

Minutes
Maryland Cybersecurity Council Meeting
January 25, 2021
Virtual Public Meeting
(Recording available [here](#))

Council Members Present or Represented (47/57)

He noted that Ms. Spaulding needed no introduction but summarized a number of highlights to her long career in and outside of government. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Michael Lore, Senator Lee's Chief of Staff, for extending the invitation to Ms. Spaulding.

Presentation

Ms. Spaulding thanked the Attorney General for his introduction and commended the Council for its whole-of-community approach to cybersecurity. She recognized the work of CHHS, NIST and the NSA in contributing to the Council's work.

Ms. Spaulding introduced her remarks on the Commission by discussing its composition and how this contributed to the work of the body and the early success in translating a quarter of its recommendations into law. Her remarks then covered three broad points:

The new strategic approach taken by the Commission (underling principles and the six pillars of the strategy).

The Commission's emphasis on strengthening the national response and recovery capabilities.

Recommendations that aim to create incentives for the market to support better cybersecurity.

After her presentation, Ms. Spaulding's addressed a number of questions from Council members concerning:

Supply chain security and any efforts to federate ISAOs (Mr. Clay House)

How to increase costs to attackers (Mr. Brian Israel)

Funding for education and training programs included in the FY2020 NDAA (Mr. Rodney Petersen)

The Commission's position on defending forward and private companies hacking back as national security strategies (Dr. Anton Dahbura)

Ms. Spaulding's assessment of the odds of getting a national consumer protection act as strong as California's (Senator Susan Lee)

Whether the Commission's recommendations address the need for more coordination at the national level for incident response (Mr. Barry Boseman)

The difficulty of gauging appropriate escalatory responses to cyber attacks (Dr. Anupam Joshi)

The Attorney General expressed his appreciation for Ms. Spaulding's presentation and her willingness to take questions from the Council. He noted that her remarks were most interesting and would contribute to the Council's work.

Council Business Meeting

Approval of minutes. The Attorney General announced the presence of a quorum. He called for the minutes of the 14 October 2020 meeting, asking if there were any changes. On motions duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved without objection.

Updates. The Attorney General mentioned that Judi Emmel will be retiring at the end of this month from her position as the Director of State and Local Affairs at the NSA. He thanked her for her faithful attendance at the Council's meetings and her contributions to the Council's work. He singled out her role in getting Mr. George Barnes as the Council's keynote last January. He also reminded the Council that she had worked for more than a year to advance an application from OAG for the NSA Fellow it now has. On behalf of the Council, he expressed his warmest wishes as she transited to the next phase of her life.

At the same time, the Attorney General welcomed Barry Boseman who will step into Ms. Emmel's position at the Agency and who will fill her seat on the Council.

Subcommittee Chair Reports

Subcommittee on Law, Policy and Legislation. Speaking for both herself and her co-chair, Blair Levin, Senator Lee recalled that the last session was a shortened one that left many bills stranded as the General Assembly had to prioritize the budget and emergency measures. She stated that the current session is also challenging with limits on the number of bills that can be proposed and the number of witnesses who can give oral testimony.

For the current session, she discussed the following bills that she had proposed or will be proposing:

SB 623/HB 425 (Criminal Law - Crimes Involving Computers)

SB 49/HB 38 (Department of Information Technology – Cybersecurity)

SB 112/HB 148 (Personal Information Protection Act – Revisions)

Resubmission of SB 957 (Maryland Online Consumer Protection Act) from the 2020 session

Subcommittee on Incident Response. Secretary Leahy thanked Ms. Emmel for his service on his subcommittee and her mentorship of the subcommittee on a number of issues. He observed that with COVID there had been an increase not only in the number of attacks but also in their sophistication. DoIT had been working GBMC, school districts, and numerous counties that had been affected. He said that the good news is that the training of employees and the greater awareness of the public is paying dividends.

He referenced a number of bills in the current session that would help political subdivisions to

Looking to the year ahead, Mr. Rauschecker explained that Laura Corcoran presented her workplan for her research on electric utilities serving Maryland. Her research will culminate in policy recommendations for the Council. He noted that members of the subcommittee were already engaged with Ms. Corcoran to provide documentary resources and perspective.

Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Development. Senator Hester noted that like Senator Lee she had a number of bills that did not make it out of session last year because of the circumstances. She was pleased to announce, however, that one of those bills (SB 724 [Maryland State IT Hiring Act]) had actually been materially implemented by DoIT over the last year.

For the current session, she mentioned several bills related to cybersecurity that she had introduced or reintroduced:

SB 69 (Maryland Emergency Management Agency - Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office – Establishment)

SB 231 (Public Health – Cyber Safety Handbook – Handbook Development and Publication)

SB 412/HB 84 (Right to Repair)

She stated that a fourth bill, focused on cybersecurity workforce development, would be forthcoming: The Cybersecurity Workforce Employment Act of 2021.

Subcommittee on Economic Development. Ms. Leong-hong started her comments by noting that her members were feeling the pain of the economic contraction but are focused on ways to move forward. At the last meeting, she asked members to talk about how COVID had affected their efforts to grow and support the cyber sector in Maryland and what they were thinking about the future. This included representatives from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Fort Meade Alliance, the Cybersecurity Association of Maryland, the Maryland Department of Commerce, TEDCO, the Maryland Tech Council, and small business.

Two common themes were an increase in communication to their members to help them through the contraction (e.g., how to apply for PPP) and a turn toward workforce development initiatives, including how to transition nontechnical workers into technical jobs and how to build the K12 pipeline in STEM fields. She mentioned a report by the Fort Meade Alliance in connection with the latter.

She noted that there was also discussion of changes in state policy, such as more emphasis on ‘buy Maryland’ incentives to help struggling businesses in the State. For the next meeting, she asked the subcommittee members to come back with other ideas to move forward that might develop into legislative proposals for 2022.

Subcommittee on Public Affairs and Outreach. Sue Rogan noted that the subcommittee has organized a webinar on October 22 with Joseph Carrigan from John Hopkins Security Institute

Subcommittee on Public and Community Outreach. Ms. Sue Rogan stated that the subcommittee organized a webinar with the support of the Attorney General’s Office on cybersecurity and small business with Joseph Carrigan from Johns Hopkins University. She thanked Dr. Tony

Dahbura for helping with the invitation to Mr. Carrigan. She stated that there were 56 live views and many more replays. The next subcommittee meeting will be on February 11 to plan for the year ahead.

Other Business

The Attorney General thanked the subcommittees for their work. He announced that the Council's next meeting would be on June 9, 2021 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm). The assumption is that the meeting will be a virtual one.

Dr. von Lehmen observed that a biennial activities report is due to the General Assembly this July and that he would have a draft to the Council for review by May 25.

Adjournment

The Attorney General asked if there was further business. There being none, the Council was duly adjourned at 11:30 pm.

[Note: These minutes were approved by the Council at itstedf