



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

August 10, 2021

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

August 10, 2021; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Frank Divilio

Corey W. Pack

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's get ready to</p> <p>4 get started. I want to welcome everybody</p> <p>5 tonight.</p> <p>6 We're going to stand for the Pledge of</p> <p>7 Allegiance and our Vice President is going to</p> <p>8 do the prayer tonight for us.</p> <p>9 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 Nice prayer. Appreciate that.</p> <p>12 Okay. Let's get started on the agenda.</p> <p>13 The Council has an agenda in front of us. Is</p> <p>14 there any additions, deletions, or corrections</p> <p>15 to the agenda?</p> <p>16 MR. DIVILIO: I would like to ask that we</p> <p>17 amend the agenda under the county manager's</p> <p>18 report to add letter D, Council support for a</p> <p>19 letter for BAAM's application for community</p> <p>20 legacy application for construction of their</p> <p>21 academic center.</p>	<p>1 there any deletions, additions, deletions, or</p> <p>2 corrections to the minutes? Hearing none, the</p> <p>3 chair moves that the minutes be accepted as</p> <p>4 unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>5 Next would be disbursements of August the</p> <p>6 3rd and August the 10th. Council has had a</p> <p>7 chance to review the disbursements of the 3rd</p> <p>8 and the 10th of August. Are there any</p> <p>9 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>10 disbursements? Hearing none, the chair moves</p> <p>11 that the disbursements be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>12 consent. Okay.</p> <p>13 Now we have the pleasure of introducing</p> <p>14 our new emergency director, Mike McAdams, to</p> <p>15 the public.</p> <p>16 So would you please come on up? Good</p> <p>17 evening.</p> <p>18 MR. McADAMS: Good evening.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate you coming here.</p> <p>20 Appreciate you taking the job.</p> <p>21 MR. McADAMS: Thank you very much. I'm</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 MR. LESHER: Second.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Who seconded, Pete?</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: Seconded.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, can you</p> <p>5 call the vote.</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: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There is a motion</p> <p>15 and a second for approval of the agenda as</p> <p>16 amended. Madam Secretary, we're good? Okay.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: By unanimous consent.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: By unanimous consent.</p> <p>19 Thank you, Corey.</p> <p>20 Next is the minutes. Council has had a</p> <p>21 chance to review the minutes of July 27th. Are</p>	<p>1 very excited to be here.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: We're very excited to have</p> <p>3 you, too.</p> <p>4 MR. McADAMS: Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Relax, smile, don't be so</p> <p>6 serious. Okay. All right.</p> <p>7 MR. McADAMS: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: The floor is yours, Mike.</p> <p>9 MR. McADAMS: I am very excited to be here</p> <p>10 with the Talbot County community. I bring a</p> <p>11 level of experience and education and</p> <p>12 relationships with folks in the community, and</p> <p>13 I'm here to serve at the Council and at the</p> <p>14 county manager's service. Thank you very much.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good, that's good.</p> <p>16 Let's open the floor to Council.</p> <p>17 Mr. Pack.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Mike, again, I join</p> <p>19 Mr. Callahan in thanking you for accepting the</p> <p>20 position. We've read your resume, and come</p> <p>21 highly recommended. And you have a wealth of</p>

Page 6

1 experience in emergency services and can't wait
 2 to work you.
 3 I know you had to hit the ground running
 4 the other day with the accident that we had
 5 here in town and respond to that.
 6 You have a very dynamic crew working with
 7 you here in the county. I want to give a shout
 8 out to Brian LeCates, who was your interim
 9 before you had taken the position. Brian has
 10 been with us some time, and he's done a
 11 wonderful job keeping things together while you
 12 were coming on board.
 13 So welcome to the community, welcome to
 14 the county government here, and I look forward
 15 to working with you for at least a couple
 16 months more while I'm here.
 17 MR. McADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 18 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: So obviously with having
 21 Director Stamp step up to the county manager

Page 7

1 and going through the resumes and trying to
 2 find good applicants for us, you know that he
 3 made sure all boxes were checked. And I feel
 4 very confident having you selected.
 5 You did great in the interviews. And I
 6 think Talbot County is very fortunate to have
 7 somebody with your level and knowledge coming
 8 here to help us out.
 9 And also, I just would like to say, I see
 10 him in the back, Mr. LeCates did an excellent
 11 job as interim. And you've got a great team
 12 and support staff underneath of you who I'm
 13 sure will make you feel right at home.
 14 So thank you and welcome.
 15 MR. McADAMS: Thank you very much. I
 16 appreciate that.
 17 And yes, Brian has made me feel, everyone
 18 has made me feel very welcome here. Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.
 20 MR. LESHNER: As you very well know, coming
 21 on here we've got important things to be doing

Page 8

1 in Emergency Services and expanding. And look
 2 forward to working with you and your leadership
 3 as we go down that path together.
 4 MR. McADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: And I'll relate to what
 6 they're talking about, about the appreciation
 7 of you taking this job. Because you
 8 interviewed, you were excellent, your career.
 9 To come here in Talbot County and share that
 10 experience with us, it's really bringing a lot
 11 to the county, it's bringing a lot to the
 12 citizens.
 13 And Brian in the back there, I want to
 14 thank you for the last month that you've been
 15 doing and you've done it a couple of times for
 16 us. We always know you're there. And you're
 17 going to make a good second man for Mike. And
 18 you're going to be there for him, too.
 19 Mr. Stamp, would you like to say
 20 something?
 21 MR. STAMP: I would love to.

Page 9

1 Mike, thanks for accepting the position.
 2 I've known Chief McAdams for a number of
 3 years and had the opportunity to work with him.
 4 And he does have a great resume. And he's
 5 looking forward to making Talbot County his
 6 home.
 7 And I thank Brian LeCates. Brian LeCates
 8 is solid as a rock, he's a rock star, and he's
 9 done a great job and will continue to do that
 10 for us.
 11 But let me just describe it like this.
 12 For all the time I served as director of
 13 Emergency Services for Talbot County, I made
 14 sure a lot of people could sleep at night
 15 because I was on watch. And so I wanted to
 16 make sure we got the right person for the job.
 17 And I can tell you that with Mike McAdams in
 18 this role, we can all sleep at night. And so
 19 it's good to have him here.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Just to let everybody know
 21 how impressive Mike is, he is a paramedic.

Page 10

1 MR. McADAMS: Correct.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: A working paramedic.
 3 MR. McADAMS: Correct.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: He will be out there on
 5 site.
 6 So we're really blessed to have a hands-on
 7 type of director like yourself. So appreciate
 8 it. If you need anything from the Council,
 9 we're here and we welcome you.
 10 MR. McADAMS: Thank you very much.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You're done.
 12 MR. STAMP: He'll be back in a few minutes
 13 asking for money.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.
 15 MR. McADAMS: Thank you.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: The next on the agenda is
 17 an update from the Neighborhood Service Center
 18 on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
 19 Ms. Marilyn and I think she has is it Antonio,
 20 yup.
 21 Welcome, guys. How are you?

Page 11

1 MR. THOMAS: Good.
 2 MS. NEAL: Good, good.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.
 4 MS. NEAL: And happy to be here to...
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: We're happy to have you.
 6 MS. NEAL: Give an update.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Happy to have you guys.
 8 MS. NEAL: So while Jessica is getting
 9 things set up, I am so grateful not to have to
 10 do much talking tonight. Antonio is going to
 11 talk.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.
 13 Thank you.
 14 MS. NEAL: But before he does, I would
 15 like to give you an update on some of the
 16 things that he won't cover in his presentation.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.
 18 MS. NEAL: As of today, we have disbursed
 19 \$601,789.17 of the ERAP funding.
 20 We have been doing all kinds of outreach.
 21 But starting on yesterday, we started doing 30

Page 12

1 30-second commercials on WCEI and WINX. And
 2 they will air Monday through Friday. And you
 3 can hear Mr. Thomas tomorrow morning at 8:20 do
 4 a live interview on WCEI.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 6 MS. NEAL: Yes.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Don't be nervous now.
 8 MS. NEAL: I will introduce Mr. Antonio
 9 Thomas. He is our ERAP coordinator.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Welcome.
 11 MR. THOMAS: Thank you. So hi. My name
 12 is Antonio Thomas, and I'm the Emergency Rental
 13 Assistance Program coordinator.
 14 And I would like to thank Ms. Marilyn Neal
 15 for all the help that she has given our program
 16 because I don't even know if we would be
 17 thriving without her.
 18 So I would like for each and every person
 19 in here to imagine a world where people have no
 20 assistance. And because of that, they get
 21 evicted from their homes. And that was the

Page 13

1 world we were living in before the ERAP
 2 program.
 3 The Emergency Rental Assistance Program
 4 not only helps families with rental, utilities,
 5 storage fees, as well as home cleanings. If
 6 you were sick with COVID, we can clean your
 7 home as well. And home reelection, just in
 8 case your house is overcrowded.
 9 May 3rd I had started the program. And
 10 since then, we've been helping outreach to the
 11 people of Talbot County. And they've been
 12 really responding to it. Yes.
 13 So the requirements to be a part of the
 14 ERAP program is, one, if you're receiving other
 15 government assistance, such as food stamps,
 16 energy assistance, which Neighborhood Service
 17 Center provides, and/or if you believe you are
 18 affected by COVID directly or indirectly, as
 19 well as providing pay stubs, anything that
 20 shows your income.
 21 And this is how we determine if you're

Page 14

1 eligible. If you're under or at the 80 percent
 2 AMI, we are able to help the people of Talbot
 3 County.
 4 So far in July, since July, we did
 5 461,000. Now we have spent, what was it again,
 6 600,000 something. But by next month, 800,000
 7 will be spent.
 8 How have we done this outreach? We've
 9 gone to many different events such as
 10 Juneteenth. And not only that, we made our own
 11 events by doing outreach each and every week to
 12 the people of Talbot County, as well as helping
 13 them fill out the applications for those who
 14 are unable to due to literacy and many
 15 different things.
 16 So far April 1st, before I had started,
 17 they had helped somebody, one person. And then
 18 May, we received 32 applications due to the
 19 outreach that we have done. But we were able
 20 to help nine people during that month. But in
 21 the next month, we helped 53 people but

Page 15

1 received 128 applications and we had 75
 2 applications pending at that time for approval.
 3 So the ERAP program ethnicity is for
 4 Hispanic is 91 percent Hispanic and
 5 nine percent non-Hispanic. For race, it's 64
 6 percent African American, 32 percent white, and
 7 two percent Asian.
 8 I believe 49 percent is reduction in
 9 wages, 14 percent is qualifies for
 10 unemployment, and 30 percent incurred
 11 significant costs.
 12 The ERAP program helps families stay in
 13 their homes. And this is an amazing program
 14 that I believe if you know anybody who is
 15 suffering from COVID indirectly or directly,
 16 please send them to the Neighborhood Service
 17 Center for help as soon as possible.
 18 Thank you. That's all.
 19 MS. NEAL: Any questions?
 20 MR. THOMAS: Any questions?
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Antonio. That

Page 16

1 was great. Mr. Pack.
 2 MS. NEAL: I do believe, if I can go
 3 ahead.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Marilyn.
 5 MS. NEAL: I think he confused the
 6 Hispanic, it is nine percent and 91 was
 7 non-Hispanic.
 8 MR. THOMAS: Nine percent. Okay, yes.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: That's okay.
 10 Go ahead, Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Well, Mr. Thomas, nice to meet
 12 you.
 13 MR. THOMAS: Nice to meet you as well.
 14 MR. PACK: Ms. Neal, it's always a
 15 pleasure to be in your presence, of course.
 16 Rental assistance is a big deal. When we
 17 look at homelessness, not just here in Talbot
 18 County, but across the State of Maryland, it is
 19 still a problem trying to make sure we keep
 20 persons in their homes.
 21 If we can find any assistance, as you were

Page 17

1 saying, Mr. Thomas, we should certainly work to
 2 do that to make sure that we put the dollars in
 3 the hands of these individuals and in the hands
 4 of the landlords so we can keep people in their
 5 home.
 6 A stable environment also translates into
 7 a more stable home and a more stable family.
 8 The children do better in school if they're in
 9 a stable home. They do better as far as their
 10 performance and the general community, if
 11 they're not moving from house to house.
 12 So this program has a lot more trickle
 13 down effects when you look at the whole dynamic
 14 of the community and the family unit.
 15 So pleasure meeting you and wish you much
 16 success in your new position.
 17 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
 18 MS. NEAL: And I would like to add one
 19 more thing. Even though we have a lot of
 20 money, there is a lot of people that don't fit
 21 the criteria for ERAP based on their...

Page 18

1 MR. PACK: Can you go back to that slide?
 2 Mr. Thomas kind of went quick on that slide. I
 3 think it was slide number three. No. Back
 4 two, please.
 5 MS. NEAL: So I would just like to say
 6 that because of the support of the Council, we
 7 have been able to fill a lot of those gaps that
 8 wouldn't fall under ERAP or our CSBB Cares.
 9 And the Neighborhood Service Center,
 10 representing Talbot County, is one of five
 11 agencies that started paying out subsidies
 12 prior to receiving the first allotment of
 13 funds.
 14 MR. PACK: And these funds are paid
 15 directly to the utility or to the landlord,
 16 correct?
 17 MS. NEAL: Yes. However, they can be
 18 paid, if the landlord, because unfortunately
 19 some landlords will not accept funding, federal
 20 funding. So we can pay it to the tenant and
 21 they can pay it directly to the landlord.

Page 19

1 MR. PACK: The landlord won't accept
 2 money.
 3 MS. NEAL: Sometimes they won't.
 4 MR. PACK: Go figure.
 5 MR. THOMAS: We have cases where some
 6 tenants owe tons of money before March of 2020.
 7 But many landlords have waived fees before
 8 then, but some are unwilling to waive the fees.
 9 So because of that, some are unable to be
 10 helped.
 11 MS. NEAL: The majority of the landlords
 12 work for the tenant.
 13 We paid a \$20,000 subsidy out to one
 14 landlord, but he waived \$9,000 of back rent.
 15 But they do work with us to keep their tenants
 16 housed.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: So thank you for coming in
 19 and presenting tonight.
 20 Over and over again, I consistently hear
 21 that the Neighborhood Service Center is serving

Page 20

1 a community that it's never served before,
 2 individuals who never needed help, never asked
 3 for help.
 4 You think about how hospitality heavy our
 5 industry is here and how easy it's always been
 6 to go find a quick job, bartending, waiting
 7 tables, making some extra money when tough
 8 times come.
 9 Well, tough times came, and those
 10 industries were closed or not hiring or shifts
 11 were changed.
 12 So I greatly appreciate this organization
 13 stepping up. When you think rent checks, food,
 14 electrical bills being paid, that's all coming
 15 through Ms. Neal's organization there.
 16 And I need to address the treasurer for
 17 that organization. Mrs. Cook is in the back of
 18 the room as well and does a fantastic job for
 19 us as well. I appreciate that.
 20 But I want to make sure that the community
 21 knows where to turn. Because as we said, a lot

Page 21

1 of people don't necessarily know. They may
 2 have dropped off food here before but didn't
 3 realize they could go back and get it or all
 4 the different things that are done through the
 5 Neighborhood Service Center.
 6 So probably the easiest way to address
 7 that and explain it is look in your mailboxes
 8 because there's a letter coming out to
 9 everybody letting them know all the things that
 10 the Neighborhood Service Center has done.
 11 CARES relief has touched 4,612 people. Utility
 12 payments, almost 1,100 payments; heating
 13 assistance, 1,107; 980 people in the food
 14 pantry. These are big numbers for a small town
 15 and small community. And these are people that
 16 you know.
 17 And there's no stress like financial
 18 stress. And that's what a lot of people are
 19 going through right now.
 20 So when you get the letter letting you
 21 know all the wonderful things that the

Page 22

1 Neighborhood Service Center does, I just hope
 2 that you would tear off the bottom and send it
 3 back with the check that it's asking for, as
 4 well as going to the Facebook page.
 5 And check out the Facebook page and the
 6 website and share that as much as you can
 7 because, again, these are individuals who are
 8 not comfortable asking, don't know where to
 9 ask, and are terrified. So share it, help get
 10 the word out, let people know that help is
 11 there regardless of income. We don't want
 12 anybody starving, being hungry, or losing their
 13 house.
 14 So thank you for all the work that you do.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 16 MS. NEAL: Thank you.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: One second. Hold up for a
 18 second. We got the vice president here to
 19 speak tonight. Don't run off yet.
 20 MR. PACK: Mr. Divilio, you sound like a
 21 board member now.

Page 23

1 MR. CALLAHAN: By the way, Frank is on the
 2 board. You do a good job. Appreciate it.
 3 MR. LESHER: Question. We have received
 4 over \$2.4 million for this program. The
 5 eligible, the costs, this can be costs that go
 6 back to the beginning of the COVID crisis, back
 7 to March of 2020, as you noted in your
 8 presentation.
 9 Have they defined how long? I mean
 10 obviously not everybody is out of this crisis
 11 yet. We're not out of this crisis yet. Have
 12 they defined how long rental costs will be
 13 eligible for this program and when we need to
 14 have these funds expended by or does the money
 15 continue until the funds run out?
 16 MS. NEAL: So I think we have until
 17 February of '22 with this funding. And I have
 18 so many different pots in my head, I hope I'm
 19 telling you correct. But it's February of '22.
 20 MR. LESHER: Okay. Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

Page 24

1 MR. PACK: Which is not that far off.
 2 MS. NEAL: No.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Thomas, you've done a
 4 great job here, and we really appreciate you
 5 being here with us and doing a great job.
 6 And Ms. Neal, I really appreciate
 7 everything you're doing for the community and
 8 we're blessed to have you guys here helping
 9 people.
 10 MS. NEAL: Thank you.
 11 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.
 13 Up next, we're going to the Talbot County
 14 Department of Social Services on Child Advocacy
 15 Center and other programs. Ms. Linda Webb, how
 16 are you?
 17 MS. WEBB: I'm doing well. Thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good. I see you
 19 brought somebody with you.
 20 MS. WEBB: I did. I brought the expert.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go, there you go.

Page 25

1 That's a smart lady there.
 2 MS. MORRIS: Just keep clicking. Perfect.
 3 Thank you.
 4 MS. WEBB: All right. Thank you so much
 5 for having us here this evening. And I did
 6 bring with me Katie Pedersen. She is the
 7 supervisor for Child Protective Services at the
 8 Department of Social Services. She also
 9 supervises the staff of the Children's Advocacy
 10 Center.
 11 You know, the Department of Social
 12 Services does a lot. We provide adult and
 13 child welfare services, we provide economic
 14 support, and we provide child support services.
 15 But one of the things that we do that not many
 16 in the community know about is the Talbot
 17 County Children's Advocacy Center.
 18 I think that as you hear the presentation
 19 that we go through in the coming minutes,
 20 you'll realize that this is a difficult subject
 21 to discuss, but it is one that is necessary if

Page 26

1 we are to continue building community
 2 resilience, which I know is important to
 3 everyone in Talbot County.
 4 So what is a Children's Advocacy Center?
 5 A Children's Advocacy Center provides a
 6 comprehensive response through a
 7 multidisciplinary team of professionals to
 8 children who have suffered sexual abuse and
 9 their non-offending caregivers. Now, you'll
 10 hear us refer to non-offending caregivers a
 11 couple of times during this presentation, and
 12 it is an important distinction.
 13 Unfortunately, most of the time that
 14 children suffer sexual abuse, it is perpetrated
 15 by an individual that is close to them.
 16 Sometimes it's a parent, sometimes it's a close
 17 family friend, a boyfriend or girlfriend of a
 18 parent.
 19 So when we're providing services through
 20 the CAC, which is what we call the Children's
 21 Advocacy Center, we support not just the child,

Page 27

1 but their non-offending caregiver.
 2 Throughout this presentation, you will
 3 see, it's a little blurry on the screen, but I
 4 will read them to you, you'll see some notes
 5 that were written to the Children's Advocacy
 6 Center by children and/or their parents who
 7 participated in some of our activities.
 8 This particular activity was a challenge
 9 course. As you might imagine, when a child
 10 suffers sexual abuse, it is not just the child
 11 who experiences trauma, but it is their family
 12 as well. And so the challenge course gives
 13 kids and their caregivers an opportunity to
 14 work together toward a common goal and kind of
 15 repair and rebuild those bonds that sometimes
 16 are harmed when a child is abused sexually.
 17 So this one says thank you so much. I had
 18 a great time. I challenged myself and stepped
 19 outside my comfort zone. Hope to come again.
 20 And there's a little heart at the bottom.
 21 MS. PEDERSEN: So the CAC is a model as

Page 28

1 well as a physical space. So the space is a
 2 child friendly space where we do exams and
 3 interviews, but it really is a model.
 4 So this was developed -- before CACs,
 5 children were interviewed. They may disclose
 6 in school and they tell their teacher. Then
 7 the teacher told the guidance counselor and
 8 they were called to the guidance counselor's
 9 office and the guidance counselor interviewed
 10 them. Then the guidance counselor called Child
 11 Protective Services and we responded to the
 12 school and we interviewed them. Then we called
 13 law enforcement, and then law enforcement
 14 interviewed the child. Then law enforcement
 15 contacts the State's Attorney and they
 16 interviewed the child.
 17 So the CAC is a location where we bring
 18 the child. And model is that we try to do the
 19 least amount of interviews as possible. And
 20 all of those team members are present during
 21 the interviews. So law enforcement is in

Page 29

1 another room. They can ask us questions,
 2 things we need to clarify, information they
 3 need to obtain for charges. So it really
 4 minimizes the trauma that the child experiences
 5 after they've already experienced a traumatic
 6 event.
 7 MS. WEBB: So we are extremely fortunate
 8 in Talbot County to have outstanding
 9 partnerships, and those partners are critical
 10 to the sustainability of the Children's
 11 Advocacy Center.
 12 The Talbot County Department of Social
 13 Services provides a family advocate. This is a
 14 full-time position that provides support to the
 15 child and their family in many ways, which
 16 we'll talk about in a moment.
 17 We provide a Children's Advocacy Center
 18 coordinator, who is a specially-trained
 19 forensic interviewer and coordinators the
 20 multidisciplinary team and the forensic
 21 examination and interviews and other services

Page 30

1 provided.

2 Katie is a full-time supervisor of those

3 staff. We have a program manager that oversees

4 the programming and grant writing and those

5 kind of things. And we provide all of those

6 administrative functions, grant writing,

7 tracking and reporting for the grants and for

8 other funding.

9 We are extremely fortunate to have had an

10 18-year relationship with the hospital.

11 Currently, University of Maryland Shore

12 Regional Health. They provide us with a

13 physical location. They provide sex abuse

14 nurse examiners, known as SANE nurses. They

15 provide medical equipment and laboratory

16 services, all at their expense.

17 MS. PEDERSEN: We also utilize other

18 partnerships in the community. So we have the

19 MDT, which is our multidisciplinary team. And

20 it consists of our family advocate, which Linda

21 spoke about is an employee of Social Services.

Page 31

1 She works with the family from the moment they

2 step in the door through whenever they need

3 her. So she can stay with the family through

4 the prosecution. We have families that reach

5 out to her.

6 We just had a sexual trafficking victim

7 that we served five years ago who now is an

8 adult and was in a domestic violence situation

9 and contacted the family advocate and said this

10 is the situation I'm in. And she was able to

11 help connect that now adult to services.

12 We work with Child Protective Services.

13 So this is our CPS team that is employed at

14 Social Services, as well as our State's

15 Attorney's Office. So we have one attorney

16 that represents the adult cases and one that

17 works with our juvenile offenders.

18 And then we work with all of our law

19 enforcement. So the Sheriff's Office, MSP,

20 Easton Police, St. Michaels, Oxford.

21 We have our health professionals, which

Page 32

1 consists of physician, our medical director,

2 and our nurses. And then we also have mental

3 health providers.

4 So the services that we offer are we

5 provide forensic interview, which is an

6 interview that's conducted in a child friendly

7 way. We're trained to elicit information from

8 children that's factual with non-leading

9 questions. We're training in development,

10 child development. So we understand what type

11 of questions children can ask. And when law

12 enforcement says hey, well, we need a time

13 frame, we can say, well, this is their age,

14 they're actually not going to be able to give

15 us a time frame, this is the best they're going

16 to be able to give us or depending on what kind

17 of information they need.

18 We provide the forensic medical exam. So

19 we provide this for the five counties, the

20 midshore region. So the other counties do

21 have -- some of the counties have CACs, but

Page 33

1 they don't have the medical component. So we

2 write for grants to provide the medical

3 component.

4 We provide the family advocates. We

5 provide mental health and other therapies. So

6 during COVID, we have had a lot of children

7 that have engaged in virtual music therapy and

8 loved it. We've done virtual art therapy.

9 Some kids that we've referred to talk therapy

10 that have just never engaged have really

11 engaged in these alternative therapies. So

12 that's been a really good outcome of COVID.

13 We recently started an independent living

14 skills group. So we have a lot of teenage

15 girls that are victims. And our advocate was

16 spending a lot of time having conversations

17 with them about budgeting and sex education and

18 how to fill out on application and how to go to

19 an interview.

20 So we did a group where she developed a

21 curriculum and went through all of those

Page 34

1 things. And then she pulled in professionals
 2 from the community to come and present
 3 different information. So our law enforcement
 4 came and spoke about sexting and Internet
 5 safety. Our SANE nurses came and spoke about
 6 education. So that was a really neat program,
 7 was well received. All the girls loved it. We
 8 got a lot of great parent feedback.

9 We also did a team building activity that
 10 Linda spoke about. We did a challenge course
 11 where children, victims went with their
 12 non-offending caregiver and worked to build
 13 that relationship back up.

14 We just did a retreat where they went and
 15 did yoga and different alternative therapies
 16 together, and that was well received.

17 And then we also provided emergency
 18 financial assistance. So a lot of times we see
 19 where, as Linda said, this quote always hits me
 20 hard, 90 percent of sexual abuse is the person
 21 you let in your front door. So it's somebody

Page 35

1 that you have a relationship with, you love,
 2 you trust. And that's who is doing these
 3 things to children. So a lot of times this
 4 person is providing some type of financial
 5 support to the family.

6 So when they're arrested, the family is
 7 losing that income that they're using to pay
 8 for their bills. And they can apply for
 9 victim's assistance, but sometimes that can
 10 take a really long time for the process to go
 11 through. And by that point, they're looking at
 12 eviction or they're homeless (inaudible). So
 13 we're able to provide that emergency services
 14 to kind of fill some of those gaps.

15 And this was another letter that was
 16 written. It says thank you for the experience
 17 that you gave us and to show us not to be
 18 scared and to do things that we don't do all a
 19 lot in life. We all love to do fun stuff that
 20 we did today.

21 MS. WEBB: So the impact I think is

Page 36

1 greater than you might imagine. In the last
 2 two years, our family advocate provided 828
 3 sessions with children, adults, and families.
 4 In the last three years, we've served 647
 5 children and adults, we've conducted 302
 6 forensic interviews, and 82 medical
 7 examinations of child victims of sexual abuse.

8 And this note says thank you to -- for
 9 this wonderful experience. I would love to
 10 come back here again. Everyone was very sweet
 11 and kind. I love the support from everyone
 12 during the climb and the zip line. And then it
 13 says sweep and powerful, underlined and
 14 exclamation point.

15 So we talked about what the CAC is. Let
 16 me tell you what the CAC is not.

17 It is not a program that is funded by our
 18 usual government sources. So we, again, are
 19 very fortunate to have lots of support from
 20 funders and from county supporters.

21 Much of our funding comes from annual

Page 37

1 grants that we write to the Governor's Office
 2 of Crime Prevention and Youth and Victim
 3 Services. That's the new name of the
 4 Governor's Office of Crime and Control and
 5 Prevention, GOCCP, which is what you might have
 6 heard before.

7 This year, the Council provided us with
 8 some funding for the Children's Advocacy
 9 Center. So thank you so much for your
 10 investment in those children's futures.

11 Talbot Community Connections is a small
 12 nonprofit that was formed to support the CAC a
 13 number of years ago, as well as to support
 14 fill-in gaps and services that the Department
 15 of Social Services provides in the community.
 16 And they pursue lots of private grants on our
 17 behalf, including from the Midshore Community
 18 Foundation, from the St. John Foundation, Women
 19 and Girls Fund, Christmas in St. Michaels, and
 20 others.

21 The Caroline Foundation also provided us

Page 38

1 with some funding this year through the
 2 Caroline County Department of Social Services.
 3 And Easton Utilities is providing us with free
 4 Internet service at the CAC site here in
 5 Easton.
 6 If anyone is interested in more
 7 information about the Children's Advocacy
 8 Center, if you want to learn more, if you want
 9 to find out how you can help, here is our
 10 contact information.
 11 Next. And then we're open for any
 12 questions.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Linda and
 14 Katie.
 15 Mr. Pack.
 16 MR. PACK: I was just admiring the artwork
 17 there.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: I know.
 19 MR. PACK: Katie, it's a pleasure to meet
 20 you. And I know that the CAC plays a vital
 21 part, not just in the law enforcement doing

Page 39

1 that investigation, but also helping these
 2 young children and families recover and move
 3 past this traumatic event. So I certainly
 4 applaud you for all that you're doing at the
 5 CAC and continued success.
 6 Linda, I guess the CAC has been around. A
 7 remember back when April was here.
 8 MS. WEBB: Eighteen years, 2003.
 9 MR. PACK: 2003. And it's still going
 10 strong making sure that we protect these most
 11 vulnerable of our citizens and bring those
 12 perpetrators to justice quickly and as
 13 efficiently as we possibly can.
 14 So always have my support and always will
 15 have my support. So I just want to wish you
 16 all well.
 17 MS. WEBB: Thank you.
 18 MS. PETERSON: Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 20 Mr. Divilio.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: I just would like to echo

Page 40

1 Mr. Pack's words.
 2 You're dealing with some of the hardest
 3 situations to deal with, when a family has to
 4 separate with a bread winner and they're afraid
 5 to lose that income but they need to protect
 6 their child. So I'm glad to see that there is
 7 some financial assistance as well with this
 8 because that is extremely important.
 9 And I believe -- I want to make sure
 10 Mr. Pack gets the credit on this because I
 11 think this is right. Wasn't it last year that
 12 we were looking -- there was maybe a shift and
 13 it might not have stayed in the hospital or
 14 might not have been able to maintain that same
 15 partnership.
 16 But Mr. Pack, I do remember him educating
 17 me on what you were doing and what was going on
 18 and making sure that you had the support. So
 19 he definitely was working all of us to make
 20 sure we knew what you were and made sure you
 21 had the support you needed.

Page 41

1 So thank you, Mr. Pack, for keeping me in
 2 the loop.
 3 MR. PACK: And this is my board that I
 4 serve on for the Council. Full disclosure.
 5 MS. WEBB: That's right. Yeah. And we do
 6 appreciate that advocacy.
 7 Last year, we learned from the hospital
 8 that because of the change in health delivery
 9 needs of the regional hospitals, that they
 10 would no longer be able to host us in the
 11 hospital itself.
 12 But through our relationship with Shore
 13 Regional Health and with the help of others in
 14 the community, they have provided us with a new
 15 space that is absolutely amazing. It really
 16 meets the needs of the families and children
 17 that are served there. Better than the space
 18 in the hospital did, as wonderful as that was.
 19 So they have been very generous to us, and
 20 we appreciate your advocacy and your support.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: What a time to have to go

Page 42

1 through that. For them all time to --

2 MS. PEDERSEN: It has been a very long

3 year for MTD because when COVID hit, we weren't

4 able to utilize the hospital at all. So that's

5 where we had always done interviews, that's

6 where all of our equipment was. We weren't

7 even able to get out our interviewing equipment

8 at first, which is how we record the interviews

9 to bring to court.

10 So it has definitely been a long year.

11 But like Linda said, our new space is amazing.

12 Those teenagers walk in and plop down on the

13 couch like it's their house. They don't want

14 to leave.

15 Last week we had two little kids say well,

16 can we just stay here for night. And their

17 caregiver was like no, you can't.

18 So it's really -- and it's a much larger

19 space. So we now have two interview rooms. So

20 we're able to do multiple interview at a time.

21 We're able to work more with law enforcement.

Page 43

1 They are able to refer cases to us. If a child

2 witnesses a homicide or domestic violence or

3 something, we're able to assist law enforcement

4 with those interviews as well in a child

5 friendly way.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.

7 MR. LESHER: I just want to thank you for

8 educating the Council on this and, by doing so,

9 educating the public a bit more about your

10 community impact. Thank you.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, Katie and Linda, we

12 really appreciate it. Talbot County is really

13 blessed to have you and some of these families

14 that you're helping, you're doing such a great

15 job. So we're really thankful as a Council and

16 a community we have somebody like you that

17 people can go to for help. So we really do

18 appreciate it.

19 MS. PEDERSEN: Thank you, guys, for your

20 support this past year. It really does make a

21 difference in filling that gaps that a lot of

Page 44

1 our grants can't cover.

2 MS. WEBB: Absolutely. And we'll finish

3 up with this last note.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

5 MS. WEBB: Thank you for the great

6 experience and we hope to come here again.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.

8 MR. PACK: And is he on the zip line

9 there?

10 MS. WEBB: He's on the zip line, uh-huh.

11 MS. PEDERSEN: They love the zip line.

12 MS. WEBB: Unlike some of the rest of us.

13 Thanks so much.

14 MR. PACK: Thank you.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, guys.

16 Appreciate it. Okay.

17 Next up is a presentation of a request

18 from Talbot County Public Schools for fund

19 balance transfer at the high school. So we've

20 got Kevin Shafer from the school. You take

21 care of operations and stuff.

