

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

November 01, 2023  
10:00 AM



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



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## **MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: December 6, 2023**

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**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)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)	<b>ABSENT</b>
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)	<b>PRESENT</b>

**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****23-0734 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 Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, and Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0735 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Delta Air Lines Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**  
October 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Jason Ulseth Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
October 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Old Rucker Farm Appreciation Day." **(Ellis)**  
October 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Sandy Springs Bee City USA Appreciation Day."  
**(Barrett)**  
October 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Young Dro Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
October 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Finding the Flint Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
October 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "The Community Compost Lab Appreciation Day."  
**(Arrington)**  
October 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Sir Jose Bright Remembrance Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
October 20, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School Appreciation Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
October 20, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Eagle Scout Aarnav Shankar Appreciation Day.”  
**(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Eagle Scout Julian Yelisetty Appreciation Day.”  
**(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Eagle Scout Matt Serfontein Appreciation Day.”  
**(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Virginia Harris Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
October 21, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Anthony Flanagan Remembrance Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
October 21, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Jermaine Dupri Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
October 26, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Dallas Austin Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
October 26, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Black American Music Association Appreciation Day.”  
**(Hall)**  
October 26, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Georgia Entertainment Caucus Appreciation Day.”  
**(Hall)**  
October 26, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Jazze Pha Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**  
October 26, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “In-Sights Marketing and Promotions Day.” **(Arrington)**  
October 30, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “The Society Incorporated Appreciation Day.” **(Pitts)**  
November 5, 2023

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**Open & Responsible Government****23-0736 Finance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Finance Department - 21RFP1108C-MH, Financial Advisory Services in the amount not to exceed \$19,500.00 with Raymond James Associates, Inc. (Atlanta, GA.) to provide financial advisory services relative to the County's short term financial borrowing options for 2024. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal option remains. Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0737 Finance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Finance Department, 21RFP1026C-MH, Unemployment Services in an amount not to exceed \$6,400.00 with Strategic Cost Control Inc. DBA Corporate Cost Control (Winter Park, FL), to provide unemployment claims administrative services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0738 Finance**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Finance, 21RFP102521C-MH, Property and Casualty Brokerage services in an amount not to exceed \$94,500.00 with Edgewood Partners Insurance Center (EPIC) to provide professional insurance brokerage services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0739 Finance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Finance Department, 21RFP10251C-MH, Life and Disability Broker Services in an amount not to exceed \$95,000.00 with Benalytics Consulting Group, LLC (Marietta, GA) to provide life and disability broker services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0740 Finance**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Finance Department, 20RFP110320C-CG, GASB 75 Actuarial Consulting Services in the amount of \$0.00 with The Segal Company (Atlanta, GA) to provide GASB 75 actuarial services. This action exercises the third of four renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0741 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITBC130948C-GS, Janitorial Supplies and Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 with (B) W. W. Grainger, Inc. (Fairburn, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00; (C) HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, formally The Home Depot Pro (Jacksonville, FL) in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00; (G) SIAK Enterprises, LLC (Lawrenceville, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, to provide janitorial supplies and equipment on an "as needed" basis for Fulton County facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0742 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB130533C-GS, Locks, Doors and Hardware Countywide in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 with (A) Overhead Door Company of Atlanta dba DH Pace Company, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 and (B) Acme Security, Inc. (Smyrna, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00, to provide on-site locksmith services to include the installation of new locks and door hardware services for Fulton County facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0743 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138800C-MH, Scrap Metal Removal with M&M Waste Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide scrap metal recycling services for Fulton County facilities. This is a revenue generating contract and the anticipated revenue is \$10,579.00 annually. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Health and Human Services****23-0744 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22RFP148596K-BKJ, Airport Planning and Environmental Consulting in the amount of \$125,000.00 with Michael Baker International, Inc. (Norcross, GA) to provide planning services for updating, modifying and implementing the Capital Improvement Program at the Fulton County Executive Airport - Charlie Brown Field. This action exercises the first of three renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0745 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval to enter into two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between Fulton County, on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), with Sub-recipients for the extended grant award in the amount of \$3,900,000.00 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health). The two MOUs are with (a) the Fulton County Board of Health (FCBOH) in the amended amount of \$812,690.00 to implement evidenced-based, culturally-tailored health literacy strategies to enhance the rates of COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, mitigation measures, and vaccine confidence and the cross-cutting urgency of behavioral health literacy and access to related services among racial and ethnic minority populations and other socially vulnerable populations, and (b) Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), in the amount of \$800,000.00 to provide quality improvement activities and program evaluation. The County Attorney is authorized to approve the two MOUs as to form and make necessary changes thereto prior to execution. The MOUs are effective August 1, 2023 through October 1, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0746 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval to extend the contract for professional services - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), RFP#21RFP000026A-CJC, Advancing Health Literacy Grant in the amended amount of \$172,520.00 with The Black Cross Inc (Atlanta, GA) to implement health communication strategies in underserved communities and to form lead and facilitate a community coalition board (CCB) and develop an online Hub as a part of the US Department of Health & Human Services (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health), Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 grant. 100% grant funded. The original effective dates of the contract were from October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023. The extension is effective October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, with no renewal option. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Infrastructure and Economic Development****23-0747 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 40,242 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Meritage Homes of Georgia, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Creekside at Oxford Project at 7255 Hall Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30213. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0748 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 10,977 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Darius D. Barlow, an individual, for the purpose of constructing the Creekside at Oxford Project at 0 Hobgood Road Rear, South Fulton, Georgia 30213. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0749 Real Estate and Asset Management**

For spreading on meeting minutes. Notice of Lease Non-Renewal/Termination, executed by the County Manager pursuant to the Resolution approved under Agenda Item #21-0052, adopted on January 20, 2021, of that certain Master Lease Agreement for Facilities between Fulton County, as Lessee, and MK Management Company, Inc., as Agent for David L. Kuniansky, Douglas S. Kuniansky and Amy Kuniansky Smith, collectively Lessor, for property located at 1365 English Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia. Effective December 31, 2023. No additional financial outlays or payments are required for this non-renewal/termination. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0750 Real Estate and Asset Management**

For spreading on meeting minutes. Notice of Lease Non-Renewal/Termination, executed by the County Manager pursuant to the Resolution approved under Agenda Item #21-0052, adopted on January 20, 2021, of that certain Sixth Amendment to Lease Agreement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, as Lessee, and Cobalt Industrial REIT, a Texas real estate investment trust, as Lessor, for property located at 3025 Commerce Way, Atlanta, Georgia. Effective December 31, 2023. A payment of \$4,193.33 for unamortized buildout expenses was required to be paid with this non-renewal/termination. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0751 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 2,054 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Six Twenty Eight Ventures, LLC., for the purpose of constructing the 381 Canton Street Project at 381 Canton Street, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Justice and Safety****23-0752 Police**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - 23ITBC138578B-RT - Uniforms, Footwear, and Duty in the amount \$99,000.00 with Smyrna Police Distributors (Smyrna, GA) to provide Uniforms, Footwear and Duty Gear for police personnel. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****23-0753 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to adopt as amended by revising item #23-0755 as requested by Commissioners Arrington and Abdur-Rahman; removing items #23-0787, #23-0788 as requested by Commissioner Barrett; moving up items #23-0793 and #23-0794 as requested by Vice-Chairman Ellis. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0754 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Regular Meeting Minutes, October 4, 2023

Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, October 18, 2023

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0755 Board of Commissioners**

Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. **(PRESENTED)**

Proclamation recognizing "North Fulton Chamber of Commerce Appreciation Day."  
**(Ellis/Thorne)**

~~\*Proclamation recognizing "In-Sights Marketing and Promotions Day." **(Arrington)**~~

Proclamation recognizing "The Kings Exhibition Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing "The Book Bank Foundation Appreciation Day."  
**(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing "Damion Crazy Legs Hall Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing "D. Anthony Johnson Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing "Estravious Gibson Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing "Darius Positive K Gibson Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**



Proclamation recognizing “David Branch Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing “Paradise Gray Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing “Prime Minister Pete Nice Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing “Rick Mathis Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing “Greg GVisuals Williams Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing “Gregory Greg Street Polk Appreciation Day.”  
**(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing “Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Month.”  
**(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing “Officer Jimmy Durden Appreciation Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman/BOC)**

~~\*Proclamation recognizing “Jennifer Holliday Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**~~

~~\*Proclamation recognizing “Morse Diggs Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**~~

Proclamation recognizing “Matthew Kallmyer Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**

*\*removed during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****23-0756 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 30 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed thirty minutes at the Recess Meeting.** In the event the 30-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. Similarly, written comments (that were timely submitted) not previously read, may be read at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

**4 Speakers: Jennifer Swaine (Youth Support); Kyle Camardella (Military Funding); Michael Collins (Fulton County Jail) and Anna Fey (Fulton County Jail)**

**1 Zoom Speaker: Ben Howard (Board Appointments)**

**2 Emailed Comments: Dr. N. Sydney Jemmott (Health Care) and Caressa Kao (Anti-Asian Harassment)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ACTION ITEMS**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**23-0757 Finance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Finance Department, 22RFP092722C-MH, Healthcare Benefits Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 with The Segal Company (Southeast), Inc. (d/b/a Segal) to provide professional healthcare benefit consulting services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0758 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22RFP135756C-GS, Janitorial Services for Fulton County's Government Center Complex (Group A) and Justice Center Facilities (Group B) in a total amount not to exceed \$2,251,772.00 with (A) ABM Industry Groups, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$885,528.00; and (B) American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,366,244.00, to provide the highest quality janitorial services for Government Center Complex and Justice Center Facilities for Fulton County. This action exercises first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Health and Human Services**

**23-0759 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 21ITB000019A-CJC, Water Meter Reading in an amount not to exceed \$404,270.88 with Bermex, Inc. (Stow, OH) to provide water meter reading services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

**(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #23-0759 through #23-0765. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0760 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 21ITB000014A-CJC, Sanitary Sewer Easement Maintenance in the amount of \$871,732.29 with Opterra Solutions, Inc., (Conyers, GA) to provide sanitary sewer easement maintenance in both North and South Fulton service areas. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

**(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #23-0759 through #23-0765. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0761 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 23ITB137397A-KM, Sewer System Cleaning, and Manhole Camera Inspection Services in an amount not to exceed \$550,000.00 with Woolpert, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide sewer system cleaning and manhole camera inspection services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

**(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #23-0759 through #23-0765. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0762** Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22ITBC074A-JWT, Corporation Stops and Brass Fittings in the amount of \$412,683.51 Delta Municipal Supply Company (Lawrenceville, GA) to provide corporation stops and brass fittings. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #23-0759 through #23-0765. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0763** Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22ITBC089A-JWT, Manholes, Frames, Grates, and Accessories, in an amount not to exceed \$360,742.45 with Ferguson Waterworks (Norcross, GA), to provide manholes, frames, grates, and accessories. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #23-0759 through #23-0765. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0764** Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22ITB076A-JWT, Water Meter Testing and Repairs, in the amount of \$354,260.00 with Reed and Shows Meter Solutions (Carrollton, GA), to provide water meter testing and repairs. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #23-0759 through #23-0765. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0765 Senior Services**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Senior Services, 21ITB000028ACJC, Indigent Burial in an amount not to exceed \$502,067.00 with Mutual Meadows Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA), to provide dignified professional burial services as a last resort for any deceased person declared indigent or unclaimed Fulton County resident if the death occurred within Fulton County. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #23-0759 through #23-0765. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****23-0766 Finance**

2024 Budget Development Update. **(PRESENTED)**

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis to have the management team provide budgetary prioritization buckets for the Board to vote on in December in preparation for the final budget in January.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

**23-0767 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138778C-MH, Boiler Inspection and Preventive Maintenance Services in the amount of \$100,000.00, with Daikin Applied Americas, Inc. (Marietta, GA), to provide standby on-site boiler inspection and preventive maintenance services for 27 boilers located within selected Fulton County facilities on an "as needed" basis. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis, and Arrington

**23-0768 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid#23ITB138304C-JNJ, Standby Fencing Installation and Repair in the amount of \$200,000.00 with Allied Fence Company, Inc. (Mableton, GA) to provide standby fencing installation and repair on an “as needed” basis for Fulton County. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis, and Arrington

**23-0769 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Omnia Partners, Public Sector Contract #16154, Master Agreement Contract for Maintenance, Repair, Operating (MRO) Supplies, Industrial Supplies and Related Products and Services, in the amount of \$200,000.00 with Home Depot, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to purchase building/roofing materials, hardware, tools, paint, electrical and related items in support of DREAM Building Construction and Facilities Maintenance Divisions and other Countywide Departments. Effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis, and Arrington

**23-0770 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB1302418C-CG, Standby Plumbing Repair Services in the total amount not to exceed \$46,328.00, with (A) Liquid Services & Logistic, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$34,500.00, to provide replacement and installation of approximately 50 ft. of cast iron pipe on a sewer line and cut open for the removal of concrete and replace up to an approximately 10 ft. section of sewer line, and then install all new pipe and fittings at the DA Pearson facility; and (B) J2 Connect, Inc. dba J Squared Plumbing Co., Inc. (McDonough, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$11,828.00, to provide repair to a broken 4-inch line and repair PVC to a cast iron transition, and concrete removal/replacement of 6 ft. area and final clean-up at the HJC Bowden Senior Multipurpose Center. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

- Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman
- Absent:** Barrett
- Did Not Vote:** Ellis, and Arrington

**23-0771 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, OMNIA Partners Contract #R200401, Turnkey Replacement and Installation of HVAC Equipment, in an amount not to exceed \$242,347.83 with Daikin Applied Americas, Inc. (Marietta, GA), for demolition and removal of 15 total existing Carrier RTUs; installation of 15 new Daikin Package RTUs at the Auburn Neighborhood Senior Center and Neighborhood Union Health Center; and the installation of 2 new Daikin Mini Split HVAC systems at the Adamsville Health Center. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed for 10 months or completion of replacement/installation project as determined by Fulton County. This is a one-time procurement. **(APPROVED)**

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

- Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman
- Absent:** Barrett



**23-0772 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITBC130825C-MH, Plumbing Supplies and Related Items in the total amount of \$22,500.00 with (C) H D Supply Facilities Maintenance LTD FKA Home Depot Pro formerly Interline Brands (Jacksonville, FL) in the amount of \$3,750.00; (F) Total Maintenance Solutions South (Taylors, SC) in the amount of \$15,000.00 and (G) WW Grainger (Norcross, GA) in the amount of \$3,750.00, to provide plumbing supplies and related items for Fulton County facilities until year end. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0773 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB131067C-GS, On-Site Door Repair and Overhead Door Preventive and Predictive Maintenance Countywide in an amount not to exceed \$57,464.00 with Overhead Door Company of Atlanta, dba D.H. Pace Company, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to cover the costs to complete the on-going replacement/emergency repair projects for on-site door repair services at several Fulton County facilities for FY2023. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts, and Arrington

**23-0774 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITBC132961C-MH, HVAC Equipment and Parts in the total amount of \$7,500.00 with: (A) F. M. Shelton, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$3,750.00; and (B) HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, LTD FKA Home Depot Pro (Jacksonville, FL) in the amount of \$3,750.00, to provide HVAC equipment and parts on an "as needed" basis for Fulton County facilities until year end. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0775 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITBC135037C-GS, Ballasts, Lamps, Light Fixtures and Related Supplies in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 with (A) E. Sam Jones - Distributor, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$3,750.00, (B) Voss Electric Company (Marietta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$3,750.00, to provide ballasts, lamps, lens, lighting supplies and related items on an "as needed" basis for Fulton County facilities and parking lots through December 31, 2023. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0776 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 20ITB125775C-CG, Electrical On Call Maintenance Services Countywide in the total amount of \$43,000.00 with (A) Capital City Electrical Services, Inc. (Norcross, GA), to provide immediate replacement and installation of damaged and malfunctioning electrical equipment at three Fulton County facilities: Dorothy Benson Senior Multipurpose Center, Central Maintenance Facility, and the North Fulton Customer Service Center. Effective upon BOC approval.

**(APPROVED)**

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, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0777 Finance**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Finance Department, 23RFP060923C-MH Printing & Mailing Water and Sewer Bills in an amount not to exceed \$395,600.00 with Dove Mailing Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide printing and mailing of Fulton County water and sewer bills effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0778 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid#21ITB130447C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups E, F, G, H, & I) in an amount not to exceed \$18,259.33 with (C) American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA); to add the new Fulton County Animal Services Facility located at 1251 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318 to the existing contract Group I (North & South Service Centers) and assume the janitorial services responsibilities according to the terms and conditions of the contract. Effective dates: November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0779 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$1,646,735.00 with A & A All County Monitoring Services, Inc. (Lawrenceville, GA) to continue to provide electronic (ankle) monitoring and services for defendants eligible to be released pursuant to the electronic pretrial release and monitoring program. Effective upon BOC approval. **(HELD)**

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

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

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

**Nay:** Hall, and Arrington

**Absent:** Barrett

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

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

**23-0780 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 17RFP107111K-EC, Project Management Team Services in an amount not to exceed \$756,937.67, with The Joint Venture of Heery International, Inc. and McAfee3 Architects (Heery/McAfee3 - a joint venture), to continue to provide project management services for the FCURA (Urban Redevelopment) Bonds Capital Improvement Programs for an additional 12month period. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0781 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC 99999-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$128,792.10 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Fayetteville, GA) to provide facility maintenance services for the new Fulton County Animal Services Facility located at 1251 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318. Effective dates November 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Health and Human Services****23-0782 Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Johns Creek, GA for water main relocations associated with the road widening improvements to Jones Bridge Road from Waters Road to Morton Road in the City of Johns Creek, GA, in the amount of \$3,736,760.00. **(APPROVED)**

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, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0783 Public Works**

Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement (CIA) between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for the relocation of water facilities associated with the widening of State Route 9 from Windward Parkway to the Fulton/Forsyth County Line in Fulton County, Georgia. The project (P.I. No-0007838) involves the relocation of 22,000 linear feet of 8, 10, 12, and 18-inch water lines with appurtenances within Fulton County at an estimated cost of \$5,391,245.87. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0784 Public Works**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Public Works, 23RFP139483K-DB, TSPLOST Program Management Services in the amount not to exceed \$118,000.00 with Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC. (GMC), program management services in the execution of the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST). Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 with two (2) one (1) year renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**Justice and Safety**

**23-0785 Emergency Management**

Request approval of recommended proposal - Fulton County Animal Services, 23RFP052223C-MH, in an amount not to exceed \$9,080,000.00 with Lifeline Animal Project, Inc (Avondale Estates, GA) to provide animal control services (shelter operations as well as field services) that will include all personnel, supplies, utilities, necessary insurances, and equipment for the unincorporated areas of Fulton County as well as the cities of Alpharetta, Atlanta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, with four renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to hold.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

**23-0786 Emergency Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Fulton County Animal Service, 17RFP08092017C-BKJ, Animal Control Services with LifeLine Animal Project, Inc. (Avondale Estates, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 to include the transition and move to the new Fulton County Animal Services Facility. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**

**23-0727 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution urging the Georgia Governor and the General Assembly of the State of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve Mental Health Services for the citizens of Georgia; and for other related purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD ON 10/18/23) (APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0787 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to reduce the number of Fulton County Commission Board Appointees to the North Fulton Community Improvement District Board in order to be in compliance with State and Local Law; and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER BARRETT**

**23-0788 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution consenting to and ratifying the use of Fulton County AD Valorem Property Tax Increment for two projects located in Westside Tax Allocation Bond District Number 1 - Atlanta/Westside. **(Barrett) (REMOVED)**

**ITEM MOVED TO THE NOVEMBER 15TH RECESS MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER BARRETT**

**23-0789 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the provision of Pre-Arrest Diversion and Continuum of Resource Building Services between Fulton County, Georgia and Atlanta, Georgia. The County Attorney is authorized to approve the IGA as to form and to make changes thereto prior to execution. **(Abdur-Rahman) (APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**

**23-0790 Board of Commissioners**

**FULTON-ATLANTA LAND BANK AUTHORITY (APPROVED)**

The Authority is governed by a board of directors comprised of an odd number of individual representatives- with no fewer than five (5) or more than eleven (11), hereinafter the "Board". Initially, the Board shall consist of seven (7) representatives comprised of: (A) four (4) appointed by the Mayor of the City of Atlanta and (B) three (3) appointed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

Term = 4 years

Term below expired: 8/7/2023  
Calvin Brock **(BOC/Abdur-Rahman)**

**Commissioner Abdur-Rahman nominated Kenneth "Chris" Haider-Bardill for a Full Board appointment to a term ending August 7, 2027.**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington



**23-0791 Board of Commissioners  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (NORTHSIDE) (APPROVED)**

Term = 4 years, staggered

Terms below expire: 4/1/2024

Anthony J. Salvatore (Position #1)

Dr. Thomas W. Gable (Position #2) **(Vacant)**

Thomas Hills (Position #3)

**The Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County (Northside) appointed Kenneth Kupke, M.D. (Position #2), to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Thomas Gable for a term ending April 1, 2024, in accordance with a slate of names submitted by the Board of Commissioners at its May 17, 2023, Recess Meeting.**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**23-0792 External Affairs  
Presentation: The 2024 State Legislative Agenda. (PRESENTED)**

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**23-0793 Board of Commissioners  
Discussion: Inmate Welfare Fund (Ellis) (DISCUSSED)**

**23-0794 Board of Commissioners  
Discussion: Financial implications of decision to extend ORCA position hiring through the end of 2023. (Pitts) (DISCUSSED)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**23-0795 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, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier. Commissioner Barrett was absent.**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve the request for representation in item #3 with a reservation of rights not to pay judgment as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne, and Arrington

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to opt-in to a multi district litigation class action suit regarding polyfluoroalkyl substances as discussed in item #6 in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 1, 2023  
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 Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. It is 10:00 a.m. Today is November 1st, 2023. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Chairman Robb Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Dana Barrett. Commissioner Natalie Hall. Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman, you have a quorum."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam Clerk. Please, rise everyone for the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **23-0734**, 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 Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, any items on the Consent Agenda, Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioners, none? All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve. Motion to approve to adopt by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, Regular Meeting Agenda, – **23-0753**, Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have amendments to today's Regular Meeting Agenda. On page 7, 23-05 --755, we have proclamations to be removed: In-Sights Marketing and Production -- Promotions Day, Morris Diggs Appreciation Day, Jennifer Holliday Appreciation Day --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- slow down. Slow down. The first one is In-Sights Marketing --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- and Promotions Day."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Sponsored by Commissioner Arrington. Morris Diggs Appreciation Day."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's on 7? Where is it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "And Jennifer Holliday Appreciation Day. That's on page 8. Those three proclamations will be removed today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anything else on the Consent Agenda? Not Consent Agenda?"

