

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FIRST REGULAR MEETING**

January 08, 2025

10:00 AM



Fulton County Government Center
Assembly Hall
141 Pryor Street SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



MINUTES-RATIFIED

This document has been ratified or approved by the Board of Commissioners, and is not binding on the County or any officer.

Ratification Date: February 5, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts

10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

PRESENT

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

PRESENT

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

PRESENT

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

PRESENT

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

PRESENT

Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)

PRESENT

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

PRESENT

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE SWITCH ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (CELL PHONES, PAGERS, PDAs, ETC.) TO THE SILENT POSITION DURING THIS MEETING TO AVOID INTERRUPTIONS.

IF YOU NEED REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS DUE TO A DISABILITY, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS IN AN ALTERNATE FORMAT PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE COMMISSION. FOR TDD/TTY OR GEORGIA RELAY SERVICE ACCESS DIAL 711.

CONSENT AGENDA**25-0001 Board of Commissioners**

Adoption of the Consent Agenda - All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #25-0019 for separate consideration as requested by Commissioner Ivory. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Arrington

25-0002 Board of Commissioners

Proclamations for Spreading on the Minutes. **(SPREAD ON THE MINUTES UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Proclamation recognizing "Edna Lafayette Moffett Remembrance Day." **(Hall)**
December 17, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Christopher Williams Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
December 28, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Michael Blackson Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
December 29, 2024

Commissioners' District Board Appointments**25-0003****Board of Commissioners****COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Commission on Disability Affairs shall consist of a total of sixteen (16) members to serve staggered two (2) year terms and appointed as follows:

Each member of the Board of Commissioners shall appoint two (2) members; one of them said appointees shall have an initial term, of one (1) year; No term of any member shall extend beyond the term of the District Commissioner who appointed the member to serve on the Commission for Disability Affairs; The Commission on Disability Affairs shall appoint two (2) members, who receive the consent of the majority of the members of the Commission on Disability Affairs and one (1) of the appointees shall have an initial term of one (1) year.

The Commission on Disability Affairs appointees shall be made for the purpose of maintaining diversity.

Term = Staggered two (2) year terms

Term below expires: 12/31/2024

Vernitia Shannon (**Abdur-Rahman**)

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Vernitia Shannon for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

25-0004**Board of Commissioners****COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = Staggered two (2) year terms

Term below expired: 12/31/2021

Vacant (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Tina Nechelle Aldridge for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.

**25-0005 Board of Commissioners
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF
THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = Staggered two (2) year terms

Term below expired: 12/31/2022

Vacant (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Tara Miller for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

**25-0006 Board of Commissioners
ANIMAL WELFARE HEARING BOARD (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE
CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Animal Welfare Hearing Board shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Each Commissioner shall appoint one member to serve for two years. Thereafter, all members may be appointed for an additional term of three years and until their successors are appointed.

Term = 2 Years/3 Years

Commissioner Arrington nominated Pamela Harvey for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

25-0007 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (APPROVED UPON
ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County. The term of each member shall coincide with that of the District Commissioner who appointed the member to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Any vacancy in the membership shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the initial appointment. Members shall be removable for cause by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County upon written charges and after a public hearing. The members of the Board shall be compensated as fixed by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County. None of the members shall hold any other public office or position in Fulton County, except that one member may also be a member of the Fulton County Community Zoning Board.

Term = The term of each member shall coincide with that of the District Commissioner who appointed the member to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Term below expired: 12/31/2014
Vacant (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Victoria Rogers for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

25-0008 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY VETERANS' EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

The Veterans Commission shall have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members. Such appointees shall be residents of, or work in Fulton County and shall have military experience or expertise in the areas affecting military veterans. Veterans Commission shall serve three (3) year terms, with such term subject to the discretion of the appointing Commissioner, who can remove a member for cause, otherwise such member may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024
Eldson McGhee (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Eldson McGhee for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

25-0009**Board of Commissioners**

FULTON COUNTY VETERANS' EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

The Veterans Commission shall have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members. Such appointees shall be residents of, or work in Fulton County and shall have military experience or expertise in the areas affecting military veterans. Veterans Commission shall serve three (3) year terms, with such term subject to the discretion of the appointing Commissioner, who can remove a member for cause, otherwise such member may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024Walter Mitchell (**Abdur-Rahman**)

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Walter Mitchell for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

25-0010**Board of Commissioners**

FULTON COUNTY VETERANS' EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024Anthony Merritt (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Anthony Merritt for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

25-0011 Board of Commissioners
FULTON-DEKALB HOSPITAL AUTHORITY D/B/A GRADY HEALTH SYSTEM
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

Consists of ten (10) trustees (members). The Board of Commissioners of Fulton County appoints seven (7) trustees (members) and the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County appoints three (3). (See Fulton County Code § 13-2-11). The Fulton County Code does not prescribe the method of appointment; however, historically, each Commissioner has appointed one person to serve.

Term = 4 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Thomas W. Dortch, III (**Abdur-Rahman**)

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Sandra De Shields Hightower for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2028.

25-0012 Board of Commissioners
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATION PROCESS
CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT
AGENDA)

The CDBG Allocation Process Citizen Review Panel shall consist of fourteen (14) citizens. Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members from his/her district for a two (2) year term, subject to ratification by the Board of Commissioners. Such term shall not extend beyond the term set for the Commissioner who made the appointment. Panel members may be reappointed to serve additional terms.

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2018

Vacant (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Kemi Inegbedion for a District appointment for a term ending December 31, 2026.

25-0013 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ZONING BOARD (APPROVED UPON
ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners shall appoint seven (7) members to a Community Zoning Board for unincorporated Fulton County. Each member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners shall nominate, for full Board approval, a member to the Community Zoning Board. From the membership of the Community Zoning Board, the Board of Commissioners shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve no more than two (2) years. Members of the Community Zoning Board serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners and may be removed upon motion of the nominating Commissioner and affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Commissioners.

Term = The members shall serve a term consistent with that of the member of the Board of Commissioners making the nomination. Members shall serve no more than two (2) terms, either consecutive or non-consecutive.

Term below expired: 12/31/2014
Vacant (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Giavani Vickers for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

Open & Responsible Government

25-0014 Real Estate and Asset Management
Request approval of a Resolution authorizing a Neighborhood Service Center Lease Agreement between the City of Atlanta (Lessor) and Fulton County (Lessee) for the County's continued use of approximately 5,237 rentable square feet of office space at 215 Lakewood Way, SW, Atlanta, Georgia, for the Bethlehem Neighborhood Senior Center, from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Lease Agreement; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Lease Agreement as to form prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0015 Real Estate and Asset Management
Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 5792 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from the Georgia Power Company, for the purpose of constructing the Georgia Power Encroachment Project at 0 Stonewall Tell Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0016 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 47,729 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from EdgeconneX ATL 11, LLC for the purpose of constructing the EDCATL 11 Project at Stonewall Tell Road # R, Union City, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0017 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 56,215.27 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from the Toll Southeast LP Company, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Hawthorn Subdivision Project at 0 Kimball Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0018 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 69,328.49 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Toll Southeast LP Company, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Hawthorn Subdivision Project at 0 Kimball Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries**25-0019 Library**

Request approval of a Resolution to accept the name change of the East Point Library to the William H. McClure Library at East Point. Mr. McClure was a fixture in the East Point community and a former Library Board of Trustees member. **(FILED)**

ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER IVORY

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to file. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

Health and Human Services**25-0020 Department for HIV Elimination**

Request approval to extend an existing “Ryan White Part A” service contracts for a three-month period from March 1, 2025, through May 31, 2025, and, subject to federal funding, amend existing contracts to increase the spending authority of “Ryan White Part A” subrecipients in the amount of \$5,650,169.00 pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration “Ryan White Part A” award H89HA00007. Contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0021 Department for HIV Elimination

Request approval to extend existing “Ending the HIV Epidemic” service contracts for a three-month period from March 1, 2025, through May 31, 2025, and, subject to federal funding, amend existing contracts to increase the spending authority of “Ending the HIV Epidemic” subrecipients in the amount of \$836,630.00 pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration “Ending the HIV Epidemic” award UT8HA3393. Contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0023 Board of Commissioners**

Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda. **(ADOPTED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the First Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by removing item #24-0901 as requested by the County Manager; and hearing item #25-0028 after Executive Session as requested by Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0022 Board of CommissionersAppointment of the Vice-Chairman. **(APPROVED)**

Appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners for a one-year term, in accordance to the current Fulton County Code § 101-36 (b), amended by the Board on October 20, 2021 (Item #21-0839).

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to appoint Commissioner Bob Ellis as Vice-Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners for 2025. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Barrett, and Arrington

25-0024 Clerk to the CommissionRatification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2024

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, December 18, 2024

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to ratify the meeting minutes. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0025 Board of CommissionersPresentation of Proclamations and Certificates. **(NONE)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0026 Board of Commissioners**

Public Comment - Citizens are allowed to voice County related opinions, concerns, requests, etc. during the Public Comment portion of the Commission meeting.

Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, whether such persons are commenting in-person, via emails or via Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed sixty (60) minutes at the First Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed sixty (60) minutes at the Second Regular Meeting. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office.

(CONDUCTED)

17 Speakers: Judge Rachel Krause (Budget); Solicitor General Keith Gammage (Budget); Chief Judge Cassandra Kirk (Budget); Nancy Mau (Budget); Jewel Johnson (County Resources); John Garrett (Senior Services); Michael Collins (Fulton County Jail); Christopher Escobar (Arts Funding); Angela Watts (Arts Funding); Paul Hershey (County Finances); Tanjuria Willis (Arts Funding); Afreen Kheundumiri (Arts Funding); J. Wesley Day (Justice/Solicitor Office); Janet Hill (Deed Fraud); L.A. Pink (Fulton County Jail); El Lewis (Arts Funding); Randy Davidson (Arts/Film Funding);

2 Zoom Speakers: Kevin Muldowney (Budget) Matt Rowenczak (Budget)

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**Invest Atlanta**

25-0027 **Board of Commissioners**
Invest Atlanta Briefing (**PRESENTED**)

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government**

24-0901 **External Affairs**

Request approval to amend and extend an existing contract - Reparations Taskforce Fiscal Agent Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 with the Atlanta University Center Consortium, Atlanta, GA, to serve as the Fiscal Agent for the feasibility study and provide community outreach on behalf of the Fulton County Reparations Taskforce. This is not a request for additional funding, but is to utilize existing funds for necessary services. Effective upon BOC approval through June 30, 2025. (**MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 12/18/24**) (**REMOVED**)

ITEM REMOVED FROM THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER

25-0028 **Finance**

Review and approve the FY2025 Final Adopted Budget and FY2025 Budget Resolution. (**DISCUSSED**)

a. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to "opt in" to Ad Valorem Tax Provisions and new Sales Tax for Property Tax Relief - HB 581. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and
Abdur-Rahman

b. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis to adopt the proposed FY2025 Budget and all of the other related funds, as presented by the management team, encompassing the \$13.9M reserve with \$4.6M in each of the categories related to the DOJ report for operations and facilities, and \$4.6M towards the reserve fund for potential litigation. There was no Second.

25-0029 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000183-0006, Police Pursuit and Special Services Vehicles in the total amount not to exceed \$161,655.00 with Smyrna-F, LLC dba Wade Ford, to purchase and deliver three (3) 2025 Ford F150 Police Responder 4x4 trucks, 5.5 box, 145" WB XL (W1P) for the Fulton County Emergency Management, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Station (ARFF). This is a one-time procurement. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and
Abdur-Rahman

25-0030 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to utilize Cooperative Purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Cooperative Omnia Partners, Contract # 159498 - Public Safety, Preparedness, Safety Equipment and Solutions with Mallory Safety and Supply LLC (Longview, WA) in an amount not to exceed \$190,528.00 to provide Cardiac Science Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and accessories to ensure State of Georgia life/safety equipment compliance countywide in all Fulton County facilities. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and
Abdur-Rahman

Health and Human Services**25-0032 Public Works**

Request approval of extend an existing contract - Public Works Department, 22ITB136410K-BKJ, Pine Valley Phase 2A Interceptor Sewer Replacement at no additional cost for extension of "time only" with Wade Coots Company, Inc (Austell, GA) to provide all labor, material and equipment to remove and replace approximately 4,062 feet of 30" to 48" RCP gravity sewer pipe with 54" HOBAS fiberglass pipe and epoxy coated precast concrete manholes. Effective upon Boc approval through March 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and
Abdur-Rahman

25-0031 Public Works

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Public Works, 24ITB091324K-CRB, Standby Miscellaneous Construction Wastewater System Services in an amount not to exceed \$14,000,000.00 with (A) Site Engineering, Inc., (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$3,400,000.00; (B) Wade Coots Company, Inc. (Austell, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$3,600,000.00; (C) Sol Construction, LLC, (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$3,800,000.00; and, (D) Kemi Construction Company, Inc. (College Park, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$3,200,000.00; to provide standby miscellaneous construction wastewater system services. Effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Justice and Safety**24-0906 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request approval for the procurement of supplies and equipment required for residents housed in the County's Jail facilities in a total amount not to exceed \$2,239,975.02 with various vendors identified in Exhibit 1 attached to this package and incorporated hereto. Funding is provided in the inmate services unit in non-agency. Effective January 1, 2025 approval through December 31, 2025. **(MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 12/18/24) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

Vice-Chairman Ellis offered a friendly amendment to allocate future funds with 50% going to facility needs and 50% going into the Sheriff's budget.

Commissioner Arrington did not accept the friendly amendment.

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Chairman Pitts, to approve adding the funds to the Sheriff's budget to purchase the items directly and bypassing Finance, with a friendly amendment from Chairman Pitts, to ensure only the 20 specified items listed are purchased. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis, and Arrington

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**24-0908 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to repeal and replace Part I, Subpart B, Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article II (County Governing Authority), Division 2 (Rules of Order and Procedure), Section 101-68 (Decorum) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances; and for other purposes.

(Pitts) (HELD ON 12/18/24) (APPROVED)

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to call the question. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

24-0910 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to declare a local emergency with respect to the conditions at the Fulton County Jail for the purpose of expediting resources to support remedial measures to address the DOJ investigative findings; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD ON 12/18/24) (FILED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

b. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to file. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Barrett

25-0033 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in Observance of the 96th Birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Abdur-Rahman) (APPROVED)

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**25-0034 Board of Commissioners
AUDIT COMMITTEE (APPROVED)**

Pursuant to Resolution #15-0461, adopted by the Board of Commissioners on May 20, 2015, the appointment process for the Audit Committee consists of the following amendments to the Fulton County Code of Ordinances Section 2-231: The Initial Audit Committee shall be composed as follows: (1.) Five (5) voting members; (2.) The initial Committee members shall include two (2) members of the Board of Commissioners and three (3.) Citizens with expertise in the areas of accounting, auditing, internal control and local government operations; (3.) The citizen members will be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners. may not hold any elected office, may not be employed by the county, nor have any direct or indirect business relationship with the County; (4.) The citizen members will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners and may be removed at any time, with or without cause; (5.) The citizen members shall be paid a stipend of \$250.00 for each meeting attended but in no event shall the total stipend for a year exceed \$1,000.00; and Commissioners who serve as committee members will receive no compensation; and (6.) Members of the Committee shall select a Chairperson from among its members annually.

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Chairman Robb Pitts (**BOC - Commissioner**)

Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Chairman Robb Pitts for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0035 **Board of Commissioners**
AUDIT COMMITTEE (APPROVED)

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024
Jay Small (**BOC - Citizen 1**)

Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Jay Small for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Did Not Vote: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0036 **Board of Commissioners**
AUDIT COMMITTEE (APPROVED)

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024
Robert Koncerak (**BOC - Citizen 3**)

Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Robert Koncerak for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0037 **Board of Commissioners**
AUDIT COMMITTEE (APPROVED)

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Commissioner Bob Ellis (**BOC - Commissioner**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Vice-Chairman Bob Ellis for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0038 **Board of Commissioners**
AUDIT COMMITTEE (APPROVED)

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Ambuj "AJ" Jain (**BOC-Citizen 2**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Ambuj "AJ" Jain for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0039 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL (APPROVED)

The Chairman of the Arts Council shall be appointed to a two-year term by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners. The Council shall elect a Vice-Chairman and a secretary from its membership.

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Jennifer Pino (**BOC-Chairperson**) (**Pitts**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Jennifer Pino for a Full Board reappointment as Chairperson to a term ending December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0040 Board of Commissioners
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN (APPROVED)

Members of the Administrative Committee shall hold office for a term of four (4) years or until their successors have been duly qualified and appointed. Positions 2 & 3 shall be appointed by the BOC at its regular January meeting or as soon as practical. Such members shall hold office for a term of one year.

Term = 4 Years

Term = 1 Year (Positions 2 & 3)

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Vice Chair Khadijah Abdur-Rahman (**Chair/Designee/BOC**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Commissioner Abdur-Rahman for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2028.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0041**Board of Commissioners****ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN (APPROVED)**

Term = 4 Years

Term = 1 Year (Positions 2 & 3)

Term below expired: 12/31/2024Vacant **(BOC)****Nominations for a Full Board appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.**

A motion was made by Chairman Pitts and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to nominate Commissioner Thorne. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

[25-0042](#)**Board of Commissioners****ATLANTA BELTLINE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following persons shall serve on the Board of Directors of the corporation: (a) the Mayor of the City of Atlanta (as a representative of ADA); (b) the Chair of the Community Development and Human Resources Committee of the Atlanta City Council (or its successor) (as a representative of ADA); (c) the President of ADA or a person with general business or legal experience (as a representative of ADA); (d) one (1) person with general business experience appointed by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of ADA (as a representative of ADA); (e) one (1) community representative to be selected in a manner to be determined by the City Council of the City (which appointee shall in all cases be ratified by the Board of Directors of ADA); (f) two (2) members appointed by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of Beltline Partnership, Inc.; (g) one (1) representative appointed by the Atlanta Board of Education; and (h) **one (1) representative appointed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners**. Each director shall take office as of the effective date of his or her appointment and shall continue in office until his or her successor has been duly appointed or elected and has qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or removal, or, in the case of any elected official or positional appointee, until such person no longer holds the elected office or position entitling such person to membership on the corporation's Board of Directors.

Term = 4 years

Term below expires: 7/12/2026

Vacant (**Fulton County**)

Nominations for a Full Board appointment to an unexpired term ending July 12, 2026.

a. A motion was made by Chairman Pitts and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to nominate Commissioner Ivory. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Ellis, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Barrett

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to nominate Commissioner Barrett. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

25-0043 Board of Commissioners**ATLANTA-FULTON COUNTY RECREATION AUTHORITY (STADIUM AUTHORITY)**

This Authority consists of nine (9) members: three (3) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners and six (6) members appointed by the City of Atlanta. Vacancies in the membership of the authority, whether caused by the expiration of term of office, death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the governing body of Fulton County or the City of Atlanta, upon the nomination of the chief executive officer and confirmation by the governing body of said city. Any member of the authority may be elected to succeed himself. All members, duly appointed, shall hold office until his or her successor shall be appointed and duly qualified. Any member, appointed to fill an unexpired term, shall serve only for the term of the member he or she replaced.

Term = All subsequent terms of office shall be for four (4) years. Any person appointed to membership on the Authority who is a public official of the City of Atlanta or Fulton County at the time of his appointment shall serve as a member of the Authority only so long as he or she remains a public official of the city or county government which originally appointed him/her.

Term below expired: 11/1/2024

Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington, Jr. **(BOC)**

Nominations for a Full Board appointment to a term ending December 31, 2028.

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to nominate Commissioner Arrington. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Barrett, and Arrington

Nay: Thorne, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Pitts, Ellis, and Ivory

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to nominate Commissioner Ivory. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Barrett, and Arrington

25-0044 Board of Commissioners
OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST

This Trust was established by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners by resolution Agreement January 16, 2008 (#07-0997). The Trust shall be held, managed and administered by the Trustee in trust in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. The Trust is intended to comply with and be a tax-exempt governmental trust under Section 115 of the IRS Code.

Term = 1 year

Term below expired: 12/31/2023

Vacant **(BOC)**

Nominations for a Full Board appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Chairman Pitts and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to nominate Commissioner Ivory. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

25-0045 External Affairs
Presentation of 2025 State Legislative Session Update. **(PRESENTED)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION**25-0046 Board of Commissioners**

Executive (**CLOSED**) Sessions regarding litigation (**County Attorney**), real estate (**County Manager**), and personnel (**Pitts**). (**APPROVED**)

PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE, AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice-Chairman Ellis, Commissioners: Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to enter into Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Thorne

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the request for representation in item #1 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to deny the request for retention of outside Counsel in item #2 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Barrett, and Arrington

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the request for engagement of outside Counsel in items #3 and #5 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
FIRST REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC
"A Court Reporting Firm"

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the First Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in 2025. Today is January 8th; it is 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please, call the roll. And before we do that, let me officially welcome our newest member, Commissioner -- no more elect -- Mo Ivory. Thank you. Looking forward to great things from you. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Mo Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr., Vice Chair Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Present."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Please rise for the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you."

(Whereupon, the invocation was given by Reverend Dawkins followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **25-0001**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the

County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any items?"

CLERK GRIER: "I don't have any."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'd like to hold on page 8, item 25-0019."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Any other items?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve as amended. Motion to approve as amended --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- point of order, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory, did you want to hold that to the next meeting or bring it forward to discussion?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "To discussion."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. On the motion to approve as amended: motion to adopt by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, First Regular Meeting Agenda, **25-0023**, Adoption of the First Regular Meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two items to be removed from today's First Regular Meeting Agenda. First item on page 11, 24-0901, External Affairs: Request approval to amend and extend an existing contract, Reparations Task Force Fiscal Agent Agreement."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "To remove?"

CLERK GRIER: "To remove, yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "And on page 18, 25-0045, External Affairs: Presentation of the 2025 State Legislative Session update. That item has been requested to be --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- well, wait a minute. Why would we be removing that? Have we finalized the -- well, I don't know what's in it -- what the final -- I'd like for us to discuss that, in other words."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We -- this was not intended to be on today's Agenda. We typically would give these at the -- after the Legislative Session begins, but we're certainly glad to review the items that the Board of Commissioners did approve --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- yeah, let's leave this on for the purpose of reviewing what we -- okay. Anything else?"

CLERK GRIER: "That's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Where is the budget discussion? On page -- page 10?"

CLERK GRIER: "Page 10, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Page 10, the budget -- there are a couple of items that will be discussed in Executive Session that will have some bearing on the budget, so I'd like for us to take the budget up after Executive Session. Anything else?"

CLERK GRIER: (No response.)

