

WEBVTT

1

00:00:02.690 --> 00:00:04.049

Education Outreach: There you go, Madam Chair.

2

00:00:04.510 --> 00:00:10.210

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you. Good morning, everybody. Let's start the meeting with roll call. Commissioner Sirwith present.

3

00:00:12.240 --> 00:00:14.040

Kimberly Prescott: Commissioner Prescott present.

4

00:00:15.100 --> 00:00:17.270

Magdalena Navarro: Commissioner Navarro present?

5

00:00:21.290 --> 00:00:26.080

Janssen Evelyn: Commissioner Evelyn President, I apologize, I'm dealing with something real fast, but I'm here.

6

00:00:27.860 --> 00:00:30.160

Education Outreach: Cleveland Horton, Executive Director, present.

7

00:00:32.980 --> 00:00:35.729

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Yolanda Sonier, Deputy Director, present.

8

00:00:36.690 --> 00:00:39.380

Nicolette Young: Nicolette Young, Assistant Director, present.

9

00:00:42.680 --> 00:00:45.699

Stephanie Suerth: And then also see that we have the interpreters here,

10

00:00:45.960 --> 00:00:48.460

Stephanie Suerth: I do not see any members of the public.

11

00:00:49.550 --> 00:00:52.239

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Any attendees? Does anyone see anyone that I do not?

12

00:00:52.870 --> 00:00:53.690

Education Outreach: No, ma'am.

13

00:00:54.810 --> 00:00:55.490

Stephanie Suerth: Okay.

14

00:00:56.060 --> 00:00:59.160

Stephanie Suerth: We'll move on. And guys, I really do want to have

15

00:00:59.320 --> 00:01:02.730

Stephanie Suerth: I'm gonna start an email chain to start thinking about...

16

00:01:02.900 --> 00:01:14.440

Stephanie Suerth: Making meetings more accessible to individuals that want to be able to participate, either by offering... moving the times for different months, or the days for different months to make sure that people can actually

17

00:01:14.600 --> 00:01:16.139

Stephanie Suerth: Be able to join us.

18

00:01:16.310 --> 00:01:25.420

Stephanie Suerth: For those meetings that we will have live and in person at MCCR, we will continue to always offer a digital option, some sort of a virtual option in a hybrid.

19

00:01:25.530 --> 00:01:36.169

Stephanie Suerth: So, hopefully that will also encourage members. And please, as I've said, you know, as you talk to people or as you're doing things, invite them to the meetings. You know, if we can't hear from people, if they don't join us.

20

00:01:36.290 --> 00:01:40.180

Stephanie Suerth: Then, you know, that's a big gap in our ability to identify gaps and

21

00:01:40.770 --> 00:01:47.889

Stephanie Suerth: and issues that are of concern. So, I know I tout on that one every once in a while, but it's the start of a new year, so I'm gonna start with the beginning.

22

00:01:49.680 --> 00:01:50.320

Education Outreach: Good one.

23

00:01:50.680 --> 00:01:53.090

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you. You know, these things, they just come to me.

24

00:01:53.900 --> 00:01:59.720

Stephanie Suerth: So for the Commissioner's Report, I want to first begin our meeting, and our first meeting in the new year.

25

00:01:59.840 --> 00:02:04.460

Stephanie Suerth: by acknowledging everyone's continued commitment and dedication to this commission.

26

00:02:04.460 --> 00:02:07.219

Education Outreach: So both the commissioners and leadership and staff.

27

00:02:07.360 --> 00:02:17.790

Stephanie Suerth: I know that it has been and continues to be a time of significant activity and heightened attention to issues that really do impact civil rights, both at state and national levels.

28

00:02:18.080 --> 00:02:24.729

Stephanie Suerth: We continue to function in a challenging and dynamic, and not necessarily good, civil rights climate.

29

00:02:24.920 --> 00:02:29.899

Stephanie Suerth: The significant developments affecting fundamental rights, such as voting access and participation.

30

00:02:31.090 --> 00:02:34.450

Stephanie Suerth: And we're seeing this legislatively and in the courts as well.

31

00:02:34.680 --> 00:02:53.250

Stephanie Suerth: This really does underscore, at least for me, and I hope for everyone, the fragility of the protections and those things that are in place, and making sure that as we're looking forward and looking to expand those protections and to continue to provide those protections, that we're also protecting what we already have.

32

00:02:53.800 --> 00:03:01.899

Stephanie Suerth: cases before the Supreme Court are going to address election administration, voting regulations, balance of authority,

33

00:03:02.270 --> 00:03:06.589

Stephanie Suerth: Equal access on the determinations, you know, based on,

34

00:03:07.390 --> 00:03:11.290

Stephanie Suerth: Gender identity. All of these things are... are...

35

00:03:12.310 --> 00:03:14.190

Stephanie Suerth: and on our minds, I hope.

36

00:03:14.920 --> 00:03:22.209

Stephanie Suerth: In addition to that, I also did want to give you an update that the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report has been submitted.

37

00:03:22.600 --> 00:03:25.280

Stephanie Suerth: In a lot of ways, it really is a historic milestone, and it's...

38

00:03:25.660 --> 00:03:33.799

Stephanie Suerth: I think both poignant and important that it was released in this climate, and it really

reflects years of thoughtful and difficult work.

39

00:03:34.570 --> 00:03:50.470

Stephanie Suerth: There's already substantial legislative momentum among the members of the Commission. They have, at current count, over 20 bills in various stages of drafting that align with the report's findings and proposed actions. Interestingly.

40

00:03:50.750 --> 00:03:56.200

Stephanie Suerth: Importantly, all but one of the proposed bills so far are either no-cost or low-cost.

41

00:03:56.480 --> 00:04:01.280

Stephanie Suerth: Which underscores the meaningful progress does not always require financial investment.

42

00:04:01.420 --> 00:04:04.109

Stephanie Suerth: But sustained will and moral clarity.

43

00:04:04.390 --> 00:04:10.189

Stephanie Suerth: It's also reflective of our current fiscal climate in the state, including the budget shortfalls that we continue to face.

44

00:04:11.030 --> 00:04:18.099

Stephanie Suerth: Speaking of the state, the Maryland legislative session begins tomorrow. This session will be especially consequential given the volume

45

00:04:18.209 --> 00:04:24.369

Stephanie Suerth: Of legislation and civil rights legislation, including our civil rights legislation, anticipated.

46

00:04:24.630 --> 00:04:31.010

Stephanie Suerth: I believe, currently, this morning, when I checked, there were over 230 bills in the Senate, and about 300 in the House that have been submitted.

47

00:04:31.510 --> 00:04:37.929

Stephanie Suerth: Or, based on that, I'm going to give another plug. I strongly encourage each commissioner

48

00:04:38.060 --> 00:04:40.790

Stephanie Suerth: To make time for the scheduled legislative briefings and meetings.

49

00:04:41.530 --> 00:04:52.960

Stephanie Suerth: Our engagement is critical, not only to remain informed, but to ensure that our expertise, perspective, and also our statutory roles are clearly understood by policymakers and legislators during this period.

50

00:04:54.120 --> 00:04:55.640

Stephanie Suerth: As always, thank you.

51

00:04:56.570 --> 00:05:03.009

Stephanie Suerth: You guys are amazing. I cannot express my appreciation for your resilience, your dedication.

52

00:05:03.540 --> 00:05:09.339

Stephanie Suerth: Work before us remains complex. It's going to be very busy for the next couple of months while we go through session.

53

00:05:09.540 --> 00:05:13.079

Stephanie Suerth: And I really do appreciate all of your participation.

54

00:05:13.890 --> 00:05:14.830

Stephanie Suerth: Oh, I don't shit.

55

00:05:15.280 --> 00:05:16.660

Stephanie Suerth: And that is my report.

56

00:05:20.310 --> 00:05:25.429

Stephanie Suerth: And I would plug the award that's being given, but I think that,

57

00:05:25.600 --> 00:05:39.129

Stephanie Suerth: our esteemed and very worthy Executive Director is going to include that in his report, so I'm not going to take away the thunder, I'm just going to snap my fingers in advance and say, yay, and I will be there.

58

00:05:39.450 --> 00:05:44.230

Education Outreach: Thank you, Madam Chair, I appreciate it. Good morning.

59

00:05:44.230 --> 00:05:47.950

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Before you start your report, can I ask a question of Madam President?

60

00:05:47.950 --> 00:05:48.670

Education Outreach: Okay.

61

00:05:48.670 --> 00:05:57.449

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Okay, you mentioned the Truth and Reconciliation, Commission that submitted their report. Do you mind sending that to all of us?

62

00:05:57.570 --> 00:06:06.800

Stephanie Suerth: I will absolutely do that. It is big, so I think the version that I had gotten crashed my system, and as soon as I get the final, I will get it out to everyone.

63

00:06:08.730 --> 00:06:12.029

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Thank you, we don't want the one that's gonna crash our systems. We'll take the...

64

00:06:12.380 --> 00:06:16.100

Stephanie Suerth: Yeah, it was on a shared drive, and when I tried to download it, it,

65

00:06:16.870 --> 00:06:19.260

Stephanie Suerth: I need more space on my computer.

66

00:06:19.640 --> 00:06:21.880

Stephanie Suerth: Okay, got you.

67

00:06:21.880 --> 00:06:22.710

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Understood.

68

00:06:22.710 --> 00:06:26.709

Stephanie Suerth: I will get it out to everyone, if not today, this week, I promise.

69

00:06:26.990 --> 00:06:27.799

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Thank you.

70

00:06:27.800 --> 00:06:28.520

Stephanie Suerth: My pleasure.

71

00:06:30.230 --> 00:06:47.249

Education Outreach: So, again, good morning, everybody. For the record, I did want to acknowledge, Commissioner Scott, has joined the meeting. I also wanted to acknowledge our General Counsel, Bondora Hughes, has also joined the meeting, just so that it's on the record. So I will start off

72

00:06:47.250 --> 00:07:01.260

Education Outreach: With where Madam Chair left off, we are attending the 2026 38th Annual, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Dinner, this Friday, June the 16th.