**CLERK GRIER:** Yes, I have items to be removed. On page 16, Commissioner Barrett's two items 23-0787: Request approval of a Resolution to reduce the number of Fulton County Commission Board appointees to the North Fulton Community Improvement District Board."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To be removed?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "To be removed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And Chairman, if I may, I'd like to make a note for the record."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sure."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "For item No. 23-0787: This was a Resolution brought forward by Commissioner Barrett based on my initial legal advise that only one Fulton County seat was warranted on the CID under current conditions. Upon realizing there was a mistake in the analysis, I reached out to Commissioner Barrett to obtain her permission to remove the item and that is why it is being removed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you, Madam County Attorney."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes. I would like a point of personal privilege as well. We've all been given a letter from Senator Brandon Beach who serves as the chairman to that board. And I'm not going to read the whole letter, but I'd like it admitted into record. Basically, it is a misunderstanding of the law. He acknowledges that. Second, he finds the effort to target a specific member of our board to be misguided and wrongheaded, innocent until proven guilty is a bedrock; a principle of justice and this applies no less to our board members. Finally, he wants to a point that neither Commissioner Barrett nor anyone else from Fulton County bothered to reach out to me or our chairman to discuss this Resolution before placing it on the agenda. It would seem only fair that we have the opportunity to address the composition of the board before the BOC attempts to alter it. Moreover, we have been contacted. We could have saved everyone the embarrassment of publicly misstating the law. It is unfortunate that this is all done in the dark rather than attempting to have a conversation. Just two weeks ago, we celebrated our 20th anniversary. I only wish that Commissioner Barrett had been able to attend our celebration and see the great work that we have down. This work could have not been accomplished without our two Fulton County BOC appointees, and I look forward to continuing to work with them both, as well as the Board of Commissioners to facilitate world-class infrastructure in North Fulton."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. All of this is about 0787? It's being removed?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. You had another one?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last item to be removed is also Commissioner Barrett's, 23-0788 on page 16: Request approval of a Resolution consenting to and ratifying the use of Fulton County Ad Valorem Property Tax increment for two projects located in West Side Tax Allocation Board District No. 1."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, anything else from you, Madam Clerk?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Mr. Chair, I'd like to move up two items from page 17. Item 23-0793 and 23-0794; and to have those heard after the item 23-0766, which is the 2024 Budget Development Update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, anything else, Commissioners? Anything else?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'll entertain a motion to approve the agenda for today as amended. The motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote. Madam Clerk."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0754**, Ratification of Minutes. Regular Meeting Minutes, October 4th. Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, October 18, 2023."

**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; five yeas, zero nays."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0755**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'North Fulton Chamber of Commerce Appreciation Day', sponsored by Vice Chairman Ellis, cosponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. We have -- will that make 16 proclamations? Is that right? Two were removed? Three were removed? All right, so now we're all aware that we got 30 minutes for proclamation. We have 16, probably five minutes each, that's about an hour and -- 10 o'clock. Okay. Okay."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "It's going to take 30 minutes to do this one proclamation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No. No. No. Commissioner Arrington is going to help us out."



**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. All right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We'll try to accommodate everybody."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, we'll try to be efficient. But I do want to take a little bit of time to recognize this great organization and the milestone that they've hit. And sort of highlight a little bit of the impact they've had on our communities in Fulton County. So it's my pleasure -- and I think we got the support of the Full Board on this -- recognizing the Greater North Fulton Chamber. So, without further ado, I will share the proclamation: WHEREAS, the Greater North Fulton Chamber's mission is to be the recognized leader for business growth, talent development, and regional prosperity. And its vision is to be the premier business organization driving member and community success; and WHEREAS, North Fulton is a diverse and thriving region boasting six unique cities, nearly 400,000 residents, six Fortune 500 companies, a highly educated workforce and talent base, top-tier public and private educational institutions, world-class healthcare, nationally acclaimed outdoor park land, trails, and green space; a vibrant arts culture and entertainment scene; and a quality of life that is second to none; and WHEREAS, for the past five decades, the Greater North Fulton Chamber has served as a catalyst for the region's growth, connectivity, innovation, transformation, and economic vitality by serving as the voice and champion of businesses in North Fulton; and WHEREAS, the Greater North Fulton chamber has been awarded the highest accreditation designation from the US Chamber of Commerce, their Five-star rating puts GN FCC in the top one percent of chambers nationwide due to their dedication to transparency, financial stewardship, service to community, excellent programming, effective communication, and business advocacy; and WHEREAS, 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce, which has been dedicated to develop, market, and support North Fulton as the ideal location for new and expanded industries and provide economic opportunities for both business and citizens. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the significant contributions and economic impact of projects generated through the efforts of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, November 1, 2023, as 'Greater North Fulton Chamber Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Let's give them a big hand. We'd like to welcome, Kali to come up and say a few words."

**KALI BOATWRIGHT, RECIPIENT:** "On behalf of the North Fulton chamber, I'm Kali Boatwright the President and CEO. We're delighted to be here and just thank the Commissioners of Fulton County for their support, their collaboration. The partnership has gone far into making the chamber over these 50 years the success that it has been. We're delighted to continue in that collaboration, that partnership, and just really appreciate you celebrating with us on our 50th anniversary. My chair-elect, Jim Teel of Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood. Jim, I don't know if you want to say a couple of words, as well as Rebecca Anderson, our Vice President, and Sadie Collins who works with economic development with us. We're delighted to be here, so thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'The Kings Exhibition Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Actually, we're going to call these together, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay. Also, the 'Book Bank Foundation Appreciation Day, 'Damion Crazy Legs Hall Appreciation Day', 'D. Anthony Johnson Appreciation Day', 'Estravious Gibson Appreciation Day', 'Darius Positive K. Gibson Appreciation Day', 'David Branch Appreciation Day', 'Paradise Gray Appreciation Day', 'Prime Minister Pete Nice Appreciation Day', 'Greg Mathis Appreciation Day', 'Greg GVisuals Williams Appreciation Day', Gregory Greg Street Polk Appreciation Day', 'Runaway and Homeless Youth' -- okay. We're stopping at 'Gregory Greg Street Polk Appreciation Day'."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So as you all know, we've been celebrating 50 years of Hip-Hop this year, and King's Exhibition, the Book Bank Foundation, and all of these great individuals helped us celebrate the 50th year of Hip-Hop by hosting a film festival that highlighted not only the musical work of Hip-Hop, but the expression of it through film. And so, so glad to gather, and that this group came together to expose the culture, right? And to let us know or to help to continue exposing the culture as we all look back at what Hip-Hop has done for us and what it has brought us to, to get to this moment today. And I'll just read this proclamation -- this one is for the King's Exhibition and the Book Bank Foundation, but all of these individuals were honored that day, and we're certainly honored to have them here with us today: WHEREAS, the Kings Exhibition is a mobile art gallery, whose mission is to globally champion the transformative power of art; and WHEREAS, the Kings Exhibition is led by Dr. Glenn Toby and provides an immersive and interactive experience that seems to blend the vibrant tapestry of artistic brilliance with the robust educational framework; and WHEREAS, the Kings Exhibition has a special focus on the remarkable works of Jean-Michel Basquiat's 'Untitled,' 'Suite Per Capita,' and 'Rents So'; and WHEREAS, the Kings Exhibition is about igniting adaptable critical thinking; nurturing a deeper appreciation and fostering a profound understanding of artistic expression; and WHEREAS, the Kings Exhibition's commitment is to enlighten minds, ignite curiosity, and cultivate a new generation of art enthusiasts, equipped with the tools to explore the essence of human expression beyond the canvas. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the Kings Exhibition, the Book Bank Foundation, Rick Mathis, Positive K, Greg G. Williams -- who else am I leaving out? David Branch and everyone that helped us celebrate the 50 years of the Hip-Hop through the Hip-Hop film festival. I'm so thankful, and, yeah, Doug if you'll bring the rest of those. Everybody's got their own. What's yo girl got to do with me? Greg Mathis is right there. Anybody want to say something while we wait?"

**RECIPIENT:** "It is rare when the cries of the people are not cries of tears, they're cries of joy. When the government comes together with people generally reflected through

the arts, artisans, and people who are craft makers have generally spoken directly for the people that have no voice. Atlanta is not a voiceless city. Atlanta is resonating, this a clarion call to everybody. Whatever you have to bring to this city when it stays connected, we remain one of the most forward moving cities in the country if not the world. We want to thank the leaders who are leading us and the powers within each of us are broad strokes on the canvas of the world is what makes the picture pretty. Thank you, Atlanta. Thank you, Fulton County."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Just hold that one for now. I just signed it. Doug, you want to grab this one?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Month' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Certainly, glad to have you all here. Thank you for joining us. This proclamation is on behalf of 'Runaway and Homeless Youth Month'. And the proclamation reads as follows: WHEREAS runaway and homeless youth between the ages of 12 and 24 have the least access to essential opportunities and support; and WHEREAS, the prevalence of runaways and homelessness amongst youth is staggering with studies estimating that nationally 4.2 million youth up to 25 years of age experience homelessness each year; of which an overrepresentation compared to the general youth population are youth of color, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender; and WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth flee conflict, abuse, neglect, and increasingly poverty in their homes. They have become disconnected from educational systems and the work force, and do not have the skills or financial resources to live independently. The factors impacting youth homelessness are complex and differ from those affecting other homeless populations; and WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth who live on the street are victims of physical abuse, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and crime in untold numbers. Each year an estimated 300,000 youth are either victims or at risk of being victims of commercial, sexual exploitation. Of these victimized children, approximately 60 percent are homeless; and WHEREAS, many of these youths are on the street because they feel there are no other options open to them. And providing safe, stable, and permanent housing for runaways and homeless youth is a family, community, county, state, and national priority; and WHEREAS, youth who age out of the foster care system at age 18, are at an increased risk of homelessness and represent an estimated 25 percent of the youth who are currently homeless; and WHEREAS, awareness of the tragedy of youth homelessness and its causes must be heightened to ensure more significant support for effective programs aimed at preventing homelessness and helping youth remain off the streets. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supports efforts to raise awareness of runaway and homeless youth, and encourages all to take action; and do hereby proclaim the month of November 2023 as 'Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Month' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**MIKE DANIELS, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning. On behalf of the Georgia Center for Youth Excellence, or affectionately we call it GACYE, I'm Mike Daniels. I'm the Executive Director for the organization, and I brought with me 'Money Bags', my accountant, with me. I'd like to thank the Fulton County Commissioners for supporting us. Commissioner Arrington, definitely for your support. Commissioner Khadijah, for your support throughout the years. This takes a lot of effort in supporting and doing what we do for the homeless youth. It's a monumental task, and it does take a village to do what we do. We'd also like to send a special thank you to the Fulton County Continuum of Care for their support providing funding for us also throughout these years. So thank you for everything that you do and I know that you will continue to do on behalf of youth homelessness. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Officer Jimmy Durden Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Can I get all of the law enforcement down here as well as our chief? What can I say? This is a Full Board proclamation first of all. Come on, Rev. Come stand next to me. What can I say? This is so bittersweet today. You know, I want to hit this man, but I know I'll get in trouble with all this law enforcement down here. I know the Chief of Police will look out for me though. I don't want to see this man go, but listen, it's not what Khadijah says, it's what God says. And this is a proclamation that -- listen, there are not enough pens or ink to talk about the things that you've done in this community. WHEREAS, Fulton County Police Officer Jimmy Durden started his career as a detention officer with the Fulton County Sheriff's Department in 2007, and transition to the Fulton County Police Department in 2020; and WHEREAS, Officer Durden, served two tours as an Iraqi veteran, and has chosen to retire from the Police Department and continue to serve his community as a school resource officer. Now, I want you all to think for one minute; people are running away from that job, okay? He's running to that job because he knows that the gifts that God has given him are much needed in our school system. WHEREAS, Officer Durden is also -- excuse me, an assistant pastor at True Christian Worship Fellowship Church under the leadership of our great pastor, Clifton Dawkins; and WHEREAS, Officer Durden is pursuing his studies in theology at Beulah University with the goal of establishing a church and a help center; and WHEREAS, Officer Durden's proudest achievement is his family, he and his wife of 16 years, Clarissa Durden, are the proud parents of two children, Jalen and Chase. Chasity -- I'm sorry. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Officer Jimmy Durden for his dedicated service to the citizens of Fulton County; and does hereby proclaim Tuesday, October 24th, 2023 as 'Officer Jimmy Durden Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. I would ask, as a moment of personal privilege, if the Chief of Police could come up and give a few remarks, please."

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "Unfortunately, Jimmy's only worked for us for about three years; he was with the Sheriff's Office prior. But in those three years, he has had an incredible impact. He has a smile on his face every single day. I absolutely

love it. I mean, he can't stop. He just brightens the room. I'm going to miss him dearly. I did not try to talk about him out of this, because this is something that he holds to his heart, and he's not going very far. The other reason I'm going to miss him so much as when he travels to see his family in South Georgia, he brings back the best bacon and sausage you have ever tasted. I'm going to miss that, too. I'm going to miss you a lot Jimmy."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You have to mention your dog."

**OFFICER JIMMY DURDEN, RECIPIENT:** "Oh, yeah, my dog, Milo. That's my baby. No, I want be long. I just want to say thank, God. First, giving honor to God, who is truly the head of my life. To Ms. Abdur-Rahman; thank you to the Commissioners, thank you, Fulton County Police. Listen, God bless Fulton County and its leaders. I am so grateful to be a part of, Amen. Bless you all. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "All right. Quick and to the point; now, pass the plate."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Matthew Kallmyer Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "As Matt, makes his way up here, can I get the County Manager and anyone else from the executive staff, anyone from law enforcement, anyone from Emergency Management; anyone from all those departments that Matt has touched since he's been here. This is another one that's hard to do, but I understand. He's got bigger -- much bigger, bigger fish to fry. If you all can join us. You all can come in. Some of y'all can come in on this side. Some of y'all can come in on this side; not too many. Y'all can stay on that side. Okay. Come on. What can I say? This is another one that I hate to see go, but listen, I know that his talents go with him. And I know where he lands that the people are going to be very appreciative of his talent and his wonderful and warm smile. WHEREAS, Matthew Kallmyer was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, and earned both his undergraduate degree in cellular and molecular biology and his graduate degree in public health specializing in environmental health sciences and disaster management from Tulane University; and WHEREAS, Matthew has served as the director of the Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency which oversees the Emergency Management Program as well as the office of airport fire rescue, EMS, fire watch, and animal services; and WHEREAS, Matthew's tenure with Fulton County began in the winter of 2011 after having over 13 years of public safety experience in New Orleans where he functioned as a paramedic, hazardous materials technician, educator, emergency manager, and medical researcher; and WHEREAS, Matthew has collaboratively served in leadership roles for multiple high-profile sporting events, championships, numerous public health responses to communicable disease outbreaks, as well as various natural disasters. His most rewarding experience was overseeing the largest FEMA supporting community vaccination center, CDC, in the southeastern portion of the United States at

the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, where the largest single day total of all federally-supported community vaccination centers were achieved; and WHEREAS, prior to joining AFCEMA, Matthew held the position of Deputy Director as well as Director for the Office of Homeland Security and emergency preparedness for the city of New Orleans, and oversaw the offices of hazard mitigation, emergency management, Homeland Security, and criminal justice coordination. It is with immense pride and humble, humble excitement; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and all associated with the Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency recognizes Matthew for his dedicated service to citizens of Atlanta and Fulton County; and does hereby proclaim Friday, November 3rd, 2023, as 'Matthew Kallmyer Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please put your hands together for a wonderful person who has been an asset to Fulton County? And I'm going to take a moment of personal privilege and ask our County Manager as well as others if they'd like to say a few words."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Well, like you've already said, it's a tough day to see Matt go; but then on the other hand, a great day, because Matt has done a tremendous job for us. Many of the things have already been discussed. But I just want to say, Matt, even though we never converted you to be a Falcons fan from the Saints. Even when you know the Saints are not going to win the division this year. But I want to say that you were a stalwart and your entire team during the COVID response. And while the citizens may never fully know or appreciate, we all know that you came to the floor when called upon, you had partnerships that had been developed over years of work that benefited us hugely. The hospitals, the cities, of course, emergency management came in, Emergency Management Inc. came in after the fact and helped greatly. But it was really your leadership and your leadership alone helped us steer a path that no one knew what the path was. And I recall first speaking of Mercedes Benz stadium. If you remember, the first one was at Fulton County Airport. When we didn't know what the threat was, how to administer the tests, people were pulling up with their windows rolled down that far, if you recall. And, again, you were calming, consistent, and a committed leader all throughout that process. And just one more time, I want to say that we started with doubled the infection rate and doubled the projected death rate on a per capita basis, and finished across the board improved, but below that compared to all of the Georgia counties, and that saved, again with the support of the Board, the partnership with the Board of Health, obviously; but then your leadership, your team, over a thousand. So those folks may never know it, but we know it, and I want to thank you personally for again for that effort and everything that you've done for Fulton County despite your bad judgment in terms of the NFL. Thank you, buddy."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, RECIPIENT:** "Alton, I know you have prepared remarks. I've been waiting 13 years for this moment right here."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well first of all, everyone said a lot about Matt and I've had the privilege of working with Matt since I joined the county; and as Dick said, all

the stuff that Matt's done in terms of impacting lives and everything else, nobody's going to really appreciate it unless you deal with him on a regular basis. But what I will say is, in terms of the public safety team, if you needed -- if you needed something done, you would typically reach out to Matt and his team, right? Whether it be -- when we needed a trailer down at the medical examiner during in the mist of COVID, we reached out to Matt. He reached out to colleagues at GEMMA and they made it happen. When the Sheriff needed water brought in, when the electricity went out in the jail, we reached out to Matt and his team, and they found a way to make that happen. And then numerous examples of that, and very rarely do you run across someone who is able to do all this stuff without necessarily being thanked on a daily basis. He reminds me of that all the time, but truly -- but truly we are going to miss him. We are going to miss him, not only for the contribution that he's made. We're also going to miss him for the type of person that he is, and so thank you and I wish you all the best, Matt."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And there's one other thing that I want to mention. We had a African -- we had individuals from the African government come in that we actually did a tour, and Matt sat down and shared information with them, and what I want you to know upon your departure, the ideals and the things that you brought to their attention, they are implementing in Africa as well. And so, not only have you served the citizens up here, you also have been global in your reach, and I wanted everybody here to know that. Thank you for your service."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you, ma'am. So, I have a 30-minute presentation, Mr. Chairman, so we'll go ahead and squeeze it in. Thank you for that moment about the African delegation. It was -- I remember that day very fondly because you stood up and said you get it; and that was one of the things that really touched my heart is the fact that yeah, this team that I represent, we get it; the citizens. The greatest honor has been 25 years of being a civil servant; 13 of those here. Two words come to mind: is thank you. Thank you for the opportunities. Thank you for the support. Thank you for the love. Thank you for the partnerships. I think we have some great partners here today from Milton, Childrens Hospital of Atlanta, GEMMA, some other partners that I've worked long hours with, blood sweat and tears, and the biggest thank you that I could ever go ahead and offer is for my team. It is the best team that I could've asked for. We've talked about the fact that the goal of my career was community vaccination center, and we could not have done that without the team that you guys see in front of you and some others that were not able to be here today. And also for Doug Schuster for being one heck of a partner throughout this whole ride as well. So I thank my team, I thank Joe Barosain for being not only a brother, but also for coming back after he retired from the county when I lied to him and said we'll do this all the way to the end. But I think Dick, you couldn't expect a better person to go ahead and turn over the will of this ship to than Joe. I know Joe has the heart of a true civil servant and he's going to do incredible things for the citizens of Fulton County. And with that, I just want to say that once again, thank you. Thank you everyone, appreciate it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 9, Public Hearings **23-0756**, Public Comment: Citizens wishing to participate in public comment may be allowed to appear in person or choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing by registering on the county website, [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://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. Each public speaker will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event 30-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 have received four speaker cards here in Assembly Hall. Would all four speakers, please come down: Jennifer Swaine, Kyle Camarddella, Michael Collins, and Anna Fey."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just four? All right, come on down. Now, just a friendly reminder when you have 15 seconds left, I'll just say, 15 seconds, and that's your clue to conclude your remarks. All right, ma'am, go ahead."

**JENNIFER SWAINE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Excuse me; I'm Jennifer Swaine, the Executive Director for Youth Spark nonprofit organization based inside of the Fulton County Juvenile Court. Thank you so much, Chairman Pitts, for the honor to be able to be here. Also, all of the Commissioners for your support of youth in Fulton County who have experienced trafficking and other forms of violent victimization. Thank you also, Chairman Arrington, for acknowledging Runaway Youth Prevention Month as well. I'm here today just to say thank you for your community services program. I sincerely appreciate the support; and because of that support, we were able to this year provide over three thousand points of service for almost 196 children in Fulton County. Because of our ability to serve on the front lines in juvenile court, we are able to intervene -- excuse me, as early as possible for young people who are experiencing trafficking, but do not self-identify as a victim. Thank you so much for this program because it means a lot to us. Because of that support as well, 59 percent of those young people who have been screened and served through Fulton County Juvenile Court experienced one form or more violent victimization. Sixteen percent of them at the time of the referral, admittedly experienced child sexual abuse exploitation. Because of this support, we are able to create a new response for missing and runaway youth, and we'll continue to need your support and leadership to help us guide that response with our law enforcement core partners. I stand here today on behalf of all those young people who are missing at the time of referral. Thank you so much, Commissioner Rahman, for all of your support during Human Trafficking Awareness Month. I look forward to working with you all and sharing the data that we collect. And I thank the leadership of Fulton County Juvenile Court for allowing us to do amazing new



unique things to serve our children. I appreciate you all, and I thank you for your continued support."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next speaker."

