



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

June 9, 2020

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

June 9, 2020; 6:00 p.m.

Wye Oak Room - Talbot County Community Center
Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

Reported by
Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Welcome, everyone. Thank you</p> <p>4 for joining us to the Talbot County Council.</p> <p>5 We're still here at the Wye Oak Room as we</p> <p>6 observe the COVID-19 social distancing. Thank</p> <p>7 you for being with us this evening.</p> <p>8 I would ask that everyone join me for a</p> <p>9 word of prayer followed by the Pledge of</p> <p>10 Allegiance.</p> <p>11 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Thank you very much. And</p> <p>13 again, good evening. My mike is not on. So</p> <p>14 make sure your mikes are on, everyone.</p> <p>15 MS. MORRIS: Sorry. You do not need the</p> <p>16 mikes tonight. We're trying a new something.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: We're trying something new with</p> <p>18 the surround sound mikes. So we'll turn these</p> <p>19 off, and we'll see if they can hear us at home</p> <p>20 or if we get a bunch of nasty-grams in about</p> <p>21 two minutes.</p>	<p>1 moves that they also be accepted with unanimous</p> <p>2 consent. Thank you.</p> <p>3 Council, next on your agenda, we're going</p> <p>4 to hear an update from the CARES individual and</p> <p>5 business assistance program. Council is very</p> <p>6 aware that Talbot County received \$6.4 million</p> <p>7 from the federal government through the State</p> <p>8 of Maryland for CARES. That is the money that</p> <p>9 the federal government set aside for states to</p> <p>10 help out individuals and in this case</p> <p>11 businesses also that have been impacted by the</p> <p>12 coronavirus shutdown that has happened across</p> <p>13 the nation.</p> <p>14 So we're going to hear from Ms. Lane, if</p> <p>15 she's here, also Cassandra Vanhooser, our</p> <p>16 tourism director. Are they out in the hallway?</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: I saw Angela, but I did not</p> <p>18 see Cassandra yet.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Okay. We'll give them a</p> <p>20 moment.</p> <p>21 Ms. Webb is not with us from DSS this</p>
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<p>1 MS. MORRIS: Our phones are open.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>3 Council, you do have your agenda before</p> <p>4 you. The chair would ask if there's any</p> <p>5 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>6 agenda? Hearing none, the chair moves that the</p> <p>7 agenda be accepted with unanimous consent.</p> <p>8 Council, you also have within your packets</p> <p>9 minutes from your May 12th meeting. Should</p> <p>10 have had a chance to go through those minutes.</p> <p>11 Are there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>12 corrections to those minutes? I can hear</p> <p>13 myself here in the room. Hearing none, the</p> <p>14 chair moves that they also be accepted with</p> <p>15 unanimous consent.</p> <p>16 Moving on, we have disbursements from</p> <p>17 June the 2nd and June the 9th. Should have had</p> <p>18 a chance to go through those and also consult</p> <p>19 with our fiscal officer, Ms. Lane. Are there</p> <p>20 any additions, deletions, or corrections to</p> <p>21 those disbursements? Hearing none, the chair</p>	<p>1 evening?</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: No.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. President, I would like</p> <p>4 to make sure that everybody understands the</p> <p>5 6.4 million did not come to just the county.</p> <p>6 It's split in half. So we need to help people</p> <p>7 understand that we only got half of that on the</p> <p>8 county side.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: That's right.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: The State gets the other</p> <p>11 half.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: That's right.</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: No. But then they forward</p> <p>14 fund it. Once we get close to the end of the</p> <p>15 3.2, we can get the rest of the 3.2 when we get</p> <p>16 running low. They'll fund again. So we do get</p> <p>17 a total of 6.4. It was split between</p> <p>18 health-related expenses and county-related</p> <p>19 COVID expenses and these grant programs.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: If anybody knows about money,</p> <p>21 we have here with us our fiscal officer,</p>

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<p>1 Ms. Lane. And she'll run through.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: The wherefores and the whys and</p> <p>4 how and who got what.</p> <p>5 Ms. Lane, thanks for being with us today.</p> <p>6 I want to, first of all, thank you for your</p> <p>7 part that you played in co-chairing the CARES</p> <p>8 effort as far as getting that team together and</p> <p>9 coming up with the application process.</p> <p>10 I do understand that the individual</p> <p>11 applications have already been circulated</p> <p>12 throughout the county, and I believe the</p> <p>13 business applications went online on Friday?</p> <p>14 MS. LANE: Yesterday.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Yesterday. Went online</p> <p>16 yesterday. So to those small business owners,</p> <p>17 you're going to enlighten them tonight as to</p> <p>18 how they can go about their filing as well.</p> <p>19 So I'll turn it over to you. If you just</p> <p>20 want to give some background regarding the</p> <p>21 CARES funding and then what we've done thus far</p>	<p>1 continue that program for as long as we have</p> <p>2 funding but hopefully through the end of the</p> <p>3 calendar year.</p> <p>4 Also, we have some money for legal</p> <p>5 assistance, primarily surrounding eviction-type</p> <p>6 situations. But it can be for any other</p> <p>7 situation related to COVID-19. That program is</p> <p>8 really not up and running yet. I'm working</p> <p>9 with several legal providers in the county to</p> <p>10 get that program going.</p> <p>11 I contacted Midshore Pro Bono, Legal Aid,</p> <p>12 Midshore Council on Family Violence, and</p> <p>13 someone else who I don't remember right now.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: That's okay.</p> <p>15 MS. LANE: But we're working on getting</p> <p>16 that program up and running.</p> <p>17 There's a little bit of time with that</p> <p>18 because while the primary focus of that was</p> <p>19 evictions, evictions won't start until sometime</p> <p>20 in July based on the governor's orders. So we</p> <p>21 know we have some time there for the legal</p>
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<p>1 and kind of let people know where they can get</p> <p>2 the applications.</p> <p>3 MS. LANE: Okay. Basically the county had</p> <p>4 applied for CARES funding to assist individuals</p> <p>5 and businesses with impacts related to the</p> <p>6 COVID-19 public health emergency.</p> <p>7 We have allocated initially 1.2 million</p> <p>8 for each pot, for each segment, 1.2 million for</p> <p>9 the individual assistance, \$1.2 million for the</p> <p>10 business assistance.</p> <p>11 So first I'd like to talk a little bit</p> <p>12 about the individual assistance. That program,</p> <p>13 we were up and running just over a week ago,</p> <p>14 and that program is to provide individual</p> <p>15 assistance.</p> <p>16 And one component of that is sort of</p> <p>17 invisible to the public is the part that will</p> <p>18 continue to support our food pantries. And</p> <p>19 that's being done through the Emergency</p> <p>20 Operations Center, and that is an ongoing</p> <p>21 effort. So funds will be channeled through to</p>	<p>1 aspect of that. And we're hoping that our</p> <p>2 individual assistance program, the other</p> <p>3 component, will hopefully avoid evictions.</p> <p>4 And so the individual assistance program,</p> <p>5 the next segment, is to provide emergency cash</p> <p>6 assistance for individuals who have been</p> <p>7 impacted by the COVID-19 public health</p> <p>8 emergency. Primarily those who are out of work</p> <p>9 who have lost their job or whose incomes have</p> <p>10 been dramatically reduced because of responses</p> <p>11 to the public health emergency.</p> <p>12 These funds can be used to help with rent,</p> <p>13 mortgage, other housing costs, utilities, and</p> <p>14 what other emergency needs that we haven't</p> <p>15 really thought of that come up. And the</p> <p>16 payments will be made directly to the landlord</p> <p>17 or the mortgage company, rather than to the</p> <p>18 individual. That way it's not taxable income</p> <p>19 to the individual.</p> <p>20 So we are working to assist individuals.</p> <p>21 And individuals can apply for the individual</p>

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1 assistance program from the Department of
 2 Social Services. They can call a number at the
 3 Department of Social Services, (410)820-4347,
 4 and leave a message. Because they are still
 5 working on a somewhat closed operation, calls
 6 will be returned the next business day. But
 7 they will e-mail or mail or fax out
 8 applications out to individuals. And then once
 9 the applications are completed, they do need to
 10 be returned to the Department of Social
 11 Services, either via mail or dropped off in
 12 their drop-box.
 13 In addition, applications are also
 14 available at the Neighborhood Service Center
 15 pretty much Monday through Friday, eight a.m.
 16 to five p.m. They're available at the
 17 St. Vincent de Paul Society, which is located
 18 on Canvas Back Drive. They're open Tuesdays
 19 from one to four and Saturdays from 12 to noon.
 20 The application is also on the Talbot County
 21 COVID-19 website.

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1 So in general, anyone who is a Talbot
 2 County resident who is unable to meet an
 3 expense incurred between March 16th and
 4 December 30th of this year because of the
 5 public health emergency will be eligible to
 6 apply for these funds.
 7 As of this morning, we have received 17
 8 individual assistance applications listing 34
 9 different needs. So the information has gotten
 10 out to some people. We do expect to see this
 11 increasing, the demand.
 12 We actually really expect to see, if
 13 businesses don't really ramp up to full
 14 capacity in terms of rehiring individuals, we
 15 expect in the summer, August, September, to see
 16 a real increase in need because a number of
 17 these individuals are receiving the federal
 18 supplement with unemployment, which provides an
 19 additional \$600 a week. So many people are
 20 able to meet their obligations. But when that
 21 runs out, which should be early July, if they

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1 aren't fully back to work, we do expect to see
 2 an increase in requests for funding at that
 3 time.
 4 In addition, on the business side, we have
 5 a pot of money for that, \$1.2 million. And the
 6 county is giving out grants up to \$10,000 for
 7 expenses to assist businesses. Again, it has
 8 to be related to the COVID-19 public health
 9 emergency. But examples are rent, utilities,
 10 mortgage payment, new equipment that may be
 11 needed, such as point-of-sale systems that are
 12 touchless, touchless faucets, touchless lights,
 13 things like that, obviously if they had to do
 14 any additional sanitizing or disinfecting of
 15 their business. And supplies, protective
 16 equipment for their customers, protective
 17 equipment for their employees. Those are the
 18 general items that would be eligible for the
 19 grant program.
 20 And that application is actually on the
 21 economic development website. It's an online

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1 application. It was up as of yesterday
 2 morning. And I believe as of this morning,
 3 they had over 20 applications. So the word has
 4 gotten out.
 5 MR. HOLLIS: Angela, it's also available
 6 on the COVID website, just like the individual.
 7 MS. LANE: Yes, yeah. We have done --
 8 Linda Webb with Department of Social Services
 9 and Cassandra Vanhooser did a radio discussion
 10 about the two programs with WCEI and WINKS
 11 earlier. Actually they may have gone out on
 12 Monday. And I know it has been picked up by
 13 WDMT. So it is on their website as well. So
 14 we are getting the word out.
 15 And with the business community, we
 16 believe it will be primarily a first come,
 17 first serve type of situation. Those grants
 18 may go very quickly. So we are encouraging
 19 businesses to apply sooner rather than later
 20 for that. Priority, though, is being given to
 21 businesses who have not already received other

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1 federal or State grant programs.
 2 So I don't know if Council has any
 3 questions.
 4 MR. PACK: No. I just am thankful for
 5 going over that, Ms. Lane.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I have one question.
 7 MR. PACK: Go ahead, go ahead.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: So who reviews and okays
 9 the application?
 10 MS. LANE: The individuals is being
 11 reviewed by the Department of Social Services,
 12 who is also, because they have access to a
 13 number of State systems, they can verify
 14 unemployment. They will be contacting
 15 employers to get information if salaries have
 16 been reduced. They will also contact the
 17 landlords to determine the amount of rent
 18 payments that may be done.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you.
 20 MS. LANE: So Social Services is doing
 21 that for the individual side.

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1 And on the business side, there is a team
 2 who is reviewing the applications consisting of
 3 the members of the Economic Development Board
 4 and Rich Loffler, who is with the Small Business
 5 Development Group.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I see. Okay.
 7 MR. PACK: And on the small business side,
 8 this is truly for small business, up to 50
 9 employees or less.
 10 MS. LANE: Yes. I didn't say that.
 11 Sorry.
 12 MR. PACK: That's fine. Again, your team
 13 that you put together, you and Linda Webb and
 14 the Department of Social Services, you jumped
 15 on this at the request of the committee and you
 16 really got things together very quickly.
 17 You pulled in Marilyn Neal from the
 18 Neighborhood Service Center and representatives
 19 from St. Vincent de Paul and made this work.
 20 I got a phone call at home the other day
 21 from a business owner wanting to know how to --

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1 she had the wrong application. She had the
 2 individual application, which talked about head
 3 of household and those kind of things, those
 4 kind of questions that we have on the
 5 individual application. I said no, no, no, you
 6 got the wrong application. Call over to the
 7 county office and get the correct application.
 8 So people, as you said before, have heard.
 9 They are asking about it. So this is to help
 10 out citizens. So if you know small business
 11 owners that are struggling because of the COVID
 12 shutdown, direct them to these funds. If you
 13 know individuals that you come across in your
 14 travels, bartenders or cooks who have been
 15 impacted, they're back on their mortgage,
 16 they're back on their light bill, point them to
 17 this service.
 18 We want to help as many people -- we don't
 19 have a lot of money, but we want to help as
 20 many people as we can.
 21 And to Ms. Lane's credit, they've done an

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1 excellent job making sure they have checks and
 2 balances so that our reporting of these funds
 3 is beyond reproach.
 4 And to Cassandra's credit, her team has
 5 really come up and worked with the small
 6 business community to find out what do you
 7 need, what needs to be on the application, the
 8 W-9 forms and all those State and federal
 9 requirements so that if we have to show the
 10 State and federal government how the funds were
 11 disbursed, we'll have those records.
 12 And Ms. Lane will be the keeper of all
 13 those records. So we'll go through the review
 14 of DSS, and then that form will go back over to
 15 finance, finance will check it and then issue
 16 payment to the vendor or the business in
 17 question. So Ms. Lane will have all those
 18 records when it comes time for review.
 19 MR. HOLLIS: So Mr. President, I just want
 20 to echo your thanks to Angela Lane, Cassandra
 21 Vanhooser, Linda Webb, and a boatload of other

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1 people who threw these processes together very
 2 quickly. But I know you all will not toot your
 3 own horn, but you deserve recognition for
 4 directing staff to do this and for submitting
 5 the application. So I think I've just watched
 6 this is awe. I am amazed. There's nothing
 7 better in terms of local government.
 8 This is really helping those that need it
 9 the most.
 10 MR. PACK: Right.
 11 MR. HOLLIS: And it's direct. There
 12 aren't a lot of bells and whistles, hoops to
 13 jump through. And it's to your credit that
 14 you've directed your team to do this.
 15 So thank you all very much.
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you. Get the word out.
 17 We have 1.2 million, but we want to spend this.
 18 We don't want to return any of this money back
 19 to the State.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 21 MR. PACK: We want to spend every nickel,

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1 every dime of it.
 2 Anything else, Ms. Lane?
 3 MS. LANE: No. I think that's it. Thank
 4 you.
 5 MR. PACK: Thank you. Appreciate it.
 6 MS. MORRIS: Excuse me, Mr. Pack. We're
 7 going to have to take a two-minute recess.
 8 The sound quality is not good for the
 9 callers. So we're going to try to work a fix.
 10 MR. PACK: Council, we have to take a
 11 recess. We'll take five. Thank you.
 12 (Recess taken.)
 13 MR. PACK: Thank you very much. Council
 14 is now back in session.
 15 We're going to continue on with our
 16 agenda. Council, next on your agenda, we have
 17 an update and a request by the Talbot County
 18 Airport Board. Micah Risher, our airport
 19 manager, is here with us.
 20 Do you have any members of your board with
 21 you, Micah?

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1 MR. RISHER: No, sir, not tonight.
 2 Mr. Pettit sends his regards. He was not able
 3 to attend.
 4 MR. PACK: Send Jack our regards as well.
 5 Haven't seen him in a bit.
 6 So with that, I'm going to step aside. I
 7 don't want to block the screen. And I turn it
 8 over to you, Micah.
 9 MR. RISHER: Thank you, Mr. Pack. I
 10 appreciate your time this evening.
 11 Am I speaking loud enough? Can you hear
 12 me now? Can you hear me? Okay.
 13 MS. PRICE: Literally up against your
 14 lips.
 15 MR. RISHER: Okay. So first we'll get
 16 into, we'll talk about our capital improvement
 17 and this year's ACIP request. This year we're
 18 seeking \$1.6 million in reimbursements
 19 primarily for avigation easement, wetland
 20 mitigation, and our Forest Conservation Act
 21 fees that we've paid. This is all money that's

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1 being reimbursed. These are monies that we've
 2 already expended over the past two years.
 3 So the official total is 1,617,688, all of
 4 which has been expended except for 63,000.
 5 We have a letter of intent signed on one
 6 property that we hope to pick up within the
 7 next month or two, but we'll be reimbursed
 8 almost immediately for that money.
 9 So nearly a million of this is land
 10 acquisition services and purchases. 600,000
 11 roughly for 10.79 acres of wetland mitigation
 12 and almost 42,000 of the Forest Conservation
 13 Act fees. And all of this is for our runway
 14 safety improvements that we are undertaking at
 15 the airport.
 16 So this would be the request, is for
 17 Council to approve us submitting this request
 18 for reimbursement to the FAA for this year.
 19 MS. PRICE: You want just a straight-up
 20 motion right now?
 21 I mean we're requesting for reimbursement.