73

00:07:01.260 --> 00:07:17.530

Education Outreach: It is at 6 p.m. It will be at the La Fontaine Blue, on Ritchie Highway. I will be receiving, one of the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamkeeper Awards, at this ceremony. So, I think we mentioned this a couple

74

00:07:17.770 --> 00:07:25.410

Education Outreach: minutes ago, I do apologize, I thought the information that went out to all the commissioners, but if any of you all on the call

75

00:07:25.410 --> 00:07:38.870

Education Outreach: are interested in attending, please let me know, and we will reserve a ticket for you. So, if, you know, any of you all are available, again, I do apologize that you all didn't receive the information beforehand.

76

00:07:38.870 --> 00:07:52.400

Education Outreach: But if your schedules do allow, please let us know, and we will ensure that you all do have a reserve ticket, to attend. I know, Commissioner Prescott is going to be there with us in spirit. She's going to dress up and

77

00:07:52.510 --> 00:07:58.109

Education Outreach: give us all that zen, remotely, so we do, we do, we do appreciate that.

78

00:07:58.300 --> 00:08:01.399

Education Outreach: Jansen, is that... you saying you want... you're gonna be available?

79

00:08:02.070 --> 00:08:03.330

Education Outreach: Alright, cool, I got you.

80

00:08:03.330 --> 00:08:06.640

Janssen Evelyn: I would... yes, I would love to attend, and congratulations.

81

00:08:06.890 --> 00:08:11.960

Education Outreach: Yep. So, thank you, I appreciate it. So, we got Jansen, looks like we got Commissioner Navarro.

82

00:08:12.490 --> 00:08:26.109

Education Outreach: And we'll make sure there are tickets. I'm not sure if they'll be exactly in your names or not, but no matter what, if not, just give them, obviously, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, and you all will have, tickets to be able to attend.

83

00:08:26.300 --> 00:08:27.610

Janssen Evelyn: Thank you.

84

00:08:27.610 --> 00:08:32.029

Education Outreach: No problem at all. Thank you for your support.

85

00:08:32.289 --> 00:08:35.649

Education Outreach: We did, as many of you all should have seen,

86

00:08:36.130 --> 00:08:49.710

Education Outreach: this, and in December, we did finalize, finally, our MOU with the Maryland Real Estate Commission, that has been signed. We have sent out a press release in reference to that. We are excited about this kind of new

87

00:08:49.710 --> 00:09:06.839

Education Outreach: partnership. As you all know, per our statute, we have always had somewhat of a partnership with the Maryland Real Estate Commission, but for us, this MOU really does signify a new, more aggressive, proactive approach

88

00:09:06.840 --> 00:09:14.590

Education Outreach: to how we're going to be handling fair housing issues in our state. So we are excited about this new partnership with the Maryland Real Estate Commission.

89

00:09:14.590 --> 00:09:21.020

Education Outreach: as we continue to move forward. I have also kind of been going around the state meeting with some of the local

90

00:09:21.030 --> 00:09:35.160

Education Outreach: realtor associations to also develop MOUs with them as well that, again, will aid to this kind of proactive approach to fair housing. Because one of the things that we know is that those within the industry hear about

91

00:09:35.470 --> 00:09:55.340

Education Outreach: see, and witness fair housing issues way before we do. So we felt like it's important as an agency that we create a higher level of partnership with these associations, so that as fair housing issues are coming about, amongst their members, that they would then be bringing these issues directly to us for us to take a look at.

92

00:09:55.340 --> 00:10:04.549

Education Outreach: For us to provide training, a whole host of different things that these partnerships will enable us to do, so we are excited about that, so just wanted to mention that.

93

00:10:04.550 --> 00:10:26.739

Education Outreach: We did get the opportunity, to present, at Winter MACO, again, solidifying our relationship and our partnership, with MACO and the members who were there and present during that presentation, so I know I did have the opportunity to see, Commissioner Evelyn, at our presentation, so again, just want to give him a shout out and thank him for continuing to support the agency and showing up.

94

00:10:26.740 --> 00:10:29.229

Education Outreach: On behalf of the agency.

95

00:10:29.550 --> 00:10:42.049

Education Outreach: We are at the point where, we are ready to talk about our strategic plan for the next 5 years. As many of you know, we've kind of been going through the process, talking to stakeholders, staff.

96

00:10:42.050 --> 00:10:55.540

Education Outreach: I know some of you also volunteered to be a part of those conversations to provide feedback. We are at the point now, and I think we'll talk about this a little later on in the commission meeting, where we need to identify a date and time for us to get together

97

00:10:55.560 --> 00:11:11.760

Education Outreach: to talk about that plan. So, I will be going over this plan with our leadership team, next Wednesday, and then I would like to, of course, have an opportunity to also discuss the plan, with you all as commissioners,

98

00:11:11.760 --> 00:11:22.860

Education Outreach: alongside, what I consider my partner in crime, Madam Chair, to really talk about if there's anything that, from a commissioner's perspective, you all would like for us to add.

99

00:11:22.860 --> 00:11:41.579

Education Outreach: or modify, or what have you, before we kind of roll this out. So this plan will cover us from fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 31. I know it sounds like a long time, right? When I was done, I was like, 31? But that is where we are. It's a five-year plan. So, and I know, again, we'll...

100

00:11:41.760 --> 00:11:57.579

Education Outreach: talk about that in more detail later on in the agenda, but again, I just wanted to raise that. Lastly, I really just want to give a shout out to my executive leadership team. I know they've really been pushing me to take some time off.

101

00:11:57.580 --> 00:12:04.410

Education Outreach: I had the opportunity to do so, in December, which is why my December was rather light.

102

00:12:04.410 --> 00:12:26.550

Education Outreach: I think I was off from the 16th up until, I think, January the 5th or so. And I want to give them a shout-out, because honestly, they purposely and intentionally didn't call me one time, regardless of what was going on. So I do want to give, Yolanda, Nicolette, and Glendor a big thank you for just giving me the opportunity, to take off.

103

00:12:26.590 --> 00:12:49.119

Education Outreach: And I actually didn't even come in, right? I think... I think they were expecting to see me at least one of those days. And it was hard, I'm not gonna lie, it was... it was extremely hard, but, I do just want to just thank them for giving me the space, to give myself some space and some time to relax, reset, and continue to be able to show up.

104

00:12:49.120 --> 00:12:54.550

Education Outreach: To lead this agency, so I just wanted to thank them for... for that time. So...

105

00:12:54.550 --> 00:12:59.810

Education Outreach: With that, I will answer any questions that you all may have about my report.

106

00:13:04.150 --> 00:13:08.429

Education Outreach: Hearing none, I will pass it off to our Deputy Director.

107

00:13:09.860 --> 00:13:29.119

Yolanda F. Sonnier: All right, thank you, and it was not with difficulty to get him to take more than one day off, Jansen. It was not without difficulty, based upon your comment in the chat. So, rest is resistance, and we're so happy that he... he took that time to... to replenish

108

00:13:29.380 --> 00:13:42.000

Yolanda F. Sonnier: his... himself, and spend time with family. So, everyone's received the, numbers in the report. We are, continuing

109

00:13:42.140 --> 00:14:01.719

Yolanda F. Sonnier: to, investigate our cases. We are trying to work on our backlog and continue to build up our mediation unit. I think that everyone met our new supervisor, Tariq, last month. He attended the meeting last month, and so he is getting

110

00:14:01.810 --> 00:14:10.909

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Acclimated in his new role as a supervisor, and so we are continuing to... to press forward.

111

00:14:11.090 --> 00:14:25.320

Yolanda F. Sonnier: And find ways in which, you know, to... which to streamline some of our services, make sure to cut our... our backlog, and so... which we still do have, but we... we continue to press forward, and so...

112

00:14:25.320 --> 00:14:38.760

Yolanda F. Sonnier: If anyone has any questions, I don't... Nicolette will talk about the position, so I don't want to say anything about that. So if anyone has any questions for me, please, I welcome them.

113

00:14:42.440 --> 00:14:57.760

Education Outreach: I did want to highlight, one of the things in reference to Yolanda and her team. As you all know, we did... we have, re-implemented the ADR process and mediation, within the services that we offer.

114

00:14:58.190 --> 00:15:00.970

Education Outreach: We are still in the process of...

115

00:15:01.100 --> 00:15:06.520

Education Outreach: getting it right. It still is in process, but we are still providing the service.

116

00:15:06.580 --> 00:15:17.620

Education Outreach: But I do think it's important to even recognize, even in our infancy stage of recreating this ADR unit, we were able to, and as you all will see in our annual report.

117

00:15:17.620 --> 00:15:30.210

Education Outreach: we were able to retrieve almost \$500,000 in monetary benefits through the mediation services that we provide, and we are nowhere near... we're probably at maybe 20%

118

00:15:30.240 --> 00:15:43.869

Education Outreach: So we are looking forward to the fact that we know that this, ADR unit, that Yolanda is overseeing will continue to pay dividends. Not really, again, what I always say is not from an agency perspective.

119

00:15:44.020 --> 00:15:59.450

Education Outreach: But from a public perspective, right? We do feel like it's very easy for us to investigate and issue a determination, but the real work, the real agreements, the real impact for us is when parties are able to come together and come to an agreement, right?

120

00:15:59.450 --> 00:16:15.139

Education Outreach: So our mediation department, I do just want to highlight the work that... I know Yolanda has spent a number of meetings, some all day, trying to figure out what this is going to look like, how we're going to do it, how to make it most beneficial to respondents and complainants based off of

121

00:16:15.140 --> 00:16:28.350

Education Outreach: feedback that we've received from our prior iterations of ADR, and she has truly taken that to heart to make sure that we put forward a new program, right? Even though mediation is mediation has been around for quite some time.

