 41:5,7,12 44:11 46:15 55:21 76:14 79:19 80:4,5 81:13,14 85:9</p>	<p>88:5 90:14 93:12 106:2,3 108:8 109:2 111:5 116:11 117:2 118:1 124:18 129:9,17 131:8 132:21 135:11 136:3 137:1,5 138:10,15 139:11 141:20 142:4,13 143:11,18 144:20 146:7 147:17 151:4,6 152:16 176:9 178:3 181:17 183:10</p> <p><b>thinking</b> 91:4 119:3</p> <p><b>thinks</b> 91:5 137:2</p> <p><b>third</b> 53:2 56:1,6 128:3 158:8</p> <p><b>thomas</b> 69:5,7 164:7 166:11 167:16 168:3</p> <p><b>thorough</b> 123:9 134:6,9</p> <p><b>thought</b> 3:6 78:18 112:11 119:17 126:2 131:11 151:12</p> <p><b>thoughtful</b> 123:8 134:5,8</p> <p><b>thousand</b> 150:8</p> <p><b>thousands</b> 6:7</p> <p><b>three</b> 16:1 21:12 31:2 39:8 48:5 57:12 58:4 70:21 88:19 89:18 103:6 118:11 126:11 146:17 148:7 153:9 156:13 158:9 171:8 176:3 177:6,14</p> <p><b>threshold</b> 36:17</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>thresholds</b> 172:2	<b>tom</b> 155:7	<b>tranche</b> 125:9,9	<b>tremendous</b> 90:17
<b>thrilled</b> 109:9	<b>tomorrow</b> 115:9	<b>transcribed</b> 190:6	<b>trend</b> 40:16 42:19
<b>throws</b> 41:16	179:15,17,20	<b>transcript</b> 2:1	<b>trending</b> 41:1
<b>thursday</b> 187:19	184:16	<b>transcription</b>	182:11
188:2	<b>tonight</b> 2:4 5:6	190:7	<b>tried</b> 105:21 133:5
<b>ticket</b> 162:19	12:20 13:4,19	<b>transformational</b>	<b>troops</b> 5:13
<b>tickets</b> 142:3	14:8,12 96:21	97:6 134:12	<b>trouble</b> 30:9
<b>tiers</b> 114:13	97:13 101:21	152:17	<b>truck</b> 78:20
<b>tilghman</b> 101:2	109:9 122:5,13	<b>transgender</b> 50:14	<b>true</b> 163:3 190:7
183:17	127:17 129:16	50:18,19 51:3,4,7	<b>truly</b> 138:9
<b>time</b> 17:7 21:19	130:4 140:4 142:3	51:10,13,16,20	<b>trust</b> 109:5 163:15
24:1 30:8 32:6,9	142:19 146:17	52:18,21 53:8,12	<b>try</b> 25:18 49:5
42:1 48:19 51:6	169:20 174:9	53:17 54:19	121:19 142:2
54:12,12,17 71:11	<b>tonight's</b> 2:15	<b>transit</b> 60:15,18	143:18 149:19
96:15 98:15	<b>tools</b> 81:16	60:19,21 61:3,18	179:13 185:14
103:12,13,18	<b>top</b> 92:17 115:3	62:15 63:16	<b>trying</b> 47:12 48:9
107:14 109:6	127:4	<b>transmission</b>	50:7 101:19 139:5
115:13 119:12	<b>topic</b> 170:12	20:17	146:8 178:5 180:5
120:21 128:15	<b>topped</b> 127:14	<b>transmitted</b> 44:12	186:18
129:13 135:18	<b>total</b> 7:13 18:10	<b>transparency</b>	<b>tuberculosis</b> 14:15
136:1,9 138:17,19	90:7 106:5 133:2	118:16	38:13 39:1,5,9,11
140:21 148:1	156:13 164:11	<b>transport</b> 178:19	39:15,21 40:17
169:16,20 170:1	<b>totals</b> 150:6	178:20	<b>tubman</b> 58:7
173:3,14 182:8	<b>touch</b> 18:5 28:5	<b>transportation</b>	<b>tuesday</b> 53:2
183:20,21 184:7	43:10	60:16 61:4,6,14	71:14 187:11
190:4	<b>touched</b> 28:6	62:1,16 78:3	188:1,3
<b>timeline</b> 125:8	<b>touches</b> 46:7	128:12	<b>tuned</b> 118:6
<b>times</b> 10:6 32:5	<b>tough</b> 94:17	<b>trappe</b> 166:8	<b>turn</b> 40:8 146:15
