	Tuble Hearing on 1 125 Badget 1414, 1, 2021
	Page 1
1	COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
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4	COUNCIL MEETING
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7	May 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
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10	Easton Elementary School, Easton, Maryland
11	
12	
13	COUNCIL MEMBERS:
14	Chuck Callahan, President
15	Dave Stepp
16	Keasha Haythe
17	Pete Lesher
18	Lynn Mielke
19	
20	
21	REPORTED BY: David Corbin, RPR

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1	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	1	just talk a little bit about our budget
2	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and		strategy that we used this year and have done
3	get started. I want to welcome everybody to	3	successfully in the past. We use a
4	tonight's budget hearing and we're going to go	4	conservative budgeting strategy where we try to
5	ahead and get started. Thanks a lot for	5	overestimate expenditures and underestimate
6	coming. So Mr. Lesher, go ahead and reopen	6	revenues. That served us well in the past. We
7	the the meeting.	7	continue to do that in drafting this FY 25
8	MR. LESHER: Thank you, Mr. Callahan. And		budget. We also maintain a healthy fund
9	we'll start by simply asking Mrs. Moran to read	9	balance which is a savings account. This is
10	the title of the bill number 1553 into the	10	very important in the times that we find
11	record.	11	ourselves in with the economic uncertainties
12	SECRETARY: Bill number 1553, an Act to	12	that we have seen and we need to be prepared
13	establish the 2024/2025 annual budget	13	for the unknown. So we have maintained a
14	appropriation ordinance.	14	healthy fund balance. And it's important to
15	MR. LESHER: And, Mr. Stamp, would you	15	note that Talbot County maintains the lowest
16	like to queue this up for us and introduce what	16	property tax and the second lowest income tax
17	we have in the budget before us.	17	in the State of Maryland of any county of the
18	MR. STAMP: Yes. Good evening, County	18	23 counties and Baltimore City. That's a very
19	Council, and everybody joining us this evening.	19	powerful statement and it is something that
20	I want to just take a moment, Council, to say a	20	we're very proud of. I would also like to say
21	couple things relative to the proposed FY25	21	this budget clearly prioritizes public safety
	Page 3		Page 5
1	budget. First is just to shape the discussion	1	and education. Not saying that it doesn't
2	in that Council every year works beginning in	2	support all the other general areas of
3	November to December to carve out a strategic	3	Government and supports the organizations, but
4	plan with staff, to identify clear goals and	4	again it does prioritize public safety and
5	objectives to set forth for the next year. And	5	education. We use an overarching strategy when
6	then in January through April Council works	6	we move forward through the year, we call it
7	together with the County Manager's department	7	our three P strategy, that's personnel,
8	heads and heads of agencies and organizations	8	processes and projects. Under personnel we
9	to craft a proposed budget, which we have	9	find ourselves right now in a very competitive
10	before you this evening. I would like to take	10	work environment where retention of our
11	the opportunity to sincerely thank the Council	11	employees and recruitment of new talent is
12	for their support and I would like to recognize	12	extremely important. And we recognize it's our
13	Martha Sparks, our finance director, Kaitlyn	13	employees that drive the successes that we
14	Foster-Clark, the assistant finance manager,	14	enjoy every day in our service to the
15	Jessica Morris, assistant county manager, and	15	community. And then under processes, we
16	all those department heads and many heads of	16	continue to evaluate our County Government to
17	agencies and organizations who work together	17	find those processes that could benefit by
18	with us understanding that we can't give	18	leveraging technology to improve it. And so
19	everybody everything they want but we try to do	19	this is our second component of our strategy.
20	our best to give everyone enough to accomplish	20	And finally, we have been engaging in a number
	our cest to give everyone enough to decompnish		. J,
21	their mission. Additionally I would like to	21	of significant infrastructure projects which

1	Page 6		Page 8
1	I'll talk about in just a minute. Next year	1	for the 2025 fiscal year. This budget
2	we're going to be pursuing the completion of	2	continues the county's conservative budgeting
3	our public safety building, the north emergency	3	methodology. These budget practices have
4	medical services station, which puts a new	4	served the County well and have placed us in a
5	paramedic crew in the north end of the County,	5	healthy financial position. Some highlights of
6	extension of sewer to rescue failing septic	6	the fiscal year 2025 budget include revenues
7	systems and to clean up tributaries, and then	7	that are two percent over FY 24 property tax
8	expand the library at St. Michaels, and as well	8	revenues in accordance with our charter. We
9	the expansion of Chapel school. Finally I just	9	also added one cent to the property tax rate
10	want to talk a little bit about our current FY	10	that was authorized by the voters of Talbot
11	24 budget. I'm pleased to say if we took a	11	County in November 2020 to support and enhance
12	snapshot of where we are today, we're meeting	12	public safety expenditures. A four-point a
13	our goals and objectives and we are on target	13	four cent education supplement to support
14	to end the year within the projected budget,	14	Talbot County public schools budget
15	which is significant. I would also like to say	15	initiatives. The funding to Talbot County
16	that we have accomplished a number of pretty	16	schools of 54.6 million is an increase of
17	important things. A component of our airport	17	3.65 million from their FY 24 funding and is
18	modernization project is under way and there	18	2.8 million above the local share funding,
19	have been some completion out there. We	19	which is required by the State. Capital
20	completed the gymnasium and the pickleball	20	improvement project funding, also identified as
21	courts in our community center. We will be	21	CIP funding, for Talbot County public schools
	Page 7		Page 9
1	coming to final completion of the new Talbot	1	includes 16.9 million for a capital project
2	County Health Department and achievement park	2	request for Chapel District elementary school
3	in Easton at the end of June of this year.	3	renovation, and 1.5 million in additional CIP
4	That's exciting. We have been able to make	4	funding that Council has appropriated for TCPS
5	capital improvements in our region two	5	to determine the priority of its use against
6	wastewater treatment plant in St. Michael's.	6	their CIP requests. For County operations,
7	And, again, extending sewer out to Royal Oak	7	this budget has included a three percent cost
8	and we will continue that project. We have	8	of living adjustment and one step for County
9	completed infrastructure enhancements to the	9	employees. In this budget the County has
10	Department of Corrections and our courthouse,	10	continued its investment in public safety by
11	and we have made major road repairs and	11	adding four public safety communication
12	resurfacing efforts completed resurfacing	12	specialists, also known as 911 operators, and
13	efforts across our 370 miles of roadway, just	13	an addition of one student resource officer
14	another project. So staff is very proud of the	14	supervisor. The County has also increased its
15	work that's been done and we will continue to	15	appropriation to outside agencies by
16	move forward. At this point I will turn it	16	1.2 million. Fund balance reserves will be
17	over to our Finance Director, Martha Sparks.	17	used to make a significant investment in County
18	Martha.	18	infrastructure. Capital improvements in the FY
19	MARTHA SPARKS: Good evening everyone.		25 budget in the amount of 27.5 million. Fund
20	What you have before you for FY 25 is a	20	balance reserves will also be used to invest in
21	balanced general fund budget of \$163,970,000	21	2.98 million of the purchase of the for the
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	Page 10		Page 12
1	purchase of vehicles and equipment recognized	1	shifts us away from building reserves and
2	in this budget as capital outlay. In our FY 25	2	shifts us to supporting our general fund
3	budget we project a 12.3 increase in property	3	operating expenditures. In November 2020 the
4	tax revenues, a 19 percent increase in income	4	voters in Talbot County supported an amendment
5	tax revenues that reflect a slight modification	5	to our charter that enabled one cent to be
6	to budgeting our income tax revenues. In order	6	added to our property tax rate for the support
7	to align them with a level that have been	7	of the County's expenditures related to public
8	realized over the last five years. These	8	safety. This began in FY 22 and will end with
9	revenues are historically volatile for the	9	the FY 26 budget. Council has an opportunity
10	County and must be carefully projected and	10	to create a ballot initiative to be included on
11	monitored. These increases combined with	11	the ballot in November 2024 if it chooses to
12	projected increases of other local taxes,	12	ask the citizens to vote to continue this
13	governmental revenues, and the nonrecurring	13	valuable support to the County's public safety,
14	transfers of impact fees from the development	14	which includes the Sheriff's office, Detention
15	impact fund, along with the nonrecurring	15	Center, Department of Emergency Services, and
16	transfers of fund balance reserves, will bring	16	our volunteer fire departments. The County has
17	us to an overall increase in revenues of	17	used the revenues from the one cent for
18	27.26 percent. Talbot County receives most of	18	enhancing public safety for 26 positions,
19	its revenues from property and income taxes.	19	including additional deputies, school resource
20	Together they make up 81.1 percent of the	20	officers for our schools, paramedics, EMT's and
21	County's operating revenues and 61.5 percent of	21	911 operators. Also a career ladder for the
	Page 11		Page 13
1	the total FY 25 budgeted revenues. Recordation	1	Department of Emergency Services, and also the
2	and transfer taxes are the next largest group	2	inclusion of the Sheriff's office, paramedics
3	of County revenues, contributing approximately	3	and EMT's into the Leox retirement program, and
4	8.6 percent of the County's operating revenues.	4	the Department of Corrections officers
5	In FY 21 and FY 22 Talbot County experienced	5	inclusion into the Cores retirement program.
6	its highest levels of recordation and transfer	6	Leox and Cores are enhanced retirement programs
7	tax revenues. In FY 23 and FY 24 these	7	through the Maryland State Retirement and
8	revenues moved to more normal levels and our FY	8	Pension System for public safety employees. As
9	25 budget projections are aligned with those	9	you can see in the slide, each year the County
10	levels. These revenues are highly heavily	10	has used more than the revenues generated from
11	tied to the activity in the real estate market	11	that one cent to enhance public safety
12	in Talbot County. The County has historically	12	personnel serving the citizens and visitors to
13	made very conservative projections of its	13	Talbot County.