Page 45

1 MR. SHAFER: That's correct.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: And we're going to be

3 asking for some driveway work that needs to be

4 done.

5 And Ms. Kelly is here.

6 DR. GRIFFITH: I am.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: How are you doing?

8 DR. GRIFFITH: I'm wonderful.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.

10 DR. GRIFFITH: That was a blast from the

11 past. I was Katie's principal. I was also on

12 the original Social Services Department Board

13 when we opened the CAC.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. Wow.

15 DR. GRIFFITH: When you said 18 years, it

16 made me feel a little old. But yeah, it was

17 great. It's great to see Katie lead in our

18 community. It's a shame that the numbers are

19 as high as they are. But we do definitely see

20 the need in our schools, and we are glad to

21 have Katie and Linda involved.

Page 46

1 And again, Marilyn was here. And I got to
 2 meet her friend. He was trying to find County
 3 Council out there. So he was my friend coming
 4 in. So Antonio is my new friend.
 5 But actually Marilyn has been very helpful
 6 in making sure that our kids have what they
 7 need. So two great partners right before me.
 8 So before we get started about our
 9 categorical transfer, I'm not here to ask for
 10 any money. And always think that's always good
 11 to say. But what I am here to do is to share
 12 with you kind of an update on our capital
 13 projects and also share with you why it's
 14 important for us to have a fund balance in
 15 times like this so I don't have to come and ask
 16 you for money.
 17 So to begin, first of all, we are very
 18 blessed that you helped us get some capital
 19 projects approved for this year.
 20 The track. And you know, ever since I was
 21 principal of Easton High School, been asking

Page 47

1 for that track to be replaced. And finally, it
 2 was condemned. And I can say that as of the
 3 start of the school year, the track will be
 4 complete. And we will actually be able to have
 5 track and field and host those competitions at
 6 the school. So we're real excited with that
 7 work under the direction of Kevin.
 8 And the roof, because we're having a hard
 9 time getting a lot of the materials, and
 10 everybody is in the United States right now, we
 11 are not going to be able to finish the roof.
 12 We're not going to be able to do it in one
 13 summer like we thought we were going to be able
 14 to do. So we will finish that next summer.
 15 But it is going along smoothly. So I wanted to
 16 give you the update on that capital project.
 17 And that leads us to the last capital
 18 project, and that's the Easton High School
 19 parking lot paving project. And Kevin is going
 20 to kind of explain why the costs for this
 21 project, how those costs have superseded what

Page 48

1 we estimated and what you approved and explain
 2 to you a little bit about why we want to make a
 3 categorical transfer from our fund balance to
 4 pay for this cost overture and not ask you for
 5 any money in the capital project line item.
 6 Kevin.
 7 MR. SHAFER: Thank you, Dr. Griffith.
 8 Good evening, Members of Council.
 9 Just to echo what Dr. Griffith said, I
 10 want to thank the Council for all of the
 11 capital project funding that was approved for
 12 FY21 to complete this previous fiscal year.
 13 So with that said, the quick summary of
 14 the Easton High School parking lot situation is
 15 that the work called for milling of the parking
 16 lot and then repaving. When we milled a
 17 certain portion of the parking lot, it was
 18 determined that there was something called
 19 distortion taking place, which is basically
 20 just a breakdown of the blacktop underneath.
 21 So we had to mill to the soil.

Page 49

1 We came to unsuitable soils. And then we
 2 had to mitigate those soils by removing until
 3 we got to a layer that was acceptable and would
 4 allow compaction. And then the backfill stone
 5 and other materials that are used for backfill
 6 to bring it back up to grade and then to then
 7 basically even pave.
 8 So all of that as described in the letter
 9 that I sent you, the Council, on August 4th,
 10 with a tentative change order request from the
 11 contractor for the total of \$81,680 for that
 12 additional work.
 13 I want to be clear with the Council that
 14 that is still being reviewed, but that is a
 15 worst case scenario for the parking lot. I'm
 16 hoping that it's less than that, but I want to
 17 carry that number forward.
 18 It is being reviewed by the engineering
 19 firm that's also helping me with the project,
 20 and we're just basically going to reconcile the
 21 information that the contractor is providing to

Page 50

1 make sure the square yardage is correct.
 2 But that is where we're at. And in an
 3 effort to expedite this process, we came before
 4 the Council this evening to request the
 5 ability, as Kelly said, to transfer those
 6 funds.
 7 DR. GRIFFITH: And we did consult with
 8 Warren. So he's been a great partner, just so
 9 you know.
 10 And I have a board meeting tomorrow night.
 11 So I've not taken this to the board. So I'm
 12 asking for your permission for the categorical
 13 transfer pending the board's approval tomorrow
 14 night.
 15 But we really wanted to get this on the
 16 agenda so we can have everything done before
 17 school starts. And school starts on
 18 August 30th.
 19 So I did meet with Clay and Joye. Kevin
 20 and I met with them ahead of time so that we
 21 could kind of get this moving and just ask for

Page 51

1 a categorical transfer. That's where we are.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.
 3 Open it up.
 4 MR. PACK: Kevin, was Warren Edwards able
 5 to help you out with any of that CR material?
 6 The Repurposing Center that we have on 33,
 7 I know Warren has a bunch of stone and material
 8 down there. Was he able to offer you any of
 9 that CR material?
 10 MR. SHAFER: No, they did not use it for
 11 this project.
 12 And so that is one thing I would like to I
 13 guess bring to the Council's attention. It's
 14 something that's maybe partially my fault.
 15 Through the design process, this takes such a
 16 long time to design projects and get them in
 17 the works and then competitively bid them and
 18 that type of thing.
 19 Probably should have consulted Warren
 20 sooner about that because the millings from the
 21 parking lot could have gone to that site as

Page 52

1 well. And we did not do that in this. But in
 2 future projects, we certainly will want to do
 3 that.
 4 MR. PACK: And that's what we want to try
 5 to do with that Repurposing Center, is to take
 6 those items, repurpose them, refinish them, and
 7 then have them for your use as well as for
 8 other use in the county.
 9 So going forward, you might want to give
 10 Warren a ring. I know he would appreciate it.
 11 MR. SHAFER: Yes.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio, good?
 13 MR. DIVILIO: I'm good.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: You good?
 15 MR. LESHER: No questions.
 16 MR. PACK: I make a motion, Mr. Callahan,
 17 if you're ready for it.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: And I'll second.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: There's a motion and a
 20 second it to approve the request that's been
 21 submitted.

Page 53

1 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 7 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 9 MR. PACK: Aye.
 10 DR. GRIFFITH: All right. Thank you very
 11 much. We'll take it to the board tomorrow
 12 night for their approval. I'm sure they will
 13 approve.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it.
 15 DR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. And thank you,
 16 Clay. Appreciate your partnership.
 17 And welcome again, Joye.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, let's move on to the
 19 public hearing. We're a little bit behind. So
 20 the Council has a series of public hearings
 21 tonight.

Page 54	Page 56
<p>1 Madam Secretary, could you read the first 2 one into the record, please. Resolution Number 3 304, please.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 304, a 5 resolution to amend the Talbot County 6 comprehensive water and sewer plan to revise 7 chapter three, amendment procedures.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, thank you. Ray and 9 Miguel, you want to come on up.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: How you doing, Ray? 11 MR. CLARKE: Good. Yourself? 12 MR. PACK: Good. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: How you doing, Ray? 14 MR. CLARKE: Good, good. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Miguel is trying to hide 16 back there. 17 MR. CLARKE: We understand. 18 MR. PACK: Hey, Miguel. 19 MR. SALINAS: Didn't blend in well enough. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: How you guys doing? 21 MR. SALINAS: Good.</p>	<p>1 was via a five to zero vote.</p> <p>2 In addition to that, the Public Works 3 Advisory Board met later that day on 4 August 4th. And they, too, also put a motion 5 together and voted five-zero to table it until 6 the next meeting.</p> <p>7 So we would just I guess at this point in 8 time request that this be tabled or I guess 9 hold a public hearing and next month after 10 we've had the opportunity to present to the 11 Planning Commission and Public Works Advisory 12 Board.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ray. 14 Miguel, you good? 15 MR. PACK: Well, Miguel, I'm going to make 16 you say something. What was it about the 17 language in 304 that gave the Planning 18 Commission pause? 19 And I did sit with Ray in the Public Works 20 Advisory Board meeting. They tabled after the 21 Planning Commission had tabled.</p>
Page 55	Page 57
<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Give us a little bit of 2 update on --</p> <p>3 MR. CLARKE: Sure thing. Very quickly. 4 Resolution 304 looks to, again, amend the 5 amendment procedures for the comp water and 6 sewer plan.</p> <p>7 This would basically, once the Council 8 were to introduce a resolution to the comp 9 water and sewer plan, it would then give us the 10 necessary time to have it advertised for the 11 Planning Commission for their meeting the next 12 month. So it would be if you all introduced in 13 December, then it would be able to be provided 14 to the Planning Commission by the January 15 meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.</p> <p>16 Basically, for this, we have met with the, 17 I met with the Planning Commission along with 18 Miguel on August 4th. During that meeting, the 19 Planning Commission put a motion together to 20 table Resolution 304 at this point in time 21 until their next meeting. And ultimately that</p>	<p>1 There was a joint meeting later that day 2 of those two bodies.</p> <p>3 I was of the assumption that once those 4 bodies came together, they would call for a 5 vote.</p> <p>6 And this is basically just a logistic 7 moving of when it's going to be introduced so 8 that we can go through the three-week 9 advertisement process and get it back before 10 your commission so they can make a decision. 11 This actually works in the public's favor and 12 your commission's favor.</p> <p>13 So can you shed any light on why they 14 wanted to table this and not move forward on 15 it?</p> <p>16 MR. SALINAS: Sure. We did point out to 17 the commission that this amendment was purely a 18 procedural amendment. And we explained the 19 purpose of the procedural amendment, request in 20 the resolution. 21 You are correct they had a morning</p>

Page 58

1 Planning Commission meeting for their August
 2 meeting and then they had a joint session with
 3 the Public Works Advisory Board in the
 4 afternoon.
 5 They wanted to table Resolution 304, also
 6 Resolution 306 coming up. They felt that they
 7 didn't have a good understanding of the water
 8 and sewer plan and also what the impact of the
 9 procedural amendments were. And they would
 10 feel better if they made their decision after
 11 the work session was done with the Public Works
 12 Advisory Board, to then go back and then make
 13 their certification whether or not that
 14 amendment is consistent with the plan.
 15 So they just felt like they needed better
 16 understanding and more information.
 17 MR. PACK: Yeah. But just a point of
 18 order, the amendment does nothing to the
 19 Comprehensive Plan itself. It doesn't change
 20 the document. It's just a procedural matter of
 21 when we're going to introduce it.

Page 59

1 MR. SALINAS: That's correct. And we did
 2 explain that. We did. Yeah.
 3 MR. PACK: Okay.
 4 MR. SALINAS: But they still voted to
 5 table that resolution.
 6 MR. PACK: Okay.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio, you okay?
 8 MR. LESHER: No questions.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Thank
 10 you, guys.
 11 At this time, I will now open the public
 12 hearing on Resolution 304. If you wish to
 13 provide comments, please provide your name and
 14 address. You will have three minutes if you're
 15 speaking for an individual and five minutes if
 16 you're speaking on behalf of an organization.
 17 The public hearing, 304, will be continued
 18 to Tuesday, September 14th, at 6:30. At that
 19 time, we should have a recommendation from the
 20 Planning Commission and the Public Works Board.
 21 So I'm going to open it up right now. So

Page 60

1 I'm going to start here on my left. So is
 2 there anybody who would like to come forward
 3 and speak about 304? Megan, I know you do.
 4 MS. COOK: I always have something to say
 5 about everything.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Going over here to
 7 my right. Is there anybody over here that
 8 would like to speak on 304? Okay.
 9 So at this time, Madam Secretary, we'll
 10 just keep it open to September 14th, correct?
 11 SECRETARY: Well, it should be the Friday
 12 before that so I can gather comments.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 14 SECRETARY: So that would be Friday,
 15 September 10th.
 16 MR. PACK: Close it. No one is going to
 17 give comment on 304.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'll close the
 19 public hearing, then.
 20 SECRETARY: Okay.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. So we'll move

Page 61

1 on to 305. Madam Secretary, would you read
 2 that into the record. That would be great.
 3 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 305, a
 4 resolution to amend the Talbot County
 5 comprehensive water and sewer plan to
 6 reclassify and remap certain real property
 7 located at 25154 St. Michael's Road, Maryland
 8 Route 33, St. Michaels, Maryland 21663, and
 9 shown on tax map 32 as parcel 164, lot one,
 10 from unprogrammed to S-1, immediate priority
 11 status.
 12 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir. We actually
 13 received this application from Mr. and
 14 Mrs. Lytle probably about a year ago
 15 requesting to amend the comp water and sewer
 16 plan so we could extend sewer to them.
 17 Mr. and Mrs. Lytle had experienced
 18 problems I guess about two years ago with their
 19 septic system where it failed. They then had
 20 that system repaired by through the
 21 Environmental Health Office.

Page 62

1 They do have a functioning system, but
 2 Mr. Lytle, during the Planning Commission
 3 meeting, noted that they do have to pump and
 4 haul when there's a heavy rain and whatnot. So
 5 right now it looks like the drain field is
 6 hydraulically connected to I guess ground water
 7 and whatnot. So as there's rain and whatnot
 8 saturating the soils, they run into problems.
 9 Through that testimony, we did talk with,
 10 present a lot of information. And Mr. Lytle
 11 was at the Planning Commission. And the
 12 Planning Commission at their August 4th meeting
 13 put a motion together finding Resolution 305
 14 was consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and
 15 was voted on via a five to zero vote.
 16 And then later on that afternoon, the
 17 Public Works Advisory Board also reviewed
 18 Resolution 305 and ultimately put a motion
 19 together to recommend the County Council adopt
 20 Resolution 305. And that was via I guess a
 21 five-zero vote as well.

Page 63

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You want to make
 2 Miguel talk again?
 3 MR. PACK: No, not this time.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. Okay.
 5 MR. LESHER: No.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: No.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.
 8 Appreciate it.
 9 So do you need me? I thought you waved to
 10 me.
 11 SECRETARY: No.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Sorry. Sorry about that.
 13 Now I'm going to open the public hearing
 14 for 305. If you wish to provide some comments,
 15 you'll have three minutes. If you are speaking
 16 for an organization, you'll have five.
 17 So I'm going to open the public hearing.
 18 So here to the left, anybody like to come up
 19 and speak on 305? Okay.
 20 I'll go over here to my right. Anybody
 21 here need to come up and talk about 305? Okay.

Page 64

1 So at this time, we'll go ahead and close
 2 the hearing for 305.
 3 SECRETARY: Okay.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, do you
 5 want to go ahead and read Resolution 306.
 6 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 306, a
 7 resolution to amend the Talbot County
 8 comprehensive water and sewer plan to
 9 reclassify and remap certain real properties
 10 located at 1004 South Talbot Street, Maryland
 11 Route 33, St. Michaels, Maryland 21663, and
 12 shown on tax map 32 as parcel 148, and located
 13 at 1006 South Talbot Street, Maryland Route 33,
 14 St. Michael's, Maryland 21663, and shown on tax
 15 map 32 as parcel 75, from S-3, future planned
 16 area for sewer service a period six to ten
 17 years, to S-1, immediate priority status.
 18 MR. CLARKE: Very quickly on this, just to
 19 give the Council a little bit of information.
 20 Basically these lots were actually identified
 21 as part of the 1992 update of the comprehensive

Page 65

1 water and sewer plan. So technically, I mean
 2 about 30, 40 years now.
 3 But during the Planning Commission
 4 meeting, the Planning Commission on August 4th
 5 did put a motion to table this until their
 6 September 1st meeting. And that was voted five
 7 to zero.
 8 Later that morning, the Public Works
 9 Advisory Board also put forth a motion to table
 10 this until their September 1st meeting. That
 11 also passed via a five to zero vote.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good. Thank you,
 13 Ray.
 14 MR. SALINAS: And I'll just add that I
 15 think there was some conversation at the
 16 Planning Commission meeting about for them to
 17 better understand when septic systems are not
 18 considered failing, what are they looking for,
 19 what are the criteria they should be
 20 considering in terms of consistency with the
 21 Comp Plan, which is the case with this

Page 66	Page 68
<p>1 particular resolution with these two property 2 owners. And they wanted to get a better 3 understanding after the work session before 4 they made that decision. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 6 MR. PACK: Why should the failure of the 7 septic system has anything to do with the 8 designation of the lot? 9 MR. SALINAS: I would hope that the work 10 session clarified a number of things. 11 MR. PACK: Are they given the privilege of 12 counsel at these meetings? 13 MR. SALINAS: I'm sorry. 14 MR. PACK: Are they given the privilege of 15 counsel? 16 MR. SALINAS: They were for the August 4th 17 meeting, yes. 18 MR. PACK: Okay. 19 MR. SALINAS: Just to note, we will have 20 both resolutions that have been tabled, we'll 21 have them on the September agenda.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: That's okay. 2 Anybody else? 3 Anybody here on the right-hand side, 306? 4 At this time, I'm going to close it, close 5 the hearing. 6 And Madam Secretary, would you read the 7 Resolution 307 please into the record. 8 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 307, a 9 resolution to amend the Talbot County 10 comprehensive water and sewer plan to 11 reclassify and remap certain real property 12 located at 5570 Leeward Lane, Tilghman, 13 Maryland 21671, as shown on tax map 44 as 14 parcel 35, lot nine, from unprogrammed to S-1, 15 immediate priority status. 16 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir. We actually 17 received an application from this property 18 owner about six months ago. 19 Just so the public knows as well as the 20 Council knows, this is on Leeward Lane. We 21 actually have sewer both on Leeward Lane and</p>
Page 67	Page 69
<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Divilio, 2 Mr. Leshner. 3 MR. LESHER: No questions. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. At this time, 5 I'll open the floor. If you have some 6 comments, please provide your name and address. 7 I'll give you three minutes for an individual, 8 five minutes if you're representing an 9 organization. 10 So the public hearing of 306 will continue 11 Tuesday, September 14th. 12 So I'm going to open it up to 306. So 13 anybody on this side, on the left side? Yes, 14 ma'am. 15 SPEAKER: My name is -- 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Come on up. And we're 17 talking about Resolution 306. 18 SPEAKER: Sorry. Wrong resolution. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem, no problem. 20 SPEAKER: I thought you were talking about 21 an area on the court.</p>	<p>1 around Leeward Lane. So this is kind of like 2 an enclave without sewer on septic. 3 So ultimately, during the Planning 4 Commission meeting, I think we showed them. 5 There is also a waterfront lot on about 1.4 6 acres. So that we kind of identified some of 7 that information, especially to the Public 8 Works Advisory Board. 9 And ultimately, during the Planning 10 Commission meeting on August 4th, the Planning 11 Commission put forth a motion to basically find 12 that this lot or amending the comp water and 13 sewer plan for this lot was consistent with the 14 Comp Plan. And that motion was passed via a 15 five to zero vote. 16 At the Public Works Advisory Board's 17 meeting on August 4th, they also put forth a 18 motion to recommend to the County Council you 19 adopt Resolution 307. And that passed via a 20 five to zero vote. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Miguel.</p>

Page 70

1 MR. SALINAS: I have nothing further. Ray
 2 explained it well.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You good?
 4 MR. PACK: I'm just kind of puzzled as to
 5 why 307 was approved and not 306. They're both
 6 dealing with the same thing. The designation
 7 of the lot, whether the system is failing or
 8 not, has nothing to do with it. But they are
 9 given counsel. So hopefully the attorney can
 10 shed some light with that commission on that.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 12 Council.
 13 MR. LESHER: No questions.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Clarke, I'm sorry. I'm
 15 going to ask you to come back up real quick,
 16 just because we've dealt with four different
 17 similar situations here.
 18 So if you have a small lot where you don't
 19 have any space to add a new septic system,
 20 you're on the water, and the septic is failing,
 21 what does that necessarily mean?

Page 71

1 MR. CLARKE: If you're on a small lot --
 2 and one of the things, we've met with the
 3 Environmental Health many years ago on this.
 4 And if you have a lot that's let's say
 5 three acres on the water, what ends up
 6 happening, a failed septic system, typically
 7 they are going to have a hard time finding good
 8 soils that will actually perk and then dispose
 9 of it.
 10 And then at the same time, a lot of times
 11 the best soils are going to be right along the
 12 water, within that 100-foot buffer. So if they
 13 do a new drain field, it would have to be in
 14 that 100-foot buffer along the water.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: And that failed system, if
 16 they're still living there and using it, that
 17 means that they are just -- the system is not
 18 taking out the nitrogen that it should at
 19 certain levels.
 20 MR. CLARKE: One of the things I guess in
 21 this part of the county, the western portion of

Page 72

1 Talbot County where we penetrate the ground
 2 water for the disposal of the effluent from the
 3 septic system or even a denite unit, it's
 4 hydraulically connected to the ground water.
 5 So if you got a lot of rain coming in, the soil
 6 is going to become saturated. At the same
 7 time, the ground water could be coming up on
 8 you.
 9 And we were talking to our consultant
 10 today. There was a property owner out in
 11 Bozman that actually has a staff gauge that
 12 kind of is connected to their septic tank. So
 13 ultimately if the ground water table is rising
 14 on him, it will go into the red. And then
 15 that's basically an indication do not do
 16 laundry because they don't have that soil and
 17 the spacing I guess between the tank and the
 18 ground surface. A lot of times it may be only
 19 about a foot before it overflows the tank.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Ray.

Page 73

1 Thank you, Mr. Divilio. Okay.
 2 So I am going to open the public hearing
 3 on 307. If you want to provide some comments,
 4 I'll give you three minutes for individual,
 5 five minutes if you're speaking for an
 6 organization.
 7 So I'll open this side for 307. Anybody
 8 like to speak on 307 over here?
 9 Anybody on the right-hand side? Anybody
 10 like to talk about 307? Okay.
 11 So I'll close the hearing and that will be
 12 eligible for vote the next meeting. Yup, okay.
 13 All right. Next on the agenda is a
 14 presentation of the Talbot County diversity and
 15 equality statement. So Mr. Edwards, if you
 16 would bring us up to speed on how we're making
 17 out, that would be great.
 18 MR. EDWARDS: Sure. How is everybody
 19 doing?
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.
 21 MR. EDWARDS: Hi.

Page 74

1 MR. CALLAHAN: How you doing?
 2 MR. EDWARDS: So I knew you were going to
 3 ask me how long I've been here. Ten weeks.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, that's good.
 5 MR. EDWARDS: Did my homework.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: You're still here. So
 7 you're doing something right.
 8 MR. EDWARDS: So I appreciate the
 9 opportunity to provide an update to the Council
 10 regarding the diversity, equity, and inclusion
 11 statement compliance.
 12 For Talbot County employees and also for
 13 Council committee and board members, the DEI
 14 statement was adopted by Talbot County on
 15 September 12, 2020.
 16 A quick reminder, the objective of the
 17 reason to adopt the diversity, equity, and
 18 inclusion statement is to foster an environment
 19 that welcomes and accepts diversity within the
 20 county government. So that, at its core, is
 21 the mission.

Page 75

1 Administrative services has been
 2 responsible for executing the compliance side
 3 of it, and we will in the future be responsible
 4 for education campaign around this. And
 5 particularly some of the work that we're going
 6 to do with the Kantola E-learning System.
 7 We conducted an audit of the signed DEI
 8 statements. And at the end of July, the
 9 results showed that we have signed statements
 10 from 99 percent of full-time employees,
 11 71 percent for part time, and 73 percent for
 12 Council committees and boards.
 13 Since completing the audit, we collected
 14 11 of the remaining 53 outstanding forms. And
 15 I've imposed a deadline with my team to
 16 complete this, have 100 percent compliance, by
 17 August 31st.
 18 We do have a process in place. We had it
 19 from the beginning back to September where our
 20 new hires review and sign these statements in
 21 the new hire process. Very helpful,

Page 76

1 beneficial. It really demonstrates how
 2 important this is to us in an organization.
 3 And looking at the new hires, we were
 4 100 percent because we sit down with them and
 5 go through a lot of things. And that is one of
 6 our components to the new hire orientation. So
 7 it's very effective.
 8 Going forward, administrative services
 9 will conduct an annual audit in July of each
 10 fiscal year. And the results will be reported
 11 to county manager and also to County Council.
 12 Thank you. That's all I have.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great,
 14 Mr. Edwards.
 15 Open it up to Council. Mr. Pack.
 16 MR. PACK: Yeah. Mr. Edwards, thank you
 17 very much for taking on the audit. It was at
 18 my request at the last meeting that it ought to
 19 be done just to make sure that we were
 20 complying to the Council's resolution regarding
 21 the diversity and inclusion statement.

Page 77

1 And I'm very satisfied with your findings
 2 to date. It's good to see that 99 percent of
 3 full-time employees have signed that, that
 4 department heads have taken it seriously and
 5 working with your department to make sure those
 6 employees signed those statements. And not
 7 just sign them and scribble their name, but to
 8 make sure they read it and understand what the
 9 statement is actually saying.
 10 So you said you did pick up an additional
 11 53 I believe you said that were outstanding?
 12 MR. EDWARDS: Yes. So we found some that
 13 were not completed, particularly with the
 14 part-timers where we have what we call PRN
 15 status. These are folks that work occasionally
 16 for us, golf course, etc. We may not see them
 17 for several months. So I think that coupled
 18 with COVID scenario, it was a little harder to
 19 get some of that.
 20 But we have a solution around that now,
 21 which is we're going to mail and do other

Page 78

1 things.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

3 MR. PACK: It sounds like you and your

4 team are certainly on top of this and

5 addressing it.

6 I do certainly appreciate also there's

7 going to be an annual audit that goes along

8 with the annual statement presentation by

9 county manager. So we include this all

10 together as one presentation before Council.

11 MR. EDWARDS: Yup. And one thing I didn't

12 mention, I should have, is when we do the new

13 hire orientation and they read and sign it, we

14 give them a copy to take with them.

15 MR. PACK: That's good. Thank you.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Divilio, good?

17 MR. DIVILIO: It just, when you said that

18 earlier when we were going through boards and

19 committees, we always have vacancies. And I

20 was just thinking about the new hire

21 orientation. That might be an excellent

Page 79

1 opportunity to list all of the community

2 engagement clubs, organizations, nonprofits,

3 boards, committees. Just they're a captive

4 audience at that time. So it lets them know

5 who we are. And they may have good people to

6 recommend or may find one that fits well for

7 them and they can stay a little bit longer and

8 do what they do.

9 MR. EDWARDS: And it almost seems like we

10 talked before this. But one of my goals, our

11 goals in human resources, this fiscal year is

12 to really develop the on-boarding process,

13 including the new hire orientation and include

14 several other pieces to it. Because at this

15 point, we do some of it, but we're thinking at

16 some point in time it's going to resemble a

17 full day and we can incorporate whatever the

18 requests are into that day.

19 MR. DIVILIO: Sounds great.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

21 MR. PACK: Let me just, if I may,

Page 80

1 Mr. Callahan, let me just add. And the reason,

2 one of the reasons for my request last time is

3 to make sure that we are being transparent as a

4 Council.

5 We put this in place. We put it in place

6 for a reason. The last thing I wanted to see

7 is we get a PIA request from a citizen, and

8 then we go do the audit and we see that we're

9 not following up as we should. So that was

10 another reason why I wanted the audit to be

11 done for full transparency as what we're doing,

12 we're taking it seriously. We're just not

13 putting the statement in place and then

14 forgetting about it.

15 But it will be an annual review. We are

16 holding department heads accountable to make

17 sure it's done. Your office is following up on

18 those part-timers and seasonal employees to

19 make sure those are signed, as well as those

20 boards and committee members. I believe

21 Mr. Divilio had put that into the document, to

Page 81

1 make sure they are also following up with it as

2 well.

3 So again, it's for transparency, to make

4 sure that we are doing our due diligence to

5 follow up on what we wanted to do as far as

6 being diverse and inclusive here in the county

7 government.

8 MR. EDWARDS: And some of the pieces of

9 the statement actually will be part of our

10 Kantola training.

11 MR. PACK: Good.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Vice President?

13 MR. LESHAR: I have nothing further.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay.

15 Next on the agenda is discussion about the

16 Tilghman lights.

17 And Mr. Pack, you want to start us off,

18 tell us a little bit about that?

19 MR. PACK: Sure, Mr. Callahan, I will.

20 About a year ago, the County Council was

21 approached by the Village of Tilghman regarding

Page 82

1 the streetlights that are located on the main
 2 thoroughfare going into the Village of
 3 Tilghman. These lights were put up by the
 4 citizens of Tilghman. They were not public
 5 lights. They were not put up by the county.
 6 They contracted I believe with Delmarva Power
 7 to serve those lights.
 8 And for a while, they were generating
 9 funds by collecting money from the citizens in
 10 Tilghman to pay for the lights. People moved,
 11 people come and go, the collections fell short.
 12 And then the Tilghman Volunteer Fire
 13 Department took it over. And they were using I
 14 guess some of their surplus funds to pay for
 15 the lights. They fell upon hard times as far
 16 as paying for the lights, and they came to the
 17 county and asked the county for some help.
 18 The county did step up and we did help
 19 them with the bill for the lights. I guess
 20 what this body should have done is make that a
 21 public process because we're using private

Page 83

1 dollars to pay for a private use.
 2 We have many times citizens who come to us
 3 saying we have a lot of private roads that run
 4 into some neighborhoods. And during snow
 5 events, come to our Roads Department for
 6 plowing.
 7 We are now working with the community up
 8 at Wye Preserve regarding their wastewater
 9 treatment plant, which is a private system.
 10 And we get these requests from time to time
 11 from groups in the community to help out with
 12 an expense they have for a public safety use.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 14 MR. PACK: Snow removal is a public safety
 15 use. Of course, wastewater is a health
 16 condition, as well as illumination of
 17 streetlights of roads.
 18 So I asked the County Manager's Office to
 19 look into this. The Council did come up with a
 20 process by which, a mechanism by which to have
 21 these lights paid for through a tax.

Page 84

1 Through our efforts of COVID last year,
 2 kind of did not put this on our agenda to
 3 address. Again, we had a lot of other things
 4 that we had to take care of. Through no really
 5 fault of anybody, we just did not do our due
 6 diligence in putting this up front.
 7 So we're trying to be open. Full
 8 disclosure to the public to put this matter
 9 back on for public discussion, as well as the
 10 process by which we can now through a tax take
 11 care of these lights in the Tilghman area.
 12 So that's the reason why you see it on the
 13 agenda tonight.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.
 15 MR. PACK: So we can work with the County
 16 Manager's Office as well as the county attorney
 17 to put the process in place to take care of
 18 this.
 19 No one wants to see the lights go dark. I
 20 don't think anyone up here is saying that. We
 21 want to go through the right process by which

Page 85

1 to handle it.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 3 I appreciate you explaining all that.
 4 Council, Mr. Divilio.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Clay Stamp and I went down
 6 to Tilghman. We did meet with some concerned
 7 members at the fire department about this.
 8 It's a safety issue, if you haven't been
 9 to Tilghman. And there is concern and there's
 10 also a desire to continue keeping the lights
 11 down there, as well as a group of individuals
 12 who are willing to help and get the word out.
 13 As you'll see, there's a couple of
 14 different directions that we go with this. I
 15 think we found a pretty good one. But I
 16 appreciate the support of the group down there
 17 who will quickly mobilize and engage to work
 18 with us and help us achieve this goal of
 19 keeping the lights on.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 21 Mr. Lesher.

