

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

August 20, 2025
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: September 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts

10:00 a.m.

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

PRESENT

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

PRESENT

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

PRESENT

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

PRESENT

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

PRESENT

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA**25-0583 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 Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0584 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Jay Augustine Appreciation Day."
(Pitts/Abdur-Rahman)
August 8, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Rev. Jasper W. Williams, Jr. Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
August 10, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. John Culbreath Remembrance Day."
(Arrington/Pitts)
August 12, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Jim Alexander Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**
August 16, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Ann Cramer Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**
August 16, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Raymond Tweet Williams Remembrance Day."
(Arrington)
August 18, 2025

Commissioners' District Board Appointments**25-0585****Board of Commissioners**

FULTON COUNTY VETERANS' EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

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

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024John L. Walsh (**Thorne**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated David Hofstetter for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

**Development Authority of Fulton County TEFRA
(Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act)****25-0586****Board of Commissioners**

Execution by Chairman Robert L. Pitts of a TEFRA (Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act) for documentation pertaining to the proposed issuance of its Development Authority of Fulton County Revenue Bonds (Spelman College), Series 2025A, in an amount not to exceed \$140,000,000.00 (the "Bonds").

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**25-0587****Board of Commissioners**

Execution by Chairman Robert L. Pitts of a TEFRA (Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act) for documentation pertaining to the proposed issuance of its Development Authority of Fulton County Revenue Bonds (Delowe Apartments Project), Series 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$17,000,000.00 (the "Bonds").

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**Open & Responsible Government****25-0588****Finance**

Ratification of the July 2025 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0589**Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 74 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Vishal Patel, an individual, for the purpose of constructing the Bridges (Lot #5) Project at 0 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0590 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 6,197.2 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Amanda R. Bralley and Krishan Bralley individuals, for the purpose of constructing the Bridges (Lot #6) Project at 0 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**25-0591 Community Development**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between Fulton County, Georgia, as the Fulton County Continuum of Care ("CoC") Collaborative Applicant, and 24/7 Gateway, LLC ("Gateway") in the amount of (\$398,657.00) for Gateway to serve as the coordinated entry lead agency and manage coordinated entry at the County-wide North and South Homeless Assessment Center offices. The term of the MOU is September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026. This item is funded with (\$306,814.00) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Coordinated Intake and Assessment System (CIAS) grant and (\$91,843.00) in General Fund match. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0592 Public Works

Request approval of a Service Account Agreement Letter - Department of Public Works, Drinking Water Laboratory, and Related Services in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 from the State of Georgia / DNR - Environmental Protection Division (EPD) (Atlanta, GA), to provide drinking water laboratory and related services for the contract period effective from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0593 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 23RFP139483K-DB, TSPLOST Program Management Services in an amount not to exceed \$118,000.00 with Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC (GMC), for program management services related to the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST). This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0594 Senior Services

Request approval to amend the memorandum of understanding with Friends of Benson, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports multipurpose and adult day programming through fundraising efforts; authorize the Chairman or any other duly authorized official to execute the amended memorandum of understanding; and authorize the County Attorney to approve the amended memorandum as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0595 Senior Services

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Fulton County Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team (EMDT) on behalf of the Department of Senior Services and the Department of Emergency Management to participate in a multiagency, multi-partnered approach to assessment, investigation, prosecution, and review of abuse cases involving elder persons; authorize the Chairman or any other duly authorized official to execute the MOU on behalf of the department; and authorize the County Attorney to approve the standard form agreement as to form and substance and make necessary modifications thereof prior to execution. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**25-0596 District Attorney**

Request ratification of amended subaward agreement with Chris 180 and Fulton County District Attorney's Office agreements and authorization for signatures to assist in compliance with grant regulations for U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative Grant, Grant Award No. 15PBJA-22-GG-04732-CVIP. In an amount not to exceed \$171,000.00. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0597 District Attorney

Requesting ratification of amended subaward agreement with the Atlanta Police Foundation and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office agreements and authorization for signatures to assist in compliance with grant regulations for 2020 Comprehensive Anti-Gang Programs for Youth Program Grant, Grant Award No. 2020-MU-MU-0022. In an amount not to exceed \$73,000.00. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0598 Board of Commissioners**

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

a. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to adopt the Second Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by moving up item #25-0603 as requested by the County Manager; removing item #25-0574 as requested by Commissioner Arrington; revising items #25-0615 through #25-0619 as requested by Commissioner Ivory; and with a super majority vote adding item #25-0621. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to reconsider the Second Regular Meeting Agenda to move up and combine items #25-0615 through #25-0619. The motion passed by the following vote:

Commissioner Ivory called for a Division of the items.

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

Absent: Arrington

25-0599 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, August 6, 2025

Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, August 13, 2025

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

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

Absent: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0600 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency Appreciation Day." **(Ivory/BOC)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0601 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 Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed sixty (60) minutes at the First Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed sixty (60) minutes at the Second Regular Meeting. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. (CONDUCTED)

52 Speakers: Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk (Budget Resolution); Maurice Kenner (Budget Resolution); Judge Nancy Mau (Budget Resolution); Luana Walsh (Budget Resolution); Reiko Ward (Budget Resolution); Diane Hawkins-Cox (Arts Budget Resolution); Cecilia Ugarte Baldwin (Oppose BRE Appointment); Walter Reeves (Economic Forum); Maggie McCullum (Senior Olympics); Mary Jo Peed (Oppose BRE Appointment); D. Patton White (Arts Budget Resolution); Kayla Nicole Garthus (Oppose BRE Appointment); Kevin Jones (Sheriff/Fulton County Jail); LaQuondria Pierce (Sheriff/Fulton County Jail); Melissa Simpson (Arts Budget Resolution); Margie McCloud (Fulton County Jail); Breedlove (Fulton County Jail); Kannette King (Fulton County Jail); Devin Franklin (Fulton County Jail); Tiffany Roberts (Fulton County Jail); Blake Feldman (Fulton County Jail); Jennifer Acker (Arts Budget Resolution); Laura Hennighansen (Arts Budget Resolution); Celisse Kalke (Arts Budget Resolution); Angela Harris (Arts Budget Resolution); Lauren Waits (Oppose BRE Appointment); Meredith Ragains (Arts Budget Resolution); Stuart Gerber (Arts Budget Resolution); Candis Alsten-Davis (Arts Budget Resolution); Chantrice Buggs (Sheriff/Fulton County Jail); LA Pink (Jail/Sheriff); Dr. Ramatu Afegbua-Sabbatt (Arts Budget Resolution); Aisha Mahmud (Arts Budget Resolution); Donna Watts-Nunn (Arts Budget Resolution); Charmaine Minnifield (Arts Budget Resolution); Patricia Banks (Sheriff/Fulton County Jail); Imara Canady (Arts Budget Resolution); Jonathan Kieran (Arts Budget Resolution); Jodi Williams (Sheriff/Fulton County Jail); Felicia Seamon (Arts Budget Resolution); Peter Hardy (Arts Budget Resolution); Kristen Nabers (Oppose BRE Appointment); Reed Stillson (Oppose BRE Appointment);

Charles Rambo (Sheriff/Fulton County Jail); Mike Collins (Fulton County Jail); Dante Carter (Oppose BRE Appointment); Stephanie Jewett (Oppose BRE Appointment); Leatrice Ellzy (Arts Budget Resolution); Ciara Franklin (Arts Budget Resolution); Ashley Glass (Oppose BRE Appointment); Chris Hayden (Support BRE Appointment)

5 Zoom Comment: Robbie Windham (Arts Budget Resolution); Rachel Carrie (Westside TAD); Christopher Escobar (Arts Budget Resolution); Matt Rowenczak (Support BRE); Cynthia Parnell McDonald (Westside TAD)

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to extend public comment. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, and Ivory

Nay: Ellis

Absent: Arrington

Abstain: Abdur-Rahman

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Housing Authority of Fulton County

[25-0512](#) Board of Commissioners

Presentation: Housing Authority of Fulton County Update **(PRESENTED)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

[25-0602](#) County Manager

Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report. **(PRESENTED)**

[25-0603](#) County Manager

Presentation and approval to proceed with the planning of Option 3, which includes (1) the construction of a Special Purpose Building to serve vulnerable populations and offset the future need for outsourcing of inmates to out-of-County jail facilities, and (2) renovations at the Rice Street Main Jail. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Nay: Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Abstain: Barrett

25-0604 **Finance**

Presentation, review, and approval of August 20, 2025, Budget Soundings and Resolution. **(PRESENTED/APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0605 **Finance**

Request approval of a Supplemental Tax Resolution to affirm the 2025 Fulton County Board of Education millage rate. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0606 **Information Technology**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Information Technology, NASPO ValuePoint Contract 22PSX0086AD, IT Managed Service Providers in the amount not to exceed \$584,000.00 with uWork.com, Inc. d/b/a Covendis Technologies, Inc., (Atlanta, GA) to provide support for IT services and operation. Effective August 12, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

Arts and Libraries**25-0607** **Library**

Request approval to award a contract without competition - Fulton County Library System 25SSREQ1429839B-RT, Automated Handling Systems in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00 with Bibliotheca, Inc. (Norcross, GA) to replace the current units for the phase one libraries. Effective upon BOC approval.

(APPROVED)

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

Health and Human Services**25-0608** **Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County, GA and the City of Roswell, GA for water main relocations associated with the road improvements to Hardscrabble Road Project in the City of Roswell, GA, in an estimated amount of \$431,490.00. Effective upon approval and continue through December 31, 2027 unless amended. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0609 **Public Works**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Public Works, 23ITB458876A-KM, Small Water Meter Installation, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 with Jewel of the South, Inc. (Conyers, GA) to provide small water meter installation services. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0610 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 23RFP140862K-CRB, Building Code Administration Services, Construction Management Services and Planning Services in an amount not to exceed \$185,709.50 with Nova Engineering and Environmental, LLC (Kennesaw, GA) to provide building code administration, construction management, and planning services associated with new development and redevelopment activity within the Fulton Industrial District area of unincorporated Fulton County. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0611 Public Works

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1376191A-KM, Concrete Manhole Parts in an amount not to exceed \$106,624.76 with Ferguson Waterworks (Norcross, GA) to provide concrete manhole parts upon execution of contract through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0612 Public Works

Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (CIA-MOU) between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the relocation of water facilities associated with the bridge replacement and widening of SR 120 (Old Milton Parkway) from North Point Parkway to Kimball Bridge Road in the City of Alpharetta (Project ID #0017187). The project includes the relocation of approximately 3,188 linear feet of 8-inch, 10-inch, 12-inch, and 16-inch water lines and associated appurtenances within Fulton County. The estimated cost of the project for the County is \$1,768,280.00. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

Justice and Safety**25-0613 Superior Court Administration**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Superior Court, 25RFP1386059A-BKJ, Drug Testing in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 with Technical Resource Management, LLC dba Cordant Health Solutions to provide comprehensive drug testing and technology services to the participants of the County's Accountability Court Programs. Effective upon BOC approval, through December 31, 2025 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0614 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21RFP127274K-BKJ, Comprehensive Operation and Preventive and Predictive Maintenance Services for the Fulton County Jail and the South Fulton Municipal Regional Jail in an amount not to exceed \$3,558,014.10 with Johnson Controls, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide continued comprehensive operation, preventive and corrective maintenance services for the Fulton County Jail, Jail South Annex in Union City, and the Jail North Annex in Alpharetta for an additional six (6) month period. Effective Dates: July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**25-0574 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution urging the release of Israeli hostages and an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Israel and Gaza; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 8/6/25) (REMOVED)**

ITEM REMOVED AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON**25-0615 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to amend Fulton County's current budget to increase the departmental budget for the Department of Senior Services **in the amount of \$294,000.00**, based on current underruns in the county's overall 2025 fiscal year budget; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (FILED)**

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

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

25-0616 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to amend Fulton County's current budget to increase the departmental budget for the Office of the Public Defender, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, **in the amount of \$4,897,313.00**, based on current underruns in the county's overall 2025 fiscal year budget; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (FILED)**

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

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

25-0617 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to amend Fulton County's current budget to increase the departmental budget for Magistrate Court **in the amount of \$611,939.00**, based on current underruns in the county's overall 2025 fiscal year budget; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (FILED)**

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

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

25-0618 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to amend Fulton County's current budget to increase the departmental budget for the Department of Community Development **in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, for the Veteran's Services Program**, based on current underruns in the County's overall 2025 fiscal year budget; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (FILED)**

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

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

25-0619 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to amend Fulton County's current budget to increase the departmental budget for the Department of Arts and Culture **in the amount of \$1,700,000.00**, based on current underruns in the County's overall 2025 fiscal year budget; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (FILED)**

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to call the question. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Barrett, and Ivory

Nay: Thorne, Ellis, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Arrington

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington

EXECUTIVE SESSION**25-0620 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Ivory

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the requests for representation in items #1, #2, and #3 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Pitts, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the negotiation of a staffing contract for tower staffing at the Fulton County Jail not to exceed an annualized amount of \$8.8 million as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Pitts, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

d. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve double overtime through December 31, 2025 for detention officers and deputies providing detention services at Fulton County jail facilities, as determined by information in the Kronos timekeeping system; however, if information about the work locations of Sheriff's Office staff as previously requested in a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners is not provided within 60 days, this double overtime funding will not continue. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Pitts, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

ADDED TO THE MEETING**Items Added to the Agenda****25-0621 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Process for appointment of members to the Fulton County Board of Registrations and Elections in light of another recent court order. **(Thorne)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to add item #25-0621 to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve the nominations of Julie Adams and Jason Frazier to the Board of Registration and Elections. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, and Ellis

Nay: Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Pitts, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
SECOND REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC
"A Court Reporting Firm"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Good morning, everyone and welcome to the Second Regular meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is August 20th. It is 10 o'clock a.m. 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 BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Mo Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr. Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman. Mr. Chairman, you have a quorum."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Please rise 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: "All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **25-0583**, 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 Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any items on the Consent Agenda, Madam Clerk? Commissioners: none? All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as printed. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 5, Second Regular Meeting Agenda: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board we have an item requested to be added to today's agenda by Commissioner Thorne, 25-0621, Discussion: Process for appointment of members of the Fulton County Board of Registrations and Elections in light of another recent court order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. This will require a supermajority of five. This relates to the judge's order, correct? All right. Let's vote to add it."