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1 That's always a good thing to get the money
 2 back. Thank you for getting that application
 3 filled in so that we can get those monies back.
 4 So I will make that motion.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: I second it.
 6 MR. PACK: Can you call the roll.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Council will call the roll.
 8 Madam Secretary, can you call the roll, please.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 10 MR. PACK: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 16 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 18 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion was passed, five O.
 20 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 21 You have another point as well, right?

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1 MR. RISHER: I do. I have a lot of stuff
 2 to talk about actually.
 3 We're going to dig right into the meat and
 4 potatoes of why we're here tonight is to talk
 5 about our obstruction removal program, which is
 6 the first phase, if you will, of our overall
 7 runway safety improvement project.
 8 So I want to talk about the current
 9 timeline that we are on. If you see here on
 10 this slide, we're looking at this year, '21,
 11 and '22 focused on obstruction removal,
 12 primarily trees. And then we're looking at
 13 also in '22 designing the runway 422, that the
 14 first phase of relocating the runway, which
 15 would call for the demolition of the current
 16 Talbot Business Center site, to begin in year
 17 2023. That's the current state for what we had
 18 planned going into this year.
 19 Obviously there's some things that need to
 20 be reevaluated, and that's what I wanted to
 21 talk to you about, just bring you up to speed

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1 on.
 2 Currently as programmed, we're programmed
 3 to begin demotion in '23, with '24 through '26
 4 being the completion of the demolition and the
 5 start of the relocation of the threshold.
 6 FAA shared with us earlier this year that
 7 we need to reevaluate that timeline because the
 8 amount of money that is going to be required,
 9 it exceeds what they know they're going to be
 10 able to do. So as an example, they've
 11 indicated they can commit about \$4 million
 12 maximum in those years after '23. The work
 13 that we have currently projected is going to
 14 cost five to \$8 million annually. There's no
 15 way we're going to accomplish \$8 million worth
 16 of work in a year that FAA said they can give
 17 us no more than four. So we're going to have
 18 to take a hard look at the whole timeline
 19 between '23 and '26.
 20 So what I'm saying is over the next six
 21 months when we get with the engineers from

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1 AECOM, because now that it's coming into focus,
 2 this project has been on the horizon for so
 3 long, but now we're getting closer to it. And
 4 so now we really have to focus on the details
 5 of what this really is going to look like.
 6 Now --
 7 MS. PRICE: Micah?
 8 MR. RISHER: Yes, ma'am.
 9 MS. PRICE: And that money is completely
 10 separate than what they reimbursed us or what
 11 they're going to reimburse us for the Business
 12 Center itself, right?
 13 MR. RISHER: That is correct, yes. These
 14 are future monies. Yes.
 15 The other thing that I have to say is we
 16 all know that COVID-19 is the wild card now.
 17 And our grants are funded through the AIP
 18 program with money that flows into the Airports
 19 and Airways Trust Fund. That is fees put on
 20 airlines, ticket sales and things of that
 21 nature. They're down by 90 percent as much

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1 this year. So not a lot of money is flowing
 2 into that.
 3 Congress must act to put the funding
 4 there. It will not be there next year. So
 5 that's something else that we're going to have
 6 to take a look at, which is good for us because
 7 we are in a conservative mode right now.
 8 We are getting reimbursed, right. So
 9 we're okay. But as far as the timeline of what
 10 we are going to be able to do at that site,
 11 really has to be taken a look at and evaluated
 12 closely.
 13 And also I want to just point out when we
 14 say demolition will begin in '23, obviously
 15 that doesn't mean the whole building is going
 16 to come down in a pile in one day in '23. I
 17 believe that we can look at scaling the
 18 demolition. I believe we can look at a plan
 19 that starts on the back corner. Maybe we start
 20 with parking lots and we start with light
 21 poles. We start with recycling things that we

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1 can recycle.
 2 Something big that I want everybody to
 3 know is it is absolutely our plan to recycle as
 4 much of that building as possible, including
 5 the concrete and the asphalt, to be used as
 6 subbase for the future taxiways out on the new
 7 airfield.
 8 MR. PACK: We just so happen to have a
 9 repurposing center.
 10 MR. RISHER: And that ties into the plan
 11 perfectly, yes. Warren and I have absolutely
 12 talked about that.
 13 So I just wanted to let you know that
 14 that's where we are. Currently planning for
 15 '23. But over the next six months, we're going
 16 to be taking a hard look at it with the
 17 engineers and really coming up with a
 18 reasonable plan and give us a better timeline,
 19 because obviously our goal is to keep that
 20 property up and running as long as possible
 21 because we have good tenants in there. It is a

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1 business incubator and it's been great for the
 2 county. And we want to keep it financially
 3 viable as we manage it to demise. So we want
 4 to make sure we win all the way around and keep
 5 the asset as long as possible.
 6 So I want to explain a couple of things
 7 before we dig into our obstruction removal
 8 program.
 9 So this graphic there that you see, should
 10 be in your packet, and you'll hear me refer to
 11 the CFR part 77 contours. You may hear that.
 12 I know you really can't see that very well from
 13 where you are. But basically that's what I'm
 14 talking about. Those are those imaginary
 15 surfaces that extend around the airport. It's
 16 a pretty in-depth calculation, but I just want
 17 you to know that these are the standards that
 18 we go by to establish what the floor of our
 19 navigable airspace is. And then everything we
 20 do is built upon knowing where that floor is.
 21 So the reason this is important is because

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1 sometimes it's hard to stand somewhere and have
 2 somebody tell you that tree is too high, it
 3 affects the airport. This is the example of
 4 the calculations where we go to.
 5 So as an example, you can't see it, but
 6 some of those closest lines to the airport are
 7 rated at 50 feet, right. So but you also have
 8 to have a surveyed elevation at the site of
 9 where you're looking at the obstruction. So
 10 basically if you're in a 50-foot contour and
 11 you have a surveyed elevation of 25, you can
 12 only have a 25-foot obstruction on that piece
 13 of property.
 14 So it's a lot that goes into it. I just
 15 wanted to point that out because as I show you
 16 some of the plans for where we're going to be
 17 taking trees out, you may look at it and say
 18 how does that tree impact the airport. And it
 19 has to do with these calculations. So I wanted
 20 to make sure we covered that.
 21 And of course, our obstruction removal

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1 program is a three-year program. And like I
 2 said, we're going to work on it this year and
 3 then in '21 and '22.

4 This graphic here, which I hope you can
 5 see a little bit, it's not terrible, this is
 6 the overall overview of the program. So as you
 7 can see, we are going to be doing work all
 8 quadrants of the airport. Okay. It's not all
 9 focused on the Talbot Business Center site. We
 10 have easements out on Brooks Drive, Commerce
 11 Drive, Hazelwood. We have stuff up on what we
 12 call the 33N, which is out by North Parks,
 13 (inaudible) Propane. We have stuff up on the
 14 15N, which is out in the country. And we have
 15 stuff up on the 22N, which extends all the way
 16 out to the mobile home and retirement community
 17 out there. So we have interests in removing
 18 obstructions from all of those properties over
 19 the next three years.

20 So this year, we have our first package
 21 that's going to basically take about a third of

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1 that and remove those obstructions. And then
 2 the next two years we'll follow along.

3 Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. PRICE: So please don't make people
 5 tremble because we went through this about ten
 6 years ago. And by obstructions, you are
 7 referring to trees?

8 MR. RISHER: We're talking about trees,
 9 yes.

10 MS. PRICE: Trees. You're not talking
 11 about homes, you're not talking about anything
 12 else other than trees and --

13 MR. RISHER: Trees, light poles. The only
 14 building that's going to be removed is the one
 15 that we own, which is the Business Center.

16 MS. PRICE: Yes.

17 MR. RISHER: Yes, ma'am. Absolutely.

18 So I just wanted to show you that graphic
 19 to kind of give you the visual of how vast this
 20 program is. It's roughly, if you exclude the
 21 airport property, it's about 80 more property

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1 interests. Some of these properties are
 2 partnerships that are co-owned.

3 I know we're working on one property that
 4 I think there's like a six-way partnership in
 5 it. So it's a lot of negotiating, a lot of
 6 talking to different people, a lot of lawyers.
 7 There's a lot going into getting the rights to
 8 go on these properties to take these trees
 9 down.

10 The good news is once this work is done,
 11 we should be set for a very long time because
 12 we are acquiring literally millions of dollars
 13 worth of easements. So we'll be able to keep
 14 those trees trimmed for 100 years. We won't
 15 have to do this again. So we're going through
 16 the hard part now.

17 Any questions about the overall before we
 18 get into the -- okay.

19 MR. LESHAR: Mr. Risher, all of these
 20 homeowners, all these private property owners
 21 are being compensated for their loss of the

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1 value of their home from the loss of a mature
 2 tree or whatever it is, whatever the measure
 3 is?

4 MR. RISHER: That is absolutely correct.
 5 The majority, actually I think all the
 6 residential properties, they have been
 7 financially compensated, yes. Well, the ones
 8 that we have agreements with so far. There are
 9 still some that are in states of negotiation.

10 There's other properties, like with the
 11 Town of Easton, State Highway, county owned,
 12 things of that nature where we are able to
 13 secure just removal rights without any
 14 financial compensation. All right.

15 So if we go to our slides here, I
 16 apologize. This doesn't look like it wants to
 17 go full, full screen. But this is the Talbot
 18 Business Center site that you're looking at
 19 here. And this is going to be -- so let me
 20 back up a little bit and talk about what phase
 21 one is going to look like.

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1 So our phase one is going to begin in
 2 September. Okay. We've already been out for
 3 bid. We have a lowest bid that we have not
 4 awarded yet because we are working with the
 5 Maryland Aviation Administration on funding
 6 level. Because of everything that's going on,
 7 they don't know where they're going to be able
 8 to fund this project. Usually in years past,
 9 they funded at 75 percent.
 10 I've stated a few times that even before
 11 COVID, they were having funding issues. So
 12 they were not going to be able to fund it any
 13 more than 50 percent. So we are hoping they're
 14 going to be able to fund at the 50 percent
 15 level.
 16 So I have money aside in this year's
 17 budget to do this project. I actually have
 18 contingency funds aside, too. This is a
 19 priority for the airport.
 20 But once the MAA lets us know what they
 21 can fund, then I'll bring it to you guys to

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1 review. I'm hoping it's at least 50 percent,
 2 which would be fine. If they surprise us with
 3 75 percent, which could happen because of some
 4 variables, we'd be very ecstatic about this.
 5 So within the next couple of months, I'll come
 6 to you for that.
 7 And then in September, we'll give the
 8 notice to proceed to the contractor. Once we
 9 give the notice to proceed to the contractor,
 10 they have two weeks to begin the project. And
 11 then it has to be completed within 75 days. So
 12 we're looking at a September start and finish
 13 by Christmas.
 14 A couple of notes on what this is going to
 15 look like. No residential work is going to be
 16 done on the weekend. So I want to focus on
 17 that. The work that is done on airport
 18 property can be done anytime. The work that
 19 can be done in the commercial areas may be done
 20 on the weekends. But there will be no
 21 residential work done on the weekends.

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1 Also, the homeowners will receive a
 2 minimum of seven days notice before they're
 3 going to come on their property to do the tree
 4 work.
 5 The other thing, too, is they're not just
 6 going to come onto the property and start
 7 cutting trees. Once we give the contractor the
 8 notice to proceed, part of the contract is that
 9 the contractor must have a surveyor there.
 10 They can come ahead of time. But they must get
 11 the trees resurveyed and tagged. Okay. So
 12 that homeowner is going to know because the
 13 surveyor is going to come there first. And the
 14 trees are going to be tagged that are going to
 15 come out. Or if it's a small group of brush
 16 together, it will be marked. So you're not
 17 just going to have a contractor showing up and
 18 removing trees. So everybody will be aware.
 19 There's also going to be a lot of
 20 oversight. The engineers from AECOM are
 21 managing the project. They are going to spend

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1 at least 35 project days here on the ground
 2 supervising. And we also have the State. The
 3 State is going to be (inaudible) some of the
 4 environmental stuff in the right of ways. A
 5 lot of oversight is going to be here. And
 6 obviously I'll be out there.
 7 But when it comes to the residential
 8 stuff, there's going to be a project manager
 9 there to make sure everything goes smooth.
 10 MR. PACK: Micah, there's a value to that
 11 lumber that is being cut. How is that being
 12 handled?
 13 MR. RISHER: So we gave the contractors
 14 the ability to do what they wanted with the
 15 lumber. So that way, it actually drove the --
 16 quite frankly, it drove the cost down for us,
 17 quite frankly, letting them have the lumber if
 18 they wanted it.
 19 The bid that we received that we are going
 20 to award, it's a couple of hundred thousand
 21 dollars cheaper than what it could have been

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1 because we're letting them take the lumber and
 2 do what they want with it. So we were just
 3 looking for the best value to get rid of it.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay.
 5 MR. RISHER: One thing I want to point
 6 out. You're looking at the Business Center
 7 site. The individual trees are marked in
 8 boxes. The shaded area with the triangles,
 9 that is all the trees. It's roughly ten acres
 10 or so. It's all the trees behind the Business
 11 Center that go up to the airport. That area
 12 will be clear cut. That area will be -- there
 13 will be nothing left in that area more than one
 14 inch off the ground. So we are prepping that
 15 area to be airfield.
 16 So that will be probably the biggest,
 17 largest visual difference. When you come down
 18 the bypass or you're sitting at the light there
 19 by Lowe's and you look, you'll be looking up
 20 the runway depending on the angle. You'll see
 21 that there's an airport there and you'll see

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1 that it's airport property because those trees
 2 will be gone by Christmas. So that will be
 3 different.
 4 MR. LESHER: Mr. Risher, is the airport
 5 subject to the Forest Conservation Ordinance?
 6 MR. PACK: Absolutely.
 7 MR. LESHER: So we have to replant these
 8 somewhere else?
 9 MR. RISHER: So yes. We've already paid
 10 about \$42,000. What we do is we pay the fee in
 11 lieu of to the Town of Easton. We pay Forest
 12 Conservation Act fees on every project.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Micah, I got one question
 14 for you. So when that's clear cut and the
 15 building is gone, and it might be on there and
 16 I'm not just seeing it, where would the actual
 17 fence be?
 18 MR. RISHER: That's a good -- I don't have
 19 that -- so the fence is going to extend onto
 20 that property. It's not going to enfence
 21 (sic.) the current property line. It's not

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1 going to be by --
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: By the road.
 3 MR. RISHER: It's not going to be by Glebe
 4 Road. It's going to be I want to say
 5 tastefully done, if you will. It's hundreds,
 6 it's probably more than 200 yards off of the
 7 side of the road.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: So we'll see just grass?
 9 MR. RISHER: You'll see grass. Oh, yes.
 10 Once this is -- if you look into the
 11 future three to five years down the road, yes,
 12 that will be just grass. And you'll see the
 13 runway, you'll see the runway lights and things
 14 of that nature. You'll be looking at kind of
 15 like when you're at the 22 end up up at the
 16 Hertrich. When you're looking down, you're
 17 just going to see an airfield.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct.
 19 MR. RISHER: And if it's not airfield, it
 20 will be green grass with a perimeter road
 21 around it eventually.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: I see. Okay.
 2 MR. RISHER: So that was the big thing I
 3 wanted to point out on that site.
 4 Let me scroll down to 13. This is the
 5 residential area across the street. So this is
 6 Hazelwood. And I just wanted to point out
 7 obviously the squares are individual trees. I
 8 wanted to point out the shaded areas are the
 9 Leyland cypresses that are on the State right
 10 of way. Okay. So when you go down the parkway
 11 and you see those Leyland cypresses that are
 12 buffering those homes and the apartment complex
 13 there between Glebe Road and the Old Mill Deli
 14 area, those Leyland cypresses are in the State
 15 right of way. So we'll be removing some of
 16 them as well, not all.
 17 And I just wanted to point out this goes
 18 back to the part 77 contours. It's kind of
 19 hard to see. But if you look to what's the far
 20 left of your drawing there, and there's some
 21 shaded area, you can barely see in the notes,