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open to adopt as amended. And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0022**, Appointment of the Vice Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain nominations."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'm waiting on you to call on me, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I would like to present a motion to put forth Commissioner Bob Ellis as Vice Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'll second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other nominations? Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman, I just want to express my thoughts about this process. I think, there have -- from what I understand, historically, and of course, I've only been here two years: this has changed a number of times over the years in terms of how the next person is chosen."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But it does feel like it should be sort of a general rotation that's based on fairness, assuming you've met the two-year service experience level. And the idea that we would need to go back to Commissioner Ellis after he was just Vice Chair two years ago, does not feel appropriate to me when there are other people here who meet the criteria, and particular myself and Commissioner Thorne. And so, while I think Commissioner Ellis -- no offense to you, I think you did a great job when you were Vice Chair, and I'm sure you will do a great job again. And I just feel like -- I'm sorry, Commissioner Arrington, I'm not even sure where you were in the rotation, so it may be you also are eligible right now. But in any case, I just think we should look to a more fair rotation for this going forward."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Thank you. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you, Chairman. Yes, I concur with my fellow Commissioner. I feel like it's a reward position, and I know in the past it was a rotation until it was your turn, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, technically Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. And as you said last night, you were a wrecking ball coming in, so they redid the order of that. But last year I was happy to nominate you as Vice Chair; and we talked about it. And I've been trying to have conversation and collaboration with you, and I have not been able to talk to you about this decision. We have not talked. This decision was made without my involvement, Commissioner Barrett's involvement; I don't

know if Commissioner Arrington, if you were in it. But I -- you know, I'm not going to toe a line. I'm going to continue to stand up for what's right. I didn't get on this Board to be a Vice Chair. That wasn't my goal, but I do see it as a way of trying to manipulate my -- I'm still going to represent and say what I think is the right thing to do even if I get punished for it on the back end; because I wasn't elected to toe a line. And I'm going to continue to speak out about elections. We have a lot of work to do. And because of this, it's not going to sway who I am as a Commissioner on this Board. I'm going to do the right thing, and I know Commissioner Barrett, I thank you for opening your door for discussion. Commissioner Ivory, I thank you for being open and Chairman Pitts, your door is always open. You talk to me all the time, so I appreciate at least having conversation about this with the three of you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I just want for historical perspectives: I served my last year as Vice Chair, which means I sat on this Body for three years, so please do not give incorrect information as far as the rotation or the person's next chance or what have you. I understand this is a very touchy subject. I understand that we as a Body come down here and do the best, and I believe all of us try to put our best foot forward, but this is not personal. Nobody is toeing a particular line, and I just want to make sure that I publicly say that. And make sure that I publicly say that you have an opportunity to have a conversation with me less than 48 or 24 hours. There is this -- and I said this in my inaugural speech last night, Chairman, so bear with me because I want to repeat it again: I'm down here with other colleagues. All my colleagues know me. All my colleagues have a contact number for me. You have 24 hours in a day to reach out to me. When you make it a practice that has not been the practice, but somehow it has become the practice now to reach out to your colleague 24 hours before, 48 hours before, sometimes you will not get the desired results. So I would ask my colleagues, as well as all of the listening audience, when you reach out to us as a Body, please reach out in an appropriate enough time for you to have a conversation and for us to have an understanding. This is not personal. I put forth a motion that I have a right to do. It does not mean that anybody else is not qualified. In my perusal of this situation right now, I put forth the best person in my estimation and understanding. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, we're not going to debate this now."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, it's not debate. I respect my fellow Commissioners. Her thoughts, I really do respect it. I did not find out about this decision until Monday late afternoon, so it was only limited time to talk and have conversation."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I just heard Commissioner Thorne say she did not find out about this decision until Monday afternoon. I didn't realize that a decision had been made. So I guess no one reached out to me, but, hey, it is what it is. I'm ready. Let's go."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to select Commissioner Ellis as the Vice Chair for 2025. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0024**, Ratification of Minutes. First Regular Meeting Minutes, December 4th; Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, December 18, 2024."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by -- strike that. Commissioner -- it'll take me a minute or so. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0025**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. There are no proclamations for presentation today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, Public Hearings, **25-0026**, Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing by submitting their comments in writing on-line by registering on the county's website at www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we'll start with speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 17 speaker cards. Will the first five speakers, please come forward:

Judge Rachel Krause, Solicitor Keith Gammage, Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk, Judge Nancy Mau, and Jewel Johnson."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, speakers, as always, when you have 15 seconds remaining in your two minutes, I'll say 15 seconds. That's your cue to begin to terminate your remarks. It is 10:17; public comment will last until 11:17, if necessary. First speaker."

JUDGE RACHEL KRAUSE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Chairman Pitts, and Commissioners. My name is Rachel Krause; I'm a judge on the Fulton County Superior Court. I'd like to start first apologizing for coming to you during the public comment section. We'd hope to work out an opportunity to address the Board as a specific agenda item, but the timing didn't work out for us to be on your agenda for today, and we knew that your January 22nd meeting would be more focused on actually voting and approving various budget items. So we chose this opportunity to just briefly let you know that in the lead up to the budget process, our court administration has worked very hard with County Finance to formalize our budget requests and to advance those requests through the budget process. Now, we recently wrote to the Commission -- very recently wrote to the Commission, to provide an explanation for what we hope you perceive as a very conservative budget request for Fiscal Year 2025. And we wrote to you because we understand the challenging budget environment, and so we wanted to help prioritize for you what our budget requests are. And today I wanted to take an opportunity to underscore the critical need for one budget item, and that is our chamber staff pay compensation plan. Now, we know that the County takes very seriously, and this Board has always supported the competitive and equitable pay for our County employees and that commitment from this Board and the County had been demonstrated most recently by the Sigel pay study and the pay adjustment that went with that; and was approved by this January of 2024. And that plan acknowledged the value of the important work that our County employees provide, but we now have approximately 60 employees over at the court who have not seen those pay adjustments, and that is the funding that I'm here today to specifically underscore the court's need for."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

RACHEL KRAUSE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Your Honor, those employees that we're asking -- thank you, Commissioner. Those employees are the ones, who do the unseen, but critical work of the courts, and we understand the hard decisions that the Board must make, and we appreciate the Board's continued support for those employees. Thank you."

KEITH GAMMAGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning and Happy New Year. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, and Members of the Board of Commissioners; and welcome to our newest member. My name's Keith Gammage, and I serve as the elected Solicitor General here in Fulton County over misdemeanor prosecution. I deeply understand the important and impactful work that you all engaged in as we

deliver the best in justice and justice as opposed to injustice. In December of this year, the County Manager and I had a very engaging conversation, a very positive conversation where I expressed my concerns related to the consent decree and the federal investigation into the jail. And during the time, I suggested that we, after the normal budget process, but that I would look to this Commission and the County Management team to help us address holistically the concerns, not only with the jail and the structure, but with the processing -- I hate to use that term -- or the movement of individuals, human beings through the jail in a more expedited manner. I pitched some time ago in my first term an around-the-clock court proceeding where people would be addressed in jail within two hours of their arrival. I had a very conservative request in our enhancements for this budget year. One was an amount roughly \$216,000 to cover a budget deficit that occurred as a result of federal and state loss of grant funding. Another was just about a million dollars for additional investigators. Right now, investigators, each of them, we have 27 who carry about 3,000 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KEITH GAMMAGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and 84 cases that they're investigating each year. We've asked for ten additional ones as an enhancement that'll help us move cases out the jail; and then I put forward after the consent decree a request that you reconsider reevaluate."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you, sir. Thank you."

JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Cassandra Kirk. I serve as the Chief Magistrate Judge of Fulton County. At times, one-sided conversations seem to have a villain. And being an elected leader has its own strife. I do want to come today to highlight the importance of the Magistrate Court, which in 2024, closed over 61,000 cases, reviewed more than 35 arrest warrants, and processed 13,000 writs. I understand the need to manage government spending, and that budgets ultimately will reflect the priorities of this County. While it's stated that there is no money for the busiest Magistrate Court in the state, the continued allocation of resources to other courts with three and four times the Magistrate Court budget, underscores the need for equity and funding for justice. I want to address the concerns raised at your last meeting. On Monday, I provided you all with a Magistrate Court case clearance data, a metric we've tracked since 2019, demonstrating an impressive 88 percent clearance rate. The increase in our budget since 2020 was primarily due to judicial salary adjustments, bringing our judges closer to parity with other courts, including raising our part-time judges' pay from \$50 to \$83 an hour due to an HR study you approved. Additionally, the 10 ORCA Magistrate staff left in August 2024, and we've continue to request sustainable funding to continue the great work we've proven we can do. ORCA was a Band-Aid and we knew it, but ORCA allowed us to show what this court could achieve if adequately resourced. Balancing the County's budget on the backs of self-represented litigants and those who can at least afford it is not the

solution. Since 2016, I've advocated for adequate staffing with our initial assessment showing 78 staff needed, yet only 39 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- positions were approved. The public needs your support to fund the Magistrate court with an additional 711,000, and to return the \$780,000 previously cut from our budget. I'm here to invite you to engage in thoughtful discussion as we work through these facts. Thank you."

JUDGE NANCY MAU, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chair Pitts. Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Nancy Mau, and I serve as one of the full-time magistrate judges in the Fulton County Magistrate Court. I'm here in support of the Magistrate Court's budget. I'd like to address the agenda items related to the 2025 Magistrate Court Budget. Last year, the Board voted to approve a Resolution to reallocate funds from the Magistrate Court to the Superior Court, which represents three full-time judges. The Superior Court judges and the Magistrate Court judges met and reached an agreement resolving at least that issue via a Memorandum Of Understanding. I am one of the three full-time Magistrate Court judges that is currently serving in Superior Court. I'm serving there now pursuant to that MOU. I've been serving since last March. Once that MOU was signed, that issue regarding the judges assisting or being assigned to Superior Court was fulfilled. There was not one day of coverage that was missed. There was no interruption whatsoever in the court processes. I'm currently serving there right now. I'm here in support of the Magistrate Court's request to restore the funding from the Superior Court back to the Magistrate Court, and approve the Magistrate Court's budget request. The public and the citizens are best served when the Magistrate Court is fully funded and fully operational. Nothing and no one is served by defunding a vital part of our judiciary regarding an issue that --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JUDGE NANCY MAU, PUBLIC SPEAKER: -- has been resolved long ago, and the parties are still working together in full spirit of the MOU and we will continue to do so. And thank you -- I want to thank all of you for listening and for your service to Fulton County. Thank you. Welcome, Commissioner Ivory."

JEWEL JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Jewel Johnson, I reside at 4660 Orkney Lane in the city of South Fulton. I'm here this morning because I want to let you know I have been to two of the end meetings for the budget, and I am very, very disturbed, and I'm going to tell you how I am disturbed. First of all, I want to commend the financial department for the way they put everything together and made it all pretty. It looked like everybody is going to be equally served. I want to let you know there is no way our budget is a billion dollars, and we have all of these civic and social needs on the Southside. I've been tracking this since 2017, and instead of us lifting this up, we've been going down, down, down, down. Our number one priority

is life and when we don't have good healthcare, that's a problem. I'm not going anywhere. I have been sending e-mails, I have been calling. Nobody's been responding except for two Commissioners, and that's Commissioner Marvin Arrington and Commissioner Pitts. I have spent an hour or so with Commissioner Pitts, and he knows exactly what's happening with us. Let me tell you little bit of something that you may not know. I am speaking to people all over the state of Georgia and outside of the state of Georgia; and what we are doing here is causing a lot of problems on our other counties, because our people are going as far as Macon for services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

JEWEL JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I had to go all the way to John's Creek's. In my 15 seconds, it's all seven of you. I'm going to ask either one of you -- it doesn't matter -- to please put me on the agenda for the next class because I have a presentation for you. And I'm asking all seven of --"

CLERK GRIER: "Will the next five speakers please come forward: John Garrett, Michael Collins, Christopher Escobar, Angela Watts, Paul Hershey, and Tanjuria Willis."

JOHN GARRETT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is John Garrett. I am a resident of Fulton County. I was born in the city of Atlanta. And I am here in front of you with regards to the courtesy rides for seniors, which is very important. My mom is Gwen Meadows, and she's a part of the courtesy rides program. The program, as you know, has been cut from 16 to eight; even 16 wasn't enough; but now it's down to four, which is equivalent to four days round-trip. Isolation among senior citizens can lead to a range of negative effects on the physical and mental health including increased risk of depression, cognitive decline, heart disease, weakened immune system, poor quality of life, and even increase in mortality rates. Essential impacting the overall well-being -- overall well-being is significant. It can also be -- it's also detrimental to their health as much as smoking. And again, my mother goes to the centers -- been going to the center for years. She has an opportunity to socialize. She has an opportunity to take classes while she's there, and she actually has an opportunity to engage with people. If you don't attend a certain number of classes for Fulton County, they will drop you out of their course. My mom goes there to walk; she takes computer classes, et cetera, et cetera. So it's very important for me to make sure that she's active -- let me not forget the breakfast and lunch. She loves the breakfast and lunch there. But it's also -- it's important for me for my mom to be active, and the citizens of Atlanta, the senior citizens, deserve this. They really deserve an opportunity to have a fulfilled life by being a part of the community and going to their centers. Thank you very much. Please consider not only increasing it back to 16, but also consider raising it above --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JOHN GARRETT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- thank you."

MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Happy New Year, Commissioners. My name is Michael Collins. Welcome, Commissioner Ivory. I'm from Color of Change, and I also work on behalf of the Community Over Cages Coalition. We are pleased that the Department of Justice has reached an agreement with the County to enter into the consent decree. (inaudible) the DOJ is well-intentioned, but the same cannot be said of the Sheriff who will use this opportunity to request more funding and continue his crusade for a two billion-dollar jail. Please use your position to exercise oversight and skepticism as the Sheriff uses this crisis to further his own personal gain. In the same vein, we see that DA Willis is also trying to take advantage of the jail crisis by sending a letter to the Commission threatening jail population increases if her budget is not boosted. Stating the quote, each of you are on notice if you enact the proposed budget, people will die, unquote. Leaving aside that this talk belongs in a RICO indictment, the reality is that DA Willis has squandered millions of dollars bolstering her national profile through the Trump and YSL trials, both of which have fallen apart. Where is the accountability for this funding? If the County decides to increase funds, it shouldn't be to the Sheriff, the DA, or a new jail. It should be to the courts and pretrial services to keep the jail population down. We've had enough of the games. DOJ is here. Let the children take a seat while the adults do the work. Thank you."

CHRISTOPHER ESCOBAR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Christopher Escobar and I am here to expose the truth of a couple Fulton County programs. Just over a year ago, I came here to share a case study about how a nonprofit organization, the Atlanta Film Society, not only help save the Plaza Theater from closing, which is the anchor tenant of the commercial property at the corner of Ponce de Leon and North Highland, but helped it rebound creating prosperity with the Plaza Theater now paying over \$200,000 a year in sales and property taxes, and grow interest in the whole center leading to it being bought just seven years ago for a whopping \$18 million, and just days ago, the property sold again for double, an astonishing 36 million. Now, while Fulton County doesn't directly fund the operation of the Plaza Theater or any tenants, they're nonprofits like the Atlanta Film Festival, Bronze Lense Film Festival, and the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival played a vital role in revitalizing this property with their programs and their use of it. And do rely on support of programs like Fulton County Arts and Culture and Fulton Films. Additionally, Atlanta Film Society has trained over 5,000 high rating production assistants who work in the film industry, was a part of the growth of careers like Fulton Zone, Daniel Detwiler who just yesterday was nominated for an NAACP Image Award. So while Fulton County Arts and Culture has the goals of serving constituents and approving quality of life and access to the arts on the case of Fulton Films to get County-owned facilities rented by the film industry, the truth is they're doing that and more. And additionally, by stimulating economic development, work force development, and helping launch careers and have national and international impact. Now you might be wondering, well these things sound like good things, why is this guy so worked up? Number one, to beat the clock. Number two, because I thought it would be more entertaining, and I just want to thank you for your support of these programs. I want to encourage you to consider that they are not only accomplishing their goals but far more, and might consider further investment. I want to congratulate

Commissioner Ivory who's been an incredible supporter of arts and look forward to all you can accomplish."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

CHRISTOPHER ESCOBAR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and I want to close with a quote from President Carter, 'like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political and social boundaries.' Thank you."

ANGELA WATTS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Board of Commissioners. My name is Angela Watts and I am the founder of Atlanta Fashion Week. Today, I will speak on to how fashion drives economic impact for Fulton County. First, I would like to thank you for your continued support of arts and culture in Fulton County. Because of your backing, our programs have grown to attract grants from around the world to launch and build their businesses here, and contribute directly to the County's economic impact. Students from institutions like SCAG and Clark Atlanta are now choosing Fulton County as the place to build their businesses rather than moving to hubs like New York and Los Angeles. Fashion is big business for Fulton County. The Atlanta Apparel Market draws over 200,000 visitors annually with attendees staying an average of 3.2 days. This generates \$640 million annually, equivalent to hosting the Super Bowl yearly. Atlanta Fashion Week is growing annually and attracts global brands and audiences for five days of programming showcasing Fulton County as a fashion hub. Just in 2024 alone, Fulton County was featured in numerous national publications with a combined audience reach of 183 million. The exposure elevates the County's profile as a leader in arts, culture, and business. Additionally, our new partnership with Bloomingdales helps emerging brands test their products with major retailers, fostering opportunities for local business growth. Programs like this are essential to sustaining small businesses in the fashion sector. The Apparel Market in Georgia is thriving with revenues projected to reach \$535 million by 2025. Yet Georgia ranks last in government arts funding. To remain competitive, we must invest more in initiatives that support local businesses and drive economic growth --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ANGELA WATTS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- fashion and art together create jobs, grow businesses, and enrich our cultural identity. I urge you to increase funding for programs like ours, and ensure Fulton County remains a leader in arts, culture, and economic innovation. Thank you."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Morning. My name is Paul Hershey. Here we go again, 2025. I thought we changed things. You've got two elected officials, one of them is already been fined \$21,000 to pay judicial watch. And then number two, you've got a Sheriff that couldn't get a bond, and the bottom line is the minimum bond for a Sheriff in the state of Georgia is 25,000, and you're paying \$75,000. And again,

basically what you're doing is you're self-insured. I have told this Board and asked this Board twice to get -- to bring forth a motion for a no-confidence vote on these two individuals. The longer you wait, the more your risk management is not doing his job, because you are facing a big crisis with -- the bad business judgment rule that you're following, period. Look it up. I've got two attorneys up there. You need to look it up, because I've been through it with the Board. Number two, I went to a meeting with Commissioner Arrington months ago. We talked about the health issues down in South Fulton. I am very familiar with those issues. I told him that I could put together a team to recommend how they could fix it. You've gotten fire stations down there, 162 people on staff, and you've got extra ambulances and everything else. You can do a Memorandum Of Understanding and a contract with Planned Parenthood and use their hospital suites to do emergency services; and I asked him to call me. Never did call me. Now, we have a volleyball member that died --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and he wants to talk about the services down there. I am very familiar with South Fulton. I belong to a group down there that knows Commissioner Arrington and, seriously, this needs to be looked at, and I can help them."

TANJURIA WILLIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Tanjuria Willis, and I'm the founder of Sustainable Fashion Week Atlanta. First, I'd like to thank you for your support of the arts community in Fulton County. Your investment strengthens our cultural fabric, making Atlanta a beacon for creativity and innovation. As Sustainable Fashion Week, we proudly brought Georgia its first zero waste fashion week, showcasing high-end eco-conscious designers, establishing our state and county as a leader in green innovation. We've also produced the groundbreaking conscious couture museum, featuring sculptures made entirely from discarded materials demonstrating the transformative intersection of art, fashion, and sustainability. Our initiatives directly align with Fulton County's art's and sustainability goals through programs including our repair café and community closet, we've diverted 90 percent of our waste from the landfills in 2024 alone, and promoted reuse within our communities. Our high school residency teaches future leaders the principles of responsible design and environmental stewardship cultivating a new generation of sustainability advocates. By attracting international brands and fostering trade opportunities, we've also generated economic growth while advancing the County's environmental mission. Your continued support can help us build on these successes; bridging the gap between the arts and sustainability, and positioning Fulton County as a global leader in innovation. We ask for your funding consideration to include for-profit organizations like ours, enabling us to fuel transformative --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

TANJURIA WILLIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- programs that advance both community and environmental goals. Thank you for championing a brighter more sustainable future, and thank you for listening."

CLERK GRIER: "That last speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: Afreen Kheundumiri, J. Wesley Day, Marie Gaudio, Janet Hill, LA Pink, El Lewis, and Randy Davidson."

AFREEN KHEUNDUMIRI, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Dear Commissioners, thank you for supporting the art community. As an artist, I deeply appreciate the resources and encouragement we receive each year. On November 8, 2024, I organized a culture and diversity art program in this very building which drew over 300 attendees. The event showcased the work of 15 artists whose pieces have been on display just outside these doors for the past few weeks. It also featured ten international performances and three fashion shows. Yes, all of this happened right here and was made possible by the seed grant provided by the Fulton County arts program. I took the 1500 grant and turned it into 25,000 by partnering with local businesses to (indiscernible.) the event. That 1500 grant in turn stimulated the local economy, drew media attention locally and internationally, and sent a powerful message that Fulton County welcomes, supports, and enriches the lives of everyone through the arts. Your continued support of the arts program sends a powerful message that Fulton County value creativity, education, and community well-being. To further enhance this program, I respectfully request that please consider increasing the grant award for individual artists who organize life skilled events that bring communities together and celebrate cultural diversity. Let us ensure that the arts remain a cornerstone of Fulton County's identity and a source of inspiration for generations to come. Thank you."

J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Happy New Year and good morning. My name is J. Wesley Day. And I'm here to ask you to not increase the budget for the Solicitor General's office, particularly, unless there is some type of oversight to prevent what occurred with me to happen to someone else. I'm also asking that you admonish and rebuke Keith Gammage. In 2018, I was beaten into a coma. I have my assailants on video camera. As you all know, he dismissed the charge of one of my assailants, the main one on camera calling me fag, sissies, and homos. However, he escalated my charge to a felony causing me to lose my dream job at Delta Airlines. In 2020, I was at Lenox Mall with my receipt in hand waiting outside for a hundred dollar carry out order for myself and my ill mother that I take care of. However, the police came, tapped me, and said you got to go. As any reasonable person would, I asked why. They said because I said so. I said I'm not trying to be smart, but that's not good enough for me. I said I need my food or my hundred dollars back. Click, click, I was charged with trespassing. Keith Gammage, wait until I get my job back at Delta Airlines after a couple of years on appeal, and then he charges -- add the charge of obstruction to justice of a police officer. I ask you to look at page one through -- starting with page four. If you look at the timeline that I created, it's clear to any reasonable person --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that Keith Gammage has a personal vendetta against me. Any time I spoke out against him publicly or I did a protest, you will see that his action was retaliatory against me. Please read my packet."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. I'm here today again to follow up on the issue of deed fraud. A recent interview with Che Alexander indicated that she is aware of the deed fraud as a crises, which is actually really good news because that means that you're involved and you understand that there's a deed fraud crises. She also confirmed that on April 10th and the fraudulent deed transaction town hall meeting where she was a no-show, that a follow-up town hall meeting that took place on April 11th, there was an admission that the DA and the police officers have not being informed of this fraud. Then on August the 27th of 2024, there was an admission that there is no process or procedure for filing deeds in Fulton County. I'll repeat that. There is no process or procedure for filing deeds in Fulton County. In September of 2024, the office of the clerk is withholding US mail from the District Court in Washington, DC. That mail was withheld from a deed fraud court case for over a year. Then in December, a homeowner's home was raided by the Sheriff's Department --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- after he received an order to return to his home from the Magistrate Court. We're in a desperate need for a forensic audit of all of these departments. The clerk of --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, ma'am. Thank you."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Well, as always, cult of corruption. 2024 was the year of exposure, and 2025 is the year of removal. And so today, I come down here because I hold in my hand a security bond that have expired for the Sheriff. I hold also his power of attorney. I did an open records request to get this information a few times. I've just done a new one to get his new one. Because if he doesn't have a surety bond, which I know you guys voted on at the last time, we don't have a Sheriff if he doesn't have a bond. I know that she sat there and said she didn't know what the penalties were, but if she would take the time out to read 15 code -- Georgia code 1516-5 along with the other couple of codes, all of you would be a violation if none of them had -- had been operating under a surety code -- I mean -- you know what I'm talking about, bond; security bond. Any one of you would be in a violation and cannot operate in your position if you don't have one. So if he doesn't have one today, he is not Fulton County Sheriff. Let me say that again for y'all that's -- and where she go; sticking up for him. Cause that's what it sounds like. Right now, this sounds like you guys are allowing him to pimp you. Okay. I'll just put it out like that, because how is it that this is one person --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that have more deaths, more bodies up under his badge than any other Sheriff? Other sheriffs have been removed for less than --"

EL LEWIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm El Lewis, a UG grad, creative and fashion entrepreneur based in Atlanta, Georgia. I want to thank the Board of Commissioners for your continued support of the arts here in Fulton County. Although Georgia usually ranks little to last in funding for the arts, we have been able to produce some of the most influential artists of our time, the late and almighty Radcliffe Bailey, Spike Lee, Andre 3000, Raven Simone, Julia Roberts, Kanye West, Cosmo White, and countless others. I would be remiss not to mention the 114 of Atlanta's artists that died on Air France back in 1962. We are still weeping in 2025. I know that void is the reason we are here advocating for this necessary discipline to be supported in its fullness. I'm a past participant, or recipient of the contracts for services in 2020, when I taught an intensive during the pandemic via Zoom about the business of fashion. I'm here because, not only do I understand what it takes to build something, but I understand that that building is for the next person coming in. Like many others I had to leave Atlanta to garner experience and support; that should not be the case. Fashion is seen as frivolous, unimportant. It's not just about luxury like Yves Saint Laurent or Mark Jacobs. It's an actual basic need like food and shelter. Globally, fashion is an 880 billion-dollar industry, and people like myself are galvanizing an industry here in the South because we have it. We just need the support. I propose opening up a line for funding under contract for services for fashion entrepreneurs for profits. Fashion is an art form that the youth continuously supports and a potential cornerstone for economic growth if we seize the opportunity. I leave you with this quote from Nikki Giovanni --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

EL LEWIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- art is our future. It's our door to our past and a window to the future. Through art, we learn to dream, to challenge, and to tolerate. Thank you."