**KYLE CAMARDELLA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Kyle Camardella. I was introduced to the genocide on Palestine by a schoolmate who showed me where he was shot at by none lethal bullets, while celebrating as a young teen after a soccer game. There's Doritos, Gatorade, gold fish, a cheap tablecloth exactly like I grew up going to. Each sheet represents 86 lives. When was the last time their mom brushed their hair? A boy no face, legs or urinary area died without pain medicine; they ran out. A boy eight to ten, registered, pounds on the ground because his family is beneath his feet. A boy writhes in pain receiving surgery without pain medication. People must love his red hair. A rescuer pulls a martyred child out of the rubble and claims the boy as his own. A mom in paisley screams her children died hungry. Another mom still nursing yells at Mohammed 43, and her kids, Saheed, Hebra, and Momin stopped playing, it wasn't funny. Their names are listed. What was their favorite food, color, season, sports team, restaurant, song? Did they cut the tags off their clothes? Did they need help tying their shoes? What was that one funny thing they did? We fund the genocide of Palestine in Gaza, West Bank, spreading into Lebanon, the use collective punishment, nerve gas, cluster bombing, the destruction of the Jabalya, and Jenin refugee camps. And soldiers using collective punishment such as cluster bombing, nerve gas, the destruction -- oh, excuse me. And soldiers writing, may your village burn on the white phosphorus missiles dropped on children's has martyred at the rate of one murder every ten minutes. I have yet to see any victory over Hamas and a few hostages released back in Israel. As a Fulton County citizen any aid to Israel --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**KYLE CAMARDELLA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to support the billions asking for a cease-fire to ask for medical aid, heavy machinery, and search and recuse release be sent to Gaza; and to encourage people's right to participate by withholding taxes. I'll conclude with a (inaudible.) static: one in a half Hiroshima's space --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next speaker."

**MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Michael Collins, and I'm the Senior Director at Color of Change. For around two years now, advocates have been coming to the Commission talking about the jail crisis and saying really two things. One is that decarceration: reducing the incarcerated population is the way forward for tackling the jail crisis. And we've also consistently said that we have a Sheriff that we cannot trust, and both things have been born out in recent weeks. The good news is that the jail population is down by seven percent or almost 300 hundred people, according to statistics from this Commission in September. And we applaud the Public Defender and the DA for engaging in a process that reduces the number of people held

on bond. We think that's a very fruitful process, and we want that to keep going, and we ask that DA Willis do more in that respect to bring more cases forward and indict more cases. But at the same time, we've seen from the Sheriff, someone who cannot be trusted. We had the links that he has with Talitrix. And last night, we learned that he is using an inmate welfare fund for face painting and DJs; and we also know this week that a judge ruled against his desire to transfer inmates out of state. So I'm asking the Commission, again, to support the process of decarceration support, reducing incarceration. Support the Public Defender's office and the DA as they engage in this process. And please do not give this Sheriff another cent. He cannot be trusted in this process. Thank you."

**ANNA FEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. It's a pleasure to be here with you today. I'm Anna Fey, born and raised and living my life here in Fulton County. Donald Trump and his associated interests, as well as the many copycat promoters are illegally sharing the Fulton County Sheriff's photographic property in advance of fundraising dollars through their Fulton County mug shots. Georgia has thriving, growing, technology, movie, music, and entertainment industries as we've seen today. The product of all these industries is intellectual property protected by federal copyright law. Intellectual property is an asset with value and when that asset is infringed, it deserves to be protected. At least two of our Commissioners are involved with the creation of intellectual property and surely appreciate the value of copyright on a personal level. In this unique situation, we can add mug shots to our list of intellectual property here in Georgia. Serving the commercial photography industry as an agent and professional image manager in all regards in Fulton County for more than 35 years; and performing every conceivable task in the industry, licensing every conceivable type of image for every conceivable type of use, I know from experience some of these illegal profits are recoverable. I've even licensed a picture of a UFO, but not a mug shot. It's a whole new genre. The Sheriff's vehicle is also an asset. If someone were to hop into a sheriff's vehicle and drive off with it, would not that thief be apprehended? I can't imagine standing for that, and it's no different from the theft of the mugshots. Unfortunately, our jail is a disgrace. I cannot speak to why there are so many people in that jail --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**ANNA FEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- while laying blame would defeat any group, crime committers, the police or judges is irrelevant. I'm actually embarrassed as a resident of Fulton County that the conditions are so severe that the United States Department of Justice has involved itself. I know the Sheriff has been seeking funds with which to address the conditions at the jail for about exactly 1,000 days. We've arrived at the point at which the conditions of the jail can no longer be --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, ma'am. Thank you, ma'am. Ms., thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Ms. Can you cut that off? It is? All right. Ms., thank you, your time

is up. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I understand. Thank you, ma'am. Thank you. Any other speakers? Any other speakers? Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one speaker on Zoom and two e-mailed in comments."

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning. There are two comments this morning. The first is from Dr. Sydney Jemmott. As an internal medicine physician with a Masters of Public Health specializing in reproductive health, I'm submitting a public comment today as an advocate for reproductive justice. I encourage the Board of Commissioners to allocate \$300,000 to access reproductive care, south west -- South East, ARC Southeast, Georgia's only abortion fund. We must alleviate the aggravation of the public health crisis caused by the Supreme Court overturning Roe versus Wade with the implementation of Georgia's early abortion ban; Georgia Supreme Court upholding a ban on abortion care on October 24th. First, I fully support Fulton County's public health mandate. Healthcare is a human right and abortion care is an essential component of reproductive healthcare. When people have access to a full range of healthcare services including birth control, abortion care, and maternity care, they are healthier, and their families thrive. Next, I'm excited and proud that the city of Atlanta City Council has been a leader in the south and in the United States by allocating \$300,000 of their budget to support people seeking access to abortion care through ARC Southeast. I look forward to Fulton County Board important part of ensuring equal economic opportunities. I look forward to Fulton County's Board of Commissioners doing their part. For these reasons and more, I once again encourage you all to allocate \$300,000 to this initiative. The final comment is from Caressa Kao. Due to the anti-Asian harassment and complete lack of intelligence we have experienced in the City of South Fulton, my family wishes to leave ASAP. But it is not possible while my husband is waiting for a court date that should have been dismissed. I am grateful for the experience I had and wish to move on and definitely away from this basic and Godless city. Can anyone assist with this? There is no redeeming of the detestable; no amount of income or education can teach these things to be humans and the quicker we can be done with this the faster; I never want this around my family. This concludes the e-mail comments."

**EMACEO MOSES, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS :** "Good morning, Commissioners. We have two Zoom speakers. The first to speak is Major Bradford. Major Bradford? The next to speak is Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Greetings, Commissioners and fellow citizens. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. The numbers and the optics of the website of the housing authority of Fulton County do not comport with the Fulton County Commission standards mandating ethics, openness, and transparency. The HAFC website sloppily lists 11 board members, although state laws describing housing authority boards mandates a maximum of nine board members. The HAFC website continues to imply that a particular County Commissioner is double

dipping, if you will, by having two appointments to the HAFC Board of Directors, even though the two attorneys on that board ought to know better and show better. And why does the seven-page utility allowances form on the website inform the public about utility allowances for 2020 and 2021, but not 2023. I shudder to think about what will be found when those financial reports of that board are finally unfettered. Stay tuned."

**EMACEO MOSES, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:** "No further Zoom comments."

**CLERK GRIER:** "No, further speakers."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 9, County Manager's Renewal Items under Open and Responsible Government, **23-0757**, Finance: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to provide professional healthcare benefit consulting services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **23-0758**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval to renew existing contracts in a total amount not to exceed \$2,251,772 to provide janitorial services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold it, Madam Clerk. Now, Commissioners, the next seven item are all for Health and Human Services. They are all to renew existing contract. We can take all of those together unless there's a desire to pull any one of them out. All right, we'll take them altogether. Sound the captions."

**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0759**: Request approval to renew an existing contract not to exceed \$404,270 – 270.88 to provide water meter reading services. **23-0760**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$871,732.29 to provide sanitary sewer easement maintenance. **23-0761**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$550,000 to provide sewer system cleaning and manhole camera inspection services. **23-0762**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount of \$412,683.51 to provide corporations stops and brass fittings. On page 11, **23-0763**: Request approval to renew an existing

contract in an amount not to exceed \$360,742.45 to provide manholes, frames, grates, and accessories. **23-0764**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in amount of \$354,260 to provide water meter testing and repairs. **23-0765**, Senior Services: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$502,067 to provide professional burial services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS**: "All right. Motion to approve all seven -- to approve by Commissioner Hall; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER**: "**23-0766**, Finance. 2024 Budget Development Update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS**: "All right, Mr. Manager."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER**: "Yes, thank you. Good morning, Commissioners and Mr. Chairman. As we've committed and you know we wanted to provide in advance of the budget being submitted on the 15th, an overview of the enhancement requests. We have a short PowerPoint presentation, but I want to make a few comments before we give that. We take very seriously the preparation of a balanced budget proposal which again, you'll see in the next two weeks. And for the last nine years, I believe, we've had a terrific record of modest revenue and expense growth, decreasing the millage rate, (inaudible) of debt to update our facilities, improve pay for our employees, and most importantly better service for citizens. And honestly, this old trope of, Sharon will find the money, not only diminishes this work, but doesn't hold true. Yes, we have 4 to 5 percent underruns on a consistent basis. And we will probably most likely -- hold on just a minute. (Technical audio difficulties.)"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS**: "Madam Clerk, what's going on? Madam Clerk, what's going on?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER**: "Jessica, do you think we're good? Sounds like we are. All right, I apologize for that. As I said we have had 4 to 5 percent underruns and we do maintain a 16 percent fund balance in reserves; but those don't defy gravity. We've shown you in painstaking detail during our offsites or retreat, the expense pressures if we want to do the entire agenda that has been discussed. And we've also discussed our smooth modest millage rate increase to accommodate that. You voted for an 8.87 millage rate that was independent of those projections, and we respect that. It is your role. And we've made adjustments accordingly, which you'll see in these numbers that'll be provided. The enhancements then are highly limited to unavoidable issues like preparing for a presidential election, COLA to keep basically track with inflation for our employees, and then inmate outsourcing at current levels. But not much beyond that because we mathematically cannot include another 55 million or so from the Sheriff's office and the DA, 37 million from the BOC from last year, or 54

million from all others. It just again cannot work inside of that revenue picture. So to boil this down, we need some direction today, if there's anticipating change, or this will be highly consistent with what you'll see in a couple weeks. I lived in a world where revenues have to exceed expenditures for about 30 years. You know, we're getting close to delinking those two, so we want to make sure that you understand clearly what both the expense drivers are and what 8.87 as the millage rate generates. And then absent again any additional insight, we'll prepare a budget that's balanced and bring that back in two weeks. But it won't be -- you know, useful then to say, well, something wasn't included because you're going to know full well today what we can include and what we simply cannot include in a couple weeks. I hope that again today's discussion is helpful as a precursor to what we'll provide in two weeks. And again, we respect the decision that we believe that you've made. We just want to make sure that you understand all of the implications of that. So thank you, Mr. Chairman. And with that, we'll call on, Ms. Whitmore to go through an overview of this and then be prepared to answer any detailed questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we could go to the next slide, please. As the manager indicated in his earlier comments, we've had very good financial performance in the last eight or nine years, and we've tried to depict that information here. This chart probably looks somewhat familiar because we shared it in our offsites. But again, from a millage rate perspective: starting in 2015, we've lowered our millage rate from 10.5 down to 8.8, which is a 16 percent reduction over that period of time. From a fund balance perspective: our fund balance has increased roughly 50 percent from 127 million in 2015 to an ending fund balance of 250 million in 2022. From a revenue perspective: our revenues have increased about 43 percent, 619 million in 2015, and actuals of 760 in 2022, projected 831 in 2023. And as you will see in our underlying assumptions for 2024, another increase that's tied to projected growth in the digest. From an expenditure perspective: we've increased our expenses for all the reasons that the manager has commented on his opening remarks, again from 591 on an actual basis to ending 2022 at 786 million projected, 865 this year, and a projected budget in the 922 million-dollar range for next year. Our fund balance position given the outpacing, if you will, of our expenses over our revenue increases and, you know, reducing the millage rate over time, our fund balance -- ending fund balance position from 2015 to 2024 will be slightly less than the 2015 level. So in 2015, we started with 156 and based on our plans for this year and our projections from the budget for next year, we're looking at around 152 million in 2024, which is slightly lower than where we were in 2015. From a bond rating perspective: our bond rating has remained strong over this period of time, AA at the beginning and AA+ currently. So we just sort of wanted to share this information with the Board, so you can see what we have done over the last nine years in managing the county's financial position. And with the next slide please, I'm going to lay out where we're at in our budget development process for 2024. In September, we did share with you some preliminary assumptions that we were working with, and as we have

continued to review the information that the departments have requested and refined, our estimates and projections, what is on this slide is what the assumptions are that we are working with currently. And as the manager indicated, we are looking for you to provide us with some feedback and some guidance, and should we need to amend any of these as we move forward into finalizing the 2024 budget, we believe that this will give us time to do that and have that document to you on or before the 15th. So from a revenue perspective, our basic underlying assumption, is that the billable digest in 2024, will grow at about seven percent; and that we will maintain our flat -- a flat millage rate of 8.87 mils, and have a 96 percent collection rate. That seven percent billable digest growth rate is based off of an average of roughly the last seven years, I believe during that period of time we had a low of three percent, a high of 15 percent. It averages out over times to be the seven percent figure. If you recall during our multiyear -- our offsites where we were talking about the multiyear plan, we talked then about moving this number and we moved it from three to five during those discussions. And so, now we are bumping it up to seven percent in order to plan to capture revenue that will be generated from the growth in the digest. From an expenditure perspective: this budget is based off of the notion that we will continue with the status quo from a based service perspective, meaning those things that have been in the base recurring expenditure budget are included. We did not make reductions in the base recurring expenditure budget. We have applied about \$10 million in savings from vacancies, meaning that we will not fully fund every vacant position as of January 1st, much like we did in 2023. We know that those positions will not all be filled on January 1st and will not all stay filled through the whole year. So we have currently identified 10 million as our target. We're running the reports for that now to see what the value is our current vacancies. We may amend that number as we move forward depending on what we need to balance the budget. From an elections perspective -- oh, I'm sorry. And the other big item here is that when we talked during the summer in our offsite, we have a number of items that we have built into the multiyear view that were premised off of a higher millage rate, so we've had to pull some of those items back out, and they are not reflected in the numbers that you see, and we shared the information with you in our memo that came out at the end of September. From an elections perspective: 2024 is a presidential election. We will have five election cycles in 2024 or the potential for five election cycles in 2024. So we have funded elections at 35 million. We're funding four out of the five election cycles and the fifth election cycle, if necessary, will have to be funded out of an underruns generated through the year. We do have a detailed memo that we have worked with the elections department on -- the elections budget -- that memo will be released in conjunction with the proposed budget; so that you have a better understanding of what is included in the elections planned for 2024. We also have included a five percent COLA for all county employees. In our multiyear plan, if you remember, we had two items that were employee related, one was the five percent COLA, and the other was moving forward with implementing the market-based salary ranges. And so, we have removed the funding associated with moving forward with the market-based salary ranges, and have left the five percent COLA in to ensure that the entire workforce receives some sort of compensation adjustment in 2024. We've also wanted to identify that currently what -- you know, the numbers that you'll see do not

include any increases in premiums for the Risk Management Fund. So we are proposing to continue to fund the same level of funding into the Risk Management Fund as we have for the last several years, based on all those premiums. That is really an affordability issue for the general fund at the current 8.87 mils than anything else. We also have funded inmate outsourcing at the same level as what we included in 2023, so that will continue to fund for the arrangements that we currently have across several counties and with the Atlanta Detention Center. And then these last two bullet points from an enhancement perspective: as the manager mentioned, we did share with you at the end of last week the full enhancement list as well as an explanatory memo on our approach to reviewing that list and how we categorize the items that were included. In the next slide -- well, two slides from now, we'll actually walk through how that sort of lays out. But essentially, as we reviewed the enhancement, we primarily focused on making a recommendation to fund those things that met the criteria that are identified; life safety, a contractual obligation, regulatory statutory or inflationary increase. So we did not make recommendations to fund either enhancements or extensions of expansions of existing programs or new programs. And then lastly, there was not room to fund the nonrecurring items that were previously shared with the Board at the September meeting and the details of which were communicated to you originally on September 28th and then again in the memo last week. So those are the basic assumptions for the '24 budget. Next slide, please. Again, we're inviting you into the sausage making this year and sharing these numbers with you. The top of this schedule simply updates our current year projections, and we'll be updating these again for October results. We are, with the end of the month just happening, we will run those reports and start that review process today. So currently, our projections are about 832 million in revenue, 865 in projected expenditures. That will leave us with 191 million in fund balance. The calculated fund balance reserve within the 144 million, so we will have 47 million more than what the reserve requirement calls for, you know, at the end of 2023. Moving into 2024, we carry forward that 191 million fund balance. We have projected revenue now of 883 million on expenditures of roughly 922 million and that will leave us with a fund balance of a 152. When you calculate the fund balance reserve requirement on that 922 million, it equals 154 million, so we are currently about \$2 million short of meeting our fund balance reserve requirement. So we have some more work to do in balancing out the 2024 budget. Again, we will be updating our projections based on October results, and you may see some of these numbers change when we come forward with the balanced proposed budget on November the 15th. Next slide, please. This next slide is a visual representation of how we conducted our enhancement review process this year, and how we have laid out the consideration for those enhancements. On the far left-hand side of the screen, you'll see a box for the funded enhancements. And what is in this box and actually the way the slides sort of works is up at the top. You'll see funded enhancements, unfunded enhancements, and then the millage rate equivalent for each of these categories. So in that far left, funded enhancements column, we identified roughly 63 million of items that were either already included in the base budget, but were also requested as an enhancement. So we consider those to just be duplicate items. And then there were about \$14 million worth of items that we felt could be funded from other funding sources, so either from the



library, TAD funds from our ARPA resources, or from the establishment of an enterprise fund in order to account for the activities now of the animal services center. In the next column over in the green, that would be our first priority of items of enhancement request to fund. These were the items that met the rules-based criteria that we use. We've shortened the description here to just contractual and statutory, but those were all of the things that we -- as we completed our review -- we felt met those -- those criteria that were identified. They are not funded because we cannot currently fit them into the resources that we have available. But should we have additional underruns available to us when we get through to the end of the year, this would be the first group of items that we would look to fund rolling into 2024. The yellow item is about \$13 million, and it is associated with the cost to implement the market-based salary survey for all general fund employees. So we've identified that as an item that would be our second priority item to add back to the 2024 budget if resources were made available. The third bucket are items that we've identified as having community -- community impact or interest to the community. These are the items that we have funded as nonrecurring items in the past that we were not, again, able to fit into the resources that we have available. These are items like the additional resources for the arts, contracts for services, the veteran's program, the youth -- homeless youth initiative that was funded in 2023, Sadie G. Mays, and some of the legacy entities in the arts arena. So there we do have a list of that and it totaled a little over \$7.5 million, 7.7. The next column over are requests that were received from two of our justice center partners this year from the district attorney, as well as the costs that would be -- the additional funds that would be necessary to extend all of the current employees paid for out of the ORCA budget for all of 2024. As you know, from our previous discussion, the ORCA positions were to start ramping down in 2024, so that we could close that out within the 75 million that is available to us under ARPA. Based on our calculations, it would run about \$9 million to simply carry the current employees for all of 2024 once the ARPA resources, the ORCA resources run out, and that's estimated to happen in July of 2024 if all of those positions are maintained for the whole of 2024 without the ramp down as planned. We received about 44 million in enhancement requests from the Sheriff's Department. There's a little duplication in that number, in that he asked for some compensation increases for his employees, as well as some of the funding for items that we had already included in the base budget that were part of the jail bridging plan. So there's a little duplication in that number, but we did not adjust for it because we wanted to present the enhancement request fully so there would not be any misunderstanding in that regard. The District Attorney has also asked for about 10.8 million that included the extension of ORCA positions, some new positions, some new programs, and continuation of funding for travel, training, hospitality, and some other operational line items for her budget. She too asked for incremental compensation adjustments. She asked for a seven percent COLA; so there is a little bit of duplication between what she asked for and what we had already programmed in the base. In total, between the Sheriff and the District Attorney, the amount that we believe is duplicated is somewhere between ten and \$11 million. And then lastly, in the gray, in all other enhancements categories, that is everything else that was requested from all of the agencies that did not meet the rules-based criteria, and we did not recommend funding for those items

because they did not meet our criteria. All in, if you were take the green, the yellow, the dark blue, the orange -- two oranges, and the purple and gray, all of that together, that totals about 1.82 mil increase to be able to fund everything that was requested within those categories. So we wanted to just sort of walk you through, again, where we're at in the budget development process; and how we've approached the enhancement request this year knowing that we really do not have much to work with in the form of available resources. So with that, unless the manager has anything that he wants to add, Mr. Chairman, we'll take any questions or feedback from the Board on the budget development. And I would say -- I do want to say this, that the budget ordinance requires us to present the budget on or before the 15th. The next Board meeting is the 15th, so we are trying to get that document finalized and pulled together. It probably will not make the agenda deadline. We hope to have it to you either late that Monday or Tuesday before the Board meeting. I just wanted to let you all know that today so you would not be surprised, but we are going to meet the 15th deadline. We just may not have it to you in time for it be included in the actual agenda that gets prepared for that next meeting."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So -- well, my reaction to this is that this is well done. It is - - I mean, it puts us on notice as to where we are and the constraints that the Board has placed upon you, and there is no wiggle room, quite frankly, as I see it. I do have one question on page 3, where you say that's a 2024 budget assumptions; one, two, three, four, five: the fifth bullet point. No increase to Risk Management Fund premiums beyond normal funding. Is that realistic? I mean, knowing what we know to be out there, what we may be faced with?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure that I can say whether it's realistic or not. I think that we will have a lot of pressure on the Risk Management Fund. A lot of it will depend on whether or not any of the current cases settle for more than what they are currently evaluated at. I think that the prudent thing to do would be, if we have some flexibility, would be to, you know, place some more resources in the Risk Management Fund because there are significant claims pending."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, that's what I'm asking you: to place more resources in the Risk Management Fund. But this doesn't do that; so that's why I'm saying. I mean, we know what we're faced with, and there may be others and probably will be. So, I don't know where the money will come from, but if it happens -- and we haven't even talked about the Department of Justice civil investigation what that could mean. So, are we being shortsighted here? And I know that that would create even more pressure, because we, not you, we set the millage rate at the 8.87. That's fixed. There's no wiggle room there, correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That was the Board's action earlier this year. And I think when we came forward in September with our preliminary assumptions; we did not receive any direction to consider any other millage rate than

