<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Courageous RI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start:</td>
<td>Tue 2/28/2023 3:00 PM</td>
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<td>End:</td>
<td>Tue 2/28/2023 3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recurrence:</td>
<td>(none)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Status:</td>
<td>Meeting organizer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizer:</td>
<td>Gregg Amore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Attendees:</td>
<td>Gregg Amore; Faith Chybowski; Eileen Sweeney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Attendees:</td>
<td>LeeAnn Byrne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Received DHS grant re preventing extremist violence via education/ civic conversations; SoS asked to deliver brief remarks
Thanks, Lane.

On Feb 10, 2023, at 12:36 PM, Lane Sparkman <lsparkman@sos.ri.gov> wrote:

Hi Pam —

They have scheduling meetings every Friday so I should know more by the end of the day.

Lane

Our Mission: The Rhode Island Department of State engages and empowers all Rhode Islanders by making government more accessible and transparent, encouraging civic pride, enhancing commerce and ensuring that elections are fair, fast and accurate.

Hi Lane,

Can I tell our PR team that Secretary Amore is confirmed to speak on the 28th?

Thanks, Pam
On Feb 7, 2023, at 4:12 PM, Pamela Steager <psteager@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Lane,

Sorry for the radio silence. I wanted to meet with Renee and our PR team working on the launch event before answering, and between all our schedules and a new baby in Renee’s household (born early on that record-breaking coldest day last week), I just got the info and agreements I needed.

Our press conference and project launch event is scheduled to begin at 3PM on the 28th and run for no longer than 30 minutes. I’ll be emceeing, and after a brief welcome and project overview, Renee, Secretary Amore, and hopefully Sen. Gallo and Rep. Newberry will be our speakers. I’ve reached out to both, but haven’t heard confirmation yet, so if you have any suggestions in that regard, please let me know. We may ask one more non-government speaker, but are asking all speakers to keep their remarks brief (3 minutes).

Secretary Amore represents the Secretary of State Office (especially the Civics and Education initiative) but also his former roles as a State Representative, honored public school educator, and coach, as well as his continuing roles as parent, community volunteer, and advocate for quality public education for all Rhode Islanders. Courageous RI seeks to reach as many Rllers as possible in the next two years, and Secretary Amore covers a wide swath of our target audiences in his many roles. We’d hope he’d be able to say something supportive of the potential of CRI for increasing the civic learning, media literacy, and community engagement that will lead to a healthy RI and democracy.

Thanks, Pam

---

On Feb 7, 2023, at 1:35 PM, Lane Sparkman <sparkman@sos.ri.gov> wrote:

Hi Pam —

I’m sending this again in case it got buried. I’d like to get your February 28th event on the Secretary’s calendar, but need a little more info on timing.

Thanks!

Lane

---

Hi Pam —

Sorry to hear about the decree on pop-up banners. That’s too bad. And regarding the Lower Level Gallery (LLG), it has been booked through
February for quite some time, so I don’t think you missed an opportunity there. What I thought I remembered from one of our early conversations was the possibility of exhibiting student work there at the end of the project? If that is still something you’re interested in, we can put a hold on the space for that time.

Regarding Secretary Amore’s participation on February 28, can you give me a little more info on his role? How long would you like him to speak, at what time, etc. (We can get into the nitty gritty a little later, as you suggested.) I apologize if you’ve given me this already, but I looked back through my emails and didn’t see anything. Once I have those details I will share them with Jill Cataldi, his scheduler, and she will get it on his calendar.

Thanks!

Lane

Lane Talbot Sparkman  
Deputy Director of Civic Education  
RI Department of State | Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore  
Email: lsparkman@sos.ri.gov | Website: www.sos.ri.gov | Twitter: @RISecState  
State House, Room 208, 82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

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From: Pamela Steager  
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 12:49 PM  
To: Lane Sparkman <lsparkman@sos.ri.gov>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Banner stands?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the RI Department of State. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lane,

Thanks for taking more of your time yesterday to walk me through some other display options for the lead-up to our launch event. I’ve been doing some research into pull-up banners and these seem to have stands and carry bags. Are they the same kind that have been used at the State House before? Are the stands shown similar to the ones you might have access to?
Well, now, wait...scratch all that. I decided to call Deb White just now and have been informed that because of a fire code regulation, no banners other than the table cover type are allowed now anywhere in the State House. 😞 So I guess I’ll have to use my slowly unfolding mystery campaign idea somewhere else at another time.

