



April 17, 2024  
Colwell Center at University System of Maryland  
Room 2036, 701 E Pratt Street, Baltimore  
3:00 – 4:30pm  
**Minutes**

**Commissioners in attendance:**

Dana Stebbins, Chair	The Cornelius Group, Inc.
Dr. Nia Banks	Beaux Arts Plastic Surgery, Art of Balance Spa
August “Augie” Chiasera	M&T Bank – Virtual
Nakeia Drummond	The Women Entrepreneur Leadership/(theWELL) NLD Strategic
J. Russell Fugett, PMP	Jumla Network
M. Elizabeth Georg	Managing Attorney, Deep Creek Title Group
Seth Goldman	Eat the Change – Virtual
Reginald Hilton	EZRA, Coaching LHH - Virtual
Israel “Izzy” Klein	Klein/Johnson Group
Ginger Noble, MBA	Business Operations & Tax Preparation – Virtual
Leon Pinkett, III	Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation (BARCO)
Darius Stanton	The Stanton Group, Inc. – Virtual
J. Kevin White	Global Vision 2020, Inc. – Virtual
Miguel Wilson	Miguel Wilson Collection, Inc.
Scott Zakheim	Landmark Ventures – Virtual

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Kevin Anderson	Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce
Jason Perkins-Cohen	Deputy Secretary for Secretary Portia Wu, Department of Labor
Tom Sadowski	Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO)
Troy LeMaile-Stovall	Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) – Virtual

**Guests:**

Eben Smith	Incoming Commissioner, Three E Consulting Group
------------	---

**Commerce Staff:**

Julie Woepke	MEDC Executive Director
Heather Gramm	Assistant Secretary
Jen LaHatte	Managing Director – Virtual
Jerel Register	Chief of Staff
James Palma	Director of Research

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Stebbins called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

**II. Review and approval of March 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Fugett provided an edit to the draft minutes. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, minutes of March 20, 2024 as amended were approved.

### **III. Chair's Report**

Chair Stebbins began her report by stating that with the conclusion of the Legislative Session, the Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse and Recovery and the preparation of the strategic planning process, it has been an eventful and intense month. She continued with reporting that as the MEDC representative on the Maryland Economic Council (MEC), she remains engaged with the Council's discussions to coordinate with the Commission's activities. She stated the Council has developed a preliminary outline of its report due in September that addresses macroeconomic factors impacting the State's economy and policy recommendations.

Chair Stebbins continued by stating the Key Bridge has brought national and international attention to the State and the City of Baltimore. She said that as the Governor has reiterated, it is time to live Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong and seize the opportunity to show the world the support, dedication and remarkable assets and importance of Maryland. In addition, she noted she shared with the Commission last week a communication from Will Castleberry, Chair of the MEC, summarizing some of the Administration's recovery efforts to date. For a closer look, Chair Stebbins asked Secretary Anderson to brief the Commission on the Key Bridge progress and the State's response to businesses, individuals and families.

### **IV. Commerce Update**

Secretary Kevin Anderson began his presentation by providing a brief report on the impact of the Port of Baltimore in terms of jobs, personal income, business revenues, and state, county and municipal tax revenues. He then described the current port re-opening chronology, temporary channel clearing, and anticipated port opening with a 750 foot wide 50 foot deep Federal channel. Secretary Anderson continued with describing the State and non-profit efforts to support businesses, families and the community due to the bridge collapse.

Secretary Anderson reviewed the Governor's two (2) Executive Orders and the adoption of the bi-partisan 2024 Protecting Opportunities and Regional Trade (PORT) Act that approved the distribution of grants, loans and other funding to support workers and businesses impacted. He also described other non-State assistance. Secretary Anderson then reviewed the extensive and coordinated public communication from the Federal, State and local levels.

He concluded by illustrating the recently launched Governor's Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse Response webpage which provides an array of information and assistance, the Multi-Agency State and Maryland Chamber of Commerce Surveys to identify businesses in need of assistance and the Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Alliance of leaders and organizations from philanthropies, businesses, and the surrounding communities to support the families, port workers, first responders, small businesses, and communities affected by the collapse of the bridge. Presentation on file.

Secretary Anderson took questions from the Commissioners. Among the items discussed were: fraud with respect to the loans and grants and how the State is taking efforts to prevent; language translation of documents and communication; effective messaging to date; and exemplary handling of the crisis.

### **V. Strategic Plan**

Mr. Jerel Registre, Chief of Staff, Department of Commerce was asked to provide an update on the Strategic Planning process. Mr. Registre reported that Vision Planning and Consulting was selected to engage stakeholders, research industry sectors and develop the Strategic Plan, He reviewed the project description, criteria for success, and the scope of the project. He continued by providing the timeline for the 16 week project. Presentation on file.

Mr. Registre took questions from the Commission which included the consultant selection process; how this plan will support the State Plan; and engagement of the MEDC Strategic Plan subcommittee.

#### **VI. Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) Bi-Annual Report**

Pursuant to Section 10-415 (b) of the Economic Development Article, TEDCO is to submit to the Commission its bi-annual report for review. Troy Stovall, Chief Executive Officer, highlighted the report for the period of July 1, 2023 – December 30, 2023. He also stated that as a result of actions during the legislative session, there will be increases in technology and innovation funding.

#### **VII. Good of the Order**

No additional information was shared among the Commissioners.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12pm.

Members available were then invited to an informal no host networking at Phillips Seafood, 601 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore.