

WEBVTT

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00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:01.360  
MD Commission on Civil Rights: Cord to the cloud.

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00:00:02.140 --> 00:00:04.989  
Stephanie Suerth: You should be good to go.

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00:00:04.990 --> 00:00:29.380  
Stephanie Suerth: Excellent. Welcome everybody to our December meeting. I appreciate everybody participating either virtually or in person. I know this is a very hectic time of year, as professionally, we're all trying to clean up before you know holidays and New Year, and then also, personally, as we dive into that time. So I'm going to start with our roll call and convening, please, Stephanie Suerth, Commissioner, present.

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00:00:31.050 --> 00:00:33.339  
Angela J. Scott: Angela Scott, Commissioner, present.

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00:00:37.000 --> 00:00:39.800  
MD Commission on Civil Rights: Oh, Eileen Levitt, Commissioner, present.

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00:00:41.170 --> 00:00:42.130  
Stephanie Suerth: I saw you know.

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00:00:42.130 --> 00:00:44.380  
noah metheny: Noah Matheny, commissioner, present.

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00:00:46.760 --> 00:00:56.120  
MD Commission on Civil Rights: Cleveland Horton, executive director, present general counsel. Present Nicolette, young assistant director, present

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00:00:57.600 --> 00:01:01.030  
MD Commission on Civil Rights: Candace Gray, director of education and outreach present.

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00:01:01.680 --> 00:01:07.360  
MD Commission on Civil Rights: and for the record. We do have Spencer go special assistant to the executive director, President as well.

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00:01:08.100 --> 00:01:08.900  
Stephanie Suerth: Excellent.

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00:01:09.130 --> 00:01:20.569

Stephanie Suerth: so we obviously do not have a quorum yet. And I don't know if we'll get to one. If necessary. We will postpone acceptance of the meeting minutes from the last meeting to the New Year.

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00:01:21.538 --> 00:01:35.559

Stephanie Suerth: For my report again keeping this as brief as possible. I just want to say as we're turning this page and going into the New Year, I'm sure you, like me, have really been reflecting on the work we do, and our ongoing pursuits to civil rights.

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00:01:35.960 --> 00:01:41.430

Stephanie Suerth: and then also thinking about how we continue that commitment of the work that's still ahead.

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00:01:41.630 --> 00:01:58.279

Stephanie Suerth: You know, this past year we've we've witnessed great moments and moments that you know. Give us pause and and give us concerns. But I hope that as we go into the New year. It is with hope, and we are able to come together and demonstrate what's possible when we unite with shared purpose.

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00:01:59.250 --> 00:02:06.929

Stephanie Suerth: So I really want us to carry in that resolution to continue contributing to a world where every individual is treated with dignity and respect.

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00:02:06.940 --> 00:02:13.119

Stephanie Suerth: and that we continue to strive to ensure that civil rights are not merely ideals, but are lived realities. For all

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00:02:13.430 --> 00:02:19.750

Stephanie Suerth: that said, I know hope is not passive. It's an active force. It propels us to take meaningful action.

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00:02:19.770 --> 00:02:36.629

Stephanie Suerth: So in the New Year ahead, my hope is that we take those actions to commit to strengthening our partnerships, advancing policies, creating new regulations, and fostering dialogue that promotes understanding, equity and justice. And with the Mccr team I'm sure this hope will be realized.

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00:02:37.270 --> 00:02:42.040

Stephanie Suerth: Together we can make this one new year coming up, a time of hope fulfilled.

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00:02:42.330 --> 00:02:55.869

Stephanie Suerth: and I really would just want to say, Thank every one of you very, very much, and from the bottom of my heart for your dedication, and all that you do to make sure that this vital work occurs and keeps moving forward in a positive direction.

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00:02:56.250 --> 00:02:58.710

Stephanie Suerth: So happy holidays everyone.

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00:02:59.616 --> 00:03:01.549

MD Commission on Civil Rights: You. Thank you. Happy holidays.

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00:03:02.510 --> 00:03:03.760

Stephanie Suerth: That's it. I done.

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00:03:04.880 --> 00:03:05.700

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Okay.

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00:03:06.790 --> 00:03:27.429

MD Commission on Civil Rights: alright. So I don't know how I was supposed to follow that one. But My report. Really, my report really is short the only little thing that I have to really report out on just in essence of time. And I know that we do need to have a a separate conversation. Really is to acknowledge

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00:03:27.430 --> 00:03:48.470

MD Commission on Civil Rights: that we have selected a deputy director, and she has accepted. So Yolanda Yolanda Sonya, who is the current executive director of the Office of Human Rights and Equity, has been selected in Howard County, has been selected, and has accepted the position as deputy director here at the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.