14	revenues. Due to the volatility of its income,	14	Our proposed property tax rate of .7910
15	recordation and transfer tax revenues, this	15	for County-owned properties was calculated
16	strategy of underbudgeting our revenues has	16	using property tax revenues two percent over FY
17	enabled us to build healthy reserves. In this	17	24 revenues in accordance with our charter and
18	budget cycle we have modified our approach by	18	with the prior revenue levels that were
19	more accurately projecting revenues to be in	19	certified by the State Department of
20	alignment with revenues the County has received	20	Assessments and Taxation. An additional one
21	over the last five years. This realignment	21	cent to support public safety and a four cent

educational supplement to support Talbot County public schools budget initiatives. Our overall property tax rate will increase 4.76 cents over The County ax bill for a home with a property savessment of 300,000 will increase from S2,230,20 to \$2,373, which is a 142.80 cent increase, \$120 of which is attributable to the ducation supplement. And we have provided here a sample of what the homeowners tax bill would look like. And here in this slide you can see the property tax rates of Baltimore City and the 23 counties in Maryland. This information comes from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation website. I Department of Assessments and Taxation website. I Department of Assessments and Taxation website. I made this presentation of the budget at the introduction, I've updated the schedule to. In reviewing Montgomery County's property tax rates, and a schedule found on their website, I our public schools alone represents 4.34 percent of the County's operating expenditures. The Maryland Blueprint required local share funding, the County has included an additional appropriation of S2.8 million. Funding to support Talbot County has included an additional appropriation of S2.8 million above FY 24 levels. By moving the increase in projections for income tax revenues are reveived in the last five years. Overall education expenditures for Talbot County priblic schools, Chesapeake College, and the Talbot County Free Library. Talbot County has included an additional appropriation of the County is operating expenditures. The Maryland Blueprint required local share funding, the County is providing a more structurally balanced budget. Included in the S2.8 million have FY 24 levels. By moving the increase in projections for income tax revenues are so have been dealth and the overall property tax rate that was reported the overall property tax rate that was reported to supplement, and I revised the schedule to our public schools house represents 4.34 percent of the County is providing a more structurally balan		<i>6</i>		., .,
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3 property tax rate will increase 4.76 cents over 4 FY 24, which amounts to a 6.4 percent increase. 5 The County tax bill for a home with a property 6 assessment of 300,000 will increase from 7 \$2,230.20 to \$2,373, which is a 142.80 cent 8 increase, \$120 of which is attributable to the 9 education supplement. And we have provided 10 here a sample of what the homeowners tax bill 11 would look like. And here in this slide you 12 can see the property tax rates of Baltimore 13 City and the 23 counties in Maryland. This 14 information comes from the Maryland State 15 Department of Assessments and Taxation website. 16 As you can see, Talbot County has the lowest 17 property tax rate in Maryland. And since I 18 made this presentation of the budget at the 19 introduction, I've updated the schedule too. 20 In reviewing Montgomery County's property tax 21 rates, and a schedule found on their website, I 21 observed that they have several components of 22 their property tax trate that was reported 3 the overall property tax trate that was reported 4 to SDAT. These components are comparable to 5 our public safety one cent and educational 6 supplement, and I revised the schedule to 7 reflect that. This correction places Talbot 8 County at the lowest property tax rate in the 9 state. And this is one of the few times you'll 10 hear me say I'm glad we're in last place. In 11 comparison to other counties, Talbot County's has 12 the second lowest income tax rate in 2024. 13 Fitch Ratings best describes Talbot County's 14 income tax revenues at 37 million, which is in alignment with levels we received in the 15 true for most Maryland counties to the 16 ducation supplement, and I revised the schedule to 17 reflect that. This correction places Talbot 28 county at the lowest property tax rate in the 29 state. And this is no end the few times you'll 20 hear me say I'm glad we're in last place. In 21 comparison to other counties, Talbot County has 22 the second lowest income tax rate in 2024. 23 Fitch Ratings best describes Talbot Coun	1	educational supplement to support Talbot County	1	County's income tax revenues are so volatile
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income tax revenues when it says income taxes are a higher percentage of revenues. That is true for most Maryland counties. That is partially due to the very low tax environment compared with the rest of the state which provides incentive for a small number of high income earners with second homes to declare 14 additional position for a school resource 15 officer supervisor in this budget. This will 16 enable our Talbot County Sheriff's office to 17 ensure that each school always has proper 18 coverage and an SRO on site during school 19 hours. Public safety accounts for 22.7 percent 20 of the total budget with general government at	12	the second lowest income tax rate in 2024.	12	the County further supports the safety at
are a higher percentage of revenues. That is true for most Maryland counties. That is partially due to the very low tax environment compared with the rest of the state which provides incentive for a small number of high income earners with second homes to declare 15 officer supervisor in this budget. This will 16 enable our Talbot County Sheriff's office to 17 ensure that each school always has proper 18 coverage and an SRO on site during school 19 hours. Public safety accounts for 22.7 percent 20 of the total budget with general government at	13	Fitch Ratings best describes Talbot County's	13	Talbot County public schools by including an
true for most Maryland counties. That is partially due to the very low tax environment compared with the rest of the state which provides incentive for a small number of high income earners with second homes to declare 16 enable our Talbot County Sheriff's office to 17 ensure that each school always has proper 18 coverage and an SRO on site during school 19 hours. Public safety accounts for 22.7 percent 20 of the total budget with general government at	14	income tax revenues when it says income taxes	14	additional position for a school resource
partially due to the very low tax environment compared with the rest of the state which provides incentive for a small number of high income earners with second homes to declare results and the second homes to declare results are sensitive for a small number of high and the second homes to declare results are successful as the second always has proper to coverage and an SRO on site during school hours. Public safety accounts for 22.7 percent and the second homes to declare results are successful as the second homes are successful as the sec	15	are a higher percentage of revenues. That is	15	officer supervisor in this budget. This will
compared with the rest of the state which provides incentive for a small number of high income earners with second homes to declare 18 coverage and an SRO on site during school hours. Public safety accounts for 22.7 percent of the total budget with general government at	16	true for most Maryland counties. That is	16	enable our Talbot County Sheriff's office to
provides incentive for a small number of high income earners with second homes to declare 19 hours. Public safety accounts for 22.7 percent 20 of the total budget with general government at	17	partially due to the very low tax environment	17	ensure that each school always has proper
20 income earners with second homes to declare 20 of the total budget with general government at	18	compared with the rest of the state which	18	coverage and an SRO on site during school
	19	provides incentive for a small number of high	19	hours. Public safety accounts for 22.7 percent
21 their income in the county. This is why Talbot 21 10.7 percent. There are 2.9 million in capital	20	income earners with second homes to declare	20	of the total budget with general government at
	21	their income in the county. This is why Talbot	21	10.7 percent. There are 2.9 million in capital

	<i>8</i>		.
	Page 18		Page 20
1	outlay expenditures included in this budget.	1	manageable long term capital plan and a very
2	These nonrecurring expenditures and the level	2	strong reserve position." Fitch's assessment
3	of funding required for these type of	3	of the County's financial resilience is as
4	expenditures can fluctuate based upon equipment	4	being "in the highest category is based on the
5	and vehicles needed as well as funding	5	combined strength of its fund balance position,
6	availability. The FY 25 budget also includes	6	its ample expenditure flexibility, and its
7	an investment in County infrastructure of	7	strong ability to adjust revenues through
8	27.5 million to be paid for with fund balance	8	policy action to counterbalance its
9	reserves. Personnel actions that were taken in	9	historically volatile revenues. The County
10	this budget include three percent cost of	10	typically increases its property tax levy by
11	living adjustment and one step for employees,	11	the full amount allowed annually under the
12	also five new public safety positions and other	12	County charter. Both the property and income
13	benefit actions for public safety were taken.	13	tax remain the lowest in the state." And I
14	These will provide recruitment and retention	14	would like to close with thanking Council.
15	opportunities for our public safety	15	This really is a team effort. And we could not
16	departments.	16	present this budget to you as the Finance
17	Total fund balance and Rainy Day funds	17	Director and Assistant Finance Director and
18	reserve. The fund balance at the end of	18	County Manager without the support of Council.
19	June 30th, 2023 was 90.7 million, which grew	19	We couldn't do what we do without cooperation
20	22.4 million from the end of FY 22. At the end	20	and really great collaboration with our
21	of FY 23 the Talbot County Talbot County had	21	department heads and also I must thank my most
	Page 19		Page 21
1	15.9 million designated as Rainy Day reserves.	1	excellent finance department.
