



April 19, 2024
401 E. Pratt Street, 17th Floor Conference Room
Baltimore
1:00pm – 2:30pm
Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Meryam Bouadjemi, Chair	Office of the Governor
Andy Forssell	HBO Max, Hulu – Virtual
Renard Jenkins	Warner Bros. Discovery – Virtual
David O’Ferrall	IASTE Local 487
Sumi Parekh	Group Effort Initiative – Virtual

Guests:

Julie Woepke	Department of Commerce
Liz Fitzsimmons	Department of Commerce – Virtual
Jack Gerbes	Department of Commerce – Virtual
Catherine Batavick	Department of Commerce

I. Meeting called to Order

Chair Meryam Bouadjemi called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and welcomed all members and attendees.

II. Minutes of the March 15, 2024 Meeting

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the minutes of the March 15, 2024 meeting were approved.

III. Francis Scott Key (FSK) Bridge Update

Chair Bouadjemi explained that the FSK Bridge Collapse on March 26th and its recovery has brought national and international attention to the State and the City of Baltimore. The Governor is messaging that it is time to seize this moment, live Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong and use the incident as an opportunity to show the world the support, dedication and remarkable assets and importance of Maryland. For a closer look, Ms. Julie Woepke will provide a brief given by Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson to the Maryland Economic Development Commission this week, on the Key Bridge progress and the State’s response to businesses, individuals and families.

Ms. Woepke began the presentation by providing statistics on the impact of the Port of Baltimore with respect to jobs, income, business revenues and state, county and municipal tax revenues. She reviewed the chronology of the re-opening and expected fully operational 50 foot deep Federal Channel cleared by the end of May, 2024. Ms. Woepke reviewed the Governor’s Executive Orders and legislative actions to provide assistance to business, families, and workers impacted by the collapse. She focused on describing the business outreach surveys, the launching of a central website

for resources and the coordinated communication that has occurred in the response. She concluded by describing the Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Alliance, which has raised \$15 million and is comprised 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 FSK Bridge. Presentation on file.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Bouadjemi began her report by stating that due to the bridge collapse and recovery efforts and the focused attention by Governor Moore, a number of adjustments have been made to the Governor's calendar. One such adjustment is the Governor's reception at Opening Night and 25th Anniversary of the Maryland Film Festival. She explained that the reception has been removed from his calendar. However, he is committed to providing opening night remarks which we are assisting the communication team in developing with emphasis on the importance of the media and entertainment industry, work of the Council and collaborations. She also stated that there are plans to invite the Council to the Government House in Annapolis this summer.

Chair Boudadjemi thanked Council member Judee Ann Williams and her colleagues at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) for a recent call to discuss the ability of CAA client base to assist in spreading the news on the bridge progress and opportunities to support. She stated they collaborating on the best avenues to leverage the CAA clients and that she would forward the list of clients to the Council. She also mentioned a potential additional fund that is being discussed.

She continued by stating that she had a few additional updates. Last month Secretary Paul Monterio of the Department of Service and Civic Innovation attended the Council meeting to describe the Service Year Program, first in the country. She explained the application deadline has been extended to May 1st and that she was working with the Maryland State Arts Council and the Office of Tourism & Film to submit applications. With the bridge response, she said that the State is identifying even more opportunities for young individuals to provide serve.

Additionally after the last meeting, there was a discussion on the creation of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Wet Lab with Christy Wyskiel, Johns Hopkins University Ventures and Will Castleberry, Chair of the Maryland Economic Council, Netflix Executive and discussions with Council Member Renard Jenkins. She explained Johns Hopkins is in the process of establishing an AI institute and is in the process of hiring professors. She explained it was a very positive conversation and there is interest in collaboration. She also noted that University of Maryland College Park just launched an AI Interdisciplinary Institute. Chair Bouadjemi indicated that there are also discussion with the Governor's Office to identify existing infrastructure to house an advanced production facility.

Ms. Bouadjemi and Council member Jenkins then reviewed several programs at various universities that a lab could be modeled. Presentation on file.

Lastly, she reported that Maryland's legislative session has concluded. HB 1487 was passed and signed by the Governor which expands the number of Council members: 12 individuals who have general experience in the film, television, or entertainment industries and the Secretaries of Commerce, Labor and the Department of Housing and Community Development. It also requires the filing of annual reports to the legislature starting January 1, 2026.

Discussion occurred among the Council which included how the new members would be selected; AI lab models; a potential project at Baltimore Peninsula; need for further discussion on apprenticeships;

schedule for the Maryland Film Festival; movement of productions to Pennsylvania for lower wage rates; and update on service year program.

V. Good of the Order

No further items were discussed.

VI. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.