102:12 128:14	<b>tougher</b> 158:5	184:3	166:9 182:16
<b>tina</b> 52:7,13 55:2	<b>toured</b> 84:14	<b>travel</b> 16:15 23:18	<b>turned</b> 92:14
<b>tiny</b> 35:3 45:12	<b>tourism</b> 124:9,13	<b>traveling</b> 24:2	186:20
<b>tip</b> 80:20	<b>towers</b> 128:10	<b>treasury</b> 124:19	<b>turning</b> 187:1
<b>tire</b> 165:13	<b>town</b> 155:6	133:20	<b>turns</b> 105:5
<b>tired</b> 121:18	<b>tracing</b> 39:14,17	<b>treat</b> 9:5 40:6 52:1	<b>two</b> 2:18 15:12
<b>title</b> 61:15,20	40:11	54:3 179:2 185:3	16:3 21:11 26:21
68:19	<b>track</b> 76:19	<b>treated</b> 44:4	27:3 28:16 31:17
<b>today</b> 15:21 72:9	<b>tracking</b> 83:18	183:14	33:18 35:17 39:7
114:13 115:4,8	95:3,5	<b>treating</b> 56:15	39:10 41:16 42:10
117:14 139:6	<b>traction</b> 56:9	<b>treatment</b> 42:14	44:5 50:2 72:15
143:16 149:18	<b>tracy</b> 88:1 92:3	67:9 158:17	79:13 91:19 98:9
173:6 178:3	<b>trails</b> 128:12	181:12 183:9	102:1 113:6,10
<b>toilet</b> 183:18	<b>trained</b> 6:6,20 9:3	185:4	126:15 127:12
<b>told</b> 109:21 184:21	<b>training</b> 69:15	<b>treatments</b> 26:2	131:1 137:20,21
	172:7	40:1	141:21 142:18,21

143:7 160:19 167:3,4,7 168:3 169:3 171:3 176:7 177:14 180:6 183:8,15 <b>type</b> 88:7 162:21 <b>types</b> 28:16 32:4 33:19 93:8 <b>typically</b> 41:4	<b>uniform</b> 171:6 173:13 <b>unit</b> 6:5 8:21 9:2 9:11 <b>unitarian</b> 53:3 <b>united</b> 61:13,21 66:9,10 158:13 <b>units</b> 9:6 43:4 <b>universal</b> 53:3 <b>university</b> 5:18 7:10 126:1 <b>unlocked</b> 98:7 <b>unnecessary</b> 172:5 <b>unserved</b> 97:8 100:7,16,21 108:20 127:7 <b>unusual</b> 41:9 <b>upcoming</b> 152:12 <b>update</b> 3:1 14:9 47:15 72:6 96:9 97:4,5 98:20 109:5 174:19 180:5 <b>updates</b> 180:4 <b>updating</b> 6:3 <b>upfront</b> 108:3 <b>upgrades</b> 132:13 <b>upper</b> 73:2 74:2,4 74:14,16 75:1,6 79:2 83:6 85:17 86:13 <b>ups</b> 107:19 <b>urban</b> 80:16 <b>urgency</b> 141:12,18 143:11 <b>urgent</b> 178:21 179:11 <b>usa</b> 81:1 <b>usda</b> 66:11 100:3 101:12 102:3 103:20 106:6 111:13 113:4,5	<b>use</b> 107:8 109:3 124:16 147:21 172:2 174:6 <b>user</b> 162:18 163:1 163:16 176:6 <b>uses</b> 45:21 <b>ushered</b> 176:10 <b>usually</b> 24:9 35:10 38:6 39:4 40:8 46:19 <b>utilities</b> 96:19 97:11 106:20 129:3 140:20 <b>utility</b> 66:10 <b>utilize</b> 173:7 <b>utilized</b> 62:4	<b>verdery</b> 71:18,20 72:2 82:2,6,8 95:1 95:21 96:3 <b>verify</b> 149:16 <b>version</b> 18:21 43:18 64:21 <b>vertical</b> 111:9,11 111:19 112:1,11 112:18 <b>vertically</b> 111:8 <b>vetted</b> 145:17 <b>vetting</b> 135:9 <b>vice</b> 121:10 166:18 185:16 <b>view</b> 15:4 <b>viral</b> 42:18 <b>virtual</b> 176:20 <b>virus</b> 43:14 47:7 <b>viruses</b> 35:13 <b>visibility</b> 50:14,18 51:4,20 55:3 56:11 <b>vision</b> 88:5 89:6 89:14 91:11 93:1 <b>visit</b> 84:13 <b>vital</b> 5:20 80:10 126:20 <b>volume</b> 65:12 <b>volunteer</b> 75:3 86:7 <b>volunteerism</b> 86:2 <b>volunteers</b> 74:13 74:21 76:20 77:7 78:12 85:17 138:10 <b>vomiting</b> 24:19 <b>vote</b> 59:7 64:5 68:6 153:17 154:15 155:14 157:15 159:3 161:19 164:16 170:19 188:11 <b>voters</b> 170:15