Page 86

1 MR. LESHER: I don't really have anything
 2 further, just to say that we need to make sure
 3 that these lights don't get turned off and that
 4 we find a reasonable way to pay for them.
 5 And I appreciate all those who have mapped
 6 out that course. We now need to get this
 7 petition together from those property owners
 8 who are impacted by these lights.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I appreciate that.
 10 MR. LESHER: Tilghman, as you may know,
 11 is, I mean it's densely settled at that
 12 northern end where these streetlights are.
 13 There are no sidewalks. It is not a very safe
 14 place for pedestrians. And these streetlights
 15 do help to improve the safety there. So it's
 16 important that a way forward be found on this.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 18 And I want to add to that. I want to
 19 really commend the fire department. The fire
 20 department was paying for this for the last
 21 probably, Mr. Stamp, help me, probably the last

Page 87

1 ten years or so.
 2 MR. STAMP: At least.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: At least ten years. It's
 4 an estimate of about, I don't know, about 60,
 5 \$70,000 a year that the fire department was
 6 doing this.
 7 So they reached out to us several years
 8 ago to try and find a solution for this.
 9 So like Council said, we're not -- our
 10 intentions aren't to turn the lights off. Our
 11 intention is to find a solution for Tilghman
 12 and to help them. So that's what we're going
 13 to do.
 14 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, could I ask the
 15 county attorney if he will on Bill 1464, the
 16 process going forward, Patrick.
 17 Council did pass Bill 1464, which
 18 basically set up the framework of this taxing
 19 district. There has to be a petition and 60
 20 percent of that geographical area.
 21 Could you walk us through this for the

Page 88

1 public to understand what the bill does?
 2 MR. THOMAS: Sure. So the bill authorizes
 3 the Council to set up a streetlight district.
 4 And the district is initiated through a
 5 petition filed by at least 60 percent of the
 6 property owners in which the district is to be
 7 located.
 8 So once they present the petition signed
 9 by those property owners and it describes the
 10 boundaries of the district and then the Council
 11 holds a public hearing and they have an
 12 opportunity to be heard, and following that
 13 public hearing, the Council can then pass
 14 legislation to actually create that lighting
 15 district.
 16 And then the people in that district are
 17 imposed a tax to pay for the lights.
 18 MR. PACK: So of the 60 percent, again,
 19 the size of that district is something I guess
 20 we will have to sit down and figure out if it's
 21 the entire Tilghman Island or if it's a portion

Page 89

1 thereof.
 2 MR. THOMAS: Correct.
 3 MR. PACK: And what's included in that
 4 taxing district.
 5 MR. THOMAS: Right. I'm not sure what the
 6 size of the existing lighting area is and if
 7 all those people want to join in now. We can
 8 certainly work through that as we work through
 9 the process.
 10 MR. PACK: And the bills as it currently
 11 stands for those lights, I believe there are 17
 12 lights.
 13 MR. STAMP: Yeah.
 14 MR. PACK: It's about 11,000 \$12,000?
 15 MR. STAMP: Sixteen.
 16 MR. PACK: 16,000.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stamp, do you
 18 have good direction now?
 19 MR. STAMP: Yeah. I think so.
 20 I mean Council stepped up in a situation
 21 to ensure public safety was maintained through

Page 90

1 helping the situation.
 2 And then the next year, Council passed
 3 that bill allowing for the establishment of
 4 that special taxing district.
 5 And now we'll do our due diligence to,
 6 working with the county attorney, to see if we
 7 can't query that area to get the 60 percent,
 8 come back to Council for the passage of another
 9 bill to enact the tax and to update you on the
 10 status of the situation.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 12 MR. PACK: Great.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot.
 14 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 16 Appreciate it.
 17 Thank you, Council.
 18 Next on the list is Mr. Stamp, you're
 19 ready to give your report.
 20 MR. STAMP: Sure. Thank you. Appreciate
 21 that. The first item that I have for Council

Page 91

1 under board and committee appointments is
 2 reference the Economic Development Commission.
 3 We're requesting the reappointment of Donna
 4 Saathoff to the Economic Development
 5 Commission. And the Town of St. Michaels is
 6 requesting the appointment of Jeffrey Rhodes,
 7 as interim town manager, to the Economic
 8 Development Commission.
 9 MR. PACK: So moved.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion. Is there a second?
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 12 MR. PACK: We got a motion and a second.
 13 Madam Secretary, can you call the roll.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 21 MR. PACK: Aye.

Page 92

1 MR. STAMP: The next item I have is
 2 involving the Historic Preservation Commission.
 3 We're requesting the reappointment of Holly
 4 Baldwin to that commission.
 5 MR. PACK: So moved.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and a
 8 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 9 roll, please.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 15 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 17 MR. PACK: Aye.
 18 MR. STAMP: Next I'd like to call Mike
 19 McAdams and I believe Deputy Director Brian
 20 LeCates forward for a request.
 21 They are going to be requesting the

Page 93

1 purchase of two new Horton ambulances. They
 2 will be purchased using something called the
 3 Houston Galveston Area Purchasing Contract in
 4 the amount of \$586,656.
 5 These funds were included in the FY22
 6 budget for this purchase. And as you all know,
 7 what gives us the ability to buy these
 8 ambulances in part is the passage of the
 9 modification of our property tax for public
 10 safety. And it allows the Emergency Services
 11 Department to begin the phase-in process for
 12 enhanced paramedic coverage to the north end of
 13 our county.
 14 But we have here our new director of
 15 Emergency Services for his first ask and his
 16 trustee sidekick, Deputy Director Brian
 17 LeCates.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.
 19 I'll open the floor to you guys. Thanks
 20 for coming. Mike, welcome. Brian, welcome.
 21 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, sir.

Page 94

1 MR. McADAMS: Thank you.

2 MR. PACK: That sounds great. So I'm

3 going to open the floor to you guys.

4 MR. McADAMS: Glad to be back.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. That's great.

6 MR. McADAMS: This is about the community,

7 this ask.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: It is.

9 MR. McADAMS: I'm requesting Council

10 approval for \$586,656 to procure two new Horton

11 ambulances. Our current ambulance fleet is

12 Horton ambulances.

13 The funding was approved during the FY22

14 budgeting process. The Emergency Medical

15 Services division negotiated with the ambulance

16 manufacturer. Our local Horton dealer utilized

17 the Houston Galveston Area Contract for pricing

18 and the competitive bid process.

19 Those terms and conditions include pricing

20 on the new ambulances, guaranteed on site

21 repairs and service. Fesco Emergency Sales is

Page 95

1 the procurement agent.

2 Assistant Director Brian LeCates did all

3 of this work. And if you have any questions,

4 please feel free to contact me.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, that's good.

6 Well, Brian you've done a great job. And

7 can you explain, you want a couple of

8 ambulances. Can you explain to people that we

9 have I think we have seven or nine. We need a

10 couple more.

11 So can you kind of explain the process

12 that we're moving forward and we're doing a lot

13 of things? And this is really what the tax

14 payer is responsible for.

15 MR. LeCATES: Sure, sure.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: This is what we're all

17 striving, to have better service.

18 MR. LeCATES: So currently, we have a

19 fleet of nine ambulances. We have five on duty

20 at any given time, with a sixth surge crew in

21 Easton from seven a.m. to seven p.m. seven days

Page 96

1 a week through the generosity of the Council.

2 During last fiscal year, we were able to expand

3 that.

4 So with this request, we're actually

5 asking to increase the fleet from nine

6 ambulances to ten ambulances. By putting that

7 sixth unit in service, we still need to reserve

8 a fourth.

9 These are medium duty chassis. When they

10 go out for service, they're usually out for

11 several weeks. And one never breaks down

12 without its sister breaking down. We always

13 have at least two, if not three units out of

14 service. Just for whether it's tires, brakes,

15 engine repairs, or electronic repairs,

16 lighting, anything, any given number of things.

17 So we really want to be able to swell the

18 fleet so we can make sure we maintain services

19 and don't drop service.

20 So this ask is for two ambulances. One

21 will be replacing a 2009 Ford F450 with over

Page 97

1 120,000 miles on it. And the second one would

2 be the addition to make the fleet at a total of

3 ten.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great, that's

5 great. Council.

6 MR. PACK: Yeah. Hey, Brian. Good seeing

7 you again.

8 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, sir.

9 MR. PACK: From the point of the order to

10 the vehicle arriving at your location, what's

11 the timeframe for that?

12 MR. LeCATES: Typically, before COVID, it

13 was about 180 days. Now, it's looking at six

14 to nine months.

15 MR. PACK: Six to nine months.

16 MR. LeCATES: One of the reasons we're

17 getting this on early -- normally we come

18 before Council maybe around September, October

19 to request this. We're trying to fast track

20 this a little bit because our vendor is able to

21 hold two chassis for us.

Page 98

1 I think everybody knows about the
 2 microchip shortage and vehicles can't get off
 3 the assembly line kind of thing.
 4 So we have ones that they're ready to be
 5 built on. So the factory, the Horton factory
 6 in Ohio is still recovering from COVID.
 7 They're still backlogged. So that's why the
 8 long build time. And in addition to the fact
 9 that there is supply chain issues.
 10 Everybody is seeing it. We heard
 11 Superintendent Griffith talk about that earlier
 12 with roofing material. It's with everything.
 13 We're finding with the medical supplies as well
 14 as even our fleet.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. Okay. Thank you,
 16 Mr. Pack.
 17 MR. LESHER: I'm curious. With the
 18 ambulance that's being phased out that's being
 19 replaced, I know that you've -- it's expensive
 20 to equip these ambulances. I know that the
 21 last time I got a tour of Emergency Services,

Page 99

1 you showed me some of that very impressive
 2 equipment, including that new loading device.
 3 And do you, in fact, transfer some of that
 4 gear over onto this new ambulance?
 5 MR. LeCATES: So everything is stripped
 6 off of the ambulance.
 7 As far as the power load system, we
 8 purposely did not put one in this unit that's
 9 going to be replaced because we knew it was
 10 slated for replacement. So we conserved those
 11 funds. And the new unit, this price does
 12 include a brand new one in both units.
 13 So we strip all of our disposal medical
 14 equipment as well as our assets, like our heart
 15 monitor that is \$36,000. Pretty expensive
 16 these days. So we pull all that equipment off
 17 and we just give them the shell back. We do it
 18 as a trade in and they give us money back,
 19 which is factored into this price.
 20 MR. LESHER: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Mr. Divilio.

Page 100

1 MR. DIVILIO: I know that we all
 2 appreciate living on the water and having these
 3 beautiful peninsulas and windy back roads on a
 4 Sunday drive. You don't have Honda Accords
 5 that you can put 300,000 miles on.
 6 It's a lot of abuse with the use, and it's
 7 just the natural use of it.
 8 And so I certainly appreciate what you've
 9 done to try to save money, but as well as
 10 adding services, which Talbot County all voted
 11 for. I think this certainly makes sense. Just
 12 every now and then you hear that guy say oh, I
 13 got a dump truck with 300,000 miles on it.
 14 Yeah. Well, it's not trying to save somebody's
 15 life.
 16 So appreciate you finding these and
 17 getting on it quick. So thanks.
 18 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, sir.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody else? You okay?
 20 Okay. Do we have a motion?
 21 MR. PACK: So moved.

Page 101

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Second?
 2 MR. LESHER: I'll second.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and a
 4 second to do two ambulances.
 5 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll
 6 please.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 10 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 12 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 14 MR. PACK: Aye.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good, guys.
 16 MR. LeCATES: Thank you.
 17 MR. McADAMS: Thank you.
 18 MR. LeCATES: I would just like to add
 19 thank you for all the kind comments when I was
 20 sitting in the back and couldn't speak up.
 21 Thank you, all. Thank you, sir.

Page 102

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Make you come up here.

2 MR. PACK: Good job, man.

3 MR. LeCATES: Thank you. Have a good

4 night.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.

6 MR. STAMP: Thank you.

7 The next item that I have, I'm going to

8 call Owen and Rich Setter up to the table.

9 The next item is involving the Hog Neck

10 Golf Course recommendation on Bid 2302,

11 irrigation system installation for the Hog Neck

12 Golf Course for discussion.

13 As you read in your agenda packet, Council

14 approved \$1.625 million in FY22 budget for the

15 replacement of the 44-year old irrigation

16 system at the Hog Neck Golf Course.

17 Despite putting out the RFP, only one bid

18 was submitted from Irrigation Services,

19 Incorporated in the amount of \$1.880,

20 \$1,880,000.

21 We're requesting Council approval to

Page 103

1 either use \$255,000 of contingency funds for

2 this project or to remove the executive course

3 from the project, which would result in a cost

4 savings of \$255,000.

5 Alternatively, Council could also use

6 \$200,000 in the FY22 funds for the pavilion

7 upgrade project at Hog Neck Golf.

8 So we have both Owen and Rich here to

9 discuss this further with Council and for your

10 direction.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome, guys. You

12 want to tell everybody who you guys are, Rich.

13 MR. SETTER: Sure.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great.

15 MR. SETTER: Rich Setter, general manager

16 and head golf professional at Hog Neck.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

18 MR. SUTHERLAND: Owen Sutherland, golf

19 course superintendent, Hog Neck.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good, guys. We're

21 ready for you.

Page 104

1 MR. SETTER: You're ready. He gave it to

2 you pretty straight already.

3 Obviously we're looking for shortfall of

4 funds. When we did this in the budget back in

5 January, the million, 625 number that we had

6 was a good faith estimate. We felt pretty good

7 about that. We had plenty of funds in there to

8 cover this project.

9 But just like you heard before us, we're

10 in a different world now with COVID and prices

11 of everything going up. So unfortunately, the

12 project now comes in under, and we just don't

13 have the funds for that.

14 So we've tried to come with as many

15 scenarios to present to you of how we could

16 solve this issue. Obviously, if you would just

17 be gracious and give us the funds out of the

18 kindness of your heart, we'll just go out the

19 door and everything would be great, but we know

20 that that's not reality.

21 So we've got to look at different avenues

Page 105

1 in which to do that. Clay mentioned them

2 already.

3 If we were to eliminate the nine holes of

4 the irrigation system on the executive course,

5 that would get us back in line with the current

6 budget. Or we've also got the \$200,000 that

7 was allocated towards the pavilion improvement

8 fund, which would also go a long ways towards

9 getting that put through here.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. PACK: Let's talk a little reality

12 here. And I'm going to look to Ms. Nagle to

13 help me out. The golf course is still listed

14 as an enterprise fund, correct?

15 MS. NAGLE: Yes.

16 MR. PACK: So out of the kindness of our

17 heart, we could loan you \$225,000 as an

18 enterprise fund. And out of the kindness of

19 your heart, you can pay the general fund back.

20 That way you keep the full course irrigated,

21 you keep the pavilion still in play, which you

Page 106

1 advocated for very vigorously during the
 2 budget.
 3 And I support you on that. I think that's
 4 a great idea having that pavilion enclosed the
 5 way you laid the plan out. Will certainly
 6 generate additional revenue that would help you
 7 pay back the \$225,000.
 8 So would that option be something that you
 9 all would consider?
 10 MR. SETTER: Absolutely, yeah.
 11 We've had this last year, we don't have
 12 the final numbers in from the last fiscal year,
 13 but we had a very positive year. So those
 14 funds, above and beyond what we were budgeted
 15 last year.
 16 And we're only one month into this new
 17 fiscal year, but golf is booming right now. So
 18 we've having another good year.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: I don't see a --
 21 MR. PACK: I'm sorry. I think Ms. Nagle.

Page 107

1 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. I would just like
 2 to mention that the amount of the shortfall is
 3 255,000, not 225.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: They're asking for 255.
 5 MR. PACK: What did I say?
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: You said 225.
 7 MR. PACK: It's 255.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: All right.
 9 MR. PACK: So I shorted you. But yeah.
 10 MR. SETTER: That's all right. I knew
 11 what you meant.
 12 MR. STAMP: The finance director is here.
 13 She can speak for herself. But she did submit
 14 a memo to you. And we can certify that we do
 15 have the funds in contingency. Presently we
 16 have \$1,397,579 in contingency. And so the
 17 funds are there to do this.
 18 MR. PACK: Okay. And we have done this,
 19 just to be clear to the public. Enterprise
 20 funds are set up within county government. The
 21 airport is an enterprise fund, the golf course

Page 108

1 is an enterprise fund, and the Community
 2 Center, somewhat of an enterprise fund.
 3 But anyway, and we did do the same thing
 4 with the airport under Mike Henry in which we
 5 lent money to the airport and then Mike paid
 6 that money back to the county general fund. So
 7 it's not unusual to do that with an enterprise
 8 fund within county government.
 9 People might be thinking well, what is he
 10 talking about, lend money to your own self to
 11 pay yourself back. But this is an enterprise
 12 fund, which is set up as a business entity and
 13 has the ability to generate revenue, which you
 14 do, to pay back the loan. So I just want to be
 15 clear on that.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: So I was going to say this
 18 is an outdoor recreation activity. I don't see
 19 those going down. It's very popular with
 20 COVID. Everybody needs to be outside, look for
 21 those things.

Page 109

1 So I wouldn't want to do anything to
 2 reduce your revenue, which would be cutting out
 3 the pavilion, which is an excellent revenue
 4 generator. Cutting out the nine-hole, which is
 5 packed all the time as well as the 18 is.
 6 So I would be in favor of providing it out
 7 of the contingency and working with you guys to
 8 get that back.
 9 I've seen the work that you've done
 10 through COVID. It's been fantastic. The camps
 11 have been great turnouts. Golf has been great.
 12 Tournaments are great.
 13 If you haven't ridden past Hog Neck
 14 recently, people can't wait to get there.
 15 They're just driving through the fence. I
 16 think 300 people have done that.
 17 And Hog Neck is a blessing to Talbot
 18 County. We are very fortunate to have a golf
 19 course here. It's great for tourism. It's
 20 great for the population here having that
 21 activity.

Page 110

1 So I'm happy to support you guys. And I
 2 appreciate all the work that you've done
 3 bringing in the revenue. And I look forward to
 4 seeing you earn even more. Because I expect
 5 with the irrigation, we'll be back. What were
 6 we, top ten or top 25 public courses?
 7 MR. SETTER: Top 25 back in the '90s all
 8 the way through until the big boom with all
 9 golf courses being built.
 10 MR. DIVILIO: So we've got a great
 11 reputation to uphold. And I appreciate you
 12 doing all the work to do that.
 13 MR. SETTER: Thank you.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: I would support that.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHER: I have nothing.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: You're a good golfer. You
 18 got to say something.
 19 MR. LESHER: Well, while I am not a
 20 golfer, I do appreciate the fact that this is
 21 part of the diversity of public recreation

Page 111

1 opportunities that we do offer as a service.
 2 And having a public course is certainly
 3 quantitatively different from the private courses
 4 around here.
 5 And while I'm not a golfer, I do
 6 understand that it is a well designed, well
 7 laid out course, and a community asset. So I
 8 can certainly support Mr. Pack's proposal for a
 9 course to move forward on this.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 11 I want to add to that. I'm the liaison of
 12 the golf course. And my heart is with you
 13 guys. And you two really do a phenomenal job,
 14 and your staff, okay.
 15 Just like Mr. Divilio said. It's one of
 16 the first things you see on the left-hand side
 17 coming into Talbot County. So it draws a lot
 18 of people. It draws a lot of tourism and
 19 people come here for the weekend and spend
 20 their money on weekends and play golf and go
 21 out to eat. And you guys are a big part of

Page 112

1 that, it's a big business.
 2 So I'm right on Mr. Pack's idea of lending
 3 you guys the money. It's been 40 years.
 4 And Owen, you've been here ten years just
 5 about I think, ten years. And you've been
 6 nursing it the whole time. So I really
 7 appreciate all the efforts you've done and
 8 staying ahead of that. So what you did do, the
 9 public needs to understand, you did the
 10 building, put the pumps in. So now we're ready
 11 for the irrigation part of it. I want to
 12 commend your efforts on trying to get us that
 13 far in saving that golf course. Because
 14 without that, the golf course is dead.
 15 MR. SUTHERLAND: Thank you.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: So I really, really
 17 appreciate that, guys.
 18 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.
 20 MR. PACK: Can I ask our finance director.
 21 It's been some time since we did this loan

Page 113

1 payback, Ms. Nagle. Are you prepared to kind
 2 of walk the Council through how that process
 3 worked? We would loan the money out of the
 4 general fund.
 5 Would your office then set up the payback
 6 process?
 7 MS. NAGLE: And so thank you, Mr. Pack.
 8 What we would do is, as you alluded to, we
 9 would use the general fund to support the golf
 10 course for the \$255,000 shortfall. And it can
 11 be collected over time as you have revenue to
 12 give back to the county.
 13 MR. PACK: So you would just set up that
 14 account for him to pay back?
 15 MS. NAGLE: Yes.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good.
 17 MR. STAMP: And Joye, can you just clarify
 18 the number again, please?
 19 MS. NAGLE: So I just want to clarify for
 20 you that right now the balance that we have in
 21 our contingency fund is \$1,452,579. And if we

Page 114

1 loan the golf course \$255,000, the balance will
 2 be 1,197,579 to be used for other issues as
 3 they occur.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good. Okay,
 5 Council.
 6 So we've got a motion on the floor.
 7 MR. PACK: Want me to make it official
 8 then?
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry?
 10 MR. PACK: You want to make it official
 11 then?
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, please, please.
 13 MR. PACK: Okay, Mr. Callahan. Council,
 14 I'll make a motion that this Council loan the
 15 golf course, an enterprise fund in Talbot
 16 County government, \$255,000 for the irrigation
 17 replacement system to be paid back over a
 18 period of time as set forth by the county
 19 manager and the Finance Office.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Do I have a second?
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Second.

Page 115

1 MR. PACK: Okay. We've got a motion and a
 2 second. Madam Secretary, would you call the
 3 roll.
 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: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Aye.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.
 13 MR. SETTER: Thank you.
 14 MR. SUTHERLAND: Thank you very much.
 15 MR. SETTER: Very much appreciated.
 16 MR. STAMP: That went well; didn't it?
 17 MR. SETTER: I'm running now before they
 18 change their mind.
 19 MR. STAMP: Okay. The next item, Council,
 20 that I have for you that was added in the
 21 amended agenda is a request from BAAM for a

Page 116

1 letter of support for a community legacy
 2 application for the construction of their
 3 academic center.
 4 There will be no county funding required.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.
 6 Do I have a motion?
 7 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion.
 8 MR. LESHNER: I'll second.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I got a motion and a
 10 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 11 roll, please.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 17 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 19 MR. PACK: Aye.
 20 MR. STAMP: And the final thing I'd like
 21 to do under county manager announcements is

Page 117

1 have our finance director, Joye, come around to
 2 introduce you to our new assistant finance
 3 director, Mr. Ken Davis.
 4 And we were very fortunate to have
 5 Mr. Davis, a Talbot County resident of Oxford
 6 who sails big ships and enjoys our community so
 7 much that he decided he wanted to be part of
 8 our team. And we're so glad to have him here.
 9 But Joye, would you take a moment to
 10 introduce Ken to the Council?
 11 MS. NAGLE: Certainly. Thank you, all.
 12 I'm very excited to have the privilege to
 13 introduce you to our new Assistant Finance
 14 Director Ken Davis.
 15 He's been working with us all but a day.
 16 He joined us on Monday.
 17 He comes to us with deep experience in
 18 accounting, finance, as well as auditing. He
 19 was working most recently for a global CPA
 20 firm. As Clay mentioned, he's a Talbot County
 21 resident.

Page 118

1 We all are feeling very fortunate to have
 2 someone of his caliber join us. Again, with
 3 his skills and experience, we're very excited
 4 about having him as part of our team.
 5 MR. DAVIS: Thank you very much, Joye.
 6 It's a pleasure to meet the Council.
 7 It's also my pleasure to apply my 30-plus
 8 years of public accounting and consulting
 9 experience, about half of which or more than
 10 half of which is in the government sector.
 11 Moving to Talbot County has been part of
 12 my strategic plan for the past at least ten
 13 years. And five years ago, we started making
 14 tangible steps toward executing that plan by
 15 buying property in Oxford. Been a part-time
 16 resident since 2016. And now, finally, the
 17 culmination of the strategic plan being a
 18 full-time resident in Oxford.
 19 I'm very excited about it. Very active in
 20 the community. Enjoy volunteering at the
 21 Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. I'm one of

Page 119

1 five volunteer captains that captain the
 2 (inaudible) boat. And I really enjoy doing
 3 that, as well as very active in the Tred Avon
 4 Yacht Club.
 5 Passionate in sailboat racing. Sailing
 6 brought me to the Chesapeake Bay and more
 7 specifically Talbot County, and even more
 8 specifically Oxford. And it's just a pleasure
 9 to have this opportunity to work for Talbot
 10 County and to apply my experience and
 11 background in accounting and in the government
 12 sector to my community.
 13 Thank you very much. It's a pleasure to
 14 meet you.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Pleasure meeting you.
 16 Council.
 17 MR. PACK: Oh, me. Mr. Davis, it's a
 18 pleasure meeting you. You come highly
 19 recommended. Joye is speaking very glowingly of
 20 you, so has Mr. Stamp. You seem to be a
 21 perfect fit. I mean you come with the boating

Page 120

1 experience. I know you're working down with
 2 Mr. Leshar down at the Maritime Museum.
 3 So I look forward to working with you over
 4 the months to come.
 5 This department has been the backbone of
 6 this county government, especially when it
 7 comes to our budgeting process. We lost a
 8 very, very strong financial officer through
 9 retirement recently. We were blessed to get
 10 Joye to step into those shoes. And now to have
 11 you come along to make the team complete.
 12 I look forward to just great things coming
 13 out of this department as we move forward with
 14 you. So welcome to Talbot County, and I look
 15 forward to working with you.
 16 MR. DAVIS: Thank you very much, Mr. Pack.
 17 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Welcome and thank you.
 20 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 21 MR. LESHER: And I'll echo the same thing.

Page 121

1 Thank you for your service here and welcome to
 2 Talbot County.
 3 MR. DAVIS: Thank you Mr. Leshar.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: And I'll offer the same
 5 thing, too. I really appreciate you really
 6 thinking about -- it sounds like you could have
 7 retired. That's what it sounds like. And I
 8 really appreciate you taking the time and
 9 wanting to help us because you're going to be a
 10 big, big, what's the word I want to use, big
 11 part, a big part.
 12 Because Joye, like Mr. Pack said, we're
 13 blessed to have her. We really are. We really
 14 appreciate you putting the whole team together.
 15 And I'm sure you guys are going to be doing a
 16 great job.
 17 If there's anything that we can do to help
 18 you, please let us know. But welcome back. It
 19 must be going pretty good because you come back
 20 today.
 21 MR. DAVIS: Day two of my tenure. Thank

Page 122

1 you very much.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Day two. Okay. We're

3 good. Thank you, guys. Appreciate it.

4 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

5 MR. STAMP: And the last thing I just say

6 to you, the County Council, is I'd like to

7 thank you for your support. I know you wrestle

8 with some really tough situations these days as

9 we continue to find ourselves in the middle of

10 a worldwide pandemic that's affecting us in

11 many ways.

12 But you know, in the last eight months

13 with your assistance, we've been able to

14 replace five key positions in county

15 government. We have a new attorney, Patrick

16 Thomas; a new DES director who you met tonight,

17 Mike McAdams; we have a new finance director,

18 Joye Nagle; and we have a new HR director, David

19 Edwards, both of which you spoke to this

20 evening.

21 And they're core members of the team. And

Page 123

1 that's a major transition for our rural

2 government. And that didn't just happen by

3 flipping a light switch on. It happened

4 because highly qualified people took jobs here,

5 not necessarily because of the salary, but

6 because of the way of life here and what this

7 community offers people that move here.

8 So I want to thank you for your support in

9 our accomplishing that.

10 That completes the county manager report.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds great. Okay.

13 Let's move on to public comments.

14 Mr. Leshner, you want to get us started on that.

15 MR. LESHER: We have a number of folks

16 signed up to speak.

17 You want the...

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

19 MR. LESHER: Process here.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.

21 MR. LESHER: Hang on one second.

Page 124

1 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.

2 MR. LESHER: Public comment is an

3 opportunity for members of the public in

4 attendance to address the Council regarding any

5 Council matter.

6 Any member of the public desiring to be

7 heard by the Council shall raise their hand and

8 wait to be recognized by the Council president.

9 Once recognized, the person shall state their

10 name and address and then direct their comments

11 to the Council as a body, not to individual

12 Council members or other members of the public.

13 Each speaker shall be permitted to speak

14 for no more than three minutes. Those speaking

15 on behalf of an organization shall be given up

16 to five minutes, unless otherwise authorized by

17 the Council president.

18 Speakers are expected to be courteous and

19 respectful. Personal, impertinent, or

20 slanderous comments shall not be tolerated.

21 And we have a number of folks who have

Page 125

1 signed up, and we can take them in that order.

2 First being Ridgley Ochs of Bozman.

3 MS. OCHS: Hello. I'm Ridgley Ochs, and I

4 live in Bozman.

5 It's been a year since the County Council

6 decided it would not act to move the

7 Confederate monument off the courthouse lawn.

8 I am here tonight to ask you respectfully

9 to reconsider. The reasons are many. And I

10 would like to share some of them with you.

11 In the past few weeks, we've asked people

12 at the farmers market, churches, and in our

13 communities to fill out postcards to tell us

14 why they believe the monument does not belong

15 in this place of justice and equality.

16 I and some of my fellow citizens would

17 like to read what they said to you.

18 This comes from Josie, age nine. It's

19 hurtful.

20 Jean. It's way past time. It's the 21st

21 Century and we don't believe in honoring

Page 126

1 slavery and the Confederacy.
 2 Bill and Susan. A monument to these
 3 rebels should not be on the courthouse steps.
 4 It serves as an intimidating and offensive
 5 reminder of slavery and Jim Crow.
 6 This is from Dee. I am writing to share
 7 my strong feelings about the need to move the
 8 Confederate monument off the courthouse
 9 grounds. It's upsetting that this should even
 10 be a question knowing the history. Place it
 11 elsewhere and provide education and history of
 12 our past that all should learn from this, but
 13 not displayed on the grounds of the courthouse.
 14 Because it's not fair. Anna, age six.
 15 It's time to stop glorifying traitors.
 16 Jennifer.
 17 Because we celebrate traitors who
 18 committed insurrection in support of slavery.
 19 Stephanie.
 20 Because it intimidates people and kids
 21 don't want to have a future like this. Ellie,

Page 127

1 age ten.
 2 Talbot County can't be stuck in a
 3 Confederate past if it wants to attract
 4 business and residents who believe in its
 5 future. Bob.
 6 I believe these cards show that Talbot
 7 County is better than this statue. It's time
 8 for you to act and for it to move.
 9 Thank you for your attention.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Ms. Ochs. I
 11 appreciate it.
 12 MR. LESHER: Next, Megan Cook of Easton.
 13 MS. COOK: Good evening, gentlemen. My
 14 name is Megan Cook. I live at 113 South Aurora
 15 Street here in Easton.
 16 I'm sure it's clear to you that the
 17 majority of the attendance tonight are in favor
 18 of the Talbot Boys statue off the courthouse
 19 lawn.
 20 The Move the Monument collision has been
 21 fighting for equal justice, has been educating

Page 128

1 our citizens about racist, hateful symptoms,
 2 and will continue to fight until the statue is
 3 removed from public space.
 4 Instead, tonight I'd to talk about
 5 listening and empathy, some things that are
 6 often lacking in society and often in politics.
 7 Over the last several years, the political
 8 divide seems to have grown from a political
 9 chasm, with most people -- grown into a
 10 political chasm, with most people getting their
 11 news and information on social media where we
 12 can practically hand pick the messages and
 13 stories we read, each one affirming our
 14 personal political view. I know I'm guilty of
 15 it at times, but listening to others and
 16 understanding people is vital to democracy.
 17 A good leader is often a good listener.
 18 And when we listen to others, we hope to hear
 19 and understand their hopes, their fears, and
 20 their concerns. It's essential for people to
 21 be listened to and heard, because that is the

Page 129

1 first step in change and healing from our past
 2 wounds.
 3 And leaders need to listen to all sectors
 4 of society, not just to the loudest or the ones
 5 that have the message that sound most like what
 6 we want to hear.
 7 History has shown that our black and brown
 8 neighbors have not had the same opportunity to
 9 have a voice and be heard.
 10 As our county leaders, I hope that you
 11 hear the stories of how they've been treated
 12 differently, how they feel walking past the
 13 statue, with such a hurtful symbol a topic, and
 14 their concerns for a future where not all are
 15 truly considered equal.
 16 As elected officials, it's part of the job
 17 to listen to your constituents. And I know how
 18 hard that can be. It's not easy to listen to
 19 others when raw emotions bubble over, but
 20 people need the opportunity to be heard and to
 21 know that you hear and validate their concerns

Page 130

1 and feelings no matter how difficult the
 2 message may be.
 3 I encourage you to meet with Move the
 4 Monument leaders, with faith leaders, concerned
 5 community leaders, and concerned citizens and
 6 be active, inclusive, and empathetic listeners
 7 because the statue does not instill a sense of
 8 pride or honor or represent equal justice for
 9 all.
 10 Other states and communities have already
 11 realized their hurtful impact that these
 12 statues and symbols have. It's time that
 13 Talbot County does the same.
 14 Have a good evening.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Cook.
 16 Appreciate it.
 17 MR. LESHER: Next, James Richardson.
 18 MR. RICHARDSON: James Richardson,
 19 Claiborne, Maryland. Thank you for this
 20 opportunity to talk to you this evening.
 21 My presentation will be two parts. I hope

Page 131

1 to get through it within three minutes.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 3 MR. RICHARDSON: I have more postcards.
 4 That's the first part.
 5 I first visited the Talbot County
 6 courthouse grounds in 2002. I remember my eyes
 7 drawn to the Confederate symbols and the
 8 statue. I remember the resentment flooding my
 9 heart as I recall the hardship that the rebels
 10 caused my Indiana community and family. Why
 11 would Talbot County, Maryland, celebrate such
 12 folly? For what did my great-grandfather
 13 fight? For what did his brother and school
 14 chums die? Remove the statue. That's Dina.
 15 Kirk says continuing to celebrate sedition
 16 and racism is wrong. As a black man, I
 17 shouldn't have to walk by a statue that
 18 represents racism and know that many of my
 19 neighbors don't care about how I feel. Frank.
 20 Because there are so many other people who
 21 could represent fairness and diversity.