I might still want to think about using the ground floor gallery space after Robert Easton’s portraits come down. I suppose I should have spoken up earlier about my interest in that space in concert with launch. Oh well, one less thing to coordinate and implement now.

See you on February 28th in person, and probably online before that.

Do I have to fill anything out to confirm Secretary Amore’s participation at our launch event? We can talk about details (topic, length) later, just want to make sure it’s on his calendar.

Best, Pam

Pamela Steager
Director of Public Engagement, Courageous RI
Senior Trainer & Writer, Media Education Lab
State Coordinator, MLN-RI

A democratic civilization will save itself only if it makes the language of the image into a stimulus for critical reflection — not an invitation for hypnosis. - Umberto Eco
Phew! Thanks.

On Feb 13, 2023, at 2:34 PM, Lane Sparkman <sparkman@sos.ri.gov> wrote:

Yes! Sorry, I was about to email you.

Lane

Lane Talbot Sparkman
Deputy Director of Civic Education
RI Department of State | Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore
Email: sparkman@sos.ri.gov | Website: www.sos.ri.gov | Twitter: @RISecState
State House, Room 208, 82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

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Hi Lane,

Have we got a confirmation on Secretary Amore speaking at our Courageous RI launch event on the 28th? We’re meeting with our PR group tomorrow morning and I’m hoping to have our confirmed speakers list to give them.

Thanks, Pam

Pamela Steager
Director of Public Engagement, Courageous RI
A democratic civilization will save itself only if it makes the language of the image into a stimulus for critical reflection — not an invitation for hypnosis. - Umberto Eco
Thank you! Just subscribed to the mailing list

FYI in case you don’t get these

Our Mission: The Rhode Island Department of State engages and empowers all Rhode Islanders by making government more accessible and transparent, encouraging civic pride, enhancing commerce and ensuring that elections are fair, fast and accurate.

Dear Lane,

We’re excited to share that our media literacy initiative Courageous RI will officially launch at a press conference on:

DATE: Tuesday, February 28
TIME: 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Rhode Island State House Library

We hope you will be able to attend. Click here to register and support this important effort to help Rhode Islanders stay curious, not furious.

At the event, you will hear from Secretary of State Gregg Amore about the role that media literacy and civic learning play in high-quality education, in an informed and engaged electorate, and in protecting our democracy. Participants will also learn more about how we intend to foster community conversations, build a coalition of educators who embed media literacy in civic education, and engage youth with a statewide multimedia contest.

Thank you for your support and partnership and we hope to see you on the 28th!

Sincerely,
Pam Steger, Renee Hobbs, and the team
Media Education Lab
University of Rhode Island
www.courageousri.com
Email:
Email:
Great, thank you for this. Here it is with my signature.

See you next week.

Best
Megan

Hi again,

Just to clarify, we’ll be stopping by around 2pm today.

Thank you!! See you soon.

Catherine Morris
Program Director, Courageous RI
Media Education Lab
Course Instructor, Harrington School of Communication and Media
University of Rhode Island
Schedule: Calendly
Phone:

On Feb 22, 2023, at 12:18 PM, Catherine Morris <catherine.morris@ri.gov> wrote:
Hi Meg,

Here is the completed and signed form.

Pam and I will be stopping by this afternoon to finalize some details, and I'm hoping I can bring my laptop and test our plan for the A/V system - really just plugging it into the tv to make sure we can get sound and visuals to work for us!

Thank you!

<LAUNCH EVENT - library event form.pdf>

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Program Director, Courageous RI  
Media Education Lab  
Course Instructor, Harrington School of Communication and Media  
University of Rhode Island  
Schedule: Calendly  
Phone: [ ]

On Feb 20, 2023, at 12:07 PM, Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov> wrote:

Hi Catherine,

Love this. Yes, bring your laptop and we can connect it to the TV with an extra-long HDMI cable. We have an extra HDMI adaptor if you forget yours.

