



Maryland

COMMERCE SUBCABINET

August 28, 2023

Department of Commerce, World Trade Center

17th Floor Conference Room

401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore

1:00 - 2:30pm

Minutes

Subcabinet:

- Kevin Anderson, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
- Kevin Atticks, Secretary of Agriculture
- Y. Maria Martinez, Special Secretary, Governor's Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)
- Jake Day, Secretary Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) – Virtual
- Joshua Kurtz, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources – Virtual
- Michael Higgs, Director, State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)
- David Zaidain, Chief of Real Estate & Transit Oriented Development, for Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Virtual
- Portia Wu, Secretary, Department of Labor
- Rebecca Flora, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
- Sanjay Rai, Acting Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
- Deputy Secretary Suzanne Dorsey for Serena McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Susan C. Lee, Secretary of State

Guests:

- Will Castleberry, Maryland Economic Council Chair
- Joe Griffiths, MDP, Regional Resources Workgroup Leader
- Ashley Sharp, Deputy Chief of Staff, Labor
- Eduardo Hayden, GOSBA
- Rose Cruz, Chief of Staff, DHCD - Virtual
- Alexandria Liu, Chief of Staff, Secretary of State
- Signe Pringle, Deputy Secretary, Commerce
- Julie Woepke, Executive Director, MEDC, Commerce
- Jim Palma, Commerce
- Mike Siers, Commerce
- Heather Gramm, Commerce
- Jayson Knott, Commerce – Virtual
- Kamil Williams, Special Advisor to the Secretary, MDP – Virtual

I. Meeting called to Order

Secretary Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and invited any attendee new to the Subcabinet meeting to introduce themselves.

II. Review and Approval of July 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the July 31, 2023 meeting approved.

III. Commerce Update

Secretary Kevin Anderson began his presentation noting the importance of the State's economy keeping up with the goals of the Moore-Miller Administration and the impact of data in decision making. He then illustrated the Commerce organizational chart highlighting the Office of Policy, Research and Government Affairs. He noted that in addition to the legislative functions, the Office of Research in this unit supports the Department's mission of attraction, retention and expansion of jobs. He stated the unit also partners with other State Agencies, businesses, and economic partners. He then introduced Jim Palma, Research Director who provided a comprehensive overview of the research capabilities within the Office. Mr. Palma answered questions from the Subcabinet related to research sources, availability of data, partnering, growth modeling, predictability modeling, and migration studies. Presentation on file.

Mr. Palma then introduced Economist Mike Siers to provide an economic overview. Mr. Siers reviewed the State's unemployment rate and nonfarm jobs recovery, jobs by industry sector, labor force growth, and real Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Mr. Siers responded to questions and comments from the Subcabinet and indicated the key challenge is labor force and creating a more dynamic economy to boost GDP. Presentation on file.

Secretary Anderson then introduced Will Castleberry, chair of the Maryland Economic Council. Mr. Castleberry provided the purpose of the Council which is in the discovery stage of gathering data; reports; mapping the regulatory environment; reviewing Commerce's programs for return on investment; tax structure; strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis; and industry sectors. He stated a formal meeting will be held this fall with a report issued by January 2024. He answered questions from the Subcabinet.

IV. Regional Resources Workgroup – Reporting Discussion

Joe Griffiths, AICP, Local Assistance and Technical Trainer, MDP, Regional Resources Workgroup Leader addressed the Subcabinet. He referenced the reports submitted by each region and highlighted top issues by region. Mr. Griffiths sought input on the reports content and frequency. He answered questions from Secretaries and stated the format will continue to be refined to address the Subcabinet's comments. Reports in file.

V. Good of the Order

Director Higgs shared his Department had updated logos with "Leave No One Behind" tagline and will forward for distribution.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Future 2023 Meeting dates: September 25, October 16, November 14, and December 18