



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting
July 28, 2020

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

July 28, 2020; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Corey W. Pack
- Chuck F. Callahan
- Frank Divilio
- Pete Leshner
- Laura E. Price - Via Telephone

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Okay. Everyone, if you</p> <p>4 wouldn't mind please standing.</p> <p>5 (Moment of Silence, Scripture Reading,</p> <p>6 and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. President, just for the</p> <p>9 record, Council Woman Price is calling in for</p> <p>10 the meeting.</p> <p>11 Ms. Price, are you on the phone?</p> <p>12 MS. PRICE: I am here.</p> <p>13 MR. HOLLIS: Great. Thank you.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: Before we go into the agenda, I</p> <p>15 just want to make everyone aware that the</p> <p>16 Council by a super majority vote elected to</p> <p>17 close the Council chambers to the public. So</p> <p>18 everyone would have to join us by video or by</p> <p>19 calling in.</p> <p>20 And for those of you who are listening at</p> <p>21 home, let me go ahead and give you that number.</p>	<p>1 Council, you do have your agenda. The</p> <p>2 chair would ask if there's any additions,</p> <p>3 deletions, or corrections to the agenda?</p> <p>4 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, at this time I'd</p> <p>5 like to add -- amend the agenda to add letter</p> <p>6 in support for Trooper Six. The helicopter</p> <p>7 that is based out of Talbot County, it is now</p> <p>8 up for discussion of whether it will stay or</p> <p>9 not.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: Second.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Okay. Any further discussion?</p> <p>12 Hearing none, to amend the agenda for a letter</p> <p>13 of consideration in support of Trooper Six</p> <p>14 staying here at the Easton Airport, I know that</p> <p>15 this matter has been sent back for study. And</p> <p>16 I don't know how long that's going to take. It</p> <p>17 may be done in a matter of months or weeks.</p> <p>18 So Madam Secretary, please call your roll.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p>
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<p>1 When it comes time for the public meeting, so</p> <p>2 you can have that number to call in. I'll give</p> <p>3 it again before the public meeting, but let me</p> <p>4 give it to you now in case you want to jot it</p> <p>5 down. For the public meeting, you want to dial</p> <p>6 (833)491-0327. That is (833)491-0327.</p> <p>7 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. President, I'm sorry to</p> <p>8 interrupt. People are already having trouble</p> <p>9 hearing with masks. Can you just pull the</p> <p>10 microphone, all the Council members, if you can</p> <p>11 pull the microphone closer to you, especially</p> <p>12 for the phone numbers, which are important.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: I am going to put my mask down</p> <p>14 for the reading of this. I want to make sure</p> <p>15 people get it. For the public meeting, the</p> <p>16 public hearing, you want to dial (833)491-0327.</p> <p>17 I will give that number again when we get down</p> <p>18 to the public hearing for Resolution 291. So</p> <p>19 I'll give that number again, but just in case</p> <p>20 you are at home and you want to jot that down,</p> <p>21 that's (833)491-0327 is that number. Okay.</p>	<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>5 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: And Madam Secretary, we'll take</p> <p>9 that on right after the disbursements. Okay.</p> <p>10 Council, any other additions, deletions,</p> <p>11 or corrections to the agenda? Hearing none,</p> <p>12 the chair moves that the agenda is accepted</p> <p>13 with unanimous consent.</p> <p>14 We also have disbursements from July the</p> <p>15 28th. You should have had a chance to speak</p> <p>16 with your finance officer about those</p> <p>17 disbursements. Are there any additions,</p> <p>18 deletions, or corrections to those statements?</p> <p>19 Hearing none, the chair moves that they also be</p> <p>20 accepted with unanimous consent.</p> <p>21 Now, concerning the letter of</p>

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<p>1 consideration for Trooper Six, I know we've</p> <p>2 seen many e-mails about this back and forth.</p> <p>3 Again, to my knowledge, it has been sent back</p> <p>4 up for study. Again, don't know how long that</p> <p>5 will take. So but we can certainly consider</p> <p>6 sending a letter now or maybe waiting until</p> <p>7 after.</p> <p>8 Mr. Stamp, I saw you sneak into the room.</p> <p>9 I'm going to call you forward, if you don't</p> <p>10 mind. Do you have any additional information</p> <p>11 as far as when that decision may come forth</p> <p>12 regarding Trooper Six or when that group would</p> <p>13 even assemble themselves for study?</p> <p>14 MR. STAMP: So there is a basing study</p> <p>15 that's currently underway for the State Police</p> <p>16 to determine the best locations to base</p> <p>17 helicopters moving forward.</p> <p>18 And I don't believe a determination has</p> <p>19 been made as to which aircraft is going to be</p> <p>20 sold and which section is going to be closed.</p> <p>21 So it is an appropriate time to share your</p>	<p>1 patients that are the most critical of</p> <p>2 critical, either injured or ill, to the trauma</p> <p>3 centers or specialty care referral centers</p> <p>4 across the state of Maryland, where it would be</p> <p>5 too time consuming to try to drive those</p> <p>6 patients.</p> <p>7 So not unlike the other midshore counties,</p> <p>8 and frankly, counties throughout the state of</p> <p>9 Maryland, in Talbot County we do depend on that</p> <p>10 aircraft and the other aircraft in the system</p> <p>11 quite a bit.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Right. And I know that I was</p> <p>13 contacted by Jack Wilson up in Queen Anne's</p> <p>14 County. I think they're considering also a</p> <p>15 letter of support.</p> <p>16 MR. STAMP: I think I can speak for the</p> <p>17 men and women of our emergency medical services</p> <p>18 division that we want to try to maintain that</p> <p>19 resource here.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: And what I would ask is once</p> <p>21 this vote is taken, perhaps you would help in</p>
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<p>1 concerns about maintaining the aviation</p> <p>2 program.</p> <p>3 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. Stamp, I apologize.</p> <p>4 You're going to need to get closer to the</p> <p>5 microphone.</p> <p>6 MR. STAMP: I'm sorry?</p> <p>7 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you. Exactly.</p> <p>8 MR. STAMP: So that's what I know at this</p> <p>9 point in time.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: But the study is underway as we</p> <p>11 speak?</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: There is a basing study</p> <p>13 underway as we speak, yes.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: So yeah. Let's probably get</p> <p>15 that letter in now then. I didn't know the</p> <p>16 study had already begun.</p> <p>17 Anything further?</p> <p>18 MR. STAMP: Other than the fact that</p> <p>19 clearly, Talbot County depends on the State</p> <p>20 Police medevac program. On average, we</p> <p>21 transport about one patient a week. These are</p>	<p>1 the drafting of that letter.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: I'd be glad to, sir.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Thank you. Anything further</p> <p>4 from Council?</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: I have nothing additional to</p> <p>6 add. I think Director Stamp did a perfect job.</p> <p>7 Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. STAMP: Thank you.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Okay. Madam Secretary, please</p> <p>10 call your roll.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>18 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: Thank you. Now, we're going to</p>

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1 move on to introduction of administrative
 2 resolution. This is an Emergency
 3 Declaration dealing with COVID-19 --
 4 MS. PRICE: Mr. Pack.
 5 MR. PACK: Yes.
 6 MS. PRICE: Mr. Pack, (inaudible) from
 7 home, I'm experiencing what the public is
 8 experiencing. And it's very difficult to hear
 9 if you're not on top of the microphone.
 10 MR. PACK: I don't know if I can get any
 11 closer than what I am without sticking it in my
 12 mouth.
 13 MS. PRICE: I could not hear Mr. Stamp at
 14 all. Okay. Just a reminder.
 15 MR. PACK: Mr. Hollis, Ms. Moran, if
 16 anyone comes to the table, I don't think we're
 17 going to have too many other speakers this
 18 evening, we'll just direct them to get as close
 19 to the mike as possible.
 20 Mr. Parker, I don't know whether there's
 21 any way to elevate the volume any more than it

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1 already is. But if you can do that, sir, we'd
 2 appreciate that as well.
 3 So thank you, Ms. Price, for letting us
 4 know that. We'll try to get as close as
 5 possible.
 6 I know we want to be safe and keep our
 7 mask on. But if you want to give comment,
 8 Council, you might want to just pull it down
 9 and pull it back up. We're fairly distanced
 10 here, but we want to make sure that people at
 11 home hear us and respond accordingly.
 12 So let me continue. We have introduction
 13 of administrative resolution. This resolution
 14 is dealing with the COVID-19 enforcement. We
 15 heard from Dr. Freda Wadley, our health
 16 officer, last week. And she made some
 17 recommendations and raised her concerns
 18 regarding positivity rates and the infection
 19 rate here in Talbot County.
 20 We know that the COVID-19 virus is
 21 definitely not going away. We do understand

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1 that many states have gone back to a shutdown
 2 and some municipalities have gone into a
 3 shutdown mode. I think Baltimore City went
 4 back and closed all their bars and restaurants
 5 back on Friday. I think Anne Arundel County
 6 likewise did another shutdown of some of their
 7 public buildings.
 8 So we certainly don't want to move in that
 9 direction here.
 10 Our positivity rate has gone down from
 11 where it was last week. But yet still we want
 12 to be mindful of what awaits us in the fall and
 13 winter. That wasn't me.
 14 So Madam Secretary.
 15 MS. PRICE: (Inaudible.)
 16 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, would you read
 17 the title of the resolution.
 18 SECRETARY: Emergency Declaration,
 19 COVID-19 enforcement. Adopting certain
 20 requirements related to the operation of bars
 21 and restaurants in Talbot County, namely the

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1 prohibition on service and congregating in bar
 2 areas in order to prevent the spread of
 3 COVID-19, establishing certain limits on indoor
 4 and outdoor large gatherings, establishing
 5 civil monetary fines for violation of this
 6 Emergency Declaration, and authorizing the
 7 Talbot County Health Department and Talbot
 8 County Office of Code Enforcement to enforce
 9 the requirements herein.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 11 Dr. Wadley is with us and also Director
 12 Stamp. I'm not going to bring you guys up
 13 together. But let me, Dr. Wadley, if you want
 14 to come forth first as we start to deliberate
 15 the introduction of the resolution. Is there
 16 anything further that you want to add?
 17 I do have some language that I want
 18 Council to consider, but we'll hear from you
 19 first.
 20 Do you have any of the numbers today you
 21 want to share? If not --

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1 MR. HOLLIS: And Dr. Wadley, I'm sorry.
 2 You're going to need to speak directly into the
 3 mike. You're welcome to remove your mask if
 4 you'd like. The public is having trouble --
 5 DR. WADLEY: If they can hear me, I'll
 6 talk through the mask.
 7 MR. PACK: That's fine. Get comfortable.
 8 DR. WADLEY: The numbers are still going
 9 up statewide. They're fluctuating. We had a
 10 couple of high ones, 1,128 down today to 640
 11 something. On average, it will be 700 or more
 12 a day over the past week. So it is still
 13 increasing.
 14 Hospitalizations, they did a slow
 15 increase. And for the past three or four days,
 16 they've been within a ten-point range. Today
 17 was 544. So that's still a very slow uptick.
 18 Deaths, 12 new ones. But that's not
 19 really that much of an increase overall. A
 20 little higher than a day or two before.
 21 So what I think I'm saying is that yes,

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1 we're seeing the cases go up. In Talbot
 2 County, we had the first good day for a long
 3 time. And I never thought I would say that six
 4 new cases was a good day. But it's better than
 5 ten and what we've been having.
 6 Of course, the push has been on to test,
 7 test, test. We've got up to, in the state,
 8 25,000 tests a day.
 9 Now, Talbot County has a percentage of
 10 population, 18 percent. That's high among the
 11 counties. Our positivity rate has decreased to
 12 3.8 percent. We were the highest a couple of
 13 weeks ago.
 14 MR. PACK: I saw that. I didn't mean to
 15 cut you off. But I went back and looked. And
 16 last week, July the 21st --
 17 DR. WADLEY: You got to understand, the
 18 more you test.
 19 MR. PACK: Yeah.
 20 DR. WADLEY: The more you test, the
 21 (inaudible) or the more you just test and they

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1 don't have symptoms, and that's been one of the
 2 reasons the governor has been pushing to test,
 3 is to get those positivity rates down.
 4 MR. PACK: I'm glad to see that. I mean I
 5 think it was up as high as 6.1.
 6 DR. WADLEY: Keep in mind, the positivity
 7 rate and all is very good. But if you're
 8 having your cases go up at the same time and
 9 they're being admitted to the hospital, we've
 10 gone from two in the hospital to ten in the
 11 hospital. I don't think we've ever had more
 12 than 13. But that is an increase for us.
 13 So we're not just seeing asymptomatic.
 14 We're seeing people with symptoms. And as I
 15 said, today was a good day just with six. But
 16 it's been on an average of ten. So we're not
 17 out of the woods yet.
 18 Our spread, we know there has been
 19 significant number in the Hispanic community.
 20 For the past two or three days, we've actually
 21 seen some decrease in that. Hope that's a

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1 trend, but not sure.
 2 That's sort of where we are now. If you
 3 look at the populations most impacted, right
 4 now we have over 25,000 cases in African
 5 American, while only about 18,000 something in
 6 white and about 21,000 over in Hispanic. Now,
 7 there's about 14 percent, 14,000 that they do
 8 not have good data to know what race it is.
 9 But by any stretch, you can see with a smaller
 10 population, you have far more cases in
 11 populations of color.
 12 If you look at the death rate, just taking
 13 the number of cases and then the number of
 14 deaths, you'll see that the white population
 15 has the highest death rate. Could be because
 16 there was so much early on in the nursing homes
 17 in the older population and a lot of deaths
 18 there.
 19 The second with death rate is African
 20 American.
 21 And then the third, low, fairly low, maybe

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1 it's due to a younger population being
 2 infected, but it is still significantly lower
 3 than the other two.
 4 So that's sort of how the pandemic is
 5 playing out in this state. And as you know,
 6 what is happening in the other states, some of
 7 them that opened before we did are already
 8 reaching surge capacity. And yet we'll find
 9 one or two along the way that have really done
 10 well, but there's not a whole lot of
 11 explanation.
 12 So I'll stop there with the numbers.
 13 MR. PACK: Thank you, Dr. Wadley.
 14 Council, we do have the resolution before
 15 us for introduction.
 16 The one thing that I would just ask for
 17 consideration on the resolution is when you're
 18 talking about the outdoor events, had a long
 19 conversation with our planning officer around
 20 the definition of special outdoor events. It
 21 really wasn't clearly defined in the code as

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1 far as other than weddings, carnivals, and I
 2 believe it said other outdoor events.
 3 So we were trying to find a way to
 4 quantify what those outdoor events are and how
 5 to establish what is and what is not an outdoor
 6 event.
 7 I know you gave us some numbers last time
 8 you were in here. I think they ranged between
 9 15 and 50.
 10 DR. WADLEY: I really gave -- and I want
 11 to be really clear on this because this is
 12 where everything gets mixed up.
 13 When you say what is safe and then when
 14 you say what's a number, please recognize that
 15 when you're talking about a virus like
 16 COVID-19, there is no safe number. It's where
 17 you want to put the number to decrease the
 18 number that can be affected at one time.
 19 So the governor chose ten when he shut
 20 down everything. Anne Arundel and a lot of the
 21 other counties have put 25 on indoor and 50 on

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1 outdoor. So those were numbers that were
 2 chosen. It doesn't mean that every indoor
 3 gathering of 25 is safe. So --
 4 MR. PACK: That's certainly --
 5 DR. WADLEY: That's just the numbers
 6 that's been chosen.
 7 MR. PACK: And I certainly understand you
 8 still have to maintain the social distancing
 9 indoors, you still have to maintain face masks
 10 indoors. And then of course, the sanitation of
 11 those areas that the public comes in contact
 12 with, those countertops, tables, chairs, doors,
 13 and those things I think also have to be done.
 14 But just focusing on the outdoor component
 15 of this gatherings, large gatherings on page
 16 number four where it talks about inserting a
 17 number for outdoor, I'm like you, Dr. Wadley.
 18 I was a bit uncomfortable to actually put a
 19 number in there because I did not know what
 20 that number should be.
 21 And then conversations that I had with the

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1 Planning Department, again going back to
 2 defining what an outdoor event is, we looked at
 3 a couple of different things that I want to
 4 bring up to Council. And I think you all
 5 should have got a copy of this. Mary Kay sent
 6 it out earlier today.
 7 Right now in the ordinance, it reads that
 8 outdoor special events include but are not
 9 limited to carnivals, weddings, festivals,
 10 music fairs or concerts, educational, cultural
 11 events, or similar gatherings.
 12 So when we talk about how those outdoor
 13 events should be recognized, we were looking at
 14 whether or not certain things were in play. If
 15 there was entertainment being offered, paid
 16 entertainment, if there was admission being
 17 requested for persons to come onto the
 18 property, if there was food being provided
 19 through a caterer or food truck or other food
 20 service entity, if there were temporary rest
 21 rooms that were being deployed at the site.