CLERK GRIER: "I need a motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, let's go."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0598**, Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have some amendments to today's agenda. On page 6, 25-0603, the County Manager would like to have this item heard before 25-0602, on page 6."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "Item to be removed on page 9, 25-0574, Commissioner Arrington has requested to remove the Resolution urging the release of the Israeli hostages."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "And items to be revised, Commissioner Ivory's items on page 9, she would like her items revised to include the dollar amount and the requested actions, 25-0615: Request approval of a Resolution to amend Fulton County's current budget to increase the departmental budget --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- just give us the amounts."

CLERK GRIER: "For the Department of Senior Services in the amount of 24 -- 2,904; 25-0616, to increase the departmental budget for the Office of the Public Defender 4,897,313; 25-0617, to increase the departmental budget for Magistrate Court, 611,939; 25-0618, to increase the budget for the Department of Community Development in the amount of \$1 million; and 25-0619, to increase the budget for the Department of Arts and Culture for 1,700,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

CLERK GRIER: "And that's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioners, any items? Any other amendments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain a motion to adopt as amended. Motion to do so by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0599**, Ratification of Minutes. First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, August 6th; Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, August 13th 2025."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0600**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "How many, just one?"

CLERK GRIER: "Just one: Proclamation recognizing 'Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Ivory with Full Board support."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Good morning. Come down, everybody. All right. This is an honor of our Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agencies, and I first of all wanted to start off to let you know that this proclamation this morning we invited former EMA directors to include Ellis Stanley who was here during the Olympics, and Will Smith who is now at Georgia Tech. Mr. Ellis was around for many years and is

widely known in the Atlanta community, so I wanted to welcome both of them for this proclamation here today. The Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency is the lead county organization responsible for providing coordination and management of preparedness response, recovery, prevention, and mitigation activities within Fulton County; and WHEREAS, emergency management originated in the 1940s as the Atlanta Fulton Civil Defense Office, a volunteer led unit supporting the national home guard and air raid system during World War II. The agency was established by the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, and adopted its current name in 1982 under the General Emergency Management Act; and WHEREAS, AFCEMA leadership in collaboration with local, state, and federal partners ensuring public safety for multiple special events hosted in Atlanta including the 1996 Olympics, the 2018 and 2025 National College Football Championships, Super Bowl 53, and the 2022 Vista Voyage Atlanta Exercise; and WHEREAS, in 2020, AFCEMA led the Fulton County COVID-19 pandemic operations consisting of testing mobile sites around the county with support from partner agencies and municipalities. This response included the largest community vaccination center in the southeast at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and this collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Georgia Emergency Management Agency administered over 300,000 vaccines; and WHEREAS, AFCEMA continues to innovate and lead and emergency management from extreme weather to public health crises and Homeland Security events ensuring that Fulton County remains equipped to face any emergency with strength, coordination, and care. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends the Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency for 75 years of commitment to community readiness and resilience; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 20, 2025, as 'Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency Appreciation Day' here in Fulton County, Georgia. Thank you."

JOSEPH BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, RECIPIENT: "Thank you, Commissioners, and thank you for the fantastic support you've given us through the years. I said earlier today to a former EMA director that you made an incredible foundation so the house is built on a very solid ground, and I'm very grateful for that. And we will continue to grow this house and provide a service to our citizens. So with that said, thank you to building the house that we all live in now and allowing us to just grow this organization to where it is today. Thank you."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, Public Hearings, **25-0601**, Public Comment: Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing by registering on the County website, www.fultoncountygga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached

prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 47 speaker cards. Will the first --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- how many on Zoom?"

CLERK GRIER: "Fourteen on Zoom."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. That's 47, so we've got one hour for public comment. So what I'd like to ask you, if someone has said what you were going to say, please don't feel it's necessary to repeat it because we hear you. And if you could keep your remarks under two minutes, that would be appreciated as well. We have one hour for public comment, so 47 times two is about an hour and a half probably, plus those that are on Zoom. All right, let's go."

CLERK GRIER: "Will the first six speakers, please come forward: Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk, Maurice Kenner, Judge Magistrate -- Magistrate Judge Nancy Mau, Luana Walsh, Reiko Ward, and Diane Hawkins-Cox."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, when you have 15 seconds, I'll say 15 seconds, that's your clue to begin to terminate your remarks. Judge, come on up. It's 10:13, so we'll go to 11:13."

CHIEF JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Cassandra Kirk, and I serve as the chief magistrate judge here in Fulton County. I lead a team of 26 judges and seven support staff. Our team is exhausted. We have three court staff supporting nine court rooms across four locations. And as of August 12th 2025, we have closed over 45,000 cases. Industry-standards from the National Association for court management, recommend 2,000 to 3,000 cases per support staff annually. We are 500 percent above the recommended capacity. We are the people's court handling everything from Judge Judy to Law and Order, and we have requested adequate resources for ten years. Most recently twice during this FY-2025 budget process and the associated soundings, and now we're told that a surplus exists and we are excited. I arrived today to speak in support of item number 25-0617, which will provide six mission-critical staff to the magistrate court at a rate of \$611,939. This does not include our 24/7 warrant processing and first appearances that keep the jail functioning efficiently. Without the funding offered in agenda item 25-0617, average case resolution time will increase by 40 percent. Our magistrate court has maximized efficiency. Our AI Chatbot saved \$91,340, last year. We've streamlined processes beyond industry norms, but we've reached the operational limit. Our 5.1 million-dollar budget, with that budget, we processed over 70,000 cases."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

CHIEF JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "In 10 years, parties have filed over 761,000 cases, and we've closed 707,000 of those cases. We are the most

efficient court, and it's costing our team their health. Thank you. We ask for your support."

MAURICE KENNER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Maurice Kenner. I'm the circuit public defender for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, which covers all of Fulton County. I first want to thank all of the Commissioners for your support of the public defender's office, but I did want to give a special thanks to Commissioner Abdur-Rahman for her service to the justice policy review board and support of the public defender's office, and also to Commissioner Mo Ivory for placing this item on the agenda today. I am in full support of the enhancement that is being sought for the public defender's department. What that enhancement will allow is for my office to bring on enough attorneys to reduce some of the stress and pressures that my attorneys are going through right now. What it will also do is allow us to staff the two new state court judges that are scheduled to be brought on in January. Right now, my office has approximately 17,500 open cases. We have 103 attorneys that means that if you do straight math, approximately 170 cases per attorney. But I tell you that number does not tell the full story because we have some attorneys that have as many as ten homicide cases. Over the first two quarters of this year, my office has lost nine attorneys in addition to support staff; and one of the things that we've learned during the exit interview, the biggest thing is stress and workload. So they've reported --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MAURICE KENNER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- it's overwhelming -- being a public defender is stressful. It's backbreaking work, but my attorneys and my staff, they get the job done. And in closing, I would ask that you all consider fully supporting the -- thank you."

JUDGE NANCY MAU, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chair Pitts. Good morning, Commissioner Ivory. Good morning, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Thorne. My name is Nancy Mau. I am a judge, full-time magistrate court judge, and I currently am assigned to the Superior Court noncomplex felony division as well. It is an honor to appear before you all again. This will be my third time coming here to talk about the work that we do and the needs that we have in the magistrate court. I'm here in support of item number 25-0617, and I'm here to talk about a need mostly: ours. The Board considers the needs of Fulton County every day. You are tasked with the decision of having to determine how you're going to meet those needs. As a magistrate judge in the magistrate court, we have many needs that we have to meet every day. As an example, we have law enforcement applications for search warrants and arrest warrants that as you know are serving the 15 cities as well as over 30 arrest agencies. We are doing this 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year through nights, weekends, holidays, and the applications have increased this year. What would take one judge that could accomplish within a six-hour shift is now at times taking two or three judges, and we simply have to rise up to meet that need so that law enforcement is not waiting. These are really important probable-cause determinations that determine whether somebody can even be held in the Fulton County Jail beyond 48 hours. Caseloads have increased in the Superior Court noncomplex felony division where I

serve. I have four litigation managers. We are exhausted, but we are managing to handle all of these cases, and in May and June, we had a 100 percent -- actually 133 percent case closure rate. This is in felony --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JUDGE NANCY MAU, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- criminal court, which affects and impacts the jail population as well. We are in need of your support. I'm asking you to vote in favor of this, so we can continue to meet the needs of Fulton County. Thank y'all very much. Thank you, Commissioner Ivory."

LUANA WALSH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners Ivory, Barrett, Abdur-Rahman, Thorne, Pitts. My name is Luana Walsh; I'm deputy public defender in Fulton County. I started with the office in 1989 and have stayed true over the years to the mission of providing quality legal representation to people who cannot afford to hire a private attorney. My colleagues and I share the same goal to provide the same or better services that any paid attorney, because being poor should not be a deterrent to getting zealous advocacy. It is our goal to have attorneys who are mission driven and who want to work for Fulton County for the duration of their career. That has become more of a challenge due to the increasingly heavy caseloads, the ever increasing volume of discovery that we've received for each case, the number of court hearings, and the need to visit with clients in custody, staying in touch with their loved ones, and overall trying to maintain a balance of work-life balance. Some of our attorneys have as many as 100 clients in custody right now. That is an insupportable number of clients to be dealing with on a regular basis. I've heard the phrase quiet cracking used to describe the phenomenon, we're quoting from Forbes magazine, employees are showing up and doing their job, but are mentally and emotionally struggling. I won't say that we're there yet for most of our office of the public defender, but neither do we want to get there. Unless we get a reprieve in the form of more attorneys and support staff, I'm concerned that we --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LUANA WALSH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- will be making more referrals to EAP and losing good attorneys in less stressful ways of earning a living. Our ask is simple; please consider giving our office the funds necessary to get the job done more efficiently, effectively, and without burning out our lawyers. This will be to the benefit of the jail and the court system as a whole. Thank you."

REIKO WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Reiko Ward. I am director of litigation support for the Fulton County public defender office and a Fulton County resident. I stand in support of item 25-0616 to increase the public defender department budget. This request is not simply about dollars, it is about ensuring justice is delivered fairly and efficiently in our county. Right now, as you've heard, our office has 103 attorneys working tirelessly to defend the constitutional rights of our clients. But they are supported by only 12 social workers, 15 investigators, and 17 legal assistants. That is an average of 15 support staff working on the approximately

17,500 open cases in the office. This ratio is not enough to meet the demands of our caseloads. Attorneys cannot do this work alone. They depend on these critical team members to provide the foundation for effective defense. Social workers help address the root causes that often bring people into the system, mental health needs, housing instability, addiction. Investigators uncover the facts that ensure cases are based on truth. Legal assistance managed the mountains of case files so attorneys can spend their time where it matters most, advocating for their clients in court. Without enough of these litigation support staff, service referrals stall, workloads grow heavier, and people remain in jail longer than necessary. This budget proposal will allow --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

REIKO WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- the public defender department to expand these essential roles; provide more efficient support to attorney staff, and resolve cases more quickly. Every dollar spent supporting the effectiveness of our attorneys multiplies their effectiveness. I urge you, please approve this budget increase. Thank you."

DIANE HAWKINS-COX, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Diane Hawkins-Cox, and I'm here to support Commissioner Ivory's efforts to restore the \$1.7 million to the Fulton County arts budget, item 25-0619. I'm the CEO of the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Band which we call Mac B for short. We've received Fulton County Arts and grants -- arts and culture's operating support grants for most of our 29 years, and we thank you so much for that. We, like many other small arts programs, count on dependable sources of funding like Fulton County grants. And we are a vital support of Fulton County's art offerings. Our mission includes performing quality concert band music at no charge for Fulton County residents. Smaller venues like churches and senior centers rely on Mac B to provide live music on occasions, special occasions like holidays or Black History Month. And we also leverage our grant funding to raise money for college scholarships. The cost of operating a band, like the cost of everything else, is on the rise, and reducing the Fulton County arts budget during these uncertain times hampers the ability of Mac B and other small arts organizations to fulfill their missions. You know, you may think that arts are just a little thing, but music and other arts can bring people together, something that we really need more of in these days. And research shows that students who study music do better in other subjects. The arts improve a person's feeling --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DIANE HAWKINS-COX, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- of well-being. The arts even help strengthen local economies. These so-called little things like the arts add up to a big difference in the quality of life for Fulton County residents. Please support Commissioner Ivory's efforts and help arts organizations help your constituents. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Next -- next six speakers, please come forward: Cecilia Baldwin, Walter Reeves, Maggie McCullum, Mary Jo Peed, D. Patton White, and Kayla Garthus."

CECILIA UGARTE BALDWIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Good morning. My name is Cecilia Ugarte Baldwin. I'm the voter protection director for the Democratic Party of Georgia, and I'm also a Fulton County resident. I'd like to thank the Board for its service and for its action last May in voting against the nominations of Jason Frazier and Julie Adams to the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections. Though the Board of Commissioners will act today on these nominations for the second time due to a recent court order, we, at the Democratic Party of Georgia, maintained that Jason Frazier is unfit to serve as a member of the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections for the same reasons we provided back in May, including that he refuses to follow federal law governing list meetings including voter challenges. We also maintain that Julie Adams is similarly unfit to serve as a member of the Fulton BRE. She's already exposed the County to litigation, with the objective of disenfranchising Fulton voters by refusing to certify elections, all potentially to cast doubt on the legitimacy of our elections. Thankfully, the County was victorious in its litigation. The Democratic Party of Georgia supports the Fulton County Board of Commissioners' appeal as the County has a vital interest in ensuring that voters are not wrongly and illegally disenfranchised. Frazier and Adams will simply increase the County's exposure to frivolous lawsuits and will not serve in the BRE's or voters best interests. Thank you for your attention."