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1 but it says 25-foot AGL. Meaning, any tree
 2 that exceeds 25 feet will be coming out. As
 3 you work your way to the right of your display,
 4 it actually says, I want to say I think it says
 5 50, 50 AGL. So you can kind of see what we're
 6 talking about with those contours.
 7 So basically the bank of Leyland cypresses
 8 closest to the intersection, most of those are
 9 going to come out. But as you work your way up
 10 the parkway, it will be fewer coming out. So I
 11 just wanted you to kind of understand how that
 12 works.
 13 MR. PACK: I'm trying to visualize. Where
 14 on there would the Old Mill Deli be?
 15 MR. RISHER: Oh, it's not even -- the Old
 16 Mill Deli is not even pictured.
 17 MR. PACK: Okay.
 18 MR. RISHER: It's much, much farther up.
 19 And actually the trees that we're taking
 20 out will only be extended right here, that bank
 21 by that neighborhood. So those are the only

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1 ones that we'll be taking. This is --
 2 MR. PACK: This is going --
 3 MR. RISHER: So this is the Business
 4 Center property here.
 5 MR. PACK: Right.
 6 MR. RISHER: And this is across the
 7 parkway. Off to the left is the Lowe's, the
 8 Ruby Tuesdays. So these bank here, these are
 9 the lowest banks that we will have to do some
 10 removing. And that's anything over 25 feet.
 11 And again, this is in the State right of
 12 way. But it's a visual --
 13 MR. PACK: -- compensate SHA --
 14 MR. RISHER: We don't have to, no. We
 15 don't have to.
 16 And the reason I point this out is because
 17 it's going to be a visual difference right,
 18 right. And people don't -- when things change,
 19 people sometimes call and ask questions. So
 20 that's a visual difference.
 21 MR. PACK: We had a guy up there taping

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1 himself to trees a few years ago.
 2 MR. RISHER: We hope that doesn't happen.
 3 This next one that I wanted to point out,
 4 this is up on Route 50. This is the rest area
 5 up on 50 back from the gas station. So the
 6 majority of those trees will come out with this
 7 project. So just wanted to point that out.
 8 And the last property that I'll point out,
 9 we're almost there, it's the Brooks and
 10 Commerce Drive properties. We have more work
 11 that we need to do on Brooks and Commerce. But
 12 for the first phase, we're only doing a couple
 13 of properties. And these trees are primarily
 14 on the back side of the lot.
 15 It's hard to tell which properties these
 16 are. But if you look at this one here, I know
 17 for a fact that's Hearthstone. That's where
 18 Hearthstone is. So you can kind of see there's
 19 some trees behind Hearthstone. There's some --
 20 a group of trees that are behind these
 21 properties here, and there's some out here by

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1 the road that are going to come out in phase
 2 one. So there will be some work done in that
 3 area as well.
 4 So any questions about how the first phase
 5 of the obstruction removal is going to go?
 6 MR. PACK: Good.
 7 MR. RISHER: Good. I have some general
 8 updates for you now. So we don't need the
 9 board any longer.
 10 I just wanted to give you guys an update
 11 on how the airport has been fairing through the
 12 COVID. So first thing I'll start off with is
 13 the airport will receive \$157,000 of CARES Act
 14 grant money. That's going to be used to
 15 support our operations budget. We will not use
 16 that money for any capital expenses. Quite
 17 frankly, there's just a lot more strings
 18 attached to it if we use it for capital. But
 19 if we use it for operations budget, it's a lot
 20 easier to use the money.
 21 MS. PRICE: What was the amount again?

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1 MR. RISHER: 157,000. So 157 is coming to
 2 the airport.
 3 Our terminal building reopened yesterday.
 4 We had our plan approved by Dr. Wadley at the
 5 Health Department. The primary reason for
 6 getting the terminal open a tad bit earlier
 7 than other county facilities was because of the
 8 Sugar Buns Café is trying to open this Friday.
 9 So we made sure that we had everything
 10 cleaned and the signage is up, masks are
 11 required. There's setbacks, furniture has been
 12 moved. We've adhered to all CDC guidelines,
 13 and the terminal is open.
 14 And business has been operating out of
 15 there. We have an FBO Maryland Air that
 16 operated the entire time, fueling aircraft and
 17 providing services. They never stopped. They
 18 still have customers coming off the airfield
 19 side. So the other change now is that the
 20 general public side off the front is now open.
 21 Bay Runners started running last week. So

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1 we have an agreement with them. So their
 2 customers come in and use the rest room. They
 3 get dropped off there and they wait. So there
 4 was a need to get it open for the Bay Runner
 5 customers as well.
 6 So out of our four FBOs that we have,
 7 Maryland Air and Easton Jet, they remained open
 8 the entire time. Trident, they stopped for a
 9 little bit for their FBO operation, but they
 10 are resumed. Business is returning to Trident.
 11 Safari Aviation, they maintained their activity
 12 level as well.
 13 Sugar Buns is going to open this Friday.
 14 I'll point out that our maintenance
 15 facilities, they weathered the storm and they
 16 kept going like gang busters. Because what
 17 happened was when planes were forced down, did
 18 not fly anymore, everybody started getting
 19 maintenance done. So our maintenance
 20 facilities were busy. They were busier than
 21 usual.

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1 MR. PACK: Good time to do it.
 2 MR. RISHER: Yeah. That's what everybody
 3 figured. They couldn't fly, so they put their
 4 plane in maintenance.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Was it any upgrades, too?
 6 Did you see much of that?
 7 MR. RISHER: Yeah. So the other thing
 8 that's driving maintenance, there's a huge
 9 electronic upgrade that's happening in aviation
 10 right now. It's called AVSB. It's basically
 11 every aircraft has to have the ability to
 12 transmit their location all the time. And it's
 13 actually a mandate for this year.
 14 So we've been busy because of that mandate
 15 alone. So it's good. Business is good on the
 16 maintenance front.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: One thing. So will the
 18 restaurant be open outside?
 19 MR. RISHER: Thank you. I appreciate
 20 that. Yes. Thank you. Yes. Patio dining,
 21 yes. Sugar Buns is open for patio dining. We

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1 have the Sugar Buns garden, which is out there
 2 between the terminal and the ramp. We brought
 3 some more picnic tables up in there for them.
 4 So yes, you'll be able to get your Sugar
 5 Buns fix starting this Friday in the patio
 6 area. Open air, tables eight feet apart. So
 7 all social distance guidelines.
 8 MR. PACK: Thanks for working with her
 9 because she needed the access through the
 10 terminal for people to get to her. You can't
 11 access the patio from the outside.
 12 MR. RISHER: That's right. Yes. Thank
 13 you for clarifying that point.
 14 And also, obviously we saw a reduction in
 15 transient business and business in general
 16 aviation. It's slowed down since March.
 17 There's no question about that.
 18 It is slowly starting to increase.
 19 Actually we've had some days that are three or
 20 400-operation days. Flight schools are back.
 21 Here is a big one. The Navy's Powered

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1 Flight Program, the PFP, that Trident hosts,
 2 that was trimmed a little bit. It's only going
 3 to run for about four weeks, mid-July to mid
 4 August. And it's only going to be a fraction
 5 of the students. So that impact is going to
 6 slow the airport down a little bit, but we are
 7 continuing to move.

8 In the corporate hangar, clients are
 9 stable.

10 The T hangars remain full. Three to
 11 six-month waitlist on the T hangars.

12 Financial losses in general, roughly
 13 \$10,000 worth of rents are in arrears. We're
 14 working with tenants on that. We brought a
 15 repayment plan to Council a couple of months
 16 ago expecting that. So I have no concern.
 17 We'll slowly work with our customers.

18 The fuel profit, I estimate by the end of
 19 this month we'll be about \$40,000 off this
 20 year. We're down over 116,000 gallons. So
 21 it's about 18 percent compared to last year.

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1 It's to be expected.

2 And just wanted to point out just a couple
 3 more quick things. A lot of activity on our
 4 hangars. We have three private hangars
 5 actively for sale right now.

6 We have the Maryland State Police. They
 7 are seeking to renew their lease next year.
 8 They want ten more years at the airport. So
 9 we're working on that.

10 We have West Area (inaudible) Shop, which
 11 is one of the maintenance shops that have been
 12 very busy. We're working on a long-term deal
 13 with them. They want a ten-year deal at the
 14 airport at the hanger.

15 The Spit Fire hanger, who was owned by
 16 Mr. Blare, reverted back to the airport in
 17 April 30th. So we have a lot of exciting plans
 18 that we can do with that.

19 So there's a lot happening out there with
 20 hanger ownership and things of that nature. So
 21 over the next few months, I'll be bringing you

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1 several new lease deals that will be great for
 2 the airport.

3 The terminal building, just a couple of
 4 more notes. I'd like to say we took lemons and
 5 made lemonade out there because when we were
 6 closed, we also renovated our bathrooms. I
 7 worked with facilities maintenance. Brian
 8 Moore's crew has done an amazing job. We got
 9 that. Those bathrooms have not been touched
 10 since 1987. So we went in there, and they're
 11 all actually state of the art, they're handicap
 12 accessible. They are very nice bathrooms. One
 13 of them is complete. One of them will be
 14 redone.

15 But that entire wing, that entire hallway
 16 has been renovated, painted, new everything.
 17 So it actually looks very nice, clean, modern.
 18 We have at least one new bathroom right now and
 19 we'll have a second one done shortly.

20 I do have a note about just for traffic
 21 statistics. Year to date last year, we were

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1 over 27,000. This year we're just over 20. So
 2 it's a 26 percent down. There's no surprise.
 3 And as I said, fuel year to date we're down
 4 about 18 percent. Luckily fuel was already on
 5 the decline just before COVID. Jet fuel was
 6 down all over the region. So I was
 7 conservative in my '21 budget, and I had
 8 already come down about 10 percent forecasting
 9 for '21. So I think we should be close.

10 But that's the state of the airport.

11 MR. PACK: All right. Any questions for
 12 Micah about his report, airport report?

13 MR. LESHER: Mr. Risher, with those
 14 revenue losses, have you had to trim expenses
 15 as well?

16 MR. RISHER: Yes. We absolutely will.
 17 It's my plan looking at '21, when I built my
 18 budget, I built pockets of projects in there,
 19 small projects that I knew that we wouldn't do
 20 unless the revenues were strong. Small
 21 projects. I have a \$25,000 contingency. So

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1 we're going to see what happens through
 2 December.
 3 And also we got that \$157,000 CARES Act
 4 money. That will prop it up a little bit. But
 5 I'm being very conservative this year and
 6 making sure that the revenues flow in.
 7 The good news is I've got at least two
 8 items, one was the cell tower that you all
 9 approved, that's \$12,000 that was not in the
 10 budget. That will be coming in. And I'll be
 11 bringing another deal here within the next
 12 week. So that adds another \$7,000 of
 13 unexpected. We're \$19,000 of new revenue that
 14 was not budgeted for '21. So I really think
 15 we're going to be okay.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: One other. Did you say you
 17 had three hangars that you were looking for
 18 tenants?
 19 MR. RISHER: So there's three hangars that
 20 are for sale.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: For sale.

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1 MR. RISHER: They are for sale. And
 2 commercial realtors are working two of them.
 3 One of them is just going on the market now.
 4 It's the one that's owned by Mr. Charlie
 5 Robertson, who passed away unexpectedly in
 6 January, big friend of the airport.
 7 So we do have three hangars that are for
 8 sale right now.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I know this is a strange
 10 question, but is it sort of written that it has
 11 to be a plane in there? Can it be anything
 12 else in there? I was just curious.
 13 MR. RISHER: So yes. We need aircraft in
 14 there. We do, we do. Especially if it's
 15 sitting on the apron like that.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: I see.
 17 MR. RISHER: Because if not, we'd have to
 18 designate it as a non-aeronautical use.
 19 And we can have non-aeronautical
 20 structures on an airport. But if it's an
 21 aircraft hangar built for that use, it should

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1 hangar aircraft.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: I see.
 3 MR. RISHER: Because there's a revenue
 4 stream attached to the aircraft as well, buying
 5 fuel and maintenance.
 6 MS. PRICE: At least mostly airplanes,
 7 right?
 8 MR. RISHER: Mostly airplanes, that's
 9 right. There actually is a percentage the FAA
 10 will let you get away with.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 12 MR. RISHER: We don't want that in the
 13 (inaudible).
 14 MR. PACK: I'm not even going to ask,
 15 Mr. Callahan.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: I was thinking a nightclub.
 17 MR. PACK: I don't even want to know.
 18 So Micah, have you and your board made a
 19 determination on Airport Day yet?
 20 MR. RISHER: I am so glad that you asked
 21 that question. So the answer is no, we

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1 haven't. We're keeping the hope alive as long
 2 as possible.
 3 We have a meeting here in two weeks to
 4 really make a final decision. I'm becoming a
 5 little bit more hopeful, quite frankly. I just
 6 saw news before I came in here that the Ocean
 7 City air show, which was canceled, new life is
 8 being breathed into it and they are going to
 9 reschedule a date later this year. So I found
 10 that to be very hopeful.
 11 MR. PACK: What was your tentative date?
 12 MR. RISHER: September 26th.
 13 September 26th. So we're kind of right there
 14 in that late summer, not yet fall.
 15 So put it this way: We're going to try
 16 very hard. I think it will look different.
 17 Certainly I think we can make some changes and
 18 keep it safe. But the committee we have put
 19 together, there's a lot of moving pieces
 20 obviously.
 21 The first starts with we have to get the

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1 airplanes. And COVID has impacted everybody.
 2 So it starts with can we even get the airplanes
 3 to come. If we can get them to come, then we
 4 say how can we get people out on the ramp
 5 safely.
 6 MR. PACK: That's a good point.
 7 We heard today that the Waterfowl has been
 8 canceled.
 9 MR. RISHER: I heard that as well.
 10 MR. PACK: I got that e-mail from Margaret
 11 earlier this morning.
 12 Do you anticipate -- I know a lot of
 13 people, they do fly in for Waterfowl. Do you
 14 anticipate revenue losses because of that event
 15 as well?
 16 MR. RISHER: We do have a few fly in for
 17 Waterfowl. But it's not a significant amount,
 18 no.
 19 MR. PACK: Okay. Anyone else?
 20 Micah, thank you.
 21 MR. RISHER: Thank you.

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1 MR. PACK: Good seeing you.
 2 MR. RISHER: Have a good one.
 3 MR. PACK: You, too.
 4 Council, next on your agenda we have
 5 introduction of several pieces of legislation.
 6 First is a bill regarding the short-term rental
 7 process and procedure.
 8 Madam Secretary, if you wouldn't mind
 9 reading the title of the bill.
 10 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 190 of
 11 the Talbot County Code, zoning, subdivision,
 12 and land development, to improve and clarify
 13 the processes for licensure and oversight of
 14 short-term rentals in the county and to amend
 15 the standards for safety for licensure.
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam
 17 Secretary.
 18 Ms. Mary Kay Verdery, our planning
 19 officer, is here. Mary Kay, I'll turn it over
 20 to you.
 21 MS. VERDERY: Just a quick review of some

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1 of the highlights of the bill. This bill has
 2 been introduced once before and was allowed to
 3 expire. The bill was accumulated from
 4 conversations with the Short-Term Rental Review
 5 Board and the public and then the Short-Term
 6 Rental Review Board had work sessions with the
 7 County Council and initiated the first bill.
 8 Some of the things that are within this
 9 bill, it removed Short-Term Rental Review Board
 10 from Chapter 24, where it previously was, and
 11 keeps it all into Chapter 190, the zoning code.
 12 It removes a six-month grace period that
 13 had been put in the original language that
 14 actually expired in May of 2019 and removed a
 15 mandatory 12-month loss of your license
 16 associated with renting without a license and
 17 allows the chief compliance officer to
 18 determine the period of time.
 19 It removes the 2003, 2015 IRC standards
 20 for safety compliance, and it outlines very
 21 specific safety standards for short-term

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1 rentals for fire exits, smoke alarms, carbon
 2 monoxide, rescue openings, as well as stair
 3 height and a secondary exit that's required.
 4 The owner/agent needs to immediately
 5 investigate complaints and notify the planning
 6 officer of the outcome and notify the Planning
 7 Office within 15 days if they change their
 8 resident agent. They need to let us know.
 9 And it removed the four-month application
 10 period. Previously we only accepted
 11 applications, new applications for new licenses
 12 four months out of the year. This will remove
 13 that and allow us to accept the license 12
 14 months throughout the year.
 15 It adds some additional Health Department
 16 requirements. Essentially clarifies what those
 17 Health Department requirements are. It's
 18 really nothing new associated with short-term
 19 rentals and Health Department requirements, but
 20 it clarifies that language.
 21 It allows for a third party or county

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1 inspection for the safety requirements and that
 2 that be no more than 45 days prior to the
 3 filing of your application.
 4 The public notice requirements are
 5 amended, and they require notification to a
 6 property owner within 1,000 feet or within 500
 7 feet of your property lines if you're in a more
 8 dense residential neighborhood. And it
 9 requires that you notify a homeowners
 10 association. And if you live on a private
 11 road, you need to notify everyone on that
 12 private road, even if they are not within the
 13 500 or 1,000-foot. If they're beyond that, you
 14 still need to notify everyone on a private
 15 road.
 16 MR. PACK: If it's a shared road, right?
 17 MS. VERDERY: Correct.
 18 The notices are sent by Priority Mail with
 19 delivery confirmation, and there's only one
 20 notice now. Previously there was a requirement
 21 for two separate notices that we've combined

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1 all the language that needs to be put into the
 2 notice. And it's sent out in one notice, and
 3 that's sent out 21 days prior, a minimum of 21
 4 days prior to the hearing.
 5 Renewals have some additional information
 6 only if you have changed the structure. So if
 7 you added bedrooms to your structure or have
 8 done some type of construction that would
 9 modify or amend the permit from your original
 10 permit, it allows us to make you go back on a
 11 new process if we feel it's necessary because
 12 you made such significant changes.
 13 MS. PRICE: Mary Kay, before I forget,
 14 it's a quick question. On the 21 days' notice,
 15 at least 21 days before the hearing, there
 16 wouldn't be anybody that would send it out
 17 without knowing what the hearing date is?
 18 MS. VERDERY: The hearing date is part of
 19 the notification requirement. So you have to
 20 specifically put the hearing date. It will be
 21 listed.