2	These reserves give the County less exposure to	2	MR. STAMP: That completes the
3	the risk associated with revenue and	3	presentation from the staff for the proposed FY
4	expenditure volatility, particularly in times	4	25 budget. Thank you.
5	of inflation or recession. We are still	5	MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Great job.
6	experiencing elevated levels of inflation and	6	MR. LESHER: Thank you, Mr. Stamp,
7	those increases are also included in this	7	Ms. Parks for the presentation. The unless
8	budget. This strong fund balance is a result	8	we have any questions from Council, we can open
9	of the County's conservative budgeting methods,	9	the public hearing for on Bill Number 1553
10	and those conservative budgeting methods were	10	to comments from the general public. We ask
11	the guidance for staff in the formation of the	11	that you please come forward to the microphone,
12	budget that you have before you. And I would	12	that you state your name and address for the
13	like to close with the County's report card,	13	record. You'll be given three minutes to speak
14	independent report card let's call that. Here	14	if you are representing yourself, five minutes
15	in September of 2022 we were rated by Moody's	15	if you are the one who is representing a group
16	Investor Service and Fitch Rating as a part of	16	or association. We did provide a list to sign
17	our process to go out for a bond issuance.	17	up to speak in advance and we will call those
18	Moody's said "financially the County is very	18	people who signed up first in the order that
19	strong and the management team is generally	19	they signed up. If you have not if you have
1	strong and the management team is generally		
20	conservative in its budgeting. Our credit	20	not signed up, you will still have that

	T done from the		120 Budget 111aj 7, 202
	Page 22		Page 24
1	have signed up in advance. We will start with	1	language learning are adequately staffed. With
2	first on the list which is Christina Drostin.	2	respect and gratitude, I appreciate your work
3	And queued up behind her will be Elizabeth	3	with leading our County.
4	Walters.	4	MR. LESHER: Thank you. Elizabeth Walters
5	CHRSTINA DROSTIN: My name is Christina	. 5	is next, followed by Hazel Walters.
6	Drostin. My address is 34 Londonderry Drive in	6	ELIZABETH WALTERS: I meant to get that in
7	Easton. County Council members, I appreciate	7	different order but that's okay. Good evening.
8	the opportunity to speak tonight, I appreciate	8	My name is Elizabeth Walters. My address is
9	the background and the broad overview as well	9	11568 Old Cordova Road, Cordova, Maryland. I'm
10	as all the detailed information of clearly hard	10	a CDES parent. I'm also a representative for
11	work you've done in creating this budget. I am	11	Chapel to the Superintendent, and I sit as an
12	here first and foremost as a parent of a child	12	at-large member on the Citizens Advisory
13	who attends Talbot County schools. I	13	Committee to the Board of Education here. I
14	appreciate that the County Council has seen it	14	want to say first and foremost I fully support
15	fit to fully fund the Blueprint programming as	15	the full budget. I also fully support the work
16	required by the State of Maryland. I would	16	that you've done here, appreciate everything
17	like to take a few minutes to talk about the	17	that you're saying, all the details. Can't
18	remaining significant gap between what TCPS has	18	wait to go home and tell my husband about the
19	requested and what the County Council has	19	dang impact fees he asks me about every day
20	committed to fund. I also speak as a local	20	that I don't know anything about because I
21	family doctor who deeply cares about this	21	don't sit on these committees. But here's what
	Page 23		Page 25
1	community. Over the years I've been involved	1	I want to put forth for 2026. Ready. We're
2	on projects to recruit more primary care	2	not even talking about spending. This is
3	physicians here to the Eastern Shore. Many of	3	the we're talking about '26. When I Google
4	the potential doctors who are considering	4	the best district school in Maryland in 2026, I
5	moving here consider where to raise a new	5	want to see Talbot County. I appreciate last
6	family or where to start a family. One of the	6	place. I don't want to be last place in the
7	key considerations that I hear over and over is	7	school system. Howard County is beating us. I
8	how well our schools are performing as well as	8	don't like that. When I Google the best
9	how well is the local government funding and	9	employer in this County, I don't think Wynn and
10	supporting those schools with what it needs.	10	Company should come to the top. I think it
11	Speaking as a parent and a community member, I	11	should be Talbot County public schools. And I
12	recognize the high number of students who	12	think the number next year when Doctor Pepukay
13	require special education services and also	13	and the Board of Ed who give as much cautious
14	those who are English language learners here in	14	conservatism to the budget that they presented
15	Talbot County. These students need and deserve	15	to you guys, because I sit in some of those
16	specially trained staff who can meet their	16	committees that talks about that, and we nickel
17	needs. I'm concerned that with the still	17	and dime and penny pinch and get creative and
18	remaining gap between what TCPS has requested	18	look for free things. I don't want to do free
1.0	remaining gap between what TCF3 has requested		<u> </u>
19	and what the County has committed to fund, I	19	things any more. I want to buy all of it

recruit to be a doctor. When we talk about from these girls right here. That's where they're going to come from. The number you need to add to her information next year is from these girls right here. That's where they're going to come from. The number you need to add to her information next year is from these girls right here. That's where they're going to come from. The number you need to add to her information next year is from these girls right here. That's where they're going to come from. The number you need to add to her information next year is from these girls right here. That's where they're going to come from. The number you nor on the income tax and property tax, nor pend per pupil. And we may not come in last any more on the income tax and property tax, thus in the seaking from my place because I'm really nervous. I live in Easton, I'm a graduate of Easton high, and I have two children that attend St. Michaels elementary. But tonight. How speaking. MR. LESHER: Thank you. We have Megan Berman followed by April Motovidliak. MEGAN BERMAN: My mare is Megan Berman. MIGAN BERMAN: My mare is Megan Berman. Berman followed by April Motovidliak. MEGAN BERMAN: My mare is Megan Berman. MIGAN BERMAN: My mare is Megan Berman. Berman followed by April Motovidliak. MEGAN BERMAN: My mare is Megan Berman. Berman followed by April Motovidliak. MEGAN BERMAN: My mare is Megan Berman. Berman followed by April Motovidliak. MEGAN BERMAN: My mare is Megan Berman. Berman followed by April Motovidliak. MEGAN BERMAN: My adress is 26334 Areadin Shores. And I'm going to read right from my phene because I'm really nervous. I live in Easton, I'm agnius to read right from my phene because I'm really nervous. I live in Easton, I'm agnius to read right from the Job middle faston high, and I have two children that attend St. Michaels elementary. But to sight. How address is 26334 Areadin Shores. And I'm going to read right from the Seases Shefasin from my phene because I'm readly nervous. I live in Easton, I				
growing our own, I want the doctors to come from these girls right here. That's where they're going to come from. The number you need to add to her information next year is SI1 million. Whatever she comes to you with, you just add \$11 million. That closes the gap between us and Howard County and what they spend per pupil. And we may not come in last any more on the income tax and property tax, lour I'm okay with that if it means we get to come in first in employer and first on district. If I have a couple more seconds, I want to point out that the number one school in the United States of America funds their teachers at \$138,000 a year. Our starting better. And our \$300,000 house, the \$52,000 employee can't buy that. So let's do a little better in 2026. Peace be with you for this year. Thank you very much. Page 27 MR. LESHER: Thank you. We have Megan Hordina between us and Howard County and what they ging to read right from my hone because I'm really nervous. I live in Easton, I'm a graduate of Easton high, and I have two hildren that attend St. Michaels elementary. But to alight I'm speaking from my role as a reading tutor at SMES. Year to year my job depends on funding from the County, like so many other positions. Maryland Senate Bill 734 mandates that students st understed and tested and those with reading difficulties receive interventions. We screen all students in K through three with a test called Dibbles three times a year. Based on Dibbles we decide if students in grades one through three meet tier one or tier three intervention. Sorry, tier two or tier three. Tier two students receive Page 29 MR. LESHER: We have two mics here so the uniformation next year is and those with reading difficulties receive interventions. We screen all students in K through three with a test called Dibbles three times a year. Based on Dibbles we decide if students in grades one through three meet tier one or tier three intervention. Sorry, tier two or tier three. Tier two students recreive interventions in grades one th		Page 26		Page 28
3	1	recruit to be a doctor. When we talk about	1	tonight. I love speaking.
