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*STATE OF MARYLAND*  
**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
*GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE*  
*ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

**October 7, 2015**  
**10:03 a.m.**

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are number one, just remind them they are number two. And I really applaud that allocation of resources. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, thank you. Thank you for that correction. I didn't realize that New Orleans was running around saying that.

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, because this community has been existence since the late 1700s. So, and for New Orleans of all places that sits below sea level to make that kind of allegation. Any other questions?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I just wanted to follow up on your appropriate comments about Item 18, the North Point Community Center.

This is not a small issue for the people of Dundalk. This is something that has absolutely tormented the community. And this project was brought in by the folks from the county government and it was presented to the citizens as a fait accompli that public land was going to be sold to a private developer. And they were going to have to either take it as is, or the entire facility was going to be allowed to rot.

That was the, citizens understandably got very up in arms about the whole thing. They defeated every politician at the polls that supported it. Because they said we want to, we want to be consulted. We don't want

somebody coming in from outside our community and telling us my way or the highway, take it or leave it, this is what we're going to do. And by the way, we're doing it for your benefit.

So the citizens got organized and they threw out all the elected officials that supported this in the area. And now we're faced with this situation. Because this item, I believe, was originally on the Board for the 21st of this month. So everybody in Dundalk got all charged up and concerned that it was going to be approved over their strong objections. And then suddenly it got put on the Board's Agenda for today, and they really got alarmed. Because for years they have been told to sit down and listen and that the other folks are going to do the talking. That's how they feel in Dundalk. They have absolutely no say in this.

So those two items, the fact that it's sale of public park land for private developers, and that it doesn't have a single iota of local support, and in fact there's bitter, bitter opposition. So I applaud the Governor for not voting, certainly not pushing this thing through. But I have a strong message for the citizens of Dundalk. This is your opportunity to reassert your control. Because you have a Board of Public Works that is going to listen to you. And you don't have to be force fed something for your own good that you don't want. I'm not sure how I'll vote at the end of the day. But to every person up there in that area,

take advantage of this and understand that the Governor and the Board of Public Works is empowering you, the smallest citizen, to stand up and be heard.

So thank you for doing this, Lieutenant Governor Rutherford. And, but this project is not in limbo. This project is not somehow going to be pushed through at midnight without the public's support. It has got to have the support of every local official there. It's got to have the support of every citizen group. It has got to have a whole new approach taken, which could start with folks, we'd like to get people from the community together and we'd like to actually ask you what you would like. So kudos, and join you in sending this off the Agenda. But I certainly hope that folks up in Dundalk understand that this is a huge victory for the little people. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I have one additional question. And this has to do with --

TREASURER KOPP: Can I just clarify?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh, I'm sorry.

TREASURER KOPP: And this is really just clarifying.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Sure.

TREASURER KOPP: What you said, Lieutenant Governor, my understanding is where it is now you, you, and the Comptroller, you are bringing together the locally elected government -- is that what I heard? Locally elected government, or their bureaucrats, or whomever, and the people?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Right.

TREASURER KOPP: To try to work through a solution? Which I think, I mean, my hat's off to you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes. Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: I think that, I really don't think zoning decisions should be made at the Board of Public Works.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: No.

TREASURER KOPP: But sometimes it's required to act a little to bring --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, the idea is to facilitate the conversation and to get the two parties to come together. The two parties plus the developer to come together.

TREASURER KOPP: Yeah. I mean, the potential is great. But right now, you're right. Although, Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes?

TREASURER KOPP: I did get one letter.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Good. Don't tell who it was because I don't want them drawn and quartered up there.

TREASURER KOPP: -- the guy anywhere.