8.87 in the development of the '24 budget. So unless -- unless there is a change to that then yes, I feel like the revenue is going to be what -- 8.87 is going to produce what it's going to produce from a revenue perspective. So the only wiggle room would come in whether or not growth changes, but there's a risk on the growth side, too. If we don't reach the seven percent that we've already built in then, you know, we may -- we may end up on a shortfall of our revenue side. But, yeah, at this point, I do not feel like we've been given any guidance or direction to consider anything other than the 8.87 mils."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. So all of that, what you say, you agree with me that it is fixed, correct? We've give you direction, 8.87 is fixed. That's the money that's going to be generated; so we're going to have to live within it?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes. I think the only opportunity, Mr. Chairman, but then remember we've got 12 million or so identified -- 12 and a half million in contractual increases would be, if we underrun this year more than what we project then, A, call on that should be. I think the Risk Management Fund and contractual increases that we're committed too otherwise."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'm simply saying that the revenue, the available revenue, that 8.87 is going to generate an X number of dollars, and that's what we're going to have to live with. And so, any decisions that we make, I think, we need to keep that in mind. Vice Chair Ellis followed by Commissioner Thorne."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "No, I think the outline is good. I guess -- we've just got to frame up kind of where we are. One, just sort of a thought, as we kind of go through this; and if you go back to that slide you had where you had sort of a prioritization buckets, if you will."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Page 5?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah. Yeah, that one right here. Yeah, and we've -- in some years I would say we've sort -- we've created some of our own issues for future years by some of the stuff we've added on at the last minute in budgets in January. And one of the things I like about the way you've framed part of this up right here is we put these in sort of prioritized areas; and, you know, one thought is we get into December, being ready to, if we want to just, you know, generally formally approve a tentative budget, and then as we roll into the following year, the budget's adopted, but we set and we have a true midyear review process, and what's brought forth for consideration flows through in this priority order. That we agree upon -- we may change some of this stuff around, but we agree upon what is our prioritization for considering the next round of expenditures should funds be available as opposed to, you know, kind of whatever you want to call it, that we've had in terms of that have taken place, you know, on the day of where we approved the budget when things just sort of getting forth and they're really not -- really a thought around should that really have priority over other issues? So, I think this prioritization concept is a good one, and perhaps it's something that we want

to -- we should have some discussion around about whether or not we fully agree with the components of that, or should they be considered a little bit differently. So that's all, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, well, I think that's a great comment; but, I mean, I think that what's before us here as the priorities -- if I've had my druthers, I'd probably put the yellow one -- the second priority will be the first priority."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right. Well that's what I'm saying in terms of maybe there's some discussion around how we view those prioritized buckets, but you've got a series of ask, you know, let's have the discussion of -- and we know we don't have unlimited resources to fund all of this, so let's have a discussion around what we deemed to be, you know, kind of a waterfall of priorities and potentially allow for, you know, kind of that funding to flow through either if there are some more underruns anticipated so we know that going into potentially make some adjustments in early January; or it if they're not there, you know, the things that would be considered in, you know, a true, you know, midyear review process and we've already established that up front. We've had that conversation, you know, in November, December time frame. We got to agree upon that collectively as a group. That's -- you know, so that's -- to your point, we may not all necessarily agree about which -- which is the first, but why not have that conversation?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Commissioner Thorne. And I guess we're going to deal with this, the one, two, three -- the fifth one, that ORCA -- we'll deal with that, I guess, in a later conversation because that certainly has some bearings on this. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I agree. I'd like to see the prioritization here. We added 36.7 million in items. But you mentioned the third priority -- some of those items are in the third priority, 7.7 of them. So are you leaving off 30 million in the other ones? Or where are they?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And that's really subject, honestly, to our judgment, so we kind of ran through the entire list and believe that we could identify ones that most notably will come back. Sadie G. Mays is a clear one, right; compelling cases made. We know the individual that's on the board, and Patrice Perkins Hooker makes a very strong case. So for example, we put that one in. We did not put, if you'll recall, there's five million in there for facilities reserve, five million for a healthcare reserve. We did not put those in; so that's purely from that list that's on attachment one of the memo, our subjective judgment that there'll be at least 7.7 that would strongly come back at least with advocates for your consideration; but it's a judgment call. It could be more; potentially, it could be less."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, thanks. And then one other quick question. I know in the past -- well, here on page 3, it says the current year level adjusted for a

seven percent billable digest growth rate. In the past, did we do a three percent? And why are we changing?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes. So if you'll recall, Commissioner Thorne, during our offsites when we presented the multiyear view, we started at three, and through discussion with the Board and in evaluating what the historical changes had been, we moved it initially to five. And then, as part of our balancing exercise, if you will, we went back and looked at a, you know, more, I guess, more recent time period rather than ten years. We narrowed it down and we came up with seven. And seven percent was the average for that period of time. So last year, it was 11, so again, we're bumping it up, which is being a little more aggressive, less conservative, a little more aggressive; conservative meaning, you know, you project on the lower end and if you receive more than, you know, that benefits you without you having to have built it in and have planned on it. So now, at the seven percent mark, we are planning on that growth being there. Which means if the growth doesn't materialize, then we will be talking about how we're going to have to conserve expenses if we want to, you know, maintain and have, you know, a solid fund balance and good performance as we move through, you know, 2024 if the digest does not materialize and present seven percent."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair. So the memo that I have is dated October 27th, 2023, subject: FY 2024 Budget Enhancement Operating requests from Hakeem, the Director of Finance, and through Dick Anderson and Sharon Whitmore to the BOC. And is this the most recent memo? Because I thought I heard you say September, and then I looked and I was like, mine says, October?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We did also send a memo in September, and it's actually included as Exhibit 1 to the October 27th memo, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. All right. So I noticed that -- so October is the most recent though. I noticed that in the September 28th, 2023 memo, subject: FY 2024 Budget Preparation Overview: that attachment 1 lists multiyear budget reduction items. And these items -- there are two additions. One is TAD Resolution for 2 million, an adjustment for inmate outsourcing for 2.7 million. They say addition instead of reduction, but are they also included as a reduction?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Commissioner Hall, those two items are an addition to the list."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "As a reduction?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "No, not as reduction, but an addition to the general budget. You know because of what happened is this: When we looked at the budget for inmate outsourcing in the current year, we noticed that -- we did a calculation on how much we need to fund inmate outsourcing for the number of inmates that we have at the different locations, and that come out to about 19.7. We compared that to the amount that we have in the budget this year, so for that reason, we had to bump up our -- the total budget for 2024 by that difference of 2.7 that is noted on this list. So the 2.7 is not a reduction, but it is an addition to the total budget that we presented on that \$922 million number."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So -- but the heading for this says multiyear budget reduction items. So, should it not be on here?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "It's should have an adjustment. It should have said multiyear adjustment."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It should say adjustment."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And then below that, there is a spreadsheet that is titled 2023 BOC items added to the budget not funded in 2024. So are these particular items the ones that you all have decided to not include in the budget?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Yes, and some of these items are considered to be a part of the waterfall short under the grouping of community items in that waterfall; a part of the \$7.7 million that the County Manager mentioned earlier."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So \$7.7 million of this 36.7 million, you considered those community development items; is that what you're saying, community?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Community-oriented. Yeah, where there would be -- they either benefit the community or there would be community interests in seeing these items funded; like contract for services, the CSP program. Those -- either a community benefit or a community interest in seeing those items included."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so, who made the decision on which ones should be considered community-oriented items?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, as we talked -- well, I'll let the manager answer it."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I'd say it in kind of loose terms. So none of these are included right now in what we could see funded; none of them. We walked

down through this list and we said, what will the Board most likely get the most pressure, and that's why I mentioned Sadie G. Mays as an example or, you know, the expansion of CSP. You will have nonprofits show up that were funded in 2023, if they're not funded in 2024."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Right."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So we just simply walk through that; that's why I was probably inartfully trying to explain in our judgment. You may look at it and say, no, it's more than 7.7, it's 10.5. Or you could say it's 20. So it's really -- and that zero is included today, we included it as one of these items on this privatization chart to give recognition to the fact that I think you would get a lot of community feedback if none of these are funded. Hopefully, that is a better exclamation, but it's not a precise list to say this is included and that was excluded. It's simply our judgment."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well -- yes. And I wouldn't say it would be me personally. I would say it would be exactly what you stated. It would be those nonprofits, those voters; the residents who are taxpayers who feel like for instance, let's read this into the record: 2023 BOC items added to the budget, but not funded in 2024: All the arts and cultural ones are contract for services, which is \$1.7 million for the grant opportunities for the nonprofits that do anything in the arts and culture space; music, education group for 75,000; Fulton Films 250,000, arts, programs, funding. There are two of these, I'm little confused because I don't know. They both say arts programs funding, but one says 217,000, and the other one says 350,000. Can you tell me what's the difference between the two because they have the same description?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, as I recall, the list was pulled really from the enhanced -- well, from items that were added by the Board during the January meeting, and I do think there were two separate items where funding was just identified as additional programming resources. And I think one was split, one was specific to arts, and then one I think was split between the library and arts and we just put them in -- slided them in and identified it as arts -- arts programming or arts programs funding. So there was --it wasn't specified for anything in particular, if I remember correctly."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You just -- you just made me remember the one in particular for library and arts was because there needs to be a position filled to manage the event center portion of the central library, as well as to manage the use of it and the calendaring, and all of that. And, of course, charging a fee for the use of it. I do recall that. So has that position been filled or was it ever posted or anything? I thought it was posted at one time."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Commissioner Hall, no, that position as of today, has not been posted."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, it has not been posted, okay. So you're not going to have that position anymore, since it's on this list of what's not funded in 2024?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "We certainly can look at this. I believe the way this was interpreted as only programming, not personnel."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Well, I do recall there was a need for that position and that could actually bring in some revenue as well. And then there's Bear Creek Nature Center on here for 200,000, John's Creek Symphony 20,000, Alpharetta Symphony 9,000, African-American Philharmonic Orchestra 15,000, Orchestra Noir 15,000; and Bear Creek Nature Center capital funding 500,000, Chattahoochee Nature Center capital funding 500,000. Then it goes to community development, and it says Atlanta Public School System 250,000. And thank you so much, Dr. Roshell, for the response to the question about that funding, because we've had -- well, at least in District 4, we've had quite a few constituents ask about that funding because there's been so much public discussion on this Board about the APS and the Fulton County funding. So I see that you said that the APS schools recently approved the grant agreement, so the plan is to seek approval of the grant agreement, 250,000, at the November 14th meeting. So that's good. However, the Fulton County School System grant for 250,000 has not made any headway. And then community service program, this must be the CSP grant funding -- additional funding that was 1.5; is that correct? Okay. Youth and homeless youth programs for one million. Is that the YHP grant that was recently --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- done. Okay, so we're talking about not continuing to focus on the youth homelessness. All right. And then the two conferences that I've done annually for a number of years, CEOs of Tomorrow and Empowering Young Men to Excel, which total \$150,000. You're saying that a \$150,000 is going to break the bank on helping youth? I literally had over 500 youth registered -- their parents registered them for the youth conference that I just had last Friday and we couldn't even fit them into the conference center. We had to turn away over 200 youth. The need is there, and the schools are saying that there is no other type of youth conferences like that. So I would -- those two I would like you to reconsider finding a \$150,000. It's not 1.5 million dollars, it's \$150,000. And then I see Next Level Boys Academy on here for 75,000 summer youth -- what is the summer youth program for 500,000? I can't recall."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "That is the program that we award funding to organizations to hire youth over the summer."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh that was a good one. These kids need that, that's why we see so many -- so much gun violence and auto theft and things like what happened in Buckhead when the young man killed a woman over her car. These programs like these keep the young people off the street and actively doing something other than an idle mind is the devil's playground. And then we had Lionheart School for 11,000, and



then let's jump to the District Attorney, so the overtime is coming out off -- so the District Attorney requests this over time for 2024?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "For 2024, I -- the District Attorney asked for new positions, interns. I don't recall an overtime request in 2024, Commissioner Hall, but I'll go back and verify. Off the top of my head, I don't recall an overtime request."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, because one thing -- I mean, I was watching the news for the past couple of days because there's so much news between the District Attorney and the Sheriff and Judge Glanville, they've all been on the news for the past two or three days; and there's videos of them being interviewed that are like 30 minutes long because of everything that we're trying to do to stop the jail overcrowding and the caseloads and all that. If you just Google their names, you'll see they have been interviewed about this and it's not good. So if there's overtime needed, I think that needs to be reconsidered. District Attorney vehicles: So are we taking the vehicles away from them?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "She purchased those vehicles last March, I believe -- I mean, earlier this year in March. So that was funding for specifically to purchase vehicles and they were required."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "They were required, yes, ma'am. Great. Great to hear that. Good to hear that, and the District Attorney's operating budget increased for 3.34 million; what was that for?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, I don't believe we were actually ever provided with what she submitted to the Board, but I think that a lot of that funding ended it up going into her operating budget to cover a variety of different expense categories -- Sabrina, do you recall the details? Yeah, I'd have to -- I'd actually had to ask the budget analyst for the details and tell me where they spread all of the money, but I think it probably went into a number of different buckets. I know one thing that comes to mind is they had a request last year for the '23 budget for professional services for a couple of specific cases. One being the Tex McIver's case that they expected to retry and incur some additional costs on, as well as the YSL case is the one that comes to mind, where they asked specifically for some resources of that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Thank you. And then it goes on to DREAM Metro Atlanta Land Bank Authority for 180,000. I don't recall that either. What was that for, under DREAM? Staffing for the Land Bank Authority?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Yeah that was just an increase -- that was just an increase to the Land Bank Authority budget. They made a request to (inaudible) for this amount and it was approved, so."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You said for a special project?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Well, not for a special project, but I switched all these items listed here. This was funded with a nonrecurring funding source. So it wasn't like -- there wasn't a specific millage rate increase approved for us to use to pay for this item. So we have an overrun in last year's budget, so the Board said, you know, the Board decided to approve \$36 million of items for us to add to the budget in 2023, so all these items were added to 2023 budget. We're just saying that because we used nonrecurring funds in 2023, we don't have the same funds to use in 2024. And that's why, you know, we're showing this list not the Board to know it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So they don't need this 180,000 in 2024?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "In all likelihood, they'll probably -- they might need it, but we just don't have the funds to be able to fund it. We don't have the resources."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "\$180,000? And then it goes to the library programs funding, and there's two of these with the same description: one for 93,000 and one for 150,000. Can you tell me what the difference is between those, because they have the exact same description as well?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Commissioner Hall, I believe that this is the same issue that you pointed out with the Parks Program funding. It includes both personnel and programming. It was an attempt here to include the personnel and just include programming, but we will confirm that for you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. I hate to see some personnel let go because -- yes, please check it. And then I see nonagency, Sadie G. Mays. I do recall that. The childcare -- isn't this for employees? This is for employees; the childcare, 632,000."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So we're going to stop this program and take it away from the county employees being able to utilize this?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Again, this is the same issue as Hakeem identified. Everything on this list was funded from a nonrecurring source, which is why we pulled it out, and we did not have the space to fit it back in within the 8.87 under the assumptions that we currently have. So, you know, we will carry forward whatever we can, like for something like childcare if we have monies that we didn't expend this year we may; and we have a contract on it, we could re-appropriate the balance for next year. But there isn't anything else in the budget in 2024 for employee childcare."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, since I have the Chief Human Resources Officer here, can you let me know how much money is needed moving forward for this for our employees, because I wouldn't want to take this away from the employees. This \$632,000 needed for 2024."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "Good morning, Commissioner. I'm Kenneth Hermon, Jr., Chief HR Officer. We're running that analysis right now. It's based on the trend that we're seeing in utilization. We may be able to comment on that number. We're also reaching out to the provider to see if we reduce the number of employee population that we are considering as eligible, what that does for the cost as well and I could provide that to you hopefully by the next Board meeting, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. That will be great, because I would hate to take anything childcare related away from any employees. And then nonagency says also Reparations Task Force. They received that money. It was only meant -- was it only meant to be one time, the 250,000?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, as I recall, the request that they submitted was a total of 250 that spread across multiple years. We do have a request through External Affairs again, that if they do not expend all of those resources to reappropriate the balance into next year's budget, which we will take into consideration as we get close to the end of the year to see if we have the flexibility to be able to do those kind of requests."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's great."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So things that were funded one time in nature or they haven't expended all of the resources, you know, we'll have to consider all of those as we get close to the end of the year."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, that's great. And then public health reserve for five million. Is this the request that Commissioner Barrett made? This is the one she made?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, it is."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, all right. Facilities reserve, I don't recall that one, \$5 million."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I believe that was the Vice Chair that made that request."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, okay. And what is it for? I'm sorry."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It was a facilities capital reserve. We've allocated it this year, I believe, to acquire a parking space for additional parking at the Bowden Senior Center, as well as additional funds needed for the completion of the public safety training facility -- was there one more? Hakeem, do you remember? Oh, and the developmental disabilities facility."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. All right. And probate court funding, 1.5 million; what was that for? Were there any positions or anything like that or special programs in that funding?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Commissioner Hall, we have to look into that; just talking to Ms. [inaudible.] here. We've got to look into that. We can get back to you on that one; what she actually used the funds for."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, that will be great. Because I'm trying to ensure that we're not just hastily saying we're not funding something in 2024 when it's actually people sitting in positions across though what we consider now, the ORCA stakeholders, because it could be detrimental to our ability to really rectify the situation with the jail and the caseloads. And then senior services, it says quality living services, QLS, I remember that 400,000. Home delivered meals programs. So are we -- do we have enough funding to cover the home-delivered meals program, because I've had a lot of seniors showing up at my free food giveaways, and I mean wrapped around down the street, and I can't even -- we run out of food so fast, and they're asking about the home-delivered meals program as an option."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am. This funding specifically was used to continue the COVID emergency meals that we started in 2020. And so, this funding is -- was earmarked specifically to continue that. We have provided notice to those seniors that that program has ended, and we referred seniors in two ways: one to the ARC, to be added there to the waitlist if they needed -- if they chose to do so. And then we included seniors in our program if they chose to do so."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. And then the Sheriff's overtime, I do recall us voting on the Sheriff's overtime. So this overtime is no longer needed?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I believe the Sheriff included the overtime request in his \$44.5 million enhancement request for 2024."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so, was it -- is it staying in there, because I do see a lot of other pages here with little yellow highlights through Exhibit 1, 2, 2, 4, 5, 6 -- I can't see. Let me see how many are actually here. There are a lot of pages here. But is it staying in the budget or is that something you guys decided to cut?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "It is not staying in the budget. Rather, it is a part of the \$44 million that the Sheriff is requesting and that is a billing of about .54 mils? I can't see it -- .58 mils. So for that to stay in the budget along with all the other items that the Sheriff is requesting, we would need to increase the millage rate from the 8.87 mils that, you know, we have right now to roughly about 9.3 -- between 9.3 and 9.4."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So, are you saying that a decision was made by the finance committee group to not cover the overtime for the Sheriff's Department?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Commissioner Hall, no. The decision was made by the Board, for us to stay within the 8.87 mils that was approved in August."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, we haven't voted on the budget for 2024 yet. That usually happens the second meeting in January, so I'm asking you what is -- what have you included or will be including in what was mentioned earlier about the draft budget vote coming to us."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "At this point, we are not recommending anything that's in the green, yellow, dark blue, or the orange with the purple, or the gray column, because as Mr. Oshikoya indicated, with the 8.87 mils, it doesn't work. The numbers just don't work. So in order to include it, as part of what the discussion is about today, we need some guidance from the Board of Commissioners to modify or change one of the assumptions that we've made. So if we're saying to you that these items don't fit within what the 8.87 mils is expected to generate next year, do you want to raise that number? Or if we're sticking with 8.87, is there something else that is in the proposed budget -- something else that we're currently doing that you don't want to do, so we can add in overtime for the Sheriff or, you know, any of the other items that are on there that we couldn't fit into the envelope that we have to work with."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. I heard a little laughter about the Sheriff not getting his overtime, but that won't be laughter when somebody else dies in that jail because he's short staffed and he can't pay overtime to the people that serve the jail. But didn't I see something in here about a growth rate? I'm trying to find the page. Wasn't there something in this --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- it's on page 3, Commissioner Hall, seven percent."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Tell us about the impact of the growth rate on the budget."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, as I've indicated earlier, we've made on the revenue side of the house, we've made an assumption that our --"

the billable portion of the tax digest will grow by 7 percent. That has generated additional resources for us to use to, you know, to be able to balance out to the point that we're balanced right now. We're still \$2 million off because we aren't yet at the minimum fund balance requirement. So we did assume a 7 percent growth in the billable digest, which means that growth outside of Tax Allocation Districts would have to be at that level in order for these numbers to materialize. It is an average of the last seven years growth, which is varied, you know. In some years it's been 3 percent; in other years, like last year, it was 11 percent, so it's an average over a period of time."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Last year it was 11 percent you say?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. Okay. And that's -- so this list, on attachment 1 with the title 2023 BOC items added to the budget but not funded in 2024; is this a complete list of all of those items, or should -- or does it include all of these other Exhibits that follow Exhibits 1 through 7 that have highlights?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The list that's shown at Exhibit 1, the 2023 BOC items added to the budget, not funded in 2024 that is a complete list of the 2023 items. The rest of the enhancements, I mean, the rest of the Exhibits, are the -- the 2024 enhancement lists, and they are -- excuse me -- they are broken out into categories that sort of coincide with what we've presented on the slide in front of you. There's a list of the proposed to fund for the general fund. That list totals 49 -- sorry, 12.5 million. And then exhibit -- that's Exhibit 3. Exhibit 4 is the proposed to fund from other funding sources. These are a list of enhancement requests that we've identified that could be funded from a source other than the general fund, and that list totaled 13 -  
-"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- you said that's Exhibit --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "13.9, Exhibit 4."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Exhibit 4, okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Exhibit 5 is the list of enhancements that were submitted by the District Attorney and the Sheriff. We have not, at this point, included those in the 2024 proposed budget. Exhibit 6 is -- excuse me -- a list of enhancements that were received by departments that are actually -- were actually already included in the base budget. And that list is the one, I think, that totals the 49 -- 49.2 million. And then Exhibit 7 is the list of enhancements requests that corresponded to what's in the gray column on the slide. And these were the items that in our review did not meet the rules based criteria that we use. These were mostly requests for program expansions or new programs."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Can you just go over what the rules based criteria was and how it was used to make the determination, because I can't -- I know, Hakeem provided it to me, but I cannot find it."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It isn't before me right now?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So when we were reviewing the enhancement requests, we looked at those -- we had to come up with some way of evaluating; and so, we thought about items that we really have no -- no choice in, if you will, and we establish the rules which were: it needed to be regulatory, statutory, and inflationary adjustments or a contractually driven increase, or it had to have a like a code -- code compliance or life safety connection, if you will. So those were the -- as we evaluated the enhancement requests, those were the rules that we applied. As I stated earlier for the Sheriff and the District Attorney, we did not put them through the rules based process. We had found historically that that does not work very well for them, so we identified their enhancements in full and listed them in that column. And as I stated, there are a couple of duplications between what they've asked for and what we -- some of what we've already recommended primarily around compensation adjustments where they ask for some specific compensation adjustments, and we have already built in like a 5 percent COLA. We just did not net those numbers out, but it's about \$10 million worth of duplication."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Is that different from what's mentioned in the October 27th memo as duplicate requests almost 49.3 million in requests that were identified as duplicate requests that were already included in the 2024 base budget?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We didn't include the items from the Sheriff and the DA in that -- in that number."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. All right. And then there is an attachment number 2 on here that appears to be a letter or a memo that has no heading, it has no memorandum heading, no letter heading, and -- but it says, Board of Commissioner note to department directors and agency heads: Dear Fulton County Department Directors and Agency Heads, you may have seen recent discussions in Board of Commissioners meetings regarding the 2024 budget. As a Board, we have chosen to adopt to maintain a millage rate that considers the financial pressures faced by Fulton County taxpayers in challenging economic times. We recognize that the millage rate has a direct impact on the available financial resources to support Fulton County departments and agencies. As the County Manager and team work to prepare the 2024 budget, we will face difficult choices and would be highly limited in our ability to fund enhancement requests. We encourage you to carefully examine your own department budgets and reprioritize existing funding to meet critical needs. Thank you for your