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00:03:48.470 --> 00:04:13.340

MD Commission on Civil Rights: She will officially start on January 20 second. She actually will be here today, as well for our winter fest. So those commissioners that are present and will be present. You all will have the opportunity to meet and greet Yolanda in person during our winter fest here today. So our agency is tremendously excited about the addition of Yolanda to our team.

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00:04:13.973 --> 00:04:33.450

MD Commission on Civil Rights: She brings a tremendous skill set that Mccr. Will greatly benefit from and moving us forward in 2025 and beyond. So again, we are overly excited and ecstatic about being able to secure Yolanda as our newest addition to the Mccr family.

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00:04:35.480 --> 00:04:43.440

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Congratulations. She's very impressive, she is. She is with that, I think. Most of from a staff reporting standpoint

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00:04:43.590 --> 00:04:54.670

MD Commission on Civil Rights: in essence of time. We will defer if there are any questions based off of the reports that were submitted. All staff is here to answer any questions based off of the reports that we've already submitted.

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00:04:54.700 --> 00:05:00.929

MD Commission on Civil Rights: No, I don't have anything other than it doesn't matter, because we can approve the minutes from the last meeting. But they weren't in the email

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00:05:01.030 --> 00:05:15.819

MD Commission on Civil Rights: because they're recordings. Yep, you don't have to vote to approve this. If for some reason. I was thinking about this logically. If for some reason

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00:05:16.181 --> 00:05:40.420

MD Commission on Civil Rights: we have to do written minutes, I'll make sure that they're okay. That's on the agenda, and I'm like here, and I forgot about that detail. So I'll remember next time, maybe, and on on that, too. The captioning did not work last time. So it's based on Youtube's algorithm to auto generate the captions. But we think we fixed it with this recording. So yep.

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00:05:41.130 --> 00:05:58.280

MD Commission on Civil Rights: that's important. Yes, it's incredibly important. I'm going to make sure it's on every Youtube video. But that that's something we've been working on. Yeah, the only the only other thing I do, and I do apologize that I didn't. Highlight is that we do have an event coming up on January the 11th it is protecting civil rights during challenging times.

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00:05:58.280 --> 00:06:19.080

MD Commission on Civil Rights: We thought it was important for us to convene a symposium, bringing together other State agencies, elected officials and nonprofit advocacy organizations to be able to talk about the work ahead of us, as it pertains to protecting civil rights, so that it is going to happen on Saturday, January 11, th 2025,

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00:06:19.080 --> 00:06:26.340

MD Commission on Civil Rights: from 9 to threeish, 9 to 4. We are still solidifying the agenda. It will be at Howard Community College.

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00:06:26.340 --> 00:06:51.280

MD Commission on Civil Rights: The 1st panel will be all of the State and local enforcement agencies to talk about the initiatives that they have in place around protecting civil rights, moving forward any of the foreseeable challenges that they see individually or collective as it pertains to protecting civil rights. The second panel is comprised of law enforcement, and legal professionals

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00:06:51.280 --> 00:07:08.860

MD Commission on Civil Rights: within the State. We will have a representative from the office of the Attorney General, a representative from the Us. Attorney's office will be present. We'll have a representative from Ncac. Which is the Maryland Center for analysis and coordination to talk about hate crimes and how hate crimes are impacting our state.

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00:07:09.060 --> 00:07:27.549

MD Commission on Civil Rights: And I think that's it. We have a member from the office of the public defender, who will also be present during that second panel. The 3rd panel will be comprised of nonprofit and advocacy organizations. We'll have a representative from the State. Naacp Aclu Associated Black Charities.

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00:07:27.600 --> 00:07:45.720

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Who am I missing the Governor's office of community initiatives and a member from the Lgbtq. Commission will be present as well to sit on that panel. The last panel will be a legislative panel that will be comprised of delegate Janelle Wilkins, who is the chair of the legislative black caucus.

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00:07:45.720 --> 00:08:08.060

MD Commission on Civil Rights: The latino caucus has been invited. Speaker Adrian Jones and Senator Bill Ferguson have all been asked to attend. In addition to that county executive. Calvin Ball has also been asked to attend and be present during that last legislative session for the day, so we wanted to make sure that you all were aware, and if you are able

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00:08:08.322 --> 00:08:25.899

MD Commission on Civil Rights: to attend, we highly ask that you all to please, add to your calendars and attend. There is a registration link. We'll make sure that we send it out to you all to make sure you all have it, so that you all can register to attend. Where in Howard County it's Howard County Community College. It'll be at the Smith Theater. Oh, Smith, theater, yeah. Okay.