WALTER REEVES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Walter Reeves, Georgia gubernatorial candidate. My campaign is changing. First of all, I'd like to do a shout out to the Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency. Three days in advance I called in the New Orleans truck attack that got us a lot of street cred and also some National street cred for myself. Tomorrow begins the Jackson Hole economic forum in Wyoming, the Reeves Brentwood Four. It's in the top four of most discussed, and there's also some other issues there that are highly controversial and have really raised the dander, but we are grateful for the city of Atlanta and also for Fulton County that you've discussed this Brentwood's monetary crisis; and perhaps the only city and the county that is perhaps adequately prepared for this emergency. And I understand Raphael Bostic, Atlanta fed president, will be there. You certainly are familiar with the mechanism of quantitative easing. You should have no problem sweeping all that debt under the rug at the Atlanta fed using that mechanism of quantitative easing. And he will have to, at some point, give some account of that that he has helped y'all. And then you would have enough funds for Judge Cassandra Kirk and also for the public defender."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

WALTER REEVES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- we're grateful for y'all. Thank you very much."

MAGGIE MCCULLUM, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I am Maggie McCullum, a senior Olympian, and I just came from the National Senior Games and I've won medals and ribbons. Actually, I won one from Helene Mills tai chi, and I did it in seven months up under the direction of Sierra Simone, and I want to say thank you. I got this button that says the Golden Games for Fulton County. I am waiting on us to work together to get the Olympics for the seniors and actually that we can continue to grow healthier, wiser; and I want you all know that I was featured in the National Senior

Games on YouTube and Facebook doing tai chi for Atlanta, Georgia. I want to say thank you for supporting whatever we do. If you don't support it now, you'll pay for it in the end. I plan to live a hundred years old doing exercise to keep the mind focused, keep the body moving, and to keep us going day after day after day. Mr. Chairman, I want your word that you will bring the Fulton Games to Atlanta. The Atlanta Games will be coming to Georgia in 2031. I want you all to know that I am working on this that we're going to have those national games to come to this state."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MAGGIE MCCULLUM, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and I pray that you all are behind me and I would love to see at least 15,000 seniors participate in the National Senior Olympic Games."

MARY JO PEED, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "She's a hard act to follow. Good morning, I am Mary Jo Peed, a citizen of Fulton County and a committed voter. Since 2020, I have supported the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections as a vote review panelist, duplication panelist in many other volunteer capacities including a regular observer of the BRE meetings. I applaud and support the work of the BRE and the department and believe that both entities work diligently to provide fair and open elections for all qualified Fulton County residents. I support the Commission in continuing to appeal to Fulton County Superior Court Judge David Emerson's decision regarding the authority of the BRE to disapprove the Republican Party's nomination of Jason Frazier and Julie Adams to the BRE. As a governing body of Fulton County, the Board of Commissioners must have the power and the ultimate authority to exercise executive oversight over who is serving on the various boards and committees utilized by this Board, and to ensure that those appointees will not infringe upon the rights of the Fulton County residents. Thank you very much."

D. PATTON WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Greetings, members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. I'd like to start by introducing myself. My name is Patton White, and I have been the artistic and administrative director of Beacon Dance since 1990. I'm here today to urge you to vote in favor of reinstating the 1.7 million in funding that was recently cut from the budget of Fulton County Arts and Culture. I'm urging you to do this for many reasons. First, as we are most likely very aware, the arts are good business and they return to the community and economy tenfold to what is invested. In addition to providing a meaningful way to the artists involved; in our case, this includes myself as artistic director, guest choreographers, costume designers, set designers, lighting designers, stage technicians, and most of all, the dancers that we are able to employ. These wages then filter into the economy through rent or mortgage payments, groceries, utility bills, restaurants, and bars and the list goes on. In addition to the economic impact to the artists themselves, are the additional concentric circles including audience members, students, et cetera. Second, the arts support education. The arts help students to understand concepts to visualize complex systems by involving all of the senses in education. Music can lead to a better understanding of mathematical concepts; theater can lead to a deeper understanding of narrative and imagination; dance can lead to a more flexible body and mind to grasp

connections of disparate things. The final point that I would like to make today is that most importantly, the arts lead to deeper understandings of the human condition. We experience empathy --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

D. PATTON WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- we experience compassion, we experience pain and joy, all of those things that define what it is to be human can be and are expressed and experienced through the arts. The arts are not a luxury but rather the very essence of how we make meaning in our lives. Thank you."

KAYLA GARTHUS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Kayla Garthus, and I'm the Mid Fulton Regional Chair, Women with the Fulton County Democratic Party. I'm here with you all today to support access to voting and voting rights within our county and condemn any appointment of Julie Adams and Jason Frazier to the Fulton County Board of Elections. Both individuals are no friends to democratic principles, the electoral process, or our men and women in uniform. Mr. Frazier and Ms. Adams would rather voter's eligibility be challenged, including military personnel, then doing the job of making voting safe for those eligible. They tout conspiracy theories riddled with disinformation, and they call it patriotism. These pieces alone should disqualify them from holding any leadership position within our county, and our Republican brothers and sisters are well aware of this. Yet they choose MAGA and fascism over the public good. To my esteemed Commissioners, we need you to hold the line against injustice. We need you to continue fighting this in the courts. We voted for you. We voted you into this position, and you should be able to do what you were elected to do for our residents. We need election board members who will protect ballot access and promote accessibility, not those who stand in the face of our electorate and act as kings and queens of dishonesty. We need integrity. We need a show of force against the encroachment of undemocratic principles. Please continue your efforts to fight against Mr. Frazier and Ms. Adams' appointments. We stand with you, we stand for real leadership, and we stand for voter protection. Thank you for your time and your commitment to protecting democracy in our county. Please toe the line."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers: Kevin Jones, LaQuondria Pierce, Melissa Simpson, Margie McCloud, Breedlove, and Kannette King."

KEVIN JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Kevin Jones and I'm a former detention sergeant with the Fulton County Sheriff's office. I was forced to resign under circumstances tied to a disturbing murder-for-hire situation that threatened my life. I want to thank Commissioner Khadijah for courageously speaking the truth. Her statements are based on facts, not allegations. Despite everything I went through, I receive no support from the Sheriff's office, no calls, no check-ins, no assistance. I had to protect myself, relocate and change my contact information just to stay alive. The treatment I endured mirror how inmates are treated, neglected, ignored, and dehumanized. The jail could be fixed, but not under the current leadership. Incompetent individuals in key positions have no interest in real progress. The Sheriff is failing the staff, inmates, and the community. NaphCare, the contracted medical

provider, is part of that failure. Cases like Julius Wilson who was denied medical care by mental health personnel and hung himself the same day, highlight the problem. If line staffs are being arrested and held responsible, why aren't the commanders committing wrongdoing held accountable? For example, I won my appeal, yet someone at the Sheriff office falsified documentation and forged the signature in an attempt to overturn it. This is not just misconduct. It demands a full investigation. I witnessed things that I couldn't speak about while employed, but now I can and I won't stop until change happens. I'm calling on the Governor to step in. My life has already been threatened. If anything happens to me, those who remain silent bear responsibilities. Officers on the floor do their best, but are overworked, unsupported, and afraid. Leadership meanwhile collects paychecks while cells remain broken, and taxpayer money is wasted; sometimes stolen. Until there is ethical, competent leadership, I wouldn't give Fulton County Sheriff --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KEVIN JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- another dollar. My abilities are protected while those who care are silenced or pushed out. Anything the Lady Pink stated, she's speaking facts. Thank you."

LAQUONDRIA PIERCE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is LaQuondria Pierce. I'm a former employee of the Fulton County Sheriff Office."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Speak up, ma'am, please."

LAQUONDRIA PIERCE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is LaQuondria Pierce, and I'm a former employee of the Fulton County Sheriff Office. I'm here to speak the truth that many have tried to bury. Right now, only detention officers are being arrested. Those of us are left alone on the floors with no backup. Imagine being a female officer managing a floor with 200 inmates by yourself. That was my reality. The issue is misclassification, and it is not a -- not just a paperwork error, it's a life and death failure. Inmates are being placed in the wrong unit, left unprotected and ignored. People are dying in that jail because of it. The commanders know it. They let it happen and cover it up. Why, because commanders are protecting each other. They alter reports, silent whistleblowers, and throw frontline staff under the bus to protect their own careers. This is all happening on the watch of Sheriff Labat and District Attorney Fani Willis, who seem more focused on protecting each other than protecting justice. I'm calling for a full independent investigation into the culture of corruption, mismanagement, and cover-up inside the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. The public deserves the truth. The families of those who died deserve justice. And those who try to do the right thing, we deserve to be heard not punished. Thank you."

MELISSA SIMPSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, my name is Melissa Simpson. I have been working and living in Fulton County for almost 20 years now. I'd like to thank all of you here today. I'm here to express my sincere appreciation for the Board's ongoing support of the arts within Fulton County. Your leadership and commitment to arts program and contribute a more vibrant culturally rich inclusive community for all

residents. I was moved by Fulton County Board Chairman Robb Pitts' words earlier this year, our goal remains clear to ensure that every resident in Fulton County has access to meaningful cultural experiences. I'm thrilled to see that the funding has been placed back on this agenda. The arts are a foundational element of our community's education opportunities, economic vitality, and quality of life. Stable and predictable support enables local organizations, educators, and artists to plan, collaborate and serve residents across Fulton County. I respectfully encourage the Board to fully restore the proposed funding of 1.7 million to the arts contracts for service budget. This allocation has the potential to strengthen partnerships with organizations, expand opportunities for artists and arts driven programming, and provide broad lasting benefits to our neighborhoods and schools. As a Fulton County resident and arts professional, I cofounded a nonprofit supporting independent filmmakers in Fulton County called Film Impact Georgia. I work full time for the Atlanta Film Festival and Film Society which is now entering its 50th year, and serve on the boards of two other arts nonprofits. Every day I collaborate with artists who are telling important and timely stories. With proper support, they can change the world. It is essential that Fulton County continues to value and invest in the arts as the cornerstone of the --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MELISSA SIMPSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- thriving community. Thank you. Again, there was one small artist who started with at the Atlanta Film Festival. His film won \$25 and he decided filmmaking was for him."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. My name is Margie McCloud. And why I'm coming down here again is because the jail. And also, Cassandra Kirk has been coming down here for two years and asking y'all for funding. I don't know what this is the problem. If you don't give her the funding just like they say, they tired. What is the problem? We have the money because the jail, to me, needs to be closed. Too many peoples is dying. It need to be closed. We have facilities to put the inmates somewhere else. Before I see that wanting them to go to Mississippi, but why you throwing money at this place -- this so-called place is worse. Oversea jail -- have you been overseas? You ever went into their jail? You don't put the money in the right place. You have the money, so please, please -- Bob Ellis, you wouldn't want your child in Rice Street. Because you -- you'd definitely go down there and get -- get -- I know you have children. But please, please no more killing in there, because I get phone calls and Kirk been coming -- the judge been coming down here for how long and asking y'all for money? Just like I told y'all about rent control, you didn't listen to me about rent control that could put a cap on the rent and look at what's happening. We could have did this before, because Los Angeles didn't listen either and Atlanta didn't listen because --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- because homeless didn't get no better. You put money in shiny things. We're getting ready for the World Cup, but human

beings, that's what you need to look at. We need help. The jail need to be closed. Stop putting money in something that you can't fix."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. All right. For your information, we have 30 more minutes."

BREEDLOVE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Praise God."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: This is speaker number 17 out of 47. We only have 30 more minutes."

BREEDLOVE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Praise God. Praise God. Hallelujah. I came here this morning to give you a word. This is not a playing game children. This is serious. I'm a 43-year missionary. I have worked the cotton fields \$6 a day. I know what it's like to suffer. Would you like for you to be a citizen and sit here and you receive our tax dollars to have people to suffer? And God gave me a word to tell you all this morning, and I'm going to read it even though my glasses are broken. He said it in Proverbs 4:1-5: Hear, my children, the instructions of a father and give attention to know understanding for I give you good doctrine, do not forsake my laws. When I was my father's son, tender, and the only one in the sight of my mother, he also taught me and said to me, let your heart retain my word. Keep my commandment and live, and with all, I've get understanding. Then the people of God -- America, who I am born on the 4th of July, there is a need for Fulton County to rise up. You all children are smart. You can do this. You could be the model for other counties to do what is right. That jail need to be torn down completely. I walk the streets; I walked with many of the older people. I'm an old senior, great-grandmother. It's time, people. I live in another county --

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

BREEDLOVE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- but that county do -- Cobb County, they take care of me. I asked Fulton County where my tax dollars go to do justice. Now, you all get up out of these chairs and go to the jail. Go out here on the streets I'm looking as I come in this morning. Children laying out --"

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

BREEDLOVE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And I love you, God. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

KANNETTE KING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Kannette King, and I'm a movement policy associate at the Southern Centers for Human Rights and we're a nonprofit law firm here in Atlanta, and we do work dedicated to decriminalize race and poverty in America's deep south. I began working at Southern Center after graduating from Spelman College in 2023, but my work and commitment to these issues began long before then. Since undergrad, I have been watching from afar

hoping that the Board would have the courage to do the obvious right thing with the Fulton County Jail. Now up close, I have seen more clearly what I already feared from afar, that too many of the people we look to as leaders, people with legacies of organizing and uplifting community power have fallen short. Instead of being stewards of justice, this Board has far too long and far too often treated our most vulnerable neighbors as mere dollars. As if their humanity can be balanced against a budget line. Our organization is proud to be a part of the Communities Over Cages Coalition which started as the Close The Jail ATL Campaign in 2018 as a grassroots movement to confront the inhumane and unconditional conditions at the Atlanta City Detention Center. This work was led by directly impacting people, community members, and advocates who recognized that the jail was never about safety, it was about criminalizing poverty, homelessness, and mental health. That history matters here today. The same patterns of neglect, mismanagement, and displaced priorities we fought at AC/DC are the same ones we are fighting in Fulton County. The lesson is clear. Incarceration has never solved our community's challenges. Cages are not care --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KANNETTE KING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- warehousing people does not build safety. We are here today to demand that this Board confront the history and take real action. We know that justice is not measured by how many cages we fill, but how many lives we uplift. Know this: history will judge your legacy --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward; Devin Franklin, Tiffany Roberts, Blake Feldman, Jennifer Acker, Laura Hennighansen, and Celisse Kalke."

