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BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

*GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

May 1, 2024
10:11 a.m.

PRESENT

HONORABLE WES MOORE

Governor

HONORABLE BROOKE E. LIERMAN

Comptroller

HONORABLE DERECK E. DAVIS

Treasurer

JOHN GONTRUM

Secretary, Board of Public Works

ATIF CHAUDHRY

Secretary, Department of General Services

THOMAS HICKEY

Director of Procurement and Real Property Initiatives,
University System of Maryland

VALERIE RADOMSKY

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

EMILY WILSON

Director of Legislative and Constituent Services,
Department of Natural Resources

LISA GRIGSBY

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning. Welcome to today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. I want to first start today's meeting by just giving a measure and a note of thanks. First to our Lieutenant Governor, who I'm just so grateful to have as my partner in this work every single day. And for the remarkable job that she did chairing the Board of Public Works while we spent the past few board meetings working with our federal and our State partners in dealing with the issues with the with the bridge and the coordination around it. So much of this could not have happened without your leadership, LG. So I just want to say thank you so much. And now, I'm getting used to it.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: I know they're like, "Oh, he's back."

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: But also, I wanted to say thank you to also my partners on this board -- the Comptroller and the Treasurer. I just want to say thank you so much. I really could not be more grateful for all the work that you all do, the support that you've given to our administration as we've helped to lead during this crisis and find ways of being able to provide support to the workers who have been impacted, providing support to the families who have been impacted, providing support to the industries and the small businesses that have been impacted.

You know, we know that that could not have happened without the support that you both have continued to lay out. And so we've got a long road ahead -- a very long road ahead. And at the same time, our State is going to be just fine. And we're grateful for the leadership and the partnership around these

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lines.

With that, I want to say good morning, Mr. Secretary. And we'll go into the business of the day. Good morning.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning to you, Governor. And to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. There are 14 items on the Secretary's agenda this morning, and two reports of emergency procurements. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great, thank you so much. And I would actually like to call up Items 7 and 12, which provide compensation and housing benefits to Mr. Gary Washington for being wrongfully incarcerated for more than 31 years. Thirty-one years for a crime that he did not commit. On January -- in January of 1987, Mr. Washington was then 25 years old and a new father to a three-year-old son. He was arrested for murdering a 17-year-old Faheem Ali in East Baltimore. He was charged with shooting Mr. Ali after a dispute over drugs. In June 1987, a Baltimore City jury convicted Mr. Washington of first-degree murder and the use of a weapon in the Commission of a crime, and sentenced him to life in prison plus 20 years concurrent.

Despite the fact that there was no physical evidence linking Mr. Washington to the murder, and despite multiple witnesses accounting for Mr. Washington's whereabouts at the exact time of the crime, and witnesses who testified that they witnessed the altercation between, Mr. Washington was not the one who shot Mr. Ali, the prosecution still pressed forward, and the jury rendered a guilty verdict. The prosecution's key witness for the trial, who was then 12 years old, later recanted his identification of Mr. Washington as the murderer, stating that he was manipulated by the police and sent Mr. Washington to prison.

During his incarceration, Mr. Washington never gave up hope despite appeals and judicial petitions getting denied time after time. And in 2018,

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nearly three decades later -- three decades later, a Baltimore City Circuit Court judge vacated Mr. Washington's conviction and ordered a new trial. And in 2019, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office dropped the charges. So on January 15th of 2019, after spending 11,459 days behind bars for a crime that he did not commit, he was finally released.

11,459 days, or 31, years were stolen from Mr. Washington. He missed his entire son's childhood and all the milestones that parents cherish. He missed spending time with his partner and as a husband to his wife, Theresa or Terry (phonetic.), who they met when they were 15 years old, they've been together since they were 15 years old, who was a devoted partner and an advocate the entire time over this entire nightmare that spanned over three decades. And during that time, she then had to assist in raising the family on her own while her husband was wrongfully incarcerated.

He missed years spending time being a son, and both of his parents supported him during incarceration. And sadly during his incarceration, both his parents passed. And we spent some time just a little bit ago praying together. I learned that Mr. Washington's mother the entire time continued to push and state that her son is not guilty of this. And I say here, what I said then, is that she knew that you were innocent. And she now knows, and she's known the entire time, that you're exonerated. She knows. And I know she's looking down with pride on her son.

And also joining us today alongside his wife is also his friend, longtime friend, Mr. Steven Reynolds and his attorney, Renee Spence. And I cannot thank you both enough for not just your belief in your friend and your client, but also belief that the system could be right. And so Gary, as Governor of the State, and more importantly, as a father, as a husband, and as a son, and as a fellow Marylander, there are no words that can convey how sorry I am -- to you

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too, Terry -- how sorry we are to both of you for what you had to endure. And that on behalf of the entire State, I'm sorry for the failure of the justice system. And while I know today there is no amount that can undo the injustice, that can make up for what the State took from you, I'm just prayerful that right now this State can be able to pour into you in the way that your family deserves.

And so I'm told that during his incarceration, Mr. Washington, who is an avid reader, turned to one book in particular to help him maintain hope. And that is a book that's actually one of my favorites, which is Strength to Love by Dr. King. And I'll close my remarks with a with a quote from that from that book. It says: "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

And so Mr. Washington, we are so deeply sorry. Thank you for being here today. We're honored to call you our neighbor as a Marylander. And we just hope that your tomorrows will be better than your yesterdays. God bless you both. And thank you so much for being here today.

(Applause)

GOVERNOR MOORE: With that is there any further discussion on the Secretary's agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: Governor, if -- may I?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please.