Page 132

1 Finally from Jonathan. The Talbot Boys
 2 may have been brave but were actually traitors
 3 to their county, state, and humanity. The
 4 statue is part of a false narrative by white
 5 supremacists.
 6 The second part. Every cause needs a good
 7 rally song. We have -- that is a good cause.
 8 And you talk about, Council members, you talk
 9 about the people who have sat at this table
 10 this evening as doing good jobs. We are doing
 11 a good job for this county. This is a rally
 12 song that I hope you'll appreciate. We are not
 13 going away is one of our chants.
 14 We are not going away, we are not going
 15 away. We will stay until the day when justice
 16 comes, when justice comes.
 17 We will stay until we can see our
 18 courthouse means equality for all of us, for
 19 you and me, when freedom rings, when freedom
 20 rings.
 21 The Talbot boy stands tall and bold upon

Page 133

1 this lawn where babes were sold. He fought to
 2 trade men's lives for gold. Remove him now,
 3 remove him now.
 4 Dark time years of old Jim Crow. A statue
 5 built so all would know. Traitorous flag, we
 6 strike a blow for liberty, for liberty.
 7 Black lives matter is our song. The human
 8 race we all belong. Raise your voices loud and
 9 strong. Sing it loud, sing it loud.
 10 We are not going away, we are not going
 11 away. We will stay until the day when justice
 12 comes, when justice comes.
 13 Thank you.
 14 SPEAKER: Bravo.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Richardson.
 16 MR. LESHER: Next, Harriette Lowery.
 17 MS. LOWERY: Council, I'd like to yield my
 18 time to those you have not heard from. You've
 19 heard from me several times personally. And so
 20 there's several people you have not heard from
 21 until now, and I'd like to yield my time to

Page 134

1 them.

2 (Inaudible) Dr. William Wallace, the

3 pastor of two churches in St. Michaels and

4 several others. Thank you.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,

6 Ms. Lowery.

7 MS. LOWERY: But I will come back another

8 time.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem, no problem.

10 You're always welcome.

11 MR. LESHER: Next is Keith Watts.

12 MR. WATTS: Good evening, ladies and

13 gentlemen. I had asked that -- my name is

14 Keith Watts. I live on a small island off the

15 Chesapeake called Tilghman.

16 And I sent in, with the assistance of

17 Mr. Stamp, who was kind enough to allow this

18 picture. If you can take a look at that. And

19 you know, there's an old saying about a picture

20 and words.

21 That's the Talbot County slave market, my

Page 135

1 friends. And if you look carefully up there in

2 the corner, you'll see the courthouse and the

3 building that we're sitting in, the building

4 we're sitting in.

5 The previous person who was up here

6 singing, he asked about or he talked about how

7 you feel.

8 I can't possibly imagine how many of the

9 people in this room feel. I can only speak for

10 myself. And what I say to you is when you look

11 at that picture, there are people who will

12 never see their mothers again, their fathers

13 again, their sisters, their brothers, their

14 aunts, their uncles, their nieces, their

15 cousins.

16 And that picture, the resolution isn't

17 good enough to show us the tears that are

18 coming down their faces. Because I'm sure

19 there's a tear or two.

20 I ask you with the greatest respect. I'm

21 not here to lecture you. I want to be part of

Page 136

1 the solution. You hold the power to make this

2 right. And if you do this, if you summon the

3 grit, if you summon the courage and you make

4 this happen, as I believe it was Councilperson

5 Pack said all will be for naught, you will not

6 be remembered for anything if this solution is

7 not found amongst you.

8 Look at the room behind me. They're all

9 here asking for your help with all sincerity

10 and with all the feeling in their heart. And I

11 hope that you find it in your heart to not

12 answer for me, those people, those people,

13 those are the ones we need to honor. The

14 oppressed, not the oppressors.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Watts.

17 MR. LESHER: Next is Margorie Opalski.

18 MS. OPALSKI: Hi. So you know, I'm

19 Marjorie Opalski. I've lived in Talbot County

20 over 45 years. And I think it's a grand place

21 to live.

Page 137

1 And I'm part of the coalition. We

2 collected these postcards. And instead of

3 giving you my opinion, which I think is pretty

4 clear by where I am, I'm going to read some

5 others. I collected these at the farmers

6 market.

7 And it was really interesting to me, one,

8 the wide range of ages from different places.

9 There was some people had taken the cards the

10 week before, went home, and printed them up and

11 brought them back the next week to have

12 somebody read them. So this is important.

13 It's something people really care about.

14 So here is the first one. It's written by

15 Charles. And I'm going to spell his last name

16 because I don't want to -- it's Z-V-I-R-M-A-N.

17 The moment the Talbot County boys dawned the

18 gray and swore allegiance to the Confederacy,

19 they took on its beliefs and ideals. First and

20 foremost, being a superiority of the white

21 race. And the racism is woven into its

Page 138

1 constitution and notable writings of their
 2 leaders. Equality disgraceful is the service,
 3 the preservation of Talbot history, who coopted
 4 a noble name and what would have been a noble
 5 pursuit and made it about one issue and one
 6 issue alone.
 7 Its mission, along with the mortal failure
 8 of Price, Callahan, and Divilio casts a
 9 tarnished light on the whole of Talbot County.
 10 These men were traitors to the Union, to the
 11 nation, and traitors to the State of Maryland.
 12 If you want to celebrate them as
 13 individuals, go to their grave sites scattered
 14 throughout the county. But they deserve no
 15 place of honor on the courthouse lawn or in
 16 public lands.
 17 As a visitor to Talbot County, I was
 18 shocked to see a Confederate monument so close
 19 to the statue of Frederick Douglass. This is
 20 just wrong, exclamation point. We should not
 21 be honoring traitors and racists. This was

Page 139

1 written by Hugh Carson from Reisterstown,
 2 Maryland.
 3 I got these all.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: You got about another
 5 minute.
 6 MS. OPALSKI: Okay. It's long past due
 7 for the Confederate monuments to be removed.
 8 They represent slavery and treason. The
 9 Confederacy is responsible for the half a
 10 million dead from the Civil War. Having this
 11 with -- having that with statues is like
 12 honoring Hitler with statues in Germany.
 13 Please see fit to remove the monument. This is
 14 by Matthew.
 15 Because it's just time to write history
 16 and put it on -- in the museum. It's just
 17 time.
 18 We want to be on the right side of
 19 history. We are better than this.
 20 The celebration of harm toward others does
 21 not honor the human spirit that we all share.

Page 140

1 This was signed by Hope and most likely to move
 2 to Easton.
 3 It is simply the right thing to do. The
 4 Confederacy part of our history is nothing to
 5 celebrate. It shouldn't be on public grounds
 6 celebrating this part of our dark history.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: I'll let you read one more.
 8 MS. OPALSKI: Okay. This is written by a
 9 ten-year-old, Anna. It says the statue is mean
 10 to black people and we are all really the same,
 11 just we look different.
 12 Thank you.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Opalski.
 14 Appreciate it.
 15 MR. LESHER: Next, Suzanne Todd.
 16 MS. TODD: Good evening. I'm Suzanne
 17 Todd, and I live in Claiborne.
 18 I, too, have some cards to read.
 19 This is from Rebecca Pearson. Let us join
 20 the rest of the state, other states in the
 21 nation, other nations of the world by placing

Page 141

1 in public places symbols of respect for rights.
 2 Time for change.
 3 And from Sophia. I believe that Talbot
 4 County should not be represented by statues of
 5 traitorous losers of a war to memorialize their
 6 racist Jim Crow history. Move the statue
 7 somewhere people can learn from the past
 8 mistakes and not glorify their hate-filled
 9 racist hearts.
 10 Please do the right thing, move the
 11 statues. And that's from John and Susan in
 12 Tunis Mills.
 13 And this is a long card that I'll
 14 summarize from a couple in New Jersey who are
 15 looking, thinking about moving to the Eastern
 16 Shore but are discouraged by the Confederate
 17 statue. And their last sentence, show the
 18 community what you stand for, inclusion,
 19 forward looking, and peace.
 20 My thoughts. Move the monument because it
 21 represents a cause that supported slavery.

Page 142

1 Move the monument because it's the right thing
 2 to do.
 3 And in closing, I've really listened
 4 tonight to all the information that you've been
 5 presented with. Lights for the community in
 6 Tilghman, two new ambulances, the Children's
 7 Advocacy Center, so much good in this county
 8 that I call my home now. And you sit in front
 9 of the Great Seal of Talbot County.
 10 I ask that you put into action what the
 11 human resources council is doing as far as
 12 diversity training and inclusion and move the
 13 statue that does not support those ideals.
 14 Thank you.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Todd.
 16 MR. LESHER: Next, William Wallace.
 17 MR. WALLACE: Good evening. My name is
 18 William Wallace. I reside in St. Michaels,
 19 Maryland.
 20 Over a year ago, a petition was brought
 21 before this Council to remove the Talbot Boys

Page 143

1 statue from the courthouse lawn. Numerous
 2 persons have voiced their rationale for you to
 3 respect and honor this request.
 4 You have appeased us, who have come before
 5 you, yet you have not done anything to move in
 6 that request. Your actions have dismissed the
 7 validity of our concerns. As of this moment,
 8 you have not chosen to vote to remove the
 9 statue.
 10 Walking past the statue may be a sense of
 11 pride for ours. However, for yellow, brown,
 12 red, and especially black persons, walking near
 13 the statue generates fear, anxiety, and agony.
 14 It is tantamount to seasoning. Historically,
 15 seasoning was a process of increasing the value
 16 of captured slaves by mentally and physically
 17 preparing them for the institution of slavery
 18 in the colonies.
 19 Your refusal isn't just political nor
 20 social. I understand and believe it is a
 21 matter of dignity, decency, and integrity.

Page 144

1 You have shown your political authority by
 2 not removing it. Now use your political savvy
 3 to vote to remove it.
 4 If this is not the underlying variable,
 5 the statue, you should vote to remove the
 6 statue and relieve yourselves and relieve the
 7 community and county of this painful historical
 8 reminder.
 9 You weren't asked to destroy it, but to
 10 remove it. Put it in a place where it can
 11 enhance the continuity and totality of the
 12 United States of America's history. Remove it
 13 to a place where it will not give the
 14 appearance of inequity, inequality, or question
 15 unbiased justice, nor dash the hopes and dreams
 16 of those seeking fairness in the judicious
 17 system.
 18 Unless something has happened since my
 19 coming here, United States of America is still
 20 representative form of governance. It is for
 21 the people and by the people. Voting expresses

Page 145

1 the will of the people.
 2 Let me remind you, because I am a
 3 preacher, of Joshua four, verse six, for I
 4 believe it is applicable for this moment. It
 5 reads: When your children ask in time to come
 6 what do these stones mean, the back story of
 7 placing the stones in the wilderness was a
 8 reminder to present the present generation of
 9 when and how God delivered and liberated their
 10 ancestors who suffered under Egyptian
 11 oppression.
 12 For people of color, the Talbot County
 13 statue is a reminder of the evilness of
 14 humanity and slavery, oppression,
 15 dehumanization, and disenfranchisement.
 16 I encourage you to be on the right side of
 17 history and seek to discontinue that atrocity.
 18 What will you tell this generation and
 19 those yet unborn about the Talbot Boys statue
 20 and what it represents? Will you tell the
 21 truth? Their ancestors fought to maintain

Page 146

1 institutional slavery and systemic racism?
 2 Will you tell them the Talbot Boys continues to
 3 inflict psychological and emotional hurt upon
 4 those whose last hope for justice and fairness
 5 is imprinted within their consciousness by the
 6 Talbot Boys who fought against their rights,
 7 their dignity, and their personhood?
 8 For I submit to you this is more than a
 9 political machination. It is about integrity,
 10 biblical and theological understanding of God
 11 and neighbor.
 12 Having said that, what do you suppose God
 13 meant saying remember you were once strangers?
 14 Or what did Jesus mean when he said what you do
 15 to one of the least of these you have done to
 16 me?
 17 I encourage you to remove the statue and
 18 do away with the violence and the evil of its
 19 intent. Don't allow anything, political
 20 aspirations, societal pressure, comprise your
 21 dignity, integrity, or decency. Do not

Page 147

1 perpetuate systemic racism, institutional
 2 slavery, nor continue any political ideology
 3 that inflicts injury or any sort, of any sort
 4 upon anyone.
 5 Again, you have shown your political
 6 authority by not removing it. Now, we embolden
 7 you to have the political savvy to vote to
 8 remove it.
 9 Thank you very much.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Wallace.
 11 MR. LESHER: Thank you, Reverend Wallace.
 12 Next, Totch Hartge.
 13 MR. HARTGE: Thank you very much.
 14 I never thought you'd see me reading off
 15 one of these things in public.
 16 I live in Easton, lived here 35 years.
 17 Got five kids graduated at Easton High School.
 18 And I guess I'm invested here. Born across the
 19 creek in Annapolis.
 20 When I listened to these thoughts and read
 21 them coming up to this meeting, I get puzzled

Page 148

1 about what's different here and why other
 2 locations and another jurisdictions and
 3 governments have changed their thinking. Deep
 4 south governments, certainly existing deep
 5 south governments and elected officials have
 6 looked at the challenges that are growing and
 7 get more public and the pain is evident.
 8 I think we're better people than that. I
 9 look around. I wrote a card, but I won't read
 10 that. This is my card.
 11 But I wanted to quote someone well known
 12 to you. When the Dred Scott decision came from
 13 Justice Taney, Justice Taney of Maryland, Chief
 14 Justice Taney in 1857 said blacks were not US
 15 citizens. So the man in front of him, Dred
 16 Scott, had no rights.
 17 Taney's statue went up, because I guess he
 18 was a champion in the country at that time,
 19 four years before the Civil War. His statue
 20 was put up in Annapolis, his statue was put up
 21 in Baltimore, and four years ago, both of them,

Page 149

1 after I'm sure just a little wrangling, came
 2 down. They were removed.
 3 And I would quote an important person who
 4 justified it this way. Thank you for your
 5 patience. After Charlottesville, Hogan
 6 acknowledged that Taney was a slavery defender
 7 and said that the time has come to make clear
 8 the difference between properly acknowledging
 9 our past and glorifying the darkest chapters of
 10 our history.
 11 I'll just add this to things for you to
 12 think about. I think about them. I think we
 13 can change. I think the county is better than
 14 that. And I think the people who voted against
 15 it are high quality people, but their decision
 16 hurts, hurts people and will. And our county
 17 reputation is not what it could be. And I
 18 trust that the right thing will be done.
 19 Thank you very much for your time. Thank
 20 you for the work you do on the Council.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem. Thank you. I

Page 150

1 appreciate you coming.

2 MR. LESHHER: Next is Walt Johnson.

3 MR. JOHNSON: I yield my time.

4 MR. LESHHER: Next is Dominic Mickey

5 Terrone.

6 MR. TERRONE: I don't yield mine.

7 I'm Dominic Mickey Terrone from Oxford,

8 Maryland.

9 I have a few postcards to read and I have

10 a few comments on my own about my first view of

11 the statue.

12 Bruce wrote Talbot County will richly

13 deserve the reputation it is building as a

14 backward haven for the rich where race and

15 class and justice prevail over common decency.

16 This is the 21st century, and this statue

17 does not reflect the values of the majority of

18 contemporary society and culture. If you could

19 step into someone's shoes that was born black

20 or brown, you would understand the impact and

21 feelings that someone of color reflects upon as

Page 151

1 they walk by that statue. It represents a

2 terrible part of our American history. That's

3 from Suzanne.

4 Vickie wrote it is the right thing to do

5 to take the statue down. Some often speak of

6 history. I've never seen anything about the

7 statue in the history books. I wonder why.

8 History clearly shows that the war was fought

9 to keep slavery. That's what the Confederacy

10 fought for. Shame on the Council members

11 voting not to move the statue, for not

12 recognizing this racist act. It is purposely

13 intimidating to people of color.

14 In my own experience, I was thinking about

15 my first vision of the statue. In fact, it

16 relates to this evening's talk because when I

17 lived in Anne Arundel County or moved here 30

18 years ago. I used to drive out on Sundays to

19 play the Hog Neck golf course because it was a

20 really great place. And I would travel the 40

21 miles one way with no problem.

Page 152

1 And one time I just came into Easton after

2 playing and I saw that statue. And as a

3 lifelong Civil War student, I stopped and I

4 took a close look at it. And I realized that

5 it was a Confederate statue.

6 I certainly knew enough about Maryland to

7 know that it was not a Confederate state. And

8 I looked at it closely, and I went back and

9 started really studying more about what really

10 happened out here. I used to see the license

11 plates on the western shore welcome to the

12 Eastern Shore, now go home. And I realized

13 that there was a separatism, a feeling of overt

14 separatism out here on the Eastern Shore. And

15 then when I moved out here seven years ago, I

16 started to really feel it.

17 But the point is that that statue doesn't

18 really represent the history of the Civil War

19 in Talbot County. It misrepresents it. There

20 is no -- when the County Commission put that

21 statue up in 1916, they did it and purposefully

Page 153

1 put it in that place of honor in front of the

2 courthouse. That was an overtly racist

3 society.

4 Society has changed. You people are not

5 racists, and we know that. But we feel like

6 you have to make the effort to truly present

7 the true history of Talbot County.

8 My sense is that that's simply not

9 happening. I looked at the Talbot County -- at

10 the Historic Preservation Commission website

11 and the county website. And there's no

12 explanation other than that statue and what is

13 stated on that statue of what really happened

14 in the Civil War. It misrepresents the white

15 and black soldiers who fought for the Union,

16 for the majority of people who voted against

17 secession prior to the firing on Fort Sumter.

18 It misrepresents all that.

19 And so the responsibility for properly

20 changing that and presenting the true history

21 of the county lies with you. It lies with

Page 154

1 people like us. And we have to take that
 2 responsibility.
 3 I can't hardly say anything more powerful
 4 than Reverend Wallace did. I won't even try.
 5 But my point is that the responsibility is
 6 really on your shoulders, and we will share
 7 that responsibility with you. And not to
 8 vilify anybody, but just to make things right.
 9 We have that responsibility for our
 10 children. We need to be educating our children
 11 in this county what really happened. We're not
 12 doing that.
 13 And so my point is that we'll continue to
 14 try to argue for removing the statue, not
 15 destroying it.
 16 I remember the representative of the
 17 Preserve Talbot History, someone presented the
 18 research survey results that suggested that
 19 more people are not interested in moving the
 20 statue. I took a look at that survey. That
 21 survey asked the question would you prefer to

Page 155

1 see a statue destroyed. I think it was a
 2 Robert E. Lee statue. Would you prefer to see
 3 that statue destroyed.
 4 And this is not destroying a statue. It's
 5 not erasing history. You cannot erase history.
 6 I made the point recently where there's no
 7 statue of Adolf Hitler in Germany, but he
 8 virtually has his own channel on cable TV.
 9 It's often called the Hitler channel.
 10 The point is that history is not going to
 11 be erased, but it needs to be clarified. And
 12 we have to take responsibility for doing that.
 13 So thank you very much.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 15 MR. TERRONE: Speak to you again.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 17 MR. LESHER: Next is Robin Stricoff.
 18 MS. STRICOFF: Good evening. My name is
 19 Robin Stricoff. Easton is my home.
 20 As a human resource professional, I can
 21 tell you you will not achieve your goal to

Page 156

1 foster an environment that welcomes and
 2 supports diversity as long as you allow a
 3 Confederate monument to stand on courthouse
 4 property.
 5 Employees want their leaders to walk their
 6 talk. Now I will move on.
 7 I hope through my voice you hear the
 8 messages from family members, friends, and
 9 neighbors on why they want the monument moved.
 10 Not only is it the last Confederate statue in
 11 all of Maryland, but it is preserving a racist
 12 Talbot County. Because symbols of racism do
 13 not belong on government property.
 14 Please. As a worker in Talbot County with
 15 youth and elderly, please transform the Easton
 16 courthouse grounds by taking away the statue
 17 that is a symbol of the divisions of black and
 18 white, south and north.
 19 Our region's history has such strong
 20 elements of equality and freedom. We can have
 21 the Talbot boys remembered elsewhere, but not

Page 157

1 as if we still support enslavement. Thank you
 2 says Lisa.
 3 We should move the monument because Talbot
 4 County is better than this and should create an
 5 inclusive place for everyone.
 6 Because it makes people feel badly and
 7 it's offensive says Jamilia.
 8 Get rid of it because it's the only
 9 Confederate monument on public land in the
 10 state. I believe that public spaces,
 11 especially those gracing the entrance to a
 12 courthouse with a stated goal of equal justice
 13 to all, is totally inappropriate for displaying
 14 homage to those who supported the Confederacy
 15 and slavery.
 16 I strongly urge the Council to reconsider
 17 your decision and move the Talbot Boys monument
 18 from public grounds. Monuments are not history
 19 lessons. They memorialize and celebrate the
 20 subject. Nothing associated with the
 21 Confederacy should be honored.

Page 158

1 The fact that the last Confederate statue
 2 on public grounds in Maryland is located in
 3 Talbot County reflects poorly on the county and
 4 to a degree its residents. And I can honestly
 5 say if I had been aware of this 22 years ago
 6 when looking at locations to practice medicine,
 7 I would never have chosen to move here. Please
 8 do the right thing says Bob.

9 A demeaning monument should not be held on
 10 a site of justice and equality.

11 There has been enough pain and suffering
 12 in this county. It's time to heal each other.
 13 It isn't just the people of color that are
 14 affected, it is everyone. Preserving history
 15 is very different from continuing to use it as
 16 a weapon. Move the statue so we can move on to
 17 bring the best of what this county has to
 18 offer. From Dee.

19 Thank you for your time this evening.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 21 MR. LESHER: Martha Hamlyn.

Page 159

1 MS. HAMLYN: Good evening. First, I speak
 2 for Rabbi Peter Hyman, who you may have noticed
 3 leaving. He asked me to tell you not to take
 4 it personally, that he still likes you but he
 5 had an emergency at the hospital. He would
 6 have spoken also in favor of moving the
 7 monument, as he has many other times.

8 Heidi Wetzel. I grew up in Germany during
 9 and after World War II. There is no monument
 10 anywhere celebrating or honoring the Nazis.
 11 Any human atrocity, including slavery, needs to
 12 be remembered and taught, but not honored or
 13 celebrated or glorified.

14 Matthew Fitzgerald of Easton. It's
 15 ridiculous that we are honoring traitors that
 16 fought for slavery, that killed American
 17 soldiers, who were defending our constitution.

18 Pat Floria of Claiborne. As the white
 19 grandmother of four adorable and loving mixed
 20 race children, I do not know how to explain the
 21 continuing controversy over the statue. Do I

Page 160

1 pretend that Talbot County has no racism? How
 2 can you say this when a Jim Crow era statue
 3 remains on a government lawn? It pains me that
 4 any explanation I make, no matter how carefully
 5 worded, will have the power to wound their
 6 hearts.

7 Deborah Holla and Susan Miranda say move
 8 the monument because if Talbot County is to
 9 welcome visitors of all nationalities, races,
 10 etc., it must foster a welcoming environment.
 11 Civil War statues alienate not only people of
 12 color, but their Caucasian friends and
 13 neighbors as well.

14 Greetings said Michelle Johnson of Trappe.
 15 This monument must be moved. It is an
 16 embarrassment to our beautiful county. No need
 17 to tear it down. Please just move it off
 18 public property.

19 Move it because it's disrespectful to our
 20 African American friends.
 21 Let's remove a monument to double

Page 161

1 traitors. What an embarrassment.
 2 Steven Ball of Easton says the statue
 3 symbolizes a time of turmoil and racism in our
 4 country, a time where some prospered at the
 5 expense of others, and it is a reflection of
 6 our lesser selves. It is a constant reminder of
 7 those times. It's now time to set a new
 8 narrative for our future. Not by forgetting,
 9 but erecting new symbols on our public spaces
 10 that inspire and not serve to separate us. As
 11 the banners have said, let's be hopeful and
 12 grateful. Please move the Talbot Boys.

13 Jess Haberman, a resident of Easton, says
 14 I've been asking myself why three members of
 15 the Council are opposed to removing the statue.
 16 And I'm guessing that they want to preserve
 17 Talbot history or don't want to oppose those
 18 who want to preserve Talbot history. So let's
 19 make a deal. I want to think that preservation
 20 is well meaning. But if that's the case, where
 21 are the monuments and exhibits that tell the

Page 162

1 history of how a bomb was placed in a negro
 2 family's home in 1957 because they dared send
 3 their children to a white school? Or how right
 4 outside this building was one of the busiest
 5 slave markets in the Americas or that the jail
 6 cell holding Frederick Douglass after he
 7 attempted to escape his bonds of slavery was
 8 here, right here.

9 If our interest is really to preserve
 10 history, then let's try at least to get the
 11 aura of history, black and white, of those who
 12 lived in the -- voice talking to you -- those
 13 who lived in the segregated Talbot County, many
 14 of whom are still alive.

15 The Talbot Historical Society is looking
 16 for donations. Let's work with them to house
 17 the Talbot Boys.

18 The county has much to be proud of, like
 19 the United States itself. But also like the
 20 United States, its history is complicated. Do
 21 we want to white wash that history? Let's move

Page 163

1 the Talbot Boys where it can be part of an
 2 exhibit about race. And if some want to
 3 speculate that those Talbot boys fought for the
 4 south to rebel against a despotic Union and
 5 Lincoln, then note that as a minority opinion,
 6 as long as it is also noted that most
 7 historians believe the statue itself is a relic
 8 of the Jim Crow era meant to oppress blacks.
 9 And until it can be moved to a museum, let's
 10 put it in the basement.

11 Two more.

12 One from Hillary Spence. Please vote to
 13 move the Confederate monument to a safe place
 14 until it can find a permanent home away from
 15 our historic courthouse lawn. As a citizen of
 16 Talbot County, I am embarrassed by your
 17 inaction. You reflect badly on our values.

18 And finally, Peter Dudley of Easton. No
 19 one can expect equality of justice when the
 20 seat of the court displays a monument to those
 21 who sought to overthrow the government directly

Page 164

1 outside. Certainly all sons of the Eastern
 2 Shore deserve recognition, but this statue
 3 shouldn't be in front of the courthouse.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

5 MS. HAMLYN: Thank you.

6 MR. LESHER: Mr. Callahan, those are all
 7 the people who have signed up in advance.
 8 I believe we have at least one more.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, okay. Yeah.

10 MR. HILL: Good evening, Council. My name
 11 is Chad Hill. I'm from Easton, born and
 12 raised. And I proudly live here now.

13 You're not going to hear three minutes of
 14 my feelings tonight. You've heard a lot from
 15 me on this subject and you know how I feel
 16 about the monument. It's got to go.

17 Instead, I'm honored to read the
 18 sentiments of three other people who dropped
 19 these postcards off at the farmers market. The
 20 first two are quite succinct, yet straight to
 21 the point and, in my opinion, quite powerful.

Page 165

1 It's on public property and it should not
 2 be.

3 Please take down the monument. It is
 4 offensive.

5 I found this last one to be quite
 6 profound. It's time to end the discord. This
 7 monument has become a symbol of all that is
 8 keeping us apart. I've lived in this community
 9 for over 40 years, married into a local family
 10 with even longer roots, and I've come to love
 11 this area.

12 What I see happening makes me so sad. So
 13 many people who have lived and worked together
 14 for years are suddenly on opposing sides. It
 15 doesn't need to be this way.

16 I recently discovered that I have roots
 17 here that go way back. I have two great uncles
 18 who fought for the Union at Gettysburg during
 19 the Civil War. And their father, my
 20 great-grandfather, was on the side of the
 21 south. Imagine the strife that caused in their

Page 166

1 family.

2 This community is being torn apart by all

3 this strife and disagreement over a statue. It

4 can be moved and kept by those who want it

5 saved. And then those who oppose it, will not

6 need to see it. It has become like a sore that

7 never heals, and I'm afraid it will do great

8 damage to a great community.

9 Please choose community harmony over

10 discord. Move the monument. Thank you.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Hill.

12 Is there anybody else that would like to

13 speak on this side?

14 MS. DWYER: I think you've gotten enough

15 this evening. I'll come back next month in the

16 top of the agenda.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: You're welcome to speak

18 now.

19 MS. DWYER: Well, thank you.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.

21 MS. DWYER: Melody Dwyer. I live in Tunis

Page 167

1 Mills in Easton.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

3 MS. DWYER: And I've spoken before about

4 having grown up here and gone to Mt. Pleasant

5 and seen and heard brutality and humiliation

6 that still makes me weep.

7 And when I see that statue, it does upset

8 me. And I'm white. So I just ask, because I

9 think we're allowed to ask questions of the

10 Council.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Not on this you're not.

12 MS. DWYER: Why would you want to do that?

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Because it's your time, not

14 my time.

15 MS. DWYER: Okay. It's a rhetorical

16 question.

17 Why would you want to hurt your neighbors

18 and your friends?

19 When I think about preserving history, I

20 think about, I think about the people that say

21 well, you know, preserve the people who fought,

Page 168

1 we're giving them recognition. And our

2 forefathers weren't slave owners. You know, we

3 were merchants, we were watermen, we weren't

4 big land owners. But our forefathers fought.

5 Yes. But they fought for white supremacy.

6 They fought for a world where they said okay,

7 we don't own slaves, but we certainly don't

8 want them in our schools and our churches and

9 our restaurants.

10 The preserving a history that brings pain

11 to our community, intimidation, humiliation,

12 and degradation to people who live here today,

13 an embarrassment to many of us.

14 So I just ask you, whatever it is, is it

15 really that important that we can't find a

16 place for it and all work together? Thank you.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Dwyer.

18 Appreciate it.

19 MR. BRASHEARS: Thank you. I'm Bill

20 Brashears. I've been a resident of Oxford for

21 about 30 years, ten as a weekender and 20 as a

Page 169

1 permanent resident, full-time primary

2 residence. Sailing also brought me to Oxford.

3 I'd like to offer -- I was going to give

4 you three thoughts, but it's getting late. I'm

5 going to give you one.

6 The first thought, which will be very

7 quick, is just that preserving history is

8 different from honoring history. And I know

9 you all are aware of that.

10 If this monument is continued to stay here

11 and if you vote to keep it here or resist a

12 change, there's no other way to describe it

13 than that you are essentially honoring that

14 history.

15 There's nothing shameful about changing

16 our minds, when so much of our culture, our

17 education, and our understanding of history has

18 changed in our lifetimes.

19 My father's company transferred him for

20 several years from Pittsburgh to Birmingham.

21 As an eight-year-old, I rode on the buses that

Page 170

1 had a placard usually about two-thirds of the
 2 way to the rear of the bus. It said white to
 3 the front and colored to the rear. When I
 4 asked my father why, he just said they have
 5 their ways here.
 6 When I graduated from the University of
 7 Virginia in 1961, the university theater was
 8 still segregated. Colored in the balcony.
 9 They had their ways, too.
 10 Those ways have changed, thank God. And
 11 none of us wants them back. The romantic myths
 12 of the lost cause are gone. And we now
 13 understand that the Confederate monuments like
 14 ours weren't erected to honor long-gone
 15 soldiers, but to underscore the racism and
 16 white supremacy fervor of the Jim Crow era.
 17 That has changed. We've changed. Our
 18 understanding of right and wrong have changed.
 19 Our shame now is in our reluctance to change,
 20 to do what we know is right.
 21 Let us not be the last community in this

Page 171

1 state, even this country to do what conscience
 2 and public will have accomplished almost
 3 everywhere else.
 4 We are a dynamic, progressive, creative
 5 community that cares about education and
 6 fairness and decency; aren't we? Does a
 7 divisive monument honoring the Jim Crow era
 8 really represent who we are? We're better than
 9 this.
 10 Thank you.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Brashears.
 12 Appreciate it.
 13 Okay. Anybody else on this side? Anybody
 14 else that would like to comment? Yes, ma'am.
 15 MS. LOWERY: Since the storm is already
 16 here. Harriette Lowery. Try and tell a quick
 17 personal story.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 19 MS. LOWERY: I am the seventh generation
 20 of enslaved African Americans in Talbot County.
 21 My son and grandson are the eighth and ninth

Page 172

1 generation.
 2 I came back home -- I lived at 111 North
 3 Hanson Street, across the street from
 4 (Inaudible) AME Church growing up.
 5 I came back home 23 years ago to research
 6 my family history and to make sure that our
 7 family's property would stay in our family's
 8 name.
 9 In researching, I found out that Frederick
 10 Douglass' autobiography chapter four, that
 11 overseer saw one of the enslaved men, his name
 12 was Demby, cleaning. He was a horse cleaner,
 13 cleaning the horses. And it was on a hot day,
 14 probably like today.
 15 And so he took a break and went into the
 16 river. And the overseer told him to get out of
 17 the river. And he didn't. I guess it was this
 18 time to just put his feet, stand where he was
 19 going to stand.
 20 Slaves started gathering around the river.
 21 And Colonel Lloyd, on his horse, came up and

Page 173

1 asked the -- told the overseer to stop. And the
 2 overseer said no. And he told Demby on the
 3 count of four, I want you to get out of water.
 4 So he counted one, two, three, and shot him
 5 dead in the water.
 6 And Colonel Lloyd asked him why. And he
 7 said to teach the other ones not to say
 8 anything or do the work and this is the only
 9 way to keep them in line.
 10 Well, when I learned this, I couldn't
 11 understand.
 12 One other thing. My
 13 great-great-grandfather is one of the 18
 14 soldiers that founded Unionville. They went
 15 off to fight in the Civil War. And that to me
 16 was one of the proudest things I had ever
 17 heard, that somebody in my family fought in the
 18 Civil War on the Union side.
 19 But I couldn't understand why we didn't,
 20 most of my family didn't know this story. None
 21 of my family knew this story. And as I went

Page 174	Page 176
<p>1 about business of coming back and living in 2 Talbot County, it dawned on me, knowing my 3 uncles, my grandfather, and all of them, that 4 they did just what that overseer said. They 5 did not look back when the Civil War was over. 6 They kept moving forward. 7 And they were good men. They had State 8 Highway jobs, teachers, nurses. My mother was 9 a nurse midwife, and she delivered almost every 10 African American before me because she didn't 11 have me until she was 35 and she had six kids. 12 So she delivered a lot of them. 13 But they kept moving forward and trying to 14 be progressive. But when they came to town, 15 there were certain things that you did not do 16 as an African American. And some of you can't 17 understand it because you're not in our shoes, 18 and so I tell this story to just try to see if 19 you can relate to it. 20 But they had their heads bowed down. They 21 didn't speak to anybody, you didn't look</p>	<p>1 answer them in the future, I do not know. But 2 I want you to think about not yourself and the 3 people who think that they're preserving 4 history, what it says to us, what it says to us 5 even today. 6 And that's all I want to say. Thank you 7 so much. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay. Anybody 9 else want to? Okay. 10 So we'll end the public comment, and we'll 11 start off with Council comments. 12 Mr. Pack. 13 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Callahan. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 15 MR. PACK: We've been having public 16 comment probably since two years ago. Of 17 course, a lot of the comments we're hearing is 18 surrounding the Confederate statue on the 19 courthouse lawn. 20 And it finally just dawned on me this 21 evening listening to these comments what I'm</p>
Page 175	Page 177
<p>1 anybody in the eye. You did not do that thing. 2 If you were in the African American community, 3 you were taught that, you did not look a white 4 person in the face, in the eye. You just kept 5 your head down and moving forward. 6 And I feel like now, especially after 7 January the 6th, how can any place, any town, 8 any village in the United States after January 9 the 6th be proud to fly the Confederate flag or 10 have it on any monument on the courthouse lawn? 11 I do not understand that. 12 I know that -- I want to know why you have 13 made up your mind not to move it. But I'm 14 trying to tell you why I want it moved, because 15 of what it has done to the African Americans in 16 this community and what it has done to African 17 Americans all over this country. 18 Things have got to change. And I see 19 changes coming in the young people who are 20 protesting with us, who are speaking out 21 against it. I see that. And how you will</p>	<p>1 witnessing. It goes back to a famous saying if 2 the mountain will not come to Muhammad, then 3 Muhammad will go to the mountain. 4 If you won't meet with the people, the 5 people will come and meet with us. And that's 6 what we're witnessing each and every Tuesday 7 that we have these public hearings. If we 8 won't sit down with the people and have 9 dialogue with the people, the people will come 10 to Muhammad. 11 And I applaud you all for your patience 12 and tenacity and very poignant way of putting 13 your points across and very respectful way 14 you're putting your points across. 15 I would agree with what you were saying, 16 you can't erase history. I've heard it said 17 over and over and over again. You cannot erase 18 history. You can destroy history, you can 19 forget history, but you can't erase history. 20 That's a fact. 21 So again, I welcome you. This is your</p>

Page 178

1 chamber. Public hearing is the time for you to
 2 address Council. And we will come to you, as
 3 you have every right to come to us and voice
 4 your concerns to your elected body.
 5 Council will be attending the MACo summer
 6 conference the 18th to the 21st. So we'll be
 7 leaving for a while. So don't come here next
 8 week, we won't be here.
 9 We're going to be meeting with the
 10 Department of Transportation Secretary Greg
 11 Slater. And while we're down there, discussing
 12 some traffic concerns we're having here in the
 13 county with Secretary Slater and his team. So
 14 although we'll be down in Ocean City, it won't
 15 be all fun and sand. We will actually be doing
 16 a little bit of work.
 17 So thank you all for coming out and for
 18 your patience. And you're welcome to come back
 19 any time. Thank you.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 21 Mr. Divilio.