DEVIN FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Devin Franklin. I'm senior movement policy counsel at the Southern Center for Human Rights, also a former public defender here in Fulton County for 12 years. Today, the Board is set to hear and vote upon a proposed one billion-dollar renovation of the Rice Street Jail and construction of an additional jail. I'm here today to speak against this Board moving forward with such a vote at this time. I, alongside many members of Atlanta Civil Society and the Communities Over Cages Coalition, have taken time to review the slide deck for the proposal, and understand that there are many questions that are left unanswered by the information that has been provided and made public to this point. For example, the proposal speaks to four options: a baseline option, an accelerated option, and out sorting outset and an AC/DC transferred. They're all named in the proposal, but no details are included. Questions remain regarding how the jail population will be projected while the construction of the special-purpose facility with the special needs beds is being proposed to accommodate persons with mental health diagnoses. Its proposal is silent about how Sheriff Labat will document the populations and the person with mental health diagnosis. How will he define special needs? What is the breakdown of outsourcing costs? How is the immediate care of vulnerable people impacted by this plan? Most importantly, what happens if the billion dollars committed

to this project prevent the County from committing the necessary resources to comply with federal Consent Decree? While I certainly understand the urge to do something fast, and fast is rooted in the persistent harm that we hear emerging from the Fulton County Jail, particularly with the pressure of the DOJ's watchful eye upon you all. I'm here to caution you against rushing that action."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

DEVIN FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "This is not the time to move with the urgency to vote by Dr. King -- Dr. King when he called for an entire movement to the action as he told us, we can't wait. This is the time that we must wait, that we must do due diligence, that we must interrogate and that we must rely on data. Listen to what the public defenders here are telling you today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Thank you."

BLAKE FELDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Blake Feldman. I'm the senior policy council at the Southern Centers for Human Rights. I'm from Mississippi, and I worked in Jackson, Mississippi for 10 years before moving to Atlanta last year. When the state legislature in Mississippi attempted to deprive Hinds County and the city of Jackson of local control of its criminal legal system in 2023, our county commissioners, our city council members, our judges, the delegation that we send to the Statehouse in the state senate all stood united with community to push back. The introduction of Senate Bill 7 in Georgia during the 2025 Session was part of a shameful trend across the country to deny the will of black voters. The people of Atlanta and Fulton County, like the residents of any other city and county in Georgia, have a right to democracy and to self-governance. Any county commissioner concerned with protecting their constituents' rights to self-governance should voice opposition to Senate Bill 7 and should have done so earlier this year. Instead of unequivocally condemning state interference, too many county officials have leveraged that threat of state interference to advance a desire to acquire more cages, whether by takeover or by building a new jail. When anti-democratic forces at the national and state level target locally elected majority black leadership, civil society has shown up to push back. There's no excuse for those same locally elected officials to then thwart the voices of its constituents --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

BLAKE FELDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- thank you."

TIFFANY ROBERTS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Tiffany Roberts. I am the public policy director at the Southern Centers for Human Rights, and I'm happy to join my colleagues here today, I'm rarely here. But I'm here today because you have a proposal before you to spend over a billion dollars on a new jail and delaying any renovations to the Rice Street jail for five years until that facility is built. We at Southern Center have provided you with a copy of our final report from the People's Process, which was our responsive to government's failure to provide any

infrastructure for your communities to tell you what their thoughts were regarding the way forward with the Fulton County Jail. We've also provided you a copy of the contempt order, because Sheriff Labat, early this month on August the 7th, was found for the second time in two years to be in contempt in our lawsuit against Fulton County for the treatment of women with mental health disabilities in the Fulton County Jail. Fulton County couldn't manage the South Fulton Jail and the needs of the people with mental health disabilities. Fulton County said that AC/DC was going to be the answer. Fulton County did not handle the health and well-being of people with mental health disabilities in AC/DC. One of our named plaintiffs in our lawsuit was Noni Battiste-Kosoko who was the 19-year-old who died in AC/DC. We have won four lawsuits against this county because you keep repeating the same pattern of investing in buildings. We are urging you to look at the materials we have provided to you. The due diligence as a legislator that you have is to be curious and in conversation. It should not be easier for us to get people on the other side of your aisles to erect public policy --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

TIFFANY ROBERTS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- so as we leave here today, we are offering ourselves once again as a resource, and we are urging you to pause and ask critical questions. The public defenders are begging for money, and the only people who have a blank check in this city and county is law enforcement, and that should not be the case. Thank you so much."

JENNIFER ACKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "First and foremost, thank you so much for your leadership and service to our city. I know this must be an incredibly hard and often thankless job, so thank you. My name is Jennifer Acker. I am an theater artist in Fulton County, and a soon-to-be a first-time parent. And I schlepped my seven-month pregnant body here today through Georgia summer to advocate for the restoration of the 1.7 million for the arts. I moved to Atlanta 15 years ago just because I could get a ton of work here, but I stayed in Atlanta because Atlanta's really cool. It's really rich, vibrant culturally, and the food amazing and that is the reason why businesses move here, why businesses stay here, why people like me are raising my daughter here. Now I have some intel with my finger on the pulse about arts or something that's coming down the pipeline for our economy that I want to disclose to you before the shoe drops in three to five years. So Atlanta arts have been hemorrhaging, and since I've moved here 15 years ago, I've seen no less than five major theaters shutter their doors. I've seen dozens of Atlanta's best actors, designers, creatives leave. They want to stay here and they leave to LA and New York and Chicago and Minneapolis because there's not enough work anymore. And what once was a flood of incredible young artists coming here to start their careers, especially like impeccable artists of color, they're not coming. It's a trickle now. And so what this is indicating is that we are hemorrhaging the taste makers that make Atlanta the place people want to come to and stay at which will have vast implications to our economy in the next five, ten, 15 years. And this is something as theater artists and as arts in general, we've been seen really badly in the last five years since the pandemic, and I just want to warn y'all that it may seem penny foolish to invest in the arts right now, which feel like a luxury when the arts is facing all these crises --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JENNIFER ACKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- we are faced with, but we're artists, we can do a lot with a little, and this extra money will help us prevent the hemorrhage and really protect our economy in the next five, ten, 15 years. Thank you so much for your time."

LAURA HENNIGHANSEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Laura Hennighansen, and I'm here today representing Arts Capital Atlanta, a coalition of art leaders and funders working on behalf of more than 200 nonprofit arts organizations across the 11 county metro region. Half of those organizations are headquartered here in Fulton County, and many of them are here behind me wearing blue. After living in three countries and five states, I came to Fulton County in 2007 for what I thought would be a temporary part-time job at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. That short time job rooted me here. Nearly two decades later, I'm still here working on behalf of nonprofit organizations because I believe in their missions, and I've seen firsthand the impact they have on our residents. These organizations are not luxuries; they are integral resources for Fulton County citizens at every level. That is why I am asking you to restore funding to the Department of Arts and Culture to last year's level. These dollars go directly into contracts for services allowing nonprofits to produce performances, field trips, classes, exhibitions, and programs that benefit Fulton County residents in every district. This year, both state and federal arts budgets have been cut leaving the very same organizations that strengthen Fulton County with fewer resources. In this moment, it is especially important for Fulton County to take a stand and show that it values these services and the communities that they strengthen. It's no accident that so many of the region's nonprofits are headquartered here. Fulton has long been recognized as a county that values and invests in the arts. Restoring this funding will reaffirm that legacy and ensure our residents, not just visitors, continue to benefit from vibrant cultural programs. On behalf of over a hundred arts organization --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LAURA HENNIGHANSEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- based here in Fulton County, I urge you to vote yes and to restore this funding. Your decision will directly strengthen the cultural life of our county. Thank you."

CELISSE KALKE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name is Celisse Kalke; I am the managing director of Synchronicity Theater. I'm a Fulton County resident. Our theater is based in Fulton County. I am a Fulton County parent. My daughter goes to APS. I wouldn't have done all of these things or been so committed to the arts here if this community wasn't one of the most exciting communities, most diverse communities, most esthetically fascinating and entrepreneurial arts community in the country. I worked in Chicago, in New York, in Europe, and I really think right now Atlanta is one of the places that can inspire what the art of the future will be. When funding is cut, what you don't see is the things that go away. And the things that go away are the partnerships, the senior centers that maybe can't afford a ticket. The school – there's

parents that can't support an afterschool program, but that we would love to do, and we'll work so hard to find the funding. The restoration of budget will probably -- will result at least in Synchronicity in an explosion of activity because every dollar from a government source means about a hundred dollars of labor, because we know how to make a dollar expand and expand and expand. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity. It is wonderful to have the arts discussed in front of the Fulton County Commissioners, and I urge you to consider restoring the budget. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- Madam Clerk, hold on one second. All right. We have 12 more minutes and 23 more speakers here and plus those that are on Zoom. We have 12 more minutes. Next speakers."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Angela Harris, Lauren Waits, Meredith Ragains, Stuart Gerber, Candis Davis, and Betty Buggs."

ANGELA HARRIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. And thank you as always for listening to the community. My name is Angela Harris; I'm the executive artistic director of Dance Canvases. I'm a Fulton County resident and a founder of a business here in Fulton County. Thank you, Commissioner Ivory, for not forgetting the arts and the arts organizations that provide these essential services for Fulton County and its residents. And thank you for revisiting the \$1.7 million in funding to support these art services. I know that you all see the value in the services we provide to the community. Now we have to ensure that those services do not go away. In thinking of I wanted to stress to you all today, I could come up here and talk about how devastating the 56 percent funding cuts have had on a small budget like Dance Canvases and the services that we are struggling to provide and sustain; but I wanted to use this time to highlight some of the positive accomplishments that our programs have had on this county. I've spoken several times about the essential work that we do in Fulton County and have done for the past 18 years from artists, career resources, youth development and community engagement. But this past spring and summer alone, I got to celebrate one of our alumni receiving her Ph.D., other alumni touring internationally, another that has founded a dance company in Philadelphia and toured it back to Atlanta, and another competing for Ms. Black USA. The arts and access to the arts make this possible; Fulton County Arts and Culture make this possible. I know that there's a focus on the jail system and crime prevention --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ANGELA HARRIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- which is so important, but please remember that studies show that communities with strong arts programs and experiences reduce crime rates. In fact, arts intervention for incarcerated individuals and juveniles reduce parole violations by 30 percent. Thank you for your consideration."

LAUREN WAITS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Lauren Waits. I'm speaking in my capacity as a private citizen and a coordinator for one of the political parties who sent paper ballot duplicators and vote review panelists down to the election's department at election season. Most of you've heard me already say how well we work together down there across party lines, so I will not say more about that. I support the earlier comments opposing the current nominees to the Board of Registration and Elections. But in the interest of time, I want to tell you what we do need on the board. We need board members who have a demonstrated ability to serve in a nonpartisan manner at all times. We need members who value and promote the participation of every eligible voter in Fulton County. We need members who treat the employees of the Department of Registration and Elections with respect. And we need new members who operate in good faith. Thank you."

MEREDITH RAGAINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Meredith Ragains, and I'm the Executive Director of Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, and I'm here on behalf to advocate for the arts funding -- thank you, Commissioner Ivory. Georgia Lawyers for the Arts is a 50-year organization that may not sound like it's an arts organization because we're lawyers, but what we do is critical in Fulton County and our state. We provided last year in 2024 \$3 million in pro bono legal services to Fulton County artists. These are artists from College Park, Johns Creek, the city of Atlanta, Buckhead, East Point, Roswell. We have clients in each one of your districts throughout Fulton County. We help them with IP issues, contract issues. These are -- these can be students, these are senior citizens, so this is a wide swath of who you are representing. We have -- most of our clients are in poverty, and what our goal is, is to help them monetize their creative works so that they can get out of poverty. That's our whole goal. Not only do we help clients in poverty, we actually help clients who aren't in poverty, so every artist qualifies for GLA services. It can be -- you can get a 30-minute meeting with some of the best lawyers, not just in the city of Atlanta, but in the United States, no matter what your income level is. So when I say that we support every single artist, we have the capability of supporting every single artist in this county we do. One thing I want you to know is every dollar that we get --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MEREDITH RAGAINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- we translate into \$300 of pro bono legal services because we're able to leverage that within the legal community. Thank you so much for your consideration."

CANDIS ALSTEN-DAVIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Candis Alsten-Davis, and I am both an administrator with Dance Canvas and a dancing -- excuse me -- a teaching artist, instructor, and choreographer. Like many of my colleagues wearing multiple hats in the arts nonprofit sector. By being an instructor, I work with youth and guide them to not just engage their technique, but also to utilize their social, emotional learning skills, personal development, problem solving, and critical thinking and collaboration. National Research shows that students who engage in the arts are five times more likely to graduate, score a hundred points higher on average on the SAT, and are, excuse me, twice as likely to volunteer in their

communities, thus giving back to Fulton County. Simply put, the Fulton County youth are being put at a disadvantage with the cut to the Fulton County arts and culture budget. This is something I've seen firsthand. For example, with the funding being cut to afterschool programs and enrichment programs that restrict the amount of students and access that they're able to have for those programs. Restoring these funds is not just an investment in the arts, but it's an investment in Fulton County's youth and future prosperity in the county. Thank you."