122

00:16:28.350 --> 00:16:41.319

Education Outreach: But the way it looks now, and the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights is completely different than how it's looked before, and the results are bearing that out. So I just wanted to highlight that piece, that, it is no small

123

00:16:41.500 --> 00:16:56.019

Education Outreach: feat that we... that, you know, this... our mediation team was able to recover over 500... almost \$500,000 in monetary benefits for victims of unlawful discrimination, so I thought that that's worthy of us at least notating and bringing to the forefront.

124

00:16:58.100 --> 00:17:02.609

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you for that, and absolutely, I know in the December meeting you talked a little bit.

125

00:17:02.750 --> 00:17:04.190

Stephanie Suerth: I think it's fantastic.

126

00:17:05.150 --> 00:17:08.579

Stephanie Suerth: I love the idea, It allows everyone to be heard.

127

00:17:08.790 --> 00:17:09.869

Stephanie Suerth: In a way that I think is

128

00:17:10.230 --> 00:17:13.740

Stephanie Suerth: Also, Yolanda, as always, amazing, and thank you.

129

00:17:13.910 --> 00:17:23.690

Stephanie Suerth: I also just wanted to thank you for, you know, focusing on that backlog and working on that. I know it is not easy, so I just wanted to let you know it is seen and appreciated.

130

00:17:24.849 --> 00:17:25.789

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Thank you.

131

00:17:26.669 --> 00:17:30.019

Yolanda F. Sonnier: And at this point, I think I'm going to turn it over to Nicolette.

132

00:17:30.690 --> 00:17:48.570

Nicolette Young: And thank you, Linda. Good morning, everyone. Happy New Year. I hope you all had a joyful and restful holiday season. Just a reminder that the 2025 filing period is open for the 2025 financial disclosures. They are due by April 30th.

133

00:17:48.570 --> 00:18:02.220

Nicolette Young: If you have not received that email, please let me know. I'll make sure that they have you on the distribution list, but that information is required for all commissioners as well as staff, and so please have those submitted by April 30th.

134

00:18:02.270 --> 00:18:11.649

Nicolette Young: Currently, we are, expend... we've expended about 44.7% of our budget. That... we do anticipate that that will go up.

135

00:18:11.650 --> 00:18:24.200

Nicolette Young: Because we have not been charged for many of our statewide, charges, that we have in the budget for this year. So I do anticipate that that will tick up just slightly, by next month, hopefully.

136

00:18:24.200 --> 00:18:38.329

Nicolette Young: Currently we have 8 vacancies, of which 2 are being held, open to satisfy the statewide Section 38 personnel reduction cuts, and so we'll be keeping those, positions vacant. We do anticipate,

137

00:18:38.500 --> 00:18:46.160

Nicolette Young: filling, the rest of those positions, within the month. Two positions have already... we've already received,

138

00:18:46.560 --> 00:19:01.900

Nicolette Young: we've already submitted offers, and those people have accepted, and we do plan on promoting some people within the agency to those vacant positions. So we do anticipate that the remaining vacancies will be filled by next commission meeting.

139

00:19:02.830 --> 00:19:21.969

Nicolette Young: The 2027 Governor's allowance will be submitted, on or before January 21st, and of course, I will share... we will share, what those... what that allowance was, once it's been publicly released. I will just share that,

140

00:19:22.350 --> 00:19:24.759

Nicolette Young: It's positive,

141

00:19:24.850 --> 00:19:42.500

Nicolette Young: it could have gone a lot worse than anticipated, but, overall, it was a fair assessment, and I think that the governor's allowance will be able to permit us to be able to continue to do the great work that we do here. The 448th General Assembly session.

142

00:19:42.500 --> 00:19:55.639

Nicolette Young: We'll convene tomorrow, and so our two budget hearings are for Friday, January 30th, and Wednesday, February 4th. The information, for the location and the times

143

00:19:55.640 --> 00:20:03.580

Nicolette Young: Well, those hearings are in my report, please let us know if you would like to attend. And I'm here to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

144

00:20:09.610 --> 00:20:11.159

Nicolette Young: Okay, thank you, and I hope you.

145

00:20:11.160 --> 00:20:31.019

Education Outreach: I just wanted to notate, too, for those who may not be able to attend, in person, you can attend virtually as well. So, just wanted to let you all know, in case you are interested to see what happens through our budget hearing process. If you can't attend in person, you can log in and see those hearings virtually.

146

00:20:34.590 --> 00:20:43.179

Education Outreach: And we'll make sure, Commissioner Prescott, that you get a calendar invite. And so it sounds like we can expect to see Commissioner Prescott there, because she wants a calendar invite.

147

00:20:44.070 --> 00:20:46.649

Nicolette Young: And she can sit at the table with us if she'd like.

148

00:20:46.650 --> 00:20:50.929

Education Outreach: Absolutely. Just know, if you sit at the table.

149

00:20:50.930 --> 00:20:51.550

Yolanda F. Sonnier: He can answer.

150

00:20:51.550 --> 00:20:55.190

Education Outreach: All the questions.

151

00:20:55.190 --> 00:20:56.450

Nicolette Young: Thanks, man.

152

00:20:56.700 --> 00:21:03.159

Kimberly Prescott: Listen, I don't even know, because I already got a situation that I'm gonna be dealing with, so then, yeah, yeah.

153

00:21:03.160 --> 00:21:04.220

Nicolette Young: Okay.

154

00:21:04.220 --> 00:21:07.989

Education Outreach: You're gonna be ready then!

155

00:21:09.480 --> 00:21:21.610

Stephanie Suerth: And this is another one that is, as commissioners, if you can attend, even if it's just virtually, please, you know, make the time, make the effort. It just shows, even if we don't speak, if we're participating and we're present, it shows our commitment.

156

00:21:23.980 --> 00:21:29.289

Janssen Evelyn: No, yeah, you're right, which is why I think they're going to send the calendar invite to all of us.

157

00:21:29.460 --> 00:21:31.400

Stephanie Suerth: You better.

158

00:21:31.990 --> 00:21:33.250

Education Outreach: Yep, y'all got it.

159

00:21:33.870 --> 00:21:34.800

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you.

160

00:21:37.570 --> 00:21:42.810

Education Outreach: And I think, lastly, we have our General Counsel, Mondo Hughes.

161

00:21:44.820 --> 00:21:55.510

Glendora.Hughes: Good morning, everyone. I apologize for being a little late, but I have a new laptop, and there are some things that have just not been installed, so I was installing software.

162

00:21:57.610 --> 00:22:07.019

Education Outreach: We could... we could tell, because it looked like we just up close and personal with you today, because the camera shot, you got, like, a... you got, like, a 20-minute zoom lens.

163

00:22:07.020 --> 00:22:07.840

Yolanda F. Sonnier: jammed.

164

00:22:08.990 --> 00:22:20.539

Glendora.Hughes: I was just clicking buttons, I don't know what I was doing. I was just clicking butt... look, let me try this, let me try that. Then I didn't have no sound. Let me find some sound somewhere.

165

00:22:20.900 --> 00:22:26.690

Glendora.Hughes: You know, now they just drop off the laptop and say, go forth and be free, and good luck.

166

00:22:27.160 --> 00:22:33.690

Education Outreach: All right, well, you're here, that's all that's important, you hear. We just... you're just right in our front and center. We like to see you, we like to see you.

167

00:22:33.880 --> 00:22:35.600

Glendora.Hughes: Let me push me back.

168

00:22:35.600 --> 00:22:39.419

Education Outreach: You fine. That's not doing it. You fine, you're good.

169

00:22:39.740 --> 00:22:49.370

Glendora.Hughes: Anyhow... You have my reports, most of December was spent meeting with, folks.

170

00:22:49.660 --> 00:22:58.320

Glendora.Hughes: to, complete the drafting of the, education bill, departmental bill.

171

00:22:58.870 --> 00:23:03.210

Glendora.Hughes: And I will talk about that when we get to that part in the agenda.

172

00:23:03.670 --> 00:23:12.490

Glendora.Hughes: And that was with the, University of Maryland Systems, the University, the Maryland State Department of Ed, and the.

173

00:23:15.080 --> 00:23:20.539

Glendora.Hughes: the Maryland, Higher Ed Commission, and also our

174

00:23:21.070 --> 00:23:24.820

Glendora.Hughes: Partner in crime that helped with the research and drafting.

175

00:23:25.330 --> 00:23:30.380

Glendora.Hughes: Monique Dixon, who's Executive Director of the Francis Carey Law School.

176

00:23:30.830 --> 00:23:33.170

Glendora.Hughes: Gibson Bank Center.

177

00:23:33.320 --> 00:23:34.650

Glendora.Hughes: On race and the law.

178

00:23:35.580 --> 00:23:37.110

Glendora.Hughes: And that...

179

00:23:39.570 --> 00:23:48.139

Glendora.Hughes: And that will be... we did some training with our staff on investigative techniques and investigative theories.

180

00:23:48.570 --> 00:23:55.350

Glendora.Hughes: Especially because... particularly since we have new staff coming on board, and a refresher for the rest of the staff.

181

00:23:55.600 --> 00:24:02.599

Glendora.Hughes: And the rest of my report will be discussing the legislation when we get to that part on the agenda.

182

00:24:06.650 --> 00:24:09.979

Glendora.Hughes: Any questions about the report, or anything, or any...

183

00:24:12.510 --> 00:24:14.380

Stephanie Suerth: Are you ready for session?

184

00:24:14.560 --> 00:24:15.690

Glendora.Hughes: No.

185

00:24:15.690 --> 00:24:17.740

Stephanie Suerth: It's...

186

00:24:17.740 --> 00:24:20.040

Glendora.Hughes: here too soon.

187

00:24:21.120 --> 00:24:22.750

Education Outreach: Is anybody ever ready for session?

188

00:24:24.880 --> 00:24:31.610

Glendora.Hughes: See, I saw a couple of people at the grocery store, and they all had their heads down, like, oh, it's that time of year again.

189

00:24:31.610 --> 00:24:32.290

Education Outreach: Hmm.