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1 MS. PRICE: Got it. I just wanted to make
 2 sure that you're not sending it out so far in
 3 advance you don't know what the hearing date
 4 is. Because before when you sent out two, you
 5 had one that you had an application and then
 6 the second was for the hearing date.
 7 MS. VERDERY: Right.
 8 MS. PRICE: Okay.
 9 MS. VERDERY: They can either put the
 10 information specifically into the notice or
 11 they can include a copy of the agenda that has
 12 the information, the date, the time, and the
 13 location, etc.
 14 MS. PRICE: The important thing is the
 15 notice does include the date?
 16 MS. VERDERY: That's correct.
 17 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 18 MS. VERDERY: And then the last is we did
 19 define what a resident agent is. There were
 20 some questions about their role and their
 21 activity within the short-term rental process.

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1 So we defined who and what that person is and
 2 what their role is.
 3 That's kind of the highlights of what the
 4 language is. As noted, it was previously
 5 introduced. And based on COVID, some other
 6 things, that particular bill was allowed to
 7 die. So this is the same information, the same
 8 bill being picked back up.
 9 MR. PACK: I certainly want to send my
 10 gratitude to you and Mr. Salinas, as well as
 11 our dearly departed Ms. O'Donnell for your work
 12 on getting this together. We've had I think
 13 three or two work sessions on -- two work
 14 sessions on this.
 15 So we've had plenty of time for public
 16 comment and for staff comment.
 17 And the changes that we made was after
 18 much, much review and discussion. So this
 19 wasn't done in a dark room somewhere.
 20 So again, I just want to thank you guys
 21 for leading the charge and getting this

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1 document together.
 2 And you're absolutely correct. COVID hit.
 3 So Council had decided to let this bill elapse.
 4 Now that we're moving back, we got STRs back up
 5 and running, it was felt that it was time to go
 6 ahead and get this matter addressed and move on
 7 with our STR legislation.
 8 So again, I just want to send my thanks to
 9 you all.
 10 Any further comment before I ask for
 11 introduction?
 12 MS. PRICE: Yes. Just a reminder that a
 13 month, six weeks ago we had gotten some
 14 correspondence and phone calls about people not
 15 being allowed to move forward with new
 16 applications.
 17 And that was because currently in the
 18 legislation you can only apply January,
 19 February and is it June, July or July, August?
 20 MS. VERDERY: July, August.
 21 MS. PRICE: July, August.

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1 So they had said STR Board, they're not
 2 doing anything.
 3 And I just wanted to reiterate all of the
 4 renewals were going on. And the current
 5 legislation prohibited it during that time
 6 period that kind of the COVID hit. And it
 7 wasn't that the Council or the STR Board wasn't
 8 doing its thing. This legislation died because
 9 of the State of Emergency.
 10 And while we did consider putting it on to
 11 change just that piece of it. By the time we
 12 would have gone through the process of
 13 introducing it, advertising for three weeks,
 14 and getting it done, we would have been to
 15 July 1st pretty much anyway.
 16 So apologies that we weren't able to get
 17 this done. But we've all been dealing with the
 18 State of Emergency.
 19 This is I'm sure going to get introduced
 20 this evening, and we couldn't get it any
 21 earlier than July 1st no matter what we did.

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1 So everybody should be ready.
 2 And if you were planning to have a
 3 short-term rental for the year of 2020, the
 4 application process was back in January and
 5 February. It never would have been March,
 6 April, or May anyhow.
 7 So I just wanted to remind people what was
 8 going on with the new application process, but
 9 everything else has been continuing on thanks
 10 to Mary Kay and those in her department.
 11 MS. VERDERY: Thank you.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay. With that being said,
 13 the chair will ask for a show of hands for
 14 introduction tonight of this matter.
 15 By Council, by Council, Madam Secretary.
 16 And you have written here this will be known as
 17 Bill 1446. Is that correct?
 18 SECRETARY: That is correct.
 19 MR. PACK: And you have given me a public
 20 hearing date of Tuesday, July the 14th, at
 21 6:30 p.m.

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1 SECRETARY: Correct.
 2 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 3 MS. VERDERY: We will put this on the
 4 January 1st Planning Commission for a
 5 recommendation so you have it prior to the
 6 meeting.
 7 MR. PACK: Good. Thank you. All right.
 8 Moving on, Council, we have another matter
 9 for introduction this evening. This is
 10 regarding local beer breweries.
 11 Madam Secretary, would you please read the
 12 title of the bill.
 13 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 11 of
 14 the Talbot County Code, alcoholic beverages, to
 15 allow the Board of Liquor License Commissioners
 16 to issue a license for on-premises consumption
 17 of beer to class five breweries and allow for
 18 local licensure for class six, pub-breweries
 19 and, class seven, micro-breweries.
 20 MR. PACK: Ms. Verdery and Mr. Kupersmith,
 21 who is going to take this one?

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1 MS. VERDERY: Let Tony start.
 2 MR. PACK: Okay.
 3 MR. KUPERSMITH: I'm happy to start. So
 4 the General Assembly adopted legislation that
 5 would allow certain classes of breweries to not
 6 only brew and produce beer and offer samples,
 7 but allow for the sale of the beer that's
 8 produced by the brewery on site.
 9 The requirement, though, is that the local
 10 jurisdiction must authorize that, the sale on
 11 site, for consumption on premises.
 12 So this bill would allow certain classes
 13 of breweries in Talbot County to sell beer that
 14 they brew for consumption on site.
 15 There are certain limitations that I'll
 16 touch on briefly. There is a limit of 5,000
 17 beer barrels per year. Sounds like a lot. And
 18 so that would -- that's a limitation that they
 19 have. And there are also hours that they have
 20 to follow, ten a.m. to ten p.m. And they would
 21 have to also follow all the other requirements

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1 related to the sale of alcohol for consumption
 2 on premises.
 3 MS. PRICE: So is this really very similar
 4 to the distillery bill that we did do several
 5 months ago that the State authorized it and
 6 then the locals have to give the final
 7 permissions?
 8 MR. KUPERSMITH: That's right, it's very
 9 similar.
 10 MR. PACK: Of the class five, here in
 11 Talbot County I believe we only have one that
 12 we know one of the class five or are there
 13 more?
 14 MR. KUPERSMITH: I believe Eastern Shore
 15 Brewing is a class five.
 16 MR. PACK: Is the only class five.
 17 MR. KUPERSMITH: But I would have to
 18 confirm that, and I can't think of any others.
 19 MR. PACK: Yeah. Neither can I.
 20 Well, I know -- thank you very much,
 21 Mr. Kupersmith.

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1 Ms. Verdery, do you have anything
 2 additional to add?
 3 MS. VERDERY: No, sir.
 4 MR. PACK: Thank you. Excellent job.
 5 MS. PRICE: Is there a limit to how many
 6 that can be sold on this one?
 7 MR. KUPERSMITH: In terms of the number --
 8 MS. PRICE: Per person.
 9 MR. KUPERSMITH: No. There's no limit on
 10 that.
 11 MR. PACK: For the number of drinks an
 12 individual can purchase. They still have to
 13 comply with the Liquor Code and TIPS training
 14 and all of that. So they can't over-serve.
 15 MR. KUPERSMITH: Right.
 16 MS. PRICE: Certainly can't consume 5,000
 17 beer barrels at once.
 18 MR. PACK: Yeah. But that's their State
 19 limit. So yeah.
 20 MS. PRICE: That was a joke.
 21 MR. PACK: But this had much I guess

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1 confusion. I think the owners thought that
 2 they did not have to get a county license to
 3 operate to sell on premises, they could just
 4 use their State license.
 5 The reading of that showed otherwise.
 6 This Council issued a temporary license,
 7 temporary permit to them so they can keep on
 8 operating while this was being considered.
 9 And just like the former bill, this was
 10 allowed to die because we didn't have time to
 11 get the work session in place and to go ahead
 12 and move with it. And they had a temporary
 13 permit, so they were still able to continue
 14 operating with that temporary permit. Since it
 15 did not have an exit date on it, it would stay
 16 viable until the bill passed.
 17 So we're now at the juncture where I think
 18 we're ready to go ahead and be done with this
 19 as well. I believe they have their temporary
 20 permit in hand.
 21 Have we heard from Mr. Smith on that,

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1 Mr. Kupersmith?

2 MR. KUPERSMITH: They are still working on

3 getting all the information together to submit

4 for an interim license.

5 MR. PACK: Did Mr. Smith give you any

6 indication when they would get all their

7 information together to have their -- because I

8 think the Liquor Board has been holding

9 hearings.

10 MR. KUPERSMITH: That's correct.

11 Let me pull up what he sent me.

12 MR. PACK: And the reason why Council

13 specifically did that is because we did not

14 want them operating without a license but we

15 did not want to interrupt their business

16 activity. So the temporary permit was granted,

17 but it was on their end to go ahead and do the

18 filing and get before the Liquor Board to get

19 it issued.

20 MR. KUPERSMITH: Right. They've been

21 working on that. They had submitted something

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1 in April, but it was not complete. And he

2 indicated that they should have everything

3 together, the remainder, by the end of this

4 week. And then once Zach puts all that

5 together, he's going to send it over to us.

6 MR. PACK: Okay. Please follow up with

7 Mr. Smith, Zach Smith, the attorney for Eastern

8 Shore Brewery, to make sure that that's done.

9 It's somewhat troubling to me after all

10 this time, again, because our boards and

11 commissions were still meeting, that they

12 haven't gotten that application completed. So

13 let's make sure they do that.

14 Any other comment of Council,

15 Mr. Kupersmith or Ms. Verdery, on this?

16 MS. VERDERY: No, sir.

17 MR. DIVILIO: Just real quick, I got a

18 message that it's hard to hear us. So if

19 everybody could just make sure you try to talk

20 as loud as I normally do.

21 MS. MORRIS: We can hear everybody, but

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1 we're not hearing you, Mr. Pack.

2 MR. PACK: My light is on.

3 MS. MORRIS: Your light is on.

4 MR. PACK: Do we need a test back there?

5 Are you reading me? Is that better?

6 So again, I'll repeat myself. Any further

7 questions of Mr. Kupersmith or Ms. Verdery at

8 this time? Hearing none, the chair would ask

9 for a show of hands on introduction of this

10 matter.

11 By Council, Madam Secretary. And you have

12 given me a bill number of 1447. And I'm

13 assuming we're going to do the public hearing

14 on the same date as 1446. Is that correct?

15 We'll have to set this for a work session

16 as well. Do we have a work session scheduled

17 for this?

18 SECRETARY: I believe Ms. Morris is still

19 looking at one.

20 MS. PRICE: Are we convinced that we

21 really need a work session on that? I think we

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1 had that conversation before.

2 MR. PACK: At this point, I'm willing to

3 yield the work session if Council is so fit. I

4 believe it's just going to be us and ESG, but I

5 don't want to be too presumptuous with that.

6 As soon as we do that, we're going to have

7 someone jumping up and down saying we didn't

8 consider their opinion.

9 MS. PRICE: But we're going to have a

10 public hearing.

11 MR. PACK: I would set it in very briefly

12 and then be done with it. That's my concern.

13 MS. PRICE: I mean we are going to have a

14 public hearing. So people always have a chance

15 to voice their opinion on it. And we don't

16 have to vote certainly that night.

17 I think a public hearing is sufficient in

18 my opinion.

19 MR. PACK: I'm open for Council.

20 MR. LESHER: I'd agree.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, I'm fine with that.

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1 MR. PACK: Do you want to go ahead and
 2 keep this -- do we have enough time to do it --
 3 we're going to bypass the work session, then,
 4 under the circumstances. This is somewhat of a
 5 special consideration, if you would. I think
 6 only one applicant really applies here.
 7 Will the July 14th date also be available
 8 for public hearing on 1447?
 9 SECRETARY: Yes. That is the public
 10 hearing date.
 11 MR. PACK: So we're going to put 1447
 12 public hearing on July the 14th at 6:30 p.m.
 13 We'll do both of those the same day. And
 14 Council has agreed to suspend or not have the
 15 work session on this matter. It is agreed
 16 upon. Okay.
 17 Next, Council, we have another public
 18 hearing. And this is on the Community
 19 Development Block Grant. And we're going to
 20 get Ms. Morris in here.
 21 MR. HOLLIS: She's coming.

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1 MR. PACK: Ms. Morris, I'll turn it over
 2 to you.
 3 MS. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Pack. Through
 4 the CARES Act, the Maryland Department of
 5 Housing and Community Development is going to
 6 open up another round of their Community
 7 Development Block Grant programs, specifically
 8 to handle projects that prevent, prepare for,
 9 or respond to the coronavirus.
 10 It's only open to eligible jurisdictions.
 11 That means you have to have a county that is
 12 less than 200,000 people in size.
 13 We contacted each of the municipalities to
 14 see what needs they may have, and he did hear
 15 back from the Town of St. Michael's, who put us
 16 in touch with St. Michael's Community Center.
 17 They would like to expand their food support
 18 program, and they are seeking grant funds in
 19 the amount of about 160,000, which would help
 20 them continue their community café program, a
 21 food bank coordinator program, and expand some

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1 of their food service.
 2 We also were in touch with Talbot County
 3 Public Schools. And for the summer, they would
 4 like to continue their summer snack and dinner
 5 program. This would be in addition to the food
 6 service that they were already providing
 7 through Sodexo.
 8 And we also heard from Upper Shore Aging,
 9 which operates the two senior centers here in
 10 Talbot County. And there has been an increased
 11 need for Meals On Wheels as seniors have not
 12 been able to access the senior centers for
 13 meals. So they are requesting funding in the
 14 amount of about 115,000, which would provide
 15 meals for an additional 31 participants.
 16 And then lastly, we were in touch with
 17 Dr. Wadley with the Talbot County Health
 18 Department. And she has a proposal for a
 19 social home for seniors and disabled adults,
 20 which I'll let Dr. Wadley speak to.
 21 MR. PACK: Dr. Wadley, good seeing you.

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1 How are you? The floors is yours.
 2 DR. WADLEY: So probably you've heard me
 3 talk more than you want to hear about the
 4 Senior Care Program. But in that program,
 5 we've done rather well combining programs and
 6 services to sort of get economies of scale.
 7 What we're finding with COVID is that a
 8 lot of those seniors that have family coming in
 9 or someone else, neighbor or whatever coming
 10 in, are not doing that now. That's probably
 11 good because they're at a risk of bringing in
 12 to that individual.
 13 But another thing when we found out that a
 14 category for this grant was also disabilities.
 15 One of our growing populations that we have not
 16 been able to do a great deal of help for,
 17 because there's been no resources, is the
 18 disabled, and the disabled that is below 65
 19 years of age. And with our chronic disease
 20 rate, then there's more and more becoming
 21 disabled in their 50s and 60s.

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1 And so when you looked at our population
 2 figures and you saw that our estimates in 2019
 3 were 37,181, estimate for our population, and
 4 when you looked at 29.2 percent of that is 65
 5 and older, not all of those are below poverty,
 6 but even in the most conservative estimates,
 7 when our total poverty level is 9.2 percent,
 8 and even if you said well, we're twice what
 9 other counties are for the senior population
 10 and you said only 9.2 percent are below
 11 poverty, then we've got a little over 10,000
 12 that is 65 and over.

13 So if you figure only 500 are below the
 14 poverty level, and we've actually looked, just
 15 a few years ago it was 484, so that's about
 16 right, then you know also if you look at the
 17 disabled, we've really got, for low income of
 18 the disability and the seniors, about 2,000
 19 individuals. Okay.

20 We know we serve a little over 200 a year.
 21 The Senior Care Program allows you to

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1 serve seniors up to 2,800. I think 2,900 now.
 2 We never get close to that figure. In fact,
 3 the majority of ours, about 80 percent, are
 4 below \$1,500 a month. That's even below
 5 125 percent of poverty.