RANDY DAVISON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello everyone. I'm Randy Davison with Georgia Entertainment. Thank you all for having me here. It's so good to see some friends and familiar faces. Congratulations to Mo for her appointment, and thank you, Chairman Pitts, for your leadership standing up for Fulton County here locally and your initiatives around the world, highlighting the economic development here. We're a publication that covers Georgia's film and entertainment and arts industry since 2016. Our tagline is we are the creative, cultural, and entertainment capital of the world, Georgia, and Fulton County is the heart of that. In terms of film and the arts, there's been a monster evolution of what's happening in this industry segment that has evolved over the years and I think you guys are all aware of that, especially if you just look at our youth and the education system. These are the jobs our kids want. It's been

decentralized from Hollywood and it's taking place right here in front of us in Georgia and in Fulton County. Through our partnership with Fulton Films, we engage filmmakers and people creating content that drive job opportunities and location exposure that drives tourism and economic development for Fulton County. We do this around the world. We'll be at Sundance at the end of January. We'll be at Cannes Film Festival standing up Georgia and Fulton County in France; we'll be in Toronto at the Toronto International Film Festival, and we rally locally here in Fulton County to keep driving and exposing this. The arts is no longer something to discard and put off to the side as I know there's a lot of competing interests of economic needs and challenges that we all have, but it's economic development. It is the future of -- the creative economy is the future of what Fulton County has to hold, and so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

RANDY DAVISON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- I encourage you all as you elaborate and evaluate all of these competing interests to recognize this as something that's essential. It's a mutual fund for this community's economic development complementary and alongside all the other industry segments that service out of Fulton County. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two speakers on Zoom."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Kevin Muldowney."

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Kevin Muldowney, Fulton County resident. There was a great comment made last meeting suggesting that each Commissioner request an audit of each of the top six money-spending departments and analyze such for efficiency and effectiveness. Whether it's elections, Sheriff, District Attorney, and other cross legal departments, we need to ring out waste across the board. We're approaching the time of year where the budget -- where the new budget will be submitted for approval. It is clear that just throwing more money in various departments is not the answer. As we saw from Fani Willis' dismal court failures and catastrophic costs resulting in nothing but an even larger backlog of legitimate cases, or Sheriff Labat's budgetary ineptness. And don't even get me started on the elections department spending, violation of election law and obstruction of transparency. To just approve a budget based on past spending plus some additional percent would be fiduciary madness. We need accountability and efficiency. We need County departments that actually produce results Fulton taxpayers can be proud of. One other thing, I also noticed on the consent agenda, a motion to rename the East Point Library to the William McClure Library. I believe Mr. McClure was found guilty of racism that cost the County \$18 million in compensatory and punitive damages. My instinct would tell me that this isn't such a good idea. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Matt Rowenzcak."

MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. A question for you this morning, if you've received a revised budget for 2025. I would expect there to be some revisions and conversations to go on during this process. Because the initial and the current version is still, as many have said, overinflated. So are we just going to spend taxpayer money, you know, without some due diligence in the process? There's lots of professionals that have come and made conservative and responsible requests. You have departments that are on the total opposite end of the spectrum. For everyone in the audience, there's 12 to \$13 million in the elections department alone that's in excess. Easy. We're not even talking about the DA's budget or the Sheriff's budget; so to the previous comment, I think to actually use the County Auditor in the audit committee is a fantastic idea. And lastly, yes, this idea to name a Fulton County Library after William McClure after found guilty of discrimination against multiple librarians; my question would be who put this on the consent agenda? It seems very inappropriate. We just had 'a congratulations Mo Ivory' who replaced Commissioner Hall because she discriminated against one of her employees and cost the County almost a million dollars. So we have an individual here costing the County – well, the library system almost \$18 million and somehow makes it on the consent agenda."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay. This concludes the Zoom public comments."

CLERK GRIER: "No further speakers."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 10, Presentations to the Board, **25-0027**, Invest Atlanta Briefing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Are they here? Speak up, ma'am, please."

JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA: "There we go. Good morning, Jennifer Fine, Vice President, Planning Strategic Initiatives, at Invest Atlanta. I'm going to be giving you the quarterly TAD Programmatic Update. Next slide, please. So this map shows currently we have nine TADs in the city of Atlanta that Fulton County participates in. We've previously discussed the timing of the closing of the Atlantic Station TAD and we're going to come back to that at the end of the presentation to give you some updates there. Next slide, please. Thank you. So it's always important again to stress the breadth of how TAD directly impacts people. TAD is one of the very few public financing tools impacting the retention of jobs and small businesses; and helping them

grow by providing access to otherwise inaccessible financing. TAD's very unique in the things that it can do. It can fund environmental remediation work on land that would otherwise sit undeveloped. Reactivating these areas creates public open spaces and parks, and I think we all know TAD plays a key role in the creation of affordable and workforce housing. We're clearly trying to solve and move the needle on some very significant issues such as vacancy -- office vacancy, in particular, downtown, and other employment centers is very high. TAD has and continues to be critical to repositioning buildings from office to residential uses. We also continue to focus on creating more equity in terms of access to capital in our commercial corridors, and small and disinterested businesses. These efforts are extremely beneficial, not only to the residents of Atlanta, but obviously residents and businesses within Fulton County. Next slide, please. This is a snapshot kind of overall efforts in 2024. Twenty-four unique projects were funded, and six of the nine TADs representing a very wide variety and diversity of project types and geographic location; nearly \$27 million in TAD financing was awarded, which in turn, leveraged 431 million of private and other funding of direct impact in the county. Projects represent 1,300 residential units, 1,160 of which are affordable at area median incomes between 30 and 80 percent. TAD funding will also be used to create new commercial and needed neighborhood community retail and service opportunities, assisting with small business development and retention. Next slide, please. This is a map that shows the geography of all 24 of those projects. Next slide, please. And this again has all 24 projects with specific detail such total development cost location, developer, when it was approved, and what the funding source is. Next slide, please. So I have two slides that show projects that were approved in the last quarter of 2024. The top slide shows the redevelopment of a vacant commercial lot in the Castleberry Hill neighborhood in the Westside TAD. Brownfield site will be remediated and developed into a culinary kitchen incubator within a 30-room hospitality hotel managed locally, managed and owned locally. The project will create access to affordable commercial space for at least 20 local culinary businesses and food entrepreneurs within a very high growth area in the city; directly supports local small minority-owned businesses and increases healthy food access and dining options within the neighborhood. This project received \$940,000 in Westside TAD funding assistance, and is expected to begin construction by the third quarter of this year. The bottom image is of another project in partnership we're very proud to support. This is the much-anticipated redevelopment of what is known as the Yellow Store in the English Avenue neighborhood at 500 James P. Brawley Avenue. Renovation will preserve historic details of this 100-year-old structure, and will retain its original use, which includes neighborhood retail on the ground floor, and four units of apartments on the second floor. Important to note that these apartments will be rented at between 60 and 80 percent of area median income. The property again will be an important gathering place for the neighborhood, as it has been for the last 100 years. Important in this project is activation of outdoor space that will accommodate the neighborhood food restaurant and a small creative industry space will take up occupancy also on the ground floor. The project received a \$750,000 grant and is expected to start construction this quarter and be completed by the end of the year. Next slide, please. Project on top shows the redevelopment obviously of a vacant

Family Dollar into a new Atlanta Community Food Center in the Adamsville neighborhood. Community Food Centers are owned and operated by Atlanta Community Food Bank, and the model is a key strategy developed by the organization to approve food access in communities with high levels of food insecurity and significant gaps in social services. Important to note that unlike traditional food pantry model, community food centers provide client choice, giving residents the opportunity to choose their food and household goods onsite. A \$250,000 Hollowell MLK grant was provided to the project. Construction is expected to begin this quarter and will take about six months to complete. The last project on the bottom is one of our smaller projects, but one that we are extremely proud of, and it's been in the works for seven plus years, I would say. The property is a four plex that has been owned and live in by an active legacy resident for over 12 years. The property owner participated in our English Avenue and Vine City Community Builders Program in 2017. Foundational objectives of the community builders program included building property, revitalization capacity from within the neighborhoods, so that residents could take advantage of the development opportunities that were happening around them; providing access to direct development opportunities, legacy resident retention, increasing access to affordable housing, and providing access to income generations for properties that legacy residents already own. The program provided Westside TAD resources for three distinct phases of development, education and training, predevelopment, and then lastly, construction financing. So this property owner has completed the first two phases, and was in a position to apply for construction financing, having already received the construction loan. So a \$260,000 grant was awarded to the project that will create five units of affordable multifamily apartments and one apartment for the resident owner who will continue to live there. Construction will start this quarter and be completed by the end of the year. Next slide, please. So this is an overview of all projects: all 24 projects that were approved in 2024. Obviously, hugely impactful to people and businesses again in the city in Fulton County. Can't overstate how difficult a lot of this work is, in particular, providing access to affordable residential and commercial, and that is a unique area and space that the TAD resides in being able to provide tools for both of those things. In-fill residential mixed-use projects and disinvested commercial corridors continues to be an area of focus. Conversion of vacant blighted property and to need community services like healthcare, job-training, and healthy food access. And these are things we will continue to focus on in 2025; driving again access to all of these critical things, especially in disinterested areas and in food deserts. We are committed to this and appreciate your continued support. I don't think we have a next slide, but we can see. I think we do want to address Atlantic Station with some key milestones."

DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, CEO, INVEST ATLANTA: "Thank you, Jennifer Fine, for that presentation. My name is Dr. Eloisa Klementich. I'm the proud president and CEO of Invest Atlanta. Per our discussion previously, we were working toward Atlantic Station TAD, all debts have been satisfied, so we suspect that at the end of this month, we'll be submitting legislation to officially close the Atlantic Station TAD. That will go through the process, the city council process, and I suspect the next time we're before

you, I'll be able to report that that has, in fact, been closed. I'll open it up to any questions, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, questions. Commissioner Barrett followed by Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Ms. Fine, Dr. Klementich, thank you for being here and for the presentation. I just want to say, as a member of the Invest Atlanta Board, on behalf of Fulton County that it is, you know -- it has really been gratifying to, in particular, work on some of these issues around the food deserts and food inequity, and I'm really glad you're able to bring some of that to us at this meeting. I think it's important for the Commissioners and the citizens to know that Fulton County is participating with you on addressing these critical issues. I mean we talk a lot about public health here and I think everybody recognizes that without healthy food, you do not have a healthy community. So I just want to highlight that and thank you for your work on that, and I look forward to hearing more about the closure of Atlantic Station."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you. Thank you for coming here. This is very helpful to be informed on all the work that you're doing, and I'm sure this is just a small fragment. I just had, like, a quick question about the \$260,000 grant for this, I guess, he's an apartment building owner. How does it work? You give them a grant and then what prevents that person from just selling the property, or what kind of stipulations are in place to ensure that the housing really is affordable housing for years to come?"

JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA: "Sure. That's a great question. And we don't typically like in presentation like this, get into the weeds of that structure, but it's critical and actually the more -- the longer process for us. We have approval, and then we enter into contracts for all of our projects that really button all of that up. So all of our projects that we were funding to that have an affordability component, have a maximum dollar amount for rent, as well as a term. You know in this case, we have a 20-year term on that affordability. That is legislated, if you will, through a land use restriction agreement that gets placed on that property. So no matter what happens to that property, if it were to sell, that restriction is still in place on that property, and so those affordability requirements run with that property. Also important to note in this case, the property owner will have a construction loan that's also -- it's with a community partner lender that also is wanting to ensure affordability. And so, things that are claw-back provisions if that affordability were to ever go askew. But it's really that land use restriction that is a legally binding document that runs with the property. And we have a compliance section within Invest Atlanta that, at a minimum, has annual kind of audits of property. So there's lots of different layers and ways that we ensure it, so that was a great question. But at the back end of all of our projects is very cumbersome and very rigorous."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And then finally, I had the pleasure of getting to go on a Beltline tour recently. And can you tell me that the main focus of the Beltline TAD upcoming? I mean, I know most of it's completed, and I think they're in Commissioner Barrett's district, but I don't know how long that's going to take to complete that area and what is the next area after that?"

JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA: "Sure. So I'm not the best person to speak holistically about all the projects in the Beltline. I can say it runs through -- I mean, there's many pieces to it. So fundamentally it's the 22-mile trail itself that runs through lots of different commission districts and the city of Atlanta districts. In completing that Northeast section, it is the last bit, you know, the Southside trail is under construction now; it's been funded. There's gaps to be filled, but that Northeast piece was the last fit, and one of the images we showed in the presentation was the groundbreaking for that. So the trail completion is, you know, well on its path to being completed. But there's also a lot of different components that the Beltline TAD funds as part of the Beltline, the side connection trails, and parks as well. As well as using some of the available increment for affordable housing, so the Beltline has recently issued RFPs to construct affordable housing on the Beltline, some of which I've discussed in previous conversation. So the biggest area of focus aside from finishing all -- buttoning up all pieces of the trail, is developing those pieces of the property that the Beltline owns into affordable workforce, mixed-use development to activate and create jobs on the Beltline. Does that kind of answer your question? That was a big --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- that kind of answers my questions. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ellis -- Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the presentation. A few questions: Do you know what the present percent of the Atlanta tax base which would sit in the TADs in Atlanta?"

JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA: "The current percent of the Atlanta tax base within TADs is about 16 to 17 percent, I believe. That's from me visually looking at a slide I have on a presentation, so I could be slightly off, but I think that's pretty close."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So about 7 percent or so above the cap right now?"

JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA: "Excuse me?"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "About 6 or 7 percent above the cap right now."

JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA: "Correct, yeah."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. And then, for calendar year 2024, do you have the incremental property tax funding, or not incremental, but the property tax funding that

went to Atlanta-based TADs that were broken out by Fulton County, Atlanta Public Schools, and the city of Atlanta?"

DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, CEO, INVEST ATLANTA: "We have that, and we can get that to you. I can't tell you all the numbers per TAD off the top of our head."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. If you can get that information, that would be helpful. All right, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. See you next quarter."

JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA: "All right. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. On page 11, **25-0029**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval of a statewide contract in the total amount not to exceed \$161,655 to purchase and deliver three 2025 Ford F150 police trucks for the Fulton emergency management, aircraft rescue and firefighting stations."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorn, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0030**: Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in an amount not to exceed \$190,528 to provide Cardiac Science Automated External Defibrillators."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A motion to adopt by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **25-0031**, Public Works: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders in an amount not to exceed \$14 million to provide standby miscellaneous construction waste water system services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, **25-0032**: Request approval to extend an existing contract for Pine Valley Phase 2A Interceptor Sewer Replacement at no additional cost."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Cast your vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "Under Justice and Safety, **24-0906**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance: Request approval of a procurement of supplies and equipment required for residents housed in the County's jail facilities in a total amount not to exceed \$2,239,975.02."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a motion? We need to discuss this. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Arrington. Is there a second? Seconded for discussion by Vice Chair Ellis. All right, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, when -- I think this has come up -- I think we've talked about this numerous times when it came up at the last meeting. You know, I think we all -- well, I think there was a lot of discussion that these items that are being requested here to be paid out of the general fund out of a particular line item should actually be items that are within the Sheriff's operational budget. And so, the County management team asked for direction on this issue, we voted. The vote was not approved, and I think that was direction. So I'm not 100 percent sure why this is back. But, you know, it's my sense that this should be just handled, you know, by the Sheriff's budget. We should not be involved in whether or not he can buy toilet paper, in particular, and some other of the commodities listed. So I'm not quite sure how we move forward on this? Do we need to do a specific motion, or do we just want to give direction here, but I think that's the direction I think everybody seemed to agree on at the last meeting by vote."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I happen to agree with you. Madam CFO, when the decision was made to -- for the -- what was it called; the inmate welfare fund. Revenue from the inmate welfare fund to come to -- into the general fund versus staying with the Sheriff. My understanding that all of those monies would come and be a part of the general fund. And the items, the relevant items, the items that should be provided as an ongoing basis, for example: soap, toilet tissue, underwear for the inmates, we ought to be providing that for the inmates. And I've said, not jokingly, but otherwise you'd be asking -- when someone is arrested -- to stop by Target and buy enough underwear to last while they're in jail. So that's not their responsibility. I think that's the County responsibility. So to your point, I believe that the revenue that's derived from the inmate welfare fund should come to our general fund; and the Sheriff's request, it should include those items that are necessary for the benefit of the inmates and to be funded by us, and I think that's where we need to get to. In order to -- to your other point -- in order to address that problem today, what I would recommend is that we not approve the legislation that's before us and amend the Sheriff's budget by this same amount for him to use -- now that's a problem I know whether -- by the same amount whether he would use it to buy these items are not, but that's what we can direct him to do so he won't come back and say we didn't provide revenue for the basic necessities in the jail, so that's what I would be supportive of. So let's hear from others. Again, the motion on the floor is to approve. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair Ellis, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Due to the fact that I was not here at the last meeting, I would not be able to vote on this. Relatively speaking, Chairman, I would have probably be more inclined to support your suggestion, but I would need the information. I would not be able to give this a favorable vote today. In theory, Chairman, I would agree with what you're saying, but as it stands right now, I wasn't here at the last meeting. I do have one or two questions, but I believe they may be answered with what you're offering, but I won't be able to give this a favorable vote today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I mean, I think part of us here is sort of deal with something that's looking back and then the other part is sort of looking forward. I would recommend that we go ahead and approve these. The funds are there and they are in our general fund, they were just classed -- they are in our general fund, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, Commissioner Ellis. It's in nonagency."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "It's in nonagency. So I don't -- I think we've looked -- at the particular items you've been through, you've all looked through them; there's nothing I don't think that's controversial about the particular items that, you know, should be purchased here. And so, I recommend that we approve this today and I'm also -- and I

will also offer a friendly amendment that going forward that future funds that are related -- where the source of funding is coming from, you know, these two sources telephone or commissary related stuff, which has been -- would supply the inmate welfare funding, and we have a feeling that those funds are going to diminish every time based upon changes in law and so forth, correct? My recommendation that the future allocations of those dollars to be split with 50 percent of those going to facility needs and 50 percent going into the Sheriff's budget. And that's my friendly amendment. I don't know if Commissioner Arrington is willing to accept that or not."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Do you accept that, Mr. Arrington?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't know if I accept it as is. I think that what Commissioner Ellis stated and frankly, what you and Commissioner Barrett stated is -- makes complete sense. I think these funds should be in the Sheriff's budget. But I think the issue of where these funds should be placed is a separate issue from whether we should go ahead and actually buy the supplies. So I believe we should go ahead and buy the supplies. And I believe that these funds should go to the Sheriff's budget. I'm open to Commissioner Ellis' suggestion of a 50/50, but, you know, I think once it goes over to the Sheriff's office, it should go there. So, you know, I don't know that -- I think we do need a capital fund, but I think that's even, you know, a third issue or source of funding for capital expenditures at the jail. So I'm not going to accept the amendment to split it 50/50. I do believe that these supplies should be purchased, but I think -- you know, what happens here is, you know, the language says that the funding is in the inmate services unit in nonagency. To Commissioner Barrett's point, I don't even know what that means. The inmate service fund was abolished. It was abolished by this Board. I voted against abolishing it. But how does it still exist in nonagency? It wasn't voted to transfer the inmate services fund to nonagency; the fund was abolished. The funds were transferred to the general fund. And so, to still have an inmate services unit in the general fund does not make sense to me. I think these funds should be with the Sheriff, but what budget the funds are in is a completely separate issue than whether these supplies should be purchased for the inmates. It's just a completely separate issue. One has nothing to do with the other."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. The friendly amendment is not accepted. Did you -- I'm sorry, Commissioner Ellis, you still have the floor."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I appreciate Commissioner Arrington's remarks on that. I mean, the inmate welfare fund set outside of the general fund, it was abolished, correct? Right?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And what -- that's brought -- the Resolution was passed, directed that be closed and then those funds be brought into the general fund, which they were. You've created a line item in nonagency called inmate services fund or

whatever it is, but it's separate and distinct from the way that the previous, you know, fund operated. And you've been taking in requests and then bringing those back to us for approval, and we're not going to relitigate why we did that. It's clear; we went through that because there was some improprieties going on in terms of how those funds were being expended. So we went to this, and now you bring these in batches. We've had, I think, one or two of these batches before that we approved earlier in the year, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The Board approved a similar commodities package last January or February, I don't remember exactly when."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I mean, I'll withdraw it. I mean, I think we need to address this and move on with this particular amount. I think we can have further discussion around how the future funding. If we want to change it from this current approach into something else, it seem to be, you know, some general consensus on it, but maybe not total alignment, and I think we can take that up and resolve that at a future time. But I think this commodities package needs to be addressed, you know, presently, and there's not -- you know, there should not be a compelling reason to hold that up while we debate how we're going to structure this thing going forward."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a substitute motion to have the funding for these commodities items placed into that Sheriff's budget so that he can pay for them directly without having to go through finance to do it. I think, you know, we're hearing some consensus around that, but I think if we're not specific and take a vote on it, it's going to remain sort of a question, and I think we can just put it to bed by moving it to his budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "At this time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I can support that with a friendly amendment assuming you accept it, that we be very specific and that this list of 20 items here, that is two million -- what is it, two million? Whatever that two million --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "2.239.9."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "\$2,239,975.02, be used specifically, solely, exclusively, specifically for the 20 items that are listed in this if you accept the --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "—I mean I think I think that, you know, certainly is the intent. I mean the Sheriff has control over his budget, so once we give it to him, I don't