190

00:24:32.690 --> 00:24:48.900

Education Outreach: Yeah, well, that is going to be our last staff report. Candace, is out, under the weather, so please just send our... send our thoughts with her to hope that she has a speedy recovery. So that will be our last staff report, for today.

191

00:24:50.450 --> 00:24:56.250

Stephanie Suerth: Let me get back to the agenda. While we're doing that, I also just want to acknowledge that, Commissioner

192

00:24:56.810 --> 00:24:59.730

Stephanie Suerth: And Noah has joined us, so...

193

00:25:01.720 --> 00:25:04.439

Stephanie Suerth: The next thing is old business, new business.

194

00:25:05.050 --> 00:25:09.599

Stephanie Suerth: So, jumping right in on the legislative session, and Glendora, if you can

195

00:25:09.800 --> 00:25:13.380

Stephanie Suerth: Update us on when we're going to start setting up those meetings.

196

00:25:13.750 --> 00:25:16.110

Education Outreach: So, I've already plugged that everybody.

197

00:25:18.390 --> 00:25:21.099

Glendora.Hughes: I think this is going to be a busy year.

198

00:25:22.610 --> 00:25:27.130

Glendora.Hughes: Spencer is, as you know, out of town.

199

00:25:27.160 --> 00:25:28.260

Stephanie Suerth: However.

200

00:25:28.260 --> 00:25:42.940

Glendora.Hughes: I believe that it's just still the same kind of setup, where Friday is... we have to report... send our reports into the governor's office, so probably will continue to be on Thursdays,

201

00:25:43.300 --> 00:25:44.520

Glendora.Hughes: Thursday morning.

202

00:25:45.210 --> 00:25:52.689

Glendora.Hughes: Whatever time you... you all want to be convenient. It has been, I think it was... we were doing 8... 8 o'clock?

203

00:25:53.190 --> 00:25:56.659

Stephanie Suerth: I mean, we've done both 730 and 8 at different years.

204

00:25:56.660 --> 00:25:58.570

Glendora.Hughes: I think last year was 8 o'clock.

205

00:25:59.180 --> 00:26:08.150

Glendora.Hughes: And, and then, of course, it, it, we... Submit our information on Wednesday.

206

00:26:08.610 --> 00:26:10.280

Glendora.Hughes: Because we have to sign up.

207

00:26:11.160 --> 00:26:15.759

Glendora.Hughes: Again, they still have different sign-up times with the different... with the House and with the Senate.

208

00:26:16.280 --> 00:26:17.899

Glendora.Hughes: So we have to submit.

209

00:26:18.690 --> 00:26:22.029

Glendora.Hughes: positions and, sign up for testimony.

210

00:26:22.500 --> 00:26:29.089

Glendora.Hughes: One... one requires a day, and another allows two days before the hearings.

211

00:26:29.380 --> 00:26:36.600

Glendora.Hughes: So... so we have 3 deadlines each week. The governor, the Senate, the House, etc.

212

00:26:37.080 --> 00:26:46.829

Education Outreach: So, looking at the information that Spencer sent out, it looks like it does say that the vote on legislation is to happen every Thursday at 8.30 a.m.

213

00:26:47.280 --> 00:26:54.350

Education Outreach: So, I just wanted to make sure we're all on the same page based off of what he sent out, attached to the... with the agenda and reports.

214

00:26:54.630 --> 00:26:55.159

Glendora.Hughes: My pleasure.

215

00:26:55.160 --> 00:26:58.360

Stephanie Suerth: I apologize, I... I read it and... Forgot.

216

00:26:58.750 --> 00:27:00.810

Education Outreach: No problem. Just wanted to make sure we're all on the same page.

217

00:27:00.810 --> 00:27:02.649

Stephanie Suerth: Magdalena, so you're hanging up.

218

00:27:05.680 --> 00:27:06.739

Glendora.Hughes: Yeah, you're muted.

219

00:27:09.230 --> 00:27:09.930

Glendora.Hughes: Okay.

220

00:27:09.930 --> 00:27:28.560

Magdalena Navarro: You know how it is, you had to. Sorry, I'm slightly sick, also under the weather. I had, I had to join you in congratulating for taking your time off during the holidays. I know that it's important. I did well to Spain, but brought this Varian K coal with me.

221

00:27:28.590 --> 00:27:32.299

Magdalena Navarro: Which is, taking my voice.

222

00:27:33.290 --> 00:27:40.089

Magdalena Navarro: with, new businesses, is this the right time to share something?

223

00:27:40.590 --> 00:27:44.289

Magdalena Navarro: Or, in a way, give you a question to...

224

00:27:44.760 --> 00:28:00.550

Magdalena Navarro: all of you that have a lot more experience in civil rights, I have... it has been brought to my attention, at least two cases that I know of Maryland residents that have been detained wrongfully.

225

00:28:00.770 --> 00:28:07.710

Magdalena Navarro: And put in jail, even though they are citizens, and they are born in the United States.

226

00:28:08.010 --> 00:28:12.010

Magdalena Navarro: Have you heard, and, and again.

227

00:28:12.130 --> 00:28:24.820

Magdalena Navarro: I don't know if the community is sharing these, cases with the Civil Rights Commission, so that the governor is aware, of what is happening to Marylanders.

228

00:28:25.730 --> 00:28:29.090

Magdalena Navarro: That's... one is the case of,

229

00:28:29.890 --> 00:28:42.069

Magdalena Navarro: Diaz Morales, who was detained on December 14th for 25 days, and just released, on January 6th, she was moved from one state to another state.

230

00:28:42.170 --> 00:28:55.700

Magdalena Navarro: They kept, saying authorities, did not accept her explanation initially, and then the lawyers have to hire experts to make sure the authentication of her documents were shared.

231

00:28:55.700 --> 00:29:04.009

Magdalena Navarro: Finally, she was released, but there's another person, Kilmar Abrego, Garcia, who was also subject to significant separation.

232

00:29:04.510 --> 00:29:18.059

Magdalena Navarro: in detention due to immigration, concerns, in both cases, what rights do people have? How can this be presented to the Commission?

233

00:29:18.670 --> 00:29:19.270

Glendora.Hughes: Well...

234

00:29:19.270 --> 00:29:19.950

Education Outreach: So...

235

00:29:20.600 --> 00:29:22.249

Stephanie Suerth: Go ahead, go ahead, Condor.

236

00:29:22.970 --> 00:29:29.620

Glendora.Hughes: One is that we do not have jurisdiction in immigration. I know that we have.

237

00:29:30.080 --> 00:29:36.009

Magdalena Navarro: Work with other agencies where... that do have the expertise.

238

00:29:36.010 --> 00:29:48.020

Glendora.Hughes: who specifically handle those types of cases, as well as I know that the agencies have created coalitions to share information.

239

00:29:48.610 --> 00:29:55.139

Glendora.Hughes: And I know that the Attorney General's office has looked at different things.

240

00:29:55.460 --> 00:29:58.049

Glendora.Hughes: One of the things that,

241

00:29:58.360 --> 00:30:00.699

Glendora.Hughes: We do, is that if we get

242

00:30:00.860 --> 00:30:05.340

Glendora.Hughes: contacted and referral. We try to direct the person to the correct

243

00:30:05.530 --> 00:30:17.089

Glendora.Hughes: To the appropriate agency or the appropriate persons that can assist them to, address this whole issue of immigration.

244

00:30:17.540 --> 00:30:24.720

Glendora.Hughes: Is basically, in terms of reading what's going on around the country and talking to other attorneys.

245

00:30:25.060 --> 00:30:31.970

Glendora.Hughes: That are involved, you have, a situation where it's a... It's, it's, it's,

246

00:30:32.340 --> 00:30:50.799

Glendora.Hughes: basically things being done outside of the law, and there's had to be lawsuits filed, there's had to... there were suits filed that got people released because they were illegally detained, or they were U.S. citizens, and so you need those attorneys who specialize in it.

247

00:30:51.010 --> 00:31:02.850

Glendora.Hughes: That are, are able to go into court immediately and file for injunctions or file for a writ of habeas corpus to have the person released.

248

00:31:03.270 --> 00:31:12.330

Glendora.Hughes: Or... and or being able to have... have connections with, the Department of Justice to negotiate the release of the person.

249

00:31:12.660 --> 00:31:25.700

Glendora.Hughes: As we go around, you know, day by day, there is new lawlessness and new things that come up that even the experts are having to.

250

00:31:25.980 --> 00:31:31.729

Glendora.Hughes: Create new, defenses and new means of attack, but...

251

00:31:31.980 --> 00:31:40.850

Glendora.Hughes: The best thing, the appropriate thing, is to get them to the experts, the people who specialize in immigration.

252

00:31:41.490 --> 00:31:48.750

Glendora.Hughes: Litigation, and representation so that they can get, the most accurate help.

253

00:31:48.920 --> 00:31:54.790

Glendora.Hughes: Because it really is important to be able to have those contacts with people you can call up at the agencies and

254

00:31:54.840 --> 00:32:09.980

Glendora.Hughes: and... or other organizations to be able to get movement on... on... on folks. And that's how you're seeing people being released pretty quickly, who are... have been appropriate, because people are... have contacts and are able to.

255

00:32:10.230 --> 00:32:13.370

Glendora.Hughes: Step forward and, take care of it.

256

00:32:14.700 --> 00:32:17.350

Education Outreach: In addition to that, I just want to add, and I see,

257

00:32:17.370 --> 00:32:24.790

Education Outreach: Vice Chair Evelyn has his hand up as well. But that's why we also send folks to the Know Your Rights brochure.

258

00:32:24.790 --> 00:32:42.110

Education Outreach: That we did in conjunction with the Attorney General's office, to identify if you're having, you know, any particular issues. So, for instance, immigration, who you should follow up with. Part of what we recognize as the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights is that we can do a better job of really articulating

259

00:32:42.190 --> 00:32:52.839

Education Outreach: what we cover so folks kind of fully understand what's within our authority. A lot of times, when issues come up that may be a civil rights issue, folks will just kind of automatically assume

260

00:32:52.840 --> 00:33:10.840

Education Outreach: that we have authority over it. So part of our education and outreach efforts, moving forward is to create more awareness for our agency, but at the same time, create more awareness for what we have authority over, right? So that, folks have a clear understanding of who to contact for a particular issue.