Also, if you could fill out the attached event form and return it to me at your earliest convenience, I would greatly appreciate it.

And just so you're aware, the Senate is having a small press conference in the Library at 5:00 p.m., but I think your event will have been over for a bit by that point.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best  
Megan

Megan Hamlin-Black  
State Librarian  
RI Department of State  |  Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore  
Email: mblack@sos.ri.gov  |  Website: www.sos.ri.gov  |  Twitter: @RISecState  
82 Smith Street, Room 208 Providence, RI

From: Catherine Morris <  
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 11:30 AM  
To: Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov>
Hi Meg,

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What is the best way to coordinate A/V set up for the event? We can bring a laptop with HDMI and adaptor if that works best, or have our content loaded onto a flash drive, or whatever works best. Please let me know what our options are.

Thank you!

Catherine Morris
Program Director, Courageous RI
Media Education Lab
Course Instructor, Harrington School of Communication and Media
University of Rhode Island
Schedule: Calendly
Phone:

On Jan 26, 2023, at 2:39 PM, Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov> wrote:

Hi Catherine,

Hooray! I'm glad you're excited and I can't believe it's basically one month away!

Yes, groups have done a live stream of their events in the past. I have never been on the receiving end of it, but I've seen it done. I also gave a presentation in the library today where one of the participants was "here" via Zoom. If you'd like to do a test run, I would be more than happy to help facilitate that.

I would definitely get permission or at least notify your presenters that it will be recorded/streamed; however, I think most people assume this when it's billed as a press conference.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

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The team and I are trying to see if we can Live-Stream the launch event on our organization’s Facebook page, or perhaps stream it as a Zoom webinar. This raises a few questions:

- Do you know if anyone using the space has successfully done this? Wondering how technology, setup, acoustics, etc. may come into play if you have experience here.
- Do we need to get permission to livestream/record from the people outside our organization who will be speaking? We certainly don’t want to step on any toes or record without consent.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions or feedback. Thank you both for your help with this!

Catherine Morris
Program Director, [Courageous RI](https://www.courageousri.org)
Media Education Lab
Course Instructor, Harrington School of Communication and Media
University of Rhode Island
Schedule: [Calendly](https://calendly.com)
Phone:

<Library-events-policy-form.pdf>
Perfect - thanks

Megan Hamlin-Black
State Librarian
RI Department of State | Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore
Email: mblack@sos.ri.gov | Website: www.sos.ri.gov | Twitter: @RI SecState
82 Smith Street, Room 208 Providence, RI |

From: Pamela Steager <pamela.steager@state.ri.us>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Courageous RI Launch event 2/28

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Still on, Megan - rain or snow (hoping rain by then).

On Feb 27, 2023, at 3:22 PM, Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov> wrote:

Hello Catherine and Pamela,

Just confirming that your event is still on for tomorrow.

Best
Megan

Megan Hamlin-Black
State Librarian
RI Department of State | Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore
Email: mblack@sos.ri.gov | Website: www.sos.ri.gov | Twitter: @RI SecState
82 Smith Street, Room 208 Providence, RI |

From: Catherine Morris <catherine.morris@sos.ri.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 12:58 PM
To: Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov>
Hi again,

Just to clarify, we'll be stopping by around 2pm today.

Thank you! See you soon.

Catherine Morris
Program Director, Courageous RI
Media Education Lab
Course Instructor, Harrington School of Communication and Media
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Schedule: Calendly
Phone:

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

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Twitter: @RISecState
82 Smith Street, Room 208 Providence, RI

From: Catherine Morris <cmorris@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 11:30 AM
To: Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov>
Cc: Lance Sparkman <lsparkman@sos.ri.gov>; Pamela Steager <Psteager@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Courageous RI Launch event 2/28

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University of Rhode Island
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RI Department of State  |  Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore
Email: mblack@sos.ri.gov  |  Website: www.sos.ri.gov  |  Twitter: @RISecState
82 Smith Street, Room 208 Providence, RI |

From: Catherine Morris
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Lane Sparkman <sparkman@sos.ri.gov>; Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Courageous RI Launch event 2/28

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University of Rhode Island
Schedule: Calendly
Phone:

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Media Education Lab
Schedule: Calendly
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Thank you!