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1 Certainly if the event was open to the general
 2 public, it wasn't by invitation, but the
 3 general public was invited to attend.
 4 So we were looking at those things to kind
 5 of say that if you had an event that was more
 6 than 50 people is the number that we were
 7 looking at and it had one of those five items,
 8 it was either a paid admission to get onto the
 9 grounds, they either had a contract to cater
 10 service or food truck, or they had paid
 11 entertainment, if they had one of those five
 12 entities, then what we were going to look at is
 13 that that was a "special event". They would
 14 need a temporary use certificate.
 15 And in order to get to the number, you
 16 would let the planning officer and your office
 17 come down, look at the site, do a site visit,
 18 and then determine what the safe number could
 19 be.
 20 You could have a ten-acre property. And
 21 if they're going to do a small concert, perhaps

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1 150 people spread out would be reasonable on
 2 ten acres.
 3 So but I wanted that number to be
 4 determined based on a site visit and based on
 5 the nature of the event, and not just to plug
 6 in a number of 50 or 75.
 7 DR. WADLEY: I know. But keep in mind,
 8 I'm not getting my e-mail done until
 9 seven o'clock at night. How much more time do
 10 I have to look at everybody that wants to have
 11 a party?
 12 MR. PACK: I don't know whether you got
 13 this e-mail. I mean Council should have
 14 reviewed it. You may have not received this
 15 e-mail.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: But it would still be on
 17 your workload to review the site plans.
 18 DR. WADLEY: That's what I'm saying.
 19 MR. PACK: You're referring to --
 20 DR. WADLEY: I don't have the time.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Right.

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1 DR. WADLEY: We've got a pandemic, we've
 2 got contract tracing, we got testing to do.
 3 And to say I don't want to put a limit on it,
 4 fine and dandy, don't put a limit on it. But
 5 don't put the other one in.
 6 MR. PACK: Say the last part again. I
 7 couldn't hear the last. Don't put a limit on
 8 it, but don't?
 9 DR. WADLEY: Speak louder.
 10 MR. PACK: I didn't hear your last
 11 comment. Don't put a limit on it as far as the
 12 outdoor event?
 13 DR. WADLEY: You either put a limit on it
 14 and hold it without 3,000 expectations that
 15 Fredia can approve.
 16 I'm tired of being people's mother to try
 17 to find a loophole so they can have a party.
 18 If you don't want limits on it, don't put
 19 limits on it. But don't put in it that
 20 everybody can come to me and see if they can
 21 have a gathering.

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1 I don't have enough hours in the day to do
 2 that.
 3 MR. PACK: Right. I didn't mean that your
 4 office would be the one to go down and do the
 5 site visit. I mean the planning officer is
 6 there. We have code compliance officers that
 7 can go down there and do that. So it would not
 8 be laid at your doorstep to go down and do that
 9 visit.
 10 DR. WADLEY: See, we're already set up to
 11 do what we can with the restaurants. That's
 12 set up with the licensing and all has nothing
 13 to do with the legislation tonight. The Liquor
 14 Board, that's already set up.
 15 Okay. If you're setting civil
 16 penalties --
 17 (Audio interference.)
 18 MR. PACK: Apologize.
 19 DR. WADLEY: If you're setting civil
 20 penalties for what the governor had a criminal
 21 citation for, then that's one thing. That's on

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1 the mask. Okay. I understand that. And
 2 that's fine.
 3 On the bar, about not having -- if you
 4 have a liquor license, you don't serve at a
 5 bar, very concise. People can understand that.
 6 It's over. Okay.
 7 But if you're going to limit the
 8 gatherings, define the gathering and put a
 9 limit or don't do anything.
 10 MR. PACK: Okay.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack, I think
 12 Dr. Wadley is extremely telling us what we
 13 should and shouldn't do. And it's quite
 14 obvious that we don't put a limit on it, we
 15 enact a civil penalty, and we call it a day.
 16 MR. PACK: But if you don't put a limit on
 17 it, what are you applying the civil penalty to?
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: If it's an event of some
 19 sort, just like the balloon fest, we shut it
 20 down. We said no. And we didn't (inaudible)
 21 and that's it.

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1 MS. PRICE: Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. PACK: Yes.
 3 MS. PRICE: Am I coming through clearly?
 4 MR. PACK: Yes.
 5 MS. PRICE: Okay. So there have been two
 6 resolutions prepared. And one of them does
 7 exactly what Mr. Callahan has said, which is to
 8 not put limits other than what the governor has
 9 in place. And that (inaudible) tool in the
 10 toolbox for the civil penalty because that was
 11 certainly better than criminal violations.
 12 So as we go forward, there are two
 13 resolutions that have been prepared. And I'm
 14 not sure what order you want to take them in.
 15 MR. PACK: Yes. The governor only covers
 16 50 percent for indoor. There is no limit on
 17 outdoor activities, and that's where I was
 18 speaking to.
 19 I agree with you. I think the indoor
 20 activities, I would like to see us stay in step
 21 with the governor and just do it at 50 percent

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1 and there you go.
 2 But for an outdoor activity, you mentioned
 3 the balloon festival and those types of events
 4 that are done on private property, but they're
 5 inviting more than 50 people. We need to find
 6 a way to determine what is an appropriate
 7 amount.
 8 I understand what you're saying, you don't
 9 want to set a number. And I'm not saying we
 10 need to set a number. But we need to find a
 11 way to go down and the planning officer or the
 12 code enforcement officer meet with the property
 13 owner, what are you going to have, how big is
 14 your lot, where are you going to put the
 15 bathrooms, where are you going to put your
 16 parking, are you going to have hand sanitation
 17 stations, are you going to require masking,
 18 those kind of questions just to get a better
 19 idea of how they're going to keep people safe.
 20 DR. WADLEY: What happens is when people
 21 are planning these things, they have very good

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1 intentions. Everybody is going to wear a mask,
 2 everybody is going to stay six feet apart.
 3 And then when they get the alcohol out and
 4 they've been there two hours, you don't see a
 5 mask or anything. Okay.
 6 And so that's the difficulty of -- and I
 7 grant you. I know the difficulty of defining
 8 which group you want to talk about.
 9 And I guess my question is which group is
 10 immune to the virus? Maybe we can decide it
 11 that way because nobody is.
 12 MR. PACK: Right. I know that we got
 13 letters from some vendors who are planning
 14 outdoor weddings. And of course, outdoor is
 15 better than indoor. And we need to find a way
 16 to, in my opinion, to see if those events can
 17 be done safely.
 18 Again, it's going to require somebody
 19 going down and meeting with the property owner
 20 and looking it over and making that
 21 determination.

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1 So it appears --

2 DR. WADLEY: A lot of the people that

3 probably called you and told them how they've

4 planned it. So their weddings are all very

5 much in line with the governor's order.

6 I'm not saying that I get lots of calls on

7 those same weddings. And they're not exactly

8 according to the governor's order. No social

9 distancing, no mask. And they're together for

10 quite some time.

11 Yes, they're outdoors. That's better than

12 indoors, but we've got quite a few indoor ones

13 occurring, too.

14 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack --

15 MS. PRICE: Can I --

16 MR. PACK: So --

17 MS. PRICE: -- a second?

18 MR. DIVILIO: Yes.

19 MS. PRICE: Okay. I think that an

20 arbitrary number, we can't control what people

21 do, like Dr. Wadley said, once they're together

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1 and they're on private property. So it's very

2 difficult for us to enforce.

3 We can say okay, you can't have more than

4 75 people, but we're not going to sit there and

5 watch the party or the wedding or whatever.

6 And since the governor probably has better

7 data than we do, and he has not put an outdoor

8 limit, I don't know that we need to give that.

9 It's unfortunate that when you have

10 (inaudible) what people do, but there's nothing

11 that we can really do to change what the

12 behavior is once people are together.

13 MR. PACK: Okay. This is for

14 introduction. Any more comment before we

15 get --

16 MR. DIVILIO: Yes.

17 MR. PACK: We're not going to vote on this

18 tonight. Just to make sure we are clear on

19 what we're talking about.

20 MR. DIVILIO: I was going to make a motion

21 that we could table this resolution for tonight

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1 and maybe come back with a COVID permit for an

2 event that would never happen. And that should

3 be the main point that everybody knows here.

4 And Dr. Wadley, when we spoke the other

5 day and I said what's the magic number for us

6 to be safe, what is it. You said one, groups

7 of two spread this.

8 So we need the public to be informed and

9 aware of the dangers that are out there.

10 I would at this time recommend tabling

11 this piece of legislation and going ahead with

12 Ms. Price's, that it's clean, clear. It

13 addresses the civil violation that we want it

14 to address. It gives Dr. Wadley an additional

15 tool in her toolbox, while we try to figure out

16 if there's a way to limit events and remind the

17 public that the pandemic is still going on.

18 And if you have a COVID wedding, you're going

19 to have a COVID contact most likely.

20 MR. PACK: We don't have to introduce both

21 of them. It doesn't have to be tabled. If

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1 it's not introduced, it just goes away.

2 But before we finish, there is a clip that

3 the governor, I think we have. Could we show

4 that, dealing with bars and restaurants?

5 MR. HOLLIS: Clip number two, Mr. Durham.

6 Mr. Pack had asked for a clip from the

7 governor's press conference.

8 (Video playing.)

9 MR. PACK: Thank you. So clearly he was

10 going over the same information he sent in his

11 letter dated July the 14th regarding bars and

12 restaurants. There should no gathering, no

13 service at those bars and restaurants, that

14 everyone should be seated when they are served

15 in those establishments.

16 So I think he's crystal clear on that. I

17 think we should be in lock step with that.

18 Again, he did put it in the letter he drafted

19 to all the counties to do that.

20 The 50 percent falls into the other

21 categories outside of bars and restaurants, as

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1 far as 50 percent indoor capacity. And that's
 2 also within one of his past directives. I
 3 would like to see us follow that as well.
 4 When it comes to the outdoor activities,
 5 again, that's where we're looking at what is
 6 the appropriate number for any outdoor or large
 7 gathering.
 8 So with that being said, we do have two
 9 resolutions. The one, Council, you will see it
 10 has some open blanks there that I believe
 11 Mr. Kupersmith had drafted at the direction
 12 of -- at your direction? At the direction of
 13 Mr. Leshner.
 14 Mr. Leshner, do you want to speak to that
 15 at all before. . .
 16 MR. LESHER: Well, we could put numbers in
 17 here, but are we going to move forward with the
 18 gatherings provisions or are we not? We can
 19 name numbers if it is desired to include that
 20 particular provision.
 21 MR. PACK: If you're asking me, I am not

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1 comfortable inserting numbers. I think that,
 2 again, I would go with the governor's
 3 50 percent for indoors gatherings. And then
 4 for the outdoors gathering, I would probably
 5 seek to amend whichever resolution is
 6 introduced tonight to include some of the
 7 language that Ms. Verdery gave us regarding how
 8 to identify which of those would require a
 9 outdoor use certificate.
 10 Right now, it's for those weddings and
 11 carnivals, but what about those other
 12 activities where it's more than 50. How do we
 13 identify them so she can go out and determine
 14 what's the appropriate size of the event.
 15 So that I can add as an amendment later.
 16 I don't need to do that tonight.
 17 MR. LESHER: I'm perfectly comfortable
 18 with an alternate approach here.
 19 MR. PACK: So let's take the first one.
 20 Council, ask for a show of hands and a verbal
 21 vote, Ms. Price, for introduction of the first

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1 resolution. This has the blanks in it. That
 2 will be introduced by Mr. Leshner.
 3 And then we have a second resolution that
 4 Ms. Price offered up. Again, some of the
 5 language the same, but she didn't have any
 6 numbers there. And the chair would ask who
 7 wants to introduce this second resolution. By
 8 Mr. Divilio, Mr. Callahan --
 9 MS. PRICE: And myself.
 10 MR. PACK: -- myself and Ms. Price. So
 11 we'll. . .
 12 MR. KUPERSMITH: Mr. Pack, for the record,
 13 could the secretary read the title of that
 14 second resolution into the record.
 15 MR. PACK: I apologize. You're absolutely
 16 correct.
 17 So because they are not -- yeah, they're
 18 not the same. So Madam Secretary, if you could
 19 read the second resolution offered by
 20 Ms. Price, read that title.
 21 SECRETARY: Emergency resolution, COVID-19

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1 enforcement, requiring compliance with certain
 2 executive orders issued by Governor Hogan to
 3 prevent the spread of COVID-19. Establishing
 4 civil monetary fines for violations of this
 5 Emergency Resolution, authorizing the Talbot
 6 County Health Department and the Talbot County
 7 Office of Code Enforcement to enforce the
 8 regulations herein, and recommending certain
 9 procedures for enforcement.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 11 And we did have some discussion on this.
 12 Everyone is still doing their vote on that as
 13 read, I'm assuming.
 14 So both are introduced.
 15 And Dr. Wadley, thank you so much.
 16 Again, we'll put these back on for vote on
 17 the 11th I think is our next hearing, Madam
 18 Secretary. Okay.
 19 MR. LESHER: This is not eligible for
 20 immediate action?
 21 MR. PACK: It is. I mean if you wish to

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<p>1 offer it up for vote, Mr. Leshner, the chair, 2 yes, I would apologize, the chair would 3 entertain a motion for either to go to vote 4 this evening. 5 I would ask for the second, as I will be 6 offering an amendment to the second resolution 7 to deal with the outside gathering portion, 8 either to both of them. 9 Let me just say this. To yours or to the 10 one from Ms. Price, I will be offering those 11 amendments. So I would ask that we not vote on 12 this tonight, let me offer my amendments for 13 the Council to read, and then take this up on 14 the 11th. Because my -- 15 MS. PRICE: Mr. Pack. 16 MR. PACK: Yeah. 17 MS. PRICE: Do we want that tool in the 18 toolbox for the civil penalties? That is the 19 only thing that my resolution does. It will be 20 helpful for our enforcement officers to have 21 that civil penalty tool, as opposed to</p>	<p>1 which need to have civil penalties for it 2 instead of a criminal penalty. 3 MR. PACK: Right. 4 DR. WADLEY: And it was second, control 5 the number that can be in a gathering, indoor 6 and outdoor. 7 So let me be very clear. If you're not 8 ready for that, I'll withdraw those 9 recommendations. I want it on record what I 10 thought. Then I want it on record what you 11 thought. 12 So if you're not ready to do that, fine 13 and dandy. I'll withdraw that. 14 MR. PACK: I don't think that's necessary. 15 Again, the outdoor, as you indicated, how do 16 we -- 17 DR. WADLEY: I just don't want it on 18 record because of all I've gotten about she 19 says we can't do this, she says -- 20 MR. PACK: No, no. 21 DR. WADLEY: And trust me, you've used me</p>
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<p>1 criminal. And we can always add and consider 2 your amendment on the 11th. 3 MR. PACK: Well, the civil penalties are 4 indicated on page two of your resolution, 5 Ms. Price. I don't have any objection to 6 those. 7 Dr. Wadley can issue her own fines and 8 penalties -- 9 DR. WADLEY: If I can just take a couple 10 of seconds. 11 MR. PACK: Yeah. 12 DR. WADLEY: I know I started this because 13 I made recommendations for what I thought we 14 needed in addition to what was going on for 15 COVID-19. 16 I felt I should go on record of telling 17 you what the health officer thought, along with 18 many other health officers of the state, as 19 they sent six of them of the large metropolitan 20 areas in. And there was two things about that. 21 It was, first, we need to enforce masks,</p>	<p>1 for the bad guy. I don't mind being the bad 2 guy, but I don't want my name in that 3 legislation. 4 MR. PACK: Your name is not on the 5 legislation. 6 As far as your name being on the agenda, I 7 did not approve that. 8 DR. WADLEY: -- I said that I was for it. 9 MR. PACK: I understand. I did not add 10 your name to the agenda. That was not my 11 doing, if you're directing that towards me. 12 Your name is not on this legislation as 13 introduced by the members of Council. 14 The civil penalty is incorporated in here 15 for our code compliance officers to issue. 16 The only piece of this puzzle, and maybe 17 it's my fault for not being ready this evening, 18 is how we determine the outdoor gatherings. 19 DR. WADLEY: And what's the exceptions. 20 MR. PACK: And what are the exceptions, 21 yes.</p>

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1 DR. WADLEY: Right.
 2 MR. PACK: That and that's all I'm asking
 3 Council to basically wait for me because I
 4 don't have that language together.
 5 I did have conversation with Ms. Verdery.
 6 I have the e-mail, but I don't have it drafted
 7 by Mr. Kupersmith to actually insert it in. So
 8 I just would need a couple of days to do that.
 9 DR. WADLEY: I don't think that's
 10 relevant. That positivity rate changes daily.
 11 MR. PACK: No, no. This is not the
 12 positivity rate.
 13 This is dealing with the large gatherings
 14 as far as how to determine the large gatherings
 15 and whether or not they would need that use
 16 certificate.
 17 DR. WADLEY: Okay.
 18 MR. PACK: Not the positivity rate, no.
 19 DR. WADLEY: Just wanted to make those
 20 remarks.
 21 MR. PACK: Crystal clear.