Page 179

1 MR. DIVILIO: I'd just like to reiterate
 2 the comments that I had when Ms. Neal was here
 3 from the Neighborhood Service Center. The
 4 appeal is going out this week. And if you know
 5 of anybody who seems off, there's probably
 6 something going on. And you may not know.
 7 They may not want to explain what's going on.
 8 But if you recognize a difference in your
 9 neighbor or your family member or your friend,
 10 the Neighborhood Service Center is probably the
 11 best spot to point them in the direction to get
 12 help.
 13 So I ask for you to keep an eye out for
 14 the appeal, keep an eye out for your neighbor.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 16 Mr. Leshner.
 17 MR. LESHER: Two things. One is just that
 18 I intend to ask the legal office to prepare for
 19 introduction a resolution to rescind Resolution
 20 281 or a resolution to the same effect. That's
 21 the resolution that amended the Comprehensive

Page 180


1 water and sewer plan to grant S-1
 2 classification to Lakeside development in
 3 Trappe in response to a petition. Doing this
 4 in response to a petition of over 200
 5 constituents who have expressed concerns about
 6 the process by which this was adopted,
 7 specifically regarding the information provided
 8 to the Council leading up to that legislation.
 9 And second, I want to thank all of you who
 10 have spoken tonight. And I want to
 11 particularly thank Mrs. Lowery, whose comments
 12 touched my heart. Thank you.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 14 I'd like to comment on that, too. I
 15 appreciate you guys being here. We're
 16 listening to you. You've been very respectful.
 17 And Ms. Lowery, I really appreciate you
 18 taking the time and rethinking about it and
 19 coming up here and talking to us. Okay. I
 20 really do.
 21 And also, the other thing that I want to

Page 181

1 tell you that I really miss Eric, too. And it
 2 was a pleasure meeting him. And I just want to
 3 tell you, I haven't talked to you in a while,
 4 and I just wanted to let you know that I do
 5 miss him. And he was really a pillar of the
 6 community, and we all do miss him.
 7 And I want to thank staff tonight. You
 8 guys have done a phenomenal job. We've got a
 9 new team, and I'm proud of you guys.
 10 And we've got a couple of new team
 11 members. So you guys, if you need anything
 12 from us, we're here for you and we're here to
 13 do whatever it needs to do your job right. So
 14 we're going to back you guys.
 15 And Mr. Stamp, you've got a phenomenal
 16 team behind you. And anything that the Council
 17 can do to help you and move us forward, we're
 18 here for you, too.
 19 MR. STAMP: Thank you, sir.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: And I'll hand it off to
 21 Mr. Leshner.

1 MR. LESHHER: The County Council's next
 2 meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24th,
 3 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will
 4 be convening in open session at 3:30 p.m. for a
 5 work session regarding the Repurposing Center
 6 with Warren Edwards, roads superintendent.
 7 That work session will be held at the Bradley
 8 Meeting Room, here, and is open to the public.
 9 And 4:30 p.m., the Council will adjourn
 10 into closed session to discuss real estate,
 11 legal, and personnel matters, as listed on the
 12 statement for closing that meeting.
 13 Therefore, is there a motion and second to
 14 adjourn tonight's meeting and reconvene as
 15 noted?
 16 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 17 MR. PACK: I second.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and a
 19 second it. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 20 roll.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 5 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 7 MR. PACK: Aye.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot for coming.
 9 (Meeting concluded at: 8:58 p.m.)
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 21

1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 7 was interrogated by counsel.
 8
 9 I further certify that the examination was
 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 13 in a true and accurate manner.
 14
 15 I further certify that the stipulations
 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 17 presence.
 18
 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 interested in the outcome of this action.
 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 16th
 day of August, 2021, at Easton, MD.

 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public
 My commission expires September 16, 2021

1	1957 162:2	151:17 168:21	586,656 93:4
1 61:10 64:17	1961 170:7	300 109:16	94:10
68:14 180:1	1992 64:21	300,000 100:5,13	6
1,100 21:12	1st 14:16 65:6,10	302 36:5	60 87:4,19 88:5,18
1,107 21:13	2	304 54:3,4 55:4,20	90:7
1,197,579 114:2	2.4 23:4	56:17 58:5 59:12	600,000 14:6
1,397,579 107:16	20 168:21	59:17 60:3,8,17	601,789.17 11:19
1,452,579 113:21	20,000 19:13	305 61:1,3 62:13	625 104:5
1,880,000 102:20	200 180:4	62:18,20 63:14,19	64 15:5
1.4 69:5	200,000 103:6	63:21 64:2	647 36:4
1.625 102:14	105:6	306 58:6 64:5,6	6:00 1:7
1.880 102:19	2002 131:6	67:10,12,17 68:3	6:30 59:18
10 1:7	2003 39:8,9	70:5	6th 175:7,9
100 71:12,14	2009 96:21	307 68:7,8 69:19	7
75:16 76:4	2016 118:16	70:5 73:3,7,8,10	70,000 87:5
1004 64:10	2020 19:6 23:7	30th 50:18	71 75:11
1006 64:13	74:15	31st 75:17	73 75:11
10th 4:6,8 60:15	2021 1:7 184:13	32 14:18 15:6 61:9	75 15:1 64:15
11 75:14	184:20	64:12,15	8
11,000 89:14	21663 61:8 64:11	33 51:6 61:8 64:11	80 14:1
111 172:2	64:14	64:13	800,000 14:6
113 127:14	21671 68:13	35 68:14 147:16	81,680 49:11
12 74:15	21st 125:20	174:11	82 36:6
12,000 89:14	150:16 178:6	36,000 99:15	828 36:2
120,000 97:1	22 23:17,19 158:5	3:30 182:4	8:20 12:3
128 15:1	225 107:3,6	3rd 4:6,7 13:9	8:58 183:9
1362 184:15	225,000 105:17	4	9
14 15:9	106:7	4,612 21:11	9,000 19:14
1464 87:15,17	23 172:5	40 65:2 112:3	90 34:20
148 64:12	2302 102:10	151:20 165:9	90s 110:7
14th 59:18 60:10	24th 182:2	44 68:13 102:15	91 15:4 16:6
67:11	25 110:6,7	45 136:20	980 21:13
16 184:20	25154 61:7	461,000 14:5	99 75:10 77:2
16,000 89:16	255 107:4,7	49 15:8	a
164 61:9	255,000 103:1,4	4:30 182:9	a.m. 95:21
16th 184:13	107:3 113:10	4th 49:9 55:18	ability 50:5 93:7
17 89:11	114:1,16	56:4 62:12 65:4	108:13
18 30:10 45:15	27th 3:21	66:16 69:10,17	able 14:2,19 18:7
109:5 173:13	281 179:20	5	31:10 32:14,16
180 97:13	3	53 14:21 75:14	35:13 40:14 41:10
1857 148:14	3 64:15	77:11	42:4,7,20,21 43:1
18th 178:6	30 11:21 12:1	5570 68:12	43:3 47:4,11,12
1916 152:21	15:10 65:2 118:7		

<p>47:13 51:4,8 55:13 96:2,17 97:20 122:13 absolutely 41:15 44:2 106:10 abuse 26:8,14 27:10 30:13 34:20 36:7 100:6 abused 27:16 academic 2:21 116:3 accept 18:19 19:1 acceptable 49:3 accepted 4:3,11 accepting 5:19 9:1 accepts 74:19 accident 6:4 accomplished 171:2 accomplishing 123:9 accords 100:4 account 113:14 accountable 80:16 accounting 117:18 118:8 119:11 accurate 184:7 achieve 85:18 155:21 acknowledged 149:6 acknowledging 149:8 acres 69:6 71:5 act 125:6 127:8 151:12 action 142:10 184:12 actions 143:6 active 118:19 119:3 130:6 activities 27:7 activity 27:8 34:9 108:18 109:21</p>	<p>add 2:18 17:18 65:14 70:19 80:1 86:18 101:18 111:11 149:11 added 115:20 adding 100:10 addition 56:2 97:2 98:8 additional 49:12 77:10 106:6 additions 2:14 4:1 4:9 address 20:16 21:6 59:14 67:6 84:3 124:4,10 178:2 addressing 78:5 adjourn 182:9,14 administrative 30:6 75:1 76:8 admiring 38:16 adolf 155:7 adopt 62:19 69:19 74:17 adopted 74:14 180:6 adorable 159:19 adult 25:12 31:8 31:11,16 adults 36:3,5 advance 164:7 advertised 55:10 advertisement 57:9 advisory 56:3,11 56:20 58:3,12 62:17 65:9 69:8 69:16 advocacy 24:14 25:9,17 26:4,5,21 27:5 29:11,17 37:8 38:7 41:6,20 142:7</p>	<p>advocate 29:13 30:20 31:9 33:15 36:2 advocated 106:1 advocates 33:4 affirming 128:13 afraid 40:4 166:7 african 15:6 160:20 171:20 174:10,16 175:2 175:15,16 afternoon 58:4 62:16 age 32:13 125:18 126:14 127:1 agencies 18:11 agenda 2:12,13,15 2:17 3:15 10:16 50:16 66:21 73:13 81:15 84:2,13 102:13 115:21 166:16 agent 95:1 ages 137:8 ago 31:7 37:13 61:14,18 68:18 71:3 81:20 87:8 118:13 142:20 148:21 151:18 152:15 158:5 172:5 176:16 agony 143:13 agree 177:15 ahead 16:3,4,10 50:20 64:1,5 112:8 air 12:2 airport 107:21 108:4,5 alienate 160:11 alive 162:14 allegiance 2:7,9 137:18</p>	<p>allocated 105:7 allotment 18:12 allow 49:4 134:17 146:19 156:2 allowed 167:9 allowing 90:3 allows 93:10 alluded 113:8 alternative 33:11 34:15 alternatively 103:5 amazing 15:13 41:15 42:11 ambulance 94:11 94:15 98:18 99:4 99:6 ambulances 93:1 93:8 94:11,12,20 95:8,19 96:6,6,20 98:20 101:4 142:6 ame 172:4 amend 2:17 54:5 55:4 61:4,15 64:7 68:9 amended 3:16 115:21 179:21 amending 69:12 amendment 54:7 55:5 57:17,18,19 58:14,18 amendments 58:9 america 144:19 america's 144:12 american 15:6 151:2 159:16 160:20 174:10,16 175:2 americans 171:20 175:15,17 americas 162:5 ami 14:2 amount 28:19 93:4 102:19 107:2</p>
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ancestors 145:10 145:21	appointments 91:1	asked 20:2 82:17 83:18 125:11 134:13 135:6 144:9 154:21 159:3 170:4 173:1 173:6	80:10
anna 126:14 140:9	appreciate 2:11 4:19,20 7:16 10:7 20:12,19 23:2 24:4,6 41:6,20 43:12,18 44:16 52:10 53:14,16 63:8 74:8 78:6 85:3,16 86:5,9 90:16,20 100:2,8 100:16 110:2,11 110:20 112:7,17 121:5,8,14 122:3 127:11 130:16 132:12 140:14 150:1 168:18 171:12 180:15,17	asking 10:13 22:3 22:8 45:3 46:21 50:12 96:5 107:4 136:9 161:14	auditing 117:18
annapolis 147:19 148:20	appreciated 115:15	aspirations 146:20	august 1:7 4:5,6,8 49:9 50:18 55:18 56:4 58:1 62:12 65:4 66:16 69:10 69:17 75:17 182:2 184:13
anne 151:17 184:2	appreciation 8:6	assembly 98:3	aunts 135:14
announcements 116:21	approached 81:21	asset 111:7	aura 162:11
annual 36:21 76:9 78:7,8 80:15	approval 3:15 15:2 50:13 53:12 94:10 102:21	assets 99:14	aurora 127:14
answer 136:12 176:1	approved 46:19 48:1,11 70:5 94:13 102:14	assist 43:3	authority 144:1 147:6
antonio 10:19 11:10 12:8,12 15:21 46:4	approve 52:20 53:13	assistance 10:18 12:13,20 13:3,15 13:16 16:16,21 21:13 34:18 35:9 40:7 122:13	authorized 124:16
anxiety 143:13	april 14:16 39:7	assistant 95:2 117:2,13	authorizes 88:2
anybody 15:14 22:12 60:2,7 63:18,20 67:13 68:2,3 73:7,9,9 84:5 100:19 154:8 166:12 171:13,13 174:21 175:1 176:8 179:5	area 64:16 67:21 84:11 87:20 89:6 90:7 93:3 94:17 165:11	assisted 184:7	autobiography 172:10
anyway 108:3	argue 154:14	associated 157:20	avenues 104:21
apart 165:8 166:2	arrived 97:10	assumption 57:3	avon 119:3
appeal 179:4,14	art 33:8	atrocious 145:17 159:11	aware 158:5 169:9
appearance 144:14	artwork 38:16	attended 162:7	aye 3:7,9,11,13 53:3,5,7,9 91:15 91:17,19,21 92:11 92:13,15,17 101:8 101:10,12,14 115:5,7,9,11 116:13,15,17,19 183:1,3,5,7
appeared 184:3	arundel 151:17 184:2	attendance 124:4 127:17	b
appeased 143:4	asian 15:7	attending 178:5	baam 115:21
applaud 39:4 177:11		attention 51:13 127:9	baam's 2:19
applicable 145:4		attorney 28:15 31:15 70:9 84:16 87:15 90:6 122:15	babes 133:1
applicants 7:2		attorney's 31:15	back 7:10 8:13 10:12 18:1,3 19:14 20:17 21:3 22:3 23:6,6 34:13 36:10 39:7 49:6 54:16 57:9 58:12 70:15 75:19 84:9 90:8 94:4 99:17 99:18 100:3 101:20 104:4 105:5,19 106:7 108:6,11,14 109:8
application 2:19 2:20 33:18 61:13 68:17 116:2		attract 127:3	
applications 14:13 14:18 15:1,2		audience 79:4	
apply 35:8 118:7 119:10		audio 184:3	
appointment 91:6		audit 75:7,13 76:9 76:17 78:7 80:8	

110:5,7 113:12,14 114:17 121:18,19 134:7 137:11 145:6 152:8 165:17 166:15 170:11 172:2,5 174:1,5 177:1 178:18 181:14 backbone 120:5 backfill 49:4,5 background 119:11 backlogged 98:7 backward 150:14 badly 157:6 163:17 balance 44:19 46:14 48:3 113:20 114:1 balcony 170:8 baldwin 92:4 ball 161:2 baltimore 148:21 banners 161:11 bartending 20:6 based 17:21 basement 163:10 basically 48:19 49:7,20 55:7,16 57:6 64:20 69:11 72:15 87:18 bay 118:21 119:6 beautiful 100:3 160:16 beginning 23:6 75:19 182:3 behalf 37:17 59:16 124:15 beliefs 137:19 believe 13:17 15:8 15:14 16:2 40:9 77:11 80:20 82:6 89:11 92:19 125:14,21 127:4,6	136:4 141:3 143:20 145:4 157:10 163:7 164:8 belong 125:14 133:8 156:13 beneficial 76:1 best 32:15 71:11 158:17 179:11 better 17:8,9 41:17 58:10,15 65:17 66:2 95:17 127:7 139:19 148:8 149:13 157:4 171:8 beyond 106:14 biblical 146:10 bid 51:17 94:18 102:10,17 big 16:16 21:14 110:8 111:21 112:1 117:6 121:10,10,10,11 168:4 bill 82:19 87:15,17 88:1,2 90:3,9 126:2 168:19 bills 20:14 35:8 89:10 birmingham 169:20 bit 43:9 48:2 53:19 55:1 64:19 79:7 81:18 97:20 178:16 black 129:7 131:16 133:7 140:10 143:12 150:19 153:15 156:17 162:11 blacks 148:14 163:8 blacktop 48:20	blast 45:10 blend 54:19 blessed 10:6 24:8 43:13 46:18 120:9 121:13 blessing 109:17 blow 133:6 blurry 27:3 board 6:12 22:21 23:2 41:3 45:12 50:10,11 53:11 56:3,12,20 58:3 58:12 59:20 62:17 65:9 69:8 74:13 91:1 board's 50:13 69:16 boarding 79:12 boards 75:12 78:18 79:3 80:20 boat 119:2 boating 119:21 bob 127:5 158:8 bodies 57:2,4 body 82:20 124:11 178:4 bold 132:21 bomb 162:1 bonds 27:15 162:7 books 151:7 boom 110:8 booming 106:17 born 147:18 150:19 164:11 bottom 22:2 27:20 boundaries 88:10 bowed 174:20 boxes 7:3 boy 132:21 boyfriend 26:17 boys 127:18 132:1 137:17 142:21 145:19 146:2,6 156:21 157:17	161:12 162:17 163:1,3 bozman 72:11 125:2,4 bradley 182:7 brakes 96:14 brand 99:12 brashears 168:19 168:20 171:11 brave 132:2 bravo 133:14 bread 40:4 break 172:15 breakdown 48:20 breaking 96:12 breaks 96:11 brian 6:8,9 7:17 8:13 9:7,7 92:19 93:16,20 95:2,6 97:6 bring 5:10 25:6 28:17 39:11 42:9 49:6 51:13 73:16 158:17 bringing 8:10,11 110:3 brings 168:10 brother 131:13 brothers 135:13 brought 24:19,20 119:6 137:11 142:20 169:2 brown 129:7 143:11 150:20 bruce 150:12 brutality 167:5 bubble 129:19 budget 93:6 102:14 104:4 105:6 106:2 budgeted 106:14 budgeting 33:17 94:14 120:7
--	--	--	--

buffer 71:12,14	54:13,15,20 55:1	179:15 180:13	caused 131:10
build 34:12 98:8	56:13 59:7,9 60:6	181:20 182:18,21	165:21
building 26:1 34:9	60:13,18,21 63:1	183:1,8	celebrate 126:17
112:10 135:3,3	63:4,7,12 64:4	called 28:8,10,12	131:11,15 138:12
150:13 162:4	65:12 66:5 67:1,4	48:15,18 93:2	140:5 157:19
built 98:5 110:9	67:16,19 68:1	134:15 155:9	celebrated 159:13
133:5	69:21 70:3,11	campaign 75:4	celebrating 140:6
bunch 51:7	72:21 73:20 74:1	camp 109:10	159:10
bus 170:2	74:4,6 76:13 78:2	capital 46:12,18	celebration
buses 169:21	78:16 79:20 80:1	47:16,17 48:5,11	139:20
busiest 162:4	81:12,14,19 83:13	captain 119:1	cell 162:6
business 108:12	84:14 85:2,20	captains 119:1	center 2:21 10:17
112:1 127:4 174:1	86:9,17 87:3,14	captive 79:3	13:17 15:17 18:9
buy 93:7	89:17 90:11,13,15	captured 143:16	19:21 21:5,10
buying 118:15	91:10,14,15 92:7	card 141:13 148:9	22:1 24:15 25:10
c	92:10,11 93:18	148:10	25:17 26:4,5,21
cable 155:8	94:5,8 95:5,16	cards 127:6 137:9	27:6 29:11,17
cac 26:20 27:21	97:4 98:15 99:21	140:18	37:9 38:8 51:6
28:17 36:15,16	100:19 101:1,3,7	care 44:21 84:4,11	52:5 108:2 116:3
37:12 38:4,20	101:8,15 102:1,5	84:17 131:19	142:7 179:3,10
39:5,6 45:13	103:11,14,17,20	137:13	182:5
cacs 28:4 32:21	105:10 106:19	career 8:8	century 125:21
caliber 118:2	107:4,6,8 108:16	carefully 135:1	150:16
call 3:5 26:20 53:1	110:15,17 111:10	160:4	certain 48:17 61:6
57:4 77:14 91:13	112:16,18,19	caregiver 27:1	64:9 68:11 71:19
92:8,18 101:5	113:16 114:4,9,12	34:12 42:17	174:15
102:8 115:2	114:13,20 115:4,5	caregivers 26:9,10	certainly 17:1
116:10 142:8	115:12 116:5,9,12	27:13	39:3 52:2 78:4,6
182:19	116:13 119:15	cares 18:8 21:11	89:8 100:8,11
callahan 1:15 2:3	120:18 121:4	171:5	106:5 111:2,8
2:10 3:4,6,7,14,18	122:2 123:12,18	caroline 37:21	117:11 148:4
4:19 5:2,5,8,15,19	123:20 124:1	38:2	152:6 164:1 168:7
6:19 7:19 8:5 9:20	127:10 130:15	carry 49:17	certification 58:13
10:2,4,11,14,16	131:2 133:15	carson 139:1	certify 107:14
11:3,5,7,12,17	134:5,9 136:16	case 13:8 49:15	184:3,5,8,10
12:5,7,10 15:21	138:8 139:4 140:7	65:21 161:20	chad 164:11
16:4,9 19:17	140:13 142:15	cases 19:5 31:16	chain 98:9
22:15,17 23:1,21	147:10 149:21	43:1	chair 4:3,10
24:3,12,18,21	155:14,16 158:20	casts 138:8	challenge 27:8,12
38:13,18 39:19	164:4,6,9 166:11	categorical 46:9	34:10
43:6,11 44:4,7,15	166:17,20 167:2	48:3 50:12 51:1	challenged 27:18
45:2,7,9,14 51:2	167:11,13 168:17	caucasian 160:12	challenges 148:6
52:12,14,16,19	171:11,18 176:8	cause 132:6,7	chamber 178:1
53:2,3,14,18 54:8	176:13,14 178:20	141:21 170:12	

chambers 1:10	39:2 41:16 145:5	clean 13:6	117:1 119:18,21
champion 148:18	154:10,10 159:20	cleaner 172:12	120:4,11 121:19
chance 3:21 4:7	162:3	cleaning 172:12	134:7 143:4 145:5
change 41:8 49:10	children's 25:9,17	172:13	149:7 165:10
58:19 115:18	26:4,5,20 27:5	cleanings 13:5	166:15 177:2,5,9
129:1 141:2	29:10,17 37:8,10	clear 49:13 107:19	178:2,3,7,18
149:13 169:12	38:7 142:6	108:15 127:16	comes 36:21
170:19 175:18	choose 166:9	137:4 149:7	104:12 117:17
changed 20:11	chosen 143:8	clearly 151:8	120:7 125:18
148:3 153:4	158:7	clicking 25:2	132:16,16 133:12
169:18 170:10,17	christmas 37:19	climb 36:12	133:12
170:17,18	chuck 1:15	close 26:15,16	comfort 27:19
changes 175:19	chums 131:14	60:16,18 64:1	comfortable 22:8
changing 153:20	church 172:4	68:4,4 73:11	coming 4:19 6:12
169:15	churches 125:12	138:18 152:4	7:7,20 19:18
channel 155:8,9	134:3 168:8	closed 20:10	20:14 21:8 25:19
chants 132:13	citizen 80:7	182:10	46:3 58:6 72:5,7
chapter 54:7	163:15	closely 152:8	93:20 111:17
172:10	citizens 8:12 39:11	closing 142:3	120:12 135:18
chapters 149:9	82:4,9 83:2	182:12	144:19 147:21
charges 29:3	125:16 128:1	club 119:4	150:1 174:1
charles 137:15	130:5 148:15	clubs 79:2	175:19 178:17
charlottesville	city 178:14	coalition 137:1	180:19 183:8
149:5	civil 139:10	collected 75:13	commend 86:19
chasm 128:9,10	148:19 152:3,18	113:11 137:2,5	112:12
chassis 96:9 97:21	153:14 160:11	collecting 82:9	comment 60:17
check 22:3,5	165:19 173:15,18	collections 82:11	124:2 171:14
checked 7:3	174:5	collision 127:20	176:10,16 180:14
checks 20:13	claiborne 130:19	colonel 172:21	comments 59:13
chesapeake	140:17 159:18	173:6	60:12 63:14 67:6
118:21 119:6	clarified 66:10	colonies 143:18	73:3 101:19
134:15	155:11	color 145:12	123:13 124:10,20
chief 9:2 148:13	clarify 29:2	150:21 151:13	150:10 176:11,17
child 24:14 25:7	113:17,19	158:13 160:12	176:21 179:2
25:13,14 26:21	clarke 54:11,14,17	colored 170:3,8	180:11
27:9,10,16 28:2	55:3 61:12 64:18	come 4:16 5:20	commercials 12:1
28:10,14,16,18	68:16 70:14 71:1	8:9 20:8 27:19	commission 55:11
29:4,15 31:12	71:20	34:2 36:10 44:6	55:14,17,19 56:11
32:6,10 36:7 40:6	class 150:15	46:15 54:9 60:2	56:18,21 57:10,17
43:1,4	classification	63:18,21 67:16	58:1 59:20 62:2
children 17:8 26:8	180:2	70:15 82:11 83:2	62:11,12 65:3,4
26:14 27:6 28:5	clay 50:19 53:16	83:5,19 90:8	65:16 69:4,10,11
32:8,11 33:6	85:5 105:1 117:20	97:17 102:1	70:10 91:2,5,8
34:11 35:3 36:3,5		104:14 111:19	92:2,4 152:20

<p>153:10 184:20 commission's 57:12 committed 126:18 committee 74:13 80:20 91:1 committees 75:12 78:19 79:3 common 27:14 150:15 communities 125:13 130:10 community 2:19 5:10,12 6:13 17:10,14 20:1,20 21:15 24:7 25:16 26:1 30:18 34:2 37:11,15,17 41:14 43:10,16 45:18 79:1 83:7,11 94:6 108:1 111:7 116:1 117:6 118:20 119:12 123:7 130:5 131:10 141:18 142:5 144:7 165:8 166:2 166:8,9 168:11 170:21 171:5 175:2,16 181:6 comp 55:5,8 61:15 65:21 69:12,14 compaction 49:4 company 169:19 competitions 47:5 competitive 94:18 competitively 51:17 complete 47:4 48:12 75:16 120:11 completed 77:13 completes 123:10 completing 75:13</p>	<p>compliance 74:11 75:2,16 complicated 162:20 complying 76:20 component 33:1,3 components 76:6 comprehensive 26:6 54:6 58:19 61:5 62:14 64:8 64:21 68:10 179:21 comprise 146:20 computer 184:7 concern 85:9 concerned 85:6 130:4,5 concerns 128:20 129:14,21 143:7 178:4,12 180:5 concluded 183:9 condemned 47:2 condition 83:16 conditions 94:19 conduct 76:9 conducted 32:6 36:5 75:7 confederacy 126:1 137:18 139:9 140:4 151:9 157:14,21 confederate 125:7 126:8 127:3 131:7 138:18 139:7 141:16 152:5,7 156:3,10 157:9 158:1 163:13 170:13 175:9 176:18 conference 178:6 confident 7:4 confused 16:5 connect 31:11</p>	<p>connected 62:6 72:4,12 connections 37:11 conscience 171:1 consciousness 146:5 consent 3:17,18 4:4,12 conserved 99:10 consider 106:9 considered 65:18 129:15 considering 65:20 consistency 65:20 consistent 58:14 62:14 69:13 consistently 19:20 consists 30:20 32:1 constant 161:6 constituents 129:17 180:5 constitution 138:1 159:17 construction 2:20 116:2 consult 50:7 consultant 72:9 consulted 51:19 consulting 118:8 contact 38:10 95:4 contacted 31:9 contacts 28:15 contained 184:9 contemporary 150:18 contingency 103:1 107:15,16 109:7 113:21 continue 9:9 23:15 26:1 67:10 85:10 122:9 128:2 147:2 154:13</p>	<p>continued 39:5 59:17 169:10 continues 146:2 continuing 131:15 158:15 159:21 continuity 144:11 contract 93:3 94:17 contracted 82:6 contractor 49:11 49:21 control 37:4 controversy 159:21 convening 182:4 conversation 65:15 conversations 33:16 cook 20:17 60:4 127:12,13,14 130:15 coopted 138:3 coordinator 12:9 12:13 29:18 coordinators 29:19 copy 78:14 core 74:20 122:21 corey 1:18 3:19 corner 135:2 correct 10:1,3 18:16 23:19 45:1 50:1 57:21 59:1 60:10 89:2 105:14 corrections 2:14 4:2,9 cost 48:4 103:3 costs 15:11 23:5,5 23:12 47:20,21 couch 42:13 council 1:1,4,10 1:14 2:13,18 3:20 4:6 5:13,16 10:8</p>
---	---	--	--

18:6 37:7 41:4 43:8,15 46:3 48:8 48:10 49:9,13 50:4 53:20 55:7 62:19 64:19 68:20 69:18 70:12 74:9 74:13 75:12 76:11 76:15 78:10 80:4 81:20 83:19 85:4 87:9,17 88:3,10 88:13 89:20 90:2 90:8,17,21 94:9 96:1 97:5,18 102:13,21 103:5,9 113:2 114:5,13,14 115:19 117:10 118:6 119:16 122:6 124:4,5,7,8 124:11,12,17 125:5 132:8 133:17 142:11,21 149:20 151:10 157:16 161:15 164:10 167:10 176:11 178:2,5 180:8 181:16 182:3,9 184:3 council's 51:13 76:20 182:1 councilperson 136:4 counsel 66:12,15 70:9 184:4,9,10 184:11 counselor 28:7,9 28:10 counselor's 28:8 count 173:3 counted 173:4 counties 32:19,20 32:21 country 148:18 161:4 171:1 175:17	county 1:1,1 2:17 5:10,14 6:7,14,21 7:6 8:9,11 9:5,13 13:11 14:3,12 16:18 18:10 24:13 25:17 26:3 29:8 29:12 36:20 38:2 43:12 44:18 46:2 52:8 54:5 61:4 62:19 64:7 68:9 69:18 71:21 72:1 73:14 74:12,14,20 76:11,11 78:9 81:6,20 82:5,17 82:17,18 83:18 84:15,16 87:15 90:6 93:13 100:10 107:20 108:6,8 109:18 111:17 113:12 114:16,18 116:4,21 117:5,20 118:11 119:7,10 120:6,14 121:2 122:6,14 123:10 125:5 127:2,7 129:10 130:13 131:5,11 132:3,11 134:21 136:19 137:17 138:9,14 138:17 141:4 142:7,9 144:7 145:12 149:13,16 150:12 151:17 152:19,20 153:7,9 153:11,21 154:11 156:12,14 157:4 158:3,3,12,17 160:1,8,16 162:13 162:18 163:16 171:20 174:2 178:13 182:1 184:2,3 couple 6:15 8:15 26:11 85:13 95:7	95:10 141:14 181:10 coupled 77:17 courage 136:3 course 16:15 27:9 27:12 34:10 77:16 83:15 86:6 102:10 102:12,16 103:2 103:19 105:4,13 105:20 107:21 109:19 111:2,7,9 111:12 112:13,14 113:10 114:1,15 151:19 176:17 courses 110:6,9 111:3 court 42:9 67:21 163:20 courteous 124:18 courthouse 125:7 126:3,8,13 127:18 131:6 132:18 135:2 138:15 143:1 153:2 156:3 156:16 157:12 163:15 164:3 175:10 176:19 cousins 135:15 cover 11:16 44:1 104:8 coverage 93:12 covid 13:6,18 15:15 23:6 33:6 33:12 42:3 77:18 84:1 97:12 98:6 104:10 108:20 109:10 cpa 117:19 cps 31:13 cr 51:5,9 create 88:14 157:4 creative 171:4 credit 40:10	creek 147:19 crew 6:6 95:20 crime 37:2,4 crisis 23:6,10,11 criteria 17:21 65:19 critical 29:9 crow 126:5 133:4 141:6 160:2 163:8 170:16 171:7 csbb 18:8 culmination 118:17 culture 150:18 169:16 curious 98:17 current 94:11 105:5 currently 30:11 89:10 95:18 curriculum 33:21 cutting 109:2,4 d d 2:18 damage 166:8 dared 162:2 dark 84:19 133:4 140:6 darkest 149:9 dash 144:15 date 77:2 david 122:18 davis 117:3,5,14 118:5 119:17 120:16,20 121:3 121:21 122:4 dawned 137:17 174:2 176:20 day 6:4 56:3 57:1 79:17,18 117:15 121:21 122:2 132:15 133:11 172:13 184:13
--	--	--	---