Catherine Morris
Program Director, Courageous RI
Media Education Lab
Course Instructor, Harrington School of Communication and Media
University of Rhode Island
Schedule: Calendar
Phone

On Jan 26, 2023, at 2:39 PM, Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov> wrote:

Hi Catherine,

Hooray! I'm glad you're excited and I can't believe it's basically one month away!
Hi Lane and Meg,

We’re very excited to be using the library space at the State House for our launch event next month! Hoping you might have some insight for a few details we’re trying to work out.

The team and I are trying to see if we can Live-Stream the launch event on our organization’s Facebook page, or perhaps stream it as a Zoom webinar. This raises a few questions:

- Do you know if anyone using the space has successfully done this? Wondering how technology, setup, acoustics, etc. may come into play if you have experience here.
- Do we need to get permission to livestream/record from the people outside our organization who will be
speaking? We certainly don't want to step on any toes or record without consent.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions or feedback. Thank you both for your help with this!

Catherine Morris
Program Director, Courageous RI
Media Education Lab
Course Instructor, Harrington School of Communication and Media
University of Rhode Island
Schedule: Calendly
Phone:

<Library-events-policy-form.pdf>
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the RI Department of State. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Here is our draft press release to be released this evening.

Our PR team created a quote from Secretary of State Amore in paragraph 3. Can you please have your Comm Team review it for edit or deletion?

Thanks so much. Pam
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2023

CONTACT
Catherine Morris
Program Director, Courageous RI

Courageous RI Works to Prevent Rising Violence and Extremism
New Initiative Works to Build Media Literacy Through Training, Tools, and Community Conversation

PROVIDENCE R.I. - The Media Education Lab at the University of Rhode Island today launched Courageous RI, an initiative to provide interactive, hands-on training that counters disinformation, enhances civic participation, and improves media literacy. Funded with a $700,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Courageous RI was the only New England grant recipient in this national effort to prevent violence and extremism.

"Courageous RI will bring communities together for a series of open, unbiased, and respectful conversations. Through these convenings, robust curriculum, education, and training, our goal is to foster informed communities that are more resilient when exposed to disinformation and propaganda," said Dr. Renee Hobbs, founder and co-director of the Media Education Lab. "Courageous RI will provide individuals with practical strategies and problem-solving skills at a time when people spend an increasing amount of time online, on social media, and in other digital spaces."

"As a former high school civics and history teacher, I have seen firsthand the value civics education carries not only for our students but for our democracy," said Secretary of State Gregg Amore. "By providing a space where educators, students, and others can go for tools and support, Courageous RI is helping to empower and connect Rhode Islanders to their communities, especially young people who are at particular risk of being exposed to dangerous disinformation and violence online."

Courageous RI is a three-part, two-year initiative that begins with Courageous Conversations, a series of free, online workshops that engage the public in examining media messages and building media literacy skills for a lifetime. These sessions offer structured small-group and large-group discussions of topics including propaganda and disinformation, hate speech, and media regulation.

"Thinking critically about what we hear, read, and see is important for Rhode Islanders of every background, across the political spectrum," said Pam Steager, Courageous RI’s director of public engagement. "In our state and across the country, we are seeing the dangers of leaving disinformation unchecked. We invite all Rhode Islanders to attend these online conversations and join our community of
learning so they can gain a renewed sense of empowerment, tolerance, and appreciation of other points of view."

Courageous Questions, the second phase of programming, will provide professional development to educators and law enforcement officials so that media literacy can be used as a tool for civic education and violence prevention. Courageous Creativity, the final phase of programming, will invite high school and college students to participate in a youth multimedia contest where they can win prizes for creating media messages that invite Rhode Islanders to "stay curious, not furious" as they engage with the media they encounter in daily life.

**HOLD – additional speaker quotes**

To learn more about Courageous RI visit [www.courageousri.com](http://www.courageousri.com). To learn more about the Media Education Lab visit [www.mediaeducationlab.com](http://www.mediaeducationlab.com).