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1 So we have both introduced.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. President, maybe we
 3 want to rethink these two amendments and at
 4 this time just kill both of them.
 5 And if you need to work on one, we come
 6 back with a clean one. That might be the best
 7 way to go because as of right now, Dr. Wadley
 8 has told us what she thinks. And it's up to
 9 us.
 10 And right now, we're sort of all over the
 11 map a little bit on these two amendments.
 12 You're not ready. So I think we probably
 13 should just kill it for the time being and wait
 14 until we come back and have a clean one. If
 15 Council is willing to.
 16 MR. PACK: That's still going to be next
 17 meeting.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. I understand. And
 19 you're going to work on one between now and
 20 next week.
 21 MR. PACK: Again, Mr. Callahan, the

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1 language that's introduced here, I don't have a
 2 problem with. The civil penalties, I do not
 3 have a problem with.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 5 MR. PACK: The only thing that I would be
 6 asking Council to consider is dealing with the
 7 outdoor gathering, what she talked about.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: At the next meeting?
 9 MR. PACK: That's all. And I do
 10 apologize. I don't have that language ready
 11 tonight. I thought I was going to have the
 12 time to do it, but the events that transpired
 13 the last 48 hours, I just wouldn't have it
 14 ready to be done.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.
 16 MR. PACK: That's all.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: So is Council comfortable
 18 with just the civil penalty and that's it?
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Yes, I am comfortable with
 20 that.
 21 After speaking with three large

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1 organizations in the community that have, let's
 2 see, one that has successfully run a large
 3 outdoor event that was approved, one facility
 4 that is operating another one that is trying to
 5 have outdoor events, the numbers of people that
 6 would attend the different events are
 7 completely different.
 8 You're looking at farmland to a business
 9 to a venue. It was amazing to me to hear that
 10 some people are able to do things. And I'm not
 11 going to say safe because it's not safe. But
 12 there are ways that people can get out there
 13 and socially distance and still continue.
 14 That's going to be incredibly difficult,
 15 especially on the shore. You tell a farmer
 16 they don't have enough space and they have
 17 1,000 acres, they're going to look at you a
 18 little funny.
 19 MR. PACK: And that's precisely my point.
 20 Is that when you talk about the temporary use
 21 certificate, when you talk about those other

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1 events outside of weddings and carnivals, how
 2 do you determine that.
 3 So again, if you would just allow me to
 4 get the language together, we can insert it in,
 5 you'll have it before next week's vote to
 6 consider.
 7 And that that way the compliance officers
 8 and code enforcement officers would then go
 9 down to meet with the vendor. If it's a
 10 ten-acre lot and he's doing an outdoor event,
 11 they can meet with him and say where are you
 12 going to put your porta pots, where are you
 13 going to put your parking. And then make a
 14 determination with them what that number is.
 15 Again, if you guys at the end of the day
 16 want to go just no number or no oversight, I
 17 would be a bit reluctant to go with that. At
 18 the same token, I'm not comfortable putting an
 19 artificial number in of 50. I don't think that
 20 one size fits all.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: And Mr. Pack, I would also
 2 recommend a fee schedule.
 3 As Dr. Wadley said, I can't, to say that
 4 she's not here, she has been incredibly helpful
 5 to me and I've been able to get a hold of her
 6 and I greatly appreciate her being part of the
 7 community, part of the discussion, and being
 8 available.
 9 But she's just one person. And I know she
 10 has been completely overwhelmed because she's
 11 been doing her job so well trying to keep the
 12 county open. I can understand her
 13 frustrations.
 14 But there should be a monetary cost in
 15 doing the event that's different due to
 16 COVID-19.
 17 MR. PACK: And that would be because there
 18 has to be a site visit?
 19 MR. DIVILIO: There's just a lot of extra
 20 time spent.
 21 MR. PACK: I'm okay with that.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: I would keep that in
 2 consideration.
 3 MS. PRICE: So Mr. Pack.
 4 MR. PACK: Yes.
 5 MS. PRICE: So I would propose that we go
 6 ahead and go forward with just the civil
 7 penalty to protect people from potentially
 8 being charged criminally and we look at the
 9 gatherings based on the site visit and fee
 10 schedule, but that we go ahead put this tool in
 11 this evening if Council desires.
 12 MR. PACK: Well, the criminal penalty is
 13 still in play, even with the civil penalty.
 14 Dr. Wadley still has underneath the food
 15 beverage enforcement code, she still can go in
 16 and close a business down. They can still be
 17 cited underneath the governor's executive order
 18 up to \$5,000 and one year in prison.
 19 So that doesn't go away even with the
 20 civil penalties. That just allows our officers
 21 to go in and cite them locally.

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1 MS. PRICE: (Inaudible) section, number
 2 five, recommended procedure for enforcement.
 3 The first offense would be a warning; the
 4 second offense is a civil fine; the third
 5 offense states that if a violator holds a
 6 liquor license, the Liquor Board could suspend
 7 it and/or impose a civil fine; and the fourth
 8 offense states if the violator holds a food
 9 service license, the health officer or the
 10 Health Department could suspend that.
 11 No, it doesn't preclude criminal. But it
 12 puts a step-by-step procedure in place that I
 13 think gives businesses fair warning. And we
 14 could go step by step. It doesn't go
 15 immediately to the civil offense. It's step
 16 one, two, three, four.
 17 MR. PACK: Right. I had made no reference
 18 to that.
 19 But again, Dr. Wadley, at her discretion,
 20 does not have to wait for these steps to play
 21 out. She can, based on the food enforcement

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1 code, go in and suspend without going through
 2 steps one, two, and three. I understand that
 3 you have it in here, and that's fine to throw
 4 it in. But I just want people to be crystal,
 5 crystal clear, she does have the authority to
 6 operate independently of this Council.
 7 MS. PRICE: Yes. But she doesn't have any
 8 other tool. And I think she was asking for
 9 those.
 10 So helpfully this gives her some other
 11 opportunities to go through in a methodical
 12 way.
 13 MR. PACK: Well, Secretary Neall was very,
 14 very clear on the call of his health officers.
 15 All 24 of his health officers do have the
 16 authority, do have the tool. And Secretary
 17 Neall was very clear about that.
 18 So she does have at her disposal even
 19 today at this hour the ability to do that. And
 20 Secretary Neall was very clear about that.
 21 But all I would ask, Council, is that I'm

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1 fine with both amendments and I just have some
 2 language dealing with those outdoor events that
 3 I would like to include in. I will have that
 4 language ready by our next meeting on the 11th.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: So Dr. Wadley asked for
 6 three things. The civil violations is one of
 7 them. If we pass Laura's amendment today, we
 8 could go ahead and give her one of the three
 9 things she asked for and then we can come back
 10 and craft the legislation for the other two
 11 things that she's asking out of the other
 12 resolutions.
 13 MR. PACK: I'm not following you.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Are you saying --
 15 MR. DIVILIO: I'm saying if we go ahead
 16 with Ms. Price's emergency resolution today, we
 17 give Dr. Wadley one of the three things that
 18 she asked for.
 19 MR. PACK: But again, Mr. Divilio, the
 20 outdoor, size of the outdoor event I'm going to
 21 put in both of them because it has to be there

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1 for the compliance officers to know what it is
 2 they're applying the warning to.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: We can come back and do one
 4 of them just as that.
 5 MR. PACK: But why would you pass it
 6 tonight when I'm asking for a week just to add
 7 the language in?
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Because we're immediately
 9 giving her the thing that she wanted, which was
 10 a civil violation because she doesn't want to
 11 clog down the courts with a criminal violation
 12 for a restaurant that she's got a problem with.
 13 MR. PACK: And then you're going to have
 14 to go back and reintroduce the language next
 15 week?
 16 MR. DIVILIO: No. Yours is already
 17 offered. So we can go ahead and amend yours,
 18 but this --
 19 MR. PACK: But --
 20 MR. DIVILIO: -- civil violation. So that
 21 way right now she can go into the restaurants

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1 or food establishments that she has a problem
 2 with and give them a civil fine immediately.
 3 The newspaper is going to put out there
 4 that we created legislation now with a warning,
 5 a civil violation, and then a potential for the
 6 license to be suspended. That message alone is
 7 going to tell restaurants in the community the
 8 county is cracking down and wants us to be
 9 safe.
 10 We're giving Dr. Wadley a tool that she's
 11 now able to give a civil violation as opposed
 12 to a criminal violation, which I think anybody
 13 who has ever been given a speeding ticket would
 14 appreciate.
 15 And we're moving the other legislation
 16 along to give you the opportunity to craft that
 17 for the outdoor gatherings.
 18 MS. PRICE: I would support that.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: We're piecemealing.
 20 MR. PACK: Yeah. Okay.
 21 MR. LESHER: I will say, Mr. Pack, that

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<p>1 I'm not comfortable with paragraph five under 2 this second resolution which puts recommended 3 procedure and how things should be handled with 4 that first, second, third, and fourth offense. 5 Paragraph three provides the enforcement 6 officers with discretion. And I'd prefer the 7 route of offering the enforcement officers that 8 discretion in enforcement. 9 I'm not sure that this paragraph five 10 really adds and I think it may detract. 11 MS. PRICE: It just says recommended 12 procedure so that businesses are aware of that. 13 And they have jumped the gun, but it is just a 14 recommendation. 15 MR. PACK: Are you asking to strike 16 section five of this resolution? 17 MR. LESHER: Well, I think really what I'm 18 asking for is for us to offer the health 19 officer what she's asked for. 20 But if we go the second route and offer 21 this and come back with an amendment in two</p>	<p>1 document. Going to your point, Mr. Callahan, 2 rather than having two documents to work off 3 of, having one clean document I thought was 4 better. 5 But if it is the majority's decision to 6 introduce, then I will yield. 7 So the chair would ask if there's 8 introduction of the second resolution this 9 evening? 10 MS. PRICE: So moved. 11 MR. PACK: I'm sorry. It has been 12 introduced. I apologize. To move to vote. It 13 has already been -- 14 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I thought you 15 wanted, you want to move it to vote. 16 MR. PACK: Yeah. I misspoke. It has 17 already been introduced. To move it to vote. 18 Is there a motion to move the second 19 resolution to vote this evening? 20 MR. DIVILIO: So moved. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.</p>
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<p>1 weeks, I would prefer if we go this alternate 2 route, that we strike section five. 3 MR. PACK: Mr. Leshner is asking that we 4 strike section five, which is a recommended 5 procedure dealing with the issuing of warning 6 and civil fines. He's drawing attention to the 7 abatement order under section number three 8 dealing with the monetary fine up to \$1,000 for 9 a violation. 10 Any comment on that? No? 11 Is there a second on his request to strike 12 section five and go with section three, which 13 deals with the civil monetary fines? The 14 motion to strike section five fails. 15 The matter has been introduced. It is 16 eligible for vote this evening. 17 My amendments can be applied to 18 Mr. Leshner's resolution just as easily dealing 19 with the outdoor events. I was going to apply 20 it to both just to streamline the resolutions 21 to make sure that we have just one clean</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio and 2 seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any further 3 discussion on the second resolution, not the 4 first but the second? 5 Okay. Hearing none, Madam Secretary on 6 the second resolution dealing with civil 7 penalties, please call your roll. 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 9 MR. PACK: Aye. 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 11 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 15 MS. PRICE: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 17 MR. LESHER: Nay. 18 MR. PACK: Okay. So that second 19 resolution will go in effect. The first 20 resolution entered by Mr. Leshner, we'll pick 21 that up on our next meeting. And my amendments</p>

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1 will be applied to that resolution.
 2 So we're at seven o'clock. We are now
 3 scheduled for a public hearing. Are you ready
 4 on the phones? Okay. This is a public hearing
 5 on Resolution 290. This is a resolution
 6 prohibiting the -- Madam Secretary, would you
 7 please read the title of the resolution.
 8 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 290, a
 9 resolution prohibiting statues depicting
 10 persons, signs, or symbols associated with
 11 military action on Talbot County property and
 12 providing for the removal of the Talbot Boys
 13 statue while retaining the base of the
 14 monument.
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Ms. Moran.
 16 I had offered this up for Council's
 17 consideration two weeks ago. Since that time
 18 in conversation with Mr. Leshner, we wanted to
 19 clean this up a bit. And I'll explain to
 20 Council why and also to the public.
 21 The language that I had put in here

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1 dealing with persons, signs, and symbols of
 2 military action, in my conversation with
 3 members of the VFW, they were very concerned
 4 dealing with the Vietnam monument which
 5 currently sits on the court house lawn, whether
 6 or not that monument would come under this
 7 provision, this language.
 8 It certainly was not my intent at all that
 9 the Vietnam monument would need to be removed.
 10 And therefore, to make the reading of it
 11 cleaner, Mr. Leshner and I would offer up the
 12 first amendment, which is basically striking
 13 out that language that you read there in the
 14 first part of the resolution.
 15 Mr. Leshner also offered up a second
 16 resolution striking the first whereas from
 17 this. This was dealing with the death of
 18 George Floyd, which took place on May the 25th.
 19 It was put in just to give a sense of reference
 20 to future readers as to what was happening in
 21 society at this time. It probably does not

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1 have any bearing on the totality of the
 2 resolution, which is to remove the Talbot Boys
 3 statue.
 4 So if you look at also on page three,
 5 there's also some edits that have been made in
 6 this particular resolution. Again, just
 7 cleaning up some language so that it would not
 8 be confusing to persons dealing with the
 9 Vietnam memorial and those kinds of things. I
 10 did not want them to feel that the resolution
 11 at all was pertaining to them.
 12 And on the back page, again, that language
 13 is all cleaned up so that it just deals with
 14 removal of the Talbot Boys monument on the
 15 court house grounds.
 16 Mr. Kupersmith, have I gone through all of
 17 the edits in that first amendment?
 18 MR. KUPERSMITH: Yes.
 19 MR. PACK: Mr. Leshner, any comment from
 20 you on that first amendment?
 21 MR. LESHER: Just for clarity's sake. The

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1 actual part of this resolution with this
 2 amendment would say first, the above recitals
 3 are incorporated as fully set forth herein.
 4 MR. PACK: You're going to have to lean a
 5 little bit closer. She's straining to hear
 6 you.
 7 MR. LESHER: The actual parts. First is
 8 that the above recitals are hereby incorporated
 9 as if fully set forth herein. That's all of
 10 the recitals above.
 11 We remove entirely the next section having
 12 to do with prohibition on certain statues.
 13 We move onto what is now the number two of
 14 this resolution, removal of Talbot Boys. The
 15 entire Talbot Boys monument shall be removed
 16 from the Talbot County Court House grounds as
 17 soon as reasonably possible. Nothing more in
 18 that section.
 19 And section three, the final section,
 20 draping of monument pending removing.
 21 Effective immediately upon adoption of this

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1 resolution, the Talbot Boys monument shall be
 2 draped or covered so that the monument is out
 3 of public view pending removal of the monument
 4 from the court house grounds.
 5 As you, Mr. Pack, said in your summary, it
 6 significantly simplifies this by really taking
 7 the focus away from any principals about what
 8 statues should and should not be on court house
 9 grounds and narrows the focus strictly to the
 10 Talbot Boys monument itself and clarifies that
 11 we would remove under this not only the statue
 12 by the pedestal as well.
 13 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 14 So that the public can comment on the
 15 amendment, I would ask for a show of hands to
 16 introduce the amendment to Resolution 290 at
 17 this time. By Mr. Leshner and myself.
 18 Ms. Price, on the amendment?
 19 MS. PRICE: No.
 20 MR. PACK: So the amendment is introduced
 21 on Resolution 290. This is for the public to

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1 be aware. Okay.
 2 And with that being said, let me get my
 3 paper in hand. We are now going to move into
 4 the resolution of 290. The amendment has been
 5 introduced.
 6 Callers, when you call in, please give us
 7 your name. You do not have to give us your
 8 address. You will have three minutes.
 9 And Mr. Callahan, I'm going to ask you to
 10 have a hard clock tonight, fast clock tonight,
 11 as I'm assuming we have a number of callers on
 12 the line.
 13 If you are speaking for a group or an
 14 organization, please indicate that. We will
 15 give you five minutes on the clock. When you
 16 get within 20 seconds, Mr. Callahan will give
 17 you a 20-second yield so you know you're coming
 18 up to a hard stop.
 19 MR. HOLLIS: So Mr. President, just for
 20 the record, petitions were just submitted to
 21 the check-in station by the deputies. They've

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1 asked me to just put this in. So I'm going to
 2 give it to you just to make sure I've
 3 accomplished that.
 4 You can continue on with the public
 5 hearing.
 6 MR. PACK: Thank you. Did we have a
 7 sign-in sheet on the public hearing? We did
 8 not. Okay. I just want to make sure we don't
 9 miss anyone.
 10 Mr. Hollis has just handed me a blue
 11 folder that contains a number of petitions. It
 12 looks to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 30
 13 or so.
 14 MR. HOLLIS: And Mr. Pack, we'll circulate
 15 that to the Council.
 16 MR. PACK: So I just want to make record
 17 that we have received those. They will be on
 18 the official record regarding Resolution 290.
 19 And it appears this is from -- is there a
 20 group?
 21 MR. HOLLIS: It did not have a name.

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1 MR. PACK: No. Okay. It's not a group.
 2 Okay. So we have those. Those will be added
 3 into the record.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Did you say a three and a
 5 five?
 6 MR. PACK: A three and a five. And a hard
 7 stop.
 8 And we'll take the first caller.
 9 MR. DURHAM: We have 12 callers queued.
 10 First caller is a Hannah.
 11 MR. PACK: Hannah.
 12 MR. DURHAM: You can begin.
 13 MS. ZERAI: Hi. My name is Hannah Zerai.
 14 Can you hear me?
 15 MR. PACK: Yes, ma'am.
 16 MS. ZERAI: Okay.
 17 BELOW ARE THE WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY
 18 MS. HANNAH ZERAI:
 19 My name is Hannah Zerai. I strongly
 20 support removing the entire Talbot Boys
 21 monument and voting as soon as possible.