DR. STUART GERBER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Dr. Stuart Gerber. I'm a professor of music at Georgia State University, Fulton County resident, and co-artistic director of Been Frequency, which is a Fulton County based -- Atlanta-based music ensemble, and we have gotten funding for many years through Fulton County arts, and we appreciate your support. I'm here in support of Commissioner Ivory's Resolution, 25-0619, to reestablish the arts funding. I'll forgo my prepared remarks because so many of my colleagues have so eloquently spoken on the subject already. The only things I would add to this is that I'm sure you're aware that Georgia is 48th or 49th depending on where you look in arts funding in the country, and while that's your job necessarily to fix that, I think every little bit and every little funding helps to alleviate that. We have so many amazing artists in all disciplines in this city and in this region, in this county that I think that supporting the arts and adding to that will only benefit the city. And after all, we all want Atlanta to be a leader, and international leader in commerce and in the arts, and I think putting this back into the budget would help facilitate that. Thank you for your time."

BETTY BUGGS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. My name is Buggs. I am also a former detention officer at the Fulton County Sheriff office. I'm here today to speak the truth because too many people are afraid to, and too much is being covered up. Instead of holding those in power accountable, leadership targets lower ranking staff people like me who are just trying to survive a broken system. We are forced to work 12 hours or more shifts, shifts that turn into 24 hours. We worked some of the most dangerous floors with no support, often just one officer doing the job of five: feeding, pill call. That's not sustainable. That's a setup for disaster. I've seen HIPAA rights being violated, private medical information being mishandled. All I'm saying is this goes beyond bad management. This is corruption, and until those at the top are held accountable, nothing will ever change."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Two more minutes. Let's take two more speakers. Two."

CLERK GRIER: "Two speakers: Patricia Banks and Lisa Adler please come forward."

LISA ADLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm Lisa Adler, artistic producer director for Horizon Theater Company. First, I just want to thank you. You know, I'm cynical. When y'all said you were going to revisit the arts this summer, I'm like, yeah, right. So I am really, really appreciative that this motion has been put forward. I know that there's money to be spent, I know there's lots of need, and I appreciate you taking the time to reconsider all the needs. I'm in support of everything that Commissioner Ivory and so many people have needs, but the arts have needs, but we also deliver. We deliver on the investment

in the arts. We are not coming with our hands out; we're coming with our hands out to give back, to give back in investment in every way in our community. I've been here 44 years. I came as a young actor from Chicago, and we had funding from Fulton County in one of our first years as a small arts organization. We're still here 44 years later serving 25,000 people a year with our programming. The arts help the economy. We invest in our neighborhoods, we make our place great. We can't be great without the arts. No one will come here. No one will care. No one will be here, but you have the opportunity to restore this funding which is the amount that we had in 2002 before the arts funds were decimated in 2008. We're trying to return back to 2002 and, honestly, to 1985, which the funds were also 3 million in 1985. That is no additional investment in the arts over those years, so we appreciate your consideration. We hope you'll take it seriously, and restore those funds. Thank you so much."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So, Mo, you thought you was gone get us up out of here, huh? You sent all this down here to beg for money with all the murders and killings and all the stuff that's going on in the jail. Are y'all for real right now? Are you all for real right now? Did y'all just not hear all of these deputies come up here speaking about they life? And y'all got the audacity to talk about some art up in here? All of these deaths happening in this jail, and y'all got the audacity, Mo Ivory, to bring all of these 72 people down here to talk about art? With all this murdering going on in the jail, y'all need to be talking about who's going to the jail after this. Who's going to be arrested after this? Y'all sitting up here talking about oh, more money, for the -- y'all should have settled -- when he told y'all, if y'all talking about the same thing, that y'all need to about sit down. That's what y'all should have did because there's too much on the line. We got deputies down here with their lives on the line talking about they -- they -- they can't even go to work because the Sheriff got his wife sitting around here being toured around Atlanta in a taxpayer car, and he can't even get an escort home. But y'all talking about arts? We can paint, we can draw, we could do whatever we want to do; but lives is more important then what is happening here today. And Mo Ivory, how dare you just to put your little name on the map."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- you need to stop. Let me tell you something, you and your little TikTok and shit, y'all got life all messed up. Yeah, I know, I ain't supposed to cuss. Pitts, please forgive me. But let me tell you something, you're digging a pit for yourself, baby."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Madam Clerk, now they can -- those who are still here who wish to speak, can speak at the end of the meeting as well as those who are waiting to speak online, correct? Thank you. All right, continue."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Point of order, Mr. Chairman. We've let --"

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page six, presentations to the board --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Excuse me. Excuse me for just a second. They've come down here. We've always (inaudible) of people who come down here to speak. Why would today be any different?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Today is not any different. We have one hour for it. If we want to change the rule, we can change the rule, but the rules are one hour for public comment."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'd like to make a motion to allow the rest of the public commenters in Assembly Hall to speak."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'll second that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There's a motion to extend the public comment time. We'll just do away with the speaking. How many are on Zoom?"

CLERK GRIER: "Eighteen."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Eighteen?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's vote. Commissioner Ellis? We can get the legislation, we can change this at the next meeting, which have an unlimited -- what I would recommend, unlimited amount --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- I want to speak. I mean, we have rules and to collectively suspend them for somebody's own sort of personal agenda when they've gone out and sort of jet up something after we've just gone through a particular long litany of stuff with public comment related to budgetary stuff and so forth, it's unfortunate that people come down and may not get to speak, but we have these rules in place to allow us to have an efficient meeting to get into company business. And so, I'm not going to be in support of amending the rules or extending the time."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes, sir. We have the rule, but we have not followed it. Almost every time we've had more speakers here -- in fact, all the times I've been here, everyone whose come to Assembly Hall has been allowed to speak. Just because the rule is there, if we have a precedent of not abiding by the rule, then the rule doesn't stand. We have a precedent. We've allowed people to speak. These are our citizens; thy come down here, it's hard to get here, it's hard to park here, they're waiting. We should let them speak and if we need to change the rules later, that's fine. But for today, they're here. Let them speak."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes, thank you. When people come down for public comment and they don't necessarily agree with another Commissioner's proposals for whatever is happening, it's amazing to me how that becomes a personal agenda. We've seen many personal agendas here including many that we have heard just in our last couple of meetings. So it's quite convenient to call that a personal agenda rather than address all of the things that we are here to do rather than just one thing. Also, when folks come to public comment, it's a good idea to read the whole agenda to see all of the items that a Commissioner is proposing, not just the arts, but the magistrate court, the public defender's office which all related to the jail. So what I think it's fantastic for people to come down for public comment, but it's also fantastic for them to educate themselves and read the entire agenda so that they'll know exactly in full what the Commissioners are trying to do. So I love to hear from the public, every person that comes in the public, and then folks can act accordingly when it comes time to vote. Today, I'm putting forward five pieces of legislation to improve the budget. And so, I want to hear what people have to say about that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis -- Vice Chair Ellis, you'd like to be heard?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I like hearing from the public, I like transparency, but I also recognize that we have process, right? And we have to have time -- we have to have a process and we have to have the time and ability to do our jobs."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me. Excuse me."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- and certain individuals up here that want to complain about the process when it's -- they don't like it one way and then turn around and ignore another is somewhat laughable. All right. So you know, we have a process, it's an hour apportion of time. We've gone through this over and over at different points in time. This is not an item like a public hearing where there's unlimited time; it's traditional public comment. If people don't get their message in today, they're not able to speak, then that is unfortunate. They do have the opportunity at the end of the meeting. We have a process where everybody can be heard. But this is setup to allow us to have the efficiency of a meeting to be respectful for our staff, to be respectful for other people that are coming down to present to us, and that's the reason why we have the meetings and our rules structured in this fashion. And I'm not going to be supportive of extending the time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Let the record reflect that when we were talking about not increasing the millage rate and all the supporters of that opinion were here one meeting ago, we went over the time."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory that is the rule."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Let's be consistent, Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. All right, let me address that. The only time that we -- I as Chair allow for us to -- the public to go on is at budget time. Now, have we ever gone over the one hour? Yes, we have. Now, the motion on the floor is to allow everybody here to speak and as well as all of those who are on Zoom to speak today no matter how long it takes. Commissioner Barrett, you still want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes, sir. With all due respect, Commissioner Ellis, you just talked about following the rules and then interrupted another Commissioner when she was speaking. That is not our rules."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. So this issue is going to be -- what I'd recommend, we're going to -- let's vote and then I'll have a suggestion about how we do this moving forward, which will be to write a new legislation regarding public hearings, public comment, and just let everybody who come speak as long as they want. We hear from the public for as long as they want, we'll stay here, because we're here from 10 o'clock on, that's fine. All right, let's vote. Motion on the floor is to allow everyone here to speak as well as those on Zoom today."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Patricia Banks, Rashondra Russell, Dr. Aisha Mahmud, Donna Watts-Nunn, Chantrice Buggs, and Charmaine Minnifield."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now, how many more are here? If they didn't sign up, just let them speak if they're here. The theory is that they came down to speak. Whether they -- maybe they got here after the sign-in period. Yes, ma'am, you're on. Take your time. What's your name?"

AISHA MAHMUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. Good morning, Commissioners, I am Aisha Mahmud, lead artist of Modern African Dance. This is my mother, Dr. Ramatu Afegbua-Sabbatt, the founder and executive director of Modern African Dance. We have been in operation in Atlanta for 36 years. I was born and raised here, original Grady baby, so I'm an Atlanta native. I have watched this city grow and thrive over the years, and I have served in the Navy. I'm Navy retired; but I find that my service as an artist to my community has had more of an impact than my service in the military. It has taken me places that I normally wouldn't go. It has put me in rooms I normally wouldn't be in; and the impact it has had on the youth has been more rewarding than my impact as a military service member. I believe that we should support putting money back in to the arts because all of these issues that you have heard today regarding violence in the jails, regarding violence in the city itself is connected. If we have more enrichment for our community, especially in the arts, then it keeps our kids off the streets; it keeps our kids focused on the straight and narrow. It gives them more opportunities to explore.

However, if you don't fund the arts, your kids go astray. Many of your children I have probably taught. So, I move to support the reinvestment of the arts in our community for all of us because it can only strengthen us. It will not hinder us. Thank you."

DR. RAMATU AFEGBUA-SABBATT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And we have actually been in the jail system teaching mental health patients in Fulton County jails, so we do go over the borders. We're not just in the school systems but all over the community. Thank you. So how does cultural identity influence the creation of arts? Arts serve as a reflection of cultural identity, offering a window into the belief, values, and experience of a community. Arts can bring awareness to social issues and foster a sense of acceptance bringing people together regardless of background. Art is not only a form of expression, but also an invitation to problem solving and growth within ourselves in our community. Modern African Dance Company sincerely shows gratitude to Fulton County Board of Commissioners for the support we have from you since 2003 up until now. We are in the school systems, we see more than 36,000 to 60,000 students in the Fulton County Public Schools in a year plus afterschool programs. We have senior programs. Modern African Dance is the only African dance company that holds several programs throughout the year on a shoestring budget. Programs for seniors, programs for schools, programs for our youth, and programs for public. This year with the cut in funding, we're not going to be able to give the rest the year presentation as planned. Instead, we have to even ask for stage and outside stage from Commissioner Mo Ivory so that we can do our September 13th performance. We're not going to be able to give the seniors the discount that we usually give them because we can't afford to do that. So please vote to restore the \$1.7 million cut. Thank you."

DONNA WATTS-NUNN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Donna Watts-Nunn, a Fulton County resident and managing director of a proud Fulton County Legacy organization, the Hammonds House Museum. I'm here to extend our sincerest thanks to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners for your unwavering support of arts and culture. The decision to restore the 1.7 million to the county's arts budget is not only a vital investment in the creative community, but it also strengthens the foundation of small organizations and individual artists that greatly benefit from the continued backing. We need these artists in our community. They are very strong partners of ours, and it helps us to survive here in the city. One very clear lesson that I've learned while working at the Hammonds House is that having a solid and reliable funder is crucial to sustaining the programs that enrich our community and ensure the arts remain accessible to all. Your support enables us all to preserve, promote, and expand arts and culture -- cultural history of Fulton County for generations to come. So again, thank you for being such an impactful partner and for helping us to get this work done. Thank you."

CHARMAINE MINNIFIELD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "John and Lillian Lewis rest at Southview. Geneva Haga Brooks, John Wesley Dobbs, Dr. King's parents, and his crypt that still has bullet holes, they rest at Southview; Southview Cemetery, where the Praise House project rests right now, to acknowledge the history in our community. We are intersecting with social justice to reinvest in that community. Twenty-eight men between the age of 15 and 25 were murdered and buried at Southview. The year

before Young Thug was arrested, and there's a rumor of the mother of his children was killed in retaliation, she's at Southview. I understand the passion. I understand the need for change. I'm on the ground with our community partners right now, focus community's strategies, working to do affordable housing in that area. We are doing a neighborhood cleanup on Saturday; join us, 10:30 in the morning along Maryland Drive next to John Wesley Dobbs Elementary. We have a procession into the cemetery on September 21st to acknowledge the history of the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre because that's where the victims lay. When I walk that community and in community with those faith leaders, folks don't even know the history that rests at Southview. Those are our first free folk, y'all, it's being grown over. Our sacred burial grounds are being lost. I'm an artist and I'm standing with the arts organizations to see real change. We have to be the architects. We have to be the future, and we are the ones who are embodying the legacy of our ancestors today. Thank you, Commissioners, for leading the way in this work."