know that we can enforce that, but I accept that, you know, as a condition, I guess, if you will, of the movement of those funds, that they be used for that purpose so, yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So you accept it?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So in response to the friendly amendment, I think we are violating the law, the Georgia Constitution, if we try to direct the Sheriff on how and where to spend his funds. He is a constitutional officer, and I do not believe that we have the authority to direct him to spend his funds. Further, Commissioner Barrett, I think that if we shift this money -- I think that if we shift the money at this point to the Sheriff's budget, it will take longer to procure these supplies, and maybe we need to hear from procurement. I think procurement is ready to go ahead and get these supplies right now and put them over there for the Sheriff to use. I don't think the Sheriff minds or whether this money goes into his budget or not. This money is for the supplies. So why not go ahead and approve the procurement of the supplies? Ms. Strong-Whitaker, would this take longer if the funds were put in the Sheriff's budget and then he'd have to request them?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PC&C: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm Felicia Strong-Whitaker. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. This is for the spending authority so that the Sheriff can place the orders for the supplies and commodities for the inmates as he needs to. They do have warehouse where they store these items, but this is the spending authority so that he can purchase these without having to keep coming back to purchasing. We have vetted all of these. We found cooperatives. As you know, the supplies for the inmates are not regular day-to-day supplies that you can get from anyone. They're very specific; some of them are specialized, so we have done our due diligence. We are bringing the package to you. We've worked with the Sheriff's office on the quantities, the amounts, the types, the descriptions. If we do not approve the spending authority, we will not be able to make purchases on behalf of the Sheriff's office for the inmates."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I guess I read this wrong. I didn't read this to say: request approval of spending authority of this amount for the Sheriff. What I've seen on here is request approval of the procurement of supplies. So when I read request approval of the procurement of supplies, I believe that someone is actually procuring them. When I read -- I see other agenda items that say request spending authority, and it says that, so I know what that means. It says, hey, they're just giving the authority to spend this, but that is not what this agenda item says."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PC&C: "So, Commissioner, I think there's a little nuance there of what we do is, we do master agreements for the Sheriff's

office and as they need the supplies they order the supplies off of a master agreement. So we would do the master agreement for the amount that you see for each vendor represented. But the Sheriff's office controls how they place the order for the actual supplies. Because it's an annual amount, and if they need 50 extra-extra large uniforms and not all a thousand, that's how they place the orders. So there's a little nuance in the difference, but we would be cutting the purchase order or the master agreement for the full amount for each vendor listed, so I apologize for that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No problem. I guess the point that I want to make, colleagues, is that we can approve this item whether it's for procurement or the spending authority without approving where the funds are or where the funds will be in the future if that is desired -- if that is the desire of the Board. It looks like the substitute did not get a second, so I guess we'll continue the discussion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Just for clarity, I understand that you provided a friendly amendment, Commissioner Barrett accepted it. I want to make sure that's still in play. If it is, I can support that. I do want to ask the County Attorney to weigh in. Is there anything legally that says that we cannot move forward with the friendly amendment and what Commissioner Barrett has accepted, because it does answer the questions and concerns that I have, and I would like to vote for it today if as it stands, if it's legal. If we're not breaking a law, I don't think we are, but, of course, I am not an attorney. So I would ask that you weigh in on it for clarity."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Let me confirm first that my understanding of the last friendly amendment was to just place this amount of money into Sheriff's budget so that he can use it as he sees fit to cover these expenses; is that correct?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, and the Chairman was asking, the friendly amendment was just sort of confined to those items. And that's part where there's a question about the legality."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, I would say that once it is in the Sheriff's, you can vote to put it in the Sheriff's budget for this use. But once it is in his budget, any limitations on specifically how he utilizes it is most likely going to be problematic."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just a point of order. There was a motion on the floor that was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by me. This was not a friendly amendment. This was a substitute motion, right?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "A substitute motion."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That you seconded, or did not second?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I did second it."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "There was no second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I seconded the motion and --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- I'm sorry. I'm confused."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I think the last motion was the substitute motion made by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Chairman Pitts, but Chairman Pitts also offered the friendly amendment to restrict the use of the funds."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Just a clarification from finance, to Commissioner Arrington's question about spending authority versus actual procurement and that distinction. If moving this money from nonagency into the Sheriff's budget, will there be an impact on the time frame of procuring these products?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PC&C: "That is a purchasing question. It depends on if the Sheriff does not want to move forward with the package that's being presented, and if we have to reprocur each and every one of those, it would take some time, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Wait a minute."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So you're saying that right now you have the vendors and the packages ready to go, and you're saying that if we move the money into the Sheriff's budget, that the Sheriff could then choose new vendors and new packages to use the money to procure these products with?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PC&C: "He may be. He has that ability".

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Who first asked for this request for this spending authority to be on the agenda?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PC&C: "So this is the same package that we presented last year, once the changes were made to the code about procurements. So we worked with the Sheriff's office on the quantities, on the vendors. We worked with them to find vendors who are on cooperative contracts with the County,

and so that the County, or members of, are statewide contracts are through the Department of Corrections."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So you've worked with the Sheriff's office to identify the vendors that you would be using, if this particular Resolution was to go through, that those vendors are vendors that you have discussed with the Sheriff's office. So it would not -- it would be unusual if we transferred these dollars into the Sheriff's budget that the Sheriff would want to start all over again with finding new vendors when these are necessary products that he needs immediately. Would you agree with that statement?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PC&C: "I'm not saying that he would, I'm just saying he has the ability to."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "In other words, it would be -- what's the word? Why in the world would the Sheriff not? I mean, it would be insane not to use this money for the items that -- those 20 items. And I know theoretically he could do whatever he wants to do with that money, but based upon this discussion, based upon those 20 -- what we've got? Just so the public would know what we're talking about. Somebody else read it. I don't want to --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It appears that the intention here is to make sure that these very necessary items get to the inmates, correct? I think that's what we all are looking to do and what we're trying to avoid by agreeing to this in its present state, is that these are such necessary and vital items that the Sheriff should be able to just order toilet paper, toothpaste, underwear when he needs to without having to keep continuously coming back to this Board, and that just seems to make good sense and good government."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's totally correct. All right. I don't have to read the items. Yeah, you read that -- well, wait a minute. Go ahead."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah, let's read these into the record so that when folks come up to talk about what he's doing and know that if these items are not purchased for the Sheriff, he'll have to come here and ask us why people don't have toilet paper in the prison. So uniforms, mops, toilet sheets, program, supplies, toilet tissue, towels, washcloths, laundry detergent, trash bags, inmate tumblers, exam gloves, equipment, nasal Narcan, shank-free items, specific cleaning supplies, K9 masks, 50 inch televisions, uniforms, laundry detergent, law library books, cleaning tablets."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Thank you, ma'am. Commissioner Arrington, do you still want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, I want to make sure that we're clear on the record. When I last spoke, I said that the item had not been seconded. I was looking directly at my screen and the item had not been seconded. Now, it might have been seconded after I stated that, but I want us to be real clear about the record that at the time that I made that statement, that item had not been seconded. So let's be real clear about that. Additionally, I am not going to support this substitute motion with the friendly amendment that we direct the Sheriff how and where to spend his money. That is unconstitutional. We do not have the authority to tell the Sheriff, a constitutional officer, how to spend his money. The Georgia Supreme Court and the Georgia courts have decided that issue long ago. Once we give money to the Sheriff, he has the authority to do whatever he wants to with it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any other discussion? I appreciate your favorable vote on this -- on the substitute. Let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open on the substitute motion. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Mr. Chairman?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "May I seek clarification on one issues? Since the language of the item was amended to include moving the budget funds to the Sheriff's office, I want to clarify that it's the Board's intention that we do that in advance of the budget being finalized so that we can go ahead and move on with the procurement activity."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. That's correct."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman, we're going back to the Consent Agenda, page 8."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Why are we going back to the Consent Agenda?"

CLERK GRIER: "The action item under County Manager's items. Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, yeah."

CLERK GRIER: "So we're going to wait until the end for that?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah. We always do."

CLERK GRIER: "And Vice Chair had mentioned last meeting to add those to the end of the County Manager's Actions Item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, he mentioned it, but that doesn't -- whatever we want to do. If that's what we want to do going forward, then we would -- so what we're saying then, even though it was a recommendation from the Vice Chair, that so going forward, and I'm, okay with that. But let's be real clear; be on the same page. Any item that is removed from the Consent Agenda will be heard when?"

CLERK GRIER: "At the end of the County Manager's Action Items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Everybody okay with it?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order, Mr. Chair. We have to have a vote on that. We have to have an agenda item. It has to be published, and then the public has to have an opportunity to have notice of that item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's your pleasure? We can take it up now -- we will take it up? Go ahead, sound it."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes, I wanted to hold the item on renaming the library --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sound it."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. On page 8, bottom of page 8, under Arts and Libraries, **25-0019**: Request approval of a Resolution to accept the name change of the East Point Library to the William H. McClure Library at East Point."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much for that. Starting from the first day, I'd like to be a consistent legislator in the things that I campaigned on and the things that I'll say here. And the one thing that I was definitely very strong about was that County dollars should be protected at all times, and those I believe also include any settlements, any lawsuits, any money that comes from the County, because of the actions of somebody that is associated with the County. And that was something that I spoke of many, many times, and the record reflects that. So when I saw this item that we were going to name a library in East Point after William H. McClure, I wanted to make sure that I did the research to find out what that situation was and why we were doing that. And what I found that was that while Mr. McClure had for sure given much of his time and much of his service to the library system, he also was the reason why there was an over \$18 million settlement with the County that was paid out because of remarks that he made about certain members of the library board, and it was a discrimination case. I do not feel that I could vote for something like that on someone

who caused that kind of financial damage to the County. So I'm asking my colleagues to vote, no on renaming one of our libraries. We would then be having a ribbon-cutting ceremony. We will be creating a new sign for the library, and we would be spending more dollars on somebody that caused the County, many years ago, it does not matter, it is the history of our County, and I don't think it's a wise financial decision to do that. So I am asking that we say, no on this item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you, Commissioner Ivory. We have done a massive renovation of all the libraries. We just did a ribbon-cutting recently for the MLK library, and there's two more left out of the 37 libraries, and East Point is one of them. And in light of what's been said, I make a motion to file this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a second? Is there a second on the motion to file? All right, properly moved and seconded to file. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I am, like some of the commentators that spoke in public comment, curious as to how this item got on the Consent Agenda. I've been working with Council Member Joshua Butler to rename the library after Patsy Joe Hilliard, and he has a petition and a Resolution from the East Point City Council. I also got an extra \$2 million for the East Point library. So not only do I want to know how it got on the Consent Agenda. I also want to know why it wasn't spoken to about this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So we need an answer to that question, it's a relevant question, Commissioner Arrington, but let's see. Probably, only two people in this Assembly Hall now were here when all of this happened, so let me put it in some context. CFO, I believe, you were here. This happened, I believe, my second year here, probably 2004 or '05, around that timeframe. There was a lawsuit that was filed, and Mr. McClure had been a very good member of the library board, but he unfortunately made some comments that were recorded at the time. Racially motivated comments and I won't go into what was said, but the women who were -- that he was talking about ended up filing a lawsuit against the County and it went through the process. At one point when we had spent -- or the settlement was on the table for about four -- three or \$4 million, I remember it distinctly. Commissioner Tom Lowe and I urged our colleagues to settle the lawsuit, because it was clear -- what's that word y'all always use; clear and convincing evidence that we're going to lose, but the decision was made over my objection and over Lowe's objection to proceed. Eventually, the court approved a settlement -- or recommended a settlement of \$25 million, but we were able to reduce it somehow. I don't remember how it got from 25 to 18, but when it came to 18, that's how this came about. But it went from three or four million that I wanted to settle then because I saw the handwriting on the wall, based upon the evidence. The rest of the Board didn't see it my way and Lowe's way; and it ended up being the judge saying 25 million, we got it back to 18 million, so that's how this came about. Am I pretty accurate, Madam CFO; you were here."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. It was a significant settlement."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So now how it got on the agenda, Commissioner Arrington, I have no idea, because I've talked with Commissioner Butler as well. I knew Mr. McClure, he was a good member of that board, but how this got on the agenda I don't know. Madam Roshell."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So just by background, I would like to provide information about the naming process. So the Board of Trustees for the Library approved a naming policy and process in 2012. What that process includes is any names submitted to the library director, is then sent to a naming committee. That naming committee is made up of library staff, a member of the friends group for that library, a resident, and a patron. All of that information is captured in minutes, and I can provide that to the Board. Once that naming committee has a convening, they then proceed with issuing a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees then has an opportunity to vote the naming recommendation up or down. If it is voted up, it is then sent to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners for consideration. The reason that this agenda item was on Consent, is because it's follow the rules of Consent Agenda items. It had no physical impact. We weren't asking for money. What I will do is two things in how we address these matters moving forward to address Commissioner's Arrington's concerns: one, when the library director receives a request for any naming, I will ask her to inform in writing the Commissioner for that library. The second procedural or operational change I would like to recommend is that any future naming be placed on the Regular Agenda regardless of the fact that it meets the Consent Agenda criteria."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And for the record, it's my understanding that the vote of the Library Board of Trustees was unanimous for this naming."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, sir. The vote would not come to the Board of Commissioners if it does not pass a vote of approval from the trustees."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to file. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I just had a quick question about the potential renaming after Patsy Joe Hilliard. Has that been submitted for consideration?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Gayle Holloman, the library director, said as of today, she has not received any written request for any other naming for any library."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So how do we make that happen?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We don't. It's up to them, Commissioner?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Sorry, I'm just asking a question about the procedure, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Councilmember Joshua Butler, I guess, is shepherding that from East Point's point of view. It's in Commissioner Arrington's district. He's aware of it. Now the whole world's aware of it, but we'll have to follow the process that was outlined by Dr. Roshell."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm sorry. Just to understand the process, they receive suggestions on the names? Oh, thank you very much. Appreciate that."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "A name can be submitted to the library by any citizen."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "By any citizen, okay, gotcha. Okay, got it. Thank you all for it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The motion on the floor is to file. Let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open on the motion to file. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 12, Commissioner's Action Items, **24-0908**: Request approval of an Ordinance to repeal and replace Section 101-68 Decorum of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances and for other purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. This has been around forever. We need something on the books. It can be tweaked as we go forward, but I would ask that we vote favorably today. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe we already have a decorum ordinance on the books and, in fact, I know that we do because -- oh, boy -- man. I know that we do because you all attempted to pass it and adopt it against me when you all were breaking the rules trying to vote on a point of order. I made a point of order last year, Commissioner Ellis then tried to do a call the question. Unfortunately, Robert's Rules of Order nor our rules, nor any law allows calling the question on a point of order. I asked the County Attorney about this when this last

came up last week -- a couple weeks ago at our last meeting, and I said what is the outcome? What is the outcome of the investigation that she was doing regarding whether there could be a calling of the question on a point of order. I asked her that because -- and we haven't gotten those results back from that investigation from the County Attorney's office. I think that's very relevant, because we were in the middle of a point of order, you all attempted to call the question, and I let you know that you cannot call the question on a point of order, and you all were dead set on proceeding, so much that you wanted to continue to violate the rules by doing that. Additionally, this item does not have anything that addresses a way to appeal the decision. That is a very important factor that should be included in any ordinance. If you're going to fine someone and try to enforce something, a rule against them, there needs to be a procedure outlined for appealing that decision. And this ordinance does not have anything that addresses how to appeal the decision. So what -- what do I do? What do I do? You guys voted last year to hold me in violation of quorum because you all violated the quorum. Because you all proceeded to try to call the question on a point of order. What do we do? This doesn't get there. Additionally, I made the comment that if you guys really want to address decorum, you had to stop allowing people coming in here and doing personal attacks on us. If you want to address decorum, you have to start up here. You cannot address decorum and try to hold us to decorum and then let people come in here and call us any name under the sun. And yet that wasn't included, there's no appeals process, and there's no outcome from the investigation from over a year ago when you all violated decorum by trying to call the question and move forward on the calling of the question during a point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I respectfully ask that we approve this today. If it needs to be tweaked we can tweak it later. Commissioner Barrett followed by Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam County Attorney, I had not honestly thought about the appeals process, but I do think that's a valid point. It wasn't in the current. What we did was modify, you know, one part of this, but there was never an appeals process, so I guess the question is how do we do that? What can be done in that scenario?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So the appeals process, while due process is required to be built into your ordinance, the appeals process can follow the general law of order, quasi judicial ordinance stated proceedings, which would then be taken up on a writ of certiorari to typically to Superior Court."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Writs of certiorari no longer exists."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "But in the typical writ certiorari, traditional sense, in that the law already provides that if you have an administrative decision, a quasi-judicial body renders a decision, you can take it up through the courts through an appeal process that is provided for by statute."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So just to delegalize -- delegal term that a little bit in English, if somebody here is accused of a decorum violation, the Board finds it to be valid and assesses a fine, and they want to appeal, they file with Superior Court; is that what you're saying?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I would have to look at it specifically. I believe it would end up in Superior Court if it qualifies under the statute. But I believe your question to me is, is this proposed ordinance defective because it does not include an appeal process, and answer to that is, no."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, so this is valid as it stands, and there isn't -- though it is not specified in this ordinance, there is a way to appeal via Superior Court?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, there is a statutory process available in the fact that it is not reiterated in this ordinance does not make the ordinance defective for that reason."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And just again, just from a purely practical standpoint, should this happen to somebody and they want to appeal, is that something that you would help them with, or would they have to get a separate counsel to get help with that?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "To my knowledge, we have not had that situation arise. We would have to analyze it for the specifics of that fact pattern."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean, you technically, representing the County, not the individual?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Right. So that would be -- that would be a case against the County. It's the way that the style of the case would read, so I don't represent."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "(Cross-talk.) outside counsel, essentially. Okay. I just want to make sure I understand. If this should happen how it would play out. But it sounds like there are ways for it to play out and an appeal to be heard by someone other than this Body, if needed. Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. We've worked on this. I don't know. We've held it, what, five times? We've been working on it for months? It's been out there. We held at the last meeting, we brought it back again after holding it for five times, brought it back again, and then we held it again. Certainly, Commissioner Arrington, I welcome your thoughts and considerations. I'll work with you if we can come up with some kind of

appeal language to add to this. I'm happy to do that. But we are repealing the current decorum legislation and replacing it. That's strictly what we're doing right now. There was a mention of we need a call decorum on people who come down here, the public who comes down here to give public comment. We did take that into consideration and Soo, Madam County Attorney, I think we would be violating free-speech if we limit what people say and can't say when they come down here; is that correct?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Are we talking about public comment?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, public comment."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Because this is a specific kind of forum, there are certain limitations you could put on it like, for example, no profanity, nothing disruptive. But as a general rule of thumb, yes, free speech would lean towards allowing as much latitude as possible, in terms of the subject matter."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the public comment is handled in a separate section of the code, so we want to amend that to restrict what -- I hope we don't -- what people say; we just have to be big boys and girls and take it. All right, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So number one, this situation has already existed, which is why I requested and we're still waiting. Madam County Attorney what is the outcome of the investigation into whether you can call the question on the point of order?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So this is something that I intended to brief you in Executive Session. So without getting into the details, what I will say is that the report or the information we got back, the analysis we got back, contained internal inconsistencies that prevented it from being final. So I would like to discuss that with you in Executive Session."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Let me ask a different question. Can you call the question on a point of order?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I believe that's the question that you asked for the parliamentarian to resolve, and that is the same report that I'm speaking of. So I would -- I would ask that I would be allowed to speak to you about that in Executive Session."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Does it involve pending litigation, real estate or personnel?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So you're asking me --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- Madam County Attorney, does the answer to my question involve pending litigation, real estate, or personnel issues?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "It is a disputed legal matter. The unusual thing about this case is that the person disputing it happens to be a sitting Commissioner, so it's a fairly delicate matter regarding a legal dispute involving the County."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I will take that as a no that it doesn't involve real estate, personnel, or any other issues that would allow it to be discussed in Executive Session and I will ask you to answer the question now in this open and public forum?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I will say that we have sought professional guidance from a parliamentarian and have not received a final analysis that does not contain internal inconsistencies. So my recommendation would be --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's your point of order?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "This is totally off topic of the decorum policy. Can we move on?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So moved."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "This is -- this is not off topic of the decorum policy. This is specifically addressing the attempt to hold me in violation of the existing decorum policy, and the action that I had to take in order to not allow that to happen. This is directly related to what happened. This is directly related to this ordinance that is before us now. It is directly related. It is the living past example that it's still pending before us and which I requested an investigation on, and I'm asking what I --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Arrington, I'm going to rule that this is not relevant to the matter before us, let's move on. Commissioner --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- call the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Question's been called. Is there a second? Properly moved and seconded. Let's vote on the call of the question."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open on the call the question. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, one nay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0910**: Request approval of a Resolution to declare a local emergency with respect to the conditions at the Fulton County Jail for the purpose of expediting resources to support remedial measures to address the DOJ investigative findings and for other purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington; is there a second? Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'll second for the discussion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett for discussion. Commissioner Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'd like to offer a substitute motion to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Substitute motion to file. All right, substitute motion to file has been made; seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Now on the motion to file; you want to be heard on the motion to file? All right. I'm ready. The motion before us is to file. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open on the motion to file. And the motion passes; five yeas, one nay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0033**: Request approval of Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in observance of the 96th birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 13, Commissioner's Full Board Appointments, **25-0034**, Audit Committee. Commissioner Ellis has nominated Chairman Robb Pitts for Full Board Reappointment to a term ending December 31st, 2026.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0035**, Audit Committee. Commissioner Ellis has nominated Jay Small for a Full Board Reappointment to a term ending December 31st, 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes five yeas --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- can you please add mine? I don't know why it didn't take."

CLERK GRIER: "Six yeas, zero nays, with Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 14, **25-0036**, Audit Committee. Commissioner Ellis has nominated Robert Koncerak for a Full Board Reappointment to a term ending December 31st, 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a favorable motion by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nay."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0037**: Audit Committee. Chairman Pitts has nominated Vice Chair Bob Ellis for a Full Board Reappointment to a term ending December 31st, 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0038, Audit Committee. Chairman Pitts has nominated AJ Jain for a Full Board Reappointment to a term ending December 31st, 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis – Vice Chair Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 15, 25-0039, Fulton County Arts Council. Chairman Pitts has nominated Jennifer Pino for a Full Board Reappointment as Chairperson to a term ending December 31st, 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0040, Administrative Committee of the Fulton County Defined Contribution Plan. Chairman Pitts has nominated Commissioner Abdur-Rahman for a Full Board Reappointment to a term ending December 31st, 2028."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0041, Administrative Committee of the Fulton County Defined Contribution Plan. Nominations requested."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I would move that we -- Commissioner Thorne be approved for this position. All right, Commissioner Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "You can go ahead."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What?"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Your motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What did I do?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Hit the motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This technology. All right, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Sorry. I'm just a little confused about the process here, because we've never done that this way that I'm aware of. We certainly haven't done it this way since I've been here where we have an agenda item to nominate somebody other than Vice Chair, which I think has always been done that. The normal procedure has been to have a name and a nominator ahead of the agenda. I mean, I don't know, were you asked about this -- did you know you were going to have this? Yeah. I mean, I'm not suggesting that -- yeah. It just feels like the person's that being nominated should have some time to understand what the board does, and if their -- you know, if it's the timing and it's when they meet and all that works with their other board responsibilities and, I don't know, it just feels a little -- a little odd to be throwing this at of a Commissioner with no advanced warning. I'm fully supportive if you want the role, Commissioner Thorne, but I just don't -- I'm not quite sure how we ended up in this moment. So is this urgent that we do it this way? I'm just confused about why this is happening. How did this get on the agenda?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I've never seen it done that way before either in my 10 years."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "How did this get on the agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "These positions are vacant now and we need people in these positions and I tried to do -- to spread the work out. We did have a conversation about it. You may not recall, Ms. Thorne, we did talk about this."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: (Not on the microphone.) "Yeah, but we didn't say that (inaudible) and I asked you about it yesterday, because you're on the other side."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Other side of it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, okay, let's do this. No, no, no. Let's do this. If you don't want it --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- she said she's willing, so I just want to understand the process."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Do you want it, or do you don't want it?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm willing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, thank you. All right, are you finished?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I'm just trying to understand what --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have a question?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I don't have a question, but I just wanted to say to the County Attorney for the sake of clarity and for those that may be listening to this BOC, is there anything that preclude us as a sitting Body to not take the action that we're taken from the floor of nominating Commissioner Thorne as a nominee for this? There's not anything that's illegal that we're doing right now, because it's -- you know, sometimes we get caught in the weeds and we send the wrong impression to the constituents. So I just want to make sure there's nothing illegal about the action of opening this up on the floor to take the nomination from the floor."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "No, there is not. There's not a specific rule about how the nominations can be made, and they can be made on the floor."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So the previous agenda item was 25-0040. It references positions two and three. This item is 25-0041, which also references positions two and three. So which one is position two and which one is position three?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, to clarify, let's make 0 -- 0040 2, 0041, 3. Let the record reflect that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Wait, 0042 is the Atlanta Beltline Board of Directors agenda item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "40, I'm sorry. Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So what's the clarification?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Which one is it? Two and three. Correct."

(Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, not on the microphone.)

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, now I'm confused because it says there's a term -- one term that's four years and then two terms that are one year. So which one is the --"

(Commissioner Thorne, not on the microphone.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This is not complicated."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "This is not -- 0040 is for a term of four years with a one-year term that is four years. It is for one position calling it number two. 0041 is for the exact same thing four years with a one-year term calling it position three. Therefore, the two positions are filled with 40 and 41."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. All right. Anything else, Commissioner Barrett? All right. Let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 16, **25-0042**, Atlanta Beltline."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'd like to nominate Commissioner Ivory; seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Thorne, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. In light of the Atlanta Beltline project, and that it is in Commissioner Barrett's district, the primary place that's left of development, I would like to nominate Commissioner Barrett for that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'll second that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any other nominations? Commissioner Ivory, let's vote on Commissioner Ivory first."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman, I was in the queue and so was Commissioner Ivory. Do we not get an opportunity to speak before we vote? And also the substitute motion was offered by Commissioner Thorne and seconded. So that should be the order of operations"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor. You have two nominations. Listen, y'all, let me preside. This is not complicated. We have two nominations. I nominated Commissioner Ivory for this position, it was seconded. Commissioner Thorne

nominated you and you seconded it. We have two nominations. We take them in the order in which they were made. You have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "You know what, never mind."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's vote on Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. I'd just like to say that this is a position that was vacated by my predecessor. I served previously in my years on the TAD Act, which is the Tax Allocation District for the Beltline. I live on the Beltline. The beltline is majority in my district, and I'm fully capable and willing to serve and looking very forward to it. So it would be my honor, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. All right. Commissioner Thorne, do you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "No."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Just for some context. This was actually a position held by my predecessor, Commissioner Morris, and when I -- along with the Invest Atlanta Board, they worked very closely together because of the Beltline TAD, et cetera. And when I took office, that particular seat on the Beltline Board was sort of, you know, taken away from me, so to speak, to give it to Commissioner Hall. There is a significant portion of the Beltline in my district as well. I do serve on the Invest Atlanta Board, and I would also like to have the role. It's clear that you have the votes, Commissioner Ivory, so it is what it is, but I think, you know, we have lost the plot here in terms of how we're handling these appointments in general and these nominations in the sense that -- it seemed to me, and anybody who's been here longer than me, feel free to correct me. But it does seem to me that we had sort of a statesmanlike gentlemen's agreement, whatever it was, that when you were on a board you stayed on that board, and you got renominated to that board. And you inherited those seats from your predecessor. So either that's the way, in which case you are correct, Commissioner Ivory, that it would be, you know, something that will be held by you. But we've changed the plot with the Rec Authority nomination now saying, we're holding them for people and all this other stuff, so, you know, I just think, either we have a sense of fairness and we, you know, support each other in these roles, you know, or we don't."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else? All right, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, Chairman, thank you. I'll be brief in my comments. You know, someone's sense of fairness to one person may be something else totally to someone else. Someone's idea of a hostile work environment may be a very political environment. I think, and I know this is the first meeting of the year, but I

think it is in the best interest that you lobby, you talk to your colleagues, and you let the process take place. None of us own any of these seats. The Fulton County taxpayer owns all of these seats here. Nobody owns these seats. Nobody is entitled to anything. That's why you have a process. And so, I can understand people wanting certain stuff because they feel like they should have it. I feel like I should be the swimsuit model for Sports Illustrated, you know, but hey, I'm not. And so, not to demean it, we get too much in the weeds and take stuff personal. And so, what I would ask is that we respect the process. If I do not support you for something, I may support you for something else. It doesn't mean you're less qualified, it doesn't mean the other person's more qualified. And so, as we come into 2025, and I know Chairman, please just indulge me for a second, because I need to say this for the listening audience. If we're going to expect the taxpaying citizen of Fulton County to do better, we have to do better. We have to set the example ourselves. And so, I would ask that whatever is going on today, let today be the last day out of it. Let's go into 2025 with a collaborative spirit and a conversation being had before the BOC meeting. And so, you will know where you stand or where you don't stand. Thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, you still want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: ""Just briefly. I just want to say we have two great candidates, Commissioner Ivory, you'd be great, Commissioner Barrett, you'd be great too based on your experience. It's going to be a win no matter what for the Fulton County citizens."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And I think you'd be great, for the record. All right. Let me recognize, Representative Jackson. Where are you? Wave your hand. Who's up here, a state representative who was observing us today. Thank you for being present. All right. We have Ms. Ivory -- Commissioner Ivory up."

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's vote on the nomination -- we have two nominations, Ivory and Barrett."

CLERK GRIER: "Correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's vote on Ivory."

CLERK GRIER: And the vote is open for Commissioner Ivory. And the motion passes; five yeas, one nay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 17, 25-0043, Atlanta Fulton County Recreational Authority."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Nominations? Are there nominations?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order, the agenda item already lists the nominations, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any additional nominations?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, I would like to nominate Commissioner Mo Ivory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a second? All right. Seconded by Commissioner Ellis – Vice Chair Ellis. Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I'd like to nominate Commissioner Arrington as I had previously done on the agenda, which was the item that should have been held -- brought back."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, I seconded. Wait, wait. Point of order, Mr. Chair. I second, but the agenda item that should have returned was a nomination from Commissioner Barrett to nominate me. That is the item that should be on the agenda because it returned because you guys voted to hold it until January. So I don't understand how anything else could be before us. So please explain to me how the item that was held is not before us, and that nomination is already not before us?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam Clerk, what does the record reflect? I don't recall."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Barrett did nominate Commissioner Arrington, then the Board decided to hold that item until January. And then this item was placed on the agenda as well, a duplicate item for the Recreational Authority."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. What should be before us right now?"

CLERK GRIER: "The held item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The held item. We'll make additional nominations today?"

CLERK GRIER: "If that's the will of the Board."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So is the held item on the agenda?"

CLERK GRIER: "It is not, no."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "How do we have an agenda without the held item on it? Poli-tricks. Poli-tricks. Do y'all see what's going on? Do y'all see this? Open and transparent government."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The item before us is to approve Commissioner Ivory for this position, and we have a second nomination for Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Wait a minute; she just said that the item before us was the held item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's do it, okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The Clerk just said the item before us was the held item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute, just a minute, just a minute. So the agenda item --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- is not on the printed agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. The agenda item is not correct. It should read -- how should it read, Commissioner -- I mean, Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "It should have Commissioner Barrett's nomination of Commissioner Arrington."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So that nomination then let's take -- any objection to having that corrected agenda to have the Arrington nomination added?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "No objection."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Now, we have an additional nomination, which is Commissioner Mo Ivory. Let's vote. Mr. Arrington is first."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay, so we need a motion, please, for Commissioner Arrington."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there motion? All right. Motion to approve Commissioner Arrington by Commissioner Barrett. It is seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion fails; two yeas, two nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The nomination of Commissioner Mo Ivory. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay, I need a second. I have the mover, okay. And the vote is open for Commissioner Ivory. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0044**, Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'd like to nominate Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Properly moved and seconded. Other nominations? Commissioner Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I just want to ask Commissioner Ivory just to make she was comfortable with accepting this."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: Yes, I am. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other nominations? All right, let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item. It's 12:29. Let's take one more."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 18, **25-0045**, presentation of the 2025 legislative session update."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. Congratulations, Mr. Vice Chair. And to our new --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Speak up, Ms --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I was just congratulating the Vice Chair, and of course, Commissioner Ivory, welcoming her. I'm here to provide a very brief update about the 2025 Legislative Session. This is not my slides. And Mr. Chairman, you said earlier, you'd -- I -- if I heard you correctly, that you'd like to refresh on the agenda that was adopted by the Board of Commissioners --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's correct --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- on December 4th."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- what we will be -- what will be for the -- be before the General Assembly on Monday."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, thank you. So next slide, please. Just as you said, the General Assembly convenes on Monday. We -- our members will receive their committee assignments, they will adopt the Adjournment Resolution. The first week or so of session typically focuses on the budget. Just wanted to mention a couple of other things. On February 20th, we will have Fulton County Day at the Capitol, and also in February, ACCG will hold their Capital Connection Conference."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Wait, just a minute. When did we decide to have Fulton County Day at the Capitol?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Last year. Mr. Chairman, we discussed it in your office, I believe, as -- and we've also notified the Board previously."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't recall -- did the Board agree to -- well, we may have discussed it, but did we -- did we agree as a Board to have a Fulton County Day at the Capitol?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I don't believe --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Because in the past couple of years, there's been some confusion --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I don't believe we asked for --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- about that."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I don't believe we asked the Board to vote. We viewed it as an engagement opportunity, which we don't typically request the Board to approve as a Body. But we -- we shared it in our last update in December."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And this will be a Fulton County Day?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Solely and exclusively Fulton County Day?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's correct. Next slide, please. We have the four new members in our delegation who are listed here. Many of you met them at our reception in December. So we look forward to working with them along with the other members. As soon as we have their contact information, we will share that with all of you. Next slide, please. This is just a snapshot of the agenda that was adopted by the Board on December 4th. And I'll just quickly go through these items. Those in orange are our top three items. Mr. Chairman, you've been very clear about making sure that we prioritize our legislative priorities. And then those in the light blue at the bottom of the list are those where we are collaborating and supporting other bodies. Next slide, please. So in December of 2023, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution related to resources for Superior Court. And that was the genesis of this legislative priority, which does two things. One is to seek additional designated judgeships for the Superior Court, and secondly, to allow, through the adoption of local legislation, the authorization of Judicial Officers to handle certain non-serious felony and civil cases by assignment of the Chief Judge. Currently in Superior Court, there are Judicial Officers who hear family law matters only. And this would expand that to allow Judicial Officers for other matters such as non-serious felonies and civil cases. The priority still is an additional judgeship. We've talked extensively with Superior Court. There are other judicial circuits in Georgia where they have legislatively designated judgeships, so we are continuing to review those other instances. And they have -- while the Board has recommended up to three additional judgeships, they have let me know that they are not aware of any instance where that has happened previously, that one would be a huge step forward. But we are continuing to have those conversations with our legislators."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So are we asking for one judgeship or judgeships, two, three, four --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "A minimum of one judgeship. Again, the Board has previously said you think we might need more than that. But in talking with the Superior Court, they've said that a minimum of one would be extremely helpful for them. And the purpose of both of these is really to support greater efficiency in the court, and to allow the processing of cases. We are the busiest Judicial Circuit in the state and possibly in the southeast, and we need those resources to allow -- allow them to do their work."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Understand, but we're asking for one?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Correct, yes. Thank you. Next slide, please. Similarly, in State Court, they conducted a study led by the Georgia Council of State Court Judges. And as a follow up to that, which all of you have seen, I believe, they have requested two additional State Court Judgeships. This would be -- this is a matter that can be handled through local legislation, and would again, be supported through -- would support greater efficiency in the State Court system and allow them to handle the volume of cases that are before them."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So clarify that you now, you said this one can be handled through local legislation?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What does that mean? I know, I understand, but just for those who do not."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: So for in the General Assembly, matters that are handled through local legislation are adopted by the delegation, by a delegation, in this case, the Fulton County Delegation could adopt a local -- a local legislation that those bills still go through committee process, they're still voted upon by the full body of the General Assembly, typically through a local consent calendar, versus going through the entire body for all portions of the legislative process."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That means, in English, if the local delegation supports this, there's a high probability --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Unlike the other one."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "It can make it more complex, certainly, to get through general legislation. Next slide, please. This is really - this is a more complex matter, where we are continuing to advocate for funding for one, for a South Fulton Behavioral Health Crisis Center. We still believe that there's a funding gap with the Behavioral Health Crisis Center that we opened last year. We have -- we also received funding, \$500,000 in 2020 -- in last year's budget that was adopted by the General Assembly. They approved funding for the planning and design study for a North Fulton Crisis Center. We are very constantly engaged, I should say, with DBHDD on that work. We also have not received funding for a Youth Crisis. We believe that is an ongoing need. And the Georgia -- Commissioner Tanner from Georgia DBHDD has also talked about their need for resources for justice-involved persons. That may include forensic beds; it may include state hospital-type beds. And so there are -- this is a deeper conversation that we are continuing to have, and is one of our top priorities."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. And what does advocate for a South Fulton Crisis Center mean?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Means that we want to make sure that our legislators are aware that there is a need for our crisis beds in South

Fulton, as well as the Center that we just opened in Central Fulton and the -- that that is being contemplated in North Fulton."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But there's no specific request for a South Fulton in this session?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think that we want to advocate for -- for that as a future need. I don't know that we will be able to get that funding in this year. But we certainly wanted to make the request. Next slide, please. So again, we've talked about our priority areas. Want to talk about legal notices. Today, in 2024, beginning in January 2024, Fulton County's legal organ changed to -- from a daily newspaper, the Fulton County Daily Report to the Fulton County Neighbor. The Fulton County Neighbor prints on a weekly basis. And the law currently requires that to meet certain legal notices in our legal organ, it is depending on the printing of a newspaper. That is not how most of us consume information. Most people today get information through online platforms. The timeline for their print schedule creates a backlog for the meeting that requirement for those legal notices. So we are asking for an amendment, this is something the ACCG has also worked on, to allow us to place those notices on -- continue to pay the legal organ, but to allow the publication of those online to meet that legal standard. We are also requesting to provide online publications of millage rate advertisements. It is very expensive to post those in, in this instance, those are typically posted in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which has also indicated that they plan to reduce their print publication in the future. Next slide, please. Transit Board representation, the ATL Board, Fulton County, Fulton County has supported public transit for decades, for more than 50 years, yet we do not have a permanent seat on the ATL Board. While this Board represents 1.2 million people, more than any other jurisdiction in the MARTA system, you have the fewest number of appointments to the MARTA Board. And so we're seeking to reestablish that parity with other MARTA signatory agencies, which include the DeKalb County, city of Atlanta, and Clayton County. Next slide, please. Last year, there was some work by this Board to address concerns with the Fulton County Housing Authority. And in that process, it was determined that there were some outdated state laws related to residency who are beneficiaries of the Housing Authority. While HUD provisions allowed us to include board members who live within Fulton County, we do believe that there's a need to clean up this outdated law. And so this is one that we'll be working to simply make that change. And again, this is one that should be able to be accomplished through local legislation. Next slide, please."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And have you identified a -- within the delegation, a someone to carry the local legislation bills?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We have on several of them. So on this one actually, I believe, Representative Jackson, who's here with us today, indicated a support for that particular one. We're having conversations with others as well. Go back once slide, please. The Office of the Child Attorney is responsible for representing the interests of children primarily in abuse and neglect

cases. In the course of their work, which has continued for more than a decade, they have run into certain situations that need to be clarified in code. For example, in a case where they -- in a case where they are representing a child, or excuse me, where they're representing a child, but the parents of that child are also minors. In some instances, those minor parents do not have representation in cases, and they're requesting that that be mandated. There are also certain cases around guardianship. And again, these are very technical, the Attorneys in the Office of the Child Attorney are simply seeking clarification in the code to allow them to best represent the interests of the children that they are charged with serving. So we have talked with them. This is something we've made some cleanup previously, and the Juvenile Justice Committee is where this work has typically been housed. Next slide, please. This is one that the Board talked with us about. And this is simply, really about codifying some clarification related to purchasing powers of our constitutional officers, and asking the General Assembly to consider requirement of constitutional officers to have purchasing and procurement policies. Next slide, please. Governor Kemp let us -- has announced that tort reform is one of his major issues for the 2025 Legislative Session. And this is really a county-specific request related to that to recommend reforms to limit property owner liability for minor non-serious injuries and incidents that occur on their property due to factors outside of their control."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What does that mean?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "It would limit, essentially, to judgments in cases around so-called, slip-and-fall cases and things of that nature. And I don't know if the County Attorney wants to weigh in further. But essentially, it would limit some of the -- place limitations on the awards and some of the nature of the cases."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And did you say that would be specific to Fulton County?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "No, sir. It would be -- this is one that would be relevant to Fulton County, and one that in which we have an interest. But it would not be specific to us. And if we -- that was one Commissioner Ellis asked us to include and Commissioner Barrett as well. Next slide, please. This is one of the top priorities for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia related to statewide funding for Next Gen 911, there are eight public safety answering points within Fulton County, Atlanta and Fulton -- Atlanta as being the largest of Fulton County. Fulton County's PSAP supports five municipalities. Our system and the city of Atlanta's are Next Gen 911 compatible, but some of the smaller systems are not. So this is certainly very relevant to people living within Fulton County, and essentially they are asking for statewide funding to allow 911 centers and Public Safety answering points to upgrade their technology. Next Gen 911 is good for the person receiving care, the person who is experiencing an emergency. It provides greater professional protection for law enforcement. It gives them more information as they respond to an emergency. So this is one that, again, our system is already compatible, but this would support

those systems within Fulton County that are not currently compatible. Next slide, please. Healthcare access is an issue that this Board has supported in many different ways. So this is simply a policy position stating our commitment to increase healthcare for residents including the expansion of Medicaid. Next slide, please. This is an issue that was brought forward by the Tax Assessor's Office, and they're collaborating with the Georgia Association of Assessing Officials. They support a change in return dates for personal property and Freeport returns from April 1st to March 1st annually for greater efficiency in filing. Next slide, please. Go back one, please. In some instances, courts have supported use of digital court reporting. These -- this is essentially allowing equipment to report -- excuse me -- to record. It is still reviewed by human being. This can lower the personnel costs. And frankly, as we've learned, not -- there's a shortage of Court Reporters or has been for many year. Not many of our children are growing up to be Court Reporters, and it's something that is really -- can pose a challenge for the courts. So ACCG, this is another one that they're supporting and encouraging the General Assembly to provide funding for digital reporting systems. Next slide, please. Our Youth Commissioners brought this item forward. They're very interested in legislation to raise the high school dropout age. There has been legislation around this earlier, so we're encouraging the Youth Commissioners to stay involved, learn that every piece of legislation can have complicating factors involved. There would need to be many associated code changes to support a change like this, but it's one that they brought forward. And part of the mission of the Youth Commission is to encourage them to be engaged citizens and advocates. So we will keep you all updated, and Jasmine has been doing a great job of meeting with them and talking with them about the process. Next slide, please. Just wanted to share our contact information. Commissioner Barrett may know that we are one person down right now in our Legislative Team. But we are here to -- to support, and please let us know how we can help. Just wanted to mention that all of our departments have legislative liaisons in place. We are -- this year, we'll be hosting a weekly kind of Zoom call, or Microsoft Teams call with those, and your staff are certainly welcome to join us for those weekly meetings where we will -- they will be held after the ACCG meetings every week. So we'll be reporting back and sharing information with everyone. We will also -- I've shared some notes with you about other ways that we'll be working with our Lobbying Team. And if there's anything that you have questions about, please let us know."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Speaking of the Lobbying Team, local in particular, how plugged in are they to the top three, our top three?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We have met with them about all of these matters, Mr. Chairman. So, in fact, been in communication with them in the last 24 hours about these. So I think they are -- I would, in my opinion, they're very well plugged in. But we're continuing to have ongoing conversation with them."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And Jessica mentioned, or I'll mention, Mr. Chairman, in the briefing that we had with the State Lobbying Team, we're also planning

a weekly lunch with them to get an update, which we'll also inform the Commission of, and you can join us --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's right."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- for that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is that on a set date?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I think they were talking about the early part of the week, were they not, Jessica?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So we need to confirm that and get it set. It's going to be at The Café, that's down off -- down right at the Capitol."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "On Washington Street."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "On Washington. Thank you, Jessica."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "They did an outstanding job for us last year. But I'm not sure if this is -- this is pretty aggressive here."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think they'll -- I think they're up for the challenge, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have two comments. I am absolutely opposed to the use of Judicial Officers. They have no accountability to the citizens and the residents of Fulton County. I've been practicing law for 29 years, and the use of Judicial Officers is not wise. They do not know the law. They are not as familiar with the law. They do not know the rules. The MARTA Board is very important. It makes no sense that we have -- as much money as we've put into MARTA that we would have fewer board representatives than other counties. Additionally, we have a further challenge to deal with because of the current three members that we appoint, for some reason the North Fulton Mayors are able to choose two of the three representatives."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "But the South Fulton Mayors don't get the same option. This Board selects on behalf of the South Fulton Mayors. So it just -- it's absolutely insane. Why -- if the North Fulton Mayors get to choose their two

representatives, why wouldn't the South Fulton Mayors not be able to choose their representative? And there are eight cities in South Fulton. So if there was going to be two people, it should probably -- compared to seven cities in North Fulton, so if there were going to be two board members, it probably should come from South Fulton, not from North Fulton."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I totally agree with that, and support that. However, that old expression back in 1832, to the -- to the victor, belongs the spoils. That happened when the Republicans were in control of the delegation, and that's what they did. Now, how we can undo that, Mr. Representative Jackson, you got your work cut out. But this is critical."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. And we will share some analysis. I think we may have shared it previously, but it's been a minute, where we've looked at DeKalb and Clayton and -- and you're right, Commissioner Arrington, with all due respect to our Mayors, they're also not signatories in the MARTA agreement other than city of Atlanta. And so we do believe that the Board of Commissioners, which has that responsibility, should also have that authority while, of course, being able to get input from the cities. And I think that's -- that's the balance that we have to achieve. But that is a -- it is, as you said, Mr. Chairman, a complex matter. And one that is one that's, you know, we're still gauging the support we have."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I just want parity."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I mean, if, you know, if the North Fulton Mayors get to choose, then the South Fulton Mayors should get to choose. If the Board of Commissioners chooses for all of them, that's fine too. But there needs to be parity, and there needs to be equity. And we have not had that for at least the last ten or 12 years. And that's very unfortunate."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other -- Commissioner Thorne, sorry."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah. If we want parity, then we need to look at tax base as well. I know in North Fulton, we don't have the access to MARTA that they do in other parts of the county, yet it's a big tax levy on all the North Fulton citizens. So maybe that was the thing -- I don't know, ten years ago, but maybe that was the option of parity, because we're paying so much into, and not getting usefulness out of it. I just had a quick question about the -- there was a thing on the ballot about tax -- a Tax Judge with a Tax Court. Do you know anything about that?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Commissioner, I would like to look into that a little bit more. I don't want to misspeak. There were, related to House Bill 581, there's also, and I think you'll hear about this later this afternoon, other portions of that. But I'd like to look into the Tax Judge, if you don't mind. I don't have that in my notes. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes. So if they don't even have MARTA in North Fulton, and they don't have access to it, they damn sure shouldn't be on the Board, and damn sure shouldn't have more representatives than South Fulton."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions or comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And I'll -- it's right at 1:00, I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session, issues of real estate, litigation, and the third one? Personnel. Hello?"