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1 Removing this monument does nothing to
 2 erase history, because statues are not how
 3 history is taught. No one's history classes
 4 consist solely of looking at statues. That is
 5 simply a false argument. I'm sure if you
 6 created a display in the Historical Society
 7 detailing Talbot County's true and COMPLETE
 8 history in the Civil War, including Talbot
 9 County's Union Soldiers, Talbot County's
 10 Colored Troops, and the 18 members of those
 11 Colored Troops who went on to found Unionville,
 12 we could all support that. What we do not
 13 support is a monument honoring or glorifying
 14 the Confederacy (which is what monuments on
 15 public grounds, by nature, do). I want us to be
 16 absolutely clear that the issue we are talking
 17 about today is not the erasure of history, but
 18 rather which parts of it we choose to glorify.
 19 Most agree that Frederick Douglass is a
 20 national hero. What is stunning to me is that
 21 he is also a local hero that we place precious

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1 little value on. Yes, we have a monument to
 2 him, but what else? Do we honor his ideals? Do
 3 we honor what he stood for and dedicated his
 4 life to? The fact that his monument was
 5 restricted to be no taller than that of those
 6 who supported his enslavement, and that it is
 7 actually smaller, tells me no. The fact that
 8 requests for the removal of the Confederate
 9 monument that he is forced to stand next to
 10 have fallen on deaf ears for years tells me no.
 11 The fact that people still cannot see why
 12 retaining this monument is an insult to people
 13 of color in Talbot County, and an insult to the
 14 memory of Mr. Douglass, who was enslaved in
 15 this county in life and should absolutely not
 16 be forced to stand next to his oppressors in
 17 death, tells me no and is worrisome and
 18 heartbreaking beyond expression.
 19 If you did not attend the community
 20 reading of Mr. Douglass' 4th of July speech, I
 21 would encourage you to read it and then see if

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1 you can, in good faith, allow the Talbot Boys
 2 monument to remain.
 3 That Richmond, Virginia, the heart of the
 4 Confederacy, is ahead of Talbot County, the
 5 birthplace of Frederick Douglass, on this issue
 6 is disgraceful. We cannot claim to honor him
 7 without honoring his ideals. We cannot claim
 8 that we listen to and value people of color and
 9 their allies in this county if we will not do
 10 this one small thing for them.
 11 It should not be controversial to say that
 12 the Confederacy and Talbot County's place in it
 13 deserves to be condemned, not honored, and
 14 deserves to be memorialized only for education,
 15 in a museum. That it has most definitely been
 16 controversial shows that we as a community have
 17 immediate work to do. Our leaders need to step
 18 forward, not to compromise with those who still
 19 do not understand, but to help them learn.
 20 Those who are saying this is no longer
 21 about George Floyd are, in part, correct,

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1 because it never was about George Floyd alone.
 2 It is about the bigger picture he has come to
 3 represent. The people of Talbot County have
 4 requested the denunciation of racism over the
 5 years many times in many ways. It is my request
 6 that, this time, you listen to them.
 7 Thank you.
 8 MR. PACK: Hannah, I know you're reading
 9 from a prepared statement. If you wouldn't
 10 mind taking your time. We're going to give you
 11 the full three minutes. If we have to give you
 12 a couple of seconds extra, we'll do that. But
 13 please relax, take your time. And we want to
 14 make sure we get every word that you're saying.
 15 Okay.
 16 MS. ZERAI: Okay.
 17 MR. PACK: Continue, please.
 18 (Above comments read by Ms. Zerai)
 19 MR. PACK: Thank you, Hannah. If you have
 20 a prepared statement, we would ask that if you
 21 wouldn't mind sending that statement into us

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1 for the official record.

2 I know some of you may have a prepared

3 statement. It may be hard for our stenographer

4 to get every word. It may be somewhat

5 difficult for Council to get every word. I

6 would ask that if you have a prepared

7 statement, would you please mind sending that

8 into us after this evening.

9 I would also ask please take your time.

10 We want to make sure we get every word. We

11 want to make sure we get time to record it

12 appropriately. So just slow down, take your

13 time. We have plenty of time to hear from you

14 all. So get comfortable.

15 Next caller.

16 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is Liz.

17 MR. PACK: Liz.

18 MR. DURHAM: Time begins.

19 BELOW ARE THE WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY MS. LIZ

ZERAI:

20

21 LIZ: My name is Liz Zerai and I believe

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1 the Talbot Boys monument, both statue and base,

2 should be removed from the courthouse lawn.

3 I heard someone who commented at a

4 previous council meeting in favor of leaving

5 the statue ask why, if we object to high

6 schools and army bases named after

7 Confederates, and to a Confederate monument on

8 our courthouse lawn, then why is no one

9 objecting to places like Yale being named for a

10 slaveholder. It's very simple — Yale is a

11 privately funded institution, and those who

12 object to its name can choose not to fund or

13 attend that college.

14 Public schools and institutions which

15 represent, serve, and are paid for by the

16 general public are a different story. A

17 monument to those who fought AGAINST the United

18 States, who fought to be separated from the

19 United States in order to be free to continue

20 the institution of slavery does not belong on

21 United States government property or on public

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1 land.

2 If people want to preserve it for

3 historical reasons, then place it where more of

4 its history can be truly told, in a museum. If

5 some people feel it is a memorial to their

6 ancestors, then place it where it more

7 appropriately belongs, in a cemetery. And I

8 might add that placing it in Easton's historic

9 Spring Hill Cemetery might serve both purposes.

10 I have also heard people argue that no one

11 ever paid attention to this statue until the

12 George Floyd protests. Oh yes they did. You

13 just wouldn't pay attention to them. For at

14 least ten years people have been trying to have

15 this monument to oppression and bigotry removed

16 from a place that is supposed to be dedicated

17 to equal representation and justice. They have

18 offered compromise after compromise, all of

19 which were shot down.

20 After years of effort, they at least got

21 approval for the addition of a monument to a

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1 TRUE national hero and Talbot County native,

2 Frederick Douglass — but were told it could not

3 stand taller than the Talbot Boys statue.

4 I'm ashamed of what that has said about

5 where the sentiments of Talbot County truly lie

6 — or at least what it has said about the

7 sentiments of those in power in Talbot County.

8 But there is also power in numbers, and

9 there is a sizable and ever-growing contingency

10 of Talbot County citizens who are more and more

11 determined to speak up for and with those for

12 whom this monument has never been anything more

13 than a glorification of their enslavement,

14 oppression, and exclusion.

15 If you won't listen this time to them, to

16 us, on an issue as relatively simple as this,

17 it will be hard to have faith that the voices

18 of the non-white population of Talbot County

19 will ever be equally heard and valued.

20 Please do not delay this any longer. It's

21 time for those whose heritage and exclusionary

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1 version of history has had precedence for all
 2 these years to finally step back and let the
 3 other side have a presence and a say.
 4 Especially when it comes to how history and
 5 community heritage is represented on publicly
 6 owned government grounds.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Liz.
 8 MR. PACK: Thank you for your comments.
 9 Again, if that's a prepared comment, if you
 10 wouldn't mind sending it into us, we would
 11 appreciate the reading of it later.
 12 Next caller.
 13 MR. DURHAM: The next caller is a Katie.
 14 Time begins.
 15 KATIE: Hi. My name is Katie (inaudible),
 16 and I am a white woman living in Easton with my
 17 husband and daughter. And I just wanted to say
 18 something short.
 19 So a community survey that was done by
 20 Talbot (inaudible) showed that 63 percent of
 21 respondents said that racism is an issue in

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1 Talbot County.
 2 I believe that Confederate moments support
 3 (inaudible) a racist ideology. (Inaudible)
 4 want to be represented anywhere in Talbot
 5 County, let alone on the court house grounds.
 6 I believe that the entire monument needs to be
 7 taken down, and I encourage you all to vote on
 8 this tonight.
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you, Katie.
 10 Next caller.
 11 MR. DURHAM: Our next call is a Jazzmine.
 12 Time begins.
 13 MS. DAVIS: Hello. Hi, everyone. Can you
 14 hear me?
 15 MR. PACK: Yes.
 16 MS. DAVIS: Hello. My name is Jazzmine
 17 Davis. (Inaudible) Talbot County.
 18 BELOW ARE THE WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY
 19 MS. DAVIS:
 19 First and foremost, thank you all for
 20 listening and making this a priority as it is a
 21 priority to your community. I wish this wasn't

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1 an issue that we had to discuss at this length.
 2 I wish that a statue that symbolizes slavery,
 3 racism, and oppression wasn't considered to be
 4 a monument. A monument is defined as a statue,
 5 building or other structure erected to
 6 commemorate a famous or notable person or
 7 event. To Commemorate is to celebrate. How can
 8 we celebrate a statue that pains so many? That
 9 stirs up hate and division which we are
 10 striving to steer away from? I can't see any
 11 real reason for keeping this standing in front
 12 of a court of law other than to keep that
 13 division alive and hinder progress towards a
 14 fair, unified, and just community. The
 15 existence of slavery is not anything for us to
 16 be proud of. It is a disgrace to this nation
 17 and the presence of this statue sends a clear
 18 message to black citizens that we don't matter.
 19 What our ancestors endured doesn't matter, what
 20 we feel doesn't matter, and what we continue to
 21 face due to the systemic and institutional

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1 racism that this country was built on doesn't
 2 matter. While I hope that you will make the
 3 right to decision to remove this statue in its
 4 entirety tonight, whether or not you do, we
 5 know that we matter and we will no longer allow
 6 our voices to be suppressed. If you are
 7 committed to a better future for this county,
 8 prove it; because now is the time to decide
 9 where you stand and what kind of legacy you
 10 want to leave behind as leaders. It's up to you
 11 and I pray you take that into great
 12 consideration and understand the weight of how
 13 you choose to act in this matter. Thank you
 14 all.
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 16 Next caller.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Excuse me. Preston.
 18 Parker. I'm sorry. Parker. They're having
 19 trouble, I don't know if you can, on TV.
 20 MR. HOLLIS: Not being able to hear?
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Not being able to hear.

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1 Yeah.

2 MR. DURHAM: We have 16 more callers

3 queued. Our next caller is a Rachel. And time

4 begins.

5 MS. HAMBERGER: Hello?

6 MR. PACK: Yes. We can hear you.

7 MS. HAMBERGER: Hi. My name is Rachel

8 Hamburger. I demand the base be taken down to

9 the statue. To those of you who may think it

10 does not personally affect the lives of our

11 community, please take a step back and look at

12 yourself in the mirror. Check your privilege.

13 Although the removal of the Talbot Boys

14 statue is a small step in the right direction,

15 retaining the base of the monument is as

16 insulting and as disrespectful as the statue

17 itself. Retaining the base only continues to

18 pay homage to Confederate soldiers and glorify

19 the oppression of slavery that many people

20 endured.

21 To leave this monument less than 20 feet

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1 away from the statue of our very own Talbot

2 County resident Frederick Douglass is a

3 disgrace and embarrassment. How do we move

4 forward and continue to protect any part of a

5 racist monument (inaudible) values of our

6 community?

7 I urge that a vote is made tonight for the

8 quick removal of the Talbot Boys statue in its

9 entirety, pedestal and base.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 MR. PACK: Thank you, Rachel.

12 Our next caller.

13 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a David.

14 MR. PACK: David, okay.

15 MR. DURHAM: Time begins.

16 MR. PACK: David?

17 MR. MONTGOMERY: Hello. This is David

18 Montgomery. I believe you just invited me to

19 speak.

20 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.

21 MR. MONTGOMERY: Okay. Thank you.

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1 Quicker than I thought it was going to be.

2 My name is David Montgomery. I'm a

3 resident of Talbot County, and I submitted

4 statements that is the reason behind my

5 comments that I'll be giving tonight. So I'll

6 try to keep them short.

7 I oppose removing the Talbot Boys statue

8 from the grounds of Talbot County Court House

9 or altering it in any way. There's no

10 justification for Talbot County to be swept

11 along with the national movement to remove,

12 destroy, and demolish monuments that tell a

13 story about our past as a nation.

14 That movement (inaudible)

15 anti-intellectual, self-righteous,

16 hypocritical, and uncaring about history.

17 (Inaudible) destroying monuments of great

18 men like (inaudible) and Christopher Columbus

19 is now (inaudible) the soldiers of Talbot

20 County.

21 That's the point I want to make, that the

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1 monument is to soldiers of Talbot County, not

2 to slavery, not to the Confederacy.

3 If we want to take a stand about the

4 identity politics (inaudible), preserving the

5 Talbot Boys is a good place to start. It's

6 highly unlikely that the soldiers represented

7 by the statue were fighting to defend an

8 institution of slavery.

9 The history of the Civil War in Maryland

10 is considerably more complex than (inaudible)

11 statue claim. There were honorable moments and

12 desire to end slavery and avoid conflict on

13 both sides. Blanket statements that all

14 soldiers fighting (inaudible) to defend slavery

15 simply (inaudible) lack of historical

16 knowledge.

17 I oppose taking down any memorial to

18 Talbot soldiers in (inaudible). Their service

19 deserves respect no matter who they fought for.

20 In the middle of the Civil War, soldiers

21 on both sides showed disrespect to each other.

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1 For example, at the battle of (inaudible) at
 2 Gettysburg, Colonel (inaudible) of the Union
 3 first wrote the first Maryland Confederate
 4 regiment (inaudible) and were cut up in pieces.
 5 We (inaudible) many of our old friends and
 6 acquaintances and had them carefully and
 7 tenderly cared for.
 8 After the battle of (inaudible) where the
 9 first Maryland regiment CSA was the winner,
 10 they did exactly the same thing.
 11 Those who believe they can give moral
 12 judgments on the Talbot Boys today should
 13 reflect on the respect that Marylanders from
 14 both sides showed --
 15 MR. DURHAM: Twenty seconds.
 16 MR. MONTGOMERY: -- each other after the
 17 battles they fought.
 18 It is my understanding that the few
 19 surviving local veterans of the first regiment
 20 CSA enlisted donations to build a statue here
 21 in 1913 --

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1 MR. DURHAM: Ten seconds.
 2 MR. MONTGOMERY: -- to gain the lost
 3 recognition of their service that they were
 4 denied.
 5 The claim that its purpose was to
 6 intimidate blacks entering the court house
 7 certainly would be a fabrication based on
 8 nothing --
 9 MR. DURHAM: Time.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Montgomery, your time
 11 is up. I really appreciate your calling in and
 12 we really appreciate you talking to us.
 13 MR. PACK: Next caller.
 14 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a
 15 Benjamin.
 16 MR. PACK: Did you say Benjamin?
 17 MR. DURHAM: Time begins.
 18 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Can you hear me?
 19 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.
 20 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Hi. My name is Benjamin
 21 Rubinstein here from Trappe. Mr. Pack,

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1 Council, thank you for the opportunity to speak
 2 again tonight. This will be my third time
 3 speaking on this really threatening issue.
 4 Just to recall the previous (inaudible)
 5 Talbot County were a part of the Confederacy
 6 (inaudible) in America. Even if they didn't
 7 own slaves, they fought for slaves. Fact.
 8 (Inaudible) where it is embarrassing, not
 9 that it's embarrassing to the Council, but for
 10 every citizen of this county. And you've
 11 fallen behind the rest of the state and country
 12 (inaudible) racism (inaudible).
 13 Still and always, there is no room for
 14 racism and white supremacy ever. And this goes
 15 for every piece of monument or memorabilia,
 16 including the Talbot Boys.
 17 The fact that we limited the First
 18 Amendment rights to freedom of speech to true
 19 public hearing citizens at the last meeting,
 20 including the leader of the Talbot County
 21 NAACP, showed the level we go to defend white

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1 supremacy in the county. And in fact, going
 2 (inaudible) country itself. It is treason
 3 (inaudible) Constitution.
 4 This isn't history. This monument wasn't
 5 even put up for history. Its sole purpose was
 6 to highlight white supremacy in the Jim Crow
 7 era, over 50 years after the Civil War ended.
 8 More than just a county, we have serious
 9 issues on the Council today. Council Member
 10 Price (inaudible) throughout this county. She
 11 is not just systematically racist but openly
 12 racist. And she needs to be removed from any
 13 elected position if you want to move forward to
 14 (inaudible) black and brown communities with
 15 action.
 16 But it doesn't stop at Price. The other
 17 Council members, including Mr. Divilio, have
 18 opposing resolutions that included a
 19 (inaudible) Confederate to join the Union
 20 soldiers shows even deeper and systematic
 21 racism engrained in our Council and our

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1 community.
 2 (Inaudible) diversity training. Think
 3 about that. There will never be a place that
 4 glorifies slavers holders and people who fight
 5 for slavery.
 6 I demand on behalf of Black Lives Matter,
 7 ACLU, millions of people being oppressed daily
 8 in this county and country and world that we
 9 remove the entirety of the monument immediately
 10 and let Frederick Douglass (inaudible) sits on
 11 the county court house lawn in our fight
 12 against racism.
 13 Thank you.
 14 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir.
 15 Next caller.
 16 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a Troy.
 17 Time begins.
 18 TROY: Hello. My name is (inaudible).
 19 I'm speaking on behalf of (inaudible). Can you
 20 hear me?
 21 MR. PACK: Yes.