TREASURER DAVIS: It's Item 14, University of Maryland Global Campus. I know we can't get into the details of it, so I won't. And I guess it's more of a statement than anything else. I mean, I looked at some of the remedies and the costs, and it's -- I know it's in the best interest of the State, so I will be supporting it, but this -- this is ridiculous. Even the remedy for the additional training, no one needs this training. If you just read it, this is pretty

basic. We should know at this point what we can and cannot do. You don't need to be trained on something as basic as that.

And at some point, we just have to do what's right. We can't become retaliatory or punitive. We just -- there has to be a level of professionalism that we just don't do things and then the State is on the hook, you know, to cover for those temper tantrums. And that's all this really comes down to. Someone had a temper tantrum because someone had the audacity to assert certain rights. So I will be supporting it. But for me, I feel the need to speak out on some of these things.

It seems to be this -- and this goes back a long way so in no way am I saying this is the Moore-Miller Administration, but it just seems to be this thing of we'll do what we want, if there's an issue, we'll just pay it, settle it, we'll just move on. There's not really the type of accountability of you knew better than this. You knew this was going to get you in trouble. More importantly, you knew this would put the State in jeopardy. Do it anyway and then the remedy ends up being write a check and have training.

There are times where training is appropriate. We need it. But this isn't a training situation. This is someone just got punitive and they got caught, and so here we are. So I just wanted to sort of highlight that. Maybe it means nothing in the scheme of things, but I just couldn't vote -- and that is the absolute correct thing to do, is to vote in favor of this. But I couldn't just vote in favor of it without saying anything. So I said my piece, and we can move on.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any further discussion? May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I move to approve the Secretary's agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Is there a second?

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TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Thanks, Mr.

Secretary.

We'll proceed with the DNR agenda. Ms. Wilson, good morning.

MS. WILSON: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller. Emily Wilson with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We have 11 items on our DNR Real Property Agenda today for your consideration. Be happy to try to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve the DNR agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much. Ms. Wilson.

MS. WILSON: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And next up, University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, good morning.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor. Good morning, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey representing the University System of Maryland. There are two items for your consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Are there any questions for --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- the System?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. May I have a motion to approve

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the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move for the USM agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks, Mr. Hickey. Thank you.

We'll proceed with the with the MDOT agenda. Ms. Radomsky,
good morning.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Governor, Madam
Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky,
Chief Procurement Officer at the Maryland Department of Transportation.
Today, we are presenting 11 agenda items for your consideration. Seeking
approval of two contracts to duly certified minority businesses, approximately
715,000; three contracts to certified small businesses for approximately \$2
million; and one contract to a certified disadvantaged business enterprise for
approximately \$199,000. We have representatives available to answer any
questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Are there any questions for
the MDOT agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. May I have a motion to approve
the MDOT agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve the MDOT
agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

And now, we'll conclude with DGS. Secretary Chaudhry, good

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morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Morning, sir. Good morning, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. The Department is presenting 25 items on our agenda. We are withdrawing four items -- three items: Item 4-CGL, Item 16-S, and Item 19-IT, 1.2 only.

Our agenda does feature over \$8 million in capital grants and loans. I did want to highlight one in particular, and that's item 12-CGL, which provides \$200,000 in State support to the board of directors of Inncuvate Community Partners for the design and construction of the Inncuvate Venture Studio. Located in the Blue Line Corridor of Prince George's County, this facility will serve as an immersive space for professionals, entrepreneurs, and community leaders to meet, collaborate, and work together.

As we continue to keep an eye on our minority business participation, our agenda does include two contract awards and modifications to certified minority businesses totaling more than \$1 million. And we have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much. Actually, I want to highlight something that I was taken by looking at the whole agenda. And it's -- look at Item 15-C, which is the five-year statewide master contract for general construction work. I highlight for this reason: the master contract includes 13 certified MBE prime contractors, 19 certified small businesses which is a significant increase on the current master contract, which includes four MBE prime contracts and six certified small businesses. Kudos.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Because that kind of increase is not significant and takes a real measure of intentionality. And I do look backwards,

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we're not talking about subs, we're talking about primes in this one. So I just want to highlight that and say, look, thank you for continuing to expand opportunities for our MBEs and really prioritizing socioeconomic programs with intentionality. And I know there's a lot of market, I note that as well. So just -- so kudos on that.

MR. CHAUDHRY: I appreciate that. Thank you very much, Governor. We're working very diligently on this. And these are primes for major construction contracts.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

MR. CHAUDHRY: This is a big contract award. And then on top of that, we'll be able to set additional MBE goals at the task order level. And anything obviously over \$200,000, we'll come back to the Board for approval. So working diligently behind the scenes to increase participation for minority subs and primes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there any further discussion on the DGS agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: Governor, nothing on the agenda. But Mr. Secretary, I do want to say -- extend a thank you. There was some issues that your department was handling with our building that we had requested, necessary improvements that the employees were very appreciative of. So I just want to say thank you for overseeing those upgrades to the building.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you very much, sir. Happy to assist.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nicer bathrooms. Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: I wasn't going to say that.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Very interesting.

TREASURER DAVIS: But yes, it's an older building.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

TREASURER DAVIS: Now is not the time to do, obviously, a full renovation, but there were a few necessary upgrades, and they're happy with it. So I wanted to say thank you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely. You're welcome, and happy to help out. Happy to assist any way we can.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, thank you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: You're very welcome.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And thank you, Governor and Secretary Grady, for including money for us to do that in our budget. Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Any further discussion on the DGS agenda? May I have a motion to approve the DGS agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve the DGS agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Secretary Chaudhry, thank you so much.

I just want to acknowledge also Delegate Winslow is over there. It's good to see you.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Oh, thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: It's great to see you here. Thank you so much for being there as always, for your leadership.

With that, that actually concludes today's Board of Public Works. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 15th. Thank you all. And have a wonderful, wonderful rest of the week. Thanks all.

(Whereupon, at 10:30 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)