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00:08:28.630 --> 00:08:31.230

Stephanie Suerth: Great. Thank you. And I saw on the email.

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00:08:31.230 --> 00:08:35.200

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Time is it? From when to when 9 Am. To about 3, 3, 4,

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00:08:40.230 --> 00:08:46.260

MD Commission on Civil Rights: all right, and you'll send us something like registration. Link alright.

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00:08:46.560 --> 00:08:48.450

MD Commission on Civil Rights: January 11.th

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00:08:51.440 --> 00:08:58.580

Stephanie Suerth: And I saw on the report the Equity and Inclusion leadership program is going to restart in September. That's really exciting.

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00:08:58.860 --> 00:09:12.250

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Yes, it is exciting, and I visited the Mako Conference yesterday, and I'll be going back today because we are getting some sign ups, as the inquiry form is open, so we're excited that we will be starting milp again. September 2025.

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00:09:12.920 --> 00:09:17.893

Stephanie Suerth: Yep, I definitely wanna sign up for one of the cohorts, but I gotta finish my dissertation first.st

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00:09:22.210 --> 00:09:25.978

Stephanie Suerth: So you all have to grade me fair.

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00:09:26.450 --> 00:09:27.410

MD Commission on Civil Rights: We'll try.

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00:09:27.540 --> 00:09:44.630

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Were there any other questions for any of the other staff reports that we submitted, staff is more than willing and able to answer any of those questions for any of the other reports at this time. The issue with the shortage in funding, that's all. Resolved, Nope.

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00:09:44.640 --> 00:10:12.589

MD Commission on Civil Rights: that that would be ongoing. We did hear from our budget analyst. That they are still reviewing our request, because we are, whereas most agencies at this time kind of have a general idea of what their funding level will look like for 26. Because this is a priority for the administration. They're still discussing what

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00:10:13.000 --> 00:10:21.789

MD Commission on Civil Rights: if any additional support will be given to the agency? So we're just waiting to hear back from them. And then what happens if they say no, there's nothing.

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00:10:22.471 --> 00:10:47.058

MD Commission on Civil Rights: No, we don't do that, but we will, you know. We. We remain cautiously optimistic that they will fund us at the level that we need and if they don't, we will continue to work with them. To ensure that, you know, we have at least the basic resources to ensure that we don't

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00:10:47.620 --> 00:11:09.286

MD Commission on Civil Rights: have any deficit issues. Moving forward. So we're like, we're just kind of in a holding pattern right now. And but we have been notified by the Administration in multiple conversations that our agency is on the priority list from a funding standpoint. I actually just got off the phone with the the Governor's general counsel this morning to talk about

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00:11:10.030 --> 00:11:27.010

MD Commission on Civil Rights: What's next for State agencies? As it pertains to civil rights, so they are convening a group of individuals to have that conversation, and our agency will be leading that conversation around the impact on civil rights for the State. There is a document that is circulating amongst those agencies

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00:11:27.010 --> 00:11:43.699

MD Commission on Civil Rights: and through multiple times. Throughout the document our agency is listed as the priority to make sure that we get the adequate funding to be able to make sure that we're able to protect the citizens of Maryland. Okay? Because you had sent around that audit report at the last meeting, and it

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00:11:43.750 --> 00:12:12.700

MD Commission on Civil Rights: said that, you know, was whatever, and that it was being addressed. And I just well, those those 2 are kind of separate. Yeah, those are separate. That was a review of like, I think, like 3 or 4 years and of course we whatever the findings that they identified. We did submit corrective actions which they accepted. And so it's a continuous process ongoing for us as far as ensuring that

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00:12:12.700 --> 00:12:37.129

MD Commission on Civil Rights: when they do the next audit, probably in about 2728, that none of those findings occur again. Okay, so totally separate. The deficit they mentioned. You're talking about. The audit is more procedural process, right? The budget. What we're talking about now is different in reference to how much fiscal resources we have to be able to do the work that we need to do.

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00:12:37.630 --> 00:12:49.829

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Okay? Cause I thought there was like a 1 time request or something. Okay. I know I can't keep track of my own stuff.

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00:12:51.640 --> 00:12:57.350

MD Commission on Civil Rights: that's all. I got any other questions, madam. Chair Commissioner Scott, or Commissioner Mcdaney.

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00:12:57.650 --> 00:13:00.890

Stephanie Suerth: I was just gonna say, I defer to you guys have any questions, Angela Noah.

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00:13:01.850 --> 00:13:02.930

noah metheny: None for me.