they're going to come from. The number you need to add to her information next year is \$11 million. Whatever she comes to you with, you just add \$11 million. That closes the gap between us and Howard County and what they spend per pupil. And we may not come in last any more on the income tax and property tax, any more on the income tax and property tax, any more on the income tax and property tax, any more on the income tax and property tax, to but I'm okay with that if it means we get to come in first in employer and first on the United States of America funds their the United States of America funds t	2	growing our own, I want the doctors to come	2	MR. LESHER: Thank you. We have Megan
5 need to add to her information next year is 6 \$11 million. Whatever she comes to you with, 7 you just add \$11 million. That closes the gap 8 between us and Howard County and what they 9 spend per pupil. And we may not come in last 10 any more on the income tax and property tax, 11 but I'm okay with that if it means we get to 12 come in first in employer and first on 13 district. If I have a couple more seconds, I 14 want to point out that the number one school in 15 the United States of America funds their 16 teachers at \$138,000 a year. Our starting 17 salary is \$2. I think we can do a little 18 better. And our \$300,000 house, the \$\$2,000 19 employee can't buy that. So let's do a little 20 better in 2026. Peace be with you for this 21 year. Thank you very much. Page 27 MR. LESHER: We have two mies here so 2 we can get the next person queued up behind 3 them. Hazel Walters is here and followed by 4 Megan Berman. HAZEL WALTERS: Good evening, County 6 Council members. My name is Hazel Walters and 7 I'm a student at Chapel District. Thank you 8 for letting me speak tonight. Chapel has 9 amazing clubs that kids use to start the 10 project of who they want to be and I'm proud of 11 that, My present teacher, Ms. Shaw is so nice 12 but she needs enough money to do what she needs 13 to do. My first grade teacher was amazing 14 because she had the power to make kids learn. 15 My kindergarten teacher was amazing because she had the power to make kids learn. 16 is kind, sweet and knowing to be. And a long, long time ago in Pre-K I learned that Chapel is an excellent place to live. And I want all of 19 TCPS to have the same experience. What I'm 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 typing to say i'ch me angly hero size in season, I'm a graduate of Easton high, and I have two children that attend St. Michaels elementary. 21 dealty are in last attend St. Michaels elementury. 22 but to significant the attend St. Michaels elementury. 23 but to significant the County, like so many other positions. Murpland Se	3	from these girls right here. That's where	3	Berman followed by April Motovidliak.
Sil million. Whatever she comes to you with, you just add \$11 million. That closes the gap between us and Howard County and what they spend per pupil. And we may not come in last of the minimum of the income tax and property tax, and the pr	4	they're going to come from. The number you	4	MEGAN BERMAN: My name is Megan Berman.
you just add \$11 million. That closes the gap between us and Howard County and what they spend per pupil. And we may not come in last 9 spend per pupil. And we may not come in last 10 any more on the income tax and property tax, 10 any more on the income tax and property tax, 11 but I'm okay with that if it means we get to 12 come in first in employer and first on 13 district. If I have a couple more seconds, I 13 many other positions. Maryland Senate Bill 734 mandates that students are screened and tested 15 teachers at \$138,000 a year. Our starting 16 teachers at \$138,000 a year. Our starting 17 salary is \$2. I think we can do a little 18 better. And our \$300,000 house, the \$52,000 18 times a year. Based on Dibbles where decide if 19 students in grades one through three meet tier one or tier three interventions. We screen all students in K 19 through three with a test called Dibbles three 19 times a year. Based on Dibbles we decide if 19 students in grades one through three meet tier one or tier three intervention. Sorry, tier 19 two or tier three. Tier two students receive 10 two or tier three. Tier two students receive 11 in-class, small group instruction while tier 12 three are pulled by reading tutors for small 13 group instruction. There are 153 students in grades one through three meet tier 15 in-class, small group instruction. There are 153 students in grades one through three is 52. The number of students currently receiving tier two interventions in grades one through three is 52. The number of students currently receiving tier two interventions in grades one through three is 52. The number of students currently receiving tier three is 42. That means that 61 percent of our students from grades one through three is 52. The number of students currently receiving tier two interventions three times a week for 30 minutes. Ideally a small group intervention students in small group interventions three times a week for 30 minutes. Ideally a small group should be four students or less. Without tutors, my be w	5	need to add to her information next year is	5	My address is 26334 Arcadia Shores. And I'm
spend per pupil. And we may not come in last any more on the income tax and property tax, any one any in the tax and those with reading title and those with reading difficulties receive interventions. Maryland Senate Bill 734 mandates that students are screened and tested and those with reading difficulties receive interventions. Maryland Senate Bill 734 mandates that students are screened and tested and those with reading difficulties receive interventions. Maryland Senate Bill 734 mandates that students are screened and tested and those with reading difficulties receive interventions. Maryland Senate Bill 734 mandates that students are screened and tested and those with reading difficulties receive interventions. Maryland Senate Bill 734 mandates that students are screened and tested and those with reading difficulties receive interventions. Nor year. Page 27 to though there with a test called Dibbles we d	6	\$11 million. Whatever she comes to you with,	6	going to read right from my phone because I'm
9 spend per pupil. And we may not come in last any more on the income tax and property tax, but I'm okay with that if it means we get to come in first in employer and first on 12 come in first in employer and first on 13 district. If I have a couple more seconds, I 13 district. If I have a couple more seconds, I 14 want to point out that the number one school in 15 the United States of America funds their 16 teachers at \$138,000 a year. Our starting 17 salary is \$2. I think we can do a little 18 better. And our \$300,000 house, the \$52,000 employee can't buy that. So let's do a little 19 better in 2026. Peace be with you for this 21 year. Thank you very much. 19 Page 27 I MR. LESHER: We have two mics here so we can get the next person queued up behind 3 them. Hazel Walters is here and followed by 4 Megan Berman. 5 HAZEL WALTERS: Good evening, County 16 Council members. My name is Hazel Walters and 7 I'm a student at Chapel District. Thank you 8 for letting me speak tonight. Chapel has a mazing clubs that kids use to start the 10 project of who they want to be and I'm proud of 11 that. My present teacher, Ms. Shaw is so nice 12 but she needs enough money to do what she needs 12 to do. My first grade teacher was amazing 16 is kind, sweet and knowing to be. And a long, 16 long time ago in Pre-K I learned that Chapel is an excellent place to live. And I want all of 19 TCPS to have the same experience. What I'm 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is a mazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 trying to say is Chapel i	7	you just add \$11 million. That closes the gap	7	really nervous. I live in Easton, I'm a
any more on the income tax and property tax, but I'm okay with that if it means we get to come in first in employer and first on district. If I have a couple more seconds, I district. If I have a couple more seconds, I want to point out that the number one school in that. My present teacher, Ms. Shaw is so nice but she needs enough money to do what she needs and those with reading tutors, my lob depends on funding from the County, like so many other positions. Maryland Senate Bill 734 mandates that students are screened and tested and those with reading difficulties receive many other positions. We screen all students in K through three with a test called Dibbles three times a year. Based on Dibbles we decide if students in grades one through three meet tier one or tier three intervention. Sorry, tier two or tier three. Tier two students receive true or tier three intervention. Sorry, tier two or tier three are pulled by reading tutors for small group instruction. There are 153 students in grades one through three is 1 in-class, small group instruction. There are 153 students in grades one through three is 2 three are pulled by reading tutors for small group instruction. There are 153 students in grades one through three is 1 in-class, small group instruction. There are 153 students in grades one through three is 25. The number of students currently receiving tier two interventions in grades one through three is 25. The number of students currently receiving tier two interventions in grades one through three is 25. The number of students currently receiving tier two interventions in grades one through three is 25. The number of students currently receiving tier two interventions in grades one through three is 25. The number of students currently receiving tier three is 42. That means that 61 percent of our students from grades one through three is 25. The number of students currently receiving tier three is 42. That means that 61 percent of our students from grades one through three is 25. The number of student	8	between us and Howard County and what they	8	graduate of Easton high, and I have two
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an excellent place to live. And I want all of TCPS to have the same experience. What I'm trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 18 completely change. I wouldn't be able to co-plan with teachers, progress monitor 20 students, track data, assess students, et	16	is kind, sweet and knowing to be. And a long,	16	minutes. Ideally a small group should be four
TCPS to have the same experience. What I'm co-plan with teachers, progress monitor trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 students, track data, assess students, et	17	long time ago in Pre-K I learned that Chapel is	17	students or less. Without tutors, my job would
20 trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want 20 students, track data, assess students, et	18	an excellent place to live. And I want all of	18	completely change. I wouldn't be able to
	19	TCPS to have the same experience. What I'm	19	co-plan with teachers, progress monitor
21 it to stay that way. Thank you for your time 21 cetera. I would become an interventionist	20	trying to say is Chapel is amazing and I want	20	students, track data, assess students, et
	21	it to stay that way. Thank you for your time	21	cetera. I would become an interventionist

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	Page 30		Page 32
1	versus a reading specialist. Having tutors	1	and primed her for a premed major at Salisbury.
2	allows my role to be much more focused on the	2	My youngest daughter is a junior who opted to
3	whole school. Without tutors I would be seeing	3	transfer from our local St. Michaels high
4	students constantly. I see the progress	4	school to Easton high school last year enabling
5	students make in small groups. I bond with	5	her to play both field hockey and lacrosse.
6	them, I root for them, and I celebrate with	6	Current research has shown how supports
7	them when they succeed. With such a focus on	7	positively influences students academic
8	testing and scores and students falling behind,	8	performance and overall education. Athletes
9	schools depend on being well-funded to provide	9	learn to develop routines to accommodate their
10	services for students to succeed. I hope you	10	sporting commitments which translate into
11	consider fulfilling the request of TCPS for the	11	disciplined study habits. Having the ability
12	sake of our students. Thank you.	12	to juggle multiple responsibilities effectively
13	MR. LESHER: Thank you. April Motovidliak	13	is a vital skill that contributes to academic
14	followed by Kim Gibbons Neff.	14	success and later in professional life.