6 So we're finding more and more with the
 7 disabled that need help and the seniors. So
 8 that's the reason we put the program together.

9 It's for two years. And a significant
 10 portion of it is sort of like we get for the
 11 senior program. It's for when there is no
 12 other resource available existing but they
 13 still need a copayment on medications or some
 14 help in the home to not go into nursing home or
 15 whatever. That's what those dollars are for.
 16 So we also put that in this.

17 We've used some of existing staff, because
 18 we do know we're going to have some cuts in the
 19 programs that we have now for seniors. Not a
 20 cut in the budget, per se, but in the way the
 21 State is going to allow us to do exams. It's

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1 going to be about 37,000 less this next year.
 2 So this is a combination of using those
 3 staff, also getting part-time other staff to
 4 come in. And so for two years, that's what our
 5 budget is. About 157,000 of that is over the
 6 two-year period for resources when there's no
 7 other existing resource for the seniors or the
 8 disabled.

9 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you, Dr. Wadley.
 10 Any questions of Dr. Wadley on her
 11 proposal for this grant? Okay.

12 Council, this is --

13 MR. LESHNER: -- these resources are
 14 available. Thank you for locating them.

15 MR. PACK: Okay. This is a public
 16 hearing, Council, on the Community Development
 17 Block Grant. You have in your Granicus the
 18 outline of these proposals. Ms. Morris did go
 19 through them as well.

20 So we're going to go ahead and open it up
 21 for the public hearing on the Community

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1 Development Block Grant.
 2 Ms. Morris, we have callers online?
 3 MS. MORRIS: Yes. We do have callers
 4 online. I am going to start unmuting the
 5 callers.

6 But we're noticing that some people have a
 7 lot of background noise on their phone. So if
 8 you have people in the background, if you could
 9 just try and keep a little bit quiet while
 10 others are speaking.

11 MR. PACK: Okay.

12 MS. PRICE: They can also mute themselves
 13 until they're ready to speak. I think it's
 14 star six on their cell phones.

15 So could we ask the callers to mute
 16 themselves if you're not speaking?

17 MR. DIVILIO: And to turn off your YouTube
 18 or whatever background is playing as well.

19 MS. PRICE: Yes. Because it's about a
 20 one-minute delay on that.

21 MS. MORRIS: Callers, again, we are

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1 conducting a public hearing. And if you could
 2 please mute your telephone unless you would
 3 like to speak. And if you would like to speak,
 4 could you please announce your name and your
 5 address.
 6 MS. PRICE: And they have to turn off the
 7 YouTube feed.
 8 MR. PACK: It worked. Okay. I'll take
 9 the first caller on the public hearing
 10 regarding the Community Development Block
 11 Grant.
 12 Caller, would you please identify yourself
 13 and your name and your address, and we'll take
 14 your comment at this time.
 15 MS. MORRIS: Callers, could you please
 16 turn off your computers if you're watching
 17 YouTube at the same time?
 18 Again, that is the last call for the
 19 public hearing on the Community Development
 20 Block Grant.
 21 MR. PACK: Okay. I was giving time for

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1 the delay so they can hear you.
 2 It doesn't appear that we have anyone
 3 online who wish to give comment for the public
 4 hearing for the Community Development Block
 5 Grant. This is regarding the COVID-19 funding.
 6 Council, unless there's an objection, I'm
 7 going to go ahead and close the public hearing
 8 at this time. Okay. Hearing none, the public
 9 hearing is now closed, and we're going to
 10 continue on with our agenda items.
 11 Thank you very much, Dr. Wadley, for
 12 coming in. We appreciate your planning in
 13 helping out with this. Thank you.
 14 Council, next on your agenda, you have
 15 introduction of administrative resolution.
 16 And I'm going to ask Madam Secretary to go
 17 ahead and read the title to that.
 18 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution
 19 authorizing Community Development Block Grant
 20 (CDBG) COVID-19 application for Talbot County
 21 on behalf of St. Michael's Community Center,

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1 Talbot County Health Department, Talbot County
 2 Public Schools, and Upper Shore Aging, Inc.
 3 MR. PACK: And these were the items that
 4 Ms. Morris just read to us.
 5 Ms. Morris, I'll turn it back over to you
 6 in case you have anything additional to add.
 7 MS. MORRIS: I do not have anything
 8 additional to add at this time. Thank you.
 9 The grant is due on June 12th. The public
 10 comments will be accepted until June 11th at
 11 noon.
 12 MR. PACK: Thank you very much.
 13 So there's no additional questions of
 14 Ms. Morris, I will ask for a show of hands for
 15 introduction of the resolution at this time.
 16 Madam Secretary, please note by Council.
 17 As this is an administrative resolution,
 18 it can be moved to second reader at this time
 19 if any member of Council wishes to do so,
 20 making it eligible for vote this evening. The
 21 chair would entertain a motion to move this to

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1 second reader.
 2 MS. PRICE: Move to second reader, motion.
 3 MR. PACK: Made by Ms. Price.
 4 MR. LESHER: Second.
 5 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Any
 6 comment or questions on the motion?
 7 Hearing none, on the matter to move it to
 8 second reader, Madam Secretary, would you
 9 please call the roll for that, please.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 17 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 19 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 20 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, would you
 21 please read the title of the bill again.

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<p>1 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution --</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: I ask that so much be</p> <p>3 considered a reading.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Any objection to Ms. Price's</p> <p>5 motion? Hearing none, the bill is now before</p> <p>6 the Council for final vote. Any additional</p> <p>7 comment or question on the matter?</p> <p>8 Hearing none, this matter is now before,</p> <p>9 this administrative resolution is now before</p> <p>10 Council for final vote. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>11 please call your roll.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 So at this time, we will not be moving</p> <p>2 back into the Bradley Meeting Room, as we would</p> <p>3 hope. The spacing just did not work out when</p> <p>4 we did the walk-through earlier today.</p> <p>5 Mr. Hollis, I'll turn it over to you for</p> <p>6 any further comment on that.</p> <p>7 MR. HOLLIS: To say I'm disappointed would</p> <p>8 be an understatement.</p> <p>9 The social separating and the need for the</p> <p>10 Council not to be masked is just presenting a</p> <p>11 challenge in terms of your dais in terms of the</p> <p>12 separation.</p> <p>13 So we are looking at some other venues</p> <p>14 that may allow us to have better connectivity</p> <p>15 for the public.</p> <p>16 You've seen some problems tonight. It is</p> <p>17 incredibly frustrating to continue to have</p> <p>18 these out here at the Wye Oak Room. So we are</p> <p>19 looking at some other venues that may improve</p> <p>20 on that.</p> <p>21 So while I am hopeful, I think it's a</p>
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<p>1 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Council.</p> <p>2 Moving on, Council, the next item on your</p> <p>3 agenda you see here was the outline to -- as</p> <p>4 you know, we've been here at the Wye Oak Room,</p> <p>5 and listeners at home know, for the last, what,</p> <p>6 Mr. Hollis, I lost track how long we've been</p> <p>7 here now, two months.</p> <p>8 We've been trying to move back home, if</p> <p>9 you would, to the Bradley Meeting Room and</p> <p>10 observe the social distancing.</p> <p>11 Mr. Hollis had called me in. We did a</p> <p>12 walk-through of the spacing earlier today. And</p> <p>13 it just did not feel that we were going to be</p> <p>14 able to do that and keep everyone at a safe</p> <p>15 distance.</p> <p>16 So we're asking to hold off on moving to</p> <p>17 the Bradley Meeting Room until July until we</p> <p>18 get some more things in place.</p> <p>19 We are working continuously with Brian</p> <p>20 Moore and his department regarding hands</p> <p>21 washing stations and spacing and those things.</p>	<p>1 Council decision, but I'm certainly going to be</p> <p>2 expecting to make a recommendation to you about</p> <p>3 another location that offers better services</p> <p>4 for the public in terms of their viewing and</p> <p>5 commenting to you all during the public</p> <p>6 hearings hopefully at your next meeting, if not</p> <p>7 before.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>9 We want to get the public -- as you heard,</p> <p>10 this is just not working as we would have</p> <p>11 hoped. We're dropping calls. There's a lot of</p> <p>12 reverb and so forth. So we're trying to get a</p> <p>13 location where we can get people into the</p> <p>14 building with us, keep them spaced out</p> <p>15 appropriately, and then have the technology</p> <p>16 where they can view the proceedings in</p> <p>17 realtime.</p> <p>18 So I just wanted to keep you guys updated</p> <p>19 that we are working on it. It's just trying to</p> <p>20 balance the technology and the health factors</p> <p>21 all at the same time is presenting a challenge.</p>

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1 So I think we're going to try to reach out
 2 to Kelly Griffith at the school system to see
 3 if there's any space over there we can use as
 4 well because they always have Granicus hooked
 5 up.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: So your feeling, that
 7 there's still not enough room for just us like
 8 this without any public at the Bradley Room?
 9 MR. HOLLIS: We were trying to bring the
 10 public in in a limited amount as well.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: But would it work without
 12 the public for the time being if we were just
 13 there?
 14 MR. HOLLIS: It would be the same setup
 15 you had last time you were in the Bradley Room
 16 down on the actual floor at separate tables,
 17 yes.
 18 MR. PACK: It was very crowded, congested.
 19 The idea is to get the public back with
 20 us, and that's what we're trying to shoot for
 21 so we won't have to worry about this calling

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1 in.
 2 And we have a couple of pretty interesting
 3 public hearings coming up. The Lakeside Trappe
 4 development, I know there's going to be a lot
 5 of public interest in that. Bill 1446 that we
 6 just introduced, I know there's going to be a
 7 lot of public comment for that.
 8 So rather than trying to do this thing by
 9 phone, we're trying to figure a way to get
 10 people in the room. Even if we have to move
 11 people in shifts, you bring 20 in, let them
 12 give comment, and then they would have to shift
 13 out and bring 20 more in if we can't get
 14 everybody in one space. But at least it will
 15 allow them to do it in realtime and
 16 face-to-face comment.
 17 So we're trying to be sensitive to the
 18 fact that we don't want to disenfranchise
 19 anybody when we're losing their call or they're
 20 breaking up and those kind of things. So
 21 that's the struggle, that's really the struggle

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1 right now.
 2 MR. HOLLIS: So Mr. Callahan, I was going
 3 to discuss it under county manager, but we'll
 4 just talk about it now.
 5 Part of the focus was my plan is to bring
 6 the majority of the county, not the majority,
 7 all of county staff back on this coming Monday,
 8 June 15th, those that aren't already working in
 9 their existing offices.
 10 Tied with that, on the 17th we'll be
 11 reopening to the public as well.
 12 I was very focused on trying, since we're
 13 opening county government to the public, that
 14 we should be opening the County Council
 15 meetings to the public as well.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you.
 17 MR. HOLLIS: But certainly be happy to
 18 take direction from you, but that was the focus
 19 of trying to find the ability to bring people
 20 in as well as the Council into the same room.
 21 MS. PRICE: I think it's important that we

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1 have the public in. And while we've tried to
 2 do some limited public hearings here and even
 3 public comment, we see what happens. And when
 4 we've had public comment at the end of the
 5 meetings, it's incredibly difficult for us.
 6 You can't hear us, we can't hear you, there's
 7 the delays.
 8 So if you are going to make, whether
 9 you're planning to make comments tonight or in
 10 two weeks or whatever, if it's not right now in
 11 front of us on the agenda, sit tight. Send us
 12 the e-mail. We are definitely reading all of
 13 those, and that's a lot easier for us to
 14 understand right now.
 15 We're like squinting to hear what you're
 16 saying when you do speak. So if it's something
 17 that can wait two weeks, I don't think there's
 18 anything else on our agenda tonight that we're
 19 making any decisions on other than county
 20 manager's report, we're not making any
 21 decisions on anything. So if what you were

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1 planning to say can hold off until the next
 2 meeting or so, it's going to be a lot easier
 3 for us to hear you because it is important for
 4 us to hear you.
 5 And not just hear you, but see you because
 6 that makes a difference. Being in the same
 7 room with somebody is different than sometimes
 8 just reading a text message or hearing
 9 something over the phone. We want to be in
 10 person with you as up close as we possibly can.
 11 MR. HOLLIS: And just for the public and
 12 the Council's awareness, we have worked with
 13 professional consultants in trying to make the
 14 Wye Oak Room be more conducive to this, to your
 15 Council meetings. We aren't just doing it at
 16 the staff level. We have brought in people
 17 that have greater expertise than us. And we
 18 just aren't at the level that we need to be for
 19 the citizens of the county.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: And I just want to make sure
 21 and echo that. That I have seen countless IT

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1 folks in here trying tonight and previous
 2 meetings. We're doing everything we can.
 3 Unfortunately, there's a lot of user error
 4 on the community part when they're calling in
 5 and that causes some problems as well.
 6 But yes. I greatly appreciate your
 7 efforts to get us back to a room in front of
 8 everyone so that we can just work as best that
 9 we know how. Technology doesn't always fit
 10 what we need it to do.
 11 MR. PACK: There you go.
 12 So with that, Mr. Hollis, I'm going to
 13 throw it back to you for county manager report.
 14 MR. HOLLIS: So we have Mr. Clarke here.
 15 So why don't we start with Department of Public
 16 Works. Mr. Clarke actually has three items all
 17 dealing with repairs; Royal Oak pump station,
 18 region two wastewater treatment plant, and
 19 region five wastewater treatment plant down in
 20 Tilghman.
 21 The first, Council, is a request from

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1 Mr. Clarke for emergency repairs in the amount
 2 \$15,000 for the Royal Oak pump station to Hills
 3 Electric Service.
 4 Mr. Clarke, I don't know if you want to be
 5 specific about that. The charge will go to the
 6 sanitary district.
 7 MR. CLARKE: It will actually go to the
 8 sanitary district for Royal Oak, as well as
 9 Unionville, Tunis Mills, Copperville sanitary
 10 district.
 11 We actually have -- that station we have
 12 two pumps. Those pumps basically pump the
 13 flows from Royal Oak, Newcomb, and Bellevue, as
 14 well as Unionville, Tunis Mills, and
 15 Copperville to the St. Michael's system.
 16 And we had one go in default, a pump went
 17 in default mode. So we had Hills Electric come
 18 out and pull that pump. And we got a price of
 19 \$15,000 to rebuild that pump.
 20 MR. HOLLIS: So Council, this is one of
 21 the rare instances where it was an emergency

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1 repair. So it's already been approved by me.
 2 So we're coming to you after the fact.
 3 MR. PACK: Appreciate that, Mr. Hollis.
 4 Any further comment or question of
 5 Mr. Clarke on the repair of the pump? Okay.
 6 Hearing none, the chair would entertain a
 7 motion to go ahead and pay the bill, \$15,000 to
 8 Hill Electric.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 10 MR. LESHER: Second.
 11 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio, seconded
 12 by Mr. Leshner. Any further comment?
 13 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 14 your roll.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 16 MR. PACK: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

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1 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 3 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay.
 5 MR. HOLLIS: Council, next is a request
 6 for repairs at the region two St. Michael's
 7 wastewater plant treatment plant. And this
 8 work is also being done by Hills Electric. The
 9 amount is \$41,408.30. Again, charged to the
 10 region two wastewater treatment plant repair
 11 maintenance line item.
 12 Mr. Clarke.
 13 MR. CLARKE: We actually, this is our
 14 effluent pump station. We have three pumps.
 15 And ultimately one of -- actually the check
 16 valve had failed on us. So we ended up not
 17 only repairing one of the pumps, but also
 18 buying a new pump and having the new pump
 19 installed as well as a new check valve.
 20 We actually have to have three pumps in
 21 service, especially during wet weather events,

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1 so we can keep up with the flow rates. If we
 2 don't, our collection system is surcharged and
 3 then we could potentially lose wastewater out
 4 of the collection system during a heavy rain
 5 event.
 6 MR. PACK: The price, Mr. Clarke. I had
 7 two different totals here. Is it 41,408?
 8 \$41,408, is that the total?
 9 MR. CLARKE: Yes.
 10 MR. PACK: Okay. The chair would
 11 entertain a motion for \$41,408.30. And this is
 12 going to go to Hills Electric for pump repair.
 13 MR. LESHER: So moved.
 14 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Lesher.
 15 MS. PRICE: Second.
 16 MR. PACK: Seconded by Ms. Price. Any
 17 further comment, question?
 18 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 19 your roll.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 21 MR. PACK: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 6 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 8 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 9 MR. HOLLIS: Last item for Mr. Clarke is
 10 repair of the region five Tilghman wastewater
 11 treatment plant regarding water disinfection
 12 system. That's in the amount of \$17,653.15.
 13 MR. PACK: Mr. Clarke.
 14 MR. CLARKE: This basically was associated
 15 with our water well and water system that we
 16 need the water for our disinfection, chlorine
 17 disinfection as we disinfect the wastewater as
 18 it goes out in the Chesapeake Bay.
 19 Unfortunately, this is one of those things
 20 that we had to have done immediately. And if
 21 we didn't have this upgraded, we would have