261

00:33:10.840 --> 00:33:19.229

Education Outreach: But a good reference point, and it's on our website, is the Know Your Rights brochure that we did create in conjunction with the Attorney General's office

262

00:33:19.230 --> 00:33:34.639

Education Outreach: That I think is probably around 40-some pages long, but that's because it talks about a whole host of different issues. Immigration rights, voting rights, a whole list of different things that, folks should do if they feel like any of those rights are violated, and what agency to contact.

263

00:33:36.480 --> 00:33:37.770

Education Outreach: Vice Chair Evelyn?

264

00:33:38.450 --> 00:33:50.200

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, so thanks for that, Cleveland, because I think that's helpful, because I think when I go back and listen to what... or I reflect on what Commissioner Navarro's saying.

265

00:33:50.200 --> 00:34:01.859

Education Outreach: I got her question as less of, like, what are we gonna necessarily... like, we get it, like, federal, federal immigration or even detention policy is not something.

266

00:34:01.860 --> 00:34:11.650

Janssen Evelyn: that is within MCCR's jurisdiction, but... but I also know... and I know that we have to be mindful of, like, doing what our...

267

00:34:11.750 --> 00:34:36.710

Janssen Evelyn: our lawful assigned duties are, as well as being potentially a watchdog, but because these are unprecedented times, I know how we have weighed in on situations in the past, whether it was George Floyd, and police brutality, I also know that this is one of those moments, at least from my perspective, and I know, like, me and Commissioner Navarre are both, we're both naturalized American citizens, we're both immigrants.

268

00:34:37.929 --> 00:34:47.380

Janssen Evelyn: And I'm very well aware that, again, we don't have jurisdiction over those policies or authority over federal immigration detention policies, but I'm... but... but...

269

00:34:47.469 --> 00:34:56.559

Janssen Evelyn: and I know I'm rusty, Glendor, when it comes to practicing law, but I feel like we do have jurisdiction over civil rights impacts on residents within

270

00:34:56.560 --> 00:35:10.080

Janssen Evelyn: The state, specifically, because it's, like, natural... national origin, including naturalized citizens, when those impacts intersect with discrimination, potentially equal access to services,

271

00:35:10.080 --> 00:35:21.880

Janssen Evelyn: employment, housing, public accommodations, or even chilling effects. And so while we can't necessarily go and say, let's investigate ICE, I... I just want to make sure that when

272

00:35:21.930 --> 00:35:41.079

Janssen Evelyn: history's looking back, that we are... we are... we are being responsive to this moment, and... and I don't know how that looks, but I'm glad Commissioner Navarro is mentioning that, because this may require a larger discussion, but it's something that is definitely weighing heavy on my mind.

273

00:35:41.240 --> 00:35:49.040

Glendora.Hughes: There's a... there's a lot of things that we do. We look at what the law permits, what the definitions are.

274

00:35:49.050 --> 00:36:06.060

Glendora.Hughes: And try to see if we can, address the issue that's raised. Like, in housing, we don't question... we don't look into terms of somebody's, status, immigration status, if there's a housing violation, discrimination in the housing.

275

00:36:06.170 --> 00:36:18.710

Glendora.Hughes: We take the complaint, and we conduct an investigation of that fair housing violation. If someone is... if it's an employment, a discrimination in employment, we don't look at

276

00:36:18.820 --> 00:36:28.039

Glendora.Hughes: status in order to investigate employment. And we haven't investigated cases that involved, persons that were.

277

00:36:28.630 --> 00:36:42.410

Glendora.Hughes: unnaturalized immigrants. We found out after the fact in one case because we had a hard time getting the relief that we negotiated to the complaining parties because of their fear.

278

00:36:42.570 --> 00:36:59.769

Glendora.Hughes: We also, I think our education outreach, as Cleveland pointed out, does... part of their, the outreach is to educate folks as to what their rights are and where they can go to get the specific, support.

279

00:36:59.830 --> 00:37:12.910

Glendora.Hughes: We, Cleveland and I are both in... in... connected to different, organizations, coalitions that have formed since this administration has come into effect.

280

00:37:12.980 --> 00:37:19.039

Glendora.Hughes: That involve looking at this issue and providing support and...

281

00:37:19.140 --> 00:37:35.620

Glendora.Hughes: signing on to, any types of amicus brief or any kind of policies or ideas that would help to address this, particular problem in these un-presidential signs. So we're not...

282

00:37:35.620 --> 00:37:51.559

Glendora.Hughes: sitting back because, oh, it's not specifically in our jurisdiction, but we also have to be in mind, if we get a complaint and we're going forward, yes, we have to be able to establish jurisdiction in the court. But there are so many other areas in our

283

00:37:51.560 --> 00:38:04.919

Glendora.Hughes: Outreach, and in our educating part, and in our... our... just being involved in civil rights that we are participating in with other attorneys, with other agencies.

284

00:38:05.070 --> 00:38:18.189

Glendora.Hughes: That are, having the same issue and trying to create solutions and provide people with the appropriate information so that,

285

00:38:18.340 --> 00:38:26.110

Glendora.Hughes: there is some direction for people to go into. We understand that this is a very...

286

00:38:26.260 --> 00:38:43.200

Glendora.Hughes: huge, issue because of the times that we're in, and, we, you know, through, Cleveland issuing letters of support and letters, letters that address the issue.

287

00:38:43.300 --> 00:38:58.829

Glendora.Hughes: To us, there are things that you strategically are involved in, but you can't blast them out to the public. You just have to do the work and carry... carry those things out. But I don't think, we as an agency

288

00:38:59.620 --> 00:39:03.479

Glendora.Hughes: sitting pat, or... Confining ourselves to

289

00:39:03.620 --> 00:39:06.469

Glendora.Hughes: Simply what we have jurisdiction over.

290

00:39:07.550 --> 00:39:25.119

Magdalena Navarro: May I say one thing, Jason, thank you, Jensen, Emily, thank you for your chiming in.

One other thing is, like, I'm not naturalized. I was born a U.S. citizen. I was born in Puerto Rico, an island that is part of the United States.

291

00:39:25.300 --> 00:39:38.949

Magdalena Navarro: I am the Director for the Office of International and Academic Affairs at NIST, and you will be surprised how many people come and send us, permission to... for people to travel to Puerto Rico, because it's an international country.

292

00:39:38.960 --> 00:39:45.429

Magdalena Navarro: So, but, but having said that, I, I'm very aligned with, and, and, and...

293

00:39:45.970 --> 00:39:54.759

Magdalena Navarro: very, heartbroken with what is going on in this country, in many different ways. And people do feel...

294

00:39:54.920 --> 00:40:05.539

Magdalena Navarro: that they do not have a voice. Look at what just happened in Minnesota. A person was just trying to make... like the Tiananmen Square.

295

00:40:05.800 --> 00:40:15.540

Magdalena Navarro: person, Chinese, that stood in front of a tank. He was not killed. Why a person that just had stopped the car, tried to move, needed to be killed?

296

00:40:15.980 --> 00:40:32.350

Magdalena Navarro: It's really, amazing what is happening. I, I was in Spain and seen a lot of the, movies and civil rights, what was going on in the 60s here, in, during the time of turmoil.

297

00:40:32.390 --> 00:40:38.939

Magdalena Navarro: And it's coming to that point. But what else? My concern is, what can...

298

00:40:39.400 --> 00:40:41.549

Magdalena Navarro: the Civil Rights Commission.

299

00:40:41.890 --> 00:40:59.859

Magdalena Navarro: do for sharing more information. I do acknowledge that there's a Know Your Rights 47 pages. Can we do clips? Because sometimes 47 pages is just too much. Can we do a little clip, a special information brochure going out there that we can share with people?

300

00:40:59.860 --> 00:41:05.790

Magdalena Navarro: Can we give more knowledge to the governor of what's happening?

301

00:41:05.790 --> 00:41:21.269

Magdalena Navarro: I know that it might not be in our jurisdiction on immigration, but how Marylanders are being affected. I also hear how ICE people are coming to the schools, and very close by, in coercion and intimidation.

302

00:41:21.270 --> 00:41:36.589

Magdalena Navarro: to... to people that are bringing their kids to school. There's a lot that, that, it's not right, and I understand that they're breaking, in many cases, the law, but can... what can we do as civil rights... as a civil rights commission?

303

00:41:36.590 --> 00:41:38.420

Glendora.Hughes: sharing more. You, as commissioner...

304

00:41:38.420 --> 00:41:42.720

Stephanie Suerth: I'm sorry, Glendora, real quick. And Magdalena, I actually put in the chat, I think that...

305

00:41:42.910 --> 00:41:44.900

Glendora.Hughes: The ideas that you're throwing out?

306

00:41:44.900 --> 00:41:47.549

Stephanie Suerth: All have really... are really good and have value.

307

00:41:47.750 --> 00:41:58.600

Stephanie Suerth: And I'd like to actually put together a work group so that we can think these through and implement them, so that it's not just throwing out ideas, and maybe we could do this, or maybe we could do that, but let's be thoughtful.

308

00:41:59.020 --> 00:42:07.199

Stephanie Suerth: And get something together, and even maybe a timeline of things like releasing, you know, those clips, or... or, you know, increasing...

309

00:42:07.400 --> 00:42:18.809

Stephanie Suerth: Our participation in things, not to put it off or to postpone, but just to get organized and do it in a really thoughtful and way that hopefully will allow us to have a broader reach and more impact.

310

00:42:19.280 --> 00:42:27.309

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, I definitely, I definitely agree with that, even if it's primarily focused on education outreach, but I mean.