15	APRIL MOTOVIDLIAK: Good evening. My name	15	Similarly time management skills fostered
16	is April Motovidliak, a graduate of Talbot	16	through sports enables students to utilize
17	County public schools. Presently I serve my	17	their time more efficiently leading to improved
18	community as an acute care nurse practitioner	18	academic performance. In addition, sports
19	for hematology and oncology. Likewise I have	19	plays a significant role in mental health and
20	recently served four years on the Talbot County	20	well-being which is closely linked to effective
21	School Board, therefore I personally know what	21	learning and academic performance. This
	Page 31		Page 33
1	it is to be awarded funding for a large	1	activity increases blood flow to the brain,
2	project, projects such as before you. I think	2	improving concentration, memory and classroom
3	it's safe to say that most of you know who I	3	behavior. Also teamwork and social skills
4	am, but something you may not know is that I	4	developed in sports directly apply to group
5	once was a lost teen-ager without direction.	5	projects and collaborative tasks in academic
6	The initial goal of my freshman year was where	6	settings. Students who participate in sports
7	is the party. Consequently I received two	7	learn how to work effectively as part of a
8	alcohol citations within the first month of	8	team. Participation in sports plays a crucial
9	school. I was headed down the wrong road	9	role in cultivating leadership skills among
10	rapidly. Fortunately my guidance counselor at	10	students which can greatly benefit their
11	that time, Debbie McLean, who also happened to	11	academic and future professional life. These
12	be the field hockey coach who later recruited	12	leadership experiences in sports help student
13	me to her hockey team. Playing field hockey	13	development, confidence, initiative, and the
14	led to basketball followed by softball,	14	ability to influence and guide others. Now who
15	ultimately turned me into a three sport athlete	15	would have thought the skills and attributes
16	now with a new focus on school, studies and my	16	developed on the playing fields can be a
17	attendance, because you had to make the grade	17	valuable asset in the classroom, helping
18	and attendance to play the game. Next fast	18	students achieve academic excellence and
19	forward to 2024. I'm a busy parent of two	19	preparing them for future challenges and higher
20	student athletes. My oldest played field	20	education and beyond. Today a
21	hockey in high school and at Goucher College	21	once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has occurred.
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	Page 34		Page 36
1	The Make A Wish Foundation has so graciously	1	skillset but the speed of the game can not be
2	granted Elgin's selfless wish, a potential turf	2	mimicked in practice when you're playing on
3	field, keeping in mind she could have wished	3	grass. We have upgraded to Bermuda grass
4	for a multitude of other things which would not	4	fields, which is much better than when I
5	have benefited this county or its students.	5	played, however the fields are not maintained
6	This deal, this gift, could be the gift that	6	properly. Our grass gets cut once, maybe twice
7	will keep on giving by engaging and ultimately	7	a week when the guy who cuts it tells me that
8	saving young lives in the community just like	8	it should be getting cut every other day. In
9	mine was several years ago. I would also like	9	the budget it's not allowed, he can't come.
10	to point out that Queen Anne County has four	10	There are bumps, holes, and uneven areas that
11	turf fields as well as many of our surrounding	11	cause athletes to trip, turn their ankles, and
12	counties. And I would also like to request	12	allow the ball to fly up, which can be very
13	that funds be specifically earmarked for the	13	dangerous in field hockey. I've seen a lot of
14	turf field as opposed to lumping it in with	14	goose eggs because of the ball being out of
15	capital projects and allowing the school board	15	control from hitting a divot. A turf field is
16	to pay. Thank you.	16	level and provides a much smoother surface to
17	MR. LESHER: Thank you. Following Kim	17	allow more control of the ball. I have been a
18	Gibbons Neff we have Lesli Creedon.	18	resident of this County my whole life and I
19	KIM GIBBONS NEFF: Hello. My name is Kim	19	love it. It's a small town living at its
20	Gibbons Neff. I live at 9721 Little Clovelly	20	finest. The one thing that I do believe is
21	Lane in Easton. I have been the Easton high	21	missing is supporting our kids. I watch my
	Page 35		Page 37
1	school field hockey coach for the past two	1	girls come to practice after a long day at
2	years. I have been blessed with getting to	2	school, they put their shin guards on and
3	know Elgin and her passion for field hockey and	3	cleats on with a smile and they head out to the
4	life. Elgin has been an inspiration to me and	4	field two hours a day, five days a week. They
5	her teammates. Her wish for a turf field for	5	then go home to complete their homework to get
6	the Easton high school complex is one of the	6	up and do it again the next day. And most of
7	most selfless acts I've witnessed. Elgin wants	7	my girls have part-time jobs where they go in
8	to leave a legacy for her fellow athletes and	8	the evenings after practice and on the
9	I'm here to give her 100 percent of my support.	9	weekends. They put their time in and have
10	I honestly don't understand why we have to	10	earned the right for us to support them in
11	fight so hard and for so long to bring a turf	11	their efforts. I look around this County and I
12	field to Talbot County. Not only will it	12	have seen really great things happening.
13	benefit the entire community, the schools, the	13	There's lots of pickleball courts, there's even
14	restaurants, the hotels, the shops for allowing	14	a dog park with artificial turf. Got to admit
15	tournaments to happen, practices from other	15	that one stung a little bit. These are amazing
16	teams, et cetera, but it will allow our	16	additions to our County but they are not geared
17	athletes to complete with the surrounding	17	towards our youth. We need to show our kids
18	counties who have already put turf fields in	18	that they are important to us and that we care
19	their schools and communities. I have watched	19	about them. Remember, these kids are the ones
20	my girls play teams with turf fields and we're	20	who will be taking care of you and me in the
21	always a half step behind. We have the	21	future. In the end I just want to see a fair
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1	chance for all the kids in Talbot County.	1	actually go on and live through and beyond
2	Bringing a turf field into the Easton high	2	their illness and credit the wish as a turning
3	school stadium would build a sense of pride in	3	point in their medical journeys. We want that
4	our kids. Let's show them that we support them	4	for Elgin. Elgin, excuse me. I think it's
5	and Elgin's wish for a turf field. Elgin was	5	also very important to know that a wish takes
6	dealt a hand that not many of us will ever have	6	an entire community. We have 350 volunteers
7	to deal with. I think the least we can do is	7	across the state including those who are
8	to make her wish come true. Thank you. I	8	working with Elgin and her family, and we also
9	think a few of my girls might have signed up	9	have two other children currently in Talbot
10	thinking it was a sign-in sheet and not	10	County who are waiting for their wish to come
11	speaking. So there might be a couple on there	11	true. We have partnered with other city
12	that might just waive and say	12	governments for children who have wished to
13	MR. LESHER: They can waive. That's fine.	13	have playgrounds in the past. The average cost
14	Following Lesli Creedon, we have Ricky	14	of a wish here in Maryland is \$10,000. That
15	Vitanovec.	15	doesn't even include staff time or overhead.
16	LESLI CREEDON: Good evening. I'm Lesli	16	We would love we would love to be able to
17	Creedon. I'm the President and CEO of Make a	17	fully fund this wish ourselves, but obviously
18	Wish for the Mid-Atlantic out of Bethesda,	18	it would come at a cost of the wishes of many,
19	Maryland. We are the local chapter of the Make	19	many, many other children being delayed and
20	a Wish of America Foundation and we're	20	receiving their life changing and life
21	responsible for granting wishes to all children	21	transforming wish. We would pledge I
	Page 39		Page 41
1	two and a half to 18 years old who have a	1	know my understanding is there is a gap of
2	qualifying diagnosis in Maryland, the entire	2	about \$186,000 right now to fully fund this
3	State of Maryland, D.C. and Northern Virginia.	3	appropriation. We could put in 60. I know
4	Every year there is about 450 children that	4	it's not very far, but if you could come up
5	qualify for our programs and every single one	5	with the rest, we will have some skin in the
6	of them gets their wish. Not many of those	6	game here. We want to be able to tell Elgin's
7	children do the selfless thing that Elgin has	7	story for many generation and to inspire other
8	done and wish to give her wish to others and to	8	children. You know, one of the things when I
9	her community. And I'm here tonight to just	9	think about the community impact of a wish, we
10			
	offer my support and encouragement and beg you	10	talk about mental and emotional well-being and
11	offer my support and encouragement and beg you to fully fund the appropriation that is needed	10 11	talk about mental and emotional well-being and a community coming together to support a child.
11 12			
	to fully fund the appropriation that is needed	11	a community coming together to support a child.
12	to fully fund the appropriation that is needed to make this wish come true. A lot of people	11 12	a community coming together to support a child. Being here tonight, I also realize that the
12 13	to fully fund the appropriation that is needed to make this wish come true. A lot of people think that wishes are just a nice thing to do	11 12 13	a community coming together to support a child. Being here tonight, I also realize that the impact of a wish here in this room has pulled
12 13 14	to fully fund the appropriation that is needed to make this wish come true. A lot of people think that wishes are just a nice thing to do for children. It's a warm and fuzzy feeling.	11 12 13 14	a community coming together to support a child. Being here tonight, I also realize that the impact of a wish here in this room has pulled these young ladies actively, productively
12 13 14 15	to fully fund the appropriation that is needed to make this wish come true. A lot of people think that wishes are just a nice thing to do for children. It's a warm and fuzzy feeling. But there is ample and growing peer reviewed	11 12 13 14 15	a community coming together to support a child. Being here tonight, I also realize that the impact of a wish here in this room has pulled these young ladies actively, productively participating in civil discourse and democracy.