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

Recessed for Executive Session at 12:56 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 3:23 p.m.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam Clerk -- strike that, Madam County Attorney, items from Executive Session."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 1 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to deny the request for retention of outside counsel contained in item 2 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to deny by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "To deny --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Number 2."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Number 2."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for engagement of outside counsel in items 3 and 5 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne, it is seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes unanimously."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "No further action items, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 10 under Open and Responsible Government, **25-0028**, Review and approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Final Adopted Budget and Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Mr. Manager, Madam CFO."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, if we could have your permission to bring up Mike Rowicki and Blake Travis from ACCG. If you recall in the last meeting, and this directly relates to the budget, great deal of discussion about HB581 and how will change the tax, property tax process. Dr. Ferdinand and Roderick Conley and their staff are here as well. But this was specifically to answer some of the questions that were raised in the last meeting that we didn't have a direct answer to. So

Mike, if you'll tee up how we're going to go through that. And again, Blake, thank you for being here and waiting until this point in the day to speak to us."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Again, Strategy and Performance Management Office. Again, as the County Manager referenced, this is kind of a high-level review for some of the questions from House Bill 581 that you guys had. And we do have our ACCG representative here to answer any additional questions. So first, I want to go to the next slide, and just kind of highlight what we reviewed at the last meeting. With this, which you're going to see is, again, just a reminder of the major components of the Bill. Again, this creates a statewide floating homestead exemption for the state of Georgia, which will just add another floating homestead exemption to what currently exists for us here in Fulton County. House Bill 581, also includes a new local option sales tax, which would be an option for all of those jurisdictions that currently do not have a MOST tax as part of their tax billing process. The second -- the third item is actually the property tax procedures that will change a little bit with the notifications that have to be on the notices, and the wording that will be on there based on some rollback rates that we previously discussed. So some of the directions that we need from the Board today that we asked about at the last meeting was, how do you, as the Board, want to proceed with this? Currently, if we do nothing, then there is an automatic provision in House Bill 581 that all jurisdictions are automatically in if we do not submit anything to the state by March 1st. Otherwise, if there isn't a will of the Board that they wanted to opt out of this as a Bill, what would happen is that we would have to go through a process with three hearings for the public to come in and submit their comments, and then we, again, we'd have to submit a resolution to opt out to the state. The other question that was asked is, based on the decision of the Board, what would be the level of education or public outreach that we would be looking at to do. And I think some of that has to do with the decision that's made on either the automatic opt in, doing nothing, or taking a proactive option to opt out. Some of the questions that were asked to us through this process were what is the possibility of what this might look like in terms of effect on our budget for 2025? Some of those numbers are still coming in. So what the Tax Commissioner in the Tax Assessor did is they actually went back, looked at the data, used 2024 data, and said, if we had enacted this last year, that effect on our budget would be about a \$2.3 million loss in property tax revenue. But if you look at our overall budget and what our overall revenue is from the general fund, that is a small amount of that overall figure. But we just wanted to give you guys that figure as a question that was asked. The other option or question that was asked was, are there any effects on what would happen to the T-SPLOST, the transportation local option sales tax that we would have with the cities. And the answer to that is actually, no. The FLOST is actually exempted from that cap. So therefore, doing this does not have any effect on the T-SPLOST as we would move forward with the cities on that into the future. I think those were the two questions that we had asked at the last Board meeting, and answered those for you. And we're open to any questions that you guys have at this point in time and the direction you'd like to provide to us."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioners? Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Are there limits on what can be done with the new local option sales tax? I mean, how could the funds from that be used?"

BLAKE TRAVIS, ACCG: "Sure. It's Blake Travis with ACCG, happy to be here to be a resource for you all. So the new sales tax, it has to be used exclusively for property tax relief. So it would be a rollback of the millage rate to account for the proceeds from the new tax. There's no net revenue generated from the tax from the sales tax."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And how does our existing floating homestead, how would that -- how would these two work together, that would just be an additional floating homestead?"

BLAKE TRAVIS, ACCG: "Right. So the existing -- I believe Fulton County has a 2005 floating homestead exemption. It's very similar to this HB581 exemption. The taxpayer is going to get the larger of the two. So for in some instances, the new one will be more advantageous for a taxpayer, but in most cases, it'll be the older one, I'm guessing. Either one of those qualifies Fulton County to participate in this new tax. You have to have a base year homestead exemption in effect to participate. But the cities within the jurisdiction also have to have a floating homestead in effect as well."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "If they adopt 581?"

BLAKE TRAVIS, ACCG: "Yeah. If some of the cities in Fulton County opt out, then currently levy a property tax, then you would not be able to take advantage of this new tax."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And we've already got one. So, okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions or comment? Commissioner Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just real quick --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- so the -- on the additional potential sales tax, it's still subject to 2-cent cap, right? And -- correct?"

BLAKE TRAVIS, ACCG: "They revised the caps in the HB581, so they kind of now have set up in different categories. This new penny is not -- does not fall under -- it falls under a cap, but it's -- there should be room for Fulton County to --"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "You can't tell me how much room there is because we've got different taxes that -- within different jurisdictions. And you know, the way I originally

read this, it's been a while since I've looked at, since we had that meeting in December, there's a 2-cent cap, but you're one -- I think one of those individual taxes is exempt, not both, correct, right? Like, I mean, like, E-SPLOST and other sort of stuff, it's not part of the cap to begin with, right?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "So --"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And -- go ahead."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "So it would -- one of the pennies for either the MARTA or the T-SPLOST counts against the cap."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "It should still leave us the room for the additional penny, or it should .75, is currently what we have. So you would have the difference of like a .25 --"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: ".25, so the opportunity is fairly minimal. And then it -- and it wouldn't be applicable in places within the county that have an existing MOST, right?"

BLAKE TRAVIS, ACCG: "That's right."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Which would -- which, number one, we know the city of Atlanta has a MOST, right? So then --"

BLAKE TRAVIS, ACCG: "Yes, and East Point and College Park, Hapeville --"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So the opportunity for any benefit or relief in terms of how you want to style it, related to the sales tax within Fulton County is .25, but really a fraction of that in terms of if you got a sort of count a countywide look."

BLAKE TRAVIS, ACCG: "Right. Because it's also subject to an intergovernmental agreement with the remaining cities --"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

BLAKE TRAVIS, ACCG: "-- and how you want --"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So -- so that's sort of a fractional thing, so really the -- in the -- we do nothing, we opt in, the citizens get the benefit of whichever is better, correct? And I think we discussed at the last meeting, then the question was, was there any operational risk to us doing this and being able to execute that by being able to make the exemption calculations and handle whatever may be required in terms of, you know, notices, et cetera. And I'm not -- I'm not asking you that -- all that question,

because you will have nothing to do with that. But I see our Tax Assessor and Tax Commissioner are sitting in the audience, and I don't want to misstate for them, but they -- they had assured us at the last meeting that from execution standpoint, they feel that they can do so, and manage that. Is that -- is that a fair statement from our Tax Commissioner and Chief Assessor? Yes? Okay, all right, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other questions or comments? Anything else? Thank you."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Mr. Chair, do we need to give -- do we feel like we need to give the -- take a vote in terms of direction that we want to opt in?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm going --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I think you should because it's --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- ask you for a --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- what's your recommendation?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "We would recommend that we stay with the opt in. It's also a positive, I think, from a press perspective, in that you're giving the taxpayer the best of whichever option."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Recommendation from the Manager and the CFO is to -
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VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So, moved."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- opt in. We have a motion to do so by Commissioner Ellis. It's seconded by Commissioner -- strike that -- motion by Vice Chair Bob Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes unanimously."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Mr. Manager, Madam CFO."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Well, thank you for, again, your patience getting to this point, because this is an important discussion. I just want to make a couple of three comments up front. First of all, there's always been some conversation, as we get into the budget, about our revenues exceeding -- excuse me, our expenses exceeding revenues. Pleased to report, as you've seen now in this final

document, in 2024, our revenues did exceed our expenses. So we had 879 million in revenue and 867 million in expense, so a \$12 million difference, keeping our fund balance as well as our AAA rating in good shape. As you know though, we faced many challenges going into 2025. And that's what, of course, this document that's before you will highlight. We've used a rules-based approach, which effectively eliminates program expansion and new programs and only funds those things that are either contractually that we're bound to provide or are a life-safety issue. The DOJ, having published their order and now having approved by the court, I think we feel fairly strongly we're now in the world of what Donald Rumsfeld would have said years ago, of known unknowns. In other words, we know what the order requires; we do not know the expense and the operational impacts and the details of being able to comply with that order. So our principal recommendation is to take all under runs from last year, and reserve those against what will be anticipated needs yet to be defined in 2025. And you'll have the -- you'll see that in a moment when we present it, and you'll have the ability to obviously use those dollars accordingly. Also, we have great confidence that the budget as proposed, which is significantly more than what we spent last year, it's not significantly more than what the budget was. But comparatively, it's a \$990 million budget, general fund, and our general fund expense was 867 million. So there is, you know, a significant amount of difference between what we actually spent and what the budget is proposed for 2025. So again, that all being said, we think, you know, keeping our powder dry and reserving the amounts that we're going to recommend is the wisest course. I did dust off, because I'm reminded of when we entered COVID and we did not have any federal funds available, we took some extraordinary expense control actions, we could take those again. And when we did do kind of all-of-the-above saving from the last year, taking expense control, if you recall, we generated about 30 million that we used in advance of receipt of any federal dollars. That may be something that we will have to contend with as we move into 2025 and the DOJ requirements, the consent order requirements, become more clear. But we're not prepared to recommend that today. So with that, I think Sharon, or I believe, Sharon Whitmore, our CFO, is going to go through the presentation. And again, thanks to Sabrinna and Hakeem for their hard work. And again, apologies for the late delivery of this given our end-of-year closeout being complicated by the -- by the IT issues that we had right at the end of the year. So, Sharon."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Next page, please. I mean, next slide, please. We always like to start with summarizing our year-end results. I think actually, the County Manager did a great job of sharing that with you already. These are the actual numbers, though, so I thought I would review those quickly. From a revenue perspective, when we made our projections and presented the proposed budget initially, we were looking at \$886.2 million revenue projection, and we actually ended at 879.1, which was about a \$7.2 million reduction in projective revenue. From an expenditure perspective, we performed a little better than what we had originally projected. We projected 893.5 in expenses. We ended at 866.8, so we -- we had picked up about 26.7 million. When you add those together, that is the 19 and a half million that the County Manager was referring to in

under runs, if you will, that we were able to add to the resources that we have available to help support the 2025 budget. From a fund balance perspective, what that meant is, instead of ending the year with our projected 220 million in fund balance, we ended with 239.7. Next slide, please. This slide provides a little more detail around the areas, both on the revenue and the expenditure side that we saw the most significant differences in our final year-end results from what we originally projected. So on the revenue side, we ended up doing a little bit better in local option sales tax, prior year property taxes, commission on tax collections, prior year motor vehicle, and then a handful of items in the other revenue category. But we had some areas that we did not meet the amount that we had originally projected, and those are shown down at the bottom under the reductions. So we did not meet our -- our original projections in the current year property tax category, current year public utility tax, motor vehicle tax, and interest income. Netted together, all of those is what comes down to that \$7.2 million difference from our projection to actual. On the right-hand side of the screen on the expenditure side, the major areas where from projection to final, we ended up with more resources. We had some resources that were not used for the 2024 General Election Runoff. Some of those we've recommended for re-appropriation, because we have invoices that we expect to receive for the goods and services that were rendered to the county, and the completion of that. We had the \$10 million that we had initially set aside for the debt issuance to support a jail bond issuance. And we also had funds remaining, 9.7 million from salary savings, and then we had about \$2 million that are items that we were unable to pay due to time. We expected to receive the invoices, but did not receive them, or we were unable to pay them because the system -- we lost access to the system on the 30th and ran out of time before the end of the year on the 31st to actually get them processed. So those are the items feeding into the differences to our projections. Next slide, please. Summarizing this then, as we roll into the impact that these changes have on our 2025 budget, from a revenue perspective, we have a couple of items that net to zero, so no change in the total revenue, but we do need to make some adjustments between categories, and those are presented here. So we will need to add about \$5 million to our prior year public utility expectation, and then make some reductions in prior year property tax, and a handful of individual lines within the other revenue category. Those net to zero, so there's no total change in the revenues picture, but some changes between individual lines. Next slide, please. From an expenditure perspective, the proposed expenditure budget presented in November was 973.7 million with additional resources that we were able to carry forward from '24 to '25. And based on the County Manager's comments, we do have some recommendations for some budgetary changes. Those are summarized here and presented in the budget booklet that we provided to you yesterday afternoon. The first item is a reallocation of 24 known obligations. This is primarily in two areas, \$1.9 million for Registration and Elections to re-appropriate some of the resources that they did not spend '24 for which we know we have outstanding invoices and a financial mean to cover. And about \$143,000 in outstanding P-Card payments that where a transaction got hung up in the system, and we were not able to clear it by the end of the year. Rather than having those departments absorb those costs out of their '25 budget, we wanted to re-appropriate those funds and clear -- clear those costs. The next item, the 13.9 million is the reserve

fund the Manager spoke about relative to the DOJ investigation and the consent order. As noted in our message to you, we have proposed that that be allocated out in three different buckets of equal proportion. One to the risk management fund, one set aside for any operational needs related to implementation of the requirements of the consent order, or I should say, initial implementation requirements of the consent order. And then an equal amount for any additional facility-related costs that may also be required by the consent order. And those buckets would each be 4,634,421. And then we have a department reallocation request. It shows as zero because of rounding, but it's actually like, \$26,000. And then that all comes down to 16 million. We did also set aside the required 16.67 percent reserve, so we were staying within our fund balance reserve requirement, ending at a proposed expenditure budget of 989.8 million. Next slide, please. And this depicts then our final fund balance, proposed fund balance position for 2025 with these changes included. The beginning carry forward from 2024 of 239.7 million; total proposed revenue of 915 -- 915 million; total proposed expenditures, 989 million. The available fund balance is 165, and that calculates out to the 16.67 percent required reserves. And we just wanted to note that that does meet that reserve requirement. And that's it for the presentation. The booklet that we provided to you outlines this a little bit more in detail in the memo, along with some changes that we had to the Water and Sewer System, the Airport Fund, and the Risk Management Fund. And with that, Mr. Chairman, we are ready to take any questions or comments from the Board regarding the proposed budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Madam CFO. Vice Chair Bob Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Madam CFO, for the presentation. You know, I think we should all acknowledge, certainly that from a budgetary standpoint, this year is a little bit of a unicorn and an oddity given that what we -- the DOJ agreement, which we entered into at the end of last year and the certainly, that presents its own sort of set of challenges. But from a financial standpoint, one of the biggest challenges that presents to us is that we're faced with approving a budget within a fairly short period of time, and we're not going to be able to quantify what the impacts of that are at this point in time. So I think the -- I think that's clear and I mean, sort of seeking to do that, you know, is sort of a fool's gold, because there's just so many different, you know, things in there that we don't know at this point, and won't know for some period of time, is -- in terms of sort of a work through that arrangement. So I think the Manager's -- the management team and the recommendation, you know, to present this in terms of just really preserving funds in reserve until we have a greater sense of what we know is the prudent approach for us to take. You know, it's definitely, we've heard asks from other, from all kind of different pieces of the county. And you know, in a perfect world, we'd be able say, yes, to everything. But, you know, we're certainly not in a perfect world and we definitely got to prioritize, you know, kind of what we have before us, and to in to take care of what we need to take care of. I think it's important, even with what's proposed, to note that I don't believe that there any areas outside of elections, which is a seasonal thing when we have certain elect -- certain, certain elections in certain years, and certain -- certain elections in other years. So we

have seasonality in the overall Elections budget. But I don't believe there are any departments that are seeing a budget that is less than what they spent in 2024; is that correct, outside of Elections?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I will say, yes, Commissioner Ellis. I mean, Vice Chair Ellis, then that would be true."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right. And this sort of highlight certain areas where, I mean, from actual 2025 proposed versus 2024 actual just for a few areas. The Probate Court 14 percent increase proposed versus 2024 actual; Magistrate, 13.4 percent increase versus -- proposed versus 2024 actual; District Attorney, 9 percent increase 2025 proposed versus 2024 actual; Marshal, 9 percent increase 2025 proposed versus 2024 actual. So my point in sort of sharing that is, we're not asking people to starve themselves and starve the county. But because these are fairly healthy increases, you know, relative to, you know, what your -- what your spend was in prior year. And those of us that have generally operated in any sort of corporate environment know that that's often how we get -- often how you, you know, budgets are formed, and what -- what the asks are. So I think those are important to note, not to diminish any ask and any -- any ask that any one individual department may have. The other thing, I think it's important for us, and it's going to be important for us throughout the course of this year, is we're proving something right now with a lot of unknowns. Throughout the course of the year, we're going to know more. Perhaps some of these numbers turn out to be more conservative, and we're going to be able to take some funds and be able to look at doing some things that are differently, and consider some of the asks that were made. Perhaps they're not, perhaps it's not conservative enough. In which case, you know, I think that's what we're all kind of have -- going to have to monitor. And with help from our management team, to say, hey, you know, are there some times where we need to execute some more spending controls. As you've -- as you've stated right now, you're not recommending that at this stage of the game. But it's something that we need to be attuned to, and that you're going to be attuned to. We've lived through this, like you said, with COVID, and we were able to act upon that. So I think that this is a good middle-of-the-ground approach for us to take. And I don't think we're going to know anymore within the next couple of weeks. And I think it's the prudent thing for us to do to go ahead and take action and approve it as it's been presented. I think the reserve -- so I would -- I'm going to make a motion, Mr. Chair, that we adopt the 2025 proposed budget and all the other related funds as proposed by the management team, or as presented by the management team and that the \$13.9 million reserve, which is categorized out. And if this encompasses the \$13.9 million reserve with a 4.6 million in each of the categories related to DOJ report for operations and facilities, as well as 4.6 million that would go towards the reserve fund to address not only potential things that may emerge from the DOJ stuff, but just litigation generally, and potential litigation that we have, because we've seen an uptick in that over -- in that activity over, you know, over time and with recent years. So I think it's prudent to make sure that we've not restricted ourselves just to DOJ piece for that component of it. So that is my motion, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We have a motion to adopt the 2025 Budget; is there a second? Is there a second? One more time; is there a second? "

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. At this point in time, let's see -- Commissioner Barrett, let's talk."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the effort, Madam CFO, Mr. County Manager, and the entire Finance team. I know this is quite a process, and I -- every time I have been past your strategy office, y'all have been hard at it. So I know you put a lot of time and energy into it, and I appreciate that. I have some questions. First, I want to say, I very much appreciate the premise of the -- that we, you know, we have these unknowns, these known unknowns coming our way. And we don't really know what that's going to look like from a dollars perspective in this coming calendar year. And I appreciate the idea of putting some of that money, the under run money that you referred to, aside, certainly to prepare ourselves as best we can for some of those unknowns. That said, I think, you know, it's -- it's certainly fair to say that while some departments have received increases, and Vice Chair Ellis read some of those, many of our departments ran very close to their budgeted numbers for the prior year for 2024. And they also have been making the same requests over and over again, year after year after year for additional staff, additional resources that they need to continue to operate and serve, you know, their constituents with whatever their responsibilities are. So you know, on the one hand, yes, some of them are getting some increases, but we know the cost of goods have increased. We know that there's been some salary increases along the way, et cetera, et cetera. So I say that only to say that, we're cutting it very close to the vest with the budget that we have. And you know, this is the first year for me that there's just nothing else that can be approved by us from -- from some of these additional unmet requests that we have listed in the tranches. So you know, I think we've heard from a lot of folks regarding Arts funding. We've heard from the various justice partners, the courts, Solicitor General, et cetera. And then so many you don't -- who don't make cases here in front of us, but who have put their requests in the system and are relying on us to do the best we can, to start to give them some resources. And for example, I'll bring up the Public Defender's Office, who has asked time and time and time again, who is understaffed, and you know, by not funding, giving additional funding to the Public Defender's Office, just as an example of many of the Justice Departments, cases are slowed, backlogs continue to accrue, and more people spend more time in our facility, in our jail facility, so and that's just one example. So I'm saying all that to say, I think despite the fact that we sort of squeaked by in 2024, and we're trying to do that again this year, we have to be really clear about the fact that there is -- there are a lot of people here who are not making salaries that are competitive, who are having to work second jobs. And in a lot of departments, a lot of our sworn officers across multiple departments, the Police, the Sheriff, the Marshal are in those positions where they're not, you know, where they're having to work second

jobs. So you know, while I appreciate that we all have to tighten our belts and make do, I just think it's very -- we need to be very, very clear on the fact that we -- this is not a comfortable position for a lot of these departments. And it's certainly not a comfortable position for me to approve a budget that doesn't try to improve the lives of all of our stakeholders as best we can. I have questions in particular about the just presentation that you all just gave, the handout here, and that's up on a screen. And this is just a technicality, I guess, but on the first page, there's a reference to the 19.5 million in under run, essentially. But then when you break it down on the second to last page, I guess, it is -- or, no, where is it? Yeah, it's on the, yeah, second to last page, you say you have the 13.9 and 2.1. And I'm -- so I'm -- where's the rest of the 19.5; did I miss that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Barrett, I did mention in my remarks that the balance was used to ensure that we met the minimum fund balance reserve --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I see, okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- on the 989.8 million in total expenditures."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Gotcha. The other question I have, and I -- I just honestly can't remember this from prior years, but presenting this as a -- and it's in multiple places, presented as sort of a comparison to the midyear actual versus sort of a presentation of our performance to the budgeting of 2024. So instead of looking at 2024 budgeted versus 2024 actual, we're looking at midyear projection versus actual? I'm just wondering what the reason is for that."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: It's generally because the midyear projection is what we use when we developed the proposed budget. And so when we do the midyear projection, we build in a certain set of assumptions, and those are the ones that we're using as we develop the basis for the next year's -- the next year's budget. We could have also at -- at different points in times, we've included the budget column as well to show the budget, the projection, and then the final results. At some point in time, in the last, I would say, probably five years, we've dropped that, that budget column. But we can -- we can, we can show that information as well in the future, if -- if that's more -- more helpful and beneficial to the Board."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean, I think my -- my perspective on that is that, you know, we're trying to, you know, do our best to -- to approve a budget and to get good -- better every year at budgeting. And so to -- knowing how we performed in terms of what we budgeted, and I think it's important for us to know and for the public to know. And so obviously, the numbers are available in the various things you presented, they're just not presented in a chart as one thing. And so I just pulled my own, you know, pulled the numbers together off of the various sheets just to look at our performance, you know, as budget to actual. And from what I'm seeing, we over budgeted on