understanding and continued hard work on behalf of Fulton County citizens; but it does not have a letterhead. It doesn't have a memo head. So who wrote this?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, that was provided as an attachment to the September 28th meeting -- I mean, to the September 28th memo. At the September -- second meeting in September when we presented the first update to the development of the '24 budget, there was discussion amongst the Board Members about providing a letter or a memo to all department heads including elected officials and justice partners around the pressures that we were facing. So in our effort to communicate to you what we would be doing in the budget process when we would provide you with the enhancement requests, we also provided an outline, if you will, of what that communication could look like and share that with the Board along with a recommendation for when it could be distributed. We did not receive any -- at least I did not receive any feedback. I don't believe the Manager received any feedback on this. And to the best of my knowledge, the memo was not actually transferred over to letterhead -- Board of Commissioner letterhead, and it was not shared with the target audience."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So it was never provided to the Fulton County department director's and agency heads?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Not to my knowledge, no."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. Thank you. Thank you. That's it."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. I think this looks good, I guess, in general. I think establishing some type of priority for -- first priority, second priority. I think, certainly that makes sense, at least as a guideline for you all as you're developing the budget to bring back to us. I guess the only thing for me is it seems a little counterintuitive to specifically leave out items that were specifically added, right? Because then we just add them back again. So, like -- it would appear to me that the items that were specifically added are the items that somehow need to be worked in, because those were the ones that were specifically added. They were left out in last year's budget, and they got added back in. So if you leave them out again this year, guess what? They're going to get added back again this year. So I understand that we have limited resources, and I understand that you're looking for guidance. I would just offer that part of the guidance is look at what was specifically added for the last year and the year before that, and the year before that; money for arts. Every year we add it. So we can do the dance, or y'all could just add it. I mean, the Board has shown a propensity to add that money in every year, since I've been here. The summer youth program, that money has been added in every year. So again, you know, grab your partner and dosey doe. Either add it in or don't add it, but -- and I guess what you're saying is you're not adding it in or if not in currently, but if we've added it in for the last



eight, nine years, why wouldn't it already be in there? Why wouldn't that be an indication that we want it in there? I think it's a great start. I understand, right? And it's not your fault. It's our fault. It's our fault, because you recommended a different rate, and we didn't accept that rate. Had we accepted that rate, we probably wouldn't be having this conversation now. And I heard something about you can change that rate; I thought it was too late. I thought -- well, maybe not. Because there is no way that we cannot add money for our justice partners. Frankly, that's life safety. Our justice partners are life safety. So we might need to look at how we define some of these terms. Obviously, I don't think we have enough to fund all of their requests, but I hate that we've put you guys in this position, because we could've made this a little easier had we accepted your recommendation on the millage rate. This could've been a lot easier. We know we've got increased expenses. We know we've got to build a replacement jail, we know we've got a lot of different things going on. We know ORCA money is running out. And so, we're all in a tough spot, but I would just say I like the thought of where you're going, but I would just say think about what's been added every year for the last eight, nine years and what's probably gone get added again if it gets left out. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I will say part of the link is -- part of this discussion just feels like Ground Hog Day in terms of some of these conversations we've routinely had, you know. People up here; they vote to set a particular millage rate. It naturally puts certain constraints on stuff, and then they want to highlight things they want to have funded, which we can't fund, because we don't have the money to do it. So, there are a lot of things were just sort of noted and went through that are things that -- they should be subject to -- I mean, they're several arts added that were individual things. I mean, those should be removed and those should be subject to submission for contract for services just like everybody else, right? I mean that's just good business. It's good budgetary practice. Its good contracting practice, et cetera, right, to have a competitive process. So there are things that did get added last year that had no business quite frankly being in there. So, you know, I agree with what you've said. So I agree with what you put in there and what you've carved out. There may be some things, just like I said earlier; I think we need to have a broad conversation around as a Board. I mean talk about stuff for the DA and Sheriff, okay? Let's not neglect the fact that the two entities that have been -- seen the highest increases in their budget for the past two years, the DA and the Sheriff. Sheriff about 58 percent, 53 percent over the last two years in addition to ORCA related funding, DA 58 percent. Okay, so while we have other entities or governments which have been starved so what. We have stuff in here that is in the stuff that's not considered that are public safety oriented, Marshals to add some more positions. They've been stagnant, should that -- should that be elevated? Chairman Pitts has raised the issue that the yellow block that's, you said mostly the ICS portion?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Market based [inaudible]."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right, yeah. He's raised the issue that he thinks that -- that should be given more high priority, employee conversation and some of the stuff that's in the 12.5. So rather than have for this line item, you know, kind of individual discussion around things, I think we need to have a realistic discussion, give you clear direction, and vote on it before we get to January. Put them in buckets. Maybe, like 15 million a piece. I mean, what is that, 32, 33 in that one, two, three; in the green, yellow, whatever it is, blue, purple. Put it in tranches of 10, put it in tranches of 15; maybe, two tranches of 15 and then successive 10s. And put them in there and let's vote and prioritize on it. And give you that so we're not dealing with this nonsense that in January of this 75,000 for this entity while we've totally not given any sort of thought to the prioritization around it. Let's do it now. Let's do it before we get to January. So I'm going to put a motion on the floor that we develop -- ask you to develop a prioritization tranche for us to consider, and then we have a discussion around that, and that we approve that in December. And that could be used for, you know, the full development of the budget that's going to get approved in January. And then we commit ourselves to that. And we got a robust dialogue around it. That's my motion. Okay. That fails for lack of a second. But I'm asking you and directing you, just like everybody else up here asking you to do certain things, I'm asking you to put forth, bring us something in a privatization bucket, 15, 15, 10, 10, and let us have a discussion about it whether we want to have a work session around it, whether we want to bring it forth at the individual Board level, but we do that in December."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where are we? And what was your motion?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It failed. I'm in the queue."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Mr. Chairman --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It failed. I'm in the queue."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Mr. Chairman, just to bring up to speed, what I'd recommended -- I actually put a motion on the floor for -- it wasn't seconded -- was that we ask -- we have the management team bring to us prioritization buckets 15, 15, and 10 and 10, and that in the month of December we vote on those prioritization buckets so that we've agreed upon and we've got a framework for the final budget that's going to be approved in January. I didn't get a second, I voted on it. So I've asked them to do it anyway just like I've got purview to do anyhow. But I hope that when can get to December and actually vote and give them clear direction as opposed to this nonsense we've had over the past few years at getting to December, and it becomes a free for all in the second meeting, and prioritization is out the damn window."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to go back to something that Sharon said, and I want to make sure that I wrote it down correctly. Madam CFO, I wrote that you said we've had very good financial performance over the past eight to nine years; is that correct or does it need to be modified?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It is. That's the statement I made from the first slide, meaning -- I guess the only caveat I might add to that would be the one year where we had to reset the tax digest, and you can see that blip in, I think that's 2018. But that was a timing issue, but overall, yes, we've had good financial performance."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. Thank you very much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I like the idea of having some buckets. Now what amount those buckets are in and where they are, I don't know that I necessarily in the same place where Commissioner Ellis is, but I do like the idea of having buckets and prioritizing them. But again, the amounts and then, you know, tying ourselves to it. I might change my mind tomorrow. So I think it makes sense. I think we do need to provide you guys the guidance because, frankly, again, it's our fault, we're being inconsistent. You know, we're asking for all this stuff and then when you recommend the millage rate that we need in order to service all of these requests, we don't vote for that. And so that's frustrating. We know we've got these needs. We know ORCA is running out. We know we got to keep these people on board. And so, I don't understand why we wouldn't support the millage rate recommendation? It would've gotten us where we need to be. I mean, yes, there's always underruns, right? Usually there's always money left over. But, I mean, these requests are serious. I mean, we can't -- we can't lose these investigators and these DAs and the Sheriff's office, it's been hard enough trying to hire these people. So I guess we're all frustrated, but hopefully we'll get some good government out of our frustration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anything else, Mr. Manager, Madam CFO?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No, sir, on our update for today. Thank you for your time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wait a minute. Just quickly, go back to page 3. I mentioned the Risk Management Fund. The other one I needed to hear you -- your comment on where it says specifically, no increase in funding for inmate outsourcing beyond FY 2023. That's a firm statement, correct? That's what included here."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. It means that currently the '24 numbers do not include any incremental funding for inmate outsourcing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So that means then that the -- although the judge took the Mississippi deal off the table, but the other one in the south is still in play; is that correct, subject to funding?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I'm not certain what the Sheriff is -- who he's talking to."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I know there's a discussion about the subject. But there's no money for it and it's not included in this reporting. That's my only point?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That's correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, ma'am, that's all I wanted to know. Madam Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. I'm confused. What directive are we giving the executive team over here because I'm confused? Are we telling them to look -- come back with a recommendation and then we said, no? Hey, I get it. It's things that I had on my list that I've taken off. So I'm just trying to get an understanding here about the funding. I know the Risk Management Funding is going to be an issue, Chairman, whether we want to say it or not. But what -- and it could be me, okay? I'll take -- I'll take the blame. I'm confused as to what directive we have given the executive team. So maybe the executive team needs to tell me what directive y'all understand that y'all have, because I clearly don't understand, Chairman. I'm just being honest."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Can I help you out?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. So it's pretty clear. When we -- the Manager and his team recommended a millage rate of nine point something, right? That would have covered a lot of stuff, and I think Commissioner Arrington addressed some of that. This Board -- and I voted against that. And I stand by my vote, but this Board -- four of us voted for was a millage rate of 8.87. That generates X number of dollars, so all of this stuff that we've been talking about today is going to have to fit in what that 8.87 will generate. They've done a great job, first pass, at fitting programs into that 8.87. And the final analysis though it's going to be -- it will depend upon what four us want to have happen. I think they've done a great job, and we're going to have to manage every year, tough decisions. We knew and I'll say it, and I'll say it probably 20 more times. We knew, probably, the worst thing that happens when we got that \$206 million -- what is that money called? ARPA money; and we put that -- that's probably the worst thing that happened, because we just spent it like it was water. But we knew that that \$75 million that we allocated for -- I hate that term, justice partners -- that group. We knew and it was said over and over and over again, and all those positions were temporary

positions that there was a sunset provision. Now, to come back now and say, I didn't know, I didn't hear it. What I'm going to recommend, Mr. Manager, that you and your team, and I'm sorry that Commissioner Barrett is not here today, I tried to get with her yesterday to sit with y'all so -- to go over everything that's been talked about, so no one can say that they do not understand what y'all have presented today. So I'd recommend that you go and sit with each Commissioner who doesn't understand; so you can go down line by line what each one of these programs mean, or a general description of each one so that you can't come back and say I didn't understand, I didn't understand. Well that's bull, you do understand. You got 8.87 that's going to generate X number of dollars, and that's what we got here. That's not changing. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I still have the floor. Excuse me, Commissioner Arrington. I understand that part. What I don't understand is, what do we just -- how do we justify or is there going to be a justification of buckets come back, because I think the Marshal's department has been starved. And so, I know -- that's a concern of mine. So are we -- are we going to earnestly ask the executive team to go back, look at what the priorities are, or are they going to look at priority one, two, and three, what's the directive? That's what I'm not clear on, Chairman: the directive that they're being given today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "They've done their job from my perspective, based upon that 8.87. We may not like it, but they've done their job."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And I agree, Chairman, that they have done their job, but have we done ours? And I'm going to yield the floor to my colleague."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'll be brief. I don't think that we've given -- we've attempted to give direction. I don't think that we've done a good job of giving direction. In fact, we've been inconsistent. We asked for these enhancements. We've asked for several enhancements, and then we vote against the recommended millage rate. We know that ORCA funding is running out. We know that we need more DAs, Sheriffs, investigators, Marshals, all of that stuff. And when the staff makes the recommendation of a millage rate that is needed to cover all of those things, we voted against it. Well, I mean, that's where we are. I'm sorry. I apologize that we are so inconsistent, but that's what happens when you have four people voting. Sometimes four vote for one, and sometimes they don't. And so, I guess it shows the diversity of our Board and that's what makes us great as a county that we -- at least we have great quality staff that can help us sort through this stuff. So thank you guys for what you have done. Maybe, you might want to revisit -- as part of this budget, maybe you might want to revisit a millage rate recommendation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to thank all of you, County Manager and county executives, because you're doing exactly what you're supposed to be doing; but as an elected official, no matter what you bring to me, I'm going to always vote the people. What the people tell me they want. So I don't know about anybody else on this Board, but I received a lot of e-mails and phone calls, and people stopping me on the street about that millage rate. And we heard a lot of people come down here and speak during public comment about that millage rate. And I'm always going to vote the way that the people who voted me into office want me to vote, period. And I'm sorry for that if that goes against your recommendation, but they are my voters, and they overwhelmingly let me know exactly what they wanted. This is their taxpayer's dollars. I only contribute my portion in to it because I live in the city of Atlanta, as well as anyone else who lives of the city of Atlanta or in Fulton County. But they spoke about what they wanted and overwhelmingly -- but you guys always do a great job, and you should already know that without us even telling you. You do a great job. Nobody's here to dispute that. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'll be quick. We just -- I mean if we did everything our constituents wanted -- all the spending they wanted. You can't have it both ways. You can't throw in all the spending and then not raise taxes. Of course they don't want us to raise taxes either, but you can't do that. That's just physically -- we're asking an impossible miracle job of our county team to do something that's virtually impossible to do, so I appreciate the work you guys have put in. I appreciate your due diligence in presenting this to us and I just want to thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam Clerk, continue. Do you have some items that were moved up, I believe?"

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, on page 17. The first item moved up, **23-0793**. Discussion: Inmate Welfare Fund sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think this is good to have this discussion coming off the heels of this budget discussion, and I just want to remind us that the Sheriff's office accounts for about a 188.7 million of our 2023 general fund budget, which is 22 percent. And the funds have been allocated to the Sheriff again at about 53 percent since 2021. So, this has significant impact on all of our taxpayers, how the Sheriff runs his office, how he manages things, how he takes care of funds that are committed for public trust. And unfortunately, we seem to have a pattern of lack of transparency into the spending, obfuscation, and not really providing us with clear

information to enable us to make informed decisions. In turn, I think we'd wind up not being responsible with taxpayer money or funds that are entrusted to Fulton County government. And Harry S. Truman, I think, he had a statement that said, the buck stops here. I feel like every time that we've raise questions and so forth to the Sheriff, it must be something that sits in front of his desk that said give me time so I could find someone else to put the blame on or pass the responsibility on for my own failures. This particular item, we'd requested this information related to the inmate welfare fund on October 9th. We got it in a paper form late; I want to say on October 30th. So I doubt most of us saw it until yesterday. I mean some of you didn't see it because it came in the government office. If you're not down here you may not have seen it at all. The first person that got this information wasn't any of us. I want you to think about that. We've been requesting it since October 9th. The first person that got it wasn't us. It went to a reporter and he had a stage interview with this report. Think about that. Think about that. Here's some backdrop on this particular fund. Year end 2020, the balance in this fund was 10.36 million. And again, just think about this money. It does what it's supposed to do before is for the benefit of inmates, improve the conditions at the facility, clothing attire, you know, toiletry items, those related things, okay? That's what it's supposed to be for. Yearend 2020 fund had a balance of 10.36 million. The revenue coming into it -- the revenues that come in for this are related to commissary sales and telephone usage for the most part. The expenses at that point in time under the prior Sheriff were 1.77 million; yearend 2021 that balance had grown to 12.93 million, with the revenues of 6.47 million and expenditures under now Sheriff of 3.05 million. We didn't get a year end 2022 audit annual report, but I do have information I've been able to get from sources other than our Sheriff, which bears at the yearend 2022, that cash balance is going to dip from 12.93 to 8.92, with revenues probably somewhere around the same or a little bit less. But the expenditures will jump to 9.18 million, versus 1.77 million yearend 2020. Now, we got this information in a paper form, not in electronic form, not something you could sort, whatever. So I added these up on my own for what we are through 2023 year to date, and it looks like expenditures of \$6.1 million through 2023 here today. And you look at the detail on these expenditures, I mean, clearly they're not there -- they're not proper. And they're not proper under an inmate welfare fund, and they're not proper under any fund, several of these things. Promotional events, the end at Sarah B, professional fees to a law firm, tuition payments, conferences, umbrellas and hats, giveaways, commerce club, DJs, Wild Hawks supper, luncheons, photo booths, jugglers; all kinds of consulting fees to a certain named individuals who knows what those are for, how long they've been vetted. We have full-time chaplains that are employed and they're paid through our general fund, but yet it looks like they're chaplains that are paid through this fund, about \$8,000 a month, maybe. There's vehicle purchases of at least, it looks like about, I don't have -- I wasn't able to make the item all up -- well in excess of a million bucks. I'm told one of those is an \$84,000 Tahoe that the Sheriff drives around in. So, I guess, these would be in addition to the 169 vehicles that have been purchased since the Sheriff has taken office. So there's no excuse for this. This isn't oh, somebody made a mistake. As far as I know, the Sheriff probably countersigns all these checks; at least that's the way it's supposed to be structured. So you should have knowledge of it. And this is a pattern of no -- as I've

said at the beginning, this is a pattern of no transparency and obfuscation and blaming others. We've had this discussion whether it's the -- why can't we move inmates to AC/DC? Oh, Atlanta's restricting me. Oh, I don't have the staff. Overtime issue at the jail identified; let's fire some individuals. Had things come about out about deaths at the jail, let's fire the jailer and the other staff. Oh, I could have done this if gave me all the money -- the Board of Commissioners. Let's blame the Board of Commissioners. It's just a pattern. But this is pretty blatant, if you ask me. I mean you can call it what you want too, and there are some legitimate purchases certainly for things that were inmate welfare in here, but there are a lot of expenditures -- large expenditures which I don't think by any means could be justified. There's a notation -- the Sheriff had sent us, you know, a cover memo on the detail saying oh, they've gone through an audit. Well, let me just say, this is not -- this is a gap audit. Gap audits don't look at what was expended; go verify each and every expenditure, who made the signoff on it and that sort of thing. Gap audits basically are a classification audit. Is the cash there? Is the current assets listed? Current liabilities properly classified? Can we verify that there's this amount of cash, that sort of stuff. It's a very limited look. We've done no audit in terms of are these expenditures legit? Did they actually -- were the actual services were actually paid for, actually provided? So I'm only going to ask for and call for a full audit by our internal audit staff of this fund, of the -- all expenditures in this fund, and that he engage a forensic auditor if he needs to do it. You know, I think that we should suspend all expenditures from this fund until we have a clear policy and procedure in place that we understand and that the citizens understand. And we have something that is restricted to the purposes of this, our capital improvements, items for inmate's recreational stuff. I mean other counties have these funds. They put them in there and they generally reserve them for capital improvements and that sort of stuff at the jail. I'm told that we have a problem with repairs and that sort of stuff that are needed at the jail. As I understand that we've had a persistent problem with that and low and behold the way it turns out if we had a fund that's got 6 million bucks a year coming into it, and a lot of the money associated with that is going to stuff that don't have anything to do with it. It's unfortunate we're having to have this kind of continued conversation and ask for clear information, and it's unfortunate we continue to just have a stiff arm when it comes to our request for information. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and I bought forth this accountability Resolution with certain things. We've still yet to really get routine -- a routine clear report on all the elements of that. When did we pass that, Commissioner; maybe, August timeframe; July or August timeframe? Jail utilization, we've committed significant funding around, we said -- I said you can go find me a record -- I said our number one priority -- going back to prioritization of budgeting was to get, retain, hire detention officers. We've asked for clarity and a report back on that month-to-month of where we are with that and those expenditures that we asked to be committed to it. We can't get a clear answer on that. We're having a discussion around of any of that rather than, you know, rather than take ownership of it and why it is so, you know. We can't pay enough, or they blame HR for moving too slow; all again, always somebody else. This isn't somebody else. The Sheriff needs to take ownership and accountability for this. This was a fund that he's had sole responsibility for monitoring and making disbursements out of. And we need to get to the bottom of what we're seeing right here



and why it looks like this, and that needs to start, I believe, with a deep dive by our internal auditors and then setting forth clear policies and procedures around any future expenditures of this fund."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Vice Chair Ellis. I think there's no question that some of these expenditures should not have been approved or should not have been made. I think our Sheriff even admits that and has terminated or said that he's terminated two people as a result of this -- of these expenditures. I think we need to be careful as we talk about other elected officials and how they perform and their job duties. I certainly don't want anyone trying to tell me how to run my office and how I should run, perform my duties. Certainly, I think we do have to be financial stewards -- good financial stewards, and we need to make sure that money is being spent appropriately. The Sheriff is a constitutional officer -- a state constitutional officer. I don't know how much control we have over monies controlled by a state constitutional officer. I've only been doing this for nine years and I'm certified by University of Georgia and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. Everything I've been taught over the last nine years is that once we give money to a constitutional officer, we have no more control over that money. And that the only time we can control money is come budget time. In this case, we're talking about a fund that is managed by the Sheriff; and my understanding, Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis, is that there is in fact a policy regarding this money. And that there is supposed to be a committee comprised of the Sheriff, the chief jailer, and the Chair of the Commission. Apparently, neither the Sheriff nor the Chair knew that they should have been on this Commission and should have been approving these expenditures. So whose fault is that? Is that the Sheriff's fault? Is that Chair's fault? I mean, the Chair is supposed to be on the committee? Why doesn't he know he's supposed to be on the committee? Why doesn't he know he's supposed to be reviewing this? Is that the County Attorney's fault? Is it the County Manager's fault? Is it my fault? Should I have known? Should I have told the Sheriff and the Chair that they should have had this committee? Whose fault is it? Let me ask a more relevant question: Who cares whose fault it is? How do we move forward? I don't give a shit whose fault it is? How do we go forward from here? What does the rules say? There's a committee -- we'll have plenty of time to point fingers and assess blame later, but how do we move forward right now? See my job, as a Commissioners, is not to talk about someone else and how they can conduct their job; particularly, not another elected official; particularly, not a state constitutional officer. My job is to figure how do we go forward? How do we limit our liability from here? I have time; we'll have plenty of time to point fingers. Guess what? It's an election in May. There is an election in May. We don't have -- we don't have to point any fingers at anybody. The voters are going to decide what's going to happen. What we need to do is to look at how we move forward, and it makes no sense to me that rather than talking about how we move forward, we're more worried about who we're going to blame. Well, guess what, there's enough blame to go around for everybody. Everybody gets the -- let's blame everybody. It's