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1 been violating our permit.
 2 The one advantage we do have is that we do
 3 batch feed at the Tilghman plant. So we were
 4 able to basically pump the wastewater out and
 5 lower our pond levels. And then that allowed
 6 us to get in there and repair the well as well
 7 as water system and get it back online.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. Any other questions of
 9 Mr. Clarke on this? Chair would entertain a
 10 motion for payment to Shannahan Well Company in
 11 the amount of \$17,653.15 for well water repair.
 12 MR. LESHER: I move to approve.
 13 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Lesher.
 14 MS. PRICE: Second.
 15 MR. PACK: Seconded by Ms. Price. Any
 16 further comment?
 17 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 18 your roll.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 5 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 7 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 8 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you, Mr. Clarke.
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Clarke.
 10 MR. HOLLIS: Council, we annually make a
 11 request to you to approve the transfer in this
 12 case of the 2020 housing bond allocation from
 13 the Maryland Department of Housing and
 14 Community Development. It's in the amount of
 15 \$1,358,574.
 16 They use that money to issue bonds to fund
 17 housing programs, low interest loans for
 18 mortgages and mortgage credit certificates. We
 19 return that money back to DHCD. They issue it
 20 on our behalf.
 21 There are expenses and staff requirements

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1 involved with that. So it's easier to have
 2 them do it for us.
 3 MR. PACK: One day we're going to have our
 4 own housing program that we can use this money
 5 for. That is my ultimate dream.
 6 But nonetheless --
 7 MS. PRICE: Make a motion to turn it back
 8 to Maryland Department of Housing and Community
 9 Development housing bond allocation.
 10 MR. PACK: By Ms. Price.
 11 MR. LESHER: Second.
 12 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Lesher. Any
 13 further comment, question?
 14 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 16 MR. PACK: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

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1 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 3 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 4 MR. HOLLIS: Board appointments. For the
 5 Golf Board, we're requesting the appointment of
 6 Barry Mangor to the board.
 7 MR. PACK: Is there a motion?
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Make a motion.
 9 MR. PACK: By Mr. Callahan.
 10 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 11 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Divilio.
 12 Further comment?
 13 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 14 your roll.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 16 MR. PACK: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

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1 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 3 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 4 MR. HOLLIS: Talbot Family Network. We're
 5 requesting the appointment of Chief Anthony
 6 Smith, St. Michael's Police Department, and the
 7 reappointment Cindy Green, Department of
 8 Corrections; Estella Ramirez, Chesapeake
 9 Multicultural Resource Center; Jasmine Paxon of
 10 Talbot Mentors; Jeanine Beasley, Midshore
 11 Behavioral Health; Marlene Thomas, Critchlow
 12 Adkins; and Pamela Challet of the University of
 13 Maryland Extension Office.
 14 MR. PACK: Is there a motion for these
 15 members on the Talbot Family Network Board?
 16 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it.
 18 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio. Seconded
 19 by Mr. Callahan. Any further comment,
 20 discussion?
 21 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call

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<p>1 your roll.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>9 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: That hasn't happened in some</p> <p>13 time.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: I know. I've been doing so</p> <p>15 well.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: There were several months where</p> <p>17 she was rolling that right off.</p> <p>18 MR. HOLLIS: So Council, I (inaudible)</p> <p>19 myself, but just once again for the public's</p> <p>20 information in particular, county staff, all</p> <p>21 that have been out working remotely or reduced</p>	<p>1 pandemic. And we're going to do our best to</p> <p>2 make sure our employees and the public are</p> <p>3 safely returned to our county office buildings.</p> <p>4 So thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: One question. So when we</p> <p>6 reopen to the public when it comes to permits</p> <p>7 and inspections, so they'll be allowed to go in</p> <p>8 I'm assuming?</p> <p>9 MR. HOLLIS: They'll be physically able to</p> <p>10 come in, yes. We've always been open, as I</p> <p>11 always like to say. But absolutely, physical</p> <p>12 visits on the 17th.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: So will we be able, on the</p> <p>14 other side, will we be able to go in that side</p> <p>15 on Planning and Zoning and then will we be able</p> <p>16 to go to the Health Department?</p> <p>17 MR. HOLLIS: Yes. Any area you were able</p> <p>18 to enter prior to the pandemic will be reopened</p> <p>19 again.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.</p> <p>21 MR. HOLLIS: Again, there will be</p>
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<p>1 staffing in departments, we're all reporting</p> <p>2 back to work on Monday, the 15th. The public</p> <p>3 will be back in on Monday the 17th.</p> <p>4 There is a three-page plan put together</p> <p>5 that I authored that has been reviewed by the</p> <p>6 health officer, Clay Stamp with Emergency</p> <p>7 Services, and the Council president. They have</p> <p>8 all looked at this and signed off on it.</p> <p>9 They've also signed off on the reopening, which</p> <p>10 was part of your executive declaration.</p> <p>11 The vast majority of this information</p> <p>12 about how to reopen pertains to county</p> <p>13 employees. There is a small portion that</p> <p>14 pertains to the public.</p> <p>15 We will be getting that information out in</p> <p>16 a press release, making sure we post signs.</p> <p>17 Part of it's a learning experience, but I</p> <p>18 think we're in pretty good shape. We tried to</p> <p>19 keep it pretty simple. But we are aware</p> <p>20 obviously that people still have ongoing and</p> <p>21 legitimate concerns about COVID-19. There is a</p>	<p>1 protocols.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, yeah. I understand.</p> <p>3 MR. HOLLIS: Very limited for the public.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: I was just getting a lot of</p> <p>5 calls, can you actually physically go in.</p> <p>6 MR. HOLLIS: That point, Mr. Callahan, is</p> <p>7 a very important one that you raise. So Bay</p> <p>8 Street has several entrances.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>10 MR. HOLLIS: We need to look at</p> <p>11 consolidating that, which I think is part of</p> <p>12 what you're talking about.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.</p> <p>14 MR. HOLLIS: We are not ready to do that</p> <p>15 because some physical improvements need to be</p> <p>16 in place as well. But we will be working on</p> <p>17 that, yes, sir.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Perfect.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Good question, Chuck.</p> <p>20 But I want to, again, extend my gratitude</p> <p>21 to Brian Moore and his team. Brian has a small</p>

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1 staff, as we know. And to get all of this
 2 together, he had to buy materials, he had to
 3 buy supplies to make sure that we had things in
 4 place to open back up again and do so in a safe
 5 manner. So I just want to tip my hat to him.
 6 I know he's not here. Mr. Hollis, if you can
 7 pass that onto him, my gratitude for getting
 8 this all together.

9 You can see some of the examples out here
 10 in the lobby area here at the Wye Oak Room, the
 11 Community Center I should say, where he's
 12 already put up the screening in place.

13 So Brian, kudos to you. Great job. We
 14 certainly appreciate it.

15 We're welcoming the public back into our
 16 buildings. Of course, face masks are going to
 17 be required. That's really a Town of Easton
 18 ordinance that the mayor put out several weeks
 19 ago. Also, social distancing. And we will
 20 have I believe sanitation stations with hand
 21 sanitizer for persons to use as well.

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1 So the soft opening is a good approach to
 2 give the staff a couple of days just to get the
 3 feel of it, how it's going to operate.

4 One thing that Mr. Hollis didn't mention
 5 is that we will be requiring staff to have
 6 temperature checks each morning. So when they
 7 come onto work, they will have to check their
 8 temperature and record that temperature and put
 9 in into a folder for recordkeeping purposes.

10 I will also be asking Council when we
 11 return back to wherever we're going to return
 12 back to and be in close quarters with one
 13 another, whether it be the Bradley Room or
 14 another location, I will be asking that we also
 15 show a good example and temperature check
 16 ourself as well. I think we need to do that
 17 just to make sure that we are healthy to be
 18 around each other. I take that very, very
 19 seriously, as you know.

20 So when we do leave this area, and if we
 21 have to go back to the Bradley Room, if that's

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1 the only place we can figure this thing out and
 2 we have to do it, let's temperature check each
 3 other, let's wear our masks, and let's keep
 4 each other safe as we possibly can and show a
 5 good example of what we're trying to do.

6 So thank you, Mr. Hollis, for that. And
 7 welcome public back on 17th, welcome staff back
 8 on the 15th.

9 And with that, Ms. Morris, I'm going to
 10 ask for, I'm going to try this again, we have
 11 public comment portion of our agenda. Is
 12 anyone on the line?

13 MS. MORRIS: We do have nine callers on
 14 the line. I would ask, again, that people turn
 15 their phones on mute until they're ready to
 16 speak.

17 MR. PACK: According to Ms. Morris, we
 18 have nine callers online. This is the public
 19 comment portion.

20 If you're speaking for yourself, please
 21 let us know and we'll give you three minutes.

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1 Mr. Callahan has the clock. If you're speaking
 2 for a group, please let us know what group or
 3 entity you're speaking for. We'll give you
 4 five minutes on the clock.

5 MS. PRICE: Isn't public comment just
 6 personal, though? It's not really a public
 7 comment with a group.

8 MR. PACK: That is true, Ms. Price. So
 9 we'll set it at three minutes then. Thanks for
 10 the correction on that.

11 So we'll set it at three minutes,
 12 Mr. Callahan, since this is public comment and
 13 not an actual public hearing.

14 Again, the ground rules are give us your
 15 name, your address. We'll give you three
 16 minutes on the clock.

17 And I'll take the first caller now. Yes,
 18 sir.

19 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Hi. My name is Benjamin
 20 Rubinstein. I'm in Trappe, Maryland, on
 21 Chancellor Point Road.

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<p>1 Can you hear me?</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Yes, I can.</p> <p>3 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Thank you for the</p> <p>4 opportunity to speak to the Council tonight.</p> <p>5 I'm down here in Trappe. We've been always</p> <p>6 drawn to the (inaudible) community in Talbot</p> <p>7 County that really prides itself for</p> <p>8 togetherness. And this county has made</p> <p>9 incredible progress in terms of recognizing the</p> <p>10 reality of its (inaudible) history by</p> <p>11 recognizing Frederick Douglass on the court</p> <p>12 house grounds.</p> <p>13 But we come here as an ally of Black Lives</p> <p>14 Matter to recommend the needed removal of the</p> <p>15 Confederate Talbot Boys monument that includes</p> <p>16 the Confederate battle flag that sits next door</p> <p>17 to the abolitionist and American hero Douglass.</p> <p>18 History is important to remember so we can</p> <p>19 teach our future generations, but this isn't</p> <p>20 history. This monument honors slavery, racism,</p> <p>21 and white supremacy and was created as white</p>	<p>1 members (inaudible) in the world to make the</p> <p>2 decision to remove the monument and flag from</p> <p>3 our court house grounds immediately.</p> <p>4 Thank you for your time.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Thank you for calling,</p> <p>6 Mr. Rubinstein.</p> <p>7 Council will hear the next caller, please.</p> <p>8 MS. HICKS: This is Keisha Hicks calling</p> <p>9 in for public comment. Can you guys hear me?</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: We can.</p> <p>11 MS. HICKS: Okay. I live at 8671</p> <p>12 (inaudible) Street in Easton, Maryland.</p> <p>13 And I certainly do echo what the caller</p> <p>14 just said as well. However, I'm calling on</p> <p>15 another matter.</p> <p>16 So as you all know, an e-mail was sent to</p> <p>17 Councilman Pack, and I want to thank Councilman</p> <p>18 Pack, Councilman Leshner, Councilman Callahan,</p> <p>19 and Councilman Divilio for returning my call</p> <p>20 last week in regards to my proposal to create a</p> <p>21 racial equity task force in Talbot County.</p>
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<p>1 supremacy propaganda during the Jim Crow era in</p> <p>2 1916.</p> <p>3 This is an opportunity for the county to</p> <p>4 act and take a stand as they recognize the</p> <p>5 racial injustice that is happening in our</p> <p>6 country and in the county. And recognizing</p> <p>7 people who believed and fought for slavery is</p> <p>8 only a part of the problem. This is an</p> <p>9 opportunity for Talbot County to be a part of</p> <p>10 the solution.</p> <p>11 The (inaudible) even Richmond, Virginia,</p> <p>12 has even acted by removing their Confederate</p> <p>13 monuments on both State and city land. And</p> <p>14 even the US Navy Marine has banned the</p> <p>15 Confederate flag. And now it is time for</p> <p>16 Talbot County to do the same.</p> <p>17 I want to thank you for the opportunity to</p> <p>18 speak, and I stand in solidarity with the black</p> <p>19 people in this county and all over the world</p> <p>20 fighting against racial injustice. And I</p> <p>21 really hope and pray that you as Council</p>	<p>1 Most disappointed, Councilwoman Laura Price,</p> <p>2 that you did not return my call, but that's</p> <p>3 fine.</p> <p>4 I really want to let you guys know that it</p> <p>5 is very important that the County Council stand</p> <p>6 up for racial inequality across the board in</p> <p>7 Talbot County. We know that 83.2 percent of</p> <p>8 Talbot County is white, 12.9 is black, and</p> <p>9 6.8 percent is Hispanic. And there is systemic</p> <p>10 racism across the board, not only in</p> <p>11 government, but in our community.</p> <p>12 So that was really the premise behind</p> <p>13 proposing the task force. And it's</p> <p>14 disappointing to see that Councilman Pack did</p> <p>15 not let this initiative go forward.</p> <p>16 So with that, I want you guys to look</p> <p>17 around the room right now and look at each</p> <p>18 other. There's no one in that room that looks</p> <p>19 like me, and I'm talking about a black female.</p> <p>20 And for that reason, that is why I wanted us to</p> <p>21 start the communication in regards to racial</p>

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1 inequity in Talbot County.
 2 So I hope you will consider working with
 3 me and Mr. Dan Watson on the Talbot Coalition
 4 Against Racism to forward the communication and
 5 continue the communication in regards to racism
 6 in Talbot County.
 7 So thank you for your time this evening.
 8 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Ms. Hicks.
 9 Council will hear the next caller.
 10 MS. CURDY: Hello. Can you guys hear me
 11 okay?
 12 MR. PACK: Yes, we can.
 13 MS. CURDY: My name is (inaudible) Curdy.
 14 I'm from Caroline County, Maryland, but spent
 15 most of my time growing up in Talbot County.
 16 First I'd like to acknowledge and honor
 17 George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade,
 18 Anton Black, and the many other black Americans
 19 that have lost their lives to police violence.
 20 Frederick Douglass, famous abolitionist
 21 and skilled writer, was born into slavery in

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1 Talbot County. Talbot County has no trouble
 2 honoring Douglass, but at the same time uphold
 3 the racist Talbot Boys Confederate statue on
 4 the court house grounds. It is insulting to
 5 the legacy of Frederick Douglass to have these
 6 two statues stand side by side.
 7 This is absolutely unforgivable and must
 8 be changed immediately.
 9 The Talbot Boys statue has never been
 10 ethical. Shame on Talbot County to let stand
 11 this monument that honors 84 racist soldiers
 12 that defended the right of southern whites to
 13 own black Americans as property.
 14 The defense of this statue is an absolute
 15 defense of overt and systemic racism.
 16 As Comptroller Peter Franchot pointed out
 17 in a recent statement, the Talbot Boys statue
 18 is the last Confederate statue still standing
 19 in Maryland.
 20 There is no reason for Talbot County to
 21 protect and uphold this statue.

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1 Talbot County should honor everyone.
 2 I am embarrassed to say I am from the
 3 Eastern Shore because of things like the Talbot
 4 Boys statue. There is no reason we should be
 5 50 years behind the rest of Maryland.
 6 I demand that Council members take a step
 7 toward the future and remove the abhorrent
 8 statue.
 9 Thank you. Black lives matter.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Ms. Curdy.
 11 MS. PRICE: Mr. Pack, may I have a point
 12 of order?
 13 MR. PACK: Yes.
 14 MS. PRICE: Callers should be from Talbot
 15 County.
 16 MR. PACK: I think she said she moved to
 17 Talbot County.
 18 MS. PRICE: No. She has spent time here,
 19 but she said she's from Caroline County.
 20 So I just think that it's more appropriate
 21 that any public comment and e-mails, they need

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1 to identify where they're from just so that we
 2 are aware.
 3 And this is for Talbot County citizens, at
 4 least in my opinion.
 5 MR. PACK: Very well noted. I thought I
 6 heard her say that she moved to Talbot County,
 7 but I may have been mistaken.
 8 The Council will take the next caller,
 9 please. Please give us your name and address
 10 so that we can make sure that you are calling
 11 from within the county, please. Next caller.
 12 MR. WATTS: Yes. This is Keith Watts.
 13 Can you hear me?
 14 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.
 15 MR. WATTS: Yes. 5800 Tilghman Beach
 16 Drive in Tilghman Island, Maryland.
 17 And I'm going to keep my powder dry as far
 18 as the short-term rental issues are concerned
 19 because I think that's probably better
 20 addressed since we're having a public hearing
 21 that's coming up.