311

00:42:28.920 --> 00:42:47.019

Janssen Evelyn: I mean, again, I've been on the commission for a long time, and yet, just the other day, I had to tell my wife, who's also a naturalized American citizen, like, hey, make sure we have our forms in case something goes sideways. Like, we're living in 1984 George Orwellian times, and so I think... so... so having some sort of...

312

00:42:47.020 --> 00:43:00.119

Janssen Evelyn: structured discussion around how we make sure that we continue to be that light, and we always... and Gondor, you as a... you are a legend. We always do the work, we always do... and the thing is, you operate.

313

00:43:00.560 --> 00:43:08.249

Stephanie Suerth: by law, behind the scenes, in many ways, because of the nature of the work that is being done. But I definitely...

314

00:43:08.250 --> 00:43:26.410

Janssen Evelyn: I... yeah, it's something to show that we are trying to show people, like, know your rights, align with these places, and do it in a way that the young... younger generation, or the way people are now trained to absorb information now in 2026, bite-sized, social media, whatever. Like, we...

315

00:43:26.500 --> 00:43:36.119

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, I'm encouraged by having some sort of discussion around that, and that's something that could just be easily shared to everyone in my immigrant network.

316

00:43:36.330 --> 00:43:50.290

Magdalena Navarro: I appreciate that, to tell you the truth, because I, I'm very, like I said, heartbroken by people telling me that they're afraid, of leaving their home without their passport. As simple as that, or some people that they legally cannot.

317

00:43:50.290 --> 00:43:50.640

Janssen Evelyn: Yes.

318

00:43:50.640 --> 00:43:57.200

Magdalena Navarro: share that they are a U.S. citizen. And wow, that really hit me.

319

00:43:57.370 --> 00:43:59.069

Magdalena Navarro: So I definitely...

320

00:43:59.070 --> 00:43:59.600

Angela Scott: Oh, go ahead.

321

00:43:59.600 --> 00:44:14.160

Magdalena Navarro: Thank you for your comments, and I would love to have more of this discussion, and finding ways that we really can meet some of these questions that the community has.

322

00:44:14.510 --> 00:44:14.860

Stephanie Suerth: I think...

323

00:44:14.860 --> 00:44:23.689

Angela Scott: I definitely think the workgroup is a good idea. I'm... I don't know that much can be accomplished on a.

324

00:44:23.690 --> 00:44:26.340

Janssen Evelyn: public forum like this. Correct.

325

00:44:26.340 --> 00:44:28.939

Angela Scott: But I, I... do,

326

00:44:29.530 --> 00:44:38.549

Angela Scott: have some ideas, and I think that they probably would go beyond education and outreach, and I think that legally we would be able to do those, so...

327

00:44:38.930 --> 00:44:44.279

Stephanie Suerth: what I'll do is I'll send out an email to everyone. I'll include, Glendora, you, so that way...

328

00:44:44.500 --> 00:44:47.129

Stephanie Suerth: You know, we have... No, you don't wanna... no.

329

00:44:47.130 --> 00:44:50.659

Janssen Evelyn: No, I'm just joking.

330

00:44:50.660 --> 00:44:58.599

Stephanie Suerth: dragged into this. You don't have to come up with ideas, you can just opine on whether or not we've gone completely sideways.

331

00:44:59.440 --> 00:45:05.240

Stephanie Suerth: And have started some of those early preliminary discussions, so that we can make some paths.

332

00:45:05.240 --> 00:45:08.110

Angela Scott: And then start digging into what that might look like.

333

00:45:08.590 --> 00:45:09.610

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Stephanie.

334

00:45:09.610 --> 00:45:10.180

Stephanie Suerth: Yeah.

335

00:45:10.180 --> 00:45:18.099

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Can you make sure to also include Candace? Because her team would be the one that would probably implement a lot of what you're talking about.

336

00:45:18.340 --> 00:45:28.120

Education Outreach: Absolutely, 100%. I wasn't going to be exclusionary, everybody's gonna get an email. I just... I just also wanna... I just also want to add to that, Madam Chair,

337

00:45:28.360 --> 00:45:37.870

Education Outreach: is that part of that, not to belabor this point, but just to make sure that folks are aware, we do have the Protecting Civil Rights During Challenging Times Symposium.

338

00:45:37.870 --> 00:45:42.310

Stephanie Suerth: Yep. On Saturday, February the 21st at Bowie State University.

339

00:45:42.310 --> 00:46:06.530

Education Outreach: Part of that, we did our first one, if you all recall, last year, right after, the inauguration of this current administration, and we're doing... so we're doing another one February 21st, Saturday, at Bowie State University. And part of that conversation, obviously, we'll be talking about what's happening with ICE, immigration, so we do want to make sure that we get the word out about these types of seminars.

340

00:46:06.530 --> 00:46:08.159

Education Outreach: as much as possible.

341

00:46:08.160 --> 00:46:12.069

Education Outreach: Because part of the challenge for us has been, honestly.

342

00:46:12.070 --> 00:46:22.450

Education Outreach: is reaching people that need the information, right, and getting those folks to come out. So, there are a number of, like, last year, we would have thought, especially with everything that was happening at that moment.

343

00:46:22.450 --> 00:46:42.820

Education Outreach: that we would have had standing room only at the symposium, but we didn't. So, any information or suggestions that you all have around things that we can do to get more members from the public, more impacted individuals to come to these events, to learn about what their rights are, to hear from the different agencies.

344

00:46:42.820 --> 00:46:46.639

Education Outreach: Around what they're doing, around these particular issues.

345

00:46:46.640 --> 00:46:59.649

Education Outreach: please let us know so that we can incorporate those things as we continue to put on more and more events to address issues like Commissioner Navarro brought up. So, we do welcome any and all suggestions on how we can

346

00:46:59.650 --> 00:47:10.499

Education Outreach: open up, more of our events to get more attendance from those who are impacted within the community, so please let us know.

347

00:47:10.500 --> 00:47:14.240

Yolanda F. Sonnier: And everyone will get a calendar invite for that as well.

348

00:47:14.420 --> 00:47:18.679

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you. And I was just gonna add, Cleveland, on that, just to let everybody know.

349

00:47:18.930 --> 00:47:22.830

Stephanie Suerth: I'm gonna send out the email to get times and everything else.

350

00:47:22.930 --> 00:47:39.079

Stephanie Suerth: But also, as we sort of start thinking about that, like you said, you know, education, outreach and all of those things, but also thinking about expanding our reach to allies and advocates who might be more willing to show up than individuals who have a great amount of freedom.

351

00:47:39.540 --> 00:47:49.069

Stephanie Suerth: So, think about that as we're thinking about putting together the work group as well, is sometimes we may have to think about how we get information to people through secondary sources.

352

00:47:50.210 --> 00:47:55.419

Glendora.Hughes: We have invited... I know several of those allies are going to be on the symposium.

353

00:47:55.420 --> 00:47:55.910

Stephanie Suerth: Yep.

354

00:47:55.920 --> 00:48:13.529

Glendora.Hughes: what I wanted to say is that you, as the policy body of the Commission, when you put your work group together to discuss this, is that you can, request a meeting with the governor. As the commission.

355

00:48:13.530 --> 00:48:16.650

Glendora.Hughes: You are the commission, and you can, if you...

356

00:48:16.660 --> 00:48:25.970

Glendora.Hughes: I want to bring this issue to his attention, or to his staff attention, once you all have put together your concerns and what you're interested in.

357

00:48:26.100 --> 00:48:32.750

Glendora.Hughes: You all, as, the, the policy body of the, the agency, can,

358

00:48:33.140 --> 00:48:37.480

Glendora.Hughes: Make that request to share your thoughts and some of your concerns.

359

00:48:38.000 --> 00:48:41.850

Glendora.Hughes: as the commissioners and as the, as the commission.

360

00:48:42.200 --> 00:48:45.679

Glendora.Hughes: In addition to what we as staff are doing.

361

00:48:46.020 --> 00:48:51.189

Stephanie Suerth: Yeah, definitely, and I think that that's... once we have something from the work group, some sort of a plan, or...

362

00:48:51.520 --> 00:48:54.959

Stephanie Suerth: implementation, you know, timeline and everything, that's when we can do that outreach.

363

00:48:55.560 --> 00:48:58.250

Stephanie Suerth: Kimberly, or Commissioner Prescott, see your hand up?

364

00:49:00.890 --> 00:49:06.379

Kimberly Prescott: Yeah, I can, follow up with some potential ways to, outreach.

365

00:49:06.380 --> 00:49:24.820

Kimberly Prescott: I mean, I'm mostly tied to the business community, but at the end of the day, the business community also lives in Maryland. So I think that the more we can get in front of them, just in general, to, have more of a general awareness of the Commission in front of the business community, even though this is something that we

366

00:49:24.820 --> 00:49:34.119

Kimberly Prescott: want individuals to, participate in, I definitely would like to, connect on how we can get in front of, business as well.

367

00:49:34.530 --> 00:49:38.220

Stephanie Suerth: I can absolutely be a part of the workgroup discussions, thank you. Appreciate that.

368

00:49:38.710 --> 00:49:39.590

Stephanie Suerth: I don't know.

369

00:49:40.070 --> 00:49:44.950

Stephanie Suerth: So, like I said, I'll get that email out, and we can start having those substantive discussions.

370

00:49:45.490 --> 00:49:50.189

Stephanie Suerth: And start thinking through that and figuring out what makes the most sense. Is that okay?

371

00:49:50.190 --> 00:49:50.760

Education Outreach: Yep.

372

00:49:53.120 --> 00:49:58.219

Glendora.Hughes: Okay, do you want to go back to the, legislation, or...

373

00:49:58.580 --> 00:50:05.669

Stephanie Suerth: Now, I put a thing in the chat, please, just everybody confirm that 8.30s on Thursdays are generally

374

00:50:06.040 --> 00:50:08.050

Stephanie Suerth: Good for you, send an email.

375

00:50:08.260 --> 00:50:12.099

Stephanie Suerth: So that we can make sure that we have all of those on the calendar.