-30-

**About the Media Education Lab:** The Media Education Lab is an online learning community whose mission is to advance the quality of digital and media literacy education through scholarship and community service. Founded in 2005, the Media Education Lab includes a team of affiliated experts who represent a broad multidisciplinary network of educators, academics, and media professionals. More than 20,000 users from across the country and around the world participated in the programs and services offered by the Media Education Lab in 2022.
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Our PR team created a quote from the Secretary of State in paragraph 3 in the attached draft doc.

Can you please have your Comm Team look it over and either approve, edit, or request its removal completely?

Thanks so much, Pam

Pamela Steager
Director of Public Engagement, Courageous RI
Senior Trainer & Writer, Media Education Lab
State Coordinator, MLN-RI

A democratic civilization will save itself only if it makes the language of the image into a stimulus for critical reflection — not an invitation for hypnosis. - Umberto Eco
From: Pamela Steager
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Megan Hamlin-Black
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Draft press release

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the RI Department of State. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
Faith Chybowski

From: Lane Sparkman
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:15 PM
To: Faith Chybowski
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL]: Time-sensitive press release quote request

So sorry but just got this!
Sent from my phone.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Pamela Steager < >
Date: February 28, 2023 at 6:47:01 PM EST
To: Lane Sparkman <lsparkman@sos.ri.gov>, Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Time-sensitive press release quote request

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2023

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Faith Chybowski

From: Lane Sparkman
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 12:42 PM
To: Pamela Steager
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Quote from Secretary Amore

Pam,

Congratulations on yesterday's event. I heard it was terrific – from multiple sources! – and am sorry I wasn’t able to attend. I was with you in spirit, though!

Lane

Lane Talbot Sparkman
Deputy Director of Civic Education
RI Department of State | Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore
Email: lsparkman@sos.ri.gov | Website: www.sos.ri.gov | Twitter: @RISecState
State House, Room 208, 82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Our Mission: The Rhode Island Department of State engages and empowers all Rhode Islanders by making government more accessible and transparent, encouraging civic pride, enhancing commerce and ensuring that elections are fair, fast and accurate.

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From: Pamela Steager <fchybowski@sos.ri.gov>
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 9:00 PM
To: Faith Chybowski <fchybowski@sos.ri.gov>
Cc: Lane Sparkman <lsparkman@sos.ri.gov>, Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov>, Renee Hobbs <rnhobbs@sos.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Quote from Secretary Amore

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Thanks, Faith. Just heard from others today about the email address misprint. It should be just

And no, the press release hasn’t gone out yet, so I’m sure Renee can make that change before sending it off tomorrow. I’ve copied her here.

Thanks so much for coming up to check out the quote in question when my emails didn’t seem to be sending. Realized when I got home and opened my laptop and heard the Swoosh! Swoosh! message sent sound that it was probably because I wasn’t online in the library. :-) Duh!

Secretary of State Amore’s remarks were so great and supportive of our initiative. Please thank him for us. I got a text from a friend who was watching on Capitol TV that she was looking up Lincoln’s Lyceum speech.
And many thanks to Lane and Meg for all their pre-event help and advice and especially to Meg’s calm and efficient shepherding during the event.

Best, Pam

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A democratic civilization will save itself only if it makes the language of the image into a stimulus for critical reflection — not an invitation for hypnosis.
- Umberto Eco

On Feb 28, 2023, at 8:23 PM, Faith Chybowski <fchymbowski@sos.ri.gov> wrote:

Hi Pam,

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Upon reviewing it again, if it hasn’t been sent yet, we’d prefer to say “civic education” (rather than “civics education”). If it has already been sent, that’s great, too.

As a head’s up - I sent an email to the address on your business card but it came back undeliverable!

Thanks,
Faith

Faith Chybowski
Director of Communications
RI Department of State | Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore
Email: fchymbowski@sos.ri.gov | Website: www.sos.ri.gov | Twitter: @RISecState
82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903 (cell)
Thanks so much, Pam!

Faith Chybowski
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82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903 | (cell)

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Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 9:00 PM
To: Faith Chybowski <fchybowski@sos.ri.gov>
Cc: Lane Sparkman <lsparkman@sos.ri.gov>; Megan Hamlin-Black <mblack@sos.ri.gov>; Renee Hobbs <rnnhobbs@sos.ri.gov>
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