12 13 14 15 16	to fully fund the appropriation that is needed to make this wish come true. A lot of people think that wishes are just a nice thing to do for children. It's a warm and fuzzy feeling. But there is ample and growing peer reviewed medical research on the impact of a wish and	11 12 13 14 15	a community coming together to support a child. Being here tonight, I also realize that the impact of a wish here in this room has pulled these young ladies actively, productively participating in civil discourse and democracy. And my gosh, what an example that they are
12 13 14 15 16 17	to fully fund the appropriation that is needed to make this wish come true. A lot of people think that wishes are just a nice thing to do for children. It's a warm and fuzzy feeling. But there is ample and growing peer reviewed medical research on the impact of a wish and how it improves a child's mental, emotional and	11 12 13 14 15 16	a community coming together to support a child. Being here tonight, I also realize that the impact of a wish here in this room has pulled these young ladies actively, productively participating in civil discourse and democracy. And my gosh, what an example that they are setting for all of us here tonight. So I hope
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	to fully fund the appropriation that is needed to make this wish come true. A lot of people think that wishes are just a nice thing to do for children. It's a warm and fuzzy feeling. But there is ample and growing peer reviewed medical research on the impact of a wish and how it improves a child's mental, emotional and physical well-being. Fewer hospital stays just	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	a community coming together to support a child. Being here tonight, I also realize that the impact of a wish here in this room has pulled these young ladies actively, productively participating in civil discourse and democracy. And my gosh, what an example that they are setting for all of us here tonight. So I hope you'll take that into account too. And thank

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I	Page 42	1	Page 44
	MR. LESHER: Thank you. Following Mr.	1	is there right now. But I will also say that
2	Vitanovec we have Joanne Folsom.	2	the lights that are in the auditorium, the
3	RICKY VITANOVEC: H there. My name is	3	system that is there, the way it's connected,
4	Ricky Vitanovec and I am representing Talbot	4	that it's not just the lights for the stage.
5	County public schools. I just wanted to first	5	Once once the dimmer panel goes, the
6	of all say thank you for allowing us to have	6	auditorium is basically useless because there
7	this public forum. I am the theater teacher at	7	will not be any lights in there for the house,
8	Easton high school as well as the choral	8	for anything, because that's the way it is
9	teacher. And having just finished directing	9	situated. So I am asking, we did get a we
10	the musical Footloose and the theme of that	10	have asked for an \$800,000 grant for that to be
11	show being a community coming together, it's	11	fully funded, and that estimate was done more
12	amazing seeing all of this come together. So	12	than 18 months ago, so hopefully that will
13	thank you for having this opportunity for	13	cover everything that needs to that needs to
14	everyone. I just want to thank you all for the	14	go in there. Obviously I speak on behalf of
15	1.5 million that you've given for the capital	15	the arts and theater departments. But a lot of
16	projects. I am here asking for a specific	16	people don't realize how much goes on in the
17	project very near and dear to my heart, and	17	Talbot County auditorium that just so happens
18	that would be the Talbot County auditorium	18	to be at Easton high school. Some of those
19	housed at Easton high school the lighting	19	examples. Of course shows, which are near and
20	system that is there. The lighting system at	20	dear to my heart, for Easton high school,
21	Talbot County has not been updated since the	21	Easton middle school. Band and choir concerts
	Page 43		Page 45
1	early 90's and it is on its last leg. And it	1	for Easton high school and Easton middle
2	is in a place where they don't make the parts	2	
		_	school. All the elementary programs for Easton
3	to even fix the system that is currently there	3	elementary, for Chapel District elementary, as
3 4	to even fix the system that is currently there any more. And I know a lot of people, and I'm		
	-	3	elementary, for Chapel District elementary, as
4	any more. And I know a lot of people, and I'm	3 4	elementary, for Chapel District elementary, as well as White Marsh, their holiday concerts,
4 5	any more. And I know a lot of people, and I'm going to try to make it as simple as I can, but	3 4 5	elementary, for Chapel District elementary, as well as White Marsh, their holiday concerts, their spring concerts, all of those things.
4 5 6	any more. And I know a lot of people, and I'm going to try to make it as simple as I can, but the way a lighting system works, we have the	3 4 5 6	elementary, for Chapel District elementary, as well as White Marsh, their holiday concerts, their spring concerts, all of those things. Community band. My community theater group,
4 5 6 7	any more. And I know a lot of people, and I'm going to try to make it as simple as I can, but the way a lighting system works, we have the lighting fixture, which I will say thank you to	3 4 5 6 7	elementary, for Chapel District elementary, as well as White Marsh, their holiday concerts, their spring concerts, all of those things. Community band. My community theater group, Crashbox, does summer camps there, performances
4 5 6 7 8	any more. And I know a lot of people, and I'm going to try to make it as simple as I can, but the way a lighting system works, we have the lighting fixture, which I will say thank you to Talbot County for providing lights back in 2005	3 4 5 6 7 8	elementary, for Chapel District elementary, as well as White Marsh, their holiday concerts, their spring concerts, all of those things. Community band. My community theater group, Crashbox, does summer camps there, performances there. We just had an All-shore band concert
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4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	any more. And I know a lot of people, and I'm going to try to make it as simple as I can, but the way a lighting system works, we have the lighting fixture, which I will say thank you to Talbot County for providing lights back in 2005 when there was only six there when I started in 2003. So instruments, fixtures were provided, but the lights plug in to a plug, or circuit, and that circuit runs to a dimmer panel. The dimmer panel is the brains of the system. The brains almost like a fuse box if you will. The fuse box, the dimmer panel, then runs to the lighting board, which is basically the switches. The dimmer panel right now is	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	elementary, for Chapel District elementary, as well as White Marsh, their holiday concerts, their spring concerts, all of those things. Community band. My community theater group, Crashbox, does summer camps there, performances there. We just had an All-shore band concert there. We of course have the Waterfowl Festival that has their world championship duck calling there. Talbot County public schools opening day that invites the community and all of our partners to the auditorium to be part of that amazing celebration. If you haven't been there, it is truly, truly uplifting. As well as Easton high school's graduation. I would and as the person that usually is the first on
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1	directly from Elgin where she described her	1	together for a cause greater than ourselves.
2	aneurysm, her perseverance and her recovery and	2	This is what community looks like. Yes, you
3	her motivation for this wish. You have	3	are in the presence of something grand. Please
4	directly witnessed her drive and selflessness	4	take it in. And finally, the miracle that is
5	to get this field and see it through. Anyone	5	my daughter Elgin Hawley, this lovely talented
6	in her Army can tell you about her compassion	6	athlete of generous spirit sitting before you
7	and resolve both on and off the field. From	7	who survived when nobody thought she would, who
8	the beginning this Council has seen and heard	8	has remained true to herself when nobody
9	from her parents, her mom making sure you know	9	thought she could, and whose grit and humility
10	all of these things not only about Elgin but	10	continues to astound. You are in the presence
11	about how a turf field could transform our	11	of this miracle who puts her life out into the
12	community. And you have also heard from her	12	world so that others can shine. What a gift.
13	dad telling you about the impact of Elgin's	13	What a gift for all of us to be a part of.
14	injury on her family and those around her,	14	Please honor this gift and make her wish come
15	especially Elgin's Army who you see here	15	true by fully funding the field. Thank you.
16	tonight. But perhaps what we lack or have not	16	MR. LESHER: Thank you. After Ryan
17	really thought about is seeing this journey	17	Chandler we have Michael Hawley.
18	through Elgin's eyes. Every day I see this	18	RYAN CHANDLER: My name is Ryan Chandler.
19	amazing young woman who is overcoming the odds	19	Address is 8289 Gannon Circle here in Easton.
20	through effort, determination and heart. And	20	What a tough act to follow I must say to start.