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1 As to the most immediate comment that was
 2 just made about people being in Talbot County,
 3 I believe that we have people in executive
 4 positions who do not live in Talbot County. So
 5 it's the pot calling the kettle you-know-what
 6 to raise that issue, especially in light of the
 7 fact that the caller was making a comment on
 8 the death of George Floyd. And if only people
 9 in Talbot County count, then maybe that statue
 10 should be pulled down, but it should be pulled
 11 for all Americans, not just for people who live
 12 in Talbot County.

13 I am so, so tired of the us and them and
 14 the people who live in Talbot and the people
 15 who don't. They are citizens of the United
 16 States of America. They are people who come to
 17 Talbot County to spend their tax dollars and
 18 their tourist dollars that benefit all the
 19 citizens of Talbot County, they benefit the
 20 citizens of Maryland, and they benefit the
 21 citizens of the United States.

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1 If there's going to be an us and them,
 2 then I'm with them. The unmitigated nerve to
 3 distinguish if you want people to be voting,
 4 then they'll start registering to vote and
 5 we'll make sure that that sort of foreigners
 6 sentiment is stamped out.

7 Black lives do matter. And they as much
 8 matter as any person sitting in that room, as
 9 any person sitting as a Council member, as
 10 anyone who lives in Talbot County or who
 11 doesn't live in Talbot County. The idea that
 12 we are not there with open arms for people is
 13 repugnant to me, and it should be repugnant to
 14 you as public servants.

15 As I said, I'll keep my powder dry for the
 16 upcoming STR proposals. Everyone on the
 17 Council pretty much knows where I stand. And
 18 the other ten people sitting in my living room
 19 with me, who I will not identify nor give you
 20 their addresses, but I think that they pretty
 21 much agree with me too.

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1 And I thank you for your time. I know
 2 these are difficult times. But to engage in
 3 that sort of ad hominem attack and pettiness,
 4 quite frankly, it's unforgivable. You should
 5 be leaders of healing, not of division and
 6 separation. And I know that most of you
 7 sitting there are.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 MR. PACK: Thank you for the call, Mr. --

10 MS. PRICE: I am going to clarify. I am
 11 going to clarify for a moment because we are
 12 elected for the Talbot County citizens, and
 13 this forum is to hear from the people who live
 14 in Talbot County.

15 It doesn't mean that we don't care what
 16 they think, and they're welcome to do that.

17 But in this forum, I believe that it is --
 18 we've always asked for a name and address in
 19 these forums for ten years I've been here, have
 20 been for Talbot County citizens to speak on.
 21 They are the ones who elect us here.

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1 It's not about us and them at all.

2 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Price.
 3 Council will hear the next caller.

4 MS. CARNEY: Hello.

5 MR. PACK: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. CARNEY: Hi. It's Laura Carney, 7236
 7 Travelers Rest Circle in Easton.

8 Just a short (inaudible) in regards to the
 9 short-term rentals. I know that it was really
 10 hard for everybody to hear tonight, and I hope
 11 that the version of the in and out, I mean I
 12 couldn't hear most of it when you were
 13 discussing the different changes in the
 14 legislation coming up.

15 But there's some things that I think Mary
 16 Kay had mentioned in regards to the additional
 17 health requirements or health office
 18 requirements that homeowners need to go
 19 through. And I think what we had heard in the
 20 past, I think some of those things have been
 21 changed.

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1 And I just want to make sure that we're
 2 all clear and on the same page that some of the
 3 benefits that you all were trying to do in the
 4 changes being made, but I think that there were
 5 some other things that were tweaked that we
 6 weren't aware of that have made it a little bit
 7 more cumbersome.
 8 So I just in that regard want to make sure
 9 that moving forward, we are lessening the work
 10 on everybody, making it more simple and just
 11 easier.
 12 So that's all I have to say. I think
 13 we'll pick it up the next couple of weeks. And
 14 thank you for your time.
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you for calling,
 16 Ms. Carney.
 17 For anyone listening, the draft of the
 18 Bill 1446, you can find that on the county
 19 website. So if anybody is interested in what
 20 Ms. Verdery was referencing during her comments
 21 earlier today, please go to the county website.

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1 You can find Bill 1446 there.
 2 Council will hear the next caller. Yes,
 3 Council will hear the next caller.
 4 MS. THOMPSON: Hello.
 5 MR. PACK: Yes, ma'am.
 6 MS. THOMPSON: Hi. Can you hear me?
 7 MR. PACK: Yes, ma'am.
 8 MS. THOMPSON: Hi. My name is Emily
 9 Thompson. I apologize (inaudible). I think
 10 it's important that you hear this now. And if
 11 no action is taken, we can come back in person
 12 at a later date.
 13 Earlier this week, I sent you all an
 14 e-mail stating why I think that the Talbot Boys
 15 statue should be taken down. So instead of
 16 repeating these points, but I'm sure you
 17 already (inaudible), I'll just say this.
 18 There will be future County Council
 19 members in Talbot that will take this statue
 20 down. There is a will to do this in this
 21 county, and the voters will remember. We can

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1 wait around all we want.
 2 But you have an opportunity now to stand
 3 for something and to listen to black voices.
 4 This is not a national or statewide issue that
 5 you can argue away. And (inaudible) our
 6 community is done memorializing racists,
 7 nonetheless memorizing them on our court house
 8 lawn.
 9 And I guess the question now is are you
 10 going to wait and let your successors do the
 11 work that you should have done years ago or are
 12 you going to take action?
 13 Personally I would be embarrassed. I
 14 would be embarrassed to be on the County
 15 Council as the face of Talbot County right now.
 16 All around Maryland, all around the country, we
 17 have seen actual leadership, not only in taking
 18 down these Confederate monuments, but taking
 19 further tangible actions to be antiracist.
 20 This right now is the least you can do.
 21 Show your community members that you do not

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1 sympathize with rebels against the United
 2 States and white supremacists. Show your
 3 community you have the nerve to do something.
 4 It is not only your legacy, it is the legacy of
 5 my home, it is the legacy of the Eastern Shore
 6 and the legacy of our community. So please
 7 take this moment and do the right thing.
 8 Thank you.
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Thank
 10 you for writing in and for calling in.
 11 Council will hear the next caller.
 12 Council will hear the next caller.
 13 Ms. Morris, do we still have callers on
 14 the line? I have six. I believe you said we
 15 have nine. So maybe there's three more callers
 16 out there.
 17 You want to go ahead and unmute yourself
 18 and let us hear from you, caller?
 19 MS. PRICE: They could just be listening.
 20 MR. PACK: I know there's a delay. So I'm
 21 trying to wait.

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1 Council will hear you, caller.
 2 MS. HARDESTY: This is Jody Hardesty.
 3 MR. PACK: Yes, Jody. How are you?
 4 MS. HARDESTY: I'm well. Thank you.
 5 I do want to reiterate what Mr. Watson
 6 said, that there absolutely is an attitude of
 7 an us and them that for me is Talbot County.
 8 And while I have something prepared to
 9 address the short-term rental licensing issue,
 10 I understand that we can examine that more
 11 closely. And I've actually sent you my
 12 comments in an e-mail.
 13 So rather than saying them, just to press
 14 on the point that I think this is an important
 15 topic that needs to be addressed by you as the
 16 Council and by others within the county
 17 government.
 18 We sat through Review Board hearings where
 19 the citizens that were coming forward out of
 20 concern that their neighbors were renting their
 21 houses did, in fact, state that they were

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1 afraid of foreigners coming in and renting
 2 houses near them. There's absolutely an
 3 attitude of us and them, despite Ms. Price's
 4 assertion that there isn't.
 5 And I want to make sure that we, as other
 6 citizens, stamp that out as much as possible
 7 and welcome anyone and everyone to Talbot
 8 County who wishes to be here. Thank you.
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Jody.
 10 Next caller, Council will hear you now.
 11 Next caller, Council will hear you now. Turn
 12 down your phone, please, your radio.
 13 Yes, caller, we'll hear from you now.
 14 We'll hear from the next caller now. Is anyone
 15 there?
 16 MS. MORRIS: It sounds as though people
 17 are now hanging up, Mr. Pack.
 18 MR. PACK: Okay. We had one, two, three,
 19 four, five, six, seven, we had seven callers
 20 for public comment.
 21 We certainly appreciate all of those

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1 persons who took the time to call in for public
 2 comment. This is what this is about, for this
 3 Council to hear from you. So we certainly
 4 appreciate you taking the time to stay with us
 5 and call in.
 6 Again, we know that it's somewhat
 7 cumbersome, but we're trying to do the best we
 8 can with the technology that we do have.
 9 And we want to thank the staff that we
 10 have here, the technicians that we have here
 11 with us. They've been here I think since four,
 12 4:30 today getting things set up and running
 13 mike tests. So we certainly want to salute
 14 them and thank them very much for all that
 15 they've done to get us up and running today.
 16 So with that being said -- is there a
 17 caller there?
 18 We're going to move out of public -- is
 19 that me?
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: I think he said can you
 21 hear me.

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1 MR. PACK: Is there a caller there?
 2 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Can you hear me?
 3 MR. PACK: Yes, sir. Go ahead. Right at
 4 the wire.
 5 MR. RUBINSTEIN: What?
 6 MR. PACK: You're right at the wire. Go
 7 ahead.
 8 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Okay. Hi there. I'm in
 9 Trappe, Maryland, here and just wanted to say
 10 I'm absolutely outraged.
 11 MR. PACK: Sir, can we get your name
 12 please, sir?
 13 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Yeah. Sorry. I'm Ari
 14 Rubinstein and I am in Trappe, Maryland,
 15 (inaudible) Road.
 16 I just wanted to say I am extremely
 17 outraged and disappointed in Talbot County,
 18 Easton, Maryland. They haven't taken this
 19 symbol of Confederacy and slavery and white
 20 supremacy and racism.
 21 I'm surprised that we're at this point,

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1 though. And honestly, I don't understand how
 2 you guys think black people in Easton,
 3 Maryland, can feel safe seeing that statue
 4 every single day going into Easton. Think
 5 about that. I mean I personally cannot. I
 6 can't. I can't specifically feel, know how to
 7 feel because I'm a white person, but I just
 8 think this is -- I can't believe this is still
 9 a question.
 10 You guys just need to think about what
 11 side of history you want to be on. As someone
 12 said before, this is going to happen in the
 13 future. We're going to irradicate (inaudible)
 14 of oppression in the future. And you guys just
 15 have to think about what you're going to say to
 16 the people after you when they ask you why
 17 didn't you do this. You need to be on the
 18 right side of history.
 19 Thank you.
 20 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Levi.
 21 Is there anyone else for public comment?

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1 We don't want to miss anyone. I want to
 2 make sure we give everybody an opportunity to
 3 speak and to be heard. We know there is a
 4 delay.
 5 Anyone else for public comment?
 6 Okay. We're going to go ahead and close
 7 the lines for public comment then.
 8 Again, we certainly appreciate everyone
 9 who called in at this time.
 10 Council, the last matter we have before us
 11 is Council comments. I shared with you all
 12 some comments that I wanted to give tonight.
 13 But before I do so, I want to open it up for
 14 you all.
 15 And Mr. Divilio, can I go to you first for
 16 any Council comments?
 17 MR. DIVILIO: No.
 18 MR. PACK: Okay. You said no. I said
 19 okay. That was quick.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Thanks. So there's a lot to
 21 say, a lot that I feel, but few words that I

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1 know how to put out correctly for what I want
 2 to say.
 3 For me, I've heard -- I've learned a lot
 4 over of the last week. I've spoken with many
 5 different people.
 6 I attended the rally on Saturday, which
 7 was very peaceful, very civil, which I'm
 8 thankful for, which is the civility that I love
 9 about Talbot County.
 10 We've received a lot of correspondence
 11 about the Talbot Boys statue. I've been told
 12 things of tear it down, I've been told remove
 13 it, I've been told to fix it, to complete it,
 14 to add the other names to it, I've been told to
 15 add another statue next to it. I've been given
 16 lots of different recommendations, lots of
 17 different ways of correcting, of changing
 18 history.
 19 I've done a lot of research and looked
 20 around at different monuments around us, at
 21 what Chestertown has laid out, how similar in

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1 style that can be to what we have, which is a
 2 very fair one with both sides on it. It's a
 3 great memorial. If you haven't been to
 4 Chestertown, I'd recommend checking out all of
 5 them.
 6 A lot of these phone calls that I had, a
 7 lot of the discussions, the e-mails have come
 8 in just over of the last couple of days, we
 9 could have taken executive action tonight I
 10 assume to make a decision. Most properly, it
 11 would have been put on the agenda, which would
 12 have been Friday by noon.
 13 And I don't have a plan of what to do with
 14 any of those options, whether just to leave it
 15 in rubble in the yard or complete it or what or
 16 remove it or who would even accept it.
 17 This is obviously a very large issue for
 18 the community. There's a lot of respect that I
 19 am paying and that I owe to our current Council
 20 members who have been through it one or two
 21 times already with hearings where they've

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1 received a lot of information. And they've
 2 made decisions in the past based off of what
 3 they've heard and felt from the community.
 4 So at this time, there is a chance. And I
 5 am enjoying what I'm seeing. I can't -- I'm
 6 from Talbot County. My father was a surgeon in
 7 Talbot County, my mother was a teacher here. I
 8 grew up, incredible lifestyle. I knew
 9 everybody, everybody treated me great. I was
 10 very fortunate.
 11 Then when I ran for office, all of a
 12 sudden I came across people that absolutely
 13 despised me without even knowing who I was.
 14 And that can't even relate at all to what an
 15 African American has to go through. And I
 16 recognize that.
 17 So you're going to continue to hear a lot
 18 about this Talbot Boys statue obviously from
 19 this Council. Many of us plan to address it,
 20 some tonight.
 21 So nobody is sitting back on this. This

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1 is definitely a time for change, in my opinion.
 2 And with Juneteenth coming up here next week,
 3 this is a significant time in my life. And at
 4 39 years, I'm very excited for it.
 5 So we'll see how things go. And next time
 6 I'll probably prepare a speech.
 7 MR. PACK: You did fine, Mr. Divilio.
 8 Mr. Leshner, can I go across the room over
 9 to you for comment?
 10 MR. LESHNER: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 11 This Saturday, I attended the large
 12 gathering also on the court house square
 13 protesting police abuse and the killings of
 14 African Americans across America by those sworn
 15 to protect us.
 16 This Council approved a public assembly
 17 permit for that event, as did the Town of
 18 Easton. And I want to thank the organizers and
 19 participants for, as Mr. Divilio characterized
 20 it, a peaceful, a civil, I'll add a diverse and
 21 non-violent demonstration.