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00:13:04.170 --> 00:13:09.210

Stephanie Suerth: Okay, it sounds like we are

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00:13:10.280 --> 00:13:13.240

Stephanie Suerth: ready to move on. I love the reports they were.

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00:13:14.370 --> 00:13:16.370

Stephanie Suerth: They're always very helpful. So thank you.

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00:13:17.050 --> 00:13:17.919

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Thank you.

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00:13:19.693 --> 00:13:24.320

Stephanie Suerth: Sorry. Hang on one second, because, of course, I can't see more than one screen at a time. Now

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00:13:24.530 --> 00:13:47.410

Stephanie Suerth: the next is old business, new business. I see upcoming legislative session just a reminder we'll be, you know, moving into that pretty quickly. I know we've, you know, sort of had that meeting and set our priorities so actually, as we get close to the legislative session, I think it might be a good idea to circulate the summary of our priorities. So we have those in mind as we move forward

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00:13:47.510 --> 00:13:51.910

Stephanie Suerth: for the Commissioners, if that is okay, and then

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00:13:53.380 --> 00:14:02.780

Stephanie Suerth: the only other. Oh, business that I have is, or actually new. Business is once the executive director is, or the deputy executive deputy director direct. Sorry

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00:14:03.310 --> 00:14:09.960

Stephanie Suerth: is in place. We'll set another in-person meeting. So for those that are unable to do the meet and greet today.

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00:14:10.020 --> 00:14:15.580

Stephanie Suerth: there'll be an opportunity to create those connections and start building that relationship with our new staff member.

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00:14:17.890 --> 00:14:18.710

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Okay.

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00:14:18.710 --> 00:14:19.540

Stephanie Suerth: Make, sense.

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00:14:19.900 --> 00:14:20.270

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Yeah.

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00:14:20.880 --> 00:14:25.470

Stephanie Suerth: Any questions for me concerns. Did I forget any or any other new business that I.

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00:14:25.820 --> 00:14:26.310

MD Commission on Civil Rights: We have.

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00:14:26.310 --> 00:14:50.709

MD Commission on Civil Rights: We had the old business. We had the the pillars. I know that we circulated the pillars through the Commissioners. I know there were a couple commissioners who respond to the email that were good to go with the pillars. We just wanted to double check with everybody on the call, if everybody had the opportunity. If there were any additional recommendations or questions about the pillars. We can, you know, take them at this time. If anybody on the call hasn't

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00:14:52.570 --> 00:14:54.769

MD Commission on Civil Rights: I like that? It was short and brief.

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00:14:56.824 --> 00:15:00.779

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Commissioner Scott, you're gonna push that mute button.

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00:15:02.204 --> 00:15:03.840

Angela J. Scott: Am muted right.

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00:15:04.552 --> 00:15:08.117

MD Commission on Civil Rights: You were. You're not there.

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00:15:09.100 --> 00:15:21.350

Stephanie Suerth: Since a number of commissioners couldn't make it today, I would say, let's just do one more round and say, You know, if you have any comments or questions since you weren't at the meeting. Please provide them by what is next? Friday, the 20.th

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00:15:22.530 --> 00:15:23.750

MD Commission on Civil Rights: That's correct.

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00:15:24.330 --> 00:15:40.649

Stephanie Suerth: So well, it's because the day after is my birthday, so I generally know when that is otherwise. I have no idea of timing and then that way everybody will at least have an opportunity to be able to express any questions or concerns that they might have. I don't anticipate, but I'd like to give everybody the option.

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00:15:42.666 --> 00:15:50.960

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Outside of that, madam chair. We just need to shift into executive session. Talk about an issue.

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00:15:51.270 --> 00:15:54.010

Stephanie Suerth: That's correct. And I'm this is the one we briefed right.

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00:15:54.330 --> 00:15:54.970

MD Commission on Civil Rights: Yes,

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00:15:55.610 --> 00:15:56.280

Stephanie Suerth: Perfect.

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00:15:56.510 --> 00:15:59.700

MD Commission on Civil Rights: This one we briefed last time? Or is this new for me?

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00:15:59.700 --> 00:16:00.480

Stephanie Suerth: For you.

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00:16:00.480 --> 00:16:03.420

MD Commission on Civil Rights: I have to stop the recording real quick, so

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00:16:03.710 --> 00:16:07.170

MD Commission on Civil Rights: everybody's cool with moving to executive session. Yes.

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00:16:07.170 --> 00:16:08.749

Stephanie Suerth: Can I have a motion to move?

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00:16:09.080 --> 00:16:11.610

MD Commission on Civil Rights: So moved. We don't even have a quorum to have.

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00:16:11.610 --> 00:16:15.120

Stephanie Suerth: I know, but we'll adjourn.