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1 TROY: Okay. So basically I'm here to
 2 tell you I would like to demand that the Talbot
 3 Boys statue be removed in its entirety. I want
 4 the base and the boy taken down.
 5 And I understand that there was a caller
 6 who just said that, you know, the statue wasn't
 7 put there for fear.
 8 But let's be clear (inaudible) of what the
 9 court house lawn was once used for. The court
 10 house lawn (inaudible) auctions for slavery.
 11 There was history what KKK meant on the court
 12 house lawn in the 1980s. The court house lawn
 13 also was a place where a man was almost
 14 lynched. So the court house lawn itself has
 15 very rich history for (inaudible) our black
 16 people in Talbot County.
 17 We need to do better at a community to
 18 evaluate what systemic racism is. What
 19 diversity training will do will then help other
 20 people in our community actually know what they
 21 need to be doing in order to make things

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1 better, to create change.
 2 We need to have a vote on this tonight,
 3 not in August, tonight.
 4 We need to make changes, not just in the
 5 symbolic way, but in equity. In the manner
 6 (inaudible) able to change our education
 7 system, our health system, and be able to do
 8 something that we can see in future
 9 generations.
 10 So I hope that the Council members
 11 (inaudible) what legacy they want to leave
 12 because this was voted on five years ago, and
 13 it was voted to stay. So I'm hoping that this
 14 Council can be an (inaudible) to create real
 15 change.
 16 Thank you.
 17 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Excuse me, Mr. President.
 19 A few people have reached out to me and
 20 still can't hear on the TV. If there's
 21 anything you can do.

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1 DEANNA: I'm riding the audio the best I
 2 can, but we're picking up the speakers, the
 3 table mikes. So that's what the issue is.
 4 But we'll try and work with getting
 5 integrated into the system.
 6 MS. PRICE: Would it help if a few people
 7 turn these mikes off?
 8 DEANNA: Is this (inaudible) close to it.
 9 Okay.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Parker.
 11 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
 12 herself is a Jasmine. Time begins.
 13 MS. GIBSON: Hello. My name is Jasmine
 14 Gibson. And I'm a black woman here in Talbot
 15 County.
 16 I'm calling to demand the full removal of
 17 the Confederate monument on the court house
 18 lawn. If we are not a county that stands with
 19 racism, then we cannot allow the Confederate
 20 monument to remain any longer.
 21 I would like a vote to be made tonight.

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<p>1 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.</p> <p>2 Next caller.</p> <p>3 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing</p> <p>4 the ACLU of Maryland is (inaudible). Time</p> <p>5 begins.</p> <p>6 SPEAKER: This is (inaudible). I'm here</p> <p>7 on behalf of the ACLU of Maryland.</p> <p>8 Frederick Douglass said in his 1871 speech</p> <p>9 at the Arlington National Cemetery we are</p> <p>10 sometimes asked in the name of patriotism to</p> <p>11 forget the merits of the fearful struggle and</p> <p>12 to remember with equal admiration those who</p> <p>13 struck at the nation's life and those who</p> <p>14 struck to save it, those who fought for slavery</p> <p>15 and those who fought for liberty and justice.</p> <p>16 These words by Douglass addressing</p> <p>17 (inaudible) celebration on public property and</p> <p>18 which do not (inaudible) especially today as</p> <p>19 the Council debates the removal of the Talbot</p> <p>20 Boys monument, which stands across the</p> <p>21 courtyard from (inaudible) Talbot County.</p>	<p>1 when statues were springing up all across the</p> <p>2 nation as part of a coordinated effort to</p> <p>3 (inaudible) Confederate cause (inaudible). It</p> <p>4 was a time when Jim Crow laws were firmly in</p> <p>5 place. Respectable members (inaudible) in</p> <p>6 lynchings on the Eastern Shore and the Ku Klux</p> <p>7 Klan began (inaudible).</p> <p>8 Just as textbooks were rewritten to</p> <p>9 downplay the (inaudible) slavery, and</p> <p>10 (inaudible) United States, these monuments were</p> <p>11 used to (inaudible) beneath a blanket of</p> <p>12 nostalgia.</p> <p>13 In the wake of George Floyd's horrific</p> <p>14 killing by police, (inaudible) Black Lives</p> <p>15 Matter movement is leading the charge for</p> <p>16 renewing the commitment and urgency felt by</p> <p>17 many Americans (inaudible) for racial equity</p> <p>18 and reform.</p> <p>19 We have the opportunity to reshape our</p> <p>20 public memory and begin to move away from white</p> <p>21 supremacy in ways many Americans once thought</p>
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<p>1 The American Civil Liberties Union of</p> <p>2 Maryland shares (inaudible) those who fight for</p> <p>3 the aspirational (inaudible) ideals of liberty,</p> <p>4 equality, and justice, not those who fight to</p> <p>5 maintain white supremacy who should be held up</p> <p>6 for public acclaim.</p> <p>7 That is why we strongly urge the Council</p> <p>8 to remove the Talbot Boys monument, both statue</p> <p>9 and base, from the county court house lawn,</p> <p>10 which is a particularly problematic place for</p> <p>11 it.</p> <p>12 Court houses are the visual embodiment of</p> <p>13 the rule of law and the values of the</p> <p>14 community, reflecting the beliefs, priorities,</p> <p>15 and aspirations of a people.</p> <p>16 That is why (inaudible) specifically chose</p> <p>17 to erect monuments at court houses. They</p> <p>18 wanted to send a message to black people that</p> <p>19 the laws were not meant to protect them.</p> <p>20 The Talbot Boys statue was erected in the</p> <p>21 same moment (inaudible) decades after the war</p>	<p>1 were out of reach. The same is happening in</p> <p>2 Maryland.</p> <p>3 (Inaudible) and the last Confederate</p> <p>4 monument standing on State land.</p> <p>5 (Inaudible) Confederate flag voted to</p> <p>6 remove in the State House. Likewise,</p> <p>7 (inaudible) County (inaudible) Confederate</p> <p>8 general was taken down by county officials</p> <p>9 stating monuments such as this are offensive to</p> <p>10 many in the county.</p> <p>11 The Republican counties that (inaudible)</p> <p>12 hoped the act of taking down the (inaudible)</p> <p>13 would be a step on the path of healing.</p> <p>14 At last the day of reckoning has come for</p> <p>15 these monuments (inaudible). So, too, we hope</p> <p>16 it has come for the Talbot Boys.</p> <p>17 The ACLU of Maryland has been involved in</p> <p>18 this push since at least 2015. And we firmly</p> <p>19 believe the time to act in removing both statue</p> <p>20 and base is now.</p> <p>21 Thank you.</p>

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1 MR. PACK: Thank you. Before we go to the
 2 next caller, Mr. Durham, I've just been told
 3 for those listeners at home who may be having
 4 some difficulty in hearing us, what I've been
 5 told is that if you -- and I do apologize. I
 6 did not give the phone number again at the
 7 beginning of the public hearing like I said I
 8 was going to do.
 9 So if you would dial in and listen through
 10 your phone and turn the TV down, I'm told that
 11 that way you'll get a much clearer signal.
 12 So let me do what I said I was doing to do
 13 initially. The dial-in number is (833)41 --
 14 (833)491-0327. I'll repeat that.
 15 (833)491-0327.
 16 So go ahead and dial that number. Listen
 17 in with us through your phone. Put your phone
 18 speaker on, and then turn down your TV.
 19 Why don't we try that at home. Let's give
 20 everybody a minute or two to do that. And then
 21 we'll pick back up at our public meeting.

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1 Okay. Hopefully we gave you guys enough
 2 time to do that at home. And we'll pick back
 3 up.
 4 MR. DURHAM: We have 74 callers, and 15
 5 are queued to speak.
 6 Our next caller is a Paul representing
 7 himself. And time begins.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay.
 9 PAUL: Yes, how you doing, Talbot County?
 10 I am from Talbot County, and I currently live
 11 in Talbot County.
 12 As a teenager, I saw that monument and I
 13 also asked why. I didn't understand
 14 (inaudible) curiosity. (Inaudible) study about
 15 the history of the war and Talbot County and
 16 Maryland itself.
 17 I'm also a veteran. I had the privilege
 18 of being an officer in the US Marines.
 19 My first and foremost recommendation is
 20 let all citizens vote somehow (inaudible)
 21 secured polls too important and this process

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1 itself is extremely difficult.
 2 Having said that, (inaudible) racism,
 3 white supremacy (inaudible) against any person
 4 or people are evil (inaudible) remove
 5 (inaudible).
 6 Additionally, (inaudible) also (inaudible)
 7 racist symbols of hate and are offensive not to
 8 people of color but too many Americans also.
 9 So I think it's extremely apparent
 10 (inaudible) monument issues exclusively been
 11 based on standard (inaudible) Confederate
 12 versus Union Talbot Boys (inaudible).
 13 And it's painfully obvious that the vast
 14 majority of (inaudible) most (inaudible) and
 15 should be important to us now (inaudible)
 16 citizens.
 17 During the Civil War, Maryland (inaudible)
 18 ever conducted by a US (inaudible) free state.
 19 Many (inaudible) to justify those actions and
 20 the fact remains what was done in Maryland
 21 (inaudible) unlawful, unconstitutional, and

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1 brutal.
 2 In April of 1861, President Lincoln
 3 authorized the top commands (inaudible) men,
 4 women, and children (inaudible) Maryland.
 5 (inaudible) change. (Inaudible) Second
 6 Amendment was passed with the American
 7 (inaudible) commanders Constitution and
 8 (inaudible).
 9 Commander (inaudible) Maryland legislative
 10 (inaudible) great patriot being named from
 11 Talbot County. His commands included men from
 12 Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne's Counties
 13 (inaudible).
 14 MR. PACK: Paul, I'm sorry to interrupt
 15 you. Our stenographer, she is having a very
 16 hard time following you. And we want to make
 17 sure we get every bit of what you're saying for
 18 the record because we think it's very important
 19 what you have to say to us.
 20 So if you wouldn't mind. We stopped the
 21 clock. So I'm not taking any time away from

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1 you. If you wouldn't mind, sir, just slowing
 2 down a bit for us. Let her be able to get your
 3 words. We want to make sure that we get
 4 everything that you're saying. Okay?
 5 PAUL: You got it.
 6 MR. PACK: Thank you, Paul.
 7 PAUL: (Inaudible) generals (inaudible)
 8 men before he was arrested was that Maryland
 9 was being occupied against her will and
 10 (inaudible) against Maryland's institution
 11 (inaudible) men to prepare to deploy to protect
 12 the citizens of Maryland.
 13 After that, (inaudible) direct assault on
 14 Maryland's (inaudible) with the arrest of
 15 members of the Maryland legislature.
 16 (inaudible) Baltimore State Council to
 17 Baltimore (inaudible).
 18 Personal freedoms were then curtailed
 19 (inaudible) marshal law and occupation of
 20 federal forces.
 21 Habeas corpus was then (inaudible) federal

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1 forces (inaudible) anyone (inaudible). A
 2 Supreme Court justice ruled Lincoln's actions
 3 unconstitutional (inaudible) ruling.
 4 Around 14,000 Marylanders were arrested
 5 under suspension of habeas corpus, imprisoned
 6 without trial. At one time, Fort McHenry held
 7 over 2,500 political prisoners.
 8 Talbot County judge, Judge (inaudible),
 9 was pistol whipped and (inaudible) Easton Court
 10 House (inaudible) for (inaudible)
 11 Constitutional right of Talbot citizens.
 12 (inaudible) First Amendment. Some
 13 (inaudible) shut down. All were senators and
 14 many (inaudible) silence their voices. The
 15 editor (inaudible) years (inaudible).
 16 Maryland's history during the Civil War is
 17 unique from that of any other state, either
 18 Union or Confederate. And Talbot County
 19 (inaudible) in our history. (Inaudible)
 20 history you remember and from which we need to
 21 learn.

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1 Many don't understand this history
 2 (inaudible) Talbot County risks their lives to
 3 (inaudible) citizens will be protected,
 4 particularly (inaudible) not abolition. And
 5 (inaudible) US Maryland Constitution will
 6 protect (inaudible) when these men rose.
 7 The overwhelming historical (inaudible)
 8 along with the recent (inaudible) General
 9 (inaudible) men (inaudible) before his arrest.
 10 (inaudible) support that the men rose not for
 11 slavery but because the homeland (inaudible)
 12 occupied and unoppressed. (Inaudible)
 13 Constitutional liberties and (inaudible)
 14 because militia commander told them before his
 15 arrest that war was being waged against
 16 democracy.
 17 These men did not have a personal
 18 (inaudible). All they knew is that (inaudible)
 19 fought for them as they take it.
 20 (Inaudible) there to intimidate. This
 21 monument was commissioned and paid by Talbot

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1 County citizens. Some were select members of
 2 Talbot Boys themselves made a conscious choice
 3 to (inaudible) --
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thirty seconds, Paul.
 5 PAUL: The presentation of the flag is
 6 extreme importance to (inaudible) motivation.
 7 Flag on the left side (inaudible) symbol of
 8 submission (inaudible).
 9 I ask that this monument by private funds
 10 have the Confederate symbols removed and be
 11 rededicated to men of Talbot County who rose
 12 against the oppression that (inaudible).
 13 Thank you very much.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir.
 16 Next caller.
 17 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a Dennis.
 18 Begin.
 19 MS. LONGHARD: Hi. My name is Denise
 20 Longhard. I live on Tilghman Island. And I
 21 want to (inaudible) by noting that last

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1 Wednesday, the US House of Representatives
 2 voted to approve legislation to remove more
 3 Confederate statues from the Capitol rotunda.
 4 It was approved 305 to 113 vote. All of the no
 5 votes came from GOP law makers. Seventy-two
 6 republicans voted to remove the statues.
 7 Andy Harris, our Congressperson for
 8 District one, voted to keep the Confederate
 9 statue.
 10 I (inaudible) tonight to implore you to
 11 remove the Confederate statue from the public
 12 ground, the county court house, without delay.
 13 The issue is about dismantling racism,
 14 pure and simple.
 15 At this point in history, we are called
 16 upon again, after (inaudible) the civil rights
 17 movement, as a society of (inaudible) white
 18 people to confront the reality of systemic
 19 racial injustice and white privilege and
 20 supremacy with clear eyes and open minds and
 21 hearts.

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1 Let us remember what has happened on the
 2 public site, which is dedicated to adjudicating
 3 justice. Enslaved human beings were bought and
 4 sold to the highest bidder at auctions
 5 (inaudible) tearing families apart.
 6 Frederick Douglass was jailed for a week
 7 for attempting to escape and (inaudible)
 8 taunted by slave traders with the prospect of
 9 being sold to Georgia or Florida.
 10 2,000 white people formed a mob with ropes
 11 and knives (inaudible) lynching (inaudible) on
 12 the first day of his trial, just six years
 13 after the erection of the Confederate statue.
 14 But then (inaudible) wrongfully convicted and
 15 hung on (inaudible) the Talbot County jail.
 16 This happened 100 years ago last Thursday.
 17 I call (inaudible) lynching. That tells
 18 us how many white people felt about black
 19 people and racial hatred (inaudible) around the
 20 time this statue was erected.
 21 Daniel Divilio (inaudible) article in last

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1 Sunday's Star Democrat about Isaiah Fountain
 2 tells the whole story.
 3 There is (inaudible) country and
 4 specifically this county of Talbot County from
 5 slavery, lynchings, and Jim Crow.
 6 MR. DURHAM: Twenty seconds.
 7 MS. LONGHARD: (Inaudible) and justices
 8 and (inaudible).
 9 Removing the Confederate statue from the
 10 courthouse lawn will send a message that
 11 Talbot County aspires to correct racial
 12 inequities in its policies and set a tone of
 13 creating a new identity that we are a community
 14 committed to taking action to cure
 15 (inaudible) --
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Denise.
 17 Appreciate it.
 18 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
 19 himself is a William. And please begin.
 20 WILLIAM: Hello?
 21 MR. PACK: Yes, sir. We can hear you. Go

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1 ahead.
 2 WILLIAM: Hi. Can you hear me now?
 3 MR. PACK: Yes, we can. Thank you.
 4 WILLIAM: Okay. I'd like to (inaudible)
 5 y'all (inaudible) statue (inaudible) almost
 6 just like (inaudible) cemetery (inaudible). I
 7 mean people (inaudible) let them rest. You
 8 know, statue don't hurt nobody. I mean
 9 (inaudible) through Talbot County (inaudible)
 10 statue. They just keep on going down the road.
 11 (inaudible) Caroline County (inaudible). Going
 12 on and on and on.
 13 I just wish (inaudible) left alone.
 14 That's all I need to say.
 15 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you very much,
 16 caller.
 17 WILLIAM: Uh-huh.
 18 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
 19 himself is Allison. Time begins.
 20 MS. STANFORD: Hi. Can you hear me?
 21 MR. PACK: Yes, we can.