everybody's fault. Now, how do we go forward? How do we move forward? There's already a committee, but no one knew there was a committee. Okay, well, when is the committee going to meet? What authority do we have as the Board of Commissioners to do anything with the fund that is controlled by the Sheriff; state constitutional officer? Can we do anything with the money that the Clerk of Superior Court gets for passport fees? Do we have the authority to do that, too? Do we have the authority to audit that account? Do we need to make some policies around that? Do we need to make policies to say that those passport fees should go to pay -- go to the general fund? Maybe, we do. But I don't think we have the authority to, because the Clerk of Superior Court is a state constitutional officer. Has some mistakes been made, absolutely. Some people have been fired as a result of those mistakes, but the voters -- the voters; oh, come May; oh, come May. The voters will get to decide whether somebody is doing a good job or not. It's not my job to tell somebody whether they're doing a good job. It's not my job to criticize them. It's not my job to evaluate another elected official. Commissioner Ellis, I would never go to your district and tell you you're doing the wrong thing. You're running your district wrong. You don't know how to run your district. I would look foolish if I did that. I can't tell you how to run your district. The voters; oh, I the voters; oh, come May. The voters will make the decision, but how do we move forward in the interim? How do we limit our liability? How does trying to point fingers at other people limit the liability on the county? I would argue that it doesn't. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis -- Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Arrington, I appreciate your apology for the Sheriff. And I can speak up and I can talk about misuse of spending because that what it is what I was elected to do, is to monitor taxpayer spending, how we obligate money, how it's used, and did it go for its intended purpose. And I will do that every day of the week, because my constituents, my voters that elected me are asking me those questions. And I'll continue to ask those questions. One of the other side to it, when I went into his office too, I've gone to classes, I've attended sessions, is when there are misuse of funds, potential misuse of funds, questions need to be asked, transparency needs to be provided. I don't care if you're constitutional officer, the President, the Pope, or whoever you are. So those questions are going to get continued to be asked, and answers should be given. And when we have someone, whether they're a constitutional officer or other elected official, in that the way or that they are using the funds in which we obligated to them and they create potential more liabilities for us because things haven't played out like we intentionally funded for, i.e. more Detention Officers, getting beds at ACDC and/or other facilities still, and decreasing utilization of the main jail. But we don't get answers to that, we don't get action on that, we're obligated to do it. And when strange things happen like we're getting pressure to -- by the Sheriff to give him more contractual authority versus run things through our standard procurement for procedures. And then on the back end, we see some of this stuff that we have seen here recently, it's a red flag. I'm not looking the other way on this stuff. I mean, people can vote in May, I ain't waiting until May because we got a lot of -- we got a lot of taxpayer money that's flowing through right now. This particular fund, he doesn't

have -- he should not have sole control over. And I do believe that we have the ability to have clear procedures around it. And even in the absence of this apparent procedure that was there, or when it was originally created, it probably hadn't been followed in quite some time. That's no excuse for the person that is in charge of it to have inappropriate expenditures going through it. I mean, in the absence of nobody bringing it to the Chair and this committee for consideration, he certainly has ownership of it and should be thinking about what's being expended through it. And the buck should stop with him on that. Again, since he's the constitutional officer, should stop with him. But I believe we have, and I'll ask the County Attorney on that, if we need some further, you know, development or information on it, this particular fund in the way that revenues are produced, they're coming from, not because we have a Sheriff, but because it's a county asset, correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes. The revenue-generating funds for telephone and commissary that fund the inmate welfare fund are generated because of the county facility and because of the inmates who are housed within the county facility."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So it can be treated separately than the way we would treat the general fund in terms of approval of expenditures, et cetera?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Meaning, couldn't be controlled by the committee as provided for in the ordinance?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Or any sort of ordinance? We could set forth whatever procedure we wanted around it. And this Board or some subset of this Board or, you know, put our on procurement procedures around things that are contracted, et cetera. We could spell that out. We have the ability to do that."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I would have to do an additional research --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- but my initial research indicates that there is precedent for considering that to be county property. And the entire fund is established through an ordinance that was passed by this Body, so it would stand to reason that the way that it is managed or handled could be modified by this Body."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, okay, all right. Well, if you could get us some additional detail to the extent necessary on that, I think that would be good."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I will do that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So my position has been mentioned in this. First of all, I've not seen this report, Commissioner Ellis. Michael, I'd like to get that report. I want to go through it with a fine-tooth comb. But if there's one iota of truth to what you said today,

this does not look good. And if I'm supposed to be on it, you can rest assured from this day on we will know where every penny is going, point number one. Point number two, I totally support an audit of this fund. I've been asking for some time now, how much money is it. I've got an answer to that today if your numbers are accurate, Vice Chair. But I would say, rather than having our auditor do it, I'd like to have a forensic audit done, then we can talk about that you -- both of us are on our own audit committee, so we'll get to the bottom of this. I would also like to know who has signed the checks. That should be easy to determine. And lastly, Vice Chair, you mentioned suspending any, as of today, any further expenditures from this fund. And Madam County Attorney, I hear you saying that since that fund was set up by this Board that we then have the right to make whatever adjustments, changes that we feel are appropriate. And I'll get with you, and since I'm on this committee, and I don't know whether it's three people on the committee, whether it's a majority vote, or what. But my vote will be not to spend one more penny from this fund until such time as that forensic audit is done. Now, this opens up a whole other can of worms about what's been happening here. So I'll get with you the minute this is over. I support a forensic audit, and I support the suspension of any further expenditures from this fund. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman -- strike -- yes, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. At times like this, I always feel like I got to do apology first. Because I know my comments, depending on who you talk to, will not be received well. Fiscal responsibility and accountability knows no color, it is not Black, it is not White, it is not Democrat or Republican. It is what is right. And I'm asking, openly as an elected official, for the Sheriff to return those funds. Why? Because my phone rings from early morning to late at night with parents, with wives, with kids, with the relatives of inmates that are trying to get out, that for whatever reason, have been given a date to be released and are still there. And you're right, I can't tell the Sheriff what to do with the inmate fund. But I think it sends a very mixed message to taxpayers when we have funds that are allegedly being used for gift cards, for giveaways, for flowers, for personal. Come on you all, it does not take a rocket scientist to know the difference between right and wrong. And I want to apologize to other departments, because I see how we make other departments jump through hoops for what they need. And then when we ask for accountability from our Sheriff, yes, he had to fire someone. But at the end of the day, my name is on a ballot just like his. He came into this Body, and said that the accountability legislation was nothing, it meant nothing to him. His words, not mine. There must be some level of accountability. It is not good enough to say, well, the committee didn't meet. It's not good enough to say, well, I'm going to fire someone because it happened on your watch. My personal plea, put the money back. It's sends a horrible message to the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County, who many of them have loved ones in that facility for those expenditures, allegedly, I've looked at the list. But at the end of the day, we are all stewards of taxpayer dollars. And we have every right to ask for accountability. And accountability starts with putting some of that money back. If you are right, if you are a constitutional officer, then you take the good with the bad, and you make the changes that you need to make. Because in conscious, how do I sit up and tell the taxpayers that I approve

funding for the Sheriff when there's an inmate welfare fund. The name says everything, inmate welfare fund. It's not to be used for other than the welfare of the inmates. A Thanksgiving Drive is not for the inmate's welfare. Flowers, Honey Baked Ham cards are not for inmate welfare. We just had a conversation with this executive staff on where we're going to cut the fat, where we going to cut the lean. But we're not supposed to ask the Sheriff for accountability? That is part of our job as taxpayers' stewards of the money that comes in. We must ask for accountability or more importantly, I am asking for the Sheriff to put that money back."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I honestly, I had no knowledge of this fund and its existence until a few days ago. And I did meet with the Sheriff yesterday. And he assured me that he will be fully transparent, so I think he would welcome an audit to be transparent, to really show that he can be transparent. I'd also like, if possible, instead of getting a hard copy of these numerous pages of all the expenditures, if we could get a digital copy so that we, as Commissioners, can sort and check and run our own analysis of the expenditures on this account for own personal knowledge. On here, he pays \$45,000 a month for a software subscription called Note Active. And when I asked him about it, he said that that really digitizes every interaction within the facility that inmates have. So they should be able to pull up for the audit, interactions, how often is this part-time Chaplain who has a full-time job as a church pastor that gets \$6,000 a month, how much is he interacting in the system. So I think we can get the information and I welcome moving forward with an audit."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, what a tangled web we weave. Oh, what a tangled web we weave. I have no problem with an audit of this fund and all the other funds where monies have been misappropriated. Let's start with Al Nash in the Development Authority and Bob Shaw. Let's ask them to put the money back. Al Nash, Bob Shaw, put the money back. Let's start there. Tina Robinson, put the money back. Put all the passport fee money back. Let's -- how long y'all want this list to be? How many people we're going to ask to put some money back? How -- who else y'all want to go back to? Who was before that? Juanita Hicks, put the money back. Let's go back and -- because we can't be stewards and ask for money to be put back from one place, and not ask for it to be put back from somewhere else. How much money did Al Nash and Bob Shaw get at the Development Authority? Why we didn't ask for that money back? Why we didn't audit them? Hmm, crickets, crickets. Oh, what a tangled web we weave. We could do an audit. I don't have a problem with doing an audit. Guess what, I -- my name not nowhere on none of that stuff. I don't care about doing an audit. But I don't know why we would pay more money. To me, it would only make sense for us to do that internally with the auditor we're already paying. We going -- we're going to spend some more money to do? All right, let's do a forensic audit on Bob Shaw and Al Nash. Let's do a forensic audit on Tina Robinson, on Juanita Hicks. Who else y'all

want to get? Who else got mismanaged? Let's go -- let's go to Paul Howard. Let's do an audit on him. Let's do that. Come on, who else y'all want to put on the list? Who else been mismanaging money? Where do you want to start, and where do you want to go? I have no problem supporting the audit. But to me it does not make sense to spend any money to pay some outside person to do an audit. We, I think we have a professional auditor that we hire and that we already pay. So we -- somebody misspent some money, so we're going to go spend some more money to see how much money they misspent. Whoa, that's craziness. That's craziness. But we don't want -- but we don't care how much money Development Authority spent. We don't care what Al Nash and Bob Shaw got. They, okay. I wonder why? I wonder why? We don't care how much Tina Robinson, as a constitutional officer got as the Clerk of Superior Court, \$650,000 a year for about 18 years. That's about \$12 million. Passport fees, it's allowed, she's a constitutional officer. You could audit it all you want. It's allowed under the law. So, hey, you know, it's a lot of stuff going on. We -- it's so hypocritical to see people want to apply stuff when they want to apply it, and not apply it everywhere and equally to everyone. It is astounding how hypocritical we are. It is astounding that people only want to do it for political purposes. It's just absolutely astounding."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. My first question is, what exactly is the inmate welfare fund supposed to legally be used for? Because I've looked through everything from the Sheriff, and I cannot find anything that speaks to that."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The only guidance that is provided is in Fulton County Code 146.81, regarding the establishment of the jail welfare fund. And it simply indicates that all disbursements of the funds will be for the welfare of persons who are committed to the jail. So it's essentially, exactly what the title is. It's a fund that is supposed to be spent for the benefit of the inmates."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right, thank you. And then I have sat here and listened to these comments and requests. And it appears that perhaps, a memo has been missed by some of those on this Board dated October 30th, and subject line: Inmate welfare fund remediation efforts. In this memo it specifically states that it was discovered that two staff members assigned purchases to the wrong fund, the IWF form, which stands for inmate welfare fund, which should have come from operating or other budgets. And this was found out because the County Finance Director send an email with 2022 IWF expenditures, requesting information. And in researching his inquiry, there was a preliminary review of the information provided in -- this is how this was found out. Upon immediate notification it says, decisive steps were taken to rectify the situation internally. The Fulton County Sheriff's office Chief of Staff met with the Chief Deputy, the Chief Counsel, the Fulton County Sheriff's office HR director, and the Commander of the Professional Service -- Professional Standards, to discuss the first steps. And these steps began with replacing the responsible person on administrative leave while a review was initiated. This administrative leave began September 28th, 2023 resulting in

dismissal of the employee on October 11th, 2023. And another employee responsible had been previously dismissed from the Fulton County Sheriff's office. And it goes on to say that additionally, staff contacted the County Purchasing and Finance Departments to begin the process of utilizing an auditor for further review. So they already requested an audit. The PJC Group, an external auditing firm, was already in the process of an annual general audit. In a meeting with County Finance leadership and I want to be clear on who the County Finance leadership is. Can -- Mr. County Manager or Madam CFO, can you tell me who that would be?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I haven't seen the memo, but Michael Shoates did come over and meet with me and Hakeem and Ray Turner, the Director of Finance and the Deputy Director of Finance, about his request for an audit. And we did have the external Auditor come in and join that conversation."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. So then this is accurate. It says, in a meeting with County Finance leadership, the Fulton County Sheriff's office Chief of Staff, who is Michael Shoates, requested the PJC Group, which on here it external auditing firm, to provide a more detailed review of practices and expenditures for evaluation. The audit is ongoing, while a parallel internal review has been initiated. So there is audits going on all over the place. The internal review has included the Fulton County Sheriff's office, internal Auditor, Chief Counsel, Chief of Staff, Chief Jailer, Chief Deputy Financial System Manager, and a new Fulton County Sheriff's Finance Director that began October 14th, 2023. Immediate actions stemming from the review included, termination of the Financial Administrator, in parentheses, the Fund Administrator. Immediate termination of contracts not compliant with the use of fund; immediate change in approval and signature authority; immediate compliance with best practices for procurement of goods and services and implementation of Fulton County Sheriff's office and County procedures, where appropriate, including requiring vendor registration, quotes and bids of, as appropriate, sign off and approval, ongoing internal revenue -- ongoing internal review by the internal Auditor, proper use of requisition forms. And it states, as the audit and reviews are conducted, we are instituting changes necessary for the use of the IWF, which stands for the Inmate Welfare Fund. Strict directions, approval chains and reviews are ongoing. Upon conclusion of the audit, follow up information will be provided. So we see that there are audits going on. There have been meetings with, not only the Fulton County Executive County Finance leadership, but also those in authority in Fulton County Sheriff's office. And there are a lot of remediation going on and ongoing audits. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Vice Chair Ellis. Again, I'm supportive of the audit. I would hate to see the inmates suffer. I don't know how long an audit is going to take or whatever. I think it would be a huge mistake for us to freeze the inmate welfare fund until the audit is done. If we want -- if we have the authority and if we want to adopt different procedures for a disbursement of that money, then to me

that would make sense. But to just freeze up the fund and not allow for any inmate welfare to occur for three, six, nine months or more, to me, would be a huge mistake. So I just offer that to my colleagues so, you know, we certainly don't need to punish the inmates for this. They've been punished enough."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Anything further? Okay. Again, lack of transparency, obfuscation, delay of providing us with information, and a scramble around to present us with spin. This thing doesn't need internal review within the Sheriff's Department. It needs external review, outside parties looking at it, deep dive, and that needs to be the source of our information. I can't rely upon what's coming from folks that report to the Sheriff. And you'll think about and you -- when you do internal audit, principles related to that, external sources, whether that's our internal auditor or a forensic auditor. PJC Group is auditing gap stuff, that's -- we're not going to get anything from that, that sort of material irrelevant. So a lot more information that we need to -- we need to garner from this. And I think a lot of changes need to be made. And we need to start getting some level of accountability. Thanks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. Colleagues, it's 1:33, I'll entertain a motion for lunch, Executive Session of items of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

**Recess for Executive Session at 1:33 p.m.**

**Back in Regular Session at 2:51 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Items from Executive Session. Ellis, Vice Chair. Madam County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Three items from Executive Session for action. Number one, is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item one of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Let's vote, please."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item three of the Executive Session agenda with the reservation of right not to pay judgment?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Please vote."



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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And is there a motion to opt in to the multi-district litigation class action suit regarding polyfluoroalkyl substances designated in item six of the agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "No further action items from Executive Session."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam County Attorney. Madam Clerk, continue please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Item moved up on the Regular Meeting agenda on page 17, **23-0794**, Discussion: Financial implications of the decision to extend ORCA position hiring through the end of 2023, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Madam CFO, can you -- are you going to answer this or Adams?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I am."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So at the last meeting, it's my understanding that a decision was made to allow the -- for the continued hiring of employees using -- what's it called? ORCA funding. And it was some financial implications associated with that, that I want to make sure that we all are aware of what that decision means. So that's why this is on the agenda, particularly in light of the earlier conversation we had, given the 8.87. Mr. Adams or Madam CFO."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I'll talk to it. I sent the Clerk a chart that I think will be helpful, Chairman Pitts, in answering your question. Can you pull that up for me? Okay. Great, thank you. Chairman Pitts, you asked -- you asked two questions. You asked, what would be the impact of the decision to extend the hiring in ORCA in terms of the expiration of the current funds, \$75 million funds. And then secondly, what would it cost, both in 2024 and beyond, to fund at two levels. One, the level that we currently have, plus a few more since we extended the hiring through December of this year. And then potentially, if we fill all of the positions, even though we never really had them all filled, but if you wanted to budget that for 2024. And so, I'd like to take you through this very, very briefly. The initial plan, the initial ORCA plan, which was based on a ramp

down, would expire in 2024. Moving across, there'd be no additional funding required for 2024 in that scenario. And in terms of comments, I just wanted to remind you that in this -- with this note that we initially had this program ending in December of 2023. We extended it to October 2024 with the understanding that we were going to need to ramp down over the period of time to meet the \$75 million budget. If we decide -- I'm sure you've already decided, but given that we had decided to fill the positions for the rest of this year and keep them going, it would require an incremental \$9 million in 2024 to be able to continue those positions for the rest of the year. That's at the current staffing level, here again, with some additions for the hiring that will be -- that will happen between now and December of 2023. If we decided or decided to budget for 294 positions, which was the original budget and we know that between attrition and other things, we've never really been at that number. Then that number would be 13 million in 2024, 28 million on an annual basis. The most likely scenario, based on the run rate and what we've experienced, is probably the middle one. It's really \$9 million, that's what I would expect that we'd need given the current rate of hiring and the number of positions that we currently have. So, happy to take -- to answer any questions. But that, I believe, answers the questions you had posed to us."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So did we identify where the source of the \$9 million?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Not at this time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is it accounted for in the presentation that you made earlier, Madam CFO?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yes."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It was, it was in the box with the Sheriff and the DA."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. And so does this allow for the Sheriff and the DA to -- and I guess, others, to continue hiring until, what, December -- is there a --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Through December of 2023, and then to continue those positions through the entire calendar year of 2024."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think this is good. I guess what I'm looking for is, is there any update on the money from the state that I inquired about? Because that money wouldn't have to come from our budget. I mean, this is assuming that we have to pull the money from our budget. But if the state has \$200 million and we can get 10 percent of that, that's \$20 million."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I believe David Summerlin was going to reach out to the state. He has not heard back. And I do believe the County Manager reached out as well, and he can comment on the reaction that he got."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And I did not get an answer as of yet."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "So Commissioner Arrington, we'll continue to follow up on that. But at this point in time, we haven't -- the state hasn't gotten back to us and said that this is a path or that they have the money available and advise us what to do at this point."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So what that means is, in the absence of state assistance that we, the BOC, will have to fund --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "\$9 million is -- would be probably the best estimate at this point in time for 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. And we ain't misunderstanding about that. We all -- we're all hearing it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So that 9 million is in -- you're saying that's 9 million outside of the ORCA funding that we would have to provide?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So essentially, at our last meeting then, did we approve \$9 million when we approved the spending?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So the funding was not approved?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So where is it coming from? I mean, the action has been taken."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, if we don't find the funding, the program would expire in July of 2024, the funds would run out earlier."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, the motion, I made the motion. The motion was to allow them to continue spending ORCA without the ramp down. And so basically, it would continue to -- how long would we funded through ORCA if we didn't add the 9 million? That's probably a better --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Through July."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Through July. So basically, we got enough money to fund all the ORCA positions through July of 2024. And so funding them after, I guess, starting August, then you're saying through July. I'm going to you hold you to that, Alton."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Through -- yeah, I believe it's through July. Our Analysts said July. But I'm going to -- I'll -- we'll assume it's through July. We'll find a way to make sure it gets through --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But starting in August, we would then August through December, I guess is what they're saying is, it would cost another \$9 million to continue to keep those people in them positions. And I think they've been making some great headway on the cases that have been disposed of. And, you know, I would imagine that we would regress if we didn't do that. And all the progress that we made would be lost."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne. Okay. All right, thank you. Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on bottom of page 11 under Open and Responsible Government, **23-0767**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$100,000 to provide standby on-site boiler inspection and preventive maintenance services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0768**, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$200,000 to provide standby fencing installation and repair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."