REVEREND PATRICIA BANKS: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Reverend Patricia Banks. I've been a resident for 77 years, and I heard through the grapevine how corrupt our judge, and how corrupt our Fulton County Jail is; and I really didn't know until my niece, Chantrice Buggs was employed in 2023, and she would come home and tell us how deplorable the conditions were at the jail, as she would work 12 hours a day, and sometimes she didn't even take vacations. Just working, working, working, and we labeled her a workaholic because she was always at the jail. And that's what I want y'all to know that she worked, she was dedicated. Amen."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Imara Canady, Paige Evans, Jonathan P. Kieran, Jodie Williams, Felicia Seamon, and Peter Hardy."

IMARA CANADY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Ready? Good morning, Commissioners. It's good to be with you all this morning as always. And like so many residents and citizens have already said, we know that you have a lot of hard decisions to make. And I want to say, Commissioner Ivory, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and others, I want to thank you first and foremost for remembering the truest definition of what it means to be a public servant and encourage you to may be support your other colleagues in understanding that a public servant is here to serve the people who elected them. With that, I will simply make one comment, and that's that. Dr. Maya Angelou said when somebody shows you who they are believe them the first time. What you all have continued to show us even in the toughest of times that you support art and culture and that you're willing to make the tough decisions to continue to support it at a level -- a mid-level that will at least continue the vibrant cultural community that we so love all across Fulton County, and the economic generator that art and culture has been for this county. Many of you all earlier this year made the tough decision to pause on the vote for the enhancement of the 1.7 saying that once you address the jail and other legal items that, in August, you would come back to do everything possible to approve this enhancement. So again, when people show you who they are, believe them the first time. Today we believe that you will make the right decision to support the enhancement and do what so many of you all around that arch have said you would do, and that is to support this enhancement for \$1.7 million to support economic generation

for Fulton County, cultural vitality for Fulton County, and the livelihood for so many thousands of individuals in Fulton County. Thank you and God bless you."

JONATHAN KIERAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you for extending the time for comment over objection. I really appreciate you taking the time. It's my first time speaking before a Commissioner's meeting, and it's been eye-opening. My name is Jonathan Kieran. I'm the programming director of the Atlanta Film Society. That means that I run the team that among other things, selects program of films for the yearly Atlanta Film Festival out of a group of five to 6,000 films that are submitted to us from around the country, around the world. That does mean that in part I watch movies for my job. If that sound like an easy job, I can put you in touch with several people that I've hired and had to let go because they couldn't do it. So you've heard a lot about the fiscal benefits, the economic benefits, the community benefits of the arts. The numbers are there, and they speak with themselves. I'll tell you a little bit about why I do my job. I believe that art is the highest expression of human liberty and, as a free society we need to do everything we can to make sure it's protected. Artistic dissent is a bit of a canary in a coal mine. We're seeing this play out on the federal level where funding, among other things, is being wielded as a weapon to crush artistic dissent. We've seen it this year. We've seen it this week at the Smithsonian, at the Kennedy, at PBS. So I think of my job, as I'm programmer, and as a programmer, I think myself as a counter programmer, that is the work that I need to do needs to be an answer or a corrective or a rejoinder to what's happening in the outside world. The outside world devalues art. It does not understand art; it does not understand artistic dissent. So I appreciate your legacy of supporting the arts and creating a space where artists can imagine a future and can do what I do, which is to provide an answer and a rejoinder, and a recommendation to the outside world which is, as we're seeing, can be a pretty sick place. So thank you for your time."

JODI WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Jodi, an advocate for the people and a pastor. First, I want to say to Mr. Ellis, you have double standards. You brought people in here to take up all the time who were not certified, but you allowed them to speak, so you have double standards. And I have a message for Mo -- Commissioner Ivory, I think you're doing a very good job, and I think you're supporting the people. And since you are the newest member, my advice to you is don't get caught up with these people who turn against the people and take money for their own personal gain. Do what's in your heart and what's right, and take care of your people, and I just want to say thank you. And I also want to say God has ordained this Sheriff at this time to oversee the Fulton County Jail. From the beginning of his election, people were here against him before they even gave him a chance. I don't think any of you guys have ever been a Sheriff or know what that entails to be a sheriff. One thing I respect about him, is that he did everything he could to let you guys know that there needed to be some changes, and there needed to be a new jail; not a fixer-upper. A new jail for the people and you refused to give him the monies for a new jail. Even the monies that has been sent to you all, and I'm not sure of the amount, but I think it's \$300 million that you guys are withholding. So do right by the people and take your places as leaders of Fulton County and do your part the best you can."

FELICIA SEAMON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Felicia Seamon. I'm a Fulton County resident and I also serve as the Director of Development for Voices of Note, the nonprofit home of the Atlanta Gay Man's Chorus and the Atlanta Women's Chorus. On behalf of our singers, staff, and the thousands of Atlantans that we serve each year, I want to express our deep gratitude to Commissioner Ivory for leading the effort to restore the 1.7 million enhancement to the contract for arts. For more than four decades, with the support from Fulton County, Voices of Note has been a cornerstone of Atlanta's cultural and civic life. Our choruses use the power of music and community outreach to build bridges, foster dialogue, and create spaces of belonging for people of all backgrounds through programming, and not just amazing singing, but programming like prison partnerships, body inclusivity workshops, and health fairs. We help, like so many other arts organizations, to make available spaces where arts can heal, inspire, and unite. The reinstatement of these funds will have a direct transformative impact. It will allow us to expand access to our programs for underserved communities, invest in local artists, and ensure that our programming reflects the diversity and vibrancy of Fulton County. These dollars are not just an investment in the arts, but in education, economic development, and the health of our community. We know that Fulton County has long been a leader in supporting the arts, and that commitment has made Atlanta a national cultural hub. On behalf of Voices of Note, I urge you to fully support and to continue to champion the arts as a vital force for equity, expression, and community in Fulton County. And thank you for your leadership and your continued investment in the arts. Thank you."

PETER HARDY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Peter Hardy. I'm the artistic director of the Essential Theater. Our mission is to produce new plays by Georgia writers. We've been doing that for 26 years. Many of the Georgia writers whose first or second plays we've produced have gone on to have their work produced around the country and around the world. We believe our work in bringing new work by Georgia writers to the international stage is important, and we've been doing it for 26 years. One of the reasons we've been able to do it for 26 years is that we keep our budgets tight. We're economically very responsible, and we have remained debt-free. A big reason that we've been able to remain debt-free is the generous financial support we've received from -- we've been receiving from Fulton County since 2005. And we want to keep doing that work, and I urge the Commissioners to vote to restore Fulton County arts funding to its previous level. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Last six speakers in Assembly Hall: Kristen Nabers, Reed Stillson, Charles Rambo, Michael Collins --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- there should be eight more."

CLERK GRIER: "-- Dante Carter, and Stephanie Jewett and one more, Leatrice Ellzy."

KRISTEN NABERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, Commissioners. My name is Kristen Nabers. I'm the state director for All Voting is Local Action. We are a nonpartisan organization that advocates for expanding voter access. I'm here today to discuss the nominations for the Fulton BRE. I've spoken with you several times to oppose the

nomination of Jason Frazier to the board, and my concerns have only deepened over time. I know you're very familiar with his history of bringing voter challenges against his neighbors, including a challenge against then sitting Republican member of the Fulton Board, Dr. Kathleen Ruth. He also worked to help to develop the algorithms used by Eagle Eye a software program that makes it easier for individuals to conduct mass voter challenges on a large-scale. Eagle Eye has been used by everyday election vigilantes with a clear agenda to sow distress in our election system and bog down our hard-working election officials. But just this month on his X feed, Mr. Frazier -- just this month -- Mr. Frazier has called for an end to voting by mail, falsely claiming that mail ballots allow people to vote twice. He's also retweeted a Newsmax story related to a supposed cash for ballots harvesting scheme. He has asked for President Trump's help in moving forward with yet another investigation of Fulton County's election procedures in 2020. Someone with his track record cannot be given influence over elections in our state's most populous county. We've seen across the nation what happens when we place election deniers in positions of power. You rejected his appointment two years ago. You rejected him again three months ago, then this lawsuit was brought in an attempt to give a political party the ability to circumvent you all and force people onto the election's board even when the county has stated that those nominees would harm our elections. I know that board member Julie Adams is also up for discussion today. I know you're well aware that Ms. Adams, you know, voted against certifying election results. She filed multiple suits against Fulton County, Nadine Williams on her own board. And like Mr. Frazier, this is not someone who should be making decisions that will impact all voters in Fulton. Thank you so much."

REED STILLSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Morning. Thank you all for giving us the opportunity to spend a little time and speak with you. I understand that we all have very busy days here, but it is really appreciated that we can all come speak to you whether it's the arts, or judicial reform, or what I'd like to speak to you about, which is our election integrity. My name is Reed Stillson. I'm a resident and a service worker in Fulton County in the Buckhead area, and I'm also a candidate for Fulton County Commissioner, District Three. It is my understanding that as of this morning there are some ongoing legal proceedings regarding the proposed appointment of two individuals to the Board of Elections, Jason Frazier and Julie Adams. I'm here today to strongly urge the Board to do everything in their power to ensure that both Mr. Frazier and Ms. Adams are not appointed or reappointed to the Board of Elections. While both of these individuals have claimed to be acting in the defense of our electoral integrity, their actions speak far louder in the other direction. From lawsuits, to challenge eligible citizens' right to vote, to aligning themselves with widespread disinformation, or outright lies about the accuracy of verified vote counts. We already have a federal government that lies to us about election results and continues to directly attack the integrity of our democracy. If, we, the people are not only to trust that our votes count, but combat the attacks on our free and fair elections at the federal level, we need to have full confidence in our Board of Elections at the local level. We deserve a Board of Elections that staunchly upholds the free and fair elections that we hold dear. We adamantly refuses the dangerous rhetoric and lies perpetuated by the White House. And I understand that there is a legal procedure in place. You may feel bound by that, but when it comes to our democracy, I would argue that there's no greater responsibility you

have to your constituents than to use every tool available to maintain trust in our electoral process. To paraphrase, the journalist, Derrick Thompson, the measure of a government is not the processes it follows, but the people it serves. Thank you."

CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. On Monday, I stood before the Atlanta City Council urging them to continue leasing detention space. Why? Because the majority of pretrial defendants in this county jail come from their districts and they too must share responsibility in resolving our constitutional crises. Their choice to send the Resolution back to public safety and legal committee shows even they recognize unanswered questions about ending the lease. Now, as this Body today considers \$1.1 billion in jail proposal renovations, costly yes, but unfortunately constitutionally necessary. Commissioner Barrett, you really almost swayed my trusted public analysis is that now perhaps a new jail should be built, because let's be honest, if over 30 murder, suicides, and hybrid violence happened in this government center, you all would be quick to condemn it, yet the County jail which needs renovation action right now because the nightmare on Rice Street cannot continuously to move forward. This Board cannot also outsource a primarily black jail population to Mississippi or Florida while waiting on new construction. Commissioner Pitts that promotes medical and medical unit wing is not old or new. It's the same initiative sideline years ago when the great former Commissioner Lee Morris said, it would come back to haunt this Board. If this vote passes, let it not repeat past underlying motives like the 2022 -- 2005 blue-ribbon commission study to try to strip the sheriff's office of its statutory authority, or in 2005 when you negotiated the federal receiver of your choosing to separate the jail from the office of sheriff. And finally, Sheriff Labat, your lawsuit claims that the BOC interferes with your constitutional authority. Yet inside of 901 Rice Street, inmates mock that authority daily. Since this election's board handed you a 100 percent win last November, the doubt that intensified placed carried common mandate to restore 100 percent penological internal organ discipline in that jail. Now the law of divine intervention is in motion testing your capacity to lead in a questionable second term. I end this on this last point, please restore Julie Adams so that you don't become deliberately indifferent like you have been at the county Jail. Thank you very much."

MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hey, everybody. My name is Michael Collins, and I'm with the Community Over Cages Coalition. I want to thank the Commissioners for extending public comment. I think would have been a tragedy for people in this room not to hear my beautiful accent this morning. I do want to say though, the city's building part of the challenge with public comment is you put a lot of difficult and controversial things on the agenda, and people feel like they are not consulted, so they show up to speak, and our coalition is very much in this position. We fought for years to have a seat at the table, as we discuss deaths at the Fulton County Jail, and we feel like we are continually ignored. It is not consultation to be invited to a meeting one hour before a press conference on a billion dollar plus jail plan. It is not consultation to announce that plan on the Friday and then be voting on the Wednesday. We also feel that there have been some misrepresentations of the Department of Justice's position on this new plan. It's been made out as if the Department of Justice is on board with this new plan. This answers the questions from the Consent Decree, but I don't think that's accurate or true. We've continuously raise questions about staffing."

We currently have 150 vacancies within the jail, and we are proposing to build a bigger jail with a higher capacity going up from around 2,700 today to 3,200 according to one of the plans. How are we going to staff that? It's been pointed out by the DOJ and numerous observers, some of my colleagues that fewer staff equals more deaths because people cannot be monitored. We're walking into another disaster. What is the rush? We need to slow down. We need to have these consultations. We need to talk to DOJ. We need to talk to the community. We need to do more consultation, so I urge people to slow down and do that proper consultation. Thank you."