<p>days 95:21 97:13 99:16 122:8</p> <p>dead 112:14 139:10 173:5</p> <p>deadline 75:15</p> <p>deal 16:16 40:3 161:19</p> <p>dealer 94:16</p> <p>dealing 40:2 70:6</p> <p>dealt 70:16</p> <p>deborah 160:7</p> <p>december 55:13</p> <p>decency 143:21 146:21 150:15 171:6</p> <p>decided 117:7 125:6</p> <p>decision 57:10 58:10 66:4 148:12 149:15 157:17</p> <p>dee 126:6 158:18</p> <p>deep 117:17 148:3 148:4</p> <p>defender 149:6</p> <p>defending 159:17</p> <p>defined 23:9,12</p> <p>definitely 40:19 42:10 45:19</p> <p>degradation 168:12</p> <p>degree 158:4</p> <p>dehumanization 145:15</p> <p>dei 74:13 75:7</p> <p>deletions 2:14 4:1 4:1,9</p> <p>delivered 145:9 174:9,12</p> <p>delivery 41:8</p> <p>delmarva 82:6</p> <p>demby 172:12 173:2</p> <p>demeaning 158:9</p>	<p>democracy 128:16</p> <p>demonstrates 76:1</p> <p>denite 72:3</p> <p>densely 86:11</p> <p>department 24:14 25:8,11 29:12 37:14 38:2 45:12 77:4,5 80:16 82:13 83:5 85:7 86:19,20 87:5 93:11 120:5,13 178:10</p> <p>depending 32:16</p> <p>deputy 92:19 93:16</p> <p>des 122:16</p> <p>describe 9:11 169:12</p> <p>described 49:8</p> <p>describes 88:9</p> <p>deserve 138:14 150:13 164:2</p> <p>design 51:15,16</p> <p>designation 66:8 70:6</p> <p>designed 111:6</p> <p>desire 85:10</p> <p>desiring 124:6</p> <p>despite 102:17</p> <p>despotic 163:4</p> <p>destroy 144:9 177:18</p> <p>destroyed 155:1,3</p> <p>destroying 154:15 155:4</p> <p>determine 13:21</p> <p>determined 48:18</p> <p>develop 79:12</p> <p>developed 28:4 33:20</p> <p>development 32:9 32:10 91:2,4,8 180:2</p>	<p>device 99:2</p> <p>dialogue 177:9</p> <p>diane 1:21 184:2 184:16</p> <p>die 131:14</p> <p>difference 43:21 149:8 179:8</p> <p>different 14:9,15 21:4 23:18 34:3 34:15 70:16 85:14 104:10,21 111:3 137:8 140:11 148:1 158:15 169:8</p> <p>differently 129:12</p> <p>difficult 25:20 130:1</p> <p>dignity 143:21 146:7,21</p> <p>diligence 81:4 84:6 90:5</p> <p>dina 131:14</p> <p>direct 124:10</p> <p>direction 47:7 89:18 103:10 179:11</p> <p>directions 85:14</p> <p>directly 13:18 15:15 18:15,21 163:21</p> <p>director 4:14 6:21 9:12 10:7 32:1 92:19 93:14,16 95:2 107:12 112:20 117:1,3,14 122:16,17,18</p> <p>disagreement 166:3</p> <p>disbursed 11:18</p> <p>disbursements 4:5 4:7,10,11</p> <p>disclose 28:5</p> <p>disclosure 41:4 84:8</p>	<p>discontinue 145:17</p> <p>discord 165:6 166:10</p> <p>discouraged 141:16</p> <p>discovered 165:16</p> <p>discuss 25:21 103:9 182:10</p> <p>discussing 178:11</p> <p>discussion 81:15 84:9 102:12</p> <p>disenfranchisem... 145:15</p> <p>disgraceful 138:2</p> <p>dismissed 143:6</p> <p>displayed 126:13</p> <p>displaying 157:13</p> <p>displays 163:20</p> <p>disposal 72:2 99:13</p> <p>dispose 71:8</p> <p>disrespectful 160:19</p> <p>distinction 26:12</p> <p>distortion 48:19</p> <p>district 87:19 88:3 88:4,6,10,15,16 88:19 89:4 90:4</p> <p>diverse 81:6</p> <p>diversity 73:14 74:10,17,19 76:21 110:21 131:21 142:12 156:2</p> <p>divide 128:8</p> <p>divilio 1:17 2:16 3:8,9 6:19,20 19:17,18 22:15,20 39:20,21 41:21 52:12,13,18 53:4 53:5 59:7 63:6 67:1 70:14 71:15 72:20 73:1 78:16 78:17 79:19 80:21</p>
---	--	---	--

85:4,5 91:11,16 91:17 92:6,12,13 99:21 100:1 101:9 101:10 106:20 108:17 110:10,14 111:15 114:21 115:6,7 116:7,14 116:15 120:18,19 120:20 138:8 178:21 179:1,15 182:16 183:2,3 division 94:15 divisions 156:17 divisive 171:7 document 58:20 80:21 doing 7:21 8:15 11:20,21 14:11 24:5,7,17 35:2 38:21 39:4 40:17 43:8,14 45:7 54:10,13,20 73:19 74:1,7 80:11 81:4 87:6 95:12 110:12 119:2 121:15 132:10,10 142:11 154:12 155:12 178:15 180:3 dollars 17:2 83:1 domestic 31:8 43:2 dominic 150:4,7 donations 162:16 donna 91:3 door 31:2 34:21 104:19 double 160:21 douglass 138:19 162:6 172:10 dr 45:6,8,10,15 48:7,9 50:7 53:10 53:15 134:2 drain 62:5 71:13	drawn 131:7 draws 111:17,18 dreams 144:15 dred 148:12,15 drive 100:4 151:18 driveway 45:3 driving 109:15 drop 96:19 dropped 21:2 164:18 dudley 163:18 due 14:14,18 81:4 84:5 90:5 139:6 dump 100:13 duty 95:19 96:9 dwyer 166:14,19 166:21,21 167:3 167:12,15 168:17 dynamic 6:6 17:13 171:4	economic 25:13 91:2,4,7 educating 40:16 43:8,9 127:21 154:10 education 5:11 33:17 34:6 75:4 126:11 169:17 171:5 edwards 51:4 73:15,18,21 74:2 74:5,8 76:14,16 77:12 78:11 79:9 81:8 122:19 182:6 effect 179:20 effective 76:7 effects 17:13 efficiently 39:13 effluent 72:2 effort 50:3 153:6 efforts 84:1 112:7 112:12 egyptian 145:10 eight 122:12 169:21 eighteen 39:8 eighth 171:21 either 103:1 elderly 156:15 elected 129:16 148:5 178:4 electrical 20:14 electronic 96:15 elements 156:20 elicit 32:7 eligible 14:1 23:5 23:13 73:12 eliminate 105:3 ellie 126:21 embarrassed 163:16 embarrassment 160:16 161:1 168:13	embolden 147:6 emergency 4:14 6:1 8:1 9:13 10:18 12:12 13:3 34:17 35:13 93:10,15 94:14,21 98:21 159:5 emotional 146:3 emotions 129:19 empathetic 130:6 empathy 128:5 employed 31:13 employee 30:21 184:11 employees 74:12 75:10 77:3,6 80:18 156:5 enact 90:9 enclave 69:2 enclosed 106:4 encourage 130:3 145:16 146:17 ends 71:5 energy 13:16 enforcement 28:13,13,14,21 31:19 32:12 34:3 38:21 42:21 43:3 engage 85:17 engaged 33:7,10 33:11 engagement 79:2 engine 96:15 engineering 49:18 enhance 144:11 enhanced 93:12 enjoy 118:20 119:2 enjoys 117:6 enslaved 171:20 172:11 enslavement 157:1
	e		
	e 75:6 155:2 earlier 78:18 98:11 early 97:17 earn 110:4 easiest 21:6 eastern 141:15 152:12,14 164:1 easton 1:10 31:20 38:3,5 46:21 47:18 48:14 95:21 127:12,15 140:2 147:16,17 152:1 155:19 156:15 159:14 161:2,13 163:18 164:11 167:1 184:13 easy 20:5 129:18 eat 111:21 echo 39:21 48:9 120:21		

<p>ensure 89:21 entered 184:9 enterprise 105:14 105:18 107:19,21 108:1,2,7,11 114:15 entire 88:21 entity 108:12 entrance 157:11 environment 17:6 74:18 156:1 160:10 environmental 61:21 71:3 equal 127:21 129:15 130:8 157:12 equality 73:15 125:15 132:18 138:2 156:20 158:10 163:19 equip 98:20 equipment 30:15 42:6,7 99:2,14,16 equity 74:10,17 era 160:2 163:8 170:16 171:7 erap 11:19 12:9 13:1,14 15:3,12 17:21 18:8 erase 155:5 177:16,17,19 erased 155:11 erasing 155:5 erected 170:14 erecting 161:9 eric 181:1 escape 162:7 especially 69:7 120:6 143:12 157:11 175:6 essential 128:20 essentially 169:13</p>	<p>establishment 90:3 estate 182:10 estimate 87:4 104:6 estimated 48:1 ethnicity 15:3 evening 4:17,18 25:5 48:8 50:4 122:20 127:13 130:14,20 132:10 134:12 140:16 142:17 155:18 158:19 159:1 164:10 166:15 176:21 evening's 151:16 event 29:6 39:3 events 14:9,11 83:5 everybody 2:4 9:20 21:9 23:10 47:10 73:18 98:1 98:10 103:12 108:20 evicted 12:21 eviction 35:12 evident 148:7 evil 146:18 evilness 145:13 exam 32:18 examination 29:21 184:5 examinations 36:7 examiners 30:14 exams 28:2 excellent 7:10 8:8 78:21 109:3 excited 5:1,2,9 47:6 117:12 118:3 118:19 exclamation 36:14 138:20</p>	<p>executing 75:2 118:14 executive 103:2 105:4 exhibit 163:2 exhibits 161:21 existing 89:6 148:4 expand 96:2 expanding 8:1 expect 110:4 163:19 expected 124:18 expedite 50:3 expended 23:14 expense 30:16 83:12 161:5 expensive 98:19 99:15 experience 5:11 6:1 8:10 35:16 36:9 44:6 117:17 118:3,9 119:10 120:1 151:14 experienced 29:5 61:17 experiences 27:11 29:4 expert 24:20 expires 184:20 explain 21:7 47:20 48:1 59:2 95:7,8 95:11 159:20 179:7 explained 57:18 70:2 explaining 85:3 explanation 153:12 160:4 expressed 180:5 expresses 144:21 extend 61:16 extra 20:7</p>	<p>extremely 29:7 30:9 40:8 eye 175:1,4 179:13 179:14 eyes 131:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">f</p> <hr/> <p>f 1:15 f450 96:21 face 175:4 facebook 22:4,5 faces 135:18 fact 98:8 99:3 110:20 151:15 158:1 177:20 factored 99:19 factory 98:5,5 factual 32:8 failed 61:19 71:6 71:15 failing 65:18 70:7 70:20 failure 66:6 138:7 fair 126:14 fairness 131:21 144:16 146:4 171:6 faith 104:6 130:4 fall 18:8 false 132:4 families 13:4 15:12 31:4 36:3 39:2 41:16 43:13 family 17:7,14 26:17 27:11 29:13 29:15 30:20 31:1 31:3,9 33:4 35:5,6 36:2 40:3 131:10 156:8 165:9 166:1 172:6 173:17,20 173:21 179:9 family's 162:2 172:7,7 famous 177:1</p>
---	--	---	---

fantastic 20:18 109:10	fight 128:2 131:13 173:15	164:20 169:6	forgetting 80:14 161:8
far 14:4,16 17:9 24:1 81:5 82:15 99:7 112:13 142:11	fighting 127:21	fiscal 48:12 76:10 79:11 96:2 106:12 106:17	form 144:20
farmers 125:12 137:5 164:19	figure 19:4 88:20	fit 17:20 119:21 139:13	formed 37:12
fast 97:19	filed 88:5	fits 79:6	forms 75:14
father 165:19 170:4	fill 14:13 18:7 33:18 35:14 37:14 125:13	fitzgerald 159:14	fort 153:17
father's 169:19	filled 141:8	five 18:10 31:7 32:19 56:1,5 59:15 62:15,21 63:16 65:6,11 67:8 69:15,20 73:5 95:19 118:13 119:1 122:14 124:16 147:17	forth 65:9 69:11 69:17 114:18
fathers 135:12	filling 43:21	flag 133:5 175:9	fortunate 7:6 29:7 30:9 36:19 109:18 117:4 118:1
fault 51:14 84:5	final 106:12 116:20	fleet 94:11 95:19 96:5,18 97:2 98:14	forward 6:14 8:2 9:5 49:17 52:9 57:14 60:2 76:8 86:16 87:16 92:20 95:12 110:3 111:9 120:3,12,13,15 141:19 174:6,13 175:5 181:17
favor 57:11,12 109:6 127:17 159:6	financial 21:17 34:18 35:4 40:7 120:8	flipping 123:3	foster 74:18 156:1 160:10
fear 143:13	find 7:2 16:21 20:6 38:9 46:2 69:11 79:6 86:4 87:8,11 122:9 136:11 163:14 168:15	flooding 131:8	fought 133:1 145:21 146:6 151:8,10 153:15 159:16 163:3 165:18 167:21 168:4,5,6 173:17
fears 128:19	finding 62:13 71:7 98:13 100:16	floor 5:8,16 67:5 93:19 94:3 114:6	found 77:12 85:15 86:16 136:7 165:5 172:9
february 23:17,19	findings 77:1	floria 159:18	foundation 37:18 37:18,21
federal 18:19	finish 44:2 47:11 47:14	fly 175:9	founded 173:14
feedback 34:8	fire 82:12 85:7 86:19,19 87:5	folks 5:12 77:15 123:15 124:21	four 70:16 145:3 148:19,21 159:19 172:10 173:3
feel 7:3,13,17,18 45:16 58:10 95:4 129:12 131:19 135:7,9 152:16 153:5 157:6 164:15 175:6	firing 153:17	follow 81:5	found 77:12 85:15 86:16 136:7 165:5 172:9
feeling 118:1 136:10 152:13	firm 49:19 117:20	following 80:9,17 81:1 88:12	foundation 37:18 37:18,21
feelings 126:7 130:1 150:21 164:14	first 18:12 42:8 46:17 54:1 55:15 90:21 93:15 111:16 125:2 129:1 131:4,5 137:14,19 150:10 151:15 159:1	folly 131:12	founded 173:14
fees 13:5 19:7,8		food 13:15 20:13 21:2,13	four 70:16 145:3 148:19,21 159:19 172:10 173:3
feet 172:18		foot 71:12,14 72:19	fourth 96:8
fell 82:11,15		ford 96:21	frame 32:13,15
fellow 125:16		forefathers 168:2 168:4	framework 87:18
felt 58:6,15 104:6		foremost 137:20	frank 1:17 23:1 131:19
fence 109:15		forensic 29:19,20 32:5,18 36:6	frederick 138:19 162:6 172:9
fervor 170:16		forget 177:19	
fesco 94:21			
field 47:5 62:5 71:13			

<p>free 38:3 95:4 freedom 132:19 132:19 156:20 friday 12:2 60:11 60:14 friend 26:17 46:2 46:3,4 179:9 friendly 28:2 32:6 43:5 friends 135:1 156:8 160:12,20 167:18 front 2:13 34:21 84:6 142:8 148:15 153:1 164:3 170:3 full 29:14 30:2 41:4 75:10 77:3 79:17 80:11 84:7 105:20 118:18 169:1 fun 35:19 178:15 functioning 62:1 functions 30:6 fund 37:19 44:18 46:14 48:3 105:8 105:14,18,19 107:21 108:1,2,6 108:8,12 113:4,9 113:21 114:15 funded 36:17 funders 36:20 funding 11:19 18:19,20 23:17 30:8 36:21 37:8 38:1 48:11 94:13 116:4 funds 18:13,14 23:14,15 50:6 82:9,14 93:5 99:11 103:1,6 104:4,7,13,17 106:14 107:15,17 107:20</p>	<p>further 70:1 81:13 86:2 103:9 184:5 184:8,10 future 52:2 64:15 75:3 126:21 127:5 129:14 161:8 176:1 futures 37:10 fy21 48:12 fy22 93:5 94:13 102:14 103:6</p> <p style="text-align:center">g</p> <p>galveston 93:3 94:17 gaps 18:7 35:14 37:14 43:21 gather 60:12 gathering 172:20 gauge 72:11 gear 99:4 general 17:10 103:15 105:19 108:6 113:4,9 generate 106:6 108:13 generates 143:13 generating 82:8 generation 145:8 145:18 171:19 172:1 generator 109:4 generosity 96:1 generous 41:19 gentlemen 127:13 134:13 geographical 87:20 germany 139:12 155:7 159:8 getting 11:8 47:9 97:17 100:17 105:9 128:10 169:4</p>	<p>gettysburg 165:18 girlfriend 26:17 girls 33:15 34:7 37:19 give 6:7 11:6,15 32:14,16 47:16 52:9 55:1,9 60:17 64:19 67:7 73:4 78:14 90:19 99:17 99:18 104:17 113:12 144:13 169:3,5 given 12:15 66:11 66:14 70:9 95:20 96:16 124:15 gives 27:12 93:7 giving 137:3 168:1 glad 40:6 45:20 94:4 117:8 global 117:19 glorified 159:13 glorify 141:8 glorifying 126:15 149:9 glowingly 119:19 go 8:3 16:2,4,10 18:1 19:4 20:6 21:3 23:5 24:21 24:21 25:19 33:18 35:10 41:21 43:17 57:8 58:12 63:20 64:1,5 72:14 76:5 80:8 82:11 84:19 84:21 85:14 96:10 104:18 105:8 111:20 138:13 152:12 164:16 165:17 177:3 goal 27:14 85:18 155:21 157:12 goals 79:10,11 goccp 37:5 god 145:9 146:10 146:12 170:10</p>	<p>goes 78:7 177:1 going 2:6,7 7:1 8:17,18 11:10 21:19 22:4 24:13 32:14,15 39:9 40:17 45:2 47:11 47:12,13,15,19 49:20 52:9 56:15 57:7 58:21 59:21 60:1,6,16 63:13 63:17 67:12 68:4 70:15 71:7,11 72:6 73:2 74:2 75:5 76:8 77:21 78:7,18 79:16 82:2 87:12,16 92:21 94:3 99:9 102:7 104:11 105:12 108:17,19 121:9,15,19 132:13,14,14 133:10,10 137:4 137:15 155:10 164:13 169:3,5 172:19 178:9 179:4,6,7 181:14 gold 133:2 golf 77:16 102:10 102:12,16 103:7 103:16,18 105:13 106:17 107:21 109:11,18 110:9 111:12,20 112:13 112:14 113:9 114:1,15 151:19 golfer 110:17,20 111:5 good 3:16 4:16,18 5:15,15 7:2 8:17 9:19 11:1,2,2,3 23:2 24:18,18 33:12 45:9 46:10 48:8 52:12,13,14 54:11,12,14,14,21</p>
---	--	---	--

56:14 58:7 63:4 65:12 70:3 71:7 74:4,4 77:2 78:15 78:16 79:5 81:11 85:15 89:18 95:5 95:5 97:6 101:15 102:2,3,5 103:20 104:6,6 106:18,19 110:17 113:16 114:4 121:19 122:3 127:13 128:17,17 130:14 132:6,7,10,11 134:12 135:17 140:16 142:7,17 155:18 159:1 164:10 174:7 gotten 166:14 governance 144:20 government 6:14 13:15 36:18 74:20 81:7 107:20 108:8 114:16 118:10 119:11 120:6 122:15 123:2 156:13 160:3 163:21 governments 148:3,4,5 governor's 37:1,4 gracing 157:11 gracious 104:17 grade 49:6 graduated 147:17 170:6 grand 136:20 grandfather 131:12 165:20 173:13 174:3 grandmother 159:19 grandson 171:21	grant 30:4,6 180:1 grants 30:7 33:2 37:1,16 44:1 grateful 11:9 161:12 grave 138:13 gray 137:18 great 7:5,11 9:4,9 11:12 12:5,10 16:1 24:4,5 27:18 34:8 43:14 44:5,7 45:17,17 46:7 50:8 61:2 73:17 76:13 79:19 90:12 94:2,5 95:6 97:4,5 99:21 103:14 104:19 106:4 109:11,11,12,19 109:20 110:10 120:12 121:16 123:12 131:12 142:9 151:20 165:17,20 166:7,8 173:13,13 greater 36:1 greatest 135:20 greatly 20:12 greetings 160:14 greg 178:10 grew 159:8 griffith 45:6,8,10 45:15 48:7,9 50:7 53:10,15 98:11 grit 136:3 ground 6:3 62:6 72:1,4,7,13,18 grounds 126:9,13 131:6 140:5 156:16 157:18 158:2 group 33:14,20 85:11,16 groups 83:11	growing 148:6 172:4 grown 128:8,9 167:4 guarantied 94:20 guess 39:6 51:13 56:7,8 61:18 62:6 62:20 71:20 72:17 82:14,19 88:19 147:18 148:17 172:17 guessing 161:16 guidance 28:7,8,9 28:10 guilty 128:14 guy 100:12 guys 10:21 11:7 24:8 43:19 44:15 51:2 54:20 59:10 63:7 93:19 94:3 101:15 103:11,12 103:20 109:7 110:1 111:13,21 112:3,17 115:12 121:15 122:3 180:15 181:8,9,11 181:14	h haberman 161:13 half 118:9,10 139:9 hamlyn 158:21 159:1 164:5 hand 68:3 73:9 111:16 124:7 128:12 181:20 184:13 handle 85:1 hands 10:6 17:3,3 hang 123:21 hanson 172:3 happen 123:2 136:4	happened 123:3 144:18 152:10 153:13 154:11 happening 71:6 153:9 165:12 happy 11:4,5,7 110:1 hard 34:20 47:8 71:7 82:15 129:18 harder 77:18 hardest 40:2 hardship 131:9 harm 139:20 harmed 27:16 harmony 166:9 harriette 133:16 171:16 hartge 147:12,13 hate 141:8 hateful 128:1 haul 62:4 haven 150:14 he'll 10:12 head 23:18 103:16 175:5 heads 77:4 80:16 174:20 heal 158:12 healing 129:1 heals 166:7 health 30:12 31:21 32:3 33:5 41:8,13 61:21 71:3 83:15 hear 12:3 19:20 25:18 26:10 100:12 128:18 129:6,11,21 156:7 164:13 heard 37:6 88:12 98:10 104:9 124:7 128:21 129:9,20 133:18,19,20 164:14 167:5 173:17 177:16
---	--	---	---	--

<p>hearing 4:2,10 53:19 56:9 59:12 59:17 60:19 63:13 63:17 64:2 67:10 68:5 73:2,11 88:11,13 176:17 178:1</p> <p>hearings 53:20 177:7</p> <p>heart 27:20 99:14 104:18 105:17,19 111:12 131:9 136:10,11 180:12</p> <p>hearts 141:9 160:6</p> <p>heating 21:12</p> <p>heavy 20:4 62:4</p> <p>heidi 159:8</p> <p>held 158:9 182:2,7</p> <p>hello 125:3</p> <p>help 7:8 12:15 14:2,20 15:17 20:2,3 22:9,10 31:11 38:9 41:13 43:17 51:5 82:17 82:18 83:11 85:12 85:18 86:15,21 87:12 105:13 106:6 121:9,17 136:9 179:12 181:17</p> <p>helped 14:17,21 19:10 46:18</p> <p>helpful 46:5 75:21</p> <p>helping 13:10 14:12 24:8 39:1 43:14 49:19 90:1</p> <p>helps 13:4 15:12</p> <p>henry 108:4</p> <p>hey 32:12 54:18 97:6</p> <p>hi 12:11 73:21 136:18</p> <p>hide 54:15</p>	<p>high 44:19 45:19 46:21 47:18 48:14 147:17 149:15</p> <p>highly 5:21 119:18 123:4</p> <p>highway 174:8</p> <p>hill 164:10,11 166:11</p> <p>hillary 163:12</p> <p>hire 75:21 76:6 78:13,20 79:13</p> <p>hires 75:20 76:3</p> <p>hiring 20:10</p> <p>hispanic 15:4,4,5 16:6,7</p> <p>historians 163:7</p> <p>historic 92:2 153:10 163:15</p> <p>historical 144:7 162:15</p> <p>historically 143:14</p> <p>history 126:10,11 129:7 138:3 139:15,19 140:4,6 141:6 144:12 145:17 149:10 151:2,6,7,8 152:18 153:7,20 154:17 155:5,5,10 156:19 157:18 158:14 161:17,18 162:1,10,11,20,21 167:19 168:10 169:7,8,14,17 172:6 176:4 177:16,18,18,19 177:19</p> <p>hit 6:3 42:3</p> <p>hitler 139:12 155:7,9</p> <p>hits 34:19</p> <p>hog 102:9,11,16 103:7,16,19</p>	<p>109:13,17 151:19</p> <p>hogan 149:5</p> <p>hold 22:17 56:9 97:21 136:1</p> <p>holding 80:16 162:6</p> <p>holds 88:11</p> <p>hole 109:4</p> <p>holes 105:3</p> <p>holla 160:7</p> <p>holly 92:3</p> <p>homage 157:14</p> <p>home 7:13 9:6 13:5,7,7 17:5,7,9 137:10 142:8 152:12 155:19 162:2 163:14 172:2,5</p> <p>homeless 35:12</p> <p>homelessness 16:17</p> <p>homes 12:21 15:13 16:20</p> <p>homework 74:5</p> <p>homicide 43:2</p> <p>honda 100:4</p> <p>honestly 158:4</p> <p>honor 130:8 136:13 138:15 139:21 143:3 153:1 170:14</p> <p>honored 157:21 159:12 164:17</p> <p>honoring 125:21 138:21 139:12 159:10,15 169:8 169:13 171:7</p> <p>hope 22:1 23:18 27:19 44:6 66:9 128:18 129:10 130:21 132:12 136:11 140:1 146:4 156:7</p>	<p>hopeful 161:11</p> <p>hopefully 70:9</p> <p>hopes 128:19 144:15</p> <p>hoping 49:16</p> <p>horse 172:12,21</p> <p>horses 172:13</p> <p>horton 93:1 94:10 94:12,16 98:5</p> <p>hospital 30:10 40:13 41:7,11,18 42:4 159:5</p> <p>hospitality 20:4</p> <p>hospitals 41:9</p> <p>host 41:10 47:5</p> <p>hot 172:13</p> <p>houlihan 1:21 184:2,16</p> <p>house 13:8 17:11 17:11 22:13 42:13 162:16</p> <p>housed 19:16</p> <p>houston 93:3 94:17</p> <p>hr 122:18</p> <p>hugh 139:1</p> <p>huh 44:10</p> <p>human 79:11 133:7 139:21 142:11 155:20 159:11</p> <p>humanity 132:3 145:14</p> <p>humiliation 167:5 168:11</p> <p>hungry 22:12</p> <p>hurt 146:3 167:17</p> <p>hurtful 125:19 129:13 130:11</p> <p>hurts 149:16,16</p> <p>hydraulically 62:6 72:4</p> <p>hyman 159:2</p>
---	--	---	---

i	inclusion 74:10,18 76:21 141:18 142:12 inclusive 81:6 130:6 157:5 income 13:20 22:11 35:7 40:5 incorporate 79:17 incorporated 102:19 increase 96:5 increasing 143:15 incurred 15:10 independent 33:13 indiana 131:10 indication 72:15 indirectly 13:18 15:15 individual 26:15 59:15 67:7 73:4 124:11 individuals 17:3 20:2 22:7 85:11 138:13 industries 20:10 industry 20:5 inequality 144:14 inequity 144:14 inflict 146:3 inflicts 147:3 information 29:2 32:7,17 34:3 38:7 38:10 49:21 58:16 62:10 64:19 69:7 128:11 142:4 180:7 initiated 88:4 injury 147:3 inspire 161:10 installation 102:11 instill 130:7	institution 143:17 institutional 146:1 147:1 insurrection 126:18 integrity 143:21 146:9,21 intend 179:18 intent 146:19 intention 87:11 intentions 87:10 interest 162:9 interested 38:6 154:19 184:12 interesting 137:7 interim 6:8 7:11 91:7 internet 34:4 38:4 interrogated 184:4 interview 12:4 32:5,6 33:19 42:19,20 interviewed 8:8 28:5,9,12,14,16 interviewer 29:19 interviewing 42:7 interviews 7:5 28:3,19,21 29:21 36:6 42:5,8 43:4 intimidates 126:20 intimidating 126:4 151:13 intimidation 168:11 introduce 12:8 55:8 58:21 117:2 117:10,13 introduced 55:12 57:7 introducing 4:13 introduction 179:19	invested 147:18 investigation 39:1 investment 37:10 involved 45:21 involving 92:2 102:9 irrigated 105:20 irrigation 102:11 102:15,18 105:4 110:5 112:11 114:16 island 88:21 134:14 issue 85:8 104:16 138:5,6 issues 98:9 114:2 item 48:5 90:21 92:1 102:7,9 115:19 items 52:6
		j	
		jail 162:5 james 130:17,18 jamilia 157:7 january 55:14 104:5 175:7,8 jean 125:20 jeffrey 91:6 jennifer 126:16 jersey 141:14 jess 161:13 jessica 11:8 jesus 146:14 jim 126:5 133:4 141:6 160:2 163:8 170:16 171:7 job 4:20 6:11 7:11 8:7 9:9,16 20:6,18 23:2 24:4,5 43:15 95:6 102:2,5 111:13 121:16 129:16 132:11 181:8,13	

jobs 123:4 132:10 174:8	179:13,14	134:19 136:18 152:7 153:5 159:20 164:15 167:21 168:2 169:8 170:20 173:20 175:12,12 176:1 179:4,6 181:4	layer 49:3 lead 45:17 leader 128:17 leaders 129:3,10 130:4,4,5 138:2 156:5 leadership 8:2 leading 32:8 180:8 leads 47:17 learn 38:8 126:12 141:7 learned 41:7 173:10 learning 75:6 leave 42:14 leaving 159:3 178:7 lecatates 6:8 7:10 9:7,7 92:20 93:17 93:21 95:2,15,18 97:8,12,16 99:5 100:18 101:16,18 102:3 lecture 135:21 lee 155:2 leeward 68:12,20 68:21 69:1 left 60:1 63:18 67:13 111:16 legacy 2:20 116:1 legal 179:18 182:11 legislation 88:14 180:8 lend 108:10 lending 112:2 lent 108:5 lesher 1:16 2:10 3:1,3,10,11 7:19 7:20 8:4 23:3,20 43:6,7 52:15 53:6 53:7 59:8 63:5 67:2,3 70:13 81:13 85:21 86:1
john 37:18 141:11	keeping 6:11 41:1 85:10,19 165:8	knowing 126:10 174:2	
johnson 150:2,3 160:14	keith 134:11,14	knowledge 7:7	
join 5:18 89:7 118:2 140:19	kelly 45:5 50:5	known 9:2 30:14 148:11	
joined 117:16	ken 117:3,10,14	knows 20:21 68:19,20 98:1	
joint 57:1 58:2	kept 166:4 174:6 174:13 175:4	I	
jonathan 132:1	kevin 44:20 47:7 47:19 48:6 50:19 51:4	laboratory 30:15	
joshua 145:3	key 122:14	lacking 128:6	
josie 125:18	kids 27:13 33:9 42:15 46:6 126:20 147:17 174:11	ladies 134:12	
joye 50:19 53:17 113:17 117:1,9 118:5 119:19 120:10 121:12 122:18	killed 159:16	lady 25:1	
judicious 144:16	kind 18:2 27:14 30:5 32:16 35:14 36:11 46:12 47:20 50:21 69:1,6 70:4 72:12 84:2 95:11 98:3 101:19 113:1 134:17	laid 106:5 111:7	
july 3:21 14:4,4 75:8 76:9	kindness 104:18 105:16,18	lakeside 180:2	
juneteenth 14:10	kinds 11:20	land 157:9 168:4 18:21 19:1,14	
jurisdictions 148:2	kirk 131:15	landlord 18:15,18 18:21 19:1,14	
justice 39:12 125:15 127:21 130:8 132:15,16 133:11,12 144:15 146:4 148:13,13 148:14 150:15 157:12 158:10 163:19	knew 40:20 74:2 99:9 107:10 152:6 173:21	landlords 17:4 18:19 19:7,11	
justified 149:4	know 6:3 7:2,20 8:16 9:20 12:16 15:14 21:1,9,16 21:21 22:8,10 25:11,16 26:2 38:18,20 46:20 50:9 51:7 52:10 60:3 79:4 86:10 87:4 93:6 98:19 98:20 100:1 104:19 120:1 121:18 122:7,12 128:14 129:17,21 131:18 133:5	lands 138:16	
juvenile 31:17		lane 68:12,20,21 69:1	
k		language 56:17	
kantola 75:6 81:10		larger 42:18	
katie 25:6 30:2 38:14,19 43:11 45:17,21		late 169:4	
katie's 45:11		laundry 72:16	
keep 16:19 17:4 19:15 25:2 60:10 105:20,21 151:9 169:11 173:9		law 28:13,13,14 28:21 31:18 32:11 34:3 38:21 42:21 43:3 184:4	
		lawn 125:7 127:19 133:1 138:15 143:1 160:3 163:15 175:10 176:19	