21	all without negativity or regret. Elgin	21	So good afternoon Board Members, academics,
	Page 51		Page 53
1	continues to teach me so much. Most	1	friends and most importantly our miracle. I'm
2	importantly she has taught me to see beyond my	2	Ryan Chandler, father of three girls that have
3	pain, beyond her pain. She has taught me to	3	or will graduate from Easton high. I'm a huge
4	keep going, to fight and never give up. While	4	proponent of sport and all it does for its
5	I'm sure she gets sad and frustrated because of	5	participants. I'm the husband to the coach
6	her physical limitations, she sure doesn't show	6	that introduced Elgin to the sport of field
7	it. She is the first to support someone else	7	hockey and one simple outlet that morphed into
8	who is struggling and continues to mentor young	8	a passion and formed her into the person she is
9	ones in becoming field hockey greats. I'm left	9	today. By now you've heard of E's story and
10	wondering if those around her know how much she	10	the miracle that she has experienced to
11	has been through and how truly amazing she is.	11	overcome that awful tragedy. This evening I'm
12	And then I look around this room and I smile.	12	planning to share a few thoughts that
13	So I guess the best I can do to convince you	13	officially join and officially join the
14	one last time to fully fund the turf field is	14	movement imploring you to make the right
15	to leave you with two things: This view and	15	decision and grant her wish. I read an article
16	the miracle. This view. Please take it in.	16	recently from Psychology Today that discussed
17	Of the up and coming athletes, the coaches,	17	the link of comradery and competitiveness.
18	Elgin's Army, Make A Wish, and the community	18	There were life changing aspects of sport
19	who have come together and all supported us	19	mentioned that I feel our school administration
20	from the beginning. Take it in, the love in	20	may be looking past based on the state of our
21	this room. This is the very best of us coming	21	facilities. Examples cited include a sense of

	Page 54		Page 56
1	security and belonging, boosting confidence,	1	jerseys when they are playing, but not today.
2	promoting cooperation, and enhancing the	2	She didn't have that jersey on, just her pads.
3	enjoyment and fun associated with being part of	3	So she was sleeveless, guns on full display.
4	something bigger and more important than one	4	Her pads were all black. She looked like a
5	self. While we're lobbying you to enhance our	5	warrior ready for battle. I sat there in awe.
6	athletic field and level up to our competition,	6	She was diving, charging, yelling, and saving
7	the byproduct will help produce more confident,	7	shots left and right. With each dive my awe
8	proud, selfless happier kids. Like E. They	8	turned into shear happiness. Her confidence
9	will go on to be better humans. Let's turn the	9	was overflowing. The commitment and work she
10	page and embrace what athletics can do for our	10	had put in was front and center. She had
11	kids and it starts by providing the right tools	11	arrived and she was ready to put her stamp on
12	for them to do the job. The most competitive	12	the game. You know the timeline what occurred
13	field hockey teams in Easton's conference have	13	later that summer. Here we are today. So back
14	turf fields. The path to the state finals is	14	to this turf field and the opportunity that you
15	played on turf. The speed and fundamental	15	have. To build it in her honor would represent
16	skills of the game when played on turf compared	16	the true love, compassion, growth, confidence,
17	to a bumpy grass field I liken to you guys	17	pain, suffering, commitment, comradery,
18	doing your job with an old tower PC paired with	18	dedication and selflessness she has experienced
19	a 100-pound monitor connected to the internet	19	along her field hockey journey. Through all of
20	via dial-up. Advance to the next level of your	20	the hell she has experienced, providing a field
21	career using those tools while your competitors	21	for those to come I imagine will feel like
	Page 55		Page 57
1	are running state of the art Mac books using	1	redemption for her. Help her lay down the
2	gigabyte internet connections, can you field	2	legacy that was so inexplicably ripped away.
3	your confidence growing, are you ready to	3	Give her that feast. I have never heard E
4	conquer the world. A turf field is that	4	
	_	4	express anger or frustration about this
5	Macbook for our kids. Trying to respect our	5	express anger or frustration about this horrendous circumstance. Well, dammit I'm mad
5	Macbook for our kids. Trying to respect our time constraints, I call out I cut out a few		
	• • •	5	horrendous circumstance. Well, dammit I'm mad
6	time constraints, I call out I cut out a few	5	horrendous circumstance. Well, dammit I'm mad for her and I'm frustrated, but I'm just a
6 7	time constraints, I call out I cut out a few fun memories but I would like to share my	5 6 7	horrendous circumstance. Well, dammit I'm mad for her and I'm frustrated, but I'm just a voice. You are a catalyst, or could be. Help
6 7 8	time constraints, I call out I cut out a few fun memories but I would like to share my favorite of E's hockey career thus far. It	5 6 7 8	horrendous circumstance. Well, dammit I'm mad for her and I'm frustrated, but I'm just a voice. You are a catalyst, or could be. Help secure E's legacy and be the one to transcend
6 7 8 9	time constraints, I call out I cut out a few fun memories but I would like to share my favorite of E's hockey career thus far. It took place at Sussex Academy, a high school in	5 6 7 8 9	horrendous circumstance. Well, dammit I'm mad for her and I'm frustrated, but I'm just a voice. You are a catalyst, or could be. Help secure E's legacy and be the one to transcend Easton Warrior athletics to the next level in
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6 7 8 9 10 11	time constraints, I call out I cut out a few fun memories but I would like to share my favorite of E's hockey career thus far. It took place at Sussex Academy, a high school in Delaware with multiple turf fields in mid June 2021. The club field hockey coach was	5 6 7 8 9 10	horrendous circumstance. Well, dammit I'm mad for her and I'm frustrated, but I'm just a voice. You are a catalyst, or could be. Help secure E's legacy and be the one to transcend Easton Warrior athletics to the next level in E's name. She deserves it. MR. LESHER: Thank you. We have
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	time constraints, I call out I cut out a few fun memories but I would like to share my favorite of E's hockey career thus far. It took place at Sussex Academy, a high school in Delaware with multiple turf fields in mid June 2021. The club field hockey coach was hosting a practice in partnership with the University of Connecticut to help expose the players to collegiate coaches. It had been a few months since I saw Elgin play, but given my daughter was part of the club, just in a different age bracket, I always looked for her at these events. It took me a few minutes to	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	horrendous circumstance. Well, dammit I'm mad for her and I'm frustrated, but I'm just a voice. You are a catalyst, or could be. Help secure E's legacy and be the one to transcend Easton Warrior athletics to the next level in E's name. She deserves it. MR. LESHER: Thank you. We have Mr. Hawley. He is the last person to have signed up. If there are others who wish to speak, you may come up to the other microphone and be queued up after Mr. Hawley. MICHAEL HAWLEY: Good evening. I'm going to be reading this on behalf of Mayor Cook. She prepared a letter, she couldn't be here,

Page 58 1 Hawley spoke regarding her daughter Elgin's 2 wish for a multipurpose turf field at Easton 3 high school studium. Elgin's wish is so close 4 to becoming a reality. Elgin's wish is so close 4 to becoming a reality. Elgin's wish is so close 5 ancurysm while on the Easton high school field 6 hockey field on August 18th, 2021 and knows 7 firsthand the benefits of having a turf field 8 for her fellow and future students. Elgin's 9 Army has been working hard to see her dreams 10 come true. With this in mind. I'm asking that 11 you consider support for efforts to secure a 12 turf field for Easton high school and its 13 adhletes. Please consider funding to make 14 Elgin's wish a reality in funding for the turf 15 field in Talbot County school's upcoming 16 budget. The future of our athletes and their 17 well-being is not only Elgin's wish but a wish 18 for our entire community. Thank you for your 19 consideration. Sincerely, Megan J. Cook. And 20 I'll just add something from dad here if you 21 give me a second to change gears. We have 21 providence of the girls. And as the 22 and the well-being of the girls. And as the 3 community part of it, I think I told you guys 4 at the first one, I came in here to the Eastern 5 Shore out of the military after a 22 year 5 stint. Been deployed to all sorts of places, 21 all sorts of things that I came in, did not 22 want to leave the military, was not comfortable 23 with it, I wanted to stay forever. And I came 24 to the Eastern Shore. And I don't know if you 25 to the Eastern Shore. And I don't know if you 26 see behind me. A great group of people who saw 27 thank the Council members. Thank you 28 thank the Council members. Thank you 39 traile And know the Council members. Thank you 40 for post of the girls Army that the council members. Thank you 41 fall be bard border reality. Elgin's Army that the council members. Thank you 41 for post time, and we really about the swe please and the really and to see the frames 42 food venting the did border producil and it did how.		T done freating (
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4 at the first one, I came in here to the Eastern 5 Shore out of the military after a 22 year 6 stint. Been deployed to all sorts of places, 7 all sorts of things that I came in, did not 8 want to leave the military, was not comfortable 9 with it, I wanted to stay forever. And I came 10 to the Eastern Shore. And I don't know if you 11 guys know it but you're a hard nut to crack. 12 But we came in here and the biggest thing that 13 we had to break down those walls to get the 14 angry Master Sergeant out of me and get into 15 the next chapter was this group of people who saw 16 see behind me. A great group of people who saw 17 me through the worst tragedy that my family has 18 ever gone through. It's these places where 19 we can gather as a community and they can break 20 down the walls and I can break down the walls 20 five colors of the Blueprint into our 5 priorities and they too are in place for 6 student access. With funding last year we were able to hire additional social workers, we now be have two career counselors that partner with 10 the workforce development board. Most recently 10 they spearheaded two very successful career 11 fairs that were held at both high schools. A 12 reading specialist is on board to assist 13 students not yet proficient in ELA. We have 14 math coaches to assist teachers with using the 15 best research-based teaching practices. We are 16 celebrating two newly nationally board 17 certified teachers and 38 that are pursuing. 18 We have an additional multilingual teacher and 19 multilingual navigator to assist students and 20 families with what they need for school	2	and the well-being of the girls. And as the	2	recruiting and retaining highly qualified and