376

00:50:12.370 --> 00:50:17.749

Stephanie Suerth: And that we're being participatory. And that's the end of it for me for legislative session, and let's go on to what you want to add in here.

377

00:50:18.080 --> 00:50:19.079

Kimberly Prescott: I'm sorry, did you say...

378

00:50:19.080 --> 00:50:20.719

Glendora.Hughes: The only thing I want to speak about...

379

00:50:20.720 --> 00:50:25.060

Stephanie Suerth: Thursdays, I'm sorry, Thursdays at 8.30. Did I say Wednesday? My apologies.

380

00:50:25.060 --> 00:50:25.520

Glendora.Hughes: Hmm.

381

00:50:25.520 --> 00:50:29.579

Kimberly Prescott: Yeah, it depends on which Thursday it is. I have a legislative meeting.

382

00:50:29.870 --> 00:50:35.180

Kimberly Prescott: On this same Thursday from 8 to 9.30.

383

00:50:35.180 --> 00:50:37.190

Glendora.Hughes: We won't be doing it this Thursday.

384

00:50:37.190 --> 00:50:37.770

Kimberly Prescott: Okay.

385

00:50:37.770 --> 00:50:42.079

Glendora.Hughes: The session starts tomorrow. We will...

386

00:50:42.080 --> 00:50:42.460

Kimberly Prescott: this time.

387

00:50:42.550 --> 00:50:52.230

Glendora.Hughes: Normally, we will set... we will notify you that we want to call when we have bills, legislation that we need your vote on, we need you to review.

388

00:50:52.230 --> 00:51:09.590

Glendora.Hughes: And we need your vote on. And we will send out a summary of those bills and what they...

what are... what we recommend your position to be on. And on the call, we'll go through those bills and the recommendations and the Commission

389

00:51:09.810 --> 00:51:17.949

Glendora.Hughes: commissioners must vote whether to support, not support, send a letter, etc. So that's the purpose of the

390

00:51:17.990 --> 00:51:32.829

Glendora.Hughes: Call, and so until we have hearings coming up, and we have bills, then... which we'll probably start seeing next week, then we will notify you that we need to have a... have a call.

391

00:51:33.300 --> 00:51:37.100

Kimberly Prescott: Sure, I just meant if you were talking about a standing meeting, because... Yes.

392

00:51:37.100 --> 00:51:38.570

Glendora.Hughes: Yeah, it'll be standing.

393

00:51:38.570 --> 00:51:40.219

Kimberly Prescott: Maryland Chambers legislative.

394

00:51:41.390 --> 00:51:47.349

Kimberly Prescott: and we have a standing meeting, so I was just saying, like, if it was gonna be at 8.30 every Thursday during session.

395

00:51:47.350 --> 00:51:47.740

Glendora.Hughes: Yes.

396

00:51:47.740 --> 00:51:58.400

Kimberly Prescott: have a standing meeting. Also, second question, are we as commissioners allowed to vote by email, or do we all have to have, like, quorum on this screen and vote?

397

00:51:58.620 --> 00:52:00.259

Glendora.Hughes: We have used email.

398

00:52:00.880 --> 00:52:12.140

Stephanie Suerth: Yeah, you can provide your thoughts and anything else in advance, and then we include that as part of the conversation. There isn't the same requirements for quorum as there are for an official meeting.

399

00:52:12.390 --> 00:52:15.560

Stephanie Suerth: So, if we have that, we'll make sure that your input is heard.

400

00:52:15.560 --> 00:52:32.970

Glendora.Hughes: Right, we'll send you the summary and the bills, so you can look them over and share. And you can call either me or Spencer if you've got questions. We're available to answer your questions,

before you make your decision to vote on

401

00:52:33.090 --> 00:52:40.600

Glendora.Hughes: the bill. So we try to keep, you know, those who are unable to make the call, keep them informed, and also get your participation.

402

00:52:41.080 --> 00:52:41.510

Kimberly Prescott: Thank you.

403

00:52:41.510 --> 00:52:51.599

Stephanie Suerth: And I'll, you know, Dr. Spencer, what I usually ask him to do is put that as a recurring meeting on everybody's calendar, and then it's easier to delete a meeting.

404

00:52:51.740 --> 00:52:53.190

Stephanie Suerth: Than it is to add meetings.

405

00:52:53.190 --> 00:52:54.190

Glendora.Hughes: Exactly.

406

00:52:54.400 --> 00:52:58.960

Stephanie Suerth: So, that's the way that we do that. We usually get an email saying we don't have anything that we need to meet about.

407

00:52:59.100 --> 00:53:04.320

Stephanie Suerth: You know, have a great extra hour. Otherwise, it's a standing meeting, okay?

408

00:53:05.480 --> 00:53:12.059

Glendora.Hughes: And the only other thing is to report the status of our departmental bill,

409

00:53:12.460 --> 00:53:17.849

Glendora.Hughes: We have been working with the bill drafter for...

410

00:53:18.210 --> 00:53:24.670

Glendora.Hughes: a couple of months, several months. It's in its final draft. It's now being reviewed by the,

411

00:53:25.110 --> 00:53:32.190

Glendora.Hughes: legislative reference. He has submitted it. We've done all the... tweaks and...

412

00:53:32.420 --> 00:53:37.480

Glendora.Hughes: Corrections and best way to try to say what we're trying to do.

413

00:53:37.670 --> 00:53:43.309

Glendora.Hughes: It's called... the bill is called Advancing Equal Education Opportunities for All Students in Maryland.

414

00:53:43.630 --> 00:53:50.679

Glendora.Hughes: As soon as we get the final draft back, we will send out a copy of it.

415

00:53:51.000 --> 00:54:00.720

Glendora.Hughes: For your, reading... it's 24 pages, so you can... for your reading pleasure at night.

416

00:54:01.730 --> 00:54:10.960

Glendora.Hughes: But a lot of it is just trying to, provide, there were different laws that we had to amend.

417

00:54:11.340 --> 00:54:29.990

Glendora.Hughes: To, incorporate, include not just our statute, but we had to make amendments in, the state... the educational article, covering the... the various entities that are going to be, that are... that we are going to have concurrent jurisdiction with.

418

00:54:31.260 --> 00:54:48.710

Glendora.Hughes: And when we... when you, we send you the bill, then part of the next... next meeting, we will walk you through it, with the specifics, and you'll also, you know, you'll have a chance to look at it and have your questions ready to ask, what does that mean, how would that work, etc.

419

00:54:48.710 --> 00:54:59.899

Glendora.Hughes: We are mindful in terms of we ask that the bill not go into effect until 30 days after the regulations are drafted, because as we looked at our federal partners.

420

00:55:00.040 --> 00:55:12.720

Glendora.Hughes: That most education... the education bill, a lot of the procedure and interpretations are in the regulations and not necessarily specifics, a lot of specifics in the statute.

421

00:55:13.030 --> 00:55:24.329

Glendora.Hughes: So they, we were, the, legislative reference agreed to put the... that, qualification in terms of the effective date of the legislation.

422

00:55:24.450 --> 00:55:27.020

Glendora.Hughes: Going into effect at that time.

423

00:55:28.070 --> 00:55:30.310

Stephanie Suerth: Are the regulations drafted as well?

424

00:55:31.290 --> 00:55:41.669

Glendora.Hughes: Our regulations are when we draft them, and then they go through the promulgation period with the state, the Secretary of State, Marilyn.

425

00:55:41.670 --> 00:55:47.350

Stephanie Suerth: No, I know, I just... I was wondering if they had been drafted, at least the outline of those, since the bill refers to them, so...

426

00:55:47.350 --> 00:55:52.179

Glendora.Hughes: No, they have not been drafted. We don't draft until after the bill passes.

427

00:55:54.320 --> 00:56:06.769

Glendora.Hughes: After the bill passes, because we don't know how it's going to... it may be amended during session, it may be amended in a committee, it may be amended on the floor, so you want to make sure you have the chapter.

428

00:56:07.200 --> 00:56:14.299

Glendora.Hughes: The final bill, which is the chapter, before you start the drafting of the regulations, and

429

00:56:14.540 --> 00:56:17.280

Glendora.Hughes: We do want to include the...

430

00:56:17.710 --> 00:56:24.010

Glendora.Hughes: Stakeholders in providing, input in terms of drafting those regulations.

431

00:56:27.220 --> 00:56:29.790

Glendora.Hughes: And that's all I have. Any questions?

432

00:56:32.280 --> 00:56:33.160

Glendora.Hughes: Okay.

433

00:56:35.910 --> 00:56:42.459

Yolanda F. Sonnier: So everyone should have received a calendar invite for the budget meetings, the budget hearings.

434

00:56:42.460 --> 00:56:45.180

Stephanie Suerth: Those that are going to...

435

00:56:45.180 --> 00:56:58.869

Yolanda F. Sonnier: The MLK Dinner have received a calendar invite, and everyone has received a calendar invite for protecting civil rights in challenging times. So everyone should have that, and we'll make it a practice.

436

00:56:58.870 --> 00:57:10.720

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Moving forward, for any events that are going on, that the, commissioners receive calendar invites, and if you can't attend, then you can decline.

437

00:57:11.400 --> 00:57:14.789

Yolanda F. Sonnier: And if you're gonna join us, then feel free to accept.

438

00:57:15.550 --> 00:57:16.310

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you.

439

00:57:20.490 --> 00:57:21.719

Stephanie Suerth: Brilliant, great.

440

00:57:21.970 --> 00:57:23.270

Stephanie Suerth: Strategic plan?

441

00:57:23.630 --> 00:57:39.819

Education Outreach: Yeah, thanks, Madam Chair. Again, as I mentioned earlier, we are at the point, and it may be an opportunity, Madam Chair, for us to kind of merge some of these conversations together. It may be a good opportunity to, as we're talking about getting together with the commissioners, to talk about

442

00:57:39.930 --> 00:57:41.340

Education Outreach: the strategic plan?