DANTE CARTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you so much for extending this time for us to come up and speak. My name is Dante Carter. I serve as the North Fulton Dems Chair, also candidate for Mayor in the city of Sandy Springs. But I'm not here under any of those titles. Today, I'm just here as a dad, and I just -- I want you all to know that I heard about the legal proceedings and how you've kicked this decision up to the Georgia Supreme Court. I want you to know I appreciate it. This is a fight we need. This is the will of the people to fight this. And I feel so convicted by this because one of the first men to hold my grandmother when she came into this world was born a slave. My great-great-grandfather was born a slave in this country. So while folks are going back-and-forth about election deniers, this, that and a third, for me, it's a whole lot more personal than that. It's the fact that I understand that when a group of people loses that political power, what happens? What happens to their lives? What happens to their way of life? And so, I just y'all to know that we appreciate y'all fight. We need you to continue to fight. That fight is needed here in Georgia. And so, I know your jobs are difficult, but I want you to know that we appreciate it. Please continue this fight. Keep it going. You know, I know we're fighting against the law, and folks get a little funny about that, but we also understand what a democracy is. A democracy is about the people, for the people. So thank y'all for standing up and we truly appreciate it."

STEPHANIE JEWETT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Stephanie Jewett, and I want to thank you for extending the time for public comment today. I'm a Fulton County resident and a small businessowner, and I'm here to urge you to stand firmly against placing election deniers on Fulton County's Board of Elections. Bad actors who threatened the very trust that keeps our democracy standing, Julie Adams refused to certify past results. Jason Frazier filed baseless voter challenges against thousands of eligible citizens. That's not protecting elections; that's undermining them. Fulton voters deserve officials who safeguard fairness, not spread conspiracy theories. I urge you to keep fighting in this and every legal venue available. This isn't just about appointments; it's about whether Fulton voters can trust that their voices will be heard. Thank you."

LEATRICE ELLZY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Leatrice Ellzy. I'm the president and CEO of the National Black Arts Festival, and so I'd like to first thank this Body for your ongoing support of NBAF. We're almost 40 years old, and we have been rocking together ever since then. We are a child of this Body, so we like to thank you for your ongoing support. Today, though, I stand in solidarity with the arts community and asking for the Board to reinstate the arts funding not only to the organizations that are

represented here, but to the communities across the county that they serve. My colleagues have extolled the value of the arts and the impact of arts and cultural programming. We are in unprecedented times and perhaps at the threshold of a radically different America and world. The promise of what the arts deliver are more important than ever, and we should look at this work through a different lens perhaps, and figure out important ways that we can be in partnership and be in service to help solve the problems that the county faces. The voice of the artists, thinkers and the dreamers will both give voice to and critically record this moment for future generations. But those voices in this community can also help us solve real-life problems now and, most importantly, help us maintain our humanity for the future. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is that all who signed up."

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anybody here who -- come on down."

CIARA FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Ciara Franklin. I'm a Spelman College graduate class of 2022. I don't have many talking points written down today. I just want to share my story and address some of the comments that have been made today. I've been living here in Georgia for the past 15 years, and as an eighth grader, I came here and studied at Wheeler High School. Before we received our performing arts center, I loved the arts, but I fell in love with theater and producing. Once we received that crucial update to our school to receive a performing arts center I went on to study documentary film, in the first class of documentary filmmakers at Spelman College and actually met with Chairman Pitts in 2022; as the first Spelman College documentarian to attend the Cannes Film Festival interning with the American Pavilion. I just want to say that us artists, we're not in conflict with any of the other efforts happening today. I have experienced incarceration myself and struggled with addiction, and the arts have been my north star being able to speak and express some of the issues that I faced have helped me get through a strong and difficult period of my life during the pandemic after so many shutdowns and a lot of different strikes that were happening in our industry. And I currently serve as the communications coordinator for Reimagine ATL. We rely on this funding, and I'm here because a lot of young black artists today are working jobs, hustling trying to make a living. And the funding that you will hopefully reinstate today will just help us continue our work; continue creating safe spaces, and offering different avenues and opportunities for folks like me. Thank you and we urge you to reinstate funding, please."

ASHLEY GLASS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. I am Ashley Glass, and I am here to stand up for all of those that cannot, and all of the women that are standing up to war right now. I've been a resident of Fulton County for 51 years. I rise today with a simple message: Julie Adams and Jason Frazier should not be entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing our elections in Fulton County. Ms. Adams has already shown us what she would do -- I'm sorry. In 2024, she refused to certify the primary results, not because of fraud, but because she did not like the outcome. She even went to court to argue that local boards should be allowed to block certification. The courts

rejected that theory because certification is not optional; it is the law. Mr. Frazier, meanwhile, has spent years filing mass voter challenges targeting thousands of Fulton County residents. He even filed a federal lawsuit to purge voters from the polls. That case was withdrawn, but the intent was clear. His mission is not to protect voters. It is to intimidate them. Together these two nominees represent a direct threat to free and fair elections. Fulton County deserves election officials who are fair and impartial. Our jail, it is in crisis. People are dying at Rice Street, and that should horrify every one of us. As a formal public safety officer, yes, me, for over ten years, I was terrified to go there. I worked the night shift at Grady. If someone like me, used to emergencies and chaos, fear stepping into that building, what does that say? Our jail is unsafe, underfunded, and unfit. We must invest in humane conditions and real oversight before more lives are lost. And as a wife of a public safety officer, I'm now scared for his life when he goes there. We also need to fund the arts. The arts are not a luxury. They are the soul of our community. They give our young people hope, expression, and opportunity. The arts drive tourism, and tourism brings in money. In a county that is large and diverse, cutting the arts means cutting off voices. Investing in the arts is investing in health, pride, and the future Fulton County, the county I grew up in. And Commissioners, I just have to say this: We see you. The community is watching. When members avoid eye contact, yes, I'm looking at some of you and seem disengaged, it feels like our voices don't matter. I know these meetings are long and the issues are heavy, but for us, speaking here may be our only choice to be -- or our only chance to be heard. A simple sign of attention shows the public that you value us even when we may not agree."

CHRIS HAYDEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Chris Hayden. I'm a resident of Fulton County. I'm here to support the nomination of Julie Adams and Jason Frazier to serve on the Fulton County Board of Registrations and Elections. Julie was required by law to approve -- she saw problems. So whether the results are valid or not, you have to approve it. That makes no sense, but I know it is the law. She did not want to. Jason has looked at the voter data. He sees voter addresses, is it an abandoned lot, several UPS stores; people who have voted by mail-in ballots and in person. He only wants our votes to be accurate. This is about voter integrity, our election data. In recent elections, we've had more votes than voters. We've had people younger than 18 vote. We've had people older than 105 votes, voters registered in the future. That's what our data, that's what he is trying to correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, anyone else? Okay. Let the records reflect that everyone here today who was signed up or who did not sign up were given the opportunity to speak, and we'll be revisiting the public speaking rules shortly at our next meeting. Let's go to Zoom. How many on Zoom at this point?"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good morning, Commissioners --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- initially it was how many? How many? We don't know? Okay. It's all good."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Eighteen."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Eighteen?

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Eighteen. The first person to speak is Ravi Windom."

RAVI WINDOM, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, or afternoon now. My name is Ravi Windom. I'm an education programs manager with the Hammonds House Museum. And this passed weekend we had a back-to-school family night out, porch party at the museum. And we had over 20 families that braved the rain to come and see the beautiful art exhibition and hear some of their favorite tunes played by the DJ that just so happened to be my brother, Amir Windom. Everyone completely enjoyed themselves and longed for more, and it made me think, family and the arts are literally the only joy that we have right now. When you turn on the news its violence, its suppression and depressing, and you just don't see as much joy being represented because the arts are not as much as a part of the narrative and it just keeps dwindling and funds get cut. And we need more porch party family date nights with music and arts that keep bringing us joy and hope. So with that today, I hope that you take the time out, Commissioners, to listen to some music, and do a little dance. That's right, Chairman Pitts, do a little dance today right after you update the funding for arts and culture to 1.7 billion -- million dollars, excuse me. Thank you so much and I hope that you have a wonderful rest of your day."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Rachel Carey."

RACHEL CAREY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

RACHEL CAREY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Wonderful. I'm Rachel Carey, chief real estate officer at Westside Future Fund, a community revitalization nonprofit creating affordable housing in English Avenue and Vine City. I'm here to share project we've been developing for five years that's reached a critical juncture. 390 Sunset Avenue will transform a blighted vacant site into 26 high-quality affordable apartments. We've secured the necessary funding: \$2 million in federal grants, \$2.5 million in Westside TAD funds, plus additional financing. Invest Atlanta approved our TAD grant in May, and we're now seeking your approval to move forward. Time is a crucial factor. Without approval in the coming months, we'll lose our \$2 million federal grant, and the project cannot proceed. This would mean 26 fewer affordable housing units in the community where this resource is increasingly scarce. When families can't find affordable housing, it often leads to displacement, school disruption for children, and greater housing instability, even homelessness. Your approval of the pending Westside TAD grants would allow us to serve these families and continue the important revitalization work in these neighborhoods. We respectfully ask for your support in moving these grants forward and maintaining Fulton County's participation in the TAD program. Thank you so much for your time and consideration."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Christopher Escobar."

CHRISTOPHER ESCOBAR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. Today is yesterday's tomorrow. I want to thank y'all for your past support of the arts. I want to thank you for putting this critical item back on the agenda. To give you a little case study, that for our 49th annual festival, we did the work. We had the biggest festival, the biggest visibility, the biggest economic impact, and yet philanthropic and corporate support are at all-time lows, worse than during COVID, worse than the recession. And early this year, we know what happened with arts funding. Our grants got cut down to 59 percent. But here's a reminder that was so passionately put by one of our Commissioners. 'So I have a well-documented history of fighting for arts, because arts saved not only my life, it saved the life of my kids. As a domestic abuse survivor and someone who has autistic relatives, I know what the arts community has and will continue to do. What was different from last year to now, we have President Trump in office. He can wake up any moment, any day and decide he's going to cut off something.' And he did, during our festival, our federal grant was -- contract was cut. State funds took a nosedive, which are now at zero dollars for us. And for the first time in a decade, we've had to cut staff affecting a third of our year-round staff. You want to keep the millage rate low or have the dollars to invest in vital criminal justice needs? Invest in the arts, that gives Fulton County more than 300 percent return. Do you want to keep people from desperate and turning to crime, make sure the jobs -- that arts can create jobs. Would encourage you to fully approve restoring the arts back to just the 1985 levels, but let me leave you with these last words. 'But I want you to hear an uncomfortable truth from me, because a lie will continue to hurt you over and over and over again. The truth can only hurt you once. That's all I have to say about it, does not mean to follow'."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Next speaker."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Go ahead."

MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. We often hear some of you speak about the importance of following the law, and how fellow Commissioners can be highly political instead of simply doing the right thing. How irrelevant this is today? Commissioner Ivory, you previously spoke about how you use the law as your guide, yet now you want to obstruct it. What a great example of supreme gas lighting. One of the reasons why you said to oppose Ms. Adams was because she cost the taxpayer dollars, because she sued the county three times. Well, this is a trend. Number one, your statement is false. She filed once, and it was because the Election Department wasn't following the law in giving her access to documents that she needed. Here we are today, as well as other Commissioners, costing the taxpayer's money in an attempt to not follow the law. The hypocrisy is

spewing all over these chambers. Commissioner Ivory, were you not preaching earlier about consistency? You've probably heard the quote, 'how do you know when a politician is lying, when their lips are moving'. Too many of the commenters -- there are two trends. One is it is full of misinformation. You preach upholding free and fair elections and democracy, democracy, democracy; what's your definition of democracy? Does that mean that we don't elect the General Assembly to make our laws and then we follow those laws? So the question really is for those individuals, are you just spewing talking points? Do you have no idea of the facts on the ground? Are you more of the communist Marxist type who actually does not believe in our form of government, which is very evident? So at the end of the day follow the law."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, next speaker."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Cynthia Parnell McDonald. Cynthia Parnell McDonald. Next person to speak is April Lakeman. April Lakeman. Next person to speak is Elisa Covarrubias. Elisa Covarrubias. Next person to speak is Cameron Litland. Cameron Litland. Next person to speak is Cathi -- excuse me, Cathi Frederiken. Cathi Frederiken. Next person to speak is Felicia Youn. Felicia Youn. Next person to speak is Jeffrey Frazier. Jeffrey Frazier. Next person to speak is Jenn Sapp. Jenn Sapp. Next person to speak is Jennifer Fine. Jennifer Fine. Next person to speak is Keith Hannigan. Keith Hannigan. Next person to speak is Lyndsey Coates. Lyndsey Coates. Next person to speak is Sharon Maloney. Sharon Maloney."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I'm told that there's an audio issue, so how do we address that? How do we address it? I don't know whether -- it's frequently during the Zoom, half the people who sign up to speak do not speak, but I'm told today someone says there's an audio issue, so what's the answer?"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The audio is actually working, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm just telling you what I'm being told."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- don't shoot the messenger."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Cynthia Parnell McDonald. Cynthia --"

CYNTHIA PARNELL MCDONALD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, ma'am."

CYNTHIA PARNELL MCDONALD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, ma'am."

CYNTHIA PARNELL MCDONALD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. And thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Dr. Cynthia Parnell McDonald. I am the pastor of Cosmopolitan AME Church in the Vine City, and I just wanted to express my strong support for extending the city of Atlanta's Tax Allocation District Program. Our church is a proud participant in the Westside TAD, and with its support, we are creating affordable housing and community learning hub all to the service of our neighborhood and our community. And so, that TAD funding is necessary for us. It allows legacy institutions like ours to really lead change from within. And so, I do ask as this is -- the TAD funding is a lifeline for communities that you continue to support the TAD and empower people through it. Thank you very much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "And this concludes our Zoom public comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Anybody else? That's it. Thank you. All right, Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 6, Presentations to the Board, **25-0512**, Housing Authority of Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is Ms. Moore still here? I mean -- I apologize. You've been before us. This is your third meeting. Haven't had a chance to speak, but thankfully, you'll be able to today make your presentation. And while you're coming down, I'll just add an editorial comment. Ms. Felicia Moore chairs the board. This board -- and I believe of all our boards this may be our most effective professional of all the boards that we've appointed. Thank you, Commissioners, for being thoughtful in the folk that you appointed to this board. Welcome."