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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12, **23-0769**, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in the amount of \$200,000 to purchase building roofing materials and related items to support DREAM building construction."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Cast your vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0770**, Request approval to increase spending authority in the total amount not to exceed \$46,328 to provide -- to repair to a broken 4-inch line and repair PVC to a cast-iron transition."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0771**, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in an amount not to exceed \$242,347.83 for removal of Carrier RTUs."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0772**, Request approval to increase spending authority in the total amount of \$22,500 to provide plumbing supplies and related items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Have favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 13, **23-0773**, Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$57,464 to cover the complete replacement emergency repair projects for on-site door repair services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0774**, Request approval to increase spending authority in the total amount of \$7,500 to provide HVAC equipment and parts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0775**, Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 to provide lamps, lens, lighting supplies, and related items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0776**, Request approval to increase spending authority in the total amount of \$43,000 to provide replacement damaged and malfunctioning electrical equipment."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "23-0777, Finance request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$395,600 to provide printing and mailing for Fulton County water and sewer bills."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a favorable motion 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."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 14, 23-0778, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval to amend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$18,259.33 to add the new Fulton County Animal Services facility, to the janitorial services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "23-0779, Purchasing and Contract Compliance request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$1,646,735 to provide electronic monitoring and services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is there a motion? Is there a motion? A motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. Handful of questions on this particular item. This particular vendor has had this contract since 2012. But it appears that they were acquired in --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "March of 2023, Commissioner --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- to be specific."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "When did we -- aren't we required to receive notice when contracts or companies have been acquired and we have contracts with?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "We are. We didn't receive an initial notice. I became aware of it and contacted Mr. Shaw, and very shortly thereafter, they provided the official notice of the change of ownership."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So we had to seek that out, they didn't provide it to us?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. This particular contract, prior to 2019, I guess it was or 2020, if I'm reading this right, we had a very few number of people on this, like 16 people; is that correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yeah, actually, if I can provide a little background, Commissioner. And I know I had sent you a note."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I still received the note, but --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "You got it, okay."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yeah. There were very few people, we had, I think at the initial, the first month, we had about 16 people. And then obviously that increased for a number of reasons."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So my question is, in up until, maybe, late 2019 or early 2020, who -- the person on the ankle monitor was paying for this, the monitor, correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And it was a decision that was brought forth, I mean, there was an ask that was brought forth right as the pandemic was starting, or right before then?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It was brought forth before we even knew there was a pandemic."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It was brought forth as part of our jail expedited effort because at the time, we knew that there was some individuals who were in our jail who were not released solely because they could not afford the \$300 a month of ankle monitoring fees."



**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And so, but at what time did we -- instead of the payment being made by the detainee, the payment started getting made really by the general fund for this, right?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "At the end of 2019."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "The end of 2019. And in your notice said the time that this was originally started where that -- where we had 16 detainees. The average time on the monitors was 199 days. And now it's jumped to 242 days?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Which is further evidence of our delayed court processes. And we were paying, I guess, we were paying for some of this out of ORCA funding?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yeah, when the -- when the pandemic started in March of 2020 and we looked at all of the court-related cases that were impacted by COVID, and as you the mentioned, the actual average number of days was 199 days. What we found was that that period of time because the jury trials were suspended that the paying for these monitors as part of that COVID expenditure, was actually allowed under the COVID guidelines. Once the pandemic was declared as not being a pandemic anymore, which is in May of this year, then we started having individuals who were being put on monitors who were not, in fact, impacted by COVID. And therefore, we needed to then use the general fund to pay for those individuals. It did not qualify for ARPA funding at that point."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So now we have 1400 detainees on ankle monitors. We go from 16 in 2019 to 1400 right now?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "We have 1400 right now --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "From us not paying for it to now, we're paying for it?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That is -- well, that is correct. Before -- at some point in time, we'll be paying for all of them at the annual rate of about \$3 million a year."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And 1145 of these are post ORCA?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. I want to get -- so there's this concept of us paying for -- so in theory, we're paying -- these are folks that probably had a bond, and they couldn't make the bond?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, they might be able to make the bond. As it turns out, the bond is a one-time payment, and typically you pay 10 percent of it. What we find, however, and if you look at the research, in a lot of cases, the ankle monitor cost exceed the cost of the bond. And unlike the bond, if you're found innocent, you get your bond money back. You don't get your ankle monitor money back. And I think the other thing is just kind of understanding who these individuals are. The majority of them are represented by the Public Defender. To qualify for Public Defender representation, you cannot make more than \$400 a week in terms of income. The individuals we're talking about here are the poorest of the poor who, for all practical purposes, are in jail because they couldn't find a way to pay the \$300 a month for the ankle monitoring. The other thing --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Or their bond, potentially."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, they could pay for their bond, because you could borrow money for a bond because it's a one-time thing. So if you have \$3,000 bond, you find somebody to loan you \$300, you're probably okay. Finding somebody to give you \$300 a month for four months is a different -- five months is different, different issue."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "As a standard practice in general the metro area, is anybody else doing this?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "There are some places around the country that are starting to realize that --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "In the metro, in our metro are, other counties in Georgia?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Not that I'm aware of."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So we're the only one doing this. And we've got 1400 detainees on this. So in the time to which they're out -- which they're out there is -  
-"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Has grown."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- is grown?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yep."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So we got a growing cost, more people in it. And with a vendor who didn't notify us about change in ownership, okay? And we got an ask for an increase and it's November 1st. And there's a request for an increase in spending authority for the use of ankle monitors for July to December. So this is a retroactive request?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Part of it is to pay overdue bills; that is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "How did that happen? Who's responsible for kind of reporting this back to us?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I don't -- part of this is our accounts payable process. I don't want to point fingers because I'm not sure that would be helpful at this point. But we -- it, our process is --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Whose responsibility is it?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Our processes don't move as fast as they should or could. We identified this as an issue in the summer. And unfortunately, it took us a while to get to this point."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Mysteriously, the jail population dropped precipitously by like, three, 400 people recently; is that correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "The current jail population is 2,981; 1984 at Rice Street and 13 people on the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But it was like, 2600 or something at Rice Street --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- just a few weeks ago."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "And part of that is the fact they are able to identify individuals who might qualify for a signature bond as well as electronic monitoring --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "How many people were added to electronic monitoring in the past few weeks?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I don't have that specific number, but I can get it to you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Would it be something in the neighborhood of three, 400 people, potentially?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It'll probably be close. I do not -- it -- yeah."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So we had a -- so we magically -- so we had a con -- we got a contract, which we've exceeded expending authority on, which nobody has brought for us to ask for some more money. And then it was a decision, knowingly, to put another

350 to 400 people on monitors, which we had -- we had already exhausted spending authority for? How does that happen? That's a simple question."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, I think the -- I don't think the Judges who are -- and working with the DA and the Public Defender understood that they couldn't take those actions because we -- we were considering not paying for the individuals. I think they assumed that the program would continue --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I mean, it's -- whatever, that seems like a bunch of excuses to me. I mean, I'm not pointing the finger at you on that --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Understand."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- I mean, I -- we we've been battling this issue of jail overcrowding, like, all year we've been talking about this. And then magically, we've got this huge drop and it's a significant number of these people are going on to this monitoring with a company, had a change in ownership, which is who -- which is Talitrix, which is a company that we had a lot of questions about here with another contract. I mean, doesn't quite pass the smell test. And then we're being asked to have to respond to something, and basically with a gun to our head, because we've already done it. I mean, it don't work that way, shouldn't work that way. Has there been an evaluation of this particular vendor since they've changed ownership about their ability to do this monitoring?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "The discussions with the vendor are pretty -- have been pretty clear. A&A is a separate entity. The only -- the only electronic monitoring device that can be used are the traditional ankle monitors. And that's the only thing that's covered as part of this program. So they're expected to maintain a very clear line of delineation between Talitrix that provides the --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, I get that. But you know when, I guess, the purpose really when we -- we have that requirement that people provide us information about a change of ownership is that we're evaluating whether or not that vendor can actually provide the services in this same manner. And this thing has ballooned to 1400 people. I mean, this has got to be the biggest monitoring contract in the -- probably in the southeast for a singular county. And I mean, I understand the concept of monitoring and that sort of stuff. But this is a huge number. And it's a big public safety issue if the monitoring it's not potentially being done effectively or they don't have the resources to be able to do it. And the fact that we just sort of magically had, you know, our jail population just drop precipitously when we were told, oh, we can't do that, you know. We got all these people over here, they're violent offenders, all that kind of sort of stuff. But we vetted through this stuff, and then, boom, magically, it's dropped. Just one or two other questions, then I'll let other people get in the queue. This is request through the end of 2023. This is a question maybe for Purchasing. Where are we at in putting together a rebidding of this contract in ahead a 2024?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Commissioner, this contract was not procured through Purchasing. There is a state law that allows the Sheriff to do the electronic pretrial release and monitoring program. And he -- there's an application to provide the electronic monitoring services application that is authorized by the Sheriff and by the Chief Judge. So it is nothing that Purchasing does procure or can --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So you're telling me this was -- this is the responsibility of the Sheriff?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So this delayed payment, not notification of it and all this, this again, the Sheriff?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "No, I'm not saying that part of it, what I'm saying is --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, why not? I mean, you're telling -- he told me he's the one that contracted this."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC :** "He's the one that approved the application to provide --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "-- the electronic monitoring --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, let me --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Has the contract ever been bid?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Let me clarify, if I can. This program, this vendor was existed under the previous Sheriff. When we came to the Board to make a recommendation, we contacted the Sheriff's Organization. And they had two vendors at the time because we weren't doing a lot of this. One of them was A&A, which provided traditional monitors. And the second company was actually moving towards a phone-based system. They were -- those are the two companies that the Sheriff's Organization had approved to actually come in to jail and do this type of thing. And so, A&A was really the only firm at the time that could do this. Secondly, to your point about scale, they scaled up. And you're correct, Commissioner, this is probably the largest program in the state. But we also have the largest jail population in the state. And so, yes, this is -- but it's not -- it was not a Sheriff quote/unquote contract with A&A. This contract was signed between the county, the Sheriff had to approve the vendor because he is allowed to approved what comes in to the --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So now that we're paying this out of the general fund, why can't we bid this on our own? Why shouldn't it be subject to standard procurement? And then if so, have we started a procurement process?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "We haven't started procurement process."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Why not?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Because we are looking for, quite frankly, there's a bit of -- we -- we're looking for some clear guidance from Legal and Procurement about who actually bids this and who pays for it. And this particular -- and look, I -- there are a lot of issues in terms of what we do moving forward. This particular request was designed to pay the bills that we have, and to keep the individuals that we have on the monitors so that we don't have to bring them back into a jail that we've just reduced the population. And this is a reminder, it costs us a \$100 a day to pay for somebody in our jail versus 6.75 to have them on a monitor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'm well aware of what the costs are that are involved with that, with all that stuff, right. But the chronology of this stuff and the fact that we just saw this precipitous sort of just magical drop in a bunch of people being placed on monitors with a company that's changed ownership after our questions about that there are close ties with the Sheriff with, we've already discussed. And the scale of this, I mean, '19 -- 16 to 1400, '19 to '23, and this is a -- I mean, it's -- this is a big expenditure."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It's approximately --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And there are -- and there are -- and it also poses just a lot of questions about the magnitude of that number of people out there on monitoring, and how effective the monitoring may or may not be. I saw some story recently, some guy that was -- had to be released because he wasn't indicted until after 120 days. And then, you know, his monitor didn't work or something, and now he's on the lam, you know. And this was not a -- somebody who was accused of murder or attempted murder or something like that. I guess, I'm not comfortable -- I under -- I'm not comfortable approving this today until I understand what our future plan is for procuring and doing a full-blown RFP for 2024, going forward. I'll offer a substitute motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Vice Chair Ellis has put a motion on the floor, substitute motion to hold. It was seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. All right. You want to dispose of that motion, one way or the other, before --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I still want to participate in the discussion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. You to dispose of the motion to hold first, or you want to be heard now? It's up to you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I would like to be heard, but I think there was someone ahead of me."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Motion on the floor is to hold."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Was part of the monitoring, putting the individuals on monitors, was that part of trying to get a decrease in the jail population?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yes, it was. That was the initial focus of this, as part of the discussion with our expediter at the time."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So is there anybody here that can answer as to where that would have been covered, maybe Chairman, or the County Manager? Is that something that could have been covered by the inmate welfare fund?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You're asking me?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** I don't know any --

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "You're supposed to be on that committee that's --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I know nothing about that. I'm going to be real clear for those who are listening. I know nothing about that. "

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. We -- can anybody else answer that? Is anybody else here? Because I will need an answer to that before I -- I know there's motion for it to be on hold. But I would be curious if, in fact, this was a tool designed to help decrease the population there. I would think, and I could be wrong, let me be very crystal clear, I could be wrong. But I would think that that could have been something that could have been, in part, paid by the inmate welfare fund. So I want to yield the rest of my time. If nobody has an answer, and it sounds like nobody has the answer to that, Chairman, I would like to try to get an answer to that by the next Board meeting. However, I will yield my time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Arrington, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. The chicken comes with the feathers. We can't say that we want to reduce our jail population and not provide ankle monitors. I think there are a lot of reasons for the reduction in the jail population over the last two or three weeks, specifically, one I think the Sheriff has given the Public Defender space in the jail as well as the Solicitor. So they both now have offices in the jail, which allows them to respond and to react. So we've gone from roughly, 3600 people in the jail to about 3,000, or apparently 2900 in the jail as a result of our Sheriff and our Solicitors and our Judges and our District Attorney all working together to reduce the population. So that's about one-sixth reduction. If you go from 3600 to 3,000, that's about a one-sixth reduction in population. Particularly during COVID, these were -- ankle monitors were needed because, you know, we were trying to minimize contact. Certainly, I think they're still needed now, and specifically, you know, unintended consequences. I mean, if these people aren't on ankle monitors, they're not getting out of jail. And the 600 people that we just got down is going to go right back up. I mean -- and I mean, this is not a static number. There are people going in and out of the jail every day, right? So you could let 200 people out one day and 300 come in the next day, right? I mean, this is -- it's a moving target. But if we're not paying for ankle monitors, part of the reason we're talking about having to pay for people to go to Erwin or Mississippi or wherever, is because we do not have enough jail space. And the space in -- and the facility itself is deteriorating so bad that it's being used to make weapons to kill people. So whatever we're spending on this is a lot less than the 4 million we -- this is for a whole bunch of people. We spent 4 million on one person, one man that died due to bedbugs, we spent 4 million. If those -- if we don't pay this and those 600-plus people or more go back into the jail, how many more \$4 million verdicts are we going to have to pay, settlements that we're going to have to pay? I agree with Commissioner Ellis, perhaps we need to look at moving forward, putting this through Purchasing. But that doesn't have anything to do, I don't think right now, with making sure that we keep the people that are out there. Because if they're not out there, if these things are being paid for then they got to go back to jail, right? I mean, the order says you have to remain on this ankle monitor or you go back to jail. So they're not in -- in there, then we're immediately, we're asking for all these people to come back to the jail. How many you said, 1400? So it's not even 600, it's 1400 people. Somebody call the Sheriff and ask him can he -- does he have room for 1400 more inmates. Nobody even laughed at that. We know we don't have -- we don't have room for the inmates we have in the jail, let alone for an additional 1400 inmates. What is going to happen to these 1400 people? Where are they going to go? Can they go to your house, Mr. Chair? Can we send 1400 inmates to your house?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Two of them are cousins, yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's only two. What we -- what about the other 1398? What about the other 1398? I mean, we don't have anywhere to send these people. Keep them on monitors. Do we need to maybe look at figuring out a process going forward for Purchasing or whatever? Yes. But we can't afford to put 1400 people or even risk putting 1400 or half of that, 700. What if only 700 of them had to go back to jail? We don't have space for them. If this is an old bill, let's pay the old



bill. If we need to look at a process going forward, let's look at a process going forward."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm going to call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The question has been called. Is there a second? All right, properly moved and second. Let's vote on the call of the question. Ready?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The vote is open on call the question. And the motion passes; four yeas, one nay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to hold. Let's vote."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Mr. Chairman?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, sir."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Okay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion to hold. And the motion to hold passes; four yeas, one nay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I was a, nay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Two nays? Two nays with Commissioner -- with Commissioner Hall."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Mr. Adams, you have the floor."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I just want to let you know that the vendor has notified us that because we haven't paid in four months, they will have to look at stopping the service. So I didn't know whether that was germane or not to your vote."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It's absolutely germane."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 14, **23-0780**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$756,937.67 to provide project management services for the Urban Redevelopment Bonds Capital Improvement Programs."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0781**, Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$128,792.10 to provide facility maintenance services for the new Fulton County Animal Services facility."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have motion a motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **23-0782**, Public Works request approval of an IGA between Fulton County and the city of John's Creek for water main relocations in the amount of \$3,736,760."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 15, **23-0783**, Request approval of a contract item agreement between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for the relocation of water facilities."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The amount?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "At an estimated cost of \$5,391,245.87."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."



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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0784**, Request approval of a recommended proposal in the amount not to exceed \$118,000 for program management services and the execution of the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, **23-0785**, Emergency Management request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$9,080,000 to provide Animal Control Services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote. I'm sorry, Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Can you tell me what the contract was prior to this, the amount? And was there an increase in spending --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It was about 3.6 million. It's driven larger by the size of facility. That con -- and the fact that the -- they were -- that LifeLine was providing some of these -- it's something, I we covered it in our briefing with you, Commissioner. But that's about the order of magnitude."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And we amended it up to 4 million. Okay. Great, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Commissioner Arrington wants to be heard."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, that's a big jump from 3 million to 9 million because of the size of the facility. The same number of animals being held, I mean, let's go back to the jail. We got 3600 people in the jail. I don't care how big it is, it's still 3600 people in there that have to be supervised. I don't care how big the facility is. The number of animals didn't change magically overnight, because they're in a new facility. That doesn't make any sense."



**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It wasn't -- it was driven by -- I'll let Mr. Kallmyer talk to it. We did take each one of the offices through and the rationale on what was driving the costs. We haven't had an increase in the cost for five years. So a lot of it was catch-up costs. But I'll let Mr. Kallmyer talk to it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Each of the offices except mine."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "We --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Go right ahead, Mr. Kallmyer."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Thank you, sir. Remember, you did promise to only be gentle on my last day. So I'm going to hold you to that, sir. I'm going to hold you to that promise."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. But this is \$10 million."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Be gentle. So we did have an opportunity to speak to your Chief of Staff about this, sir. It really is looking at a 55,000 square foot facility. And I know what your statement is about the same amount of animals. But the amount of staff that it needs to go ahead and properly manage a facility of this size and magnitude, also looking at what Mr. Adams said. It was actually six years of a flat fee, we didn't build the contract in a way that we could actually go ahead and properly adjust our program to the true cost of what it is to go ahead and maintain Animal Service Program today. So we're playing catch up. And really what we are is getting everyone to what the true cost to operate a program of this magnitude is as well as taking away the need to depend upon philanthropic donations. Because up to this point, we've been looking at donations from the community to be able to shore up the program. And the County, this year, went ahead and stepped up and put another 1.6 million into the pot to be able to try to shore up the program. So really, what you're seeing here is what the cost would look like to provide that level of service, but at the same time, to go a little bit extra. And one of the reasons why we picked this location is because it's a desert. It's a desert when it comes to veterinary care, it's a desert when it comes to other services for the community. And we're going to be offering things like no cost to low-cost veterinary care in our veterinary clinic at the site to be able to offer that to the community and people of Fulton County. So it's a little extras that we're going to get because of this partnership. And that's really going to be helping the citizens of Fulton County with those extras."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I'm -- thank you, Mr. Kallmyer. And I mean, I don't know that that justifies a \$6 million increase. You know, we just had a whole budget talk earlier today, which you, I'm sure you probably saw. And we're talking about prioritizing areas."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Commissioner, this is a pass-through, the cities pay for this."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, so you're telling me, you already have an agreement with the cities for them to pay --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Three cities -- we sent --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- all of this money?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- yeah, we've sent the IGAs to them. We briefed some of them in person Mr. Kallmyer and I briefed the top-five cities. And we've sent -- we've sent the presentation that we -- we were going to take your office through as well as the IGAs and so on. So this is a pass-through cost."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Wait a minute. Wait, hold. I want to make sure that I understand what you said. I heard you say, you've sent it to them. That doesn't mean that they approved it --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "But we've had --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So tell -- hold on, wait a minute. Let's be real clear, because I could send you a thousand things. That doesn't mean that you have approved of them. Have the cities approved to pay this money?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "The cities' City Councils have not met and approve their budgets; that is correct. We have had discussions, Mr. Kallmyer and I, with the largest cities that account to the bulk of the cost; that is -- at this point."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I'm going to do a substitute motion to hold until we know what the cities have done, until the cities approve to pay for this. You can't tell me it's a pass-through if you -- if they haven't approved it, sir. You want it to be a pass-through, but if they haven't approved it and they haven't said that they're going to pay, then who gets left holding the bag? I thought so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'll be gentle."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "It's okay, I was just joking earlier."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm hope we will still try to get philanthropies to --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Of course."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- work and get those donations. We aren't just cutting them off and saying, please we don't need your money or your donations --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "No, ma'am, not at all."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- and goods. So I do encourage that we get -- we have a lot of animal lovers out there. And I hope you'll engage the community, and also listen to the wants and needs that they think we need. And I understand the playing catch up. Have adjusted any of our fees that we charge for things?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "So our fees, we change based upon the need to be able to go ahead and adopt animals out, excuse me. So we do waive fees at times to be able to get more animals out of the shelter into forever homes. We also have a campaign that I wish I could be a part of. Going forward this, we're going to be doing a lot more when it comes to licensing of animals. So Ms. Rebecca Guinn can come up with me, she's the CEO of LifeLine, to maybe share a little bit about those type of campaigns that we're going to have. But we still are alive and well with philanthropic donations. We just don't want to make it the --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "-- source to cover the costs of the program. One of the things that I was really grateful to hear is, one of the folks, one of the individuals the court system that we have here, some of the individuals that come to be on the jury said, we would love to be able to donate our contribution for being the jury to Animal Services. So we have set that up, so that's just another form of revenue that we'll be able to go ahead and capture to take the shelter to another level with all these donations. So that's what we're looking forward to is things like that to continue to grow within our community. Ms. Guinn, would you like to talk a little bit about the -- some of those fees as well as the program when it comes to increasing our licensing within Fulton County?"

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE CEO:** "Thank you, Mr. Kallmyer. Yes, we have a -- we do pet licensing in Fulton County. It's required by law. There's not a really high compliance rate in that. What we'd like to do is engage all of the local veterinarians to assist and just tack a small surcharge onto the licensing so that they can -- they can do that directly. Right now, there's not a way for them to administer the program directly. So we think we'd see a good bit more compliance with that. That's one of the proposals. There's some things about the new shelter that are a little bit different. One is, it's four times as large, but there are six times as many animal enclosures. Because the old Fulton Shelter was built for group housing. So you have six or seven dogs in a particular run. It's not safe, everybody knows about the old shelter, that's why you've invested so much in this new one. So there are some real differences in how it has to

be managed and just the sheer volume of the number of enclosures. That's six times as many spaces, animal spaces that are occupied that have to be cleaned. There are things like that, two different entrances. The really exciting thing for us is this, it's a full-service veterinary clinic. It's really a state-of-the-art veterinary clinic that's being put into this county shelter. And so that's going to enable us to provide these services at low cost and no cost to the public. And we're going to be able to start doing that right away when the shelter opens. So we'll have, like, a walk-in basis where people can get vaccinations that are really low cost. We've looked at that pricing structure. We operate our own clinic in that same way. And so we looked at that pricing structure and priced it so that any fees that we collect for that go towards the operations of the shelter. Also the county's increased its coverage for Animal Services Officers. So there's an added cost there. But I think that the main thing the current contract is for 4.9 million, million with increase that y'all made. So it's not quite as much as it sounds from 3 million to 9 million. It's a -- but it is, the shelter is four times the size, six times as many enclosures. And it is a -- almost a -- almost at one cost to be able to operate it."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Is -- what's the difference in costs, like, for to encourage spay and neutered animals and licensing?"