86:10,17 91:18,19 92:14,15 98:17 99:20 101:2,11,12 110:15,16,19 111:10 115:8,9 116:8,16,17 120:2 120:21 121:3 123:14,15,19,21 124:2 127:12 130:17 133:16 134:11 136:17 140:15 142:16 147:11 150:2,4 155:17 158:21 164:6 179:16,17 180:13 181:21 182:1 183:4,5 lesser 161:6 lessons 157:19 letter 2:18,19 21:8 21:20 35:15 49:8 116:1 letting 21:9,20 level 5:11 7:7 levels 71:19 liaison 111:11 liberated 145:9 liberty 133:6,6 license 152:10 lies 153:21,21 life 35:19 100:15 123:6 lifelong 152:3 lifetimes 169:18 light 57:13 70:10 123:3 138:9 lighting 88:14 89:6 96:16 lights 81:16 82:3,5 82:7,10,15,16,19 83:21 84:11,19 85:10,19 86:3,8 87:10 88:17 89:11 89:12 142:5	likes 159:4 lincoln 163:5 linda 24:15 30:20 34:10,19 38:13 39:6 42:11 43:11 45:21 line 36:12 44:8,10 44:11 48:5 98:3 105:5 173:9 lisa 157:2 list 79:1 90:18 listed 105:13 182:11 listen 128:18 129:3,17,18 listened 128:21 142:3 147:20 listener 128:17 listeners 130:6 listening 128:5,15 176:21 180:16 literacy 14:14 little 27:3,20 42:15 45:16 48:2 53:19 55:1 64:19 77:18 79:7 81:18 97:20 105:11 149:1 178:16 live 12:4 125:4 127:14 134:14 136:21 140:17 147:16 164:12 166:21 168:12 lived 136:19 147:16 151:17 162:12 165:8,13 172:2 lives 133:2,7 livid 162:13 living 13:1 33:13 71:16 100:2 174:1 lloyd 172:21 173:6 load 99:7	loading 99:2 loan 105:17 108:14 112:21 113:3 114:1,14 local 94:16 165:9 located 61:7 64:10 64:12 68:12 82:1 88:7 158:2 location 28:17 30:13 97:10 locations 148:2 158:6 logistic 57:6 long 23:9,12 35:10 42:2,10 51:16 74:3 98:8 105:8 139:6 141:13 156:2 163:6 170:14 longer 41:10 79:7 165:10 look 6:14 8:1 16:17 17:13 21:7 83:19 104:21 105:12 108:20 110:3 120:3,12,14 134:18 135:1,10 136:8 140:11 148:9 152:4 154:20 174:5,21 175:3 looked 148:6 152:8 153:9 looking 9:5 35:11 40:12 65:18 76:3 97:13 104:3 141:15,19 158:6 162:15 looks 55:4 62:5 loop 41:2 lose 40:5 losers 141:5 losing 22:12 35:7	lost 120:7 170:12 lot 8:10,11 9:14 17:12,19,20 18:7 20:21 21:18 25:12 33:6,14,16 34:8 34:18 35:3,19 43:21 44:15 47:9 47:19 48:14,16,17 49:15 51:21 61:9 62:10 66:8 68:14 69:5,12,13 70:7 70:18 71:1,4,10 72:5,18 76:5 83:3 84:3 90:13 95:12 100:6 111:17,18 127:10 164:14 174:12 176:17 183:8 lots 36:19 37:16 64:20 loud 133:8,9,9 loudest 129:4 love 8:21 35:1,19 36:9,11 44:11 165:10 loved 33:8 34:7 loving 159:19 lowery 133:16,17 134:6,7 171:15,16 171:19 180:11,17 lytle 61:14,17 62:2 62:10
m			
m 137:16 ma'am 67:14 171:14 machination 146:9 maco 178:5 madam 3:4,16 53:1 54:1 60:9 61:1 64:4 68:6 91:13 92:8 101:5 115:2 116:10			

182:19 mail 77:21 mailboxes 21:7 main 82:1 maintain 40:14 96:18 145:21 maintained 89:21 major 123:1 majority 19:11 127:17 150:17 153:16 making 9:5 20:7 39:10 40:18 46:6 73:16 118:13 man 8:17 102:2 131:16 148:15 manager 6:21 30:3 76:11 78:9 91:7 103:15 114:19 116:21 123:10 manager's 2:17 5:14 83:18 84:16 manner 184:7 manufacturer 94:16 map 61:9 64:12,15 68:13 mapped 86:5 march 19:6 23:7 margorie 136:17 marilyn 10:19 12:14 16:4 46:1,5 maritime 118:21 120:2 marjorie 136:19 market 125:12 134:21 137:6 164:19 markets 162:5 married 165:9 martha 158:21 maryland 1:1,10 16:18 30:11 61:7	61:8 64:10,11,13 64:14 68:13 130:19 131:11 138:11 139:2 142:19 148:13 150:8 152:6 156:11 158:2 184:1,2 material 51:5,7,9 98:12 materials 47:9 49:5 matter 58:20 84:8 124:5 130:1 133:7 143:21 160:4 184:7 matters 182:11 matthew 139:14 159:14 mcadams 4:14,18 4:21 5:4,7,9 6:17 7:15 8:4 9:2,17 10:1,3,10,15 92:19 94:1,4,6,9 101:17 122:17 md 184:13 mdt 30:19 mean 23:9 65:1 70:21 86:11 89:20 119:21 140:9 145:6 146:14 meaning 161:20 means 71:17 132:18 184:7 meant 107:11 146:13 163:8 mechanism 83:20 media 128:11 medical 30:15 32:1,18 33:1,2 36:6 94:14 98:13 99:13 medicine 158:6	medium 96:9 meet 16:11,13 38:19 46:2 50:19 85:6 118:6 119:14 130:3 177:4,5 meeting 1:4 17:15 50:10 55:11,15,18 55:21 56:6,20 57:1 58:1,2 62:3 62:12 65:4,6,10 65:16 66:17 69:4 69:10,17 73:12 76:18 119:15,18 147:21 178:9 181:2 182:2,8,12 182:14 183:9 meetings 66:12 meets 41:16 megan 60:3 127:12,14 melody 166:21 member 22:21 124:6 179:9 members 1:14 28:20 48:8 74:13 80:20 85:7 122:21 124:3,12,12 132:8 151:10 156:8 161:14 181:11 memo 107:14 memorialize 141:5 157:19 men 138:10 172:11 174:7 men's 133:2 mental 32:2 33:5 mentally 143:16 mention 78:12 107:2 mentioned 105:1 117:20 merchants 168:3 message 129:5 130:2	messages 128:12 156:8 met 50:20 55:16 55:17 56:3 71:2 122:16 michael's 61:7 64:14 michaels 31:20 37:19 61:8 64:11 91:5 134:3 142:18 michelle 160:14 mickey 150:4,7 microchip 98:2 middle 122:9 midshore 32:20 37:17 midwife 174:9 miguel 54:9,15,18 55:18 56:14,15 63:2 69:21 mike 4:14 5:8,18 8:17 9:1,17,21 92:18 93:20 108:4 108:5 122:17 miles 97:1 100:5 100:13 151:21 mill 48:21 milled 48:16 milling 48:15 millings 51:20 million 23:4 102:14 104:5 139:10 mills 141:12 167:1 mind 115:18 175:13 minds 169:16 mine 150:6 minimizes 29:4 minority 163:5 minute 139:5 minutes 3:20,21 4:2,3 10:12 25:19 59:14,15 63:15
---	---	---	--

67:7,8 73:4,5 124:14,16 131:1 164:13 miranda 160:7 misrepresents 152:19 153:14,18 mission 74:21 138:7 mistakes 141:8 mitigate 49:2 mixed 159:19 mobilize 85:17 model 27:21 28:3 28:18 modification 93:9 moment 29:16 31:1 117:9 137:17 143:7 145:4 monday 12:2 117:16 money 10:13 17:20 19:2,6 20:7 23:14 46:10,16 48:5 82:9 99:18 100:9 108:5,6,10 111:20 112:3 113:3 monitor 99:15 month 8:14 14:6 14:20,21 55:12,15 56:9 106:16 166:15 months 6:16 68:18 77:17 97:14,15 120:4 122:12 monument 125:7 125:14 126:2,8 127:20 130:4 138:18 139:13 141:20 142:1 156:3,9 157:3,9 157:17 158:9 159:7,9 160:8,15 160:21 163:13,20	164:16 165:3,7 166:10 169:10 171:7 175:10 monuments 139:7 157:18 161:21 170:13 morning 12:3 57:21 65:8 morris 25:2 mortal 138:7 mother 174:8 mothers 135:12 motion 3:14 52:16 52:19 55:19 56:4 62:13,18 65:5,9 69:11,14,18 91:10 91:12 92:7 100:20 101:3 114:6,14 115:1 116:6,7,9 182:13,18 mountain 177:2,3 move 39:2 53:18 57:14 60:21 111:9 120:13 123:7,13 125:6 126:7 127:8 127:20 130:3 140:1 141:6,10,20 142:1,12 143:5 151:11 156:6 157:3,17 158:7,16 158:16 160:7,17 160:19 161:12 162:21 163:13 166:10 175:13 181:17 moved 82:10 91:9 92:5 100:21 151:17 152:15 156:9 160:15 163:9 166:4 175:14 182:16 moves 4:3,10 moving 17:11 50:21 57:7 95:12	118:11 141:15 154:19 159:6 174:6,13 175:5 msp 31:19 mt 167:4 mtd 42:3 muhammad 177:2 177:3,10 multidisciplinary 26:7 29:20 30:19 multiple 42:20 museum 118:21 120:2 139:16 163:9 music 33:7 myths 170:11 n n 137:16 nagle 105:12,15 106:21 107:1 113:1,7,15,19 117:11 122:18 name 12:11 37:3 59:13 67:6,15 77:7 124:10 127:14 134:13 137:15 138:4 142:17 155:18 164:10 172:8,11 named 184:3 narrative 132:4 161:8 nation 138:11 140:21 nationalities 160:9 nations 140:21 natural 100:7 naught 136:5 nazis 159:10 neal 11:2,4,6,8,14 11:18 12:6,8,14 15:19 16:2,5,14 17:18 18:5,17	19:3,11 22:16 23:16 24:2,6,10 179:2 neal's 20:15 near 143:12 neat 34:6 necessarily 21:1 70:21 123:5 necessary 25:21 55:10 neck 102:9,11,16 103:7,16,19 109:13,17 151:19 need 10:8 20:16 23:13 29:2,3 31:2 32:12,17 40:5 45:20 46:7 63:9 63:21 86:2,6 95:9 96:7 126:7 129:3 129:20 136:13 154:10 160:16 165:15 166:6 181:11 needed 20:2 40:21 58:15 needs 41:9,16 45:3 108:20 112:9 132:6 155:11 159:11 181:13 negotiated 94:15 negro 162:1 neighbor 146:11 179:9,14 neighborhood 10:17 13:16 15:16 18:9 19:21 21:5 21:10 22:1 179:3 179:10 neighborhoods 83:4 neighbors 129:8 131:19 156:9 160:13 167:17
---	--	---	---

<p>nervous 12:7 never 20:1,2,2 33:10 96:11 135:12 147:14 151:6 158:7 166:7 new 4:14 17:16 37:3 41:14 42:11 46:4 70:19 71:13 75:20,21 76:3,6 78:12,20 79:13 93:1,14 94:10,20 99:2,4,11,12 106:16 117:2,13 122:15,16,17,18 141:14 142:6 161:7,9 181:9,10 news 128:11 nice 2:11 16:11,13 nieces 135:14 night 9:14,18 42:16 50:10,14 53:12 102:4 nine 14:20 15:5 16:6,8 68:14 95:9 95:19 96:5 97:14 97:15 105:3 109:4 125:18 ninth 171:21 nitrogen 71:18 noble 138:4,4 non 15:5 16:7 26:9 26:10 27:1 32:8 34:12 nonprofit 37:12 nonprofits 79:2 normally 97:17 north 93:12 156:18 172:2 northern 86:12 notable 138:1 notary 184:2,17 note 36:8 44:3 66:19 163:5</p>	<p>noted 23:7 62:3 163:6 182:15 notes 27:4 184:6 noticed 159:2 notorial 184:13 number 9:2 18:3 37:13 49:17 54:2 54:4 61:3 64:6 66:10 68:8 96:16 104:5 113:18 123:15 124:21 numbers 21:14 45:18 106:12 numerous 143:1 nurse 30:14 174:9 nurses 30:14 32:2 34:5 174:8 nursing 112:6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">o</p> <p>o'clock 182:3 objective 74:16 obtain 29:3 obviously 6:20 23:10 104:3,16 occasionally 77:15 occur 114:3 ocean 178:14 ochs 125:2,3,3 127:10 october 97:18 offenders 31:17 offending 26:9,10 27:1 34:12 offensive 126:4 157:7 165:4 offer 32:4 51:8 111:1 121:4 158:18 169:3 offers 123:7 office 28:9 31:15 31:19 37:1,4 61:21 80:17 83:18 84:16 113:5 114:19 179:18</p>	<p>officer 120:8 official 114:7,10 officials 129:16 148:5 oh 100:12 119:17 ohio 98:6 okay 2:3,12 3:14 3:16 4:4,12 5:6 10:11 11:12 16:8 16:9 19:17 23:20 23:21 24:12 38:13 44:16 53:18 54:8 59:3,6,7,9 60:6,8 60:13,18,20 63:1 63:4,19,21 64:3 66:5,18 67:1 68:1 69:21 70:3,11 72:21 73:1,10,12 78:2,16 79:20 81:14,14 85:2 89:17 90:11 97:4 98:15 100:19,20 103:11,17 105:10 106:19 107:18 108:16 111:14 114:4,4,13,20 115:1,19 116:9 122:2 123:12 131:2 134:5 139:6 140:8 164:9,9 167:15 168:6 171:13,18 176:8,9 180:19 old 45:16 102:15 133:4 134:19 140:9 169:21 once 55:7 57:3 88:8 124:9 146:13 ones 98:4 129:4 136:13 173:7 opalski 136:17,18 136:19 139:6 140:8,13</p>	<p>open 5:16 38:11 51:3 59:11,21 60:10 63:13,17 67:5,12 73:2,7 76:15 84:7 93:19 94:3 182:4,8 opened 45:13 operations 44:21 opinion 137:3 163:5 164:21 opportunities 111:1 opportunity 9:3 27:13 56:10 74:9 79:1 88:12 119:9 124:3 129:8,20 130:20 oppose 161:17 166:5 opposed 161:15 opposing 165:14 oppress 163:8 oppressed 136:14 oppression 145:11 145:14 oppressors 136:14 option 106:8 order 49:10 58:18 97:9 125:1 organization 20:12,15,17 59:16 63:16 67:9 73:6 76:2 124:15 organizations 79:2 orientation 76:6 78:13,21 79:13 original 45:12 ought 76:18 outcome 33:12 184:12 outdoor 108:18 outreach 11:20 13:10 14:8,11,19</p>
---	--	---	---

<p>outside 27:19 108:20 162:4 164:1</p> <p>outstanding 29:8 75:14 77:11</p> <p>overcrowded 13:8</p> <p>overflows 72:19</p> <p>oversee 173:1</p> <p>overseer 172:11 172:16 173:2 174:4</p> <p>oversees 30:3</p> <p>overt 152:13</p> <p>overthrow 163:21</p> <p>overtly 153:2</p> <p>overture 48:4</p> <p>owe 19:6</p> <p>owen 102:8 103:8 103:18 112:4</p> <p>owner 68:18 72:10</p> <p>owners 66:2 86:7 88:6,9 168:2,4</p> <p>oxford 31:20 117:5 118:15,18 119:8 150:7 168:20 169:2</p>	<p>81:11,17,19 83:14 84:15 85:2 87:14 88:18 89:3,10,14 89:16 90:12,14,15 91:9,12,20,21 92:5,16,17 94:2 97:6,9,15 98:16 100:21 101:13,14 102:2 105:11,16 106:21 107:5,7,9 107:18 112:18,20 113:7,13 114:7,10 114:13 115:1,10 115:11 116:18,19 119:17 120:16,17 121:12 136:5 176:12,13,15 178:20 182:17 183:6,7</p> <p>pack's 40:1 111:8 112:2</p> <p>packed 109:5</p> <p>packet 102:13</p> <p>page 22:4,5</p> <p>paid 18:14,18 19:13 20:14 83:21 108:5 114:17</p> <p>pain 148:7 158:11 168:10</p> <p>painful 144:7</p> <p>pains 160:3</p> <p>pandemic 122:10</p> <p>pantry 21:14</p> <p>paramedic 9:21 10:2 93:12</p> <p>parcel 61:9 64:12 64:15 68:14</p> <p>parent 26:16,18 34:8</p> <p>parents 27:6</p> <p>parking 47:19 48:14,15,17 49:15 51:21</p>	<p>part 13:13 38:21 64:21 71:21 75:11 77:14 80:18 81:9 93:8 110:21 111:21 112:11 117:7 118:4,11,15 121:11,11 129:16 131:4 132:4,6 135:21 137:1 140:4,6 151:2 163:1</p> <p>partially 51:14</p> <p>participated 27:7</p> <p>particular 27:8 66:1</p> <p>particularly 75:5 77:13 180:11</p> <p>parties 184:11,11</p> <p>partner 50:8</p> <p>partners 29:9 46:7</p> <p>partnership 40:15 53:16</p> <p>partnerships 29:9 30:18</p> <p>parts 130:21</p> <p>pass 87:17 88:13</p> <p>passage 90:8 93:8</p> <p>passed 65:11 69:14,19 90:2</p> <p>passionate 119:5</p> <p>pastor 134:3</p> <p>pat 159:18</p> <p>path 8:3</p> <p>patience 149:5 177:11 178:18</p> <p>patrick 87:16 122:15</p> <p>pause 56:18</p> <p>pave 49:7</p> <p>pavilion 103:6 105:7,21 106:4 109:3</p> <p>paving 47:19</p>	<p>pay 13:19 18:20 18:21 35:7 48:4 82:10,14 83:1 86:4 88:17 105:19 106:7 108:11,14 113:14</p> <p>payback 113:1,5</p> <p>payer 95:14</p> <p>paying 18:11 82:16 86:20</p> <p>payments 21:12 21:12</p> <p>peace 141:19</p> <p>pearson 140:19</p> <p>pedersen 25:6 27:21 30:17 42:2 43:19 44:11</p> <p>pedestrians 86:14</p> <p>pending 15:2 50:13</p> <p>penetrate 72:1</p> <p>peninsulas 100:3</p> <p>people 9:14 12:19 13:11 14:2,12,20 14:21 17:4,20 21:1,11,13,15,18 22:10 24:9 43:17 79:5 82:10,11 88:16 89:7 95:8 108:9 109:14,16 111:18,19 123:4,7 125:11 126:20 128:9,10,16,20 129:20 131:20 132:9 133:20 135:9,11 136:12 136:12 137:9,13 140:10 141:7 144:21,21 145:1 145:12 148:8 149:14,15,16 151:13 153:4,16 154:1,19 157:6 158:13 160:11</p>
p			
<p>p.m. 1:7 95:21 182:3,4,9 183:9</p> <p>pack 1:18 3:2,12 3:13,17 5:17,18 6:17,18 16:1,10 16:11,14 18:1,14 19:1,4 22:20 24:1 38:15,16,19 39:9 39:19 40:10,16 41:1,3 44:8,14 51:4 52:4,16 53:8 53:9 54:10,12,18 56:15 58:17 59:3 59:6 60:16 63:3 66:6,11,14,18 70:4,11 76:15,16 78:3,15 79:21</p>			

<p>164:7,18 165:13 167:20,21 168:12 175:19 176:3 177:4,5,8,9,9 percent 14:1 15:4 15:5,6,6,7,8,9,10 16:6,8 34:20 75:10,11,11,16 76:4 77:2 87:20 88:5,18 90:7 perfect 25:2 119:21 performance 17:10 period 64:16 114:18 perk 71:8 permanent 163:14 169:1 permission 50:12 permitted 124:13 perpetrated 26:14 perpetrators 39:12 perpetuate 147:1 person 9:16 12:18 14:17 34:20 35:4 124:9 135:5 149:3 175:4 personal 124:19 128:14 171:17 personally 133:19 159:4 184:3 personhood 146:7 personnel 182:11 persons 16:20 143:2,12 pete 1:16 3:2 peter 159:2 163:18 peterson 39:18 petition 86:7 87:19 88:5,8 142:20 180:3,4</p>	<p>phase 93:11 phased 98:18 phenomenal 111:13 181:8,15 physical 28:1 30:13 physically 143:16 physician 32:1 pia 80:7 pick 77:10 128:12 picture 134:18,19 135:11,16 pieces 79:14 81:8 pillar 181:5 pittsburgh 169:20 placard 170:1 place 48:19 75:18 80:5,5,13 84:17 86:14 125:15 126:10 136:20 138:15 144:10,13 151:20 153:1 157:5 163:13 168:16 175:7 184:4 placed 162:1 places 137:8 141:1 placing 140:21 145:7 plan 54:6 55:6,9 58:8,14,19 61:5 61:16 62:14 64:8 65:1,21 68:10 69:13,14 106:5 118:12,14,17 180:1 planned 64:15 planning 55:11,14 55:17,19 56:11,17 56:21 58:1 59:20 62:2,11,12 65:3,4 65:16 69:3,9,10 plant 83:9</p>	<p>plates 152:11 play 105:21 111:20 151:19 playing 152:2 plays 38:20 pleasant 167:4 please 4:16 15:16 18:4 54:2,3 59:13 67:6 68:7 92:9 95:4 101:6 113:18 114:12,12 116:11 121:18 139:13 141:10 156:14,15 158:7 160:17 161:12 163:12 165:3 166:9 pleasure 4:13 16:15 17:15 38:19 118:6,7 119:8,13 119:15,18 181:2 pledge 2:6,9 plenty 104:7 plop 42:12 plowing 83:6 plus 118:7 poignant 177:12 point 35:11 36:14 55:20 56:7 57:16 58:17 79:15,16 97:9 138:20 152:17 154:5,13 155:6,10 164:21 179:11 points 177:13,14 police 31:20 political 128:7,8 128:10,14 143:19 144:1,2 146:9,19 147:2,5,7 politics 128:6 poorly 158:3 popular 108:19 population 109:20</p>	<p>portion 48:17 71:21 88:21 position 5:20 6:9 9:1 17:16 29:14 positions 122:14 positive 106:13 possible 15:17 28:19 possibly 39:13 135:8 postcards 125:13 131:3 137:2 150:9 164:19 pots 23:18 power 82:6 99:7 136:1 160:5 powerful 36:13 154:3 164:21 practically 128:12 practice 158:6 prayer 2:8,9,11 preacher 145:3 prefer 154:21 155:2 prepare 179:18 prepared 113:1 preparing 143:17 presence 16:15 184:9 present 28:20 34:2 56:10 62:10 88:8 104:15 145:8,8 153:6 presentation 11:16 23:8 25:18 26:11 27:2 44:17 73:14 78:8,10 130:21 presented 142:5 154:17 presenting 19:19 153:20 presently 107:15</p>
---	--	--	--

<p>preservation 92:2 138:3 153:10 161:19</p> <p>preserve 83:8 154:17 161:16,18 162:9 167:21</p> <p>preserving 156:11 158:14 167:19 168:10 169:7 176:3</p> <p>president 2:7 22:18 81:12 124:8 124:17</p> <p>pressure 146:20</p> <p>pretend 160:1</p> <p>pretty 85:15 99:15 104:2,6 121:19 137:3</p> <p>prevail 150:15</p> <p>prevention 37:2,5</p> <p>previous 48:12 135:5</p> <p>price 99:11,19 138:8</p> <p>prices 104:10</p> <p>pricing 94:17,19</p> <p>pride 130:8 143:11</p> <p>primary 169:1</p> <p>principal 45:11 46:21</p> <p>printed 137:10 184:6</p> <p>prior 18:12 153:17</p> <p>priority 61:10 64:17 68:15</p> <p>private 37:16 82:21 83:1,3,9 111:3</p> <p>privilege 66:11,14 117:12</p> <p>prn 77:14</p>	<p>probably 21:6 51:19 61:14 86:21 86:21 172:14 176:16 179:5,10</p> <p>problem 16:19 67:19,19 124:1 134:9,9 149:21 151:21 166:20</p> <p>problems 61:18 62:8</p> <p>procedural 57:18 57:19 58:9,20</p> <p>procedures 54:7 55:5</p> <p>proceedings 2:1</p> <p>process 35:10 50:3 51:15 57:9 75:18 75:21 79:12 82:21 83:20 84:10,17,21 87:16 89:9 93:11 94:14,18 95:11 113:2,6 120:7 123:19 143:15 180:6</p> <p>procure 94:10</p> <p>procurement 95:1</p> <p>professional 103:16 155:20</p> <p>professionals 26:7 31:21 34:1</p> <p>profound 165:6</p> <p>program 10:18 12:13,15 13:2,3,9 13:14 15:3,12,13 17:12 23:4,13 30:3 34:6 36:17</p> <p>programming 30:4</p> <p>programs 24:15</p> <p>progressive 171:4 174:14</p> <p>project 47:16,18 47:19,21 48:5,11 49:19 51:11 103:2</p>	<p>103:3,7 104:8,12</p> <p>projects 46:13,19 51:16 52:2</p> <p>properly 149:8 153:19</p> <p>properties 64:9</p> <p>property 61:6 66:1 68:11,17 72:10 86:7 88:6,9 93:9 118:15 156:4 156:13 160:18 165:1 172:7</p> <p>proposal 111:8</p> <p>prosecution 31:4</p> <p>prospered 161:4</p> <p>protect 39:10 40:5</p> <p>protective 25:7 28:11 31:12</p> <p>protesting 175:20</p> <p>proud 162:18 175:9 181:9</p> <p>proudest 173:16</p> <p>proudly 164:12</p> <p>provide 25:12,13 25:14 29:17 30:5 30:12,13,15 32:5 32:18,19 33:2,4,5 35:13 59:13,13 63:14 67:6 73:3 74:9 126:11</p> <p>provided 30:1 34:17 36:2 37:7 37:21 41:14 55:13 180:7</p> <p>providers 32:3</p> <p>provides 13:17 26:5 29:13,14 37:15</p> <p>providing 13:19 26:19 35:4 38:3 49:21 109:6</p> <p>psychological 146:3</p>	<p>public 4:15 43:9 44:18 53:19,20 56:2,9,11,19 58:3 58:11 59:11,17,20 60:19 62:17 63:13 63:17 65:8 67:10 68:19 69:7,16 73:2 82:4,21 83:12,14 84:8,9 88:1,11,13 89:21 93:9 107:19 110:6 110:21 111:2 112:9 118:8 123:13 124:2,3,6 124:12 128:3 138:16 140:5 141:1 147:15 148:7 157:9,10,18 158:2 160:18 161:9 165:1 171:2 176:10,15 177:7 178:1 182:8 184:2 184:17</p> <p>public's 57:11</p> <p>pull 99:16</p> <p>pulled 34:1</p> <p>pump 62:3</p> <p>pumps 112:10</p> <p>purchase 93:1,6</p> <p>purchased 93:2</p> <p>purchasing 93:3</p> <p>purely 57:17</p> <p>purpose 57:19</p> <p>purposefully 152:21</p> <p>purposely 99:8 151:12</p> <p>pursue 37:16</p> <p>pursuit 138:5</p> <p>put 17:2 55:19 56:4 62:13,18 65:5,9 69:11,17 80:5,5,21 82:3,5 84:2,8,17 99:8</p>
--	---	---	--

100:5 105:9 112:10 139:16 142:10 144:10 148:20,20 152:20 153:1 163:10 172:18 putting 80:13 84:6 96:6 102:17 121:14 177:12,14 puzzled 70:4 147:21	racing 119:5 racism 131:16,18 137:21 146:1 147:1 156:12 160:1 161:3 170:15 racist 128:1 141:6 141:9 151:12 153:2 156:11 racists 138:21 153:5 rain 62:4,7 72:5 raise 124:7 133:8 raised 164:12 rally 132:7,11 range 137:8 rationale 143:2 raw 129:19 ray 54:8,10,13 56:13,19 65:13 70:1 72:21 reach 31:4 reached 87:7 read 5:20 27:4 54:1 61:1 64:5 68:6 77:8 78:13 102:13 125:17 128:13 137:4,12 140:7,18 147:20 148:9 150:9 164:17 reading 147:14 reads 145:5 ready 2:3 52:17 90:19 98:4 103:21 104:1 112:10 real 47:6 61:6 64:9 68:11 70:15 182:10 reality 104:20 105:11 realize 21:3 25:20 realized 130:11 152:4,12	really 8:10 10:6 13:12 24:4,6 28:3 29:3 33:10,12 34:6 35:10 41:15 42:18 43:12,12,15 43:17,20 50:15 76:1 79:12 84:4 86:1,19 95:13 96:17 111:13 112:6,16,16 119:2 121:5,5,8,13,13 122:8 137:7,13 140:10 142:3 151:20 152:9,9,16 152:18 153:13 154:6,11 162:9 168:15 171:8 180:17,20 181:1,5 reappointment 91:3 92:3 rear 170:2,3 reason 74:17 80:1 80:6,10 84:12 reasonable 86:4 reasons 80:2 97:16 125:9 rebecca 140:19 rebel 163:4 rebels 126:3 131:9 rebuild 27:15 recall 131:9 received 14:18 15:1 23:3 34:7,16 61:13 68:17 receiving 13:14 18:12 reclassify 61:6 64:9 68:11 recognition 164:2 168:1 recognize 179:8 recognized 124:8 124:9	recognizing 151:12 recommend 62:19 69:18 79:6 recommendation 59:19 102:10 recommended 5:21 119:19 reconcile 49:20 reconsider 125:9 157:16 reconvene 182:14 record 42:8 54:2 61:2 68:7 recorded 184:6 recover 39:2 recovering 98:6 recreation 108:18 110:21 red 72:14 143:12 reduce 109:2 reduction 15:8 reelection 13:7 refer 26:10 43:1 reference 91:2 referred 33:9 refinish 52:6 reflect 150:17 163:17 reflection 161:5 reflects 150:21 158:3 refusal 143:19 regarding 74:10 76:20 81:21 83:8 124:4 180:7 182:5 regardless 22:11 region 32:20 region's 156:19 regional 30:12 41:9,13 reisterstown 139:1
q			
qualified 123:4 qualifies 15:9 quality 149:15 quantitatively 111:3 query 90:7 question 23:3 126:10 144:14 154:21 167:16 questions 15:19 15:20 29:1 32:9 32:11 38:12 52:15 59:8 67:3 70:13 95:3 167:9 quick 18:2 20:6 48:13 70:15 74:16 100:17 169:7 171:16 quickly 39:12 55:3 64:18 85:17 quite 164:20,21 165:5 quote 34:19 148:11 149:3			
r			
r 137:16 rabbi 159:2 race 15:5 133:8 137:21 150:14 159:20 163:2 races 160:9			