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1 I also want to compliment the Easton
 2 Police Department for its preparation and
 3 communications to keep the peace and our Talbot
 4 County Sheriff for his presence and his
 5 intervention.
 6 I was pleased to see a number of my
 7 colleagues on this Council present handing out
 8 water and staff present at that event and the
 9 one the following day in St. Michael's.
 10 I was questioned about the wisdom of the
 11 Council's decision to grant the public assembly
 12 permit. And I am elated but not at all
 13 surprised that the fears of violence and
 14 outside infiltrators were completely
 15 unsubstantiated.
 16 I found in that event particularly moving
 17 the protracted moment of silence, one of the
 18 largest groups that I have ever seen on the
 19 court house square on bended knee keeping
 20 silence to the extent that we could hear the
 21 birds singing. This moment silently yet

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1 powerfully spoke volumes about our community.
 2 And I'm proud of that community.
 3 On Saturday, we, as part of that, heard a
 4 call to revisit the Talbot Boys monument.
 5 We've heard more tonight, we've received
 6 e-mails, we've seen the social media, we've
 7 seen it in the newspaper to revisit the Talbot
 8 Boys monument and its appropriateness on the
 9 court house square.
 10 Since that time, we've received all this
 11 additional, most of them calling for its
 12 removal.
 13 We are reminded of the history of this
 14 monument, how it was erected, not in the
 15 immediate aftermath of the Civil War, more than
 16 half a century later at a height of over racial
 17 discrimination in American.
 18 Its sponsors pointedly excluded
 19 memorializing Union soldiers from Talbot
 20 County, some of whom were black. They wanted
 21 people to know, regardless of who lost the war,

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1 who was now in charge in Talbot County. And it
 2 included those who fought against their native
 3 Maryland and against the United States.
 4 We've been told how this monument gives a
 5 knot in the stomach of some of our neighbors as
 6 they must walk by this powerful symbol of
 7 racism on their way into the halls of justice
 8 that is our county court house.
 9 However we revisit this discussion today,
 10 we must. We cannot simply ignore this issue.
 11 The time has come to remove it.
 12 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 13 Ms. Price, I'm going to move over to you
 14 for comment, if you wish.
 15 MS. PRICE: Thank you. I'd like to start
 16 off by thanking the great citizens of Easton
 17 and Talbot County for their positive, peaceful
 18 responses over the last several weeks. We have
 19 witnessed a tragedy, and it is a tragedy when
 20 anyone's life is senselessly taken away.
 21 What I am thankful for is the unique

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1 community that we live in and that we can all
 2 exist beyond the hatred that many other towns
 3 and cities have demonstrated.
 4 The Council has to thank our law
 5 enforcement departments for staying on the job,
 6 for putting the needs of others above
 7 themselves, for their unyielding empathy and
 8 positive support during this time. Law
 9 enforcement, emergency management, our medical
 10 teams have risen to the unbelievable challenge
 11 that we all face.
 12 To those in the law enforcement
 13 profession, you have blazed a path on how other
 14 law enforcement persons can and should handle
 15 themselves. Your attention to diversity and
 16 inclusiveness must be commended.
 17 My heart goes out to Andy, Clay, Fredia,
 18 and the emergency management operations team
 19 and all the county staff for their tireless
 20 commitment to the operation of the county
 21 during these unprecedented times of the

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1 pandemic and the senseless taking of a life.
 2 We mourn for those who lost their lives
 3 needlessly, who have experienced the stress and
 4 uncertainty of losing their businesses or their
 5 livelihoods, and those who continue to struggle
 6 to remain in business. We can be thankful for
 7 our citizens' thoughtful and caring response to
 8 this perfect storm of events. And we can pray
 9 that the tide may be moving in the right
 10 direction on some of these difficult events.
 11 Our focus should be on the well-being and
 12 the betterment of our families here in Talbot
 13 County. Our duty as your elected officials is
 14 to express your needs. Let us focus our
 15 energies on helping the individuals in need and
 16 position the county to best weather and conquer
 17 these seemingly insurmountable challenges.
 18 You have placed your faith in us to lead,
 19 and we will do so and have done so without
 20 prejudice or self-gratification. And this is
 21 not the time to grandstand for personal gain or

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1 to give in to emotion or undue pressures, but
 2 to put the well-being of our neighbors first
 3 and foremost.
 4 Thank you.
 5 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Ms. Price.
 6 Mr. Vice President, I'll turn to you for
 7 comment.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. President.
 9 Once again, I'm like Mr. Divilio, I'm just
 10 going to comment on some things that are on my
 11 heart and my gut.
 12 There probably isn't a person on the
 13 planet that looked at that TV and screen and
 14 felt horrified. I sure did. I didn't know
 15 really what to make of it other than just a
 16 senseless person that was supposed to be
 17 helping the public. And it turned out that
 18 obviously this person here has some real, real
 19 problems.
 20 And not only that, not only that, I was
 21 horrified with the people standing beside him,

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1 that I was, I just couldn't imagine.
 2 And really what brought to my mind is that
 3 my experience, I've been in the -- given what I
 4 am as a firefighter. And when I looked at
 5 that, I've been in the fire department for 36
 6 years, and I'm there to help people, save
 7 people. And I couldn't imagine being in that
 8 moment and not trying to help get that officer
 9 off of him. I couldn't imagine that.
 10 So when we train, and I thought about
 11 this, when you train, when you train to save a
 12 person or you protect a person, when you save
 13 him, you don't see color, you see action to
 14 help somebody. And that's what struck me.
 15 We definitely are at a moment where there
 16 needs to be a huge amount of training and a
 17 process of training because my mind works to
 18 save that person and not brutalize and treat
 19 that person in a bad manner or kill them. My
 20 mind isn't that way.
 21 There is time, I agree, it's a moment in

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1 time right now that is going to be some change.
 2 I'm okay with that. I'm for that.
 3 We live in a phenomenal community. All my
 4 heritage is here in this community. There's
 5 not many people that I haven't worked with,
 6 worked for, helped. Been on hundreds and
 7 thousands of fire calls to help people.
 8 And now it's the time maybe to go to
 9 another level and the next step.
 10 Obviously this statue has been a source of
 11 talk for many, many, many years. Maybe there
 12 is some options that we can look at, but I'd
 13 like to have some time to think about it
 14 myself. I don't want -- this whole thing has
 15 happened in the last couple of weeks. So I
 16 really want to be able to do the right thing
 17 and the right thing for Talbot County.
 18 And I really appreciate -- I was at the
 19 rally, too. I was handing out water. And I
 20 was looking and listening to people. Very
 21 calm, very -- I commend Joe's men, the

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1 Sheriff's Department, and the mayor, and the
 2 chief on doing a great job in letting people
 3 vent what they want to vent. Okay.
 4 And that's what it's all about. It's all
 5 about people expressing their views. Okay.
 6 And there's nothing wrong with that.
 7 There is one thing I do have a problem
 8 with. There's one thing that it's a sore
 9 subject. If you have a sign, I'd like for you
 10 to take it back with you and not leave hundreds
 11 of signs. It causes disruption. It's a little
 12 bit more respect I think if you bring
 13 something, you take it with you. So that's
 14 just my view. I know it was a touchy subject
 15 when it come to all these signs and laying them
 16 on the ground and stuff. But hey, we got
 17 through it.
 18 It was very peaceful. I'm like you,
 19 Mr. Leshner. There's a moment in time where
 20 everybody was together that day, everybody.
 21 Everybody was really on the same wavelength.

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1 But I'm glad I went. I'm glad I experienced it
 2 because a lot of people are afraid of that kind
 3 of stuff. They really are. And it's nothing
 4 to be afraid of. If anything, it's an
 5 enjoyment with everybody gathering and thinking
 6 for that moment for people that have been in a
 7 bad situation and been mistreated.
 8 So I think we need to think through this
 9 as a Council.
 10 I think, Mr. Pack, the president, I really
 11 want to commend you with a lot of things that
 12 in creating maybe some new opportunities for us
 13 and looking at this in a different perspective.
 14 So I really appreciate the callers calling
 15 in and voicing their opinions. I don't take
 16 any of that personal whatsoever. Never will.
 17 Never did and never will. Because everybody,
 18 that's why we have these comments. And that's
 19 why we live in a society where you can say your
 20 peace and move on.
 21 And that's why I feel like it was a great

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1 moment in time Saturday and there might be
 2 more.
 3 And the other thing, the last thing I want
 4 to say is I really appreciate the people that
 5 are reaching out and e-mailing me. I'll do my
 6 best to acknowledge you. You take the time to
 7 write the e-mails. I try to make the time to
 8 acknowledge you that you have written me.
 9 So with that being said, I really
 10 appreciate the last couple of weeks of people
 11 contacting me. And you're welcome to call me
 12 to talk through this with me and any ideas that
 13 might be on your mind. I'm open to it. I
 14 appreciate the opportunity to talk.
 15 Thank you.
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 17 I have a few remarks here. So I'm going
 18 to ask the Council to bear with me as I read
 19 through this.
 20 Normally I do not prepare formal written
 21 comments for Council comment. But at this

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1 time, I felt a deep need to do that.
 2 This has weighed on me these past several
 3 days watching the news. Watching the image of
 4 Mr. Floyd's final moments upon this earth has
 5 weighed on me very, very heavily.
 6 We attended the rally, I would say the
 7 demonstration on Saturday. Several Council
 8 members were there. We heard, we saw it for
 9 ourselves the peaceful demonstration of these
 10 young people.
 11 And I will tip my hat to the young people
 12 who organized this for the manner in which they
 13 conducted themselves. There was no damage of
 14 public property. Sure, they may have left a
 15 few signs behind around the court house lawn,
 16 but that was not of great concern to me. We
 17 got those picked up by the end of the day.
 18 So let me try to get through this as best
 19 I can.
 20 It's hard for me to imagine that any
 21 reasonable person could have viewed the arrest

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1 of George Floyd and not be appalled by the
 2 actions of the Minneapolis Police Department.
 3 For nearly nine minutes, one assailant placed
 4 his knee at the base of Mr. Floyd's neck,
 5 including two minutes and 53 seconds when he
 6 was non-responsive, while another knelt on his
 7 back and ribcage. And if that wasn't enough
 8 force to restrain Mr. Floyd, a third assailant
 9 knelt on the back of his legs. While these
 10 three crushed Mr. Floyd into the city street, a
 11 fourth, compliant, stood over them and looked
 12 up and down the street as if he was waiting on
 13 an approaching bus.
 14 Watching this behavior from people who are
 15 supposed to serve and protect the public is so
 16 frustrating and upsetting to me. I have asked
 17 who is at the gate to allow individuals who
 18 have so little regard for human dignity to
 19 become sworn officers.
 20 I cannot help screaming there must have
 21 been other incidents, there must have been

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1 other citizen complaints, there must have been
 2 red flags to alert the command staff that they
 3 had a loose cannon in their hands.
 4 But often when we see these type of abuse
 5 of powers, it is systemic of a deeper problem
 6 in the hiring and psychological evaluation of
 7 perspective employees.
 8 Police training tactics focus more on how
 9 to inflict bodily harm and restrain an
 10 individual and less emphasis on how to
 11 deescalate and evaluate the situation from a
 12 mental health or public safety approach and not
 13 as a paramilitary action.
 14 I've often said that there are bad police
 15 officers, just as there are bad auto mechanics.
 16 After 25 years in public safety, I have
 17 worked with many good and decent officers,
 18 dedicated men and women who work with the
 19 community and not against it, officers who work
 20 ten-hour shifts and then go out and coach
 21 football until sunset, officers who would load

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1 a group of kids in a bus and take them to an
 2 amusement park or to a baseball game.
 3 Yes, just like there are good HVAC
 4 technicians, there are good police officers.
 5 But unlike an auto mechanic or a
 6 technician, officers have a sworn duty to
 7 protect all the people, regardless of race or
 8 gender.
 9 When I, when we see the death of George
 10 Floyd, it brings back images of Eric Garner and
 11 Tamir Rice and Brianna Taylor, to name just a
 12 few, black men and women who were killed by
 13 police officers. The name of the city may
 14 change, but the characters do not, white male
 15 police officers assaulting and killing unarmed
 16 black citizens.
 17 This nation has recently experienced two
 18 public health emergencies, as we continue to
 19 deal with the opioid and coronavirus epidemics.
 20 But police brutality against the African
 21 American community has been a public health

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1 crisis for decades. There has not been a
 2 national movement to address the problem.
 3 The federal government has allocated
 4 millions of tax payer dollars, and rightly so,
 5 to stop the death toll attributed to opioid
 6 abuse and the deadly COVID-19. But there must
 7 be an equal urgency to address police brutality
 8 as a national health crisis.
 9 Several states, including Maryland, have
 10 recently passed the justice reinvestment
 11 legislation to defund correctional institutions
 12 and reinvest those dollars into socioeconomic
 13 programs to help train citizens for employment
 14 in the community and not behind prison bars.
 15 An equal commitment from legislators must
 16 be undertaken to stop the spread of black
 17 deaths at the hands of people who are sworn to
 18 protect them.
 19 I have been asked recently about Talbot
 20 County's commitment to racial diversity and
 21 whether a task force needs to be created. Let

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1 me say first I am proud of the county's record
 2 on fair and equitable hiring and the promotion
 3 of minority candidates.
 4 County staff under the direction of the
 5 county manager has engaged in cultural
 6 competency training in 2014 with the Chesapeake
 7 Multicultural Resource Center. In FY17 and
 8 FY18, the county funded the Cultural Competency
 9 Strategic Plan, facilitated by Dr. Stuart
 10 Bounds. Before the COVID-19 shutdown, county
 11 participated in the Courageous Conversation
 12 Beyond Diversity training sponsored by the
 13 Talbot Family Network in partnership with the
 14 Talbot County Public Schools.
 15 The Talbot County Sheriff's Department
 16 also joined in the cultural competency
 17 training. And the deputies also participated
 18 in the county's conversation on race.
 19 Over the last five years, Sheriff Gamble
 20 has hired 21 new employees, of which ten were
 21 minorities, five African Americans, one

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1 Hispanic, and four females. And to his credit,
 2 Sheriff Gamble hired the first Spanish speaking
 3 deputy in the history of the department.
 4 While I am proud of the steps that we have
 5 taken to bring diversity training to our staff
 6 and our hiring of qualified minority
 7 candidates, there is still work to be done.
 8 And the last thing that I want to do is rest on
 9 our laurels. We can do better, and we must be
 10 better, as the citizens we serve expect and
 11 deserve nothing less than our best.
 12 The public demonstration in Easton on
 13 Saturday was amazing to witness, the movement
 14 of the young citizens peacefully assembling and
 15 calling out the names of George Floyd and the
 16 others who have died at the hands of police
 17 officers.
 18 It was Dr. Martin Luther King who said the
 19 riot is the voice of the unheard.
 20 While what we saw on Saturday certainly
 21 was not a riot, it was hard not to hear the

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1 voices and to ask yourself what can I do to be
 2 an agent of change in my community. And I
 3 certainly hope that each of the participants of
 4 the demonstration on Saturday will engage in
 5 some way to move the needle to create and
 6 implement actionable items that will improve
 7 the health and well-being of the people around
 8 them.

9 As I thought about the voices and cries
 10 for change, I too had to ask myself how can I
 11 help to ensure that diversity stays an
 12 important part of the county's policies and
 13 regulations.

14 With that thought in mind, I am asking the
 15 Talbot County Council to consider the following
 16 requests to enhance diversity of county
 17 government and respond to the voices of the
 18 people.

19 First, I am requesting that the county
 20 manager produce a report within 30 days to the
 21 County Council describing what diversity

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1 training, seminars, or work groups county staff
 2 has attended in the last two fiscal years and
 3 what additional action items are being
 4 implemented to maintain positive and diverse
 5 workforce.

6 Second, I am requesting that the County
 7 Council work to create a Diversity Statement to
 8 be included in the county's Employee Handbook.
 9 Such a statement should outline the county's
 10 commitment to create and maintain a diverse
 11 workforce, a place where diverse ideas and
 12 thoughts are a welcome part of the work
 13 environment.

14 Third, my third request was originally to
 15 ask this body, the County Council, to consider
 16 placing a question on the 2020 presidential
 17 election ballot which would ask the citizens of
 18 Talbot County to decide if the Talbot Boys
 19 statue should be removed.

20 It is no secret that this Council as well
 21 as prior Councils has been asked to relocate

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1 the Talbot Boys statue.

2 The idea of a ballot question was to put
 3 the decision back to the people, from which it
 4 came more than 100 years ago.

5 Yet after consulting with the Office of
 6 Law, it was discovered that in order for such a
 7 question to be placed on a State election
 8 ballot, it would require a vote of the General
 9 Assembly and all ballot questions must be
 10 submitted to the State Election Board no later
 11 than July 31st.

12 As it appears that these two factors will
 13 not permit the question to be placed on the
 14 2020 president election ballot, it is,
 15 therefore, my request that this Council
 16 consider a resolution to prohibit all statues
 17 depicting persons, signs, or symbols of
 18 military action on the court house grounds.
 19 The resolution would not prohibit monuments
 20 listing the names of Talbot County veterans of
 21 war.

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1 The fourth request is for the Council to
 2 consider a ballot question to change from an
 3 unlimited term of office to a term-limit
 4 Council. Term limits would be one way to
 5 ensure new people and new ideas come onto the
 6 Council on a more regular basis. It is
 7 recommended that two consecutive terms to be
 8 set as the new limit and that exiting Council
 9 members would be required to wait one term
 10 before being eligible to take a seat on the
 11 Council.

12 My last request of this Council is to
 13 consider sending a letter to our federal
 14 representatives seeking their support of the
 15 Justice and Policing Act of 2020. This federal
 16 act is a comprehensive approach to hold police
 17 agencies accountable, change the culture of law
 18 enforcement, and build trust between law
 19 enforcement and our communities.

20 These recommendations are made to this
 21 Council in the hope that Talbot County will

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1 always be a place where people of different
 2 race, religions, and cultures are welcome to
 3 live, to work, and to participate freely.

4 Thank you, Council, for hearing me out.

5 The County Council's next meeting will be
 6 held on Tuesday, June the 23rd, beginning at
 7 six p.m. The Council will be convening in open
 8 session at 4:30 and immediately adjourning into
 9 closed session to discuss real estate, legal,
 10 and personnel matters, as stated on the closing
 11 for closing that meeting.

12 Madam Secretary, is there any more matters
 13 before Council?

14 SECRETARY: No, sir.

15 MR. PACK: Council, we are adjourned.

16 Thank you.

17 (Meeting concluded at: 8:45 p.m.)

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19

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1 STATE OF MARYLAND

2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 4 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 was interrogated by counsel.

5

I further certify that the examination was
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 in a true and accurate manner.

8

I further certify that the stipulations
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 presence.

10

I further certify that I am not of counsel
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.

13 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 15th
 day of June, 2020, at Easton, MD.

14

15



16

 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

17

18

19

20 My commission expires September 16, 2021

21

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