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1 MS. STANFORD: Good evening, Council
 2 members. My name is Allison Stanford, and I
 3 live in Easton.
 4 I am calling in this evening to ask you to
 5 vote to take down the Talbot Boys statue in its
 6 entirety.
 7 And in my opinion, discussions about where
 8 it would go or what, if anything, would replace
 9 it are distractions.
 10 First and foremost, we need to take this
 11 down.
 12 In my opinion, many of us here on the
 13 Eastern Shore live in a bubble. And we
 14 (inaudible) our opinions based on our view from
 15 inside that bubble.
 16 For the sake of our future, we all
 17 desperately need to break out of this bubble so
 18 we can see more clearly. This is the facts.
 19 Things are changing across our country.
 20 And one result of this change is that
 21 Confederate memorials are coming down. This is

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1 not an attempt to forget history. History is
 2 not that fragile. The past is permanent.
 3 Instead, these statues are coming down due
 4 to a growing acknowledgment that the most
 5 shameful parts of our past should not be
 6 honored and glorified.
 7 Mississippi (inaudible) Confederate symbol
 8 (inaudible) since 1894. It flew for 126 years.
 9 It seems that legislators were never going to
 10 change their minds. That flag was never coming
 11 down. Despite decades of effort, it was never
 12 going to happen. Until it did. On June 29th.
 13 And closer to home, on June 12th a plaque
 14 honoring the Confederate generals was removed
 15 from the lawn of the old Wicomico Court House
 16 in Salisbury.
 17 So in closing, in regard to the Talbot
 18 Boys statue, I ask those of you who appear to
 19 either oppose its removal or are uncertain of
 20 your positions, Council Member Callahan,
 21 Council Member Divilio, Council Member Price,

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1 search your hearts, search your minds. Why --
 2 MR. DURHAM: Twenty seconds.
 3 MS. STANFORD: -- on earth would you
 4 choose to double down on the ugliness that this
 5 statue represents, when instead you can come
 6 down on what will most assuredly be the right
 7 side of history?
 8 Thank you.
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 10 MR. DURHAM: 116 people in the call.
 11 Fifteen more queued.
 12 Our next caller is a Tara.
 13 MR. PACK: Tara, okay.
 14 MR. DURHAM: Please begin.
 15 TARA: Hi. Can you hear me?
 16 MR. PACK: Yes, ma'am.
 17 TARA: Hi. My name is Tara.
 18 I (inaudible) calling for the complete
 19 removal of the Talbot Boys statue. This is the
 20 only acceptable solution. The statue
 21 commemorates soldiers that fought a war to

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1 enslave black (inaudible).
 2 As a white woman, it is not up to me to
 3 say if the statue is offensive. (Inaudible)
 4 feelings of black people, and I would ask you
 5 to do the same.
 6 In 2020, black citizens of Talbot County
 7 are telling you that they find the statue
 8 offensive. That should be all you need to hear
 9 to have it removed.
 10 A statue that memorializes anyone for
 11 whatever reason that fought to enslave another
 12 human being does not belong on the court house
 13 lawn.
 14 It is past time to remove this statue, and
 15 I ask that you please do not continue to delay
 16 the vote. This is not an issue that is going
 17 away and we don't plan on stopping.
 18 Thank you.
 19 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 20 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is
 21 (inaudible). Please begin.

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1 SPEAKER: Yes. Good evening. (Inaudible)
 2 Everyone that's (inaudible). I consider myself
 3 a Talbot boy (inaudible). This is my home.
 4 I will start by saying (inaudible)
 5 military veteran. I will say do not separate
 6 the fact that someone fought to what they
 7 fought for.
 8 My parents (inaudible) this discussion
 9 (inaudible) World War II. (Inaudible) good
 10 leader (inaudible). You know, soldiers that
 11 fought for them can say that he was a good
 12 leader. I ask you what did he stand
 13 (inaudible). (Inaudible) true today
 14 (inaudible). And so I would ask you where
 15 (inaudible) if I'm wrong, where is your
 16 (inaudible) statue memorials of Hitler or the
 17 Nazis. And I would say there are none, not on
 18 public grounds, anyway.
 19 There is for a fact (inaudible) monument
 20 called (inaudible) hill, which serves as a
 21 monument for future generations to remember,

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1 not to allow (inaudible).
 2 To the African Americans and others, the
 3 Talbot Boys are (inaudible). If a family wants
 4 to support or remember (inaudible) fighting,
 5 they can do so on private property. But court
 6 house property (inaudible) Frederick Douglass
 7 was persecuted by people like the Talbot Boys,
 8 how in 2020 can we allow that.
 9 (Inaudible) symbolizes that we're not
 10 ready to move forward. And to leadership, to
 11 leaders (inaudible) if we are leaders for
 12 future generations, then leaders should
 13 (inaudible) remove the monument and defer
 14 (inaudible) and to tell the whole story
 15 (inaudible) battlefield or the historical site.
 16 And I leave you with a (inaudible) to
 17 capture the attitude at the time (inaudible).
 18 It is not merely for today (inaudible) that we
 19 can perpetuate (inaudible) government
 20 (inaudible) all our lives --
 21 MR. DURHAM: Twenty seconds.

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1 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) my (inaudible) but
 2 for yours.
 3 (Inaudible) to occupy the (inaudible). I
 4 am a living witness that anyone --
 5 MR. DURHAM: Ten seconds.
 6 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) come here
 7 (inaudible). It is (inaudible) each of you
 8 (inaudible) free (inaudible) --
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, caller, for
 10 calling in. Thank you.
 11 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller identifies
 12 itself representing the group petition leader,
 13 Henry.
 14 Please begin.
 15 HENRY: Hi. Can you hear me okay?
 16 MR. PACK: Can you speak a little louder,
 17 please, Henry?
 18 HENRY: Yes. Can you hear me okay?
 19 MR. PACK: That's better. Thank you.
 20 HENRY: Okay. I sent my public statement
 21 earlier. I e-mailed it to you guys so you'll

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1 have a copy of it.
 2 My fellow Marylanders, I come before you
 3 once again to plead that the Talbot Boys statue
 4 in its entirety be taken down. (Inaudible)
 5 many hours (inaudible) important. I'll try to
 6 be brief (inaudible) clear in my previous
 7 statements.
 8 The statue on public property (inaudible)
 9 lasting reminder (inaudible) Talbot County
 10 still (inaudible) the ideal of the Confederacy.
 11 Talbot County has already (inaudible). This is
 12 not (inaudible) issue. (Inaudible) because,
 13 again, people in this country have decided to
 14 take a stand.
 15 Why, in what is supposed to be the
 16 greatest country in the world, do we require
 17 horrible acts of racism before we take action?
 18 What does the statue actually mean?
 19 That is one of the main questions
 20 (inaudible) argument. People who argue for the
 21 statue to remain standing believe that it

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1 represents history, it represents the veterans
 2 of the country, county, and the old (inaudible)
 3 better time. They argue that the statue must
 4 stay on county ground so we cannot forget our
 5 history. They also argue that it honors those
 6 who fought against what they label as
 7 (inaudible) unconstitutional (inaudible)
 8 President Lincoln.

9 People will argue that the statue does not
 10 stand as a stark reminder of racism and
 11 slavery, but Talbot County does not have a
 12 problem with diversity or racism. That
 13 rehashing the same issue is not worth county
 14 time.

15 This is where I find my biggest issue.
 16 Any one of you who want the statue to stay,
 17 have you really spoken to people of color here
 18 in Maryland and Talbot County?
 19 585 signatures I've collected from people
 20 in Easton, along with (inaudible) signatures
 21 from others in Maryland, and 947 elsewhere in

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1 the country indicate that we do not agree with
 2 the arguments to justify leaving the statue up.
 3 We stand and say that this statue
 4 represents something (inaudible).
 5 We can argue whether monuments stand for
 6 history, (inaudible) slavery, or stand for
 7 (inaudible), but this has been done many times.
 8 It has been widely accepted by historians
 9 that the (inaudible) Civil War was whether
 10 states have a right to maintain slavery.
 11 Historians also known (inaudible) erected
 12 around (inaudible) to send a message that
 13 whites were a superior race.
 14 (Inaudible) literature to prove that the
 15 small minority (inaudible) not the case for the
 16 vast majority of historians has proven time and
 17 time again.
 18 This is not the conversation that we
 19 should (inaudible) bogged down with. The most
 20 important statement to be made here is there's
 21 still rampant racism and injustice in Talbot

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1 County.
 2 The most recent meeting with the county's
 3 School Board is just a tip of the iceberg.
 4 (inaudible) racist comments that (inaudible) to
 5 myself and others (inaudible) Talbot County
 6 (inaudible). Can you imagine the minorities in
 7 Talbot County (inaudible) on a daily basis?
 8 The (inaudible) keep the statue up
 9 (inaudible) hope, something that helps them
 10 remember (inaudible) Talbot County, one in
 11 which minorities (inaudible).
 12 Will this statue change policies and
 13 (inaudible) in Talbot County, no. Will the
 14 statue begin to change the attitude to those
 15 within the county, I wholeheartedly say yes.
 16 How can I say this, because the NAACP in
 17 the county says so (inaudible) spoke to all
 18 agree that this symptom is a (inaudible) of
 19 their county.
 20 (inaudible) one another as we love
 21 ourselves. Let's take (inaudible) ourselves in

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1 someone else's shoes, someone who has been
 2 persecuted (inaudible) color of their skin
 3 (inaudible) reason.
 4 Enough in enough. Stand up for minorities
 5 in our community that have been begging for you
 6 to listen. Take it down.
 7 Thank you.
 8 MR. PACK: Thank you. We do have your
 9 folder with those signatures on it. We'll
 10 certainly put that in the record.
 11 I just want to note for the record we did
 12 also receive a video from a group in the name
 13 of We Are Talbot.
 14 SECRETARY: I am Talbot County.
 15 MR. PACK: I am Talbot County. The video
 16 was about 15 minutes long. And just for the
 17 sake of time, we're not going to be showing the
 18 video.
 19 But those persons who participated in the
 20 making of that, We Are Talbot County -- am I
 21 saying that correctly?

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1 SECRETARY: I am Talbot County.
 2 MR. PACK: I am Talbot County. I am
 3 Talbot County video, we did receive it. We do
 4 have it. Council will get a copy of it in
 5 Granicus. But just for the sake of time, we
 6 will not be showing that video this evening,
 7 but we did receive it.
 8 MR. DURHAM: Our next speaker representing
 9 himself is a (inaudible). Please begin.
 10 SPEAKER: Hi. Can you hear me okay?
 11 MR. PACK: Yes, ma'am.
 12 SPEAKER: Okay. So (inaudible)
 13 abolitionist and skilled writer was born into
 14 slavery in Talbot County. Talbot County has no
 15 trouble honoring Douglass, but at the same
 16 time, upholds a racist Talbot Boys Confederate
 17 statute on the court house green.
 18 It is insulting to the legacy of Frederick
 19 Douglass to have these two statues stand side
 20 by side.
 21 The Talbot Boys statue (inaudible)

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1 unethical. Shame on Talbot County to allow
 2 this monument to stand that honors the 84
 3 racist soldiers by defending the right of
 4 southern whites to own black Americans as
 5 property. The defense of this statue is an
 6 absolute defense of overt and systemic racism.
 7 The Talbot Boys statue is the last
 8 Confederate statue standing in Maryland. There
 9 is no reason for Talbot County (inaudible) and
 10 uphold the statue. Talbot County should
 11 welcome everyone.
 12 I am embarrassed to say that I am from the
 13 Eastern Shore because of things like the Talbot
 14 Boys statue. There is no reason we should be
 15 100 years behind the rest of Maryland.
 16 I demand that Council members (inaudible)
 17 and remove the abhorrent statue in its
 18 entirety.
 19 And I'd also like to clarify a few things.
 20 I don't know what other people were taught in
 21 school when they attended. But the conscience

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1 in highest education all across the United
 2 States is that the Confederate State of America
 3 was fighting for the rights of states to own
 4 slaves. Don't try and (inaudible) to appease
 5 your white guilt and need for rationalism.
 6 That actually erases the reality of history.
 7 This statue does hurt people. And this
 8 statute will come down eventually.
 9 The movement has started and you will not
 10 be able to ignore it or brush it under the rug
 11 (inaudible). The passion is there. And rest
 12 assured, it will happen.
 13 I urge you, Council members, to think
 14 about the legacy you want to leave in Talbot
 15 County. You have the opportunity to make real,
 16 positive change. Remove the statue in its
 17 entirety. Black Lives Matter.
 18 Thank you.
 19 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 20 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
 21 himself is a Linda. Please begin.

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1 LINDA: Hello. And thank you for the
 2 Council. My name is Linda (inaudible). I'm
 3 third generation Talbot County. Not outside,
 4 like a lot of these people, which is a county
 5 matter, not a national matter to a point.
 6 My question is why not be fair? If you're
 7 going to take one statue down, take them all
 8 down, any of them. Put them in the park across
 9 the street or the cemetery or whatever.
 10 Frederick Douglass was great, yes. But
 11 it's also offending a lot of other people.
 12 It's not just one statue. There are two sides
 13 to this.
 14 So Talbot Boys, yes, it needs to come
 15 down. But it doesn't represent slave holders.
 16 They were farmers protecting their land. And
 17 I'll leave that at that because it's going to
 18 be an argument.
 19 It's part of our history. Good or bad,
 20 it's still part of our history. And we're
 21 being blamed for what happened 100 years ago.

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1 I've been here all my life, and I never
 2 thought that that statue had to do with
 3 slavery. It just never crossed my mind. It
 4 was a monument to young men who were fighting
 5 to preserve their farms and their land.
 6 To be fair, take all the statues out.
 7 It's public land. Don't put any of them there.
 8 Put them in a monument park or something.
 9 (Inaudible). Move them across the street.
 10 Thank you.
 11 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 12 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
 13 Talbot County NAACP is a Richard. Please
 14 begin.
 15 RICHARD: Good evening, Council, President
 16 Pack, and the our honorable Council members.
 17 Dr. King stated that the time is always
 18 right to do the right thing.
 19 Tonight we are once again here expressing
 20 our concern for the removal of the Confederate
 21 monument known as the Talbot Boys that's been

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1 on the court house lawn.
 2 We, the members of the NAACP Talbot County
 3 branch, in 2015 addressed this issue with you.
 4 And our recommendations still remain the same.
 5 One, to remove the entire monument from
 6 the court house lawn.
 7 And two, to commission a group of citizens
 8 who can reasonably discuss the creation of a
 9 new monument that is dedicated to the Civil War
 10 to include the Union soldiers.
 11 It has been five long years that this
 12 issue has plagued our county. And the time is
 13 right now.
 14 This monument in its present form sends a
 15 message of hate, bigotry for a particular group
 16 of people in your community.
 17 This message is in complete contrast of
 18 the true representation of a court house. A
 19 court house is there and is supposed to be a
 20 place where all community constituents can come
 21 and seek a fair and just trial.

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1 This monument does not send that message.
 2 Your most recent approval of the county
 3 needing a diversity statement is a step in the
 4 right direction. But to have this monument
 5 continuing to linger in the shadows of the
 6 court house, again, is in direct opposition of
 7 your approval of a diversity statement.
 8 As we continue to build an inclusive and
 9 (inaudible) community, we can no longer have
 10 messages of hate anywhere in our community.
 11 It is this reason that, again, we, the
 12 members of the NAACP, recommend that you remove
 13 monument known as the Talbot Boys in its
 14 entirety and that you do it without delay.
 15 We're asking that you vote on this issue
 16 tonight.
 17 As I close, I leave you with the words of
 18 one of the most prolific poets of our time,
 19 James Baldwin. And Baldwin stated how much
 20 longer do we have to wait. My
 21 great-grandmother waited, my grandmother

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1 waited, and my mother waited.
 2 How much longer do we have to wait. We
 3 have waited long enough. The time is always
 4 right to do the right thing.
 5 Thank you.
 6 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 7 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is an
 8 Alexander. Please begin.
 9 ALEXANDER: Hello. My name is Alexander
 10 (inaudible), and I am a life-long resident of
 11 Talbot County.
 12 There are 84 names on the Talbot Boys
 13 monument. Many times that number of citizens
 14 of Talbot County fought for the Union.
 15 It so happens that about ten percent of
 16 the names on that monument are members of my
 17 family.
 18 I believe that is time to remove the
 19 Talbot Boys from the court house lawn. I think
 20 it has become (inaudible) was not, a symbol
 21 that shows that we are representing racism in

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1 our community. And it is time to go.
 2 I would love to see the leaders of our
 3 county make that statement clearly to ourselves
 4 and the world around us, that Talbot County
 5 does not hold racism as an essential tenet.
 6 That's what I have to say.
 7 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 8 MR. DURHAM: We have 105 callers, and six
 9 of them queued to speak.
 10 Our next caller is a Hannah. Please
 11 begin.
 12 HANNAH: Hi. My name is Hannah
 13 (inaudible). Thank you for allowing me to
 14 speak. (Inaudible) here in Talbot County. I'm
 15 also a resident of Talbot County.
 16 We are all well aware that the removal of
 17 Confederate monuments has been ongoing for
 18 decades in the US. It is a shame (inaudible)
 19 church shooting, (inaudible), and the killing
 20 of George Floyd, is still not enough
 21 justification to remove a statue that does

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1 nothing but glorify white supremacy and
 2 memorializes an unrecognized government
 3 (inaudible) perpetuation of slavery. Period.
 4 It will be shameful of me to not speak up
 5 against this clearly racist monument. It will
 6 be even more shameful for the County Council
 7 members to not listen to the community of
 8 people that have been oppressed and affected by
 9 (inaudible) to this very day.
 10 I (inaudible) that each individual must
 11 stand for (inaudible) ideology is racist. If
 12 the statue prevails, it is only a symbol that
 13 racism will also prevail.
 14 I ask that the entire monument be taken
 15 down now. And by now, I mean it should be
 16 voted on no later than tonight. It has been on
 17 the very (inaudible) justice is served for far
 18 too long.
 19 Thank you.
 20 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 21 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing

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1 themselves is a Robin. Please begin.
 2 ROBIN: Hello. My name is Robin, and I'm
 3 a resident of Easton.
 4 Can you hear me?
 5 MR. PACK: Yes, we can.
 6 ROBIN: Great. Thank you.
 7 It is time tonight for the Council to step
 8 up, all members vote to remove Talbot Boys
 9 statue, including the base.
 10 The statue is not a balanced
 11 representation of the Civil War. Missing are
 12 the names and images of the Union soldiers,
 13 missing is the tribute to those thousands of
 14 people ripped from their country, beaten,
 15 enchained, raped, separated from their
 16 families, sold as property on our court house
 17 property all under slavery.
 18 Quoting from Republican leaders in
 19 Mississippi as they voted to remove the
 20 Confederate statues. We are not disregarding
 21 our heritage, we're not ignoring the past. But

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1 we are embracing the future here.
 2 And (inaudible) comments from one of the
 3 Mississippi legislators. This is not a
 4 political moment to me, but a solemn occasion
 5 to (inaudible) so our county family to come
 6 together and move on.
 7 Stand together and vote tonight to move
 8 Talbot County forward.
 9 Thank you very much.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 11 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
 12 themselves is a Judy. Please begin.
 13 MS. WINSTON: Good evening. Can you hear
 14 me?
 15 MR. PACK: Yes, we can.
 16 MS. WINSTON: My name is Judy Winston, and
 17 I thank you for the opportunity to speak.
 18 I think we know that it is time to act
 19 because (inaudible) the idea to produce a video
 20 of residents requesting the Confederate
 21 monument be removed. Fifty-five citizens who

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1 love our county stepped forward within a
 2 48-hour period.
 3 Councilman Pack has already spoken to the
 4 video that we sent today. So you do have that.
 5 And it was also sent to the public comment
 6 e-mail.
 7 Tonight, you, our elected officials, have
 8 an opportunity to correct an injustice
 9 perpetrated upon the African American citizens
 10 of our county decades after the Civil War ended
 11 and to begin a healing process in our
 12 community.
 13 The original (inaudible) of slavery and
 14 racism continues to poison the very air we
 15 breathe because we have learned from
 16 mythological lost-cause narratives that this
 17 monument represents.
 18 The words of the Broadway show Hamilton
 19 have been playing in my mind for weeks.
 20 History has its eyes on you.
 21 We can rewrite the narrative of the

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1 mythical lost cause and remove the entire
 2 Confederate monument from our county court
 3 house lawn.
 4 Further, respectfully, please vote on this
 5 tonight. We want to move forward. We are
 6 ready to move forward to build a better,
 7 stronger Talbot County that celebrates the
 8 strength of our diverse population.
 9 Thank you.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you. And it is a great
 11 song.
 12 Next caller.
 13 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is an Ari.
 14 Please begin.
 15 ARI: Can you me hear?
 16 MR. PACK: If you wouldn't mind speaking
 17 up just a little bit more, Ari.
 18 ARI: What?
 19 MR. PACK: If you wouldn't mind speaking
 20 up just a little bit more, please.
 21 ARI: Okay.

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1 MR. PACK: We're ready.
 2 ARI: Hello. Can you hear me?
 3 MR. PACK: Yes, we can.
 4 ARI: Okay. I just want to say this issue
 5 is the tip of the iceberg for so many other
 6 (inaudible). And it's happening (inaudible).
 7 Taking down the statue is, again, just the
 8 tip of the iceberg. (Inaudible) have to change
 9 to (inaudible) invest in the black community.
 10 This is the bare minimum, the bare minimum.
 11 It's sad that we can't see, you guys can't
 12 see (inaudible) vote on this to remove this
 13 racist (inaudible).
 14 Also, (inaudible) commenting Frederick
 15 Douglass and Talbot Boys are two totally
 16 different statues that stand (inaudible).
 17 Frederick Douglass stands for American ideals
 18 and values of fighting for freedom.
 19 The Talbot Boys stand for (inaudible) as
 20 they, again, represent slavery, which is not
 21 (inaudible).

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1 So (inaudible) get rid of both is totally
 2 ridiculous.
 3 Also, to (inaudible) point (inaudible)
 4 myself. When I (inaudible), all I saw were
 5 (inaudible) honoring all the Jews that horribly
 6 died. And (inaudible) Hitler all around and
 7 the soldiers who fought for him.
 8 So (inaudible) black people feel walking
 9 down the street and seeing the Talbot Boys
 10 statue (inaudible) of them today.
 11 Thank you.
 12 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 13 MR. HOLLIS: And if there are written
 14 comments, Mr. Pack, we would really appreciate
 15 receiving them.
 16 MR. PACK: Yes. Again, if you have
 17 written statements, we would appreciate you
 18 mailing them into us, 11 North Washington
 19 Street here in Easton. And you can direct that
 20 to the county manager's office. We would
 21 appreciate those written comments. Thank you.

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1 MR. DURHAM: Seven callers remain in the
 2 queue. Our next caller is Emily. Please
 3 begin.
 4 EMILY: Hello?
 5 MR. PACK: Hello.
 6 EMILY: Hi. Before I start, I would like
 7 to (inaudible) sentiments of everyone before me
 8 who has expressed their wishes to remove the
 9 statue.
 10 Been listening tonight. The principal
 11 argument I've heard in favor of keeping the
 12 statue is that we need to protect and
 13 illuminate our history.
 14 If this ends up being the Council's goal
 15 and they vote to keep the statue for this
 16 reason, then why did you also cut funding for
 17 the Historical Preservation Commission or why
 18 did you not allocate money to fully fund the
 19 county public schools? Because that's the
 20 thing.
 21 It would be totally hypocritical to argue

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1 that you are just (inaudible) of historical
 2 preservation. If in the same breath you are
 3 not investing in the (inaudible) that Talbot
 4 County has to educate our citizens about the
 5 past.
 6 If you do not vote to remove the entire
 7 statue, it would be transparent that your
 8 issues do not lie in educating our community
 9 but in defending a monument to racists.
 10 (Inaudible) historic education. That is
 11 the reason as to why some people are trying to
 12 re-litigate the issues of the Civil War.
 13 But let it be clear, oppressors do not
 14 deserve sob stories as to why they were driven
 15 to enslave and take treasonous actions against
 16 the United States. It does not matter that
 17 they were just young boys who wanted to fight
 18 or they were taking action to join the rest of
 19 the community. They were white supremacists
 20 who fought to keep slaves and they do not
 21 deserve a participation trophy (inaudible).

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1 Take the entire statue down. Black Lives
 2 Matter.
 3 Thank you.
 4 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 5 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
 6 themselves is a Keith. Please begin.
 7 KEITH: Good evening. Can you hear me?
 8 MR. PACK: Yes, we can.
 9 KEITH: Good. Who is on the timer? Would
 10 that be Vice President Callahan or Mr. Divilio?
 11 Whoever that is, if you would go ahead and
 12 start the clock.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: It started.
 14 KEITH: -- first 104 seconds.
 15 MR. PACK: Yes. The clock has already
 16 started.
 17 KEITH: To a moment of silence.
 18 MR. PACK: The clock has started, sir.
 19 KEITH: I'd like to take the first 104
 20 seconds as a moment of silence. That's the
 21 time this statue has stood in Talbot County.

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1 I also sent a picture (inaudible) screen.
 2 I want you to look at the picture during this
 3 moment of silence of 104 seconds of the Talbot
 4 slave on it, please.
 5 MR. PACK: Caller, we are not projecting
 6 that picture at this time. So if you want to
 7 just go ahead with your comments, we would
 8 appreciate it.
 9 KEITH: Well, I think it's important that
 10 we realize that that statue stands on hallowed
 11 ground. Mothers, fathers, sons, daughters,
 12 grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles,
 13 nieces, nephews, cousins, sold on the very spot
 14 that that statue stands.
 15 (Inaudible) earlier it should be shown to
 16 this entire proceeding because those people
 17 have no voice now. And they need to be heard
 18 down to the ages. The ones who were torn from
 19 their mothers and father, their sisters and
 20 brothers. The ones they would never see again.
 21 Councilpersons, Councilpersons,

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1 Councilwoman, the weight of history is on you
 2 tonight. The eyes of the nation and the world
 3 are on you tonight.
 4 I would urge you to vote tonight. If
 5 Mississippi could do this, Talbot County can do
 6 this.
 7 MR. DURHAM: Twenty seconds.
 8 KEITH: And we can move on. I yield my
 9 time.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 11 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
 12 themselves is a Patrick. Please begin.
 13 PATRICK: Hi, there. My name is Patrick
 14 (inaudible), I am a fourth generation resident
 15 of Trappe, Maryland.
 16 I would first like to express my truly
 17 sincere admiration for all of the young voices
 18 that are dominating this conversation this
 19 evening and really leading the movement of the
 20 past few months. You're fighting a good fight,
 21 (inaudible), conscience (inaudible) and killing

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1 the myth of the (inaudible), not to mention
 2 (inaudible) County Council, of which
 3 (inaudible), which I'm always a fan of.
 4 I believe that (inaudible) before me
 5 (inaudible), so I'll be brief.
 6 I implore you to remove this statue in its
 7 entirety because (inaudible). We must
 8 (inaudible) actual policy that perpetuate
 9 systemic racism. (Inaudible) to read the
 10 racial history (inaudible), for example, a key
 11 issue in Talbot County. (Inaudible) equity
 12 when (inaudible) are on the ballot in November.
 13 Thank you very much.
 14 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 15 MR. DURHAM: Four callers remain in the
 16 queue. Our next caller is representing
 17 himself, Andrew. Please begin.
 18 ANDREW: Council Members Corey Pack, Chuck
 19 Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, and Laura
 20 Price, I am speaking to you because you're
 21 (inaudible) social unrest as more unarmed black

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1 men and women are being killed by white
 2 supremacists and those who have sworn to
 3 protect and serve.
 4 Unfortunately, Talbot County is not
 5 excluded from these issues. Today we are still
 6 facing racism in this county, which is
 7 glorified in our very own county court house.
 8 Located on county court house grounds, the
 9 Talbot Boys monument, in which (inaudible) to
 10 Confederate soldiers of Talbot County. The
 11 construction of this monument is (inaudible)
 12 which stands for symbolizes.
 13 Confederacy was created solely for the
 14 southern states to continue to exploit African
 15 Americans (inaudible) for economic gain.
 16 Although many Talbot County natives have
 17 ancestors that fought for the Confederacy, that
 18 shouldn't be a reason for keeping a monument
 19 that glorifies (inaudible) a government that
 20 wanted to keep African Americans as slaves.
 21 Not only (inaudible) African American

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1 community in Talbot County, but (inaudible) in
 2 the United States. But people (inaudible) did
 3 not want to be part of the United States. The
 4 United States (inaudible) today is (inaudible)
 5 Confederate soldiers wanted to be part of and
 6 would have been a part of if the Confederacy
 7 won.
 8 If you (inaudible) Confederacy, what does
 9 that say about your patriotism and love of the
 10 United States?
 11 Yes, we should recognize both sides. And
 12 yes, the Confederacy should not be forgotten
 13 because, unfortunately, it is a part of our
 14 history.
 15 But the Confederacy should not be
 16 glorified. And that's what the Talbot Boys
 17 monument does.
 18 (Inaudible) dictionary states that a
 19 monument is a statue, (inaudible), or other
 20 structure erected to commemorate a famous or
 21 noble person or event.

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1 Are treason, oppression, and slavery
 2 events you should commemorate?
 3 There's a reason why Germany doesn't have
 4 any Nazi (inaudible) monuments on public
 5 grounds in the country. Why should the United
 6 States be any different?
 7 The Talbot Boys monument wasn't built to
 8 provide history to the public. The monument
 9 was built to be a symbol of oppression towards
 10 black Talbot County residents, hence why it was
 11 built during the Jim Crow era.
 12 This matter (inaudible) both sides
 13 argument. Racism should never be a both sides
 14 (inaudible). This isn't white versus black.
 15 It is racist versus non-racist.
 16 If you have Confederate ancestors, why
 17 would you want to embrace the people that have
 18 done everything they could to prevent me from
 19 being considered a human?
 20 As a black Talbot County native, it really
 21 concerns me that it's been this difficult to

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1 try and remove a monument that symbolizes
 2 oppression towards its own Talbot County
 3 natives.
 4 This isn't the first time the removal of
 5 the monument --
 6 MR. DURHAM: Twenty seconds.
 7 ANDREW: -- has been discussed. But I
 8 hope this is the last.
 9 I really want each of you to truly think
 10 hard on what this could mean if this monument
 11 isn't removed and the message you will send to
 12 black Talbot County natives (inaudible.)
 13 I am speaking not (inaudible) or to show
 14 any hatred towards you. I am speaking because
 15 I have hope. (Inaudible) still have a lot of
 16 work to do. And we will continue to grow.
 17 The question now is what side of history
 18 do you want to be a part of.
 19 Thank you.
 20 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.
 21 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing

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1 themselves is a Bill. Please begin.
 2 MR. ANDERSON: President Pack and members
 3 of the Council, my name is Bill Anderson.
 4 I was not born and raised in Talbot
 5 County. I was born in Richmond, Virginia, and
 6 raised a little bit further south than that.
 7 Yet I grew up in the south and was from early
 8 age (inaudible) in the way of the Confederacy.
 9 I remember that by the time I was six, I had
 10 been schooled in how to spot (inaudible) spies,
 11 some 80 years after the end of the Civil War.
 12 I went to school, public schools in North
 13 Carolina. And only later did I come to realize
 14 that the textbooks that we used bore the hands
 15 of the, the unindelible hands of the United
 16 Daughters of the Confederacy. And they
 17 (inaudible) the myth of the lost cause and the
 18 graciousness of white in the south and how that
 19 was worthy, the (inaudible) was something that
 20 was worth protecting and defending.
 21 I have since come to realize that it

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1 wasn't a myth and that the perpetuation of
 2 monuments like the Talbot Boys statue on the
 3 court house grounds is wholly inappropriate.
 4 To me now from where I am, it looks to me
 5 like it's a badge of slavery intended to
 6 suggest to the African American community that
 7 there is not equal protection under the law
 8 awaiting them in the Talbot County Court House,
 9 but something that has shadows from the fight
 10 to protect slavery during the Civil War.
 11 The flag that (inaudible) the Talbot Boys
 12 statue is unmistakably the battle flag of the
 13 Army of Northern Virginia for the Confederate
 14 States of America.
 15 In my view, it is way past time to remove
 16 the monument and the base from the court house
 17 grounds. It has no place there in my opinion.
 18 I urge you to vote to remove the Talbot Boys
 19 statue and its base as soon as possible, as
 20 stated in Mr. Leshner's amendment to the
 21 proposed resolution.

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1 Thank you.

2 MR. PACK: Thank you, caller.

3 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller representing
4 themselves is a Clyde. Please begin.

5 CLYDE: Hi. This is Clyde (inaudible)
6 from Easton. And I speak in opposition to
7 Resolution 290.

8 And I do object that this resolution was
9 materially changed at the very last moment. It
10 was not a simple cleanup of the language.

11 With that said, the resolution itself, the
12 resolution states that some people consider the
13 monument as a racist symbol. Presumably
14 pointing to that Confederate flag that is born
15 into the statue.

16 But according to non-partisan authorities,
17 like the Anti-Defamation League, who said "one
18 should not automatically assume that the
19 display of the Confederate flag is racist or
20 white supremest in nature. The symbol should
21 only and (inaudible) in context."

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1 I suggest that in the context of the
2 Talbot Boys monument, the flag is merely
3 identifying the (inaudible) under which these
4 boys fought. Unlike South Carolina and
5 Mississippi, this flag is not waving over a
6 government property.

7 To rationalize the removal of the statue,
8 this resolution (inaudible) to compare the
9 Talbot Boys monument to the Vietnam veterans
10 memorial (inaudible).

11 I'd like to offer some additional
12 perspective from that guidance you have
13 suggested.

14 Resolution 290 says the (inaudible) "one
15 of the most powerful monuments of military
16 actions in the US." And likewise, the
17 resolution states that the Talbot Boys monument
18 is dedicated to the "Confederate cause".

19 These two statements are incorrect and
20 they are the root of this flawed resolution.

21 Both the wall and the Talbot Boys monument

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1 are dedicated to the war fighters, not to the
2 war. They are dedicated to the persons, not to
3 the event or the (inaudible). If there is any
4 doubt about the intent of the monument on the
5 court house, (inaudible) read the inscription
6 to the Talbot boys.

7 Denying the Talbot boys a place of honor
8 at the Talbot County Court House (inaudible)
9 denying our Vietnam vets their monument on the
10 national lawn, which is, in fact, almost what
11 happened as our nation grappled with the
12 difficult memory.

13 Yes, the Confederacy is charged with
14 waging (inaudible) a corrupt war. And yet
15 America is charged with waging an equally
16 corrupt war in Vietnam.

17 MR. DURHAM: Twenty seconds.

18 CLYDE: We as a community and as a nation
19 have a (inaudible) standing principle, that
20 even if you can't support the war, you can
21 still support and honor the soldiers who

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1 fought.