<b>u</b>		<b>v</b>	
<b>ubiquitous</b> 117:10 <b>ugly</b> 39:12 <b>uh</b> 162:12 <b>uk</b> 19:20 45:9 <b>ukraine</b> 54:11 <b>ultimately</b> 67:11 156:21 <b>unable</b> 104:18 147:21 <b>unanimous</b> 4:14 4:21 <b>unanimously</b> 175:16 <b>unbiased</b> 173:9 <b>uncertain</b> 38:10 <b>underscores</b> 15:6 <b>underserved</b> 127:7 131:14 <b>understaffed</b> 9:20 <b>understand</b> 105:21 173:10,11 177:20 <b>understood</b> 117:10 <b>underway</b> 97:13 107:19 109:10 <b>undetectable</b> 42:18 <b>unevenly</b> 12:20 <b>unexpected</b> 41:4 <b>unexpectedly</b> 40:17 <b>unfortunately</b> 17:16 57:1		<b>vaccinated</b> 20:9 22:14 23:1,11 25:8 29:9,11 33:4 <b>vaccination</b> 26:16 33:7 38:2,5,9,9 <b>vaccines</b> 25:10 38:3 <b>valuable</b> 77:20 79:3 139:8 <b>vanhooser</b> 121:14 121:16,21 122:4 123:20 130:1,6 131:3,6 133:15 134:3 137:11,21 138:4,15 139:17 140:18 152:21 <b>variant</b> 19:7,8,10 19:17 32:2 <b>variants</b> 31:3,18 32:4 <b>vast</b> 33:21 <b>vein</b> 26:6 <b>veins</b> 26:17 <b>velocity</b> 97:2 <b>venues</b> 16:13 <b>verbatim</b> 173:7	

<b>w</b>	<b>wash</b> 46:4	<b>wearing</b> 14:5	<b>wine</b> 179:21
<b>w</b> 1:17	<b>waste</b> 169:2	22:19 23:5,14	<b>winner</b> 107:11
<b>waffle</b> 103:6	183:14	34:14	<b>wise</b> 150:16
<b>wait</b> 110:13	<b>wastewater</b> 65:16	<b>weather</b> 182:16	<b>wish</b> 48:16 56:17
<b>waited</b> 9:16	65:21 67:9 158:16	<b>webinar</b> 124:19	56:21
<b>waiting</b> 48:6 67:14	183:8	<b>webinars</b> 133:20	<b>withdrawn</b> 184:16
183:4 185:9	<b>watching</b> 55:18	<b>website</b> 102:17	<b>witness</b> 190:13
<b>walkers</b> 128:13	120:4 122:12	<b>week</b> 16:19 19:12	<b>witnessing</b> 12:6
<b>walks</b> 50:20	<b>water</b> 84:4 124:1	37:9 48:7,8,8,13	<b>women</b> 10:12
<b>want</b> 8:2,10 11:19	157:10,11 183:12	48:14,16 76:1,4,6	171:5 173:13
13:2 21:6 22:18	183:19 185:3	76:9 77:3,13	<b>wonderful</b> 14:2
28:5 38:7 40:2	<b>watercolors</b> 85:8	87:14 141:21	90:2 171:14
47:18 49:18 55:2	<b>watson</b> 184:12	175:7	<b>word</b> 100:20
69:5,20 71:2,3,5	<b>wavy</b> 36:16	<b>weekend</b> 57:9	125:9,10 134:4
71:17 74:20 75:15	<b>way</b> 17:19 18:11	126:3	167:1
78:4 81:9,17 82:5	19:15,15,15 70:10	<b>weekly</b> 28:2	<b>wording</b> 70:6,7
82:9,11 86:6,20	80:17 85:5 88:9	<b>weeks</b> 16:4 48:12	<b>words</b> 8:3 53:13
88:4 89:5 92:14	90:2 91:20 93:2	102:1 137:5	134:10
96:12 99:19	97:15 98:5 113:8	146:17 148:7,8	<b>wordy</b> 64:19,20
105:11 107:14,20	125:7 136:7 140:7	176:4,7 185:10	<b>work</b> 9:3 25:18
110:13 118:15	143:19 162:14	186:16	30:13 51:13 55:4
121:12 122:20	172:13 178:12,13	<b>welcome</b> 2:3,4,5	55:6 57:18 69:17