expenditure side by 87.3 million; is that accurate? In other words, we budgeted for a \$954 million expenditure budget, and we spent 866 million, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, that would be correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. So we over budgeted by 87 million, which, you know, from an accounting standards perspective, it's reasonable. It's 9.15 percent over budgeting, and I believe the standard is 10 percent or less is where you want to be. However, when I dug a little bit deeper into the numbers, and I looked at where the biggest -- I was sort of where -- like, wondering where were these expenditures we budgeted for and didn't spend. And I know you mentioned one of them in your -- in your discussion already, which was the 10 million set aside that didn't end up getting spent. But that's 10 million out of 87 million. And so point being, the non-agency category is the one where we most egregiously over budgeted. We budgeted 228 million, 228.7 million in 2024, and spent 172.4 million. That's a difference of 56.3 million, and that's a percentage of close to 25 percent over budgeting in non-agency. So you know, if there was 25 percent extra in non-agency last year, and this year, we're increasing from a 228.7 million in the 2024 budget to a 251 million in the 2025 proposed budget. So we're increasing already, several million, 30-ish and -- and we overspent last year by 25 percent or 56 million. It seems to me there's money there in non-agency that we could be repurposing to other things that are needed in the county and/or reducing the budget by a reasonable amount. So I would say, you know, if we're still looking at even 10 percent overage on non-agency, if we figured the 251 might have 10 percent of cushion built in, that's 25 million, meaning there's 31 million that could be eliminated from that, which would save us not only the 31 million, but also the amount that will go into the reserve on that 31 million. By the way, as a side note to all of this, and I think this is worth noting, the remaining departments, other than non-agency, ran only 4.2 percent over, as it related to their expenditure budget on, you know, on average. And so, congratulations to them, right? Because everybody ran pretty close to what they thought they were going to run. And I think that's really -- I'm not -- I'm being very serious. I think that's a really great work on them, doing their budgeting, you all working with them, and how you're running the county, Mr -- Mr. Manager. So you know, that's - that's to be congratulated, for sure. But what's sitting in non-agency, in many cases, which is, it's sort of buried three layers deep in terms of what it is for. It just seems like there's an excessive amount of money there. So to that end, and thinking about the 13.9, I do think it is imperative that we not only hold money aside for what may come in terms of these unknown expensive, but that we are proactive in working on the justice issues we have around the jail and throughput through the justice system. At a minimum, we look at trying to help the Sheriff, the Sheriff's Office retain, hire and retain staff. We were in a meeting, Commissioner Ivory, Commissioner Thorne, and I with the Sheriff yesterday. And he made it very clear that he's been able to hire, but not able to retain. And that's been an ongoing challenge for him. And I think many of us saw the state's plan, Governor Kemp's plan to add 600 million to their budget for prison reform, and to start hiring additional people to work at their prisons as well as salary increases for their officers and folks working in and around the prison system. And so that's going

to make the landscape even more competitive in terms of trying to get people hired at our facility. And so, you know, I think waiting several more months to see what potentially comes out of the consent decree is -- we're going to have to modify no matter what based on that, but I think it would behoove us to put some signing bonus money into the Sheriff's budget. And based on the calculations that we got from and the information we got from the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, they have, I believe, and some somebody can correct me if this is incorrect, but I believe they have 50 sworn officer positions that are open, and the sort of going rate to be extra competitive would be 15,000 sign-on bonus, which is a total of \$750,000. So I think it would -- I'd like to see 750,000 be put towards that so that the Sheriff's Office can have that tool to attract and retain folks. Because -- and as I think Commissioner Thorne brought up during the call, when they do the sign-on bonus, they are also signing a contract to commit to being with us for a certain number of years. And I don't have that number, so I don't know how many years they commit to. I don't know if you did -- were you able to get that, Commissioner Thorne? Yeah. So we think three, but that's a huge help. Because right now, it sounds like there are people leaving after a year. Yeah, they get the training, and they get certified, and then they go on to places where they can get signing bonuses and overtime pay, et cetera, et cetera. So to that end, the other, I think, real need in terms of retention and employee attraction for folks working in the jail is the overtime money. And I believe -- and County Manager, you can correct me if I'm wrong here, but I believe at the beginning of 2024, the proposed amount for overtime from your office, I think, in -- you know, in concert with the Sheriff's Office was the 4 million, was that what it was?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "That's what I recall. Or was it four and a half, do you remember? I think four and a half, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, and through various machinations with the budget process, it ended up at 2.5 and of course, we've had a lot of discussion over the course of the year about how much additional or not to fund. But I think, you know, if we went back to what was advised by you all last year and looked at increasing his -- the 2.5 that's currently allotted in the 2025 proposed budget for overtime to a total of four, so adding a 1.5 would get him back to that 4 million. And just for a point of reference for everybody listening, watching, his actual overtime spend in 2024 was 7 million. So I think, you know, we're not -- I'm not certainly not suggesting we should go there. But I think 4 million is a reasonable number, especially if we're able to give him the tools to have more full-time staff on board. That would hopefully lessen the need for additional overtime. I also think, given everything that we have going on with the jail and the consent decree, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that we have lots of other challenges in Fulton County. And one of them certainly, is health equity and the various healthcare deserts that we have. And so I think it would -- you know, we're working on a variety of things with Grady, with the freestanding emergency room coming up and looking at that eventually becoming a hospital. And we've made other efforts with Grady along the way as well. But you know, I think -- and Dr. Roshell had presented to us, I think at least once if not twice over the course of the year, this concept of funding

co-pays through the federally qualified health centers. And I think it's worth looking at that again. And I'm going to ask you to kind of just review that concept very quickly, Dr. Roshell, because you're going to do a better job of it than I will, and also talking about their various clinics and such."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett. So as background as a result of the Project Care Study that we concluded in 2023, which was born out of a resolution by the Board, declaring a healthcare emergency in Fulton County. Post the closure of the two Wellstar Hospitals, we partnered with Ernst & Young and Morehouse to undertake a study to really look at the impact of the closures as well as some longstanding health equity issues. What we did find was that, yes, these health equity issues exist, they persist, and they are more exasperated in South Fulton. One of the components of that study was to develop a five-part solution set. One of the elements of the five-part solution set led us to open the Morehouse Clinic to restore assets in the community. We also have concluded our agreement with Grady and opened the Lee & White Clinic that is going to provide more healthcare access. We also opened a Senior Wellness Program that brings the annual wellness visit closer to constituents. And this particular component is going to address one of the barriers we found, which is a barrier to access to care because of financial burden. Specifically during our research, we found that many constituents are using the health department -- the emergency room because they cannot pay the copays associated with primary care, especially those constituents who have used federally qualified health centers. So as an alternative, they allow their conditions to become acute, and they end up in the emergency room, which costs the entire healthcare ecosystem more money. And so one of the proposed projects out of that study was to provide a copay partnership with five federally qualified health centers that align with the ZIP codes in the Project Care Study that are identified in the healthcare desert. Basically, we would propose to fund at a minimum, one pilot at a million or five pilots which would provide additional resources for constituents in the community to offset the copay to incentivize them to use the primary care system, specifically federally qualified health centers, to really lead them away from using the emergency room as a primary care resource."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: Thank you for that. And I think, you know, in a perfect world, we would see a greater impact, obviously, if we were able to do the pilot at all five of the Fulton County FQHCs. But I think given the constraints, it would be prudent to focus on a pilot at just one. And I think we spoke briefly the other day, and you said that you had been able to identify it -- identify which would sort of be the right place to start. Can you just address that piece?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes. One of the federally qualified health centers that has a very comprehensive business or medical portfolio as well as multiple access points within ZIP code footprint would be Southside Medical Center."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So I think, you know, again, not putting everything aside and putting every problem on hold while we focus on the jail, it would

be prudent for us to move forward with the FQHC pilot at a million so that we can get help to folks right now, and also so that we can alleviate the burden on the emergency rooms and as you pointed out, the additional costs across the entire, you know, medical ecosystem regarding when people, you know, let their conditions worsen. In that way, this is really a lifesaving opportunity here for a lot of people with chronic diabetes, chronic illnesses, heart issues, et cetera. So I think that's something that we have the funds, certainly, between what's left, you know, this overage in non-agency as well as the little bit of under run that we had. I also think, you know, I really, I know you didn't bring it up today, Vice Chair Ellis, but I think the million that you had proposed and that we had done last year for veterans is something that we should continue to do. So I think that's a community that continues to need our help. And I'd like to see that continue because, you know, we were able to do it effectively. It took a little -- it took a little doing last year to get it up and going, but we were able that effectively and I think it's important. I also am concerned for the arts community and the arts spending. There's a lot of discussion around what the state is going to do around Arts funding this year. There's some talk that Georgia may be among multiple states that dramatically reduce their Arts funding. One estimate I saw from midyear last year said that Georgia may go down as much as 61 percent in terms of their funding for Arts. We hear from the arts folks all the time about how valuable our support is to that community. And I think, you know, we -- and several people came today at public comment and talked about the economic impact of supporting the arts and the Economic Development, you know, benefit of supporting the arts. And so the 1.7 million that we allocated to -- to additional that we allocated in 20 -- I think it's been two years now that we've done the 1.7, yeah. So we've done it two years in a row. I think being consistent with the arts community and making sure that we have that tool and our economic development toolkit is important. And I think we need to continue with that 1.7 and make it a recurring, ongoing, recurring commitment to the arts. So that, you know, when I was doing that math, it's about, I think the things I just listed out is about 6 million, it's 5.95 million. And again, if there is somewhere between, you know, 31 and 56 in additional money in non-agency, I think we can carve out 6 million to address some of these issues. I also did not have this in my notes, but we -- when we were on the call with the Sheriff earlier yesterday, rather, I was going to say earlier this week, but it was just yesterday, he brought up the issue of -- or he wasn't there, but his team brought up the issue of the -- the drones and the contraband that's coming into the jail facility via drone. And the concern, I think, is that he's doing everything he can to -- I -- well, I don't know -- there's a lot of staff right now being utilized outside the facility, I think, from what I understand, patrolling to make -- to try to alleviate the drones getting contraband in to burned out windows, et cetera. And you know, I know he's talked multiple times, or that they have talked multiple times about the D-drone technology. I don't have the numbers on this, which is one of the reasons I wasn't ready to approve a budget today. But my understanding is, the contract for a five-year contract -- and maybe you know the answer to this, but I think it's about 291,000 for a five-year contract to use D-drone software and tools, I think, which is like, 50 - 60,000 a year. Is that wrong? Do I have that right, Ms. Strong-Whitaker? I know, I see you -- I see you, like, starting to get your -

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FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Let me look at the AML list. They submitted some information --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "-- from AML list, let me look, and I'll confirm that number for you --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And I'm not suggesting that that's the only tool in the arsenal, but if -- if it is 50 or \$60,000 a year, if that's accurate, versus having two or three people patrolling 24/7, it seems like it would be a smarter trade off to use technology and to offset some of that staff budget. I could be -- I could not have all the details on this. So this is one -- and like I said, another reason I won't -- I'm not ready to quite make a decision, but --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Of course, if it is that, wouldn't that be something he should do --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes, and I --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- like yesterday?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes, and that is a fair question, you know, and the argument would ensue that there's just not enough room in his budget, et cetera, but --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "If he's patrolling --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- and he doesn't have to patrol --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right, then there's the trade off, yeah."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. Although he'd still have the staff for other purposes, regardless. It's -- I'd just like to know if we can get those numbers and sort of at least -- at least throw some, you know, analysis around the tradeoffs. There was one other thing, I honestly don't remember what was, but I'll just get back in the queue if it comes to me. That was all I had for right now. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. If you're wondering, at budget time, we typically allow up to ten minutes to speak, but at budget time, little more lenient to let people say what's on their mind. Commissioner Arrington, followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Thorne, and followed by Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the County Manager, our CFO and their entire team for coming up with the budget. It is always a daunting task, to say the least. A lot of different competing interests, limited resources, and appreciate you all doing what you have done to get us where you have gotten us. One of the things that I would like to see, I heard Commissioner Barrett talk about, you know, the actual -- and I don't know if this makes sense, or if anyone else wants to see it. But I'd like to see the trend over the last five years from the budget and the actuals. I don't really care about the midyear projection. Midyear projection comes around in August or something. And so, you know, in order for me to really compare apples to apples, I need the January numbers, because we're in January, right? Additionally, I also need to see the under runs every year. From my recollection, we run about 75 to \$100 million under runs every year. And so if we're over budget -- if we're over budgeting for expenses and we've also got under runs of 75 to \$100 million every year, then what that tells me is that we've got another 100 or \$200 million despite all of this great work that y'all have done and everything else that's in here. So for me, I need to see those numbers. What -- what are the under runs for the last five years? What are the January budget numbers from the last five years? So that we can see those trends and see what we're working with, hey, look, every January is this number, but every December, we've got \$100 million in under runs. That's important information to know as we're budgeting. And because we're being told that there -- and obviously, we have limited resources. But we're being told that there's not enough to fund the different departments and DA and Sheriff and this and that. And based on numbers, there may or may not be, but if -- but if I know for the last five or ten years we've had a \$100 million under run, then I'll know that we can allocate more because I know we're going -- nine times out of ten, we're going to have another \$100 million under run. And so, you know, which means, you know -- and I hate that we have to keep doing this in this enhancement stuff. We've done this extra money for Arts every year, and every year, we got to come back for an enhancement? No, that should be annual funding. We've done the money for veterans, and we got to come back? No, that should be annual funding for our veterans. It should be annual funding for our Arts organizations. And so -- and again, you know, I want to be the broken record, I say this every year at budget time. We don't budget properly we -- we should overestimate our expenses and underestimate our revenue. That is typically what people do when they have a budget. And we have departments and elected officials asking for certain amounts of money that they say that they need to run their departments. That should be our baseline number. Those numbers that they request should be our baseline numbers. However, what we do, we make our budget for those departments based off of how much money we're going to have available based on the millage rate that we set. Forget how much it costs to run a department, forget that no one can -- can retain anyone because they're going to DeKalb and Clayton and Douglas to -- because they're getting double overtime and triple overtime. You know, it's -- the baseline numbers should be, what does it take to run a department and what do these people say that they need. That should be the baseline number. And then we should set the millage rate based off of what that number is that they say they need. We should not be telling these people, whoa, we

can't give you that, you can't get this, well, you can only maybe get this. When I first took office, we -- departments, everybody got cut 10 percent for like the first four or five years. Everybody's budget got cut 10 percent per year for the first four or five years. People are operating as best they can; these departments are operating as best they can. But I believe that we're starving the departments and the people out. I believe that we are doing ourselves and this county a disservice by not really using the baseline numbers that these departments say that they need to operate. The fact that the Gwinnett County has a two and a half billion dollar budget should say something to us. And again, we talked about that last time. They probably got a larger unincorporated area, and they got more stuff. But I think we're doing ourselves a disservice. I do not think that we budget properly. I do not think that we use the right baseline for operating these departments. Oh, and that they made it through last year, they limped through last year, so we'll -- let's let them limp through again this year. No, we need to make sure that they have the resources available. We need to make sure they have the spending authority available to do the best job they can do. Mr. Manager, what was our saying, first in class, first in service? We can't be first in class and first in service and last in pay. It's impossible. To be first in class and first in service, we got to be first in pay. We have to make a -- we have to offer jobs that make people not want to leave. They have to be paid enough that they want to hang around, that despite the fact that somebody else might be offering double or triple overtime, they want to stay here because of the environment and the atmosphere and because they're being paid properly. So for me, I obviously want to see veterans, Arts, all of those things funded at the levels that they have previously been funded that the Board is previously, previously voted on. I want to see those as recurring expenditures, not as enhancements. If I hear enhancements one more time, I'm going to throw up. It's not an enhancement. It's not even enough -- it's even the money that, enough to cover the amount of money that these people and departments have requested. They give out 3 million a year in Arts for the last three to five years, and now we want to say, well, there's only 1.7 in there. And there's an enhancement to get them back up to the 3 million. No, we've been giving out 3 million a year. We should do that every year. That should be the baseline. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I apologize, I was not here at the last meeting, so I do have some questions for you all. What do we have allocated to Fulton Films in the budget presently?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I believe it's 526,000 and some change."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. And what do we --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Excuse me, it's 544,847."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "544, okay. And what do we have allocated for healthcare subsidies?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "You mean like for employee healthcare subsidy or for public health --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Just the healthcare subsidy reserve, do we have anything of that nature?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Oh, in the reserve? No, ma'am. We do have our annual allocation to the Fulton County Board of Health, funding for --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- Grady, funding for Morehouse School of Medicine for the --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- clinic there, and funding for the new the debt -- our support of --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- the construction of the new freestanding ED, but there is no reserve for public health."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. Now, Arts and Culture, we have what allocated for Arts and Culture?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The total budget for Arts and Culture is \$6,090,899."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And what's the difference between that and the previous year?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Last year's budget was 7,831,578 because it included the additional 1.7 million for Contracts for Services. And it included a full year of Fulton Films -- well, a partial year of Fulton Films was included in that budget figure as well."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. And so that -- that amount that you have for Fulton Films, is -- so that does not include anything that was included previously under the Arts and Culture because of the split, right?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, ma'am, that's a full year's allocation with it residing in Economic Development."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. Gotcha, gotcha, thank you. I am going to ask that there be \$100,000 -- well, before I ask this, let me -- let me qualify why I'm asking it first. We saw unprecedented numbers last year with the seniors from one end of the county to the other. And one of the things the seniors brought to my attention when they came out, one, they were so excited that we had something that served all seniors. But they had one place where they could get a replacement social security card, where they could get a half-fare MARTA card and other things that were geared strictly to the senior community. I would like to see \$100,000 allocated to that. It takes more than \$100,000. But we have identified potential commitments. Because I think our seniors deserve whatever we can do to make their life easier. What do I mean by that? If we have one centralized location where they can check on why their mail is being taken from one place to another. We have something that deals with whatever health issues they may have. We have something that may deal with their low-fare MARTA cards. It was such a success. But what I really did walk away from, was that it included the entire Fulton County. And the seniors on the North and the South were glad to be able to fellowship with each other, and be in one spot. And I think that in itself is conducive for a healthy, healthy Fulton County. Because we hear about so much division, South versus North, and all these other things that depending on who you're talking to, it may be a valid argument, it may not. But I think it would be in our best interest to keep that going for the seniors. And so Dr. Roshell, I can't remember how we had that set up last year. But however way we had that setup, I'm requesting that \$100,000 for that."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I have received quite a bit of calls from constituents on the north side expressively about Probate Court and the challenges of having to come downtown, the challenges of having to park, the challenges of trying to get downtown by a certain time to get the process started. I would think it would be in the best interest if we could allocate \$501,661 to be able to fund a North Fulton Probate Court office. And so I want to put that forward. I'll tell you what it actually entails. It entails an Associate Judge. It entails a Senior Staff Attorney and a Litigation Manager. And the reason that I'm asking for this to be put in is because since I have been sitting on this Body, this has been calls that I have had. And in having a conversation with Judge Kenya Johnson, she's trying to do the best she can to show equity on both sides. She does have something in the South Senior Center, Stonewall. But I think it only adds to what we need to do for Fulton County. So I want put that forward. And I believe -- oh, okay -- and I also want to put forward that I would like to see 1.7 million put back into Arts and Culture. And the reason I say that as very important, we know Arts and Culture is the bloodline, the lifeline of the community. I don't know that at the state, that there is a drastic cut, but there is a cut at the state. And there is so much

empirical knowledge out there showing you that when we cut Arts and Culture, we suffer in another area. So I would like to see the 1.7 million reinstated to the Arts and Culture. I also would like to -- oh, I've already brought up the seniors. Okay, that's it. Thank you."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner, may I clarify one?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Sure."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "One thing on your Probate Court request, is that a new location, or is this additional services at the North Annex?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Additional services at the North Annex."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I was kind of confused, because we just had last year, a ribbon cutting for the North Annex Probate Court. And I haven't gotten those complaints from seniors, so I'm -- I'm a bit confused. So maybe you can forward some of those people. I can reach out to those people if there is issues. I -- I've had people that had initial -- some issues initially, when we first opened. I don't think Judge Kenya had everything at -- or there was some confusion on the website, what was posted on the website, hours and all that. With that being said, the -- on your presentation, I think it's the second page, General Fund 2024 Result Main Changes. You say expenditures, 2025 General Election Runoff at 5 million, what -- can you give me some clarification on that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. That's really in reference to the amount of resources that we had programmed for the General Election in total. Of course, when the runoff came, it was funded by the municipalities and not -- not by the county. So we did not use all of the resources that we had programmed for the Election cycle in its totality. I -- we probably shouldn't have used the word runoff here. But I think what we were thinking, in part, was we didn't use all of the money that we had set aside for the election cycles, in part, because we did not have to fund the Runoff Elections because it ended up being municipal -- municipality-only runoffs. In addition to that, there were monies that were programmed for those regular General Election cycles that happened up through November that were not spent. But we do -- we do know that we have invoices pending. We have some of the temp services invoices, vehicles, and others that total about 1.9 million that we've recommended carrying forward and reappropriating so we can pay those out in 2025 without dipping into the resources that we've set aside for the PSC Election cycle in 2025."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "All right. And so this should say 2024 General Election?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am, that was --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Not 2025?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, yes, sorry --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- about that, yeah."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. That was just kind of a -- and do we know what we billed the cities? Have we billed them yet? And what revenue we'll be having coming in exactly?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I will have to go back and find the amounts. I have been provided those. My understanding from our last meeting with the Elections team is they did bill, and both the city of Atlanta and the, I think it was the city of College Park."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "East Point."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "East Point. East Point, they both paid, but I will have to go back and find the amounts. I just don't remember them off the top of my head."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. That'll be great, thank you. And you know I -- I was at the meeting with the Sheriff, and I do see the possible need for the retention bonuses and maybe increasing time in half, but everything seems to be a maybe. I would rather just give -- reserve a lump sum that we can set aside for the DOJ, and then go look at the new staffing plan that the Sheriff puts out there, see what the monitors that we hire say. And then use that money appropriately instead of pre-budgeting now for that ahead of time period. But know that we'll probably need to spend some of that money on the retention bonuses and the time and a half, that's kind of my thoughts. The Sheriff will still get the money. It's just, we'll wait to see what the monitors advise us on. And obviously, I -- the 1 million for veterans, I support that as well. I know that was mentioned several times. The health equity, I'm not -- Commissioner Barrett and I, she -- we kind of talked about that yesterday. Right now, I don't know if we should start any new programs, given that we're not letting anybody else start new programs, especially a pilot program that we don't know if it will really help right now. I just think timing-wise, I think it's a great idea. I think timing, given that we have so many unknowns next year, it wouldn't -- that would be something that I wouldn't support right now. But basically, I think that's pretty much the only questions. Everybody did a good

job of answering questions that I had beforehand. Thank you. And thanks for -- I'm sure your holidays were a lot of fun. So thank you for working so diligently on this, the whole team."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I first want to say thank you so much for -- to the executive team for taking the time to always answer my questions as I'm learning the process, and this is my first budget process only days after being sworn in, which, in itself is a daunting task. But I wanted to ask Commissioner Arrington when he referred to overruns of 75 million to 100 million per year, when in the report, there was only 19 million for 2024 said to be an under run. What are you referring to when you say it's 75 million to 100 million?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I ask them for the report for the last five years so that we could we -- so that I could see the numbers. It might be down to 19 for this year, under runs, under runs."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "It might been down to 19. But I would like to -- that's the whole reason I want to see the history over --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- the five years."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "But were you talking about cumulatively over the last five years that you're asking for reports --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No, I'm talking about on an annual basis --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- on an annual basis?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Can you address if there's any factual basis to the idea that it's not 19 million, but it's closer to 75 to 100 million?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I don't know what the average -- and I'll defer to Hakeem, but I would say from my memories, probably in the 5 percent of the budget overall, which could be 45 to 50 million every year. And then what's happening is we're using, and we always use those funds -- you know, this is not a corporation. So these are not distributed to shareholders, they are used to fund the next year's budget each time. So it's, you know, it could either be -- because if you tighten the budget up,

