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Minutes  
Maryland Cybersecurity Council Meeting  
October 14, 2020  
Virtual Meeting Format

*Council Members Present or Represented (40/57)*

Attorney General Brian Frosh (Chair), John Abeles, Dr. David Anyiwo, Stephen Auvil (for Troy Stovall), Delegate Ned Carey, Dr. Michel Cukier, Robert Day, Dr. Anton Dahbura, Vince Difrancisci, Cyril Draffin, Judi Emmel, Patrick Feehan, Michael Greenberger, Mary Jo Hayes, Senator Katie Fry Hester, Fred Hoover, Clay House, Brian Israel, Dr. Anupam Joshi, Miheer Khona, Linda Lamone, Michael Leahy, Mathew Lee, Senator Susan Lee, Bel Leong-hong, Larry Letow, Blair Levin, Delegate MaryAnn Lisanti, Anthony Lisuzzo, Joseph Morales, Laura Nelson, Rodney Petersen, Jonathan Powell, Jonathan Prutow, Markus Rauschecker, Christine Ross, Adjutant General (Ret) Linda Singh, Senator Bryan Simonaire, Gregg Smith, and Pegeen Townsend.

*Staff Attending*

Howard Barr (Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel, DoIT), Patrice Drago (Chief of Staff, Office of Delegate Drago), Thomas Elder (Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Services), Hannibal Kemerer (Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General), Michael Lore (Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Susan Lee), Dr. Greg von Lehmen (Staff to the Council, University of Maryland Global Campus),

*Council Meeting*

Opening Remarks by the Chair

The Attorney General welcomed the Council and members of the public who were attending. He noted the full agenda and indicated that he looked forward to the guest presentation and the subcommittee reports. He announced that a quorum of the Council was present for the meeting.

After reviewing protocols related to the virtual meeting format, he introduced the guest presenter, Dr. Thomas Rid:

- He is a full professor of strategic studies at Johns Hopkins University.
- He has published three books, including *Cyber War Will Never Happen (2013)* and *Rise of the Machines (2016)*, and most recently, *Active Measures*.
- *Active Measures* grew out of his work tracking the Russian election interference in 2016.
- The topic of his presentation is Russian disinformation campaigns.

The Attorney General observed that the topic of disinformation campaigns is part of cybersecurity writ large. Such campaigns leverage the cyber domain to ‘hack’ American public discourse and its social and political order. He thanked Dr. Anton Dahbura for reaching out to Dr. Rid for the Council and gave the ‘floor’ to Professor Rid.

Professor Rid’s presentation provided a history of Russian disinformation, placed Russian campaigns in the current cultural context, and then used the just-breaking Hunter Biden story in the New York Post to apply the tools of disinformation analysis. His analysis suggested that skepticism about the story’s foundation was warranted.

- In response to questions from the Council, Professor Rid made several other comments:
- AI plays an important role in spotting potential disinformation campaigns
- The most respected media make very responsible efforts to identify disinformation before reporting it. This is more difficult for smaller outlets with smaller staffs.
- The Chinese disinformation toolbox is nimbler and more sophisticated than the Russian
- There is no equivalence between America, Russia, and China. The CIA was very skilled at foreign disinformation in the 1950’s. However, since that time the American government has deliberately backed away from that capability. This retreat correlates with good intelligence oversight and the emergence of civil rights. A developed disinformation operations capability is at odds with democracy.

### Council Business Meeting

*Approval of minutes.* The Attorney General called for the minutes of the 10 June 2020 meeting, asking if there were any changes. On motions duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved without objection.

*Updates.* The Attorney General welcomed Vince Difrancisci to the Council. He announced that Mr. Difrancisci fills the Maryland Department of Commerce seat that had been held by Dr. Ken McCreedy, the former director of aerospace and cybersecurity at the Department. He thanked Heather Gramm who had been representing the Department while the search for Dr. McCreedy’s replacement was underway.

The Attorney General also welcomed Ms. Laura Corcoran, the NSA Fellow who will be joining the AG’s office for a year to support the Council’s work, particularly in the area of critical infrastructure. He expressed his appreciation to Judi Emmel, the associate director for state, local, tribal, and territorial relations at the NSA, and the NSA’s liaison to the Council, for her efforts to advance the request for a Fellow.