<p>reiterate 179:1 relate 8:5 174:19 related 184:11 relates 151:16 relationship 30:10 34:13 35:1 41:12 relationships 5:12 relax 5:5 relic 163:7 relief 21:11 relieve 144:6,6 reluctance 170:19 remaining 75:14 remains 160:3 remap 61:6 64:9 68:11 remember 39:7 40:16 131:6,8 146:13 154:16 remembered 136:6 156:21 159:12 remind 145:2 reminder 74:16 126:5 144:8 145:8 145:13 161:6 removal 83:14 remove 103:2 131:14 133:2,3 139:13 142:21 143:8 144:3,5,10 144:12 146:17 147:8 160:21 removed 128:3 139:7 149:2 removing 49:2 144:2 147:6 154:14 161:15 rent 19:14 20:13 rental 10:18 12:12 13:3,4 16:16 23:12 repair 27:15</p>	<p>repaired 61:20 repairs 94:21 96:15,15 repaving 48:16 replace 122:14 replaced 47:1 98:19 99:9 replacement 99:10 102:15 114:17 replacing 96:21 report 2:18 90:19 123:10 reported 1:20 76:10 reporting 30:7 represent 130:8 131:21 139:8 152:18 171:8 representative 144:20 154:16 represented 141:4 representing 18:10 67:8 represents 31:16 131:18 141:21 145:20 151:1 repurpose 52:6 repurposing 51:6 52:5 182:5 reputation 110:11 149:17 150:13 request 44:17 49:10 50:4 52:20 56:8 57:19 76:18 80:2,7 92:20 96:4 97:19 115:21 143:3,6 requesting 61:15 91:3,6 92:3,21 94:9 102:21 requests 79:18 83:10</p>	<p>required 116:4 requirements 13:13 rescind 179:19 research 154:18 172:5 researching 172:9 resemble 79:16 resentment 131:8 reserve 96:7 reside 142:18 residence 169:2 resident 117:5,21 118:16,18 161:13 168:20 169:1 residents 127:4 158:4 resilience 26:2 resist 169:11 resolution 54:2,4 54:5 55:4,8,20 57:20 58:5,6 59:5 59:12 61:3,4 62:13,18,20 64:5 64:6,7 66:1 67:17 67:18 68:7,8,9 69:19 76:20 135:16 179:19,19 179:20,21 resolutions 66:20 resource 155:20 resources 79:11 142:11 respect 135:20 141:1 143:3 respectful 124:19 177:13 180:16 respectfully 125:8 respond 6:5 responded 28:11 responding 13:12 response 26:6 180:3,4</p>	<p>responsibility 153:19 154:2,5,7 154:9 155:12 responsible 75:2,3 95:14 139:9 rest 44:12 140:20 restaurants 168:9 result 103:3 results 75:9 76:10 154:18 resume 5:20 9:4 resumes 7:1 rethinking 180:18 retired 121:7 retirement 120:9 retreat 34:14 revenue 106:6 108:13 109:2,3 110:3 113:11 reverend 147:11 154:4 review 3:21 4:7 75:20 80:15 reviewed 49:14,18 62:17 revise 54:6 rfp 102:17 rhetorical 167:15 rhodes 91:6 rich 102:8 103:8 103:12,15 150:14 richardson 130:17 130:18,18 131:3 133:15 richly 150:12 rid 157:8 ridden 109:13 ridgley 125:2,3 ridiculous 159:15 right 5:6 7:13 9:16 21:19 25:4 40:11 41:5 46:7 47:10 53:10 59:9,21 60:7,21 62:5</p>
---	--	--	---

63:20 67:4 68:3 71:11 73:9,13 74:7 83:13 84:21 89:5 98:15 106:17 107:8,10 112:2 113:20 136:2 139:18 140:3 141:10 142:1 145:16 149:18 151:4 154:8 158:8 162:3,8 170:18,20 178:3 181:13 rights 141:1 146:6 148:16 ring 52:10 rings 132:19,20 rising 72:13 river 172:16,17,20 road 61:7 roads 83:3,5,17 100:3 182:6 robert 155:2 robin 155:17,19 rock 9:8,8 rode 169:21 role 9:18 roll 53:1 91:13 92:9 101:5 115:3 116:11 182:20 romantic 170:11 roof 47:8,11 roofing 98:12 room 20:18 29:1 135:9 136:8 182:8 rooms 42:19 roots 165:10,16 route 61:8 64:11 64:13 run 22:19 23:15 62:8 83:3 running 6:3 115:17 rural 123:1	s	scenarios 104:15 school 17:8 28:6 28:12 44:19,20 46:21 47:3,6,18 48:14 50:17,17 131:13 147:17 162:3 schools 44:18 45:20 168:8 scott 148:12,16 screen 27:3 scribble 77:7 seal 142:9 184:13 seasonal 80:18 seasoning 143:14 143:15 seat 163:20 secession 153:17 second 3:1,15 8:17 12:1 22:17,18 52:18,20 91:10,11 91:12 92:6,8 97:1 101:1,2,4 114:20 114:21 115:2 116:8,10 123:21 132:6 180:9 182:13,17,19 seconded 3:2,3 secretary 3:4,6,8 3:10,12,16 53:1,2 53:4,6,8 54:1,4 60:9,11,14,20 61:1,3 63:11 64:3 64:4,6 68:6,8 91:13,14,16,18,20 92:8,10,12,14,16 101:5,7,9,11,13 115:2,4,6,8,10 116:10,12,14,16 116:18 178:10,13 182:19,21 183:2,4 183:6 sector 118:10 119:12	sectors 129:3 sedition 131:15 see 7:9 24:18 27:3 27:4 34:18 40:6 45:17,19 77:2,16 80:6,8 84:12,19 85:13 90:6 106:20 108:18 111:16 132:17 135:2,12 138:18 139:13 147:14 152:10 155:1,2 165:12 166:6 167:7 174:18 175:18,21 seeing 97:6 98:10 110:4 seek 145:17 seeking 144:16 seen 109:9 151:6 167:5 segregated 162:13 170:8 selected 7:4 self 108:10 selfs 161:6 send 15:16 22:2 162:2 sense 100:11 130:7 143:10 153:8 sent 49:9 134:16 sentence 141:17 sentiments 164:18 separate 40:4 161:10 separatism 152:13 152:14 september 59:18 60:10,15 65:6,10 66:21 67:11 74:15 75:19 97:18 184:20 septic 61:19 65:17 66:7 69:2 70:19
---	----------	--	---

70:20 71:6 72:3 72:12 series 53:20 serious 5:6 seriously 77:4 80:12 serve 5:13 41:4 82:7 161:10 served 9:12 20:1 31:7 36:4 41:17 serves 126:4 service 5:14 10:17 13:16 15:16 18:9 19:21 21:5,10 22:1 38:4 64:16 94:21 95:17 96:7 96:10,14,19 111:1 121:1 138:2 179:3 179:10 services 6:1 8:1 9:13 24:14 25:7,8 25:12,13,14 26:19 28:11 29:13,21 30:16,21 31:11,12 31:14 32:4 35:13 37:3,14,15 38:2 45:12 75:1 76:8 93:10,15 94:15 96:18 98:21 100:10 102:18 serving 19:21 session 58:2,11 66:3,10 182:4,5,7 182:10 sessions 36:3 set 11:9 87:18 88:3 107:20 108:12 113:5,13 114:18 161:7 184:4 setter 102:8 103:13,15,15 104:1 106:10 107:10 110:7,13	115:13,15,17 settled 86:11 seven 95:9,21,21 95:21 152:15 seventh 171:19 sewer 54:6 55:6,9 58:8 61:5,15,16 64:8,16 65:1 68:10,21 69:2,13 180:1 sex 30:13 33:17 sexting 34:4 sexual 26:8,14 27:10 31:6 34:20 36:7 sexually 27:16 shafer 44:20 45:1 48:7 51:10 52:11 shame 45:18 151:10 170:19 shameful 169:15 share 8:9 22:6,9 46:11,13 125:10 126:6 139:21 154:6 shed 57:13 70:10 shell 99:17 sheriff's 31:19 shift 40:12 shifts 20:10 ships 117:6 shocked 138:18 shoes 120:10 150:19 174:17 shore 30:11 41:12 141:16 152:11,12 152:14 164:2 short 82:11 shortage 98:2 shorted 107:9 shortfall 104:3 107:2 113:10 shot 173:4	shoulders 154:6 shout 6:7 show 35:17 127:6 135:17 141:17 showed 69:4 75:9 99:1 shown 61:9 64:12 64:14 68:13 129:7 144:1 147:5 shows 13:20 151:8 sick 13:6 side 67:13,13 68:3 73:7,9 75:2 111:16 139:18 145:16 165:20 166:13 171:13 173:18 sidekick 93:16 sides 165:14 sidewalks 86:13 sign 75:20 77:7 78:13 signature 184:15 signed 75:7,9 77:3 77:6 80:19 88:8 123:16 125:1 140:1 164:7 significant 15:11 similar 70:17 simply 140:3 153:8 sincerity 136:9 sing 133:9,9 singing 135:6 sir 61:12 68:16 93:21 97:8 100:18 101:21 181:19 sister 96:12 sisters 135:13 sit 56:19 76:4 88:20 142:8 177:8 site 10:5 38:4 51:21 94:20 158:10	sites 138:13 sitting 101:20 135:3,4 situation 31:8,10 48:14 89:20 90:1 90:10 situations 40:3 70:17 122:8 six 64:16 68:18 97:13,15 126:14 145:3 174:11 182:3 sixteen 89:15 sixth 95:20 96:7 size 88:19 89:6 skills 33:14 118:3 slandorous 124:20 slated 99:10 slater 178:11,13 slave 134:21 162:5 168:2 slavery 126:1,5,18 139:8 141:21 143:17 145:14 146:1 147:2 149:6 151:9 157:15 159:11,16 162:7 slaves 143:16 168:7 172:20 sleep 9:14,18 slide 18:1,2,3 small 21:14,15 37:11 70:18 71:1 134:14 smart 25:1 smile 5:5 smoothly 47:15 snow 83:4,14 social 24:14 25:8 25:11 29:12 30:21 31:14 37:15 38:2 45:12 128:11 143:20
---	---	---	---

<p>societal 146:20 society 128:6 129:4 150:18 153:3,4 162:15 soil 48:21 72:5,16 soils 49:1,2 62:8 71:8,11 sold 133:1 soldiers 153:15 159:17 170:15 173:14 solid 9:8 solution 77:20 87:8,11 136:1,6 solve 104:16 somebody 7:7 14:17 24:19 34:21 43:16 137:12 173:17 somebody's 100:14 someone's 150:19 somewhat 108:2 son 171:21 song 132:7,12 133:7 sons 164:1 soon 15:17 sooner 51:20 sophia 141:3 sore 166:6 sorry 63:12,12 66:13 67:18 70:14 106:21 114:9 sort 147:3,3 sought 163:21 sound 22:20 129:5 sounds 11:12 65:12 76:13 78:3 79:19 94:2 101:15 103:20 113:16 121:6,7 123:12 sources 36:18</p>	<p>south 64:10,13 127:14 148:4,5 156:18 163:4 165:21 space 28:1,1,2 41:15,17 42:11,19 70:19 128:3 spaces 157:10 161:9 spacing 72:17 speak 22:19 60:3 60:8 63:19 73:8 101:20 107:13 123:16 124:13 135:9 151:5 155:15 159:1 166:13,17 174:21 speaker 67:15,18 67:20 124:13 133:14 speakers 124:18 speaking 59:15,16 63:15 73:5 119:19 124:14 175:20 special 90:4 specially 29:18 specifically 119:7 119:8 180:7 speculate 163:3 speed 73:16 spell 137:15 spence 163:12 spend 111:19 spending 33:16 spent 14:5,7 spirit 139:21 spoke 30:21 34:4 34:5,10 122:19 spoken 159:6 167:3 180:10 spot 179:11 square 50:1 st 31:20 37:18,19 61:7,8 64:11,14</p>	<p>91:5 134:3 142:18 stable 17:6,7,7,9 staff 7:12 25:9 30:3 72:11 111:14 181:7 stamp 6:21 8:19 8:21 10:12 85:5 86:21 87:2 89:13 89:15,17,19 90:18 90:20 92:1,18 93:18 102:6 107:12 113:17 115:16,19 116:5 116:20 119:20 122:5 134:17 181:15,19 stamps 13:15 stand 2:6 141:18 156:3 172:18,19 stands 89:11 132:21 star 9:8 start 47:3 60:1 81:17 176:11 started 2:4,12 11:21 13:9 14:16 18:11 33:13 46:8 118:13 123:14 152:9,16 172:20 starting 11:21 starts 50:17,17 starving 22:12 state 16:18 124:9 132:3 138:11 140:20 152:7 157:10 171:1 174:7 184:1,2 state's 28:15 31:14 stated 153:13 157:12 statement 73:15 74:11,14,18 76:21 77:9 78:8 80:13 81:9 182:12</p>	<p>statements 75:8,9 75:20 77:6 states 47:10 130:10 140:20 144:12,19 162:19 162:20 175:8 statue 127:7,18 128:2 129:13 130:7 131:8,14,17 132:4 133:4 138:19 140:9 141:6,17 142:13 143:1,9,10,13 144:5,6 145:13,19 146:17 148:17,19 148:20 150:11,16 151:1,5,7,11,15 152:2,5,17,21 153:12,13 154:14 154:20 155:1,2,3 155:4,7 156:10,16 158:1,16 159:21 160:2 161:2,15 163:7 164:2 166:3 167:7 176:18 statues 130:12 139:11,12 141:4 141:11 160:11 status 61:11 64:17 68:15 77:15 90:10 stay 15:12 31:3 42:16 79:7 132:15 132:17 133:11 169:10 172:7 stayed 40:13 staying 112:8 stenographic 184:6 stenographically 184:6 step 6:21 31:2 82:18 120:10 129:1 150:19</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>stephanie 126:19 stepped 27:18 89:20 stepping 20:13 steps 118:14 126:3 steven 161:2 stipulations 184:8 stone 49:4 51:7 stones 145:6,7 stop 126:15 173:1 stopped 152:3 storage 13:5 stories 128:13 129:11 storm 171:15 story 145:6 171:17 173:20,21 174:18 straight 104:2 164:20 strangers 146:13 strategic 118:12 118:17 street 64:10,13 127:15 172:3,3 streetlight 88:3 streetlights 82:1 83:17 86:12,14 stress 21:17,18 stricoff 155:17,18 155:19 strife 165:21 166:3 strike 133:6 strip 99:13 stripped 99:5 striving 95:17 strong 39:10 120:8 126:7 133:9 156:19 strongly 157:16 stubs 13:19 stuck 127:2 student 152:3</p>	<p>studying 152:9 stuff 35:19 44:21 subject 25:20 157:20 164:15 submit 107:13 146:8 submitted 52:21 102:18 subsidies 18:11 subsidy 19:13 success 17:16 39:5 succinct 164:20 suddenly 165:14 suffer 26:14 suffered 26:8 145:10 suffering 15:15 158:11 suffers 27:10 suggested 154:18 summarize 141:14 summary 48:13 summer 47:13,14 178:5 summon 136:2,3 sumter 153:17 sunday 100:4 sundays 151:18 superintendent 98:11 103:19 182:6 superiority 137:20 superseded 47:21 supervises 25:9 supervisor 25:7 30:2 supplies 98:13 supply 98:9 support 2:18 7:12 18:6 25:14,14 26:21 29:14 35:5 36:11,19 37:12,13 39:14,15 40:18,21</p>	<p>41:20 43:20 85:16 106:3 110:1,14 111:8 113:9 116:1 122:7 123:8 126:18 142:13 157:1 supported 141:21 157:14 supporters 36:20 supports 156:2 suppose 146:12 supremacists 132:5 supremacy 168:5 170:16 sure 7:3,13 9:14 9:16 11:17 16:19 17:2 20:20 39:10 40:9,18,20,20 46:6 50:1 53:12 55:3 57:16 73:18 76:19 77:5,8 80:3 80:17,19 81:1,4 81:19 84:14 86:2 88:2 89:5 90:20 95:15,15 96:18 103:13 112:19 121:15 127:16 135:18 149:1 172:6 surface 72:18 surge 95:20 surplus 82:14 surrounding 176:18 survey 154:18,20 154:21 susan 126:2 141:11 160:7 sustainability 29:10 sutherland 103:18 103:18 112:15 115:14</p>	<p>suzanne 140:15,16 151:3 sweep 36:13 sweet 36:10 swell 96:17 switch 123:3 swore 137:18 symbol 129:13 156:17 165:7 symbolizes 161:3 symbols 130:12 131:7 141:1 156:12 161:9 symptoms 128:1 system 61:19,20 62:1 66:7 70:7,19 71:6,15,17 72:3 75:6 83:9 99:7 102:11,16 105:4 114:17 144:17 systemic 146:1 147:1 systems 65:17</p>
			t
			<p>table 55:20 56:5 57:14 58:5 59:5 65:5,9 72:13 102:8 132:9 tabled 56:8,20,21 66:20 tables 20:7 take 35:10 44:20 52:5 53:11 78:14 84:4,10,17 117:9 125:1 134:18 151:5 154:1 155:12 159:3 165:3 taken 6:9 50:11 77:4 137:9 takes 51:15 talbot 1:1 5:10 7:6 8:9 9:5,13 13:11 14:2,12 16:17</p>

18:10 24:13 25:16 26:3 29:8,12 37:11 43:12 44:18 54:5 61:4 64:7,10 64:13 68:9 72:1 73:14 74:12,14 100:10 109:17 111:17 114:15 117:5,20 118:11 119:7,9 120:14 121:2 127:2,6,18 130:13 131:5,11 132:1,21 134:21 136:19 137:17 138:3,9,17 141:3 142:9,21 145:12 145:19 146:2,6 150:12 152:19 153:7,9 154:17 156:12,14,21 157:3,17 158:3 160:1,8 161:12,17 161:18 162:13,15 162:17 163:1,3,16 171:20 174:2 184:3 talk 11:11 29:16 33:9 62:9 63:2,21 73:10 98:11 105:11 128:4 130:20 132:8,8 151:16 156:6 talked 36:15 79:10 135:6 181:3 talking 8:6 11:10 67:17,20 72:9 108:10 162:12 180:19 tall 132:21 taney 148:13,13 148:14 149:6 taney's 148:17 tangible 118:14	tank 72:12,17,19 tantamount 143:14 tarnished 138:9 taught 159:12 175:3 tax 61:9 64:12,14 68:13 83:21 84:10 88:17 90:9 93:9 95:13 taxing 87:18 89:4 90:4 teach 173:7 teacher 28:6,7 teachers 174:8 team 7:11 26:7 28:20 29:20 30:19 31:13 34:9 75:15 78:4 117:8 118:4 120:11 121:14 122:21 178:13 181:9,10,16 tear 22:2 135:19 160:17 tears 135:17 technically 65:1 teenage 33:14 teenagers 42:12 tell 9:17 28:6 36:16 81:18 103:12 125:13 145:18,20 146:2 155:21 159:3 161:21 171:16 174:18 175:14 181:1,3 telling 23:19 ten 64:16 74:3 87:1,3 96:6 97:3 110:6 112:4,5 118:12 127:1 140:9 168:21 tenacity 177:12	tenant 18:20 19:12 tenants 19:6,15 tentative 49:10 tenure 121:21 terms 65:20 94:19 terrible 151:2 terrified 22:9 terrone 150:5,6,7 155:15 testimony 62:9 thank 2:10 3:19 4:21 5:4,7,14 6:17 6:18 7:14,15,18 8:4,14 9:7 10:10 10:15 11:13 12:11 12:14 15:18,21 17:17 19:18 22:14 22:15,16 23:20 24:10,11,12,17 25:3,4 27:17 35:16 36:8 37:9 38:13 39:17,18,19 41:1 43:7,10,19 44:5,14 48:7,10 51:2 53:10,15,15 54:8 56:13 59:9 63:7 65:12 70:11 72:20,21 73:1 76:12,16 78:15 81:14 85:2,20 86:17 90:14,15,17 90:20 93:18,21 94:1 97:8 98:15 99:20 100:18 101:16,17,19,21 101:21 102:3,6 105:10 107:1 108:16 110:13 111:10 112:15 113:7 115:12,13 115:14 116:5 117:11 118:5 119:13 120:16,17	120:19,20 121:1,3 121:21 122:3,4,7 123:8,11 127:9 130:15,19 133:13 133:15 134:4,5 136:15,16 140:12 140:13 142:14,15 147:9,10,11,13 149:4,19,19,21 155:13,14 157:1 158:19,20 164:4,5 166:10,11,19 168:16,17,19 170:10 171:10,11 176:6,8,13 178:17 178:19,20 179:15 180:9,11,12,13 181:7,19 thankful 43:15 thanking 5:19 thanks 9:1 44:13 44:15 90:13 93:19 100:17 127:10 183:8 theater 170:7 theological 146:10 therapies 33:5,11 34:15 therapy 33:7,8,9 thereof 89:1 thing 17:19 51:12 51:18 55:3 70:6 78:11 80:6 98:3 108:3 116:20 120:21 121:5 122:5 140:3 141:10 142:1 149:18 151:4 158:8 173:12 175:1 180:21 things 6:11 7:21 11:9,16 14:15 21:4,9,21 25:15 29:2 30:5 34:1
---	---	---	---

35:3,18 66:10 71:2,20 76:5 78:1 84:3 95:13 96:16 108:21 111:16 120:12 128:5 147:15 149:11 154:8 173:16 174:15 175:18 179:17 think 7:6 10:19 16:5 18:3 20:4,13 23:16 25:18 35:21 40:11 46:10 65:15 69:4 77:17 84:20 85:15 89:19 95:9 98:1 100:11 106:3 106:21 109:16 112:5 136:20 137:3 148:8 149:12,12,12,13 149:14 155:1 161:19 166:14 167:9,19,20,20 176:2,3 thinking 78:20 79:15 108:9 121:6 141:15 148:3 151:14 thirds 170:1 thomas 11:1 12:3 12:9,11,12 15:20 16:8,11,13 17:1 17:17 18:2 19:5 24:3,11 88:2 89:2 89:5 122:16 thoroughfare 82:2 thought 47:13 63:9 67:20 147:14 169:6 thoughts 141:20 147:20 169:4 three 18:3 36:4 54:7 57:8 59:14 63:15 67:7 71:5	73:4 96:13 124:14 131:1 161:14 164:13,18 169:4 173:4 thriving 12:17 tilghman 68:12 81:16,21 82:3,4 82:10,12 84:11 85:6,9 86:10 87:11 88:21 134:15 142:6 time 6:10 9:12 15:2 26:13 27:18 29:14 30:2 32:12 32:15 33:16 35:10 41:21 42:1,20 47:9 50:20 51:16 55:10,20 56:8 59:11,19 60:9 63:3 64:1 67:4 68:4 71:7,10 72:7 75:10,11 77:3 79:4,16 80:2 83:10,10 95:20 98:8,21 109:5 112:6,21 113:11 114:18 118:15,18 121:8 125:20 126:15 127:7 130:12 133:4,18 133:21 134:8 139:15,17 141:2 145:5 148:18 149:7,19 150:3 152:1 158:12,19 161:3,4,7 165:6 167:13,14 169:1 172:18 178:1,19 180:18 184:4 timeframe 97:11 timers 77:14 80:18 times 8:15 20:8,9 26:11 34:18 35:3	46:15 71:10 72:18 82:15 83:2 128:15 133:19 159:7 161:7 tires 96:14 today 11:18 35:20 72:10 121:20 168:12 172:14 176:5 todd 140:15,16,17 142:15 told 28:7 172:16 173:1,2 tolerated 124:20 tomorrow 12:3 50:10,13 53:11 tonight 2:5,8 11:10 19:19 22:19 53:21 84:13 122:16 125:8 127:17 128:4 142:4 164:14 180:10 181:7 tonight's 182:14 tons 19:6 top 78:4 110:6,6,7 166:16 topic 129:13 torn 166:2 total 49:11 97:2 totality 144:11 totally 157:13 totch 147:12 touched 21:11 180:12 tough 20:7,9 122:8 tour 98:21 tourism 109:19 111:18 tournaments 109:12 town 6:5 21:14 91:5,7 174:14	175:7 track 46:20 47:1,3 47:5 97:19 tracking 30:7 trade 99:18 133:2 traffic 178:12 trafficking 31:6 trained 29:18 32:7 training 32:9 81:10 142:12 traitorous 133:5 141:5 traitors 126:15,17 132:2 138:10,11 138:21 159:15 161:1 transcribed 184:6 transcript 2:1 transcription 184:7 transfer 44:19 46:9 48:3 50:5,13 51:1 99:3 transferred 169:19 transform 156:15 transition 123:1 translates 17:6 transparency 80:11 81:3 transparent 80:3 transportation 178:10 trappe 160:14 180:3 trauma 27:11 29:4 traumatic 29:5 39:3 travel 151:20 treason 139:8 treasurer 20:16 treated 129:11 treatment 83:9
--	--	---	---

<p>tred 119:3 trickle 17:12 tried 104:14 truck 100:13 true 153:7,20 184:7 truly 129:15 153:6 trust 35:2 149:18 trustee 93:16 truth 145:21 try 28:18 52:4 87:8 100:9 154:4 154:14 162:10 171:16 174:18 trying 7:1 16:19 46:2 54:15 84:7 97:19 100:14 112:12 174:13 175:14 tuesday 59:18 67:11 177:6 182:2 tunis 141:12 166:21 turmoil 161:3 turn 20:21 87:10 turned 86:3 turnouts 109:11 tv 155:8 two 15:7 18:4 36:2 42:15,19 46:7 57:2 61:18 66:1 93:1 94:10 96:13 96:20 97:21 101:4 111:13 121:21 122:2 130:21 134:3 135:19 142:6 163:11 164:20 165:17 170:1 173:4 176:16 179:17 type 10:7 32:10 35:4 51:18 typically 71:6 97:12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">u</p> <p>uh 44:10 ultimately 55:21 62:18 69:3,9 72:13 unable 14:14 19:9 unanimous 3:17 3:18 4:4,11 unbiased 144:15 unborn 145:19 uncles 135:14 165:17 174:3 underlined 36:13 underlying 144:4 underneath 7:12 48:20 underscore 170:15 understand 32:10 54:17 65:17 77:8 88:1 111:6 112:9 128:19 143:20 150:20 170:13 173:11,19 174:17 175:11 understanding 58:7,16 66:3 128:16 146:10 169:17 170:18 unemployment 15:10 unfortunately 18:18 26:13 104:11 union 138:10 153:15 163:4 165:18 173:18 unionville 173:14 unit 17:14 72:3 96:7 99:8,11 united 47:10 144:12,19 162:19 162:20 175:8</p>	<p>units 96:13 99:12 university 30:11 170:6,7 unprogrammed 61:10 68:14 unsuitable 49:1 unusual 108:7 unwilling 19:8 update 10:17 11:6 11:15 46:12 47:16 55:2 64:21 74:9 90:9 upgrade 103:7 uphold 110:11 upset 167:7 upsetting 126:9 urge 157:16 use 51:10 52:7,8 83:1,12,15 100:6 100:7 103:1,5 113:9 121:10 144:2 158:15 usual 36:18 usually 96:10 170:1 utilities 13:4 38:3 utility 18:15 21:11 utilize 30:17 42:4 utilized 94:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p>v 137:16 vacancies 78:19 validate 129:21 validity 143:7 value 143:15 values 150:17 163:17 variable 144:4 vehicle 97:10 vehicles 98:2 vendor 97:20 verse 145:3 vice 2:7 22:18 81:12</p>	<p>vickie 151:4 victim 31:6 37:2 victim's 35:9 victims 33:15 34:11 36:7 view 128:14 150:10 vigorously 106:1 vilify 154:8 village 81:21 82:2 175:8 violence 31:8 43:2 146:18 virginia 170:7 virtual 33:7,8 virtually 155:8 vision 151:15 visited 131:5 visitor 138:17 visitors 160:9 vital 38:20 128:16 voice 129:9 156:7 162:12 178:3 voiced 143:2 voices 133:8 volunteer 82:12 119:1 volunteering 118:20 vote 3:5 56:1 57:5 62:15,21 65:11 69:15,20 73:12 143:8 144:3,5 147:7 163:12 169:11 voted 56:5 59:4 62:15 65:6 100:10 149:14 153:16 voting 144:21 151:11 vulnerable 39:11</p>
---	---	--	--

w	66:2 80:6,10 81:5 117:7 148:11 181:4	we've 5:20 7:21 13:10 14:8 33:8,9 36:4,5 44:19 56:10 70:16 71:2 104:14,21 105:6 106:11,18 110:10 114:6 115:1 122:13 125:11 170:17 176:15 181:8,10	115:16 137:10 148:17 152:8 172:15 173:14,21
w 1:18	wanting 121:9	wealth 5:21	western 71:21 152:11
wages 15:9	wants 84:19 127:3 170:11	weapon 158:16	wetzel 159:8
wait 6:1 109:14 124:8	war 139:10 141:5 148:19 151:8 152:3,18 153:14 159:9 160:11 165:19 173:15,18 174:5	webb 24:15,17,20 25:4 29:7 35:21 39:8,17 41:5 44:2 44:5,10,12	whatnot 62:4,7,7 white 15:6 132:4 137:20 153:14 156:18 159:18 162:3,11,21 167:8 168:5 170:2,16 175:3
waiting 20:6	warren 50:8 51:4 51:7,19 52:10 182:6	website 22:6 153:10,11	wide 137:8
waive 19:8	wash 162:21	wednesday 55:15	wilderness 145:7
waived 19:7,14	wastewater 83:8 83:15	week 14:11 42:15 57:8 96:1 137:10 137:11 178:8 179:4	william 134:2 142:16,18
walk 42:12 87:21 113:2 131:17 151:1 156:5	watch 9:15	weekend 111:19	willing 85:12
walking 129:12 143:10,12	water 54:6 55:5,9 58:7 61:5,15 62:6 64:8 65:1 68:10 69:12 70:20 71:5 71:12,14 72:2,4,7 72:13 100:2 173:3 173:5 180:1	weekender 168:21	windy 100:3
wallace 134:2 142:16,17,18 147:10,11 154:4	waterfront 69:5	weekends 111:20	winner 40:4
walt 150:2	watermen 168:3	weeks 74:3 96:11 125:11	winx 12:1
want 2:4 6:7 8:13 20:20 22:11 38:8 38:8 39:15 40:9 42:13 43:7 48:2 48:10 49:13,16 52:2,4,9 54:9 63:1 64:5 73:3 81:17 84:21 86:18,18 89:7 95:7 96:17 103:12 108:14 109:1 111:11 112:11 113:19 114:7,10 121:10 123:8,14,17 126:21 129:6 135:21 137:16 138:12 139:18 156:5,9 161:16,17 161:18,19 162:21 163:2 166:4 167:12,17 168:8 173:3 175:12,14 176:2,6,9 179:7 180:9,10,21 181:2 181:7	watts 134:11,12 134:14 136:16	welcome 2:4 6:13 6:13 7:14,18 10:9 10:21 12:10 53:17 73:20 93:20,20 103:11 120:14,19 121:1,18 134:10 152:11 160:9 166:17 177:21 178:18	wish 17:15 39:15 59:12 63:14
wanted 9:15 47:15 50:15 57:14 58:5	waved 63:9	welcomes 74:19 156:1	witness 184:13
	way 21:6 23:1 32:7 43:5 86:4,16 105:20 106:5 110:8 123:6 125:20 149:4 151:21 165:15,17 169:12 170:2 173:9 177:12,13 184:11	welcoming 160:10	witnesses 43:2
	ways 29:15 105:8 122:11 170:5,9,10	welfare 25:13	witnessing 177:1,6
	wcei 12:1,4	went 18:2 33:21 34:11,14 85:5	women 37:18
			wonder 151:7
			wonderful 6:11 21:21 36:9 41:18 45:8
			word 22:10 85:12 121:10
			worded 160:5
			words 40:1 134:20
			work 6:2 9:3 17:1 19:12,15 22:14 27:14 31:12,18 42:21 45:3 47:7 48:15 49:12 58:11 66:3,9 75:5 77:15 84:15 85:17 89:8 89:8 95:3 109:9 110:2,12 119:9

[work - zone]

Page 35

	y	z
149:20 162:16		
168:16 173:8		
178:16 182:5,7		
worked 34:12	yacht 119:4	z 137:16
113:3 165:13	yardage 50:1	zero 56:1,5 62:15
worker 156:14	yeah 41:5 44:4	62:21 65:7,11
working 6:6,15	45:16 58:17 59:2	69:15,20
8:2 10:2 40:19	76:16 89:13,19	zip 36:12 44:8,10
77:5 83:7 90:6	97:6 100:14	44:11
109:7 117:15,19	106:10 107:9	zone 27:19
120:1,3,15	123:18 164:9	
works 31:1,17	year 30:10 37:7	
51:17 56:2,11,19	38:1 40:11 41:7	
57:11 58:3,11	42:3,10 43:20	
59:20 62:17 65:8	46:19 47:3 48:12	
69:8,16	61:14 76:10 79:11	
world 12:19 13:1	81:20 84:1 87:5	
104:10 140:21	90:2 96:2 102:15	
159:9 168:6	106:11,12,13,15	
worldwide 122:10	106:17,18 125:5	
worst 49:15	140:9 142:20	
wound 160:5	169:21	
wounds 129:2	years 9:3 31:7	
woven 137:21	36:2,4 37:13 39:8	
wow 45:14	45:15 61:18 64:17	
wrangling 149:1	65:2 71:3 87:1,3,7	
wrestle 122:7	112:3,4,5 118:8	
write 33:2 37:1	118:13,13 128:7	
139:15	133:4 136:20	
writing 30:4,6	147:16 148:19,21	
126:6	151:18 152:15	
writings 138:1	158:5 165:9,14	
written 27:5 35:16	168:21 169:20	
137:14 139:1	172:5 176:16	
140:8	yellow 143:11	
wrong 67:18	yesterday 11:21	
131:16 138:20	yield 133:17,21	
170:18	150:3,6	
wrote 148:9	yoga 34:15	
150:12 151:4	young 39:2 175:19	
wye 83:8	youth 37:2 156:15	
	yup 10:20 73:12	
	78:11 94:5 123:20	
	123:20 155:16	
	167:2 176:14	