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE CEO:** "There is a differential licensing that's \$10 if your pet is altered, \$25 if not, so."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Do you think there -- would it be better to maybe try to raise that fee, if it's not to encourage people considering you are going to be offering these low-cost spay neuter programs?"

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE CEO:** "I think that's certainly a possibility, Commissioner. One of the things that we'd want to make possible here is that we -- a lot of times it's not a matter of responsibility, but of resource. People aren't getting their pets spayed or neutered because they don't have the resource to do that. So we want to try to make that more available. There's also national veterinary shortage, and that has really impacted the animal population. During the pandemic, spay and neutered kind of ceased when the businesses shut down. And we're seeing some increase, a lot of the animals that we're getting in are one to two years old, which makes sense."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And kind of off topic, if you get a license plate, a specialty license plate, they have the animal ones. Do we get any proceeds from that?"

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE CEO:** "So the Department of Agriculture administers that. And they have a grant program. And we do regularly apply for a grant. The grants are really very small, so I believe the current grant we have may be in the three to \$5,000 range to provide -- to provide free spay and neuter. The way they used to administer the program, I think they still do they take half of the funding and they allocate it to grants. And then they take the other half of the funding, and it's allocated to local veterinarians so that they can get reimbursed for performing spay/neuter, but

there's not a cap. So the regular private practice veterinarian can charge \$500 for the spay/neuter and still get reimbursed another 50 on top of it. So it's not that effective."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Thank you. That's all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah. Thanks for this, and I want to thank y'all for briefing us well in advance. We've known this is coming, we've known it for a long time. We didn't make the adjustments last year to costs, we ate them. And you know, a lot of these increased costs, right, so to pass them on to the city, so none of them should be surprised. You all have done a good job of socializing with it, so they're all aware of what the cost are, and it shouldn't be a surprise to any of them. And as you said, this is -- this is a service we provide for them because they don't want to provide it. We all know that we've had extreme challenges in this area, and what we're about to go to will put us from this level to a world-class level. So I applaud y'all for all the work. And technically, we've got a pass this in order to present IGAs anyway, right? I mean, so, we need to -- we need to go first versus them so they have something that we can present, we voted on, and then they can approve thereafter. So, thank y'all."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Arrington, you had made a motion to hold. Is there a second to Arrington motion to hold? Is there a second? One more time, is there a second. All right. You have the floor, motion."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Do we know how much has been raised through our efforts of seeking donations already since we've been with LifeLine?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "We did share that number the last time we came for the presentation. I don't have the current number in front of us, but we can make sure that you and your team gets that number, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Any chance you'll change your mind and stay?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "As long as you --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "All right, okay. I was -- thank you for all your work."

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

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



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where's the party? Next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0786**, Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to include the transition and move to the new Fulton County Animal Services facility."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' Action Items, **23-0727**, Request approval of a resolution urging the Georgia Governor and General Assembly of the state of Georgia continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia, and for other purpose -- related purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, we just need to -- we're thankful for all that our state and our Governor has done for mental health. But we need a lot more help. There's no reason that the Fulton County Jail should be the number 1 mental health facility in the state. We need -- we're thankful for the money that they've gotten for our Behavioral Health Center. But we need money for mental health centers, over 60 to 70 percent of the people in the Fulton County Jail are there because of mental health issues. And I just saw on one of those long reports, someone had been in the jail for 19 years due to mental health challenges. Someone that should actually be at a state mental health facility. But the one facility that we have access to is full, and not taking any other people. And so we really need as much help as we can get from the federal government and the state government. And so I urge you to support this. This is, you know, we just simply asking for help. I think this is one of the other leverage that might help relieve some of the pressure that we have at our jail."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

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



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And the ACCG was asking all counties to pass this as well."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 16, **23-0789** --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "789?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes. Request approval of an IGA for the provision of pre-arrest diversion and continue resource building services between Fulton County and Atlanta, Georgia."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Any questions or comments? Let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **23-0790**, Fulton-Atlanta Land Bank Authority, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has nominated Kenneth Chris Haider-Bardill for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending August 7th, 2027."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 17, **23-0791**, Hospital Authority of Fulton County, Northside, the Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County appointed Dr. Kenneth Kupke, to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Thomas Gable for a term ending April 1st, 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. This is filling the unexpired term; is that right? Okay. Motion on the floor is to approve. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please. Unexpired term."

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



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair, could you get me the -- rather the Board -- the minutes of their last meeting?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You didn't say that with any enthusiasm. They don't exist. We need an audit."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "County Manager's Presentation and Discussion Items, 23-0792, External Affairs, the 2024 State Legislative Agenda."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. This won't take more than an hour. We will -- today, is the --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "More than an hour?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What did she say?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I was -- that was a little 4:00 o'clock humor, Chairman. We -- today is the first review of our 2024 Legislative Agenda. We've had an opportunity to talk to several of you. And hope to meet with all of you before we bring this back to your next meeting. We have shared an updated draft presentation with you. And I hope that they will please bring it up on screen so we can review it. But hopefully, you all have that in front of you. We are going to be, as I said, bringing this back for final approval at your next meeting. And today, we'll just make a first presentation for the community and for all of you to share your input. Our first priority, and this very timely with Commissioner Arrington's resolution, is about Behavior Health Crisis Center funding. As you recall during the last session, we received the first portion of the funding for the first six months. The facility is now under construction, and we are -- thank you. And we are now working to complete that early in the Session. We are, for this Session, going to be seeking the second six months of funding. Also wanted to mention, on Friday, Commissioner Tanner from the Georgia Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities, shared with the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Human Services that additional beds are very much needed in Fulton -- across the state, that they would like to build eight additional Behavioral Health Crisis Centers over the next ten years. And they also have a severe need, as Commissioner Arrington just alluded to, in hospital beds and are facing a severe shortage of more than 100 beds today. So we will be seeking additional support from the state for our Behavioral Health Crisis Center."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's go."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "All right. Next. Can you please go to the next slide? Okay. The next priority -- okay, thank you. The next priority is about the jail and seeking a sales tax. Earlier this Board -- earlier this year, the Board gave direction to staff to pursue planning for the replacement of our jail facility, and asked that we also move forward with exploration of a sales tax. Georgia law would require that a sales tax, a new sales tax would require passage of general legislation, as well as a referendum for our voters. Such a referendum would give voters the option of how they would choose to finance a replacement jail facility. So we will be working with our delegation to pursue such legislation. Next slide, please. Next, please. I think we're a few behind. Next, next, please thank you. We have had a number of discussions, and this was part of our package last year as well. Looking at the equitable tax burden for homeowners in comparison to commercial property owners, there has been research done by the Georgia Tech School of Public Policy that shows that this is not even an issue that is unique to Fulton County, that in many large commercial districts across state, there is a disparity between assessed value and sales price, especially for large valuable commercial properties. And this puts a disproportionate share of the tax burden on the backs of homeowners. So we have worked with ACCG and the Georgia Association of Assessing Officials as well as our friends at Georgia Tech to review policy recommendations. And we're very pleased that ACCG has adopted this as one of the policies priorities. And we're really looking at a couple of specific areas in the law where policy change could be effective in addressing this issue. One is about seeking additional income data for -- from large commercial properties. And another is changes in the 299(c) freeze process, for those -- especially for the largest commercial properties. This is something that the Board of Assessors has also asked us to review. Next slide, please. I'd like to just note that the first three are the top three priorities that we have identified and would recommend. But we're going to discuss a few other areas as well. This is an area that we worked on last year. This was an repeal of an existing law that prohibits State Court Judges only from choosing the retirement plan they would like to participate in. The legislation passed last year, but it is, because of the nature of it, it requires a two-year process. So those would simply be completing that process and would take effect, if passed, next summer. Next slide, please. We have had this discussion on a number of occasions as well. The current election equipment, Election Day equipment allocation formula really does not fully consider voting habits, particularly early voting, which more than half of Fulton County voters choose. We would like to see that formula revisited so that we can have a more efficient allocation of equipment to meet voters' needs in the process. Next slide, please. In the justice system, we have had a lot of discussion here today about the justice system and efficiency. Earlier this year, Fulton County sought an additional judgeship. And while we meet the qualifications, we were not granted the additional Superior Court judgeship. There is certainly a lot of perspective that an additional judgeship would allow us to process more cases more efficiently, especially in the Superior Court. Secondly, the State Court in the second bullet here, State Court has expressed an interest in a pilot program that would allow for digital recordings of court proceedings, which were already occurring through some of our virtual hearings to potentially take the place of human recording of legislation. There is a -- sometimes

there's a shortage of human court reporters. So this would potentially, supplement that through digital recording. And again, this is a proposal for a pilot and seeking that through state law. And then last, this is one where we'd certainly like to hear the Board's perspective is changes -- justice system changes that would improve efficiency. And there have been some who have proposed the creation of an elected Chief Judge position, today that is a position that is selected from among peers. I'm going to --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "(Off-mic comments.)"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I assume that that is something that Judges -- (off-mic comments.) How do we get to that?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "No, sir. I don't -- I think that was more from an administration perspective. So we'll certainly come back and talk more about that. Next slide, please. Medicaid expansion is something that we discussed here, not only from the perspective of patients, but also from hospitals, which have unilaterally supported -- or reported, excuse me, revenue loss, especially from uncompensated indigent care. And so we have -- this is something the Board has certainly talked about previously, a lot of work this year on healthcare access and something that, unfortunately, we have seen slow uptake of the Georgia Pathways Program. So this is something that we believe will be potentially considered in the next session. Next slide. Last year, the Board took a position on House Bill 30, which was addressing a definition for -- of anti-Semitism and to apply for the Georgia Hate Crimes Law. Just yesterday, the Director of the FBI testified before the US Senate that there has been an increase in crimes that are anti-Semitic in nature across the country. There have also been reports anti-Islamic hatred or Islamophobia, as it is sometimes called. And this Board has also expressed an interest in the balanced approach to those issues and hate crime. So -- or rather, excuse me, across the community. So this is certainly one we've had some conversation with Board Members about and would like to, again, hear your thoughts on it before our passage, we hope, in two weeks. Next slide, please. Hello friends, next slide. Thank you. The senior homestead exemption simplification, this was legislation that was adopted last year as Senate Bill 303 that would have eliminated a renewal requirement on a -- on a homestead exemption for very low-income seniors. Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding, there -- in the need for a referendum, there -- this legislation was ultimately vetoed. The Senator has agreed to come back and revisit this legislation. And we are meeting with her as well as other members for a delegation to try to address this issue. This particular homestead exemption is the only one for low-income seniors that we -- in Fulton County that requires a renewal. And the department has expressed that it is a burden, not only for the taxpayer, but also for the department who have responsibilities for administering this and sending out reminder letters and things of that nature. We've also heard from Atlanta Legal Aid, who has a clinic serving seniors on property issues. And they have expressed that they've seen a number of unfortunate incidents where seniors have

faced very large tax bills because this particular exemption lapsed. Next slide, please. Next slide, please. During the last session, I believe Commissioner Arrington introduced a resolution seeking or a proposal to seek some modifications to the MARTA Board composition. This Board has the highest number of constituents that you collectively represent, but you also have the smallest number of appointees to the MARTA Board. So we would certainly like to continue discussions about how to address that equitably. Next --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "(Off-mic-comments.)"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Commissioner, thank you for the reminder. Next slide, please. This is another recommendation that the Board adopted during last year's Session. Because this is part of a two-year legislative cycle, we've brought forward all the positions that you took last year toward this year. So this about the requirement of law enforcement agencies to participate in FBI's Use of Force Data Collection Program. Next slide, please. We're almost done. Last year, the Board also took a position on limiting the Superior Court passport fees. That is carrying over. That Bill crossed over to the House, so we are continuing to monitor that. We have heard there had been some negotiations over the summer. Next slide. And this is the last piece of legislation that was, again, considered during the last Session. And we will -- we're expected to see this still be in play during the next Session regarding the Crown Act. So again, we've recap a number of Bills, new priorities, positions that carried over as well as several administrative areas. Want to let you know that tomorrow is the first subcommittee meeting on the Fulton County Jail from the Georgia Senate. So we will be attending that and monitoring that. We do expect there may be recommendations coming from that subcommittee that we'll be bringing forward. Also want to let you know that November 15th is the deadline for pre-filed legislation. So we will be monitoring that. And study committees have all of their reports due on December 1st. Commissioners, if there are no questions, we will be back before you in two weeks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Commissioner Hall, Vice Chair Ellis, Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a meeting of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda that happens on a regular basis. During their last meeting, they raised some objection to item that is addressing anti-Semitism. And they sent me an email that I'm going to read to you so that you're aware of exactly -- they sent exactly the wording that they want to be known as their stance on this. And it says: The current version of HB30, not only defines anti-Semitism, but includes examples of what anti-Semitism includes. One of those examples is criticizes the Israeli Government. A number of organizations, including the ACLU have taken a stance against this version. There was a clean version passed out of committee that did not include the examples and organizations agreed to, while not necessarily support, not oppose that version. But instead of letting that version go through, supporters of the Bill

use shenanigans, including the Lieutenant Governor appointing someone for one committee hearing to the committee to ensure it had the votes. To substitute HB30 and pass it out of committee and did not get a vote before sine die because of the current language despite Rep. Panitch making a deal to trade her vote on SB233, a voucher Bill that would be detrimental to public education in Georgia, for vote on HB30. Further, under the hate crimes legislation, anti-Semitism is already a crime in Georgia. I'm not sure why this Bill is so necessary unless it is to deter free speech against a government, which is disturbing because we should always be allowed to criticize government actions. Happy to answer any other questions. This legislation won't come up during Special Session, but it will come up again during Regular Session. Would love to see more action on the Reproductive Justice Resolution, since it impacts so many people in Fulton County. And this came from the Policy Engagement Director of the Georgia Public Coalition of the People's Agenda. And they made it clear that this is their Body's stance on it."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just very brief, just two or three quick things. On the Judge's stuff, I know there's an ask for, like, one more Judge. Make it four, make it four to five. I mean -- I mean, at this point, one's not going to do anything. I mean, I think really that, we really need to stress, sort of, the magnitude of our issues, and really help our delegation understand it. I know there are formulas for this. But I really think we need to have a strong conversation about, we need a different standard, you know, given the breath of stuff that comes into Fulton County. I mean, we got two major RICO cases going on, and we have a third -- well, we're going to have a third that we're going to have to hear because it brought by the State Attorney General."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Right."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And we're the centerpiece of all kind of litigation winding up here because of where we sit. So I think, really think we need to make a big ask --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- on the judgeship piece and push that as opposed to this, you know, down-in-the-weeds formulas that's been on and that sort of thing. So, you concur with that, Mr. Adams?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Per Jessica's point, we had actually been -- put in a request, again, we do it -- we've been doing it every year for the last five years. The state apparently makes us appointed three new Judges."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, I mean --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "And it's -- so it's challenging. Just, the legislative --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- way apparently is the only way to go if you want to get more than --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- more Judges. That's what I --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah. I mean, I think this should really be -- be one of our major legislative priorities. You know, because it's for obvious reasons. And then on the -- I get the homestead exemption supplication for seniors. But one thing I -- I mean, it's not necessarily -- we have this -- we have this gross lack of uniformity between Atlanta residents and non-Atlanta residents when it comes to school taxes. And that's the biggest form of taxes that all of us pay. And I really think we, on behalf of the citizens that we represent that we hear from, because we send out the bills, that APS should have the same floating homestead provision that Fulton County Schools does. And we should make an ask that they put that on the ballot, you know. So just, whatever, somehow I think that that needs to be raised and shared with our delegation. And on the -- I agree that the operational funding should be our main ask when it comes to behavioral health. But it's other Bills in that sort of forth -- come forth in this arena. I think we should monitor them and not just sort of say, hey, we have this arbitrary, just we're all in favor of anything that's mental health related. But it really needs to -- the stuff that needs to come forward, needs to be about more funding at a local level, more beds, both crisis and permanent, and youth and children, children's beds, and funding and support to provide us with more clinicians to provide these services. And that, you know, so I think it's important to sort of monitor this legislation that if there's legislations that come forth, then it's really about that and not about a bunch of other stuff that's not going to move the needle for the concerns we've got when it comes to doing day-to-day, day-to-day services, so."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner Ellis, if I could respond especially to the last point --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah."



**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "-- on behavioral health. I will share with you all the presentation that Commissioner Tanner gave to the budget subcommittee on Friday. Because I will say, it -- it seems to me that it was very much focused on bed capacity. But they just completed -- we have not seen the full bed study. But it's really identifying in numbers about the gaps in both crisis beds, hospital beds. And as you know, part two for us of our Behavioral Health Crisis Center, we want to expand to youth programming and we -- that is certainly unmet need today. They also included some labor analysis of the, unfortunately, the gap between the payment salaries of Georgia behavior health professionals compare -- especially those working for the state, compared to those in other states, it's something that's -- we're already concerned about with our BHCC. And so I think -- I think we're on the same page. And there's a lot of opportunity to do that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Good, great. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Vice Chair Ellis. All right, Jessica, you know what I'm adding."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I'd like to hear you say it, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "HOA."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Absolutely."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "There are these community associations are a huge, huge problem. And we've got to have some standardization for how they're governed and how they operate. And I certainly want to see us add that. And, you know, I also want to see -- you know, I know we have this thing in here about the Medicaid expansion. But I know that there's been pushback on that. So I wonder if it makes sense to address our healthcare deserts and hospital deserts separately from asking for Medicaid expansion, right. Because I -- I don't, frankly, I don't care what you call it, right. You can call it bananas if want to. But we need the money and the resources to address the healthcare deserts, and more specifically, the hospital deserts. And frankly, we need something -- we need to be talking about certificate of needs, and how we can get more of those, right. And so I think that, that's a whole separate conversation than Medicaid, and maybe it's a separate conversation, but maybe it's the same as part of the healthcare and hospital desert conversation. But that's the real conversation, because right now, if they take their certificate of need to Cobb, which that's what they're planning to do or have already done, then it doesn't matter if these

places stay as hospitals, we still can't use them. So we need certificate of needs that's -  
-"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That's a good one."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- life safety, health issue. And so I think that's got to be a big priority for us. I like the election request. Yeah, and we'll talk about this elected Chief Judge position. Where did you say that came from?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "It's something that has been discussed for a number of years. I know Mr. Adams and some others have had discussion, have talked with some of the Commissioners. Chairman Pitts and I met yesterday. So I think they're -- I think that's been an idea that has been out there. But I don't know that it's one -- I can't say definitively that the position of the Judges on that issue."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Yeah, because I guess you would -- well, we have an elected Chief Magistrate Judge."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And the Judges of the State Court and the Superior Court are already elected."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So we're just talking about whether -- I guess you'd have to create a whole separate position?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Potentially. Potentially, or again, that's something I think we can discuss further."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I'd love to hear what the Judges have to say about that. All right. So we talked about the healthcare deserts, hospital deserts. You know, this anti-Semitism anti-Islamic hatred stuff had a lot of different meaning when this was adopted than it does right now with this war going on. But I think I like the changes that I heard suggested by Commissioner Hall to keep it clean. Because I think you can protest the actions of a government without being anti-Semitic or anti-Islamic, right? And so, you know, I think we definitely need to look at a cleaner version. And I don't know if that means, maybe we need to readopt what we adopted to make sure that it was cleaner."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And I'll say this that my recollection is that Commissioner Barrett brought forward that adoption of that support. And it was before us, some of the changes that Commissioner Hall referenced. When

we had an opportunity, and I'm sorry she's not here today, but when we had an opportunity to talk about this, she mentioned that, I think that some of the changes were not necessarily favorable at that time. I'd also like to note that anti-Islamic hate or Islamophobia was not part of that Bill. That was something that we recommended as part of -- as a result of conversations we've had with a number of you all. And also recognizing some of the, as you said, some of the changes because of the war and some of the reporting that we've heard from around the country."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So we might need to try to bring ours back, and maybe talk with Commissioner Barrett before we bring it back, so that we have something --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- that everyone could support. Fine with the homestead exemption, the MARTA Board, we definitely need to look at that. You know, this limit on Clerk of Superior Court passport fees. I would suggest that we, you know, look at amending the Constitution to not allow any constitutional officers to keep fees that should otherwise go to the government. You know, I don't like the idea of singling out one office. We're -- we are all public servants. None of us should be pocketing any money even if the law allows us to, okay? And so I don't think it makes sense, again, to just single out the Clerk of Superior Court when we know that there are other constitutional officers that do the same thing. I guess that's it. That's all I have for now."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Is that it?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I guess, I want to talk more about this Municipal Jail Authority. I thought the reason we were doing that was because -- so that we could avoid having a referendum. And so I wonder if the referendum and all of that is still needed or not, if we're using the Jail Authority."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "So Commissioner Arrington, one thing I would say about that -- and certainly, there are -- a sales tax would require both passage of legislation as well as approval of a referendum, excuse me -- one thing that we have learned is that sales tax referendum can be tied to repayment period of bond. So it is not, I guess, a TSPLOST or something like that. So we could certainly talk more about that. And it's a complex subject, but would be glad to talk more with you about it and really positioning as a taxpayer choice."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. I just want to publically thank you all for the work that you all have done."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFIAIRS:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "This is a, in my mind, a Herculean task to get all of the things that, you know, Fulton County deems as priorities and try to see which ones we can get through and which ones we can't and to lobby on them, the half. I think sometimes because people don't see you, physically see you doing it, they don't know the great work that you all are doing. On a personal note, I thank you for the push for the Islamophobia and the anti-Semitism. I think that the climate requires us to have an additional look at that and see what we can do at the state level to make sure that we're not singling out anyone more so than the other. So I thank you all for the work that you all do tirelessly every day."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFIAIRS:** "Thank you very much, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "All right."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. Any other comments? Anything further to come before us, Madam Clerk?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFIAIRS:** "Thank you very much."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right, well with that, we are adjourned."

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.**