### *Subcommittee Chair Reports*

*Subcommittee on Law, Policy and Legislation.* Speaking for both herself and her co-chair, Blair Levin, Senator Lee noted that the subcommittee had met the previous week to discuss the 2021

session. Consistent with that meeting, she would be re-introducing cybersecurity-related bills from the last session:

- SB 120/HB 135 (State Government – Department of Information Technology – Cybersecurity)
- SB 201/HB 237 (Commercial Law – Personal Information Protection Act – Revisions)
- SB 443/HB 888 (Consumer Protection – Security Features for Connected Devices)
- SB 30/HB 215 (Criminal Law – Crimes Involving Computers – Ransomware)
- SB 957/HB 784 (Maryland Online Consumer Protection Act)

Senator Lee observed that several of these bills had been well received—SB 120/HB 135 passed the House, for example—but that the truncated session prevented any of the bills from being enacted. She recognized the progress that had been made in discussions with stakeholders in the last session, expressing her appreciation for their input, and is optimistic that with a full legislative calendar a number of these the bills would do well 2021.

*Subcommittee on Incident Response.* Secretary Leahy reported that is subcommittee would be meeting soon. He indicated that Mr. Chip Stewart was doing an outstanding job as State CISO and that DoIT was in the process of adding some updates to the State security manual. He noted that there had been incidents involving ransomware at the county government level. He concluded by stating that he shared Senator Lee’s and Delegate Carey’s passion in moving forward on legislation protective of privacy.

*Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure.* Markus Raushecker joined the Attorney General in welcoming Laura Corcoran to the Council. He noted how much he and the subcommittee looked forward in working with her. Regarding updates, he stated that the subcommittee’s planned outreach to the utility sector had been delayed because of COVID but that work in building the repository of resources available on the Council’s website had continued. Identifying and culling new resources and existing entries that should be removed is done by CHHS interns.

*Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Development.* Senator Hester observed that the Council’s work is terrifically important and that last session one of the bills informed by the subcommittee (SB 1036) had some success in the short session, passing the Senate. This bill would establish an office within MEMA to support cyber readiness and response capabilities, including by counties.

Senator Hester noted that the subcommittee had met in July and was focused both on understanding what workforce development efforts were underway, what existing efforts would benefit from more support, and what new initiatives might look like. Referencing existing efforts, she mentioned the K12 cybersecurity curriculum framework developed by the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation, the NICE initiative, the Greater Washington Partnership Capital CoLab, MSDE’s Career and Technical Education IT tracks, Pathways in Technology Early College Readiness (PTECH), and the State apprenticeship programs.

Regarding new efforts, she emphasized the need for public/private partnerships. She indicated that the subcommittee was exploring the Talent Pipeline Management model (TPM) at the US Chamber of Commerce. She stated that her subcommittee and the Cybersecurity Association of

Maryland were partnering on a cybersecurity workforce survey that would help target new efforts on the biggest needs.

She noted that in the next session she would reintroduce three bills from the last session in addition to SB 1036: SB 724 (Maryland State IT Hiring Act), SB 895 (Maryland Technology Internship Program – Units of State Government), and SB 1049 (Cybersecurity Talent Pipeline Management Program).

*Subcommittee on Economic Development.* Bel-Leong welcomed Vince Difrancisci to the Council and the subcommittee. She noted that at its last meeting the subcommittee had formed a working group to look at what new products and services relating to contact tracing might be a business opportunity in the State. She also expressed an interest in collaborating on the workforce development survey.

*Subcommittee on Public Affairs and Outreach.* Sue Rogan noted that the subcommittee, Maryland CASH, and the Attorney General’s office were partnering on a webinar concerning the cybersecurity of small business. As was the case with a similar partnership in April, the webinar will feature the Attorney General and Joseph Carrigan from Johns Hopkins.

#### *Other Business*

The Attorney General thanked the subcommittees for their work. He announced the Council’s meeting dates for 2021:

- o January 25, 2021 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
- o June 9, 2021 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
- o October 13, 2021 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)

He stated that the January meeting will be virtual. Decisions about the format of the other meetings would be decided later.

There being no further business, the Council was adjourned at 11:30 pm.

[Note: These minutes were approved by the Maryland Cybersecurity Council at its January 25, 2021 meeting]