



November 14, 2023
401 E. Pratt Street, 21st Floor, Maryland Room
Baltimore
10:30am – 12:00pm
Agenda

Subcabinet:

Kevin Anderson, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Steve Connelly, Deputy Secretary for Secretary Kevin Atticks
Lisa Sennar, Small Business Reserve Manager, for Y. Maria Martinez, Special Secretary, Governor's Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) – 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
Joe Griffiths, Local Assistance and Technical Trainer for Rebecca Flora, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Sanjay Rai, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) –Virtual
Suzanne Dorsey Deputy Secretary for Serena McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Susan C. Lee, Secretary of State

Guests:

Tunji Adenekan, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor – Virtual
Ashley Sharp, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Labor
Alexandria Liu, Chief of Staff, Secretary of State
Signe Pringle, Deputy Secretary, Commerce – Virtual
Julie Woepke, Executive Director, MEDC
Jennifer LaHatte, Managing Director, OPRGA – Virtual
Jayson Knott, Senior Director – Virtual
Heather Gramm, Assistant Secretary

I. Meeting called to Order

Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:32am.

II. Review and Approval of October 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting approved.

III. Chair's Report

Secretary Kevin Anderson opened the meeting by illustrating the Department organizational chart focusing on the Office of Tourism and functions. He then introduced Ms. Liz Fitzsimmons, Managing Director of the Office of Tourism and Film who proceeded to provide an overview of the state of tourism of Maryland. She reviewed the Office's mission and vision statements, its measureable objectives – market expansion, leveraging partnership, maximizing opportunities and transactional outcomes. She described the data collected for the measurements and the leading five (5) differentiators that make Maryland competitive.

Ms. Fitzsimmons presented a comparison of the State's competitors; FY 23 direct tourism consumption taxes collected; the competitive rate of visitation growth; Maryland's market reach; the economic impact of tourism in Maryland; visitor spending; marketing and content of latest campaign; highlights of tourism development for 2024 and 2025; social media outlets. Presentation on file.

Ms. Fitzsimmons then answered questions from the Subcabinet. The discussion included the available data on the economic impact by region; level of spending exceeding inflation; increase in average daily rates of lodging; apprenticeships; status of convention center; and resources needed to increase tourism.

IV. Regional Resources Workgroup

Mr. Joe Griffiths, AICP, Local Assistance and Technical Trainer, Department of Planning addressed the Subcabinet and discussed the progress of a new format to provide items of interest rather than report out of current activity. Mr. Griffiths stated he is working with Team Leaders who continue to be challenged with limited team participation and reporting. Report on file.

Secretary Anderson then presented a concept of a Rapid Business Response Team led by Commerce to address two (2) functions – business retention and expansion for reactive (issues to resolve) and business attraction for proactive (bringing a team together to prevent issues and support attraction). This new team would bring bottlenecks, policy issues, and preemptive solutions to the Subcabinet. He requested the Subcabinet provide Agency points of contact of a level of authority to address, correct, and direct solutions in support of businesses.

Secretary Anderson then proposed the Regional Resource Workgroup eliminate the reporting and meetings, yet continue to list the agency contacts on the webpage.

Secretary Anderson opened the floor for discussion. The Subcabinet discussed the reporting and challenges, and there was no objection to moving forward with the Rapid Business Response Team concept. He requested the Subcabinet provide names to begin the formation of the Team. Memo on file.

V. Good of the Order

No additional information was discussed.

The open meeting was then closed at 11:38am upon a motion made by Secretary Rai and seconded by Secretary Lee and approved by all voting members, the meeting was closed pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305 (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State." Confidential and financial information is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-335).

PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING ("CLOSING STATEMENT") UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General Provisions Article § 3-305)

1. Recorded vote to close the meeting:

Date: 11/14/23

Time: 11:38am

Location: 401 E. Pratt Street, 21st Floor, Baltimore

Motion to close meeting made by: Secretary Rai Seconded by Secretary Lee

Vote to Close Session	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Secretary Kevin Anderson, Chair	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Secretary Kevin Atticks	[]	[]	[]	[x]
Secretary Jake Day	[]	[]	[]	[x]
Secretary Rebecca Flora	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Director Michael Higgs	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Secretary Josh Kurtz	[]	[]	[]	[]
Secretary Susan Lee	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Special Secretary Y. Maria Martinez	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Secretary Serena McIlwain	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Secretary Sanjay Rai	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Secretary Paul Wiedefeld	[]	[]	[]	[x]
Secretary Portia Wu	[x]	[]	[]	[]

2. Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).

This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:

(1)___ "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals";

(2)___ "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business";

(3)___ "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto";

(4) X "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State";

(5)___ "To consider the investment of public funds";

(6)___ "To consider the marketing of public securities";

(7)___ "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice";

(8)___ "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation";

(9)___ "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations";

(10)___ "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans";

(11)___ "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination";

(12)___ "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct";

(13)___ "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter";

(14)___ “Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.”

(15)___ “To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices.”

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body’s reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

§3-305(b) (4) topics: Discussion and evaluation of business development projects which includes the disclosure of confidential and financial information.

4. For each topic listed in #2, disclosure of the reason for discussing it in closed session rather than open session.

Confidential and financial information is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-335).

5. This statement is made by Secretary Kevin Anderson, Presiding Officer.

VI. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, closed session was adjourned at 12:01pm.