443

00:57:41.460 --> 00:57:44.309

Education Outreach: To also maybe talk about,

444

00:57:44.620 --> 00:58:01.589

Education Outreach: those issues that we were talking about earlier with the committee, there may be an opportunity to kind of merge those conversations together, because some of that may need to be a part of the strategic plan as we think about moving forward. So, just wanted to toss it out there, for you to think about and consider.

445

00:58:01.590 --> 00:58:06.210

Education Outreach: But we would like to schedule a time Really, to go through

446

00:58:06.210 --> 00:58:11.900

Education Outreach: the strategic plan. We'll make sure that we send it out to you all ahead of time to review.

447

00:58:11.930 --> 00:58:20.739

Education Outreach: But we wanted to really sit down and gather your input, and if there's anything that we need to revise, tweak, modify, add, delete, or what have you.

448

00:58:20.920 --> 00:58:22.020

Education Outreach: to the plan.

449

00:58:22.390 --> 00:58:41.150

Education Outreach: Before we make this a public plan. So, we'd like to get some... some dates where folks can get together. We'd like to, ideally, do this in person, as much as possible, right? So, if we are able to set some time aside, to... to kind of go through this, I would think we probably

450

00:58:41.200 --> 00:58:51.339

Education Outreach: maybe 4 hours or so to kind of go through it. The slide presentation is about 45 slides, so,

451

00:58:51.340 --> 00:58:59.470

Education Outreach: we can probably get through it in about 4 hours, again, depending upon, you know, questions and conversations that we have. But again, I think it's an ideal opportunity for us

452

00:58:59.470 --> 00:59:12.379

Education Outreach: to also talk about, the issues that were raised by Commissioner Navarro around different things that we can do around different issues, and how we should be handling those things, and whether some of those initiatives should be part of our

453

00:59:12.490 --> 00:59:27.430

Education Outreach: strategic focus, for the next 5 years as we continue to move forward, so I think there's a way to, again, embed that conversation into the conversation with the strategic plan. So, just wanted to see, ideally, time-wise.

454

00:59:27.430 --> 00:59:32.680

Education Outreach: When folks would have... and again, our plan won't go into effect until

455

00:59:32.680 --> 00:59:40.739

Education Outreach: July 1st, so we do have some time. But we do want to give ourselves time to modify, correct anything.

456

00:59:40.740 --> 00:59:57.350

Education Outreach: then have the opportunity to get things, put together, in an official, format. So we would like to have this conversation with the commissioners, sooner than later, so we just need some, some times from the commissioners when folks can grant us some time.

457

00:59:57.650 --> 01:00:03.379

Stephanie Suerth: Okay, so we have, very... we still have a lot of commissioners that actually aren't on this meeting.

458

01:00:03.380 --> 01:00:03.870

Education Outreach: Yep.

459

01:00:03.870 --> 01:00:06.969

Stephanie Suerth: So, I know you're saying that it goes into effect in June.

460

01:00:07.280 --> 01:00:11.630

Stephanie Suerth: I'd like everyone to look at their July calendar, or not July, February calendar.

461

01:00:12.290 --> 01:00:15.540

Stephanie Suerth: Like, everybody provides 2-3 days.

462

01:00:15.830 --> 01:00:19.490

Stephanie Suerth: And either morning or afternoon that they could devote.

463

01:00:20.010 --> 01:00:36.960

Stephanie Suerth: I think, depending on what that looks like and what we get for critical mass, we can offer hybrid, but I agree that it should be in person. If we are going to... and that'll also give us an opportunity, potentially, to have that workgroup sort of think and start thinking about things so that we can come into that strategic meeting with some ideas.

464

01:00:36.960 --> 01:00:41.250

Education Outreach: And some basic outlines. So, think about...

465

01:00:41.300 --> 01:00:45.339

Stephanie Suerth: Mid to late February, if that works for your schedule, Kalitman.

466

01:00:45.340 --> 01:00:47.550

Education Outreach: Yep, I'll make myself available.

467

01:00:47.970 --> 01:00:51.990

Stephanie Suerth: Perfect. So what I'll do is, if we can ask everybody, like I said.

468

01:00:52.400 --> 01:00:57.129

Stephanie Suerth: I'm available, I'm throwing this out, it's not actually true, I'm just looking at a calendar.

469

01:00:57.590 --> 01:01:05.839

Stephanie Suerth: You know, the 19th in the morning, the 23rd in the afternoon, or the 18th in the morning, you know what I mean? Just give, like, 3 or 4 options that work for you.

470

01:01:06.260 --> 01:01:08.650

Stephanie Suerth: And then that way, we can see where we have critical mass.

471

01:01:08.780 --> 01:01:21.049

Stephanie Suerth: And if we need to, then we can kind of go back, give us your best options, and then once we have critical mass, we can go back and say, this works for everybody, can you make yourself available, or can you... in the alternative, can you only participate virtually?

472

01:01:21.810 --> 01:01:22.570

Stephanie Suerth: Okay?

473

01:01:23.750 --> 01:01:35.220

Kimberly Prescott: Okay, but I... so I know I'm the problem child, but I'll be honest with you, if I give you something today, it might not be available tomorrow, so I'll give you some stuff, but my calendar is always changing.

474

01:01:35.910 --> 01:01:40.030

Stephanie Suerth: Understood. And like I said, just email it, and hopefully we'll hit a moving target.

475

01:01:40.310 --> 01:01:40.890

Education Outreach: Yep.

476

01:01:45.420 --> 01:01:53.809

Education Outreach: Great. And Commissioner Scott... Commissioner Scott is the overachiever. She put her date in the chat already. She's the overachiever.

477

01:01:55.960 --> 01:01:56.770

Stephanie Suerth: Okay.

478

01:01:57.220 --> 01:01:57.810

Stephanie Suerth: Oh.

479

01:01:59.230 --> 01:02:05.330

Stephanie Suerth: I'm excited about this. I do want to get that on the schedule, so that way we have it, because as we all know, as,

480

01:02:06.090 --> 01:02:18.960

Stephanie Suerth: Commissioner Prescott said, calendars change almost instantaneously, so let's make sure we get that, nailed down pretty quickly. I will be sending out about the work group, either later this afternoon, tonight, or first thing tomorrow.

481

01:02:19.700 --> 01:02:23.129

Stephanie Suerth: look at some times that will be virtual. Don't worry, guys.

482

01:02:23.550 --> 01:02:31.420

Stephanie Suerth: And I think for that first meeting, I'll try to put an hour and a half on the calendar so I can give everybody time back, but if the conversation goes a little long.

483

01:02:31.540 --> 01:02:34.509

Stephanie Suerth: Then, you know, at least we have that.

484

01:02:34.670 --> 01:02:35.670

Stephanie Suerth: I see that.

485

01:02:36.000 --> 01:02:37.300

Stephanie Suerth: Comment there.

486

01:02:37.500 --> 01:02:38.729

Stephanie Suerth: And then,

487

01:02:42.740 --> 01:02:45.020

Stephanie Suerth: Is that everything for strategic plan for you, Cleveland?

488

01:02:45.020 --> 01:02:46.069

Education Outreach: Yes, yes ma'am.

489

01:02:46.320 --> 01:02:48.939

Stephanie Suerth: Excellent. Do we have any old business that we need to discuss?

490

01:02:55.130 --> 01:02:56.180

Education Outreach: I don't have anything on mine.

491

01:02:56.180 --> 01:02:57.030

Stephanie Suerth: adjournment?

492

01:02:59.790 --> 01:03:22.330

Kimberly Prescott: Oh, I did want to just mention really quickly, since Candace isn't here, that there is going to be, and I need to find it, the, Commission and the Howard County Chamber of Commerce are doing a information session. Let me pull it up, because I don't want to say it wrong, but we definitely want to have, people

493

01:03:22.330 --> 01:03:31.229

Kimberly Prescott: join. So there's going to be an information session that the Commission is doing with the Howard County Chamber of Commerce.

494

01:03:31.230 --> 01:03:49.859

Kimberly Prescott: on February 18th. It's virtual from 12 to 1.30. I can put the, link in the chat. You just have to register, it's free to attend, and it's just a great opportunity for the Commission to get in front of businesses, because I know that, education and,

495

01:03:49.860 --> 01:04:04.790

Kimberly Prescott: ideally, being proactive from a business perspective is what we all want. We don't necessarily always want to be enforcing. We want to educate as well. So I'll put the link in there, and if you can register and attend, that would be great.

496

01:04:09.150 --> 01:04:09.730

Stephanie Suerth: Alright.

497

01:04:09.970 --> 01:04:12.609

Stephanie Suerth: So, do I have a motion to address?

498

01:04:16.730 --> 01:04:17.570

Angela Scott: Some moves.

499

01:04:18.030 --> 01:04:20.890

Stephanie Suerth: Yay, thank you. Robert Pools, guys. Second?

500

01:04:22.070 --> 01:04:23.520

Stephanie Suerth: You can drop your hand. Excellent.

501

01:04:23.800 --> 01:04:24.740

Stephanie Suerth: Thank you.

502

01:04:25.000 --> 01:04:25.910

Stephanie Suerth: Any opposition?

503

01:04:27.960 --> 01:04:30.240

Stephanie Suerth: Hearing none, all in favor? Aye.

504

01:04:31.640 --> 01:04:37.550

Stephanie Suerth: As we get a little bit of time back today, thank you, as always. I think we have a lot of good direction here.

505

01:04:38.140 --> 01:04:42.309

Stephanie Suerth: And I'm really looking forward to some of the initiatives that I think We'll be able to...

506

01:04:42.610 --> 01:04:46.649

Stephanie Suerth: to start moving and leaning into. So, thank you, everybody, and Happy New Year!

507

01:04:47.290 --> 01:04:47.760

Education Outreach: Thank you.

508

01:04:47.760 --> 01:04:49.939

Magdalena Navarro: in a year, have a great rest of the day.

509

01:04:49.940 --> 01:04:51.419

Nicolette Young: Sure, folks, take care.