where there are no under runs, then there is no ability to fund the next set of budgets. So it kind of -- on the one hand, it is a timing issue, almost. But he's -- he is correct, it under runs each year, and it's getting less and less because we are using those to just put the base budget together. And then there's less for you to distribute when you start thinking about all the issues that just came up."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So there's a difference between the under runs that are actual under runs that are not reinvested into the base budget for the next year, versus under runs that we can actually use to disperse --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- to our partners that come and ask us for the money?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. When are -- for my understanding and for the understanding of our constituents, what are the other opportunities we are now talking about always to offer more budget to different departments? What during -- if we don't do it at this moment or we don't do it at our next vote on the budget, when will other times come throughout the year that we can make adjustments to the budget?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Ivory, we talk about having a midyear review, which is where we look at a point in time in the year at our performance against the expense budget, as well as how our revenue is actually coming in to see if we have any flexibility. If there are departments that are under spending their budget, then we can present to the Board how that looks. The Board can make a decision to take from one and give to another. But we also have a, what we call, budget soundings. Those really are supposed to be for emergency-type situations, not to fund something that a department requested as part of the budget process, but was not funded. But it typically is, there's been, you know, some type new legislation that has an immediate impact on their ability to function and they need additional resources, those, those sort of things. So those would be the opportunities during the course of the year for departments to receive a reallocation, if you will, from within the existing budget."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, thank you. Of the under run of 19 million, we said here in the report that we're going to put 13.9 toward the proposed DOJ investigation consent decree. And it seems that we have over and over again, many of our justice partners coming to ask us, from the Solicitor to the Magistrate Court to the Superior Court, coming to us to ask us for things that seem to be over and over, the same ask. It seems that if we do some of these things, it would have an impact on some of the things that we're required or would help what's happening at the condition at the jail. For example, Solicitor General -- I mean, Solicitor Keith Gammage has come multiple times asking us for 216,000 for around-the-clock court proceedings, which would then keep

less people from possibly entering the jail, which would keep the numbers down. \$216,000 does not seem to be a very big number to do something that might have a great impact that would also impact our consent decree and help in that area. He asked for another million dollars for additional investigators that would move his cases along faster. So for \$1.2 million, something that could help so greatly in this same court justice partner area seems like something we should be able to find for him. If we could find it in the non-agency other category that Commissioner Barrett continues to explain, and sort of allowed me a little bit of a light-bulb moment there to say that even if we took from the non-agency other category, which is 86 million, \$10 million, that's just a number. But it could be eight, six, seven, whatever. But if we went down that, and we looked at the things that have come to us consistently by our partners, the Magistrate has two things, the Magistrate Court, Judge Kirk, has had two things that consistently, she has come to ask us for 780,000 returned to the Superior Court, which actually is not going to cost us anything to do, that's more procedural, which I support, and then 711k to fund additional resources. That's not even a million dollars. So if you put the 1.2 from the Solicitor and the 711k from the Magistrate, we would not even be at \$2 million. Then, of course, I agree that we return the Arts and the Arts budget and the Culture budget back to at least what it was last year. Because I think that most departments are getting what they had in 2024, and Arts and Culture is not. So I would, at a minimum, want to support moving some of that back. And so I did hear Commissioner Abdur-Rahman say 1.7 million would be that number, and I would also agree with that and want to do that as well. And then I think that there's the Sheriff's overtime, which I do think we have a retention issue. I think it's important not to -- as a Commissioner-Elect, I sat there and the same issue was discussed in multiple, multiple meetings, which I find to be inefficient. And if we know that this going to come up, then I think that we could fund that. I'd want to look at exactly what a minimum number of that to get started in the year would accomplish, as we have this consent agenda and we know that we have to meet these certain things. That is a priority. Our justice partners are a priority. And our court systems are a priority. And so I think that if there's small things we can do from that non-agency, other number that would not have a huge impact on our budget, and I'm learning about the impacts that it has. And so if I need to come and have more conversation about the impact that 5 million or 10 million would have on the non-agency, other category, not pensions or leases or utilities, but the other category, then I'd like to learn a little bit more about that, to see if we could not reject every time our partners come asking for our help to do their jobs that we might one time, be able to actually say that we understand, and we do want to help you do your job better. We can't give you everything, but let's talk about the things you've been asking for over and over, and maybe we can make a small little step towards meeting them in that way before we 100 percent approve the budget. Does that sound fair, maybe? Okay, you don't have to answer that, if that's fair or not. But that's what I'd like to propose to my colleagues and have some conversation about that."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I mean, I think -- I think it is fair. I think just to keep though, in perspective, there's 210 million, probably on average, of requests made every year. So the difference between 210 and some small incremental steps is

huge. And then there is where this gets, you know, generally all twisted up, because that's 3 mils --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "No."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- to get to 210."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And that I understand, and when I was reading in the budget book, the tranches that all add up to that amount --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Right."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- I do understand the larger massiveness of it. But I'm saying, and this is a quote that Commissioner Abdur-Rahman said to me, you can't bite -- you can't eat the whole -- what was it that you said? You got to take small bites out of it. And I thought about that last night when she said that to me, because I think it is important for us as elected officials to show the respect and compassion to our partners as they're continuously trying to run their departments effectively, and we can't give them big jumps. But even if we gave them just a little bit of what they're asking for, if it's possible for us, and that's what I'm asking for you to help me understand --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- if it's possible. And if it's possible to the tune of 2 million or 3 million or whatever it is from this bucket that would not affect us in a big way, then I would like to try to do that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. First, I want to comment on, you know, kind of the justice partners' piece and sort of the notion that this Board has not been responsive to multiple asks from the Justice Department community. And factually that is false. We've made significant investment into the justice community. In fact, all of them have sort of outgrown our general rate of spending in terms what we budgeted for multiple years. Let's take, for example, the Magistrate Court, and while, you know, we can in the context of \$900 million, a million dollars seems like a small -- what is their ask, a million, five? Well, that's like a 36 percent increase in their budget. I mean, that's not realistic. And you know, when we have increased their budget, 36 percent since 2021. And actually it's higher than that. And the reason we took out that funding and as she's still receiving the funding associated with work she does for the Superior Court through an MOU, she's reimbursed for it as she provides the work. So we've not cut any of her resources. We provided additional resources. I've done an analysis, I'll show it with -- show it to you, where the effectiveness of a similarly situated court in Gwinnett County with less funding and less resources, more effective than this. Okay, so that's an example. Not all the judicial partners are that way. But to really get at these individual

asks, I'm not going to sit here and make a reaction to somebody coming up and making just the same asks over and over when there's no -- with anecdotal evidence as opposed to truly factual evidence that validates it. Probate Court, I can't be in support of the additional 500,000. The Probate Court, we provided six -- a 60 percent increase in her budget since 2021. Now, if there are more demand for service -- if people don't want to come downtown, and they're more likely want to go to the outer edges of the county, then that comes with how you run your office. Maybe you should redeploy some of your resources out of downtown and into one of those other offices. That office isn't exactly in sort of the heart of North Fulton anyway, it's almost sort of on the edge of Buckhead. So you know, maybe you should redeploy some assets out there. You know, I can't -- so that, that to me, doesn't reach as critical of a need as many of the other areas that we've talked about, nor does the Magistrate Court. Now, you know, I think that there were ideas that get brought forth and say, oh, if we do this in response to this, it's going to mean this kind of impact at the jail. I've been around, I've heard that kind of argument over and over. And we've put some of the -- made some of those investments. And we surely have not seen the result and impact of it. So I'm skeptical of many of those things as they're positioned and postured up. Now, I do agree in terms of the -- and I said this in our previous meeting, and I thought we should restore and could the, 1.7 of the Arts and the million on the veterans because it's become sort of a recurring subject. I am in concurrence with that, right? And I said that to begin with, so I do think, you know, we need to agree upon a number, stick with it, be consistent with it, and not yo-yo it around every year, nor try to juice it up at a level where we come up with some excess funds, and then the next year, we have -- feel like we have to dial it back. I we're better off being consistent around that. You know, many of things that are sort of postured up, I mean, these are good things. I mean, but structurally, I want you all to look at what's on that 2025 proposed revenue, 915, proposed expenditure of 989. If that 989 gets spent in full or we're pretty close to it, when we sit here next year, we either going to be looking at a discussion that involves significant cuts or a significant jump in the millage rate. None of which -- neither of which option, I don't think any of us are prepared to make. This has worked for us, we've run our budget sort of in this fashion, where we've had this sort of structural imbalance. But we do need to work towards flipping it. And Commissioner Barrett, I brought that up at the prior meeting. And thus, I don't think it's a wise decision to start cutting away at your non-agency stuff, thinking that that's just some sort of solution for everybody's wish list of items, because we're going to be paying the piper in 2026. I'm sure as heck not going to sign on to that. If we're going to do these things, I think we need to make more -- we got make response to many of these asks, and contemplate stuff. I think we need to think about other harder decisions about what types of things we would want to eliminate in order to fund these types of things. For example, we've got 16 million in non-agency for compensation. Generally, this is our pay-for-performance year, whatever it is. Perhaps we should eliminate that 16 and redeploy it. Are we prepared to have that discussion? There are programs that we participate in that are, maybe they're good, but they're not core to what we necessarily do. We have 400,000 allocated to, for example, and I'm not suggesting we should do this, but they're choices. Should we eliminate the \$400,000 that contribute to PAD, instead redeploy that \$400,000 to the Solicitor's Office. Would

we get a better impact from that? Would that allow that, you know, around-the-clock whatever court we're talking about to be able to run? And see what that look like, and see what that -- add some sort of impact it has -- as of the course of the next year. I think those are the types of conversations we need to be having, and particularly in a year like this. And I don't have any -- I don't understand at all why we're having specific conversations around any specific element related to the Sheriff's Department when we have a document that we've got to work through in terms of this consent decree about items that have to be met. Which decisions related to sort of just piece milling portion of that may run into conflict with the activities that we actually need to do. We've had conversations around staffing. We've provided additional funding into the Sheriff's Office for that. And I don't necessarily agree that compensation is the issue. I realize the state is increased -- increase some of their compensation, but I still think with what they're talking about, that what we're paying as well above -- was well above that. So I think you get into environmental factors as much as you do compensation factors as to why we're having trouble retaining talent at our -- at our -- within our Sheriff's Department. We've asked for information specifically about who is doing what within the Sheriff's Department, and how much of this is focused on the running of the jail operations. To date, we still, despite many asks, do not have clarity around that. So I'm certainly not going to sign on to additional compensation and all that when I don't even have clarity about what the people with the -- however number of people it is that are over there, what they're doing. Because I'm not sure we're focusing on what our priorities are. I got a note -- our -- I got a -- I got somebody -- I got a -- somebody shared for me a quote from -- we have a city in Fulton County called Mountain Park. It's got about 1400 residents, maybe?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Not that many."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "About 700."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "The Mayor of Mountain Park, in a recent City Council meeting, was commenting how it was great that the Sheriff's Department of Fulton County was sending an accoutrement of officers to patrol this area at multiple times, 24/7, randomly around the day. And recently in the course of a week, it pulled over 70 people, and written over 35 tickets. What are we doing? We're just talking about this, and we got that going on? I mean, I can't have any conversations direct pieces of what we're going to do with the Sheriff right now. I want -- we should have those discussions within the context of how we're going to -- we're going to deal with the issues that are raised within the context of this consent decree. I mean, think a lot of great points were raised, we raised from many people. And I think there is some sort of common agreement on a few of these things. But on a few of the things that were raised, I'll offer sort of a counter view on a couple of them in particular, because we've lived through these things. And I don't feel like that what's being asked for is justified relative to kind

of the effectiveness of the operation as it could be with what they're currently being funded."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I just want to reclarify my statement about North Fulton and Probate Court. My purpose of asking for this is because I have received calls that there has been two issues. One, they don't have the needed staffing in that office, for one. For two, a lot of times they have come there having issues, and there's not enough staffing. They're told, well, you're going to have to go to the downtown office. And the trip from there to the downtown office, will not allow them to get parking and get there on time with a couple of other issues. So look, I concede to the North Fulton, my North Fulton colleagues. If you all don't feel like it's a need for it, that's fine. I'm just putting forth what was brought to me. Do I represent that area? No, I don't. Do -- am I accountable to all Fulton County taxpayers? Yes, I am. And so that's why I brought it forth, because of the number of calls I have gotten, the frustration that people say they come there, they don't have enough staff to handle the amount of people that come to that office. Now I know, my colleague next to me, she says that another office, the Wynwood Park office, will be -- North Point, I'm sorry, will be open at some point the latter part of next year. And that's a whole different discussion, if you all want to have. But I just want to be crystal clear why I asked. I asked because if you call my office and I can serve you, I'm going to serve you. If I can make a suggestion on your behalf, I'm going to make the suggestion because I'm accountable to all Fulton County taxpayers, city -- citizens with the Mighty 6 being the priority. And so I just want to put that out there. It's really up to you all, if you all want to do it, if you don't. But that was the reason for me putting it forward. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Ivory, I just wanted to address your question about the under runs. If you look at the general funds page that we were given in the various books, in the second column at the bottom, where it says total expenditures, it's kind of in a underlined. The amended -- I'm sorry, the budget expenditures, budget and expenditures for 2024 were 950 million, at two columns over, I'm sorry, one column over, right next to it, is what we actually spent, 866 million. That's a difference of 87.3 million. So it's a budget under run of 87.3 million for 2024. That's where I got that number. And that's --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: (Off-mic comments.)

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Correct, correct. 19 is based on a midyear projection, but based on pay budget to actual, we budgeted for 87.3 million in 2024 than we spent. And the bulk of that is in non-agency."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: (Off-mic comments.)

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes. And the difference -- the non-agency amount -- here, I have a little spreadsheet I'll share with you. The non-agency amount was 56.3 million in over budgeting. So the -- and 56.3 million in non-agency for 2024 in the budget that did not get spent in 2024. So that's what I was referring to on that regard. And so Commissioner Arrington is pretty close when he's saying 75 to 100, 87 million, it's right in the middle, so there you go. Now, I know that number changes from year to year. I'm not suggesting it's 87 million every year. But from a budgeting perspective that is what happened in 2024. And so I just wanted to sort of add some clarity to that if I -- you know, to try to help that. I also want to sort of thank you for -- Commissioner Ivory, for bringing up the, sort of looking at the other justice agencies and Solicitor General's comments. While I agree that we don't necessarily always want to give the grease to the squeaky wheel, he brought up a very important point. And I think he said it on multiple occasions, as have many of us, which is that justice, public safety and justice, is an ecosystem. And the jail does not stand alone. All of the other departments impact what is happening at the jail, the Public Defender, the Solicitor General, the Magistrate, the DA, et cetera. I'm probably missing a few. And so, you know, I do think if we were to tighten our non-agency belt, at least within the margin of a 10 percent overage, which is -- of the 251 million budgeted this year, and I think, yeah, that's where we ended up for the proposed budget, 251 million. If we said 10 percent of that might be overage, that's 25 million. That means there's like, of the number we didn't spend last year, 50-something million, there's still 30 million that, in theory, isn't going to be spent if you base it what happened this year. And so, you know, again, I'm not suggesting, to Commissioner Ellis' point, that we spend all of that money. But I would -- I would suggest two things. We spend some of that money to take a bite at the elephant. And it may not be just Solicitor General, it may be a little bit here and a little bit there in the various justice departments. It may be a position at the Magistrates Court. It may be a position, you know, or a couple of positions in some of the other arenas. But -- but if we were over budgeting by, you know, in that area in non-agency, by 25 percent, if we cut that down, and we did not budget that, we would also save the reserve money that we go along with that expenditure, which is 16.67, which I can't do the math off the top of my head. But 16.67 percent of however much we take out of that budget also comes out of the reserve. So you know, I just think it's worth re-examining. And, you know, I sort of agree at one level about, you know, what Vice Chair Ellis is saying about the consent decree and, you know, sort of not taking too hard of a look right now at the Sheriff's request. And, you know, if you look at the tranches, his requests are 73.9 million. But if you take that out of what else is requested, the total was 129.5. So we're talking about the 14.4 in what's called expired grants here, 14.9 in justice. And if you just even looked at not all of those requests, because some of them, I think, are duplicates and things like that. But there's a handful of requests in both of those tranches, I think that would go a long way to making a difference. And as it relates to the Sheriff's stuff, you know, everybody has their adages and quotes that mean something to them, and I don't remember who said it or where I got it, but somewhere along the line, somebody said to me, you don't have to wait to be told to do the right thing, you just do the right thing. And so from that perspective, I don't think we

need to wait for the specifics of the consent decree to start to do the right thing as it relates to employee retention and attraction. So I will stick by the fact that I think at the minimum, we should be looking at the sign-on bonuses. We're going to end up having to do it anyway. Let's give him that tool in his arsenal right away, so that, you know, starting when we pass this budget, he can use that tool to start to attract people, and you know, the overtime as well, I think is important. But maybe the sign-on bonus is the more important one because of contractual obligation that would come with it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it? All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm going to be very brief. I just want to say that as we're looking at this consent decree, as Commissioner Barrett just said, the whole justice system is an ecosystem. And we can't just look at the jail and additional funds for the jail, we've got to look at some amount for everyone that affects the jail. The jail is, you know, to some extent, a child of the justice system, right? And so they're absolutely intertwined. And so to -- for us to be able to comply with the consent decree, we're not -- I believe that we're not only going to have to allocate funds for the jail, but that we will also have to allocate funds for the justice system. And maybe that's just, you know, a number. I don't know, 5 million or 10 million or 20 million. And then, you know, maybe some portion or half of that goes to the jail, and the other half to the rest of the justice system. And maybe they have to figure out how they want to split it up. But we've got to have the bigger overall holistic talk and view and discussion to make sure that we are in a position to comply with the consent decree. Because while we talk about our judicial partners, we talk about our Sheriff and DA and all those people, but we are one Fulton. It's only one checkbook. And we don't comply with that consent decree. We got one checkbook, and we all have to pay for it. We are one Fulton, one Fulton. So we need to just be mindful of that, because if any one of us fail, if any of our justice partners fail, then we all fail. And so we just need to be mindful of that. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I don't think there's anything in the consent decree that speaks to kind of what's going on with the rest of the justice system and specifically around the jail. So I don't think that they're -- the notion that somehow they're directly tied together, I don't necessarily agree with that notion. And I think we have invested and we actually have seen results, and we kind of accumulated what those were with drops in jail population, et cetera, over the past, past few years. On the non-agency part, within the other piece that is where you have inmate outsourcing as well, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, Commissioner Ellis."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah. And how much is in there on that? That's in the other category?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "19 -- well, 19 million for inmate outsourcing and ankle monitoring, 19 and some change."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. And how much did we spend last year with that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "14 is what we actually paid out of last year's budget and we --"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And we had how much budgeted last year? It was a higher number, right?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: " I think we had the 19, 19 budgeted."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "You sure about that?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, FINANCE: "So we had 19 million for inmate outsourcing in 2024, we spent 14. In 2025 proposed, the total is 19. It is made up of 16 million --"

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

SABRINNA MCTIER, FINANCE: "-- for inmate outsourcing, and 3 million for the ankle monitoring. So we did lower the budget for inmate outsourcing."

VICE- CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And you know, I mean, that's one too, right, there's -- there's -- you want to look at, you know, stuff you're doing, and whether, you know, it'd be more appropriate to spend funds elsewhere. You know, this ankle monitoring contract, you know, we -- we already -- we've already validated it was poorly managed. We had excess number of people on it. And the current state of it's significantly lower than what the maximum amount is, and will result in certainly less than 3 million. So you know, but is that the wise thing to do? You know, if you saw an uptick in, you know, would you want to re-up that and utilize it, right? So, I mean, there are all these sort of trade-offs involved, you know, but this is sort of another -- when we talk about other and that sort of stuff, you know, a lot of this is -- it's related to jail operations, right? And if we were utilizing our existing facilities better, maybe we're not spending 16, \$19 million on outsourcing. So I think we have been looking in holistically at that, and attempting to address many of these things, you know. But we'll see what the pathway forward is."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I keep remembering after I finish that I had two more things. I want to also ask a question and/or just draw attention to under the expenditures in the 2025 proposed budget, you have a \$5.4 million expenditure listed called inmate welfare. What is that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "That should say inmate services. That's the balance of the inmate services unit. It's the amount -- it's the equivalent of what was paid over from the Sheriff, plus what was received in revenue in '23 -- I mean, in '24, less what was spent. So we set it up and included that. That is where the \$2 million that you acted on earlier today came from. So we've already -- the single page that Sabrina handed out earlier, we've already pulled that out and moved that down to the Sheriff's budget, leaving 3,127,811."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you. I forgot about the sheet that Sabrina handed out, but I have in front of me. So there's 3 million sitting there, and I, you know, I feel like there's been a -- there's sort of a interesting combination of, like, accounting terms that you're using here, because you're -- you're, on the one hand, you're sort of saying that this is a bank account. This is where the money went, but it's actually an expenditure line item on a budget. So what specific contracts are planned to go against this remaining \$3 million?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The most significant that is remaining is the Note Active contract, which I think is like 645,000, something in that area, along with three, specifically, three contractors who are providing some sort of counseling service or counseling related service pursuant to some court orders. And those are the things that I can -- I can tell you definitively are coming out of that -- that budget. The other things that have come out of that budget would have been one-off items that came forward during the year that weren't already in the commodity package like, they needed new trays to serve the inmate food on, so some of those things. But for the balance here, you would have Note Active and those counselors for certain."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I don't know what Note Active is; can you please explain?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It's a software product that the Sheriff's Office uses that is part of a consent order. It's the way -- in fact, it's actually mentioned, specifically mentioned in the DOJ consent order. It's a tool that they use when they are, I guess, doing their cell observations or whatever. But it's something that was explicitly part of a previous court order, and is included and named in the DOJ consent order."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Well, I feel like I'm going to be a broken record here. But let me just clarify, so you're saying of the remaining 3.1 million, how much is encumbered in this way with contracts that you're planning to pay out of it, how much?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The Note Active -- I'll have to look, I think it's 645,000 --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And the other things that you just talked about?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I believe they were a couple hundred thousand."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So we're talking about, for sake of the discussion, we'll say a million --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "A million, I think would cover those, yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Great. So here's the thing, there should not be an inmate welfare or inmate services line item in non-agency. These are operational expenses that belong under the Sheriff's control. That's where that money should be. Those things should be paid for out of his budget. So that million dollars, in the same way that we just did the commodities package, that million dollars should be put into the Sheriff's budget where it belongs. It is up to him to spend his operational dollars out of his budget. And there is -- then even put that aside, there's an additional \$2 million sitting there that has no plan. Well, it's got a plan now. We just talked about a whole bunch of things. So that 2 million, this line item should disappear. It should be nothing that says inmate welfare or inmate services sitting in non-agency. Operational things for the Sheriff belong in the Sheriff's budget. And the other funds can be used for sign-on bonuses. We haven't mentioned, although we should, the County Attorney also has some needs that have to be met from a budget standpoint. So there's 2 million just sitting there with no plan because it's left over from what was taken -- like, it's not a cash account, it's an expenditure line item. It should have a plan."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Commissioner Barrett, you are absolutely right, but you will learn, as I learned, Sharon is great at her job. And her job is to hold onto that money as long as she can, and to sit on it. And she is great at doing that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other comments on the budget today? All right, just in closing, Madam CFO, I think you and your staff have managed the finances of the county extremely well, and are responsible for the outstanding bond rating that Fulton County, Georgia enjoys, point number one. Point number two, I believe there may have been only two of us here during the last consent decree. And I'd just like to say that we are really going to have to be mindful of what's coming from a financial point of view, which may even speak to a millage rate increase in 2026. And that's probably difficult hearing it coming from me, but that's just the reality of it. All right. No other matters to come before us, we're adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.