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down the walls and I can break down the walls 20 families with what they need for school	18	ever gone through. It's these places where	18	We have an additional multilingual teacher and
	19	we can gather as a community and they can break	19	multilingual navigator to assist students and
21 to account them and growth during a country and 21 margin W. and a local Parking CVIII.	20	down the walls and I can break down the walls	20	families with what they need for school
21 to accept them and everybody can accept one 21 success. We received accreditation of White	21	to accept them and everybody can accept one	21	success. We received accreditation of White

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1	Marsh elementary school and Easton elementary	1	instructional software. All of the data that
2	school Pre-K programs, and we're still at the	2	we're inputting and monitoring is being done
3	top of the list for having high graduation	3	tediously by one person creating pivot tables
4	rates. Our celebratory list could go on and on	4	in Excel. Having software that can give us the
5	but I know my time is limited. What we're	5	data quickly can afford us the opportunity to
6	seeing with the data is for grades three	6	validate our practices or change our course of
7	through five in ELA we decreased by 24 percent	7	action more quickly and efficiently. It will
8	students that are in the lowest performance	8	also round the 2.8 million to three, giving
9	level. In grades seven and eight we showed an	9	3 million over what was mandated. By aligning
10	average of 32 percent increase scoring	10	research, practice and progress we can catalyze
11	proficient in ELA. For high school, an 8.7	11	tangible improvements in student outcome
12	increase in students being proficient. For	12	ensuring that each student receives the support
13	math, in grades three through algebra one, the	13	they need and deserve to thrive. I look
14	number of students with disabilities that are	14	forward to ending our school year just as
15	being proficient has increased by 42 percent.	15	strong as we started by transforming and
16	There was a 47 percent increase in the number	16	performing through leading and learning
17	of students earning passing scores on AP	17	together as a district community. I implore
18	mathematic assessments. At the conclusion of	18	you to continue joining our learning walks,
19	the school year we will have a final report out	19	engaging with us during our joint work
20	of our data points connected to our priorities.	20	sessions, and inquiring with any questions or
21	We're making strides with our students thanks	21	concerns you have along the way. I have no
	Page 63		Page 65
1	to our dedicated staff. And it is teacher	1	doubt that our continued partnership will
2	appreciation week so we want to thank our staff	2	continue to flourish as we focus on the common
3	and teachers that work hard for the success of	3	commitment of educating out Talbot County
4	our students. You have joined with me, myself,	4	public school students. And I would be remiss
5	my board, and we have had a few collaborative	5	if I didn't recognize my leadership team who
6	interactions this year. I have invited you to	6	are here that help me do the work. So if they
7	our learning walks to see firsthand the	7	could stand in the back. I know they are all
8	wonderful things taking place in our schools	8	sitting in the back. Or waive. That's the
9	and you've joined me with that. We have	9	TCPS leadership team that helped me get the
10	conveyed the story of our work being done and	10	work done. So thank you for your time.
11	still need to do during the budgeting process.	11	MR. LESHER: Doctor Pepukayi, could you
12	And I'm ecstatic that you made education one of	12	briefly just repeat, the 200,000
13	your priorities in your budget strategy. Your	13	SHARON PEPUKAYI: Technology software.
14	fiscal year 25 budget appropriation includes	14	MR. LESHER: Thank you.
15	2.8 million above what was mandated through the	15	SHAUNAH BEULAH: Thank you. My name is
16	funding formula and an additional 1.5 million	16	Shaunah Beulah, and sadly I don't live in
17	for capital projects. And I thank you for	17	Talbot County. I live in Federalsburg in
18	that. While I know you are mindful of the	18	Caroline County. But I'm the branch manager of
19	impact on the citizens of Talbot County, and	19	the St. Michaels library of the Talbot County
20	that's to be commended, I'm asking for an	20	Free Library system. And I want to take the
21	additional 200,000 which could pay for our	21	opportunity to thank all of you for your
		-	

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	Page 66		Page 68
1	support, and board members, for the library,	1	it's absolutely instrumental for students to
2	particularly our project for expanding and	2	have a strong library to be successful, and the
3	renovating in St. Michaels. Listening to all	3	transformative aspects we have is fundamental.
4	of the things that the school system, we do	4	But in addition to that I think we are one if
5	support them and partner with them as well	5	not the most diverse in terms of the audiences
6	through all the things that we have. And one	6	that we serve within our community. We have a
7	of the things we're proud of is that all of the	7	large number of individuals that come in a
8	students in Talbot County schools have a	8	variety of ways to import and relate to the
9	library card, and they are able to certainly	9	work we're doing. Essentially one of the
10	use our electronic resources but they can also	10	things that's different is I think people prior
11	use that card to check out materials. So we're	11	to the pandemic saw the library as a repository
12	glad to be able to do that. But I do want to	12	of books and now they really understand that
13	thank all of you again for your support for the	13	it's an activity to work around them in a wide
14	library and how much we appreciate that and we	14	variety of ways. We're able to provide
15	look forward to that renovation and having a	15	resources through multiple intelligence,
16	wonderful new building and area in St.	16	through multiple languages, through a wide
17	Michaels.	17	variety of resources, and through the expansion
18	MARY PELLICANO: Hi, my name is Mary	18	we're going to be able to do that in a much
19	Pellicano. 28789 Outram Street, Easton. I am	19	better way. I know it's been a long time,
20	the treasurer for the Board of Trustees for the	20	we've delayed it over many years, but through
21	library. I too want to thank you for the	21	your generosity we're able to leverage this
	Page 67		Page 69
1	unwavering support of the library system	1	support from the state, so thank you very much.
2	through the years. As our president said this	2	MARY PELLICANO: I also think you should
3	afternoon, that we're coming up on our 100 year	3	do that turf field.
4	anniversary and you guys have been great	4	JASMINE HEATH: My name is Jasmine Heath.
5	supporters throughout the whole time, even	5	I live at 29064 Superior Circle. I would like
6	though you don't really look that old. But	6	to change support of in changing our field
7	thanks for your support. And recognizing that	7	to be a turf field. Because I am in the
8	the library is a place for life-long learning	8	marching band and I play flute. And Elgin is
9	and an investment in the library is an	9	still in the marching band but she plays
10	investment in the community. And thank you for	10	saxophone. And being in the marching band has
11	being responsive to the community in St.	11	been challenging since our field is different
12	Michaels and funding their expansion and we	12	from every other field that we have been at.
13	hope to see you there for the groundbreaking in	13	It's a very different feeling of being on
14	the fall. Thank you.	14	bumpy, not great grass that is always unkept.
15	ROBERT FORLONEY: My name is Robert	15	It has held us from practice, performances. It
16	Forloney. I live at 101 West Marengo Street in	16	has held us back a lot. There has been
17	St. Michaels. I'm the vice president of the	17	injuries because of it. And changing it would
18	Board of Trustees for the library. I just want	18	benefit not only the sports and everyone else's
19	to again thank you all for your support. As a	19	activity and all that, but it would definitely
20	former public high school and middle school	20	benefit the marching band. So it would be
21	teacher and now as a professor I can tell you	21	great to change it. In the beginning

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	Page 70	1	STATE OF MARYLAND	Page 72
1	BRAXTON CANE: At the beginning of the	1 2	I, David Corbin, a Notary Public in and	
2	year		for the State of Maryland, do hereby certify	COLDICH
3	MR. LESHER: Introduce yourself.	3	that the within named, TALBOT COUNTY MEETING, personally appeared before me	
4	BRAXTON CANE: Sorry. I'm Braxton Cane.	4	time and place herein set according to law, v	
5	I live at 312 Sycamore Avenue here in Easton.	5	interrogated by counsel.	
6	I think at the beginning of the at the		I further certify that the examination was	
7	beginning of the year we weren't able to	6	recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed from my stenographic notes to the	ne
8	practice our field show because they were	7	within printed matter by means of	
9	taking care of the fields. With a turf field	8	computer-assisted transcription in a true and accurate manner.	ı
10	that would change that so we would be able to	9	I further certify that the stipulations contained herein were entered into by couns	el
11	be more prepared for competitions and such.	10	in my presence.	CI
12	MR. LESHER: Thank you. Thank you.	11	I further certify that I am not of counsel to any of the parties, not an employee of	
13	Anybody else. Any other takers. The record on	12	counsel, nor related to any of the parties, no	r
14	the budget remains open. Written comments will	13	in any way interested in the outcome of this action.	
15	be accepted by the County Council until Friday,	14	AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Sea 13th day of May, 2024, at Centerville, Mary	
16	May 9th at noon. E-mailed comments can be sent	15	13th day of May, 2024, at Centervine, Mary	ianu
17	to publiccomment@TalbotCountyMD.gov. And bill	16	Darl C. Cecl	
18	number 1553, this budget ordinance, is eligible	17	ANST.00	
19	for a vote on Tuesday, May 28th, 2024. Thank	18	David C. Corbin Notary Public	
20	you all for your input tonight. Thank you all	19	rodary rubite	
21	for your thoughtful input. And even if you	20 21 M	Ty commission expires November 13, 2027	
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1	haven't spoken, we have seen your presence.			
2	Thank you all for being here.			
3	(Meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.)			
	(Weeting concluded at 8.20 p.m.)			
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