133:4 138:18	185:3 186:17	8:8 11:1 13:11	80:9,21,21 81:8
139:21 140:4,12	190:11	52:7 71:17 86:14	83:2,4 84:8,9
140:13 143:7	<b>ways</b> 93:8 95:6	95:18 115:18	88:16 89:7,13,15
145:19,20 156:4	<b>we've</b> 11:2 14:13	118:20 174:12	91:7,17,19 93:3
160:19 162:10	15:16 16:11 25:7	<b>welcoming</b> 96:11	95:6 101:14
167:13,20 169:16	28:7,12 30:4,14	<b>wellness</b> 84:5	103:15 116:13
184:21 185:19,20	31:2 35:13 38:8	<b>went</b> 13:13 176:21	118:12 126:13
187:8	39:12,16 41:9,14	177:4	135:3,4,8 139:21
<b>wanted</b> 14:8,12	47:1 58:6 60:9	<b>west</b> 111:8	143:15 144:7,14
15:17 17:2 21:14	67:18 69:17 76:8	<b>western</b> 101:1	164:10 180:10
33:8 43:9 45:2	87:7,9 100:3,5	<b>wheels</b> 74:17 75:2	184:2
48:7 70:10 87:5	103:9 104:7,17	77:4 78:16	<b>worked</b> 9:13
92:11 123:15	105:9 106:2	<b>wide</b> 37:2	122:21 134:17
151:13 165:21	115:21 116:3	<b>widely</b> 16:7	136:18
180:5 187:5	117:9 119:12,21	108:15 109:1	<b>workers</b> 74:14
<b>wanting</b> 108:11	123:1 124:19	<b>wild</b> 43:16,20	180:21 181:19
<b>wants</b> 45:9 75:9	126:19 145:21	44:12 46:2,19	<b>working</b> 9:21
94:15 95:13	148:12 156:20	<b>willing</b> 90:13	47:16 57:4 70:5
<b>war</b> 9:14	176:4 177:13	<b>willingness</b> 88:5	70:20,21 81:11
<b>wards</b> 9:19	181:4	<b>wills</b> 57:19	89:20 91:14 95:3
<b>warm</b> 84:4	<b>wear</b> 22:17 23:17	<b>win</b> 101:13 183:12	95:9 102:10 103:7
	23:19 25:20 41:10	183:13,15	103:19 104:4

[working - zoom]

Page 36

116:17 121:10 178:17 179:13 186:2,7 <b>works</b> 88:11 147:14 156:6 162:14 169:4,8 <b>world</b> 5:21 51:7 54:10 56:20,21 117:7 179:18 <b>worldwide</b> 37:3 <b>worried</b> 19:16 47:1 <b>worry</b> 184:17 <b>worse</b> 49:1 183:19 <b>worsening</b> 26:18 <b>worst</b> 14:20 <b>worth</b> 63:6 <b>writing</b> 151:15 <b>written</b> 176:14 <b>wrong</b> 18:16 35:16	41:3,10,12,18 43:3 48:5 51:6 52:5 53:7,7 55:21 56:1,2,2,3,6 63:2 63:18 76:2,2,3 100:11 101:10 116:10 131:1,10 143:7,8,9 149:20 150:3,13 171:4,9 173:5 180:18 182:1 <b>year's</b> 35:3 145:2 <b>years</b> 8:13 30:5 35:4 37:16 39:11 42:12 47:3 79:13 80:18 87:15 90:15 109:10 115:10 117:13 177:6,15 178:14,14 181:3,3 181:5 186:19,20 187:2
<b>y</b>	<b>yellow</b> 22:21 36:7 36:9 42:4 103:5
<b>y</b> 88:2,18 91:3 <b>y'all</b> 121:18 <b>yard</b> 105:10,10 118:18 <b>yay</b> 14:1 175:18 <b>yeah</b> 12:16,17 14:4 18:18 19:1 31:21 32:5,11 70:4 71:6 79:7 94:14,21 95:15 109:18 111:2 118:8 119:6 120:15 121:15 123:19 131:3 139:2 146:9 147:9 147:9,20 151:15 157:8 169:17 181:15 182:12 <b>year</b> 7:16 14:15 18:1 25:2 29:17 31:6 35:5,21,21 37:16 38:11 40:9	<b>ymca</b> 82:12,20 84:14 88:1,7,13 92:7 <b>young</b> 38:1 57:3 83:6 <b>youngest</b> 33:2 <b>yous</b> 85:20 <b>yup</b> 5:3 11:4,4 12:5 67:6,6 86:14 117:9 130:5 149:14 180:13,13 182:9
	<b>z</b>
	<b>zero</b> 41:17,18 <b>zone</b> 9:14 <b>zoning</b> 184:1 <b>zoom</b> 85:1