2 MR. DURHAM: Ten seconds.

3 CLYDE: The community has asked
4 (inaudible) to engage in this battle. We must
5 promise these soldiers that their sacrifices
6 will be honored, whether the conflict is won or
7 lost and no matter how history might
8 (inaudible) the war itself. It is a citizen's
9 promise to a soldier --

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, caller. Thank
11 you, caller.

12 MR. DURHAM: Our laster caller queued to
13 speak is a Dina. Please begin.

14 DINA: Good evening, Talbot County Council
15 members. My name is Dina (inaudible), and I'm
16 a Talbot County resident, have been for many
17 years.

18 My husband and I started the (inaudible)
19 program in 2005 with the hopes of (inaudible)
20 social, educational, economical, racial, health
21 that affects many in the African American

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1 community.

2 But the past 15 years, we have developed a

3 strong program and have seen results.

4 (inaudible) more work is needed, and these

5 (inaudible) have been systemically instituted

6 in our policies and practice throughout every

7 institution, whether (inaudible) or private.

8 These practices have been (inaudible) that

9 people of color do not enjoy the same

10 privileges as white Americans.

11 I'm writing you as we are facing social

12 unrest in our country. Due to the nature

13 (inaudible), the unrest has been part of the

14 (inaudible) issues since men, women, and

15 children are brought to this country and

16 enslaved.

17 Many in this country have fought all their

18 lives to ensure that this country right its

19 wrongs. No one should be treated as

20 (inaudible) or individual or any group should

21 be stopped.

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1 For me, this is why black lives matter,

2 which is really a movement that (inaudible).

3 The American Civil War was fought in 1851

4 where southern states formed the Confederate

5 State of America to fight against the Union to

6 preserve slavery. Again, they fought to

7 preserve slavery.

8 Following the Civil War (inaudible),

9 slavery was abolished with the passage of the

10 13th Amendment in 1965. These states were not

11 happy (inaudible) black people. This was why

12 the Jim Crow era began.

13 Laws were passed and enforced to ensure

14 that blacks did not enjoy partaking in the same

15 privileges as white Americans.

16 Many African American boys and men were

17 arrested for minor offenses, incarcerated, and

18 provided free labor as reparations.

19 (Inaudible) nothing more than being black.

20 Perpetrated (inaudible) were protected under

21 the law. And in fact, many of these actions

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1 were perpetrated by those in uniform, those who

2 were (inaudible) to serve and protect us, our

3 police officers.

4 Now, the Talbot Boys monument was not

5 erected until 1916.

6 MR. DURHAM: Twenty seconds.

7 DINA: More than half a century later.

8 What does this tell us? The message to blacks

9 is that we are not equal.

10 MR. DURHAM: Ten seconds.

11 DINA: I ask you (inaudible) treated the

12 same as any other individual. (Inaudible.)

13 MR. DURHAM: Time.

14 DINA: (Inaudible) is alive and well in

15 Talbot County.

16 If you vote to keep this monument in the

17 court house, once again, you are telling us,

18 the black community. And to (inaudible)

19 Frederick Douglass --

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, caller, for

21 calling in. Thank you.

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1 MR. DURHAM: There are currently 100

2 people in the call. There are no callers left

3 to queue.

4 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,

5 Mr. Durham, for handling that. I know that was

6 somewhat of a task, and you did a yoeman's job

7 at keeping us straight here.

8 By my count, we had 32 callers this

9 evening.

10 And I'll check one more time with

11 Mr. Durham just to make sure that no one has

12 jumped onto the line late to speak to us.

13 MR. DURHAM: Currently 97 callers

14 participating. Zero in the queue.

15 MR. PACK: Okay. Council, at this time,

16 unless there's any objection, I am going to

17 close the public hearing on Resolution 290.

18 The resolution is closed on 290.

19 I will, if I may, I will ask that those

20 callers who had prepared statements, again, one

21 more time, if you wouldn't mind sending those

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1 statements into us at 11 North Washington
 2 Street. Put those to the attention of the
 3 county manager. That way we'll have those
 4 written statements as part of our official
 5 record before Council considers final vote on
 6 this matter.
 7 There has been an amendment that was
 8 introduced. I'm not going to ask Council to
 9 vote on the amendment tonight. We'll certainly
 10 take that up at the next meeting to vote on the
 11 amendment, unless there is a motion to do so,
 12 the chair would entertain so.
 13 With that being said, the amendment to
 14 Resolution 290 will stand until the next
 15 meeting for final vote. This matter will be
 16 picked back up for final vote on August the
 17 11th. August the 11th will be the final vote
 18 on 290.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, how long do you
 20 want to keep public comment open on that?
 21 MR. PACK: The public hearing is closed as

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1 of tonight.
 2 We want those letters to come into us that
 3 they read from. So we want them to send that
 4 into us because some of them were hard for her
 5 to hear.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Certainly.
 7 MR. LESHER: So I think what Mr. Divilio
 8 is getting at is I know we still get comments
 9 after the formal record is closed. But I would
 10 ask if we could set that closing date for noon
 11 Friday, the following Friday, the 7th.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay. We can certainly take
 13 those written comments up until Friday. That
 14 would be the 9th?
 15 MR. LESHER: The 7th.
 16 MR. PACK: The 7th. Okay. Friday the 7th
 17 for any additional written comment outside of
 18 those that were asked from the callers this
 19 evening. So we'll take any additional written
 20 comment up until the 7th, close of business on
 21 the 7th of August. Okay.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Yes. Thanks.
 2 MR. PACK: And the next matter for
 3 introduction is administrative resolution. And
 4 this is dealing with Maryland Environmental
 5 Services for refund of their bond.
 6 I don't know if Ms. Lane is here, but
 7 Madam Secretary, I'll hear from you for the
 8 reading of the title.
 9 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution.
 10 Refunding by the Maryland Environmental Service
 11 of its revenue bonds, Midshore two regional
 12 landfill project series 2011. An
 13 administrative resolution for the purpose of
 14 acknowledgment and acceptance by the County
 15 Council of Talbot County, Maryland, the county,
 16 of the issuance by the Maryland Environmental
 17 Service, the service, of refunding bonds to
 18 refund in whole or in part its outstanding
 19 revenue bonds, Midshore two regional landfill
 20 project, series 2011, the series 2011 bonds.
 21 Acknowledging the county's continuing

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1 obligations under the existing waste disposal
 2 service agreement, the service agreement,
 3 between the service and the county and as
 4 described herein. Authorizing the approval,
 5 execution, and delivery of any additional
 6 documents, certificates, or instruments related
 7 to the contemplated refunding, including
 8 continuing disclosure agreement and generally
 9 relating to the refunding of series 2011 bonds
 10 and the service agreement.
 11 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 12 Mr. Kupersmith, are you speaking to this?
 13 MR. KUPERSMITH: Yes, yes. This is in
 14 effect a refinance to take advantage of
 15 historically low interest rates.
 16 Going back to 2011, Maryland Environmental
 17 Service issued debt to help pay for the
 18 Midshore region two landfill in Caroline
 19 County. Talbot County is part of a midshore
 20 agreement with the other midshore counties for
 21 the operation of these landfills.

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<p>1 So Maryland Environmental Service</p> <p>2 approached us recently asking us to adopt this</p> <p>3 resolution tonight, which is the first step for</p> <p>4 Talbot County to assist with this refinancing</p> <p>5 of up to \$12 million, of these refunding bonds.</p> <p>6 And we would go to closing on this</p> <p>7 refunding probably sometime in August,</p> <p>8 according to Maryland Environmental Service.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Mr. Kupersmith, do you know</p> <p>10 whether or not the other counties have already</p> <p>11 approved the refinancing?</p> <p>12 MR. KUPERSMITH: I don't know if they've</p> <p>13 already done it, but I'm told by the Bond</p> <p>14 Council that all of the other midshore counties</p> <p>15 are adopting this same resolution.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Right. But we don't know</p> <p>17 whether they have taken action yet. Okay.</p> <p>18 MR. KUPERSMITH: They did ask that this be</p> <p>19 adopted today.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Absolutely, absolutely.</p> <p>21 Any questions of Mr. Kupersmith?</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio. Seconded</p> <p>3 by Mr. Callahan. Any further discussion on the</p> <p>4 matter?</p> <p>5 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call</p> <p>6 your roll.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>10 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: So. We're now on record as</p> <p>18 being approving for the bond refinancing. So</p> <p>19 hopefully that Caroline, Kent, and Queen Anne</p> <p>20 will follow suit. Dorchester is not involved</p> <p>21 in this, I believe. Is there Dorchester also?</p>
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<p>1 This is a refinancing of the bonds for</p> <p>2 Maryland Environmental Services. Sometimes</p> <p>3 this thing sucks back into my mouth. This is a</p> <p>4 refinancing of their bonds.</p> <p>5 Is there any additional question of</p> <p>6 Mr. Kupersmith at this time?</p> <p>7 The chair would ask for a show of hands</p> <p>8 for introduction of administration resolution</p> <p>9 this evening.</p> <p>10 Ms. Price, are still online with us?</p> <p>11 MS. PRICE: Yes, I'm still here. I</p> <p>12 introduce.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: It's by Council, Madam</p> <p>14 Secretary.</p> <p>15 As this is an administrative resolution,</p> <p>16 Mr. Kupersmith did explain that all of the</p> <p>17 participating counties must approve the</p> <p>18 resolution for refinancing of the bond debt.</p> <p>19 The chair would entertain a motion to move</p> <p>20 this to vote tonight.</p> <p>21 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.</p>	<p>1 No, not Dorchester. Right. So Kent, Queen</p> <p>2 Anne, and Caroline.</p> <p>3 MR. KUPERSMITH: Thank you.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>5 Mr. Hollis, I'm going to kick it over to</p> <p>6 you for the rest of the evening.</p> <p>7 MR. HOLLIS: Two items, Mr. President.</p> <p>8 First is to request your approval for the</p> <p>9 Sheriff's Office to purchase five mobile data</p> <p>10 computers. Total cost, \$23,315, of which there</p> <p>11 are sufficient funds in their current budget.</p> <p>12 And the purchase will be made off of a State</p> <p>13 contract.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: The chair would entertain a</p> <p>15 motion for the purchase of the mobile data</p> <p>16 computers for the Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr --</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Mr. Divilio. Seconded by</p> <p>21 Mr. Callahan. Any further discussion?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 162</p> <p>1 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call 2 your roll. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 4 MR. PACK: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 10 MS. PRICE: Aye. 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 12 MR. LESHER: Aye. 13 MR. PACK: Matter is approved. 14 Second matter. 15 MR. HOLLIS: So final item, Mr. President, 16 is to request approval to send a letter to our 17 federal delegation seeking their assistance to 18 pay for a Section 107 study. This involves 19 Knapps Narrows. 20 Back in early 2000s, perhaps 2007, the 21 Corps placed geo-tubes full of silt as part of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 164</p> <p>1 dredged. 2 MR. PACK: To get it dredged to begin 3 with. And the poor fishermen, the watermen 4 down in Knapps Narrows are now facing the same 5 thing that we took care of how many years ago. 6 Was that four years ago for the dredging? 7 MR. HOLLIS: Maybe less. 8 MR. PACK: Yeah. So now we're right back 9 where we started from. Okay. 10 The chair would entertain a motion to go 11 ahead and request for the assistance. 12 MR. LESHER: So moved. 13 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, 14 Mr. Leshner. I'm losing my voice here this 15 evening. 16 MR. DIVILIO: Second. 17 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Divilio. Any 18 further discussion? 19 MS. PRICE: Question, Mr. Pack. 20 MR. PACK: Yes. 21 MS. PRICE: So (inaudible) 50 percent or</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 163</p> <p>1 the last, the second to last effort to dredge 2 the channel. Some of those tubes have 3 ruptured. That silt is filling back in what 4 was just dredged. 5 The Corps is now telling us that we would 6 have to be a 50 percent partner on doing any 7 study to show what's occurring. 8 Talbot County accepts absolutely no 9 responsibility for the poor choice of geo-tubes 10 as a containment facility. And we'd like to 11 ask the federal delegation to have the federal 12 level pay for the entire study so we can get it 13 opened up again. 14 MR. PACK: Talking about just a waste of 15 money, to put these tubes in. They rupture. 16 Now we got to pay 50 percent of the study. 17 MR. HOLLIS: Correct. It's frustrating 18 that we even have to have a study, but we do. 19 MR. PACK: Right, right. 20 MR. HOLLIS: You all know how hard you 21 worked and the delegation worked to get it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 165</p> <p>1 not? 2 MR. PACK: Laura, you're going to have to 3 either get closer to your phone, because you 4 kind of faded out there. 5 MS. PRICE: (Inaudible). And yes. I 6 can't hear very well on the phone. I can hear 7 better on the TV, but there's a delay. 8 Can you hear me? 9 MR. PACK: Yes, we can. 10 MS. PRICE: So are we on the hook for 11 50 percent? 12 MR. HOLLIS: The letter to the delegation 13 that we're asking for approval would say the 14 feds should pay 100 percent, no money on 15 Talbot. 16 MS. PRICE: So we're trying to get it all 17 paid for? 18 MR. HOLLIS: Correct. As we had no 19 responsibility for the cause of the problem. 20 MR. PACK: Whatever material they made 21 these tubes out of has obviously ruptured to</p>

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<p>1 get this much silt to fall back into the</p> <p>2 Narrows. And for us to have to pay for a study</p> <p>3 to basically say what we know happened, there</p> <p>4 was a major rupture and now this material is</p> <p>5 falling right back into where it was just</p> <p>6 dredged from.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: So I would say what we're</p> <p>8 telling them, that we're basically not paying</p> <p>9 for 50 percent, it's their problem?</p> <p>10 MR. HOLLIS: I think you're asking them to</p> <p>11 pay 100 percent. And if they don't, then we'll</p> <p>12 come back to you because it's all of our</p> <p>13 problem that needs to be addressed.</p> <p>14 MR. DIVILIO: It's a good letter telling</p> <p>15 them that they made a mistake and we want them</p> <p>16 to --</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>18 MR. HOLLIS: They made a mistake.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Further discussion? Question,</p> <p>20 comments? No.</p> <p>21 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.</p>	<p>1 comment?</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: No. Because no one can be</p> <p>3 here.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Do we have anyone on the phone</p> <p>5 for public comment?</p> <p>6 MR. DURHAM: There are 12 callers online.</p> <p>7 None are queued for comment.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: None for comment. Okay.</p> <p>9 Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: I should have made this brief</p> <p>11 note right when we scheduled the vote for</p> <p>12 August 11th.</p> <p>13 I spoke to some people. We had several</p> <p>14 people testifying and asking us to take a vote</p> <p>15 tonight on the Talbot Boys monument.</p> <p>16 And because I want no accusation of this</p> <p>17 being done rashly or at the last minute,</p> <p>18 particularly with my amendment to the Talbot</p> <p>19 Boys, I want the opportunity for the public to</p> <p>20 have opportunity to further comment on this, to</p> <p>21 send us those comments.</p>
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<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>8 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>11 MR. HOLLIS: That's all, Mr. President.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,</p> <p>13 Mr. Hollis.</p> <p>14 That is it, Council. We'll make sure</p> <p>15 those letters get forwarded.</p> <p>16 So for Council comment, I believe where I</p> <p>17 am, and Mr. Leshner, I'll start with you.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: Public comment first.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: I'm sorry?</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: Public comment?</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: Do we have a list for public</p>	<p>1 And for those who called for the vote</p> <p>2 tonight, I simply ask for your patience and</p> <p>3 keep the end goal in mind. I do believe, I am</p> <p>4 hopeful that we will get there with this</p> <p>5 particular issue with the removal of the</p> <p>6 monument, and we will do it with adequate</p> <p>7 public scrutiny and input on this process.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>9 Laura, do you have any comments?</p> <p>10 MS. PRICE: No comment this evening.</p> <p>11 Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Mr. Divilio, do you have any</p> <p>13 comments?</p> <p>14 MR. DIVILIO: The only comment I have just</p> <p>15 for point of clarification. There was a</p> <p>16 speaker, caller who brought up an article that</p> <p>17 my brother wrote, Daniel Divilio. There are a</p> <p>18 couple of us. So I don't want to make anybody</p> <p>19 confused over that.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Is that it?</p> <p>21 MR. DIVILIO: That's it.</p>

1 MR. PACK: Okay. Mr. Callahan.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: I just want to thank all
 3 the callers. There's a lot of people that did
 4 call in tonight. And it looks like we had 100
 5 and some people on the call. So I really
 6 appreciate you spending time with us tonight
 7 and voicing your opinions.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. The County Council's
 9 next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August
 10 the 11th, beginning at six p.m. in the Bradley
 11 Meeting Room. The Council will be convening in
 12 open session at 4:30 p.m. and immediately
 13 adjourning into closed session to discuss real
 14 estate, legal, and personnel matters as stated
 15 on the statement for closing that meeting.
 16 Madam Secretary, I've reached the end of
 17 my agenda. Do you have anything further for
 18 us?
 19 SECRETARY: I do not.
 20 MR. PACK: Hearing none, Council, we are
 21 adjourned.

1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 7 was interrogated by counsel.
 8 I further certify that the examination was
 9 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 10 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 11 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 12 in a true and accurate manner.
 13 I further certify that the stipulations
 14 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 15 presence.
 16 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 17 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 18 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 19 interested in the outcome of this action.
 20 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 7th
 21 day of August, 2020, at Easton, MD.


 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2021

1 (Meeting concluded at: 8:47 p.m.)
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