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: "Thank you, everyone. It is a job to listen to the public, and I'm glad y'all you were able to get all that in and that we will be able to come back. On behalf of all of the board, we thank you for our appointments. I'm joined today by Vice Chair Commissioner Lauren Waits, Commissioner Holly York was here earlier, she had to leave. Our other board members are Stephen Davis, Ryan Glover, and Sulay Carpenter, all of which I would just want to say what really makes this work is that you have an engaged board. We haven't had any problems about having quorums or meetings. People are engaged and involved in wanting to make the Fulton County Housing Authority better. There is one thing that I would ask, and I'm going to do my ask right up front, and this is something that HUD has really encouraged -- not encouraged, I'm going to say demanding it -- it's required. It's required that this board have resident members. Right now, we have two resident member positions. Our legal counsel has drafted -- not legislation -- I guess it will be legislation, but language to help us accomplish that. We do need to make some changes in state law in order to make sure it's clear that we're able to do it. You know, does federal law outweigh state law, whatever. We just need to change, and that's where we need your help. We need to know who here at Fulton County can be our point person, encouraging you to put it in

your legislative package in helping us to assist someone to author it so we can get this done. This is a compliance issue with HUD that we really need to fix. So we've been a board approximately one year and maybe two weeks now, from the time we were appointed to the full board. As you know, we are a troubled agency with many deficiencies that have been cited by HUD. But we hit the ground running. We have faced some immediate challenges. We're working with HUD this time as a partner. They have been very helpful to us, and we've developed a good relationship with them to help us to get us back on track. And while we've made progress, we are continuing to work on a lot of past issues and make sure that we're prepared for any current ones that are future ones that occur, and she will report this. The board as well as staff members, we're ongoing having training. We're working to update our policies, our bylaws, and procedures, addressing facility needs of the authority that the office resides in as well as residential properties that we want to make sure are in good order for the residents that we serve; getting vendors on board, dealing with landlord issues. We're still working to update our software, which is a major impediment, but we're on track to getting it replaced. We've replaced computers, and we have financially hired vendors to help us get -- one of the biggest complaints are outstanding since maybe 2022, annual financial statements and ultimately the audits from there, so that we are in compliance and up to board. So we are committed to continue to serve the members of Fulton County. The first thing we've got to do is what we're doing now, is making sure that we get the organization stable in order and compliance so that we can provide more to the residents. I'd like to introduce you to our executive director, Verida Hinton. She'll give a PowerPoint presentation. We want to keep this brief, so if you had any questions, we still have time."

VERIDA HINTON, FC HAFC: "Good morning, Commissioners, community members and distinguished guests. Thank you for the opportunity --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- speak up a little bit, ma'am."

VERIDA HINTON, FC HAFC: "I'm sorry. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I will go ahead and get started with the presentation. It will provide a clear overview of the recent updates recent updates from the HUD during the summer of 2024. Our goal is to inform, engage, and most importantly, foster collaborations. We firmly believe that success of any initiative relies on the strong community input and continued support from our leadership. Thank you again for your time, your commitment, and your partnership in sharing a brighter future for the Fulton County. We welcome your questions and feedback at the conclusion of the presentation. Next page. Thank you. So the agenda we'll talk about the purpose which will provide an update on the HUD findings from June 2024 through July 2024, an overview of the HUD key concerns, summary of the key compliance and operational issues identified by HUD, internal concerns, additional issues uncovered through internal and external reviews, resolutions and progress, actions underway to address HUD findings and internal challenges. Significant improvements, notable progress made in operations, compliance, and performance in where we are now; current status update, including risk level, management structure, and next steps. Next slide, please. The purpose is to provide the update to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners on the 2024

correspondence from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, to the Housing Authority of Fulton County. On June 27, 2024, the final results of HUD onsite confirmatory review of HAFC Section 8 program. The review was conducted on June 26, 2024. In notification that we received on July 10, 2024, HUD outlined concerns including late landlord payments in June 2024 and July 2024, the inability to provide -- SEMAP data, a delay in selecting a fee accountant, outstanding audited financial submissions for the fiscal year 2022 and 2023, lack of responsiveness from internal leadership. On July 17, 2024, a notice of HAFC, we received a failure to submit timely voucher management systems data. Next slide, please. HUD key concerns and operations: We had an inexperienced executive director and staff; no senior staff with HUD compliance experience, a lack of responsiveness to HUD, landlords' frustration and risk of attrition, failure to submit our SEMAP by Section 8 management assessment program data, failure to submit our VMS, our voucher management system for HCV financial reporting, potential sanctions and designations as a troubled agency, and consideration of third-party or local PHA managements to come in to manage the authority. Next slide, please. HUD key concerns about governance: instances of unprofessional decorum during board meetings, allegation of board actions not aligned with HAFC bylaws, alleged procurement policy violations during executive leadership vacancy, allegations that not all board members receive timely meeting notices, failure, to ensure submission of required HUD reports and annual financial data; delayed notifications to landlords and tenants regarding late payments for the June 2024 through July 2024. Next slide, please. HUD key concerns and financial management: The audited financial data not submitted for fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023, our financial records not closed out for the fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023. Our inability to attract and retain qualified financial staff, our unresponsiveness to request for current financial data, capital and operating funds not drawn down, no action taken to procure an independent auditor for the financial reporting. Next slide, please. The internal concerns that were found; Backlogs in a housing choice voucher program and the public housing programs, no certifications or annual recertifications for the families who are participants, the HQS inspections were suspended by the staff, no public housing files were on record in the office. We found incomplete or missing HCV tenant files, outdated technology and software systems, nonpayment to mixed finance development partners, unprocessed cashier checks found in manager's office, outstanding portability collections, and erosions of trust amongst the clients and the staff. We also found out that the agency is experiencing a funding shortfall due to inaction or no action from previous administration. Next slide, please. Resolutions and progress: Operations, experienced staff and leadership on board has been onboarded. Reconstruction of the tenant files are in progress, emergency procurement actions have been executed. Critical vendors have been secured. We now have a fee account in place. We also manage some business with CVR management. CVR provided staff assessments, training, and operational support; improve our communications with HUD. We've enhanced landlord engagement and outreach. SEMAP compliance is on track for October 2025 submission. Our financial reporting has been restored. Our funds drawdowns have been completed for fiscal year 2022 and 2024. Next slide, please. Additionally, resolutions in progress for governance: We have a new Board of Commissioners installed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, board meetings conducted with professionalism and decorum, proper notice has been given a

board members and public for all meetings and changes; HUD training underway for board members and executive staff. Financial management: We've requested a waiver was submitted to HUD for our 2024 fiscal financial submission. This PowerPoint was created previously. We have since received notification from HUD. They have denied our waiver requests. Financial recording: Records are being closed for fiscal year 2022, 2023, and 2024. The RFP for our financial audit closed on June 12th 2025. Audit contract to be presented to the board for approval in July 2025. It was, in fact, approved by the board. We're in the process of moving forward with getting the items started for the next three years. Next slide, please. Significant improvements: The new Board of Commissioners installed, improved customer service, streamline processes for efficiency, the staff has been trained for uniformity. The HQS inspections have resumed and are progressing. Timely landlord HAP payments, emergency procurements successfully sourced. We close on an Anthem III Apartment Development. It is now in the construction phase. We're collecting outstanding portability payments. We've recovered unprocessed checks, certified housing staff in place, current on our VMS and other HUD reporting. Next slide, please. Where are we now? HUD conducted a compliance review in February of 2025 and we had an exit meeting held in March. We do have another compliance review for our SEMAP program where HUD will come on site in September 2024. We're awaiting our final report. Once we receive that, a corrective action will be put in place. Agencywide computer upgrades have been completed, the software system conversion is underway to modernize and streamline our processes, the PIC reporting has significantly improved, our public hearing was conducted for our annual plan. It was completed and approved by the board for July 2025, and has been submitted to HUD for approval. Our staff completed their certified HCV training courses, and executive staff had completed the procurement training. Next slide, please. And that is everything. Thank you. Does anyone have any questions? I'm sorry."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Vice Chair. I just want to take this moment to thank you, Chairwoman. I know that you came into a situation that I would not have put on an enemy. When I look back as to what we went through being threatened with legal action, you know, a lot of stuff was politicized, but the facts remain that we did a disservice as the county to the citizens of Fulton County. And we needed to clean up and we needed to take care of the situation regardless of how anybody feels, that is a fact. And I thank you and your board, and your administrative staff for everything that you've done. I know that there are some things that you're still trying to work out, but I've had an opportunity to talk to individuals, and they said it's just such a breath of fresh air to have people that can have a conversation, that are polite, that return calls, that respond to e-mails, the things that we take for granted that are very small to others. Customer service doesn't cost anything, and I thank you all for that. My one question to you, the waiver, what was given as the reason that the waiver failed?"

VERIDA HINTON, FC HAFC: "Based on the requests, we stated, of course, the financials were not completed for the fiscal year 2022, 2023. HUD requires that the financial data, the unaudited version, is submitted by June 30th. As you know, we have

not had our audit as of yet. We've just procured the contract. They stated that it is the responsibility of the PHA regardless of staff, administration, any kind of changes, to make sure that we submit those things timely, so they denied it. I requested a waiver and an extension, both were denied."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "So to put in layman's terms, you all accepted an issue that was preceding you all, and you tried your best to see if you could bring some resolution to it. But HUD basically said time constraints; should have been done. You know, they can't do it, pretty much end of story."

VERIDA HINTON, FC HAFC: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER ABUR-RAHMAN: "I just want to make sure that the public hears this because this is some of things that I and others here rung the bell about, but we got caught up in a whole bunch of other politicizing, but rules are rules. You can't change rules. Rules are rules."

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: And I just want to add that, yeah, rules are rules and you know, not doing financial statements since 2022 is a problem for any organization."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Exactly."

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: "And HUD has been working with us so helpfully on so many other issues that, you know, we're not happy that they didn't do the waiver because they've been helping us along."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, they've been very accommodating."

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: "You know, at some point, you have to say no, and they said, no."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Well, thank you, Chairwoman for all you do, and all that the Board of Commissioners do, because it is a -- it's a group project. Yes, you're the chair, yes, you're a competent leader, but unless you have individuals that understand it's a group project, you can't get anything done. Nobody's a dictator, but at the end of the day, you all have to work together, and I just want to say again, that I appreciate you, Ms. Waits, and all of the individuals and the administrative staff because, like I said, you all inherited a mess that I would not have given to an enemy. And you all rolled your sleeves up collectively and did what you needed to do. I understand why they did that, but here again; I want to go on record thanking all of you and even the ones behind the scene to make sure that we have a functioning Housing Authority Board. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to second that. You guys are done an incredible job turning around an organization that really needed help,

the professionalism of you and the board and really the whole staff, and it's great to have you on board as well, so thank you for that. I did have a couple of quick questions on the waiver and the fact that we didn't get it. What is the implication about? Are we going to be able to submit our reports in a timely manner?"

VERIDA HINTON, FC HAFC: "So we did receive a zero this year for our financial submitting of that particular -- those particular reports. Now that we have procured the financial audit because they have to do three years, they will be broken down into two-month increments. So they'll start with '22, '23, '24. We hope that '24 is completed by the end of April, April 28th; they're staggering about two months. And once those are completed, we should be able to submit our audits timely for next year's submission for the June 30th deadline. So we're projecting that next year, we will get back on time with those types of reporting."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So we'll be late again this year?"

VERIDA HINTON, FC HAFC: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Is any implication to that? Is there anything we've --"

VERIDA HINTON, FC HAFC: "-- yes. Since we are a troubled agency and we're already in shortfall, there are different things that HUD can do. They can sanction some of our funding and give us a cost reduction. So those are some of the things that we've already expected and we've been made aware of."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So that was my second question. You mentioned a funding shortfall. Can you talk more about that and what the implications are and what the -- how we get through that?"

VERIDA HINTON, FC HAFC: "So what happens with the funding -- okay. So the funding shortfall is going to apply directly currently to our Section 8 program. It may possibly apply to our public housing program. One of the things with the current administration, we've already been made aware that the public housing funding will be cut. We've also been made aware that the Section 8 administrative fees will be cut as well, and that is how we fund our operations. From my understanding, Section 8, the funding will remain the same as what it was for 2025. But one of the things that we've already found is that you're given so much money to help with the rents. We were already over budget that's where we're falling into the shortfall. We don't have enough funding available to pay the HAP rents that we already have in place. So some of our shortfall -- unfortunately, our shortfall was already in place prior to the expected budget cuts. So these are some of the things that we're working for towards. So, yes, they can be a problem. HUD can continue to sanction you, but normally what they would do, they work with the PHA so that we can implement other strategies on how to save money if it is a reduction in, not so much rental costs, but maybe one of the things to reduce, avoid -- I don't want to say rental freeze, but --"

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: "-- let me say that, you know, there's a current issue about what future funding may be available, but I just asked people to put that aside because we're in a deficit situation before we even get to that. And so the board is going to be having on its agenda, we are going to push it to another agenda to give us more time to contact our companies, our management partners who are doing the housing for us. But what we want to say is the approval of rental increases would also be contingent upon the availability in funding. We got to somehow reign in some of the overspending that was already approved by previous administrations."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I'd like to -- you know, I'm sure we'd all like to get continued updates on that as you progress through it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just one small question. On the resident appointee, I thought we'd had some potential conversation. If not, I would -- I thought we had -- on the resident appointee, I thought we'd had some previous dialogue with may be our County Attorney office and y'all have not -- I would encourage and ask to occur to see whether or not we could exercise local legislation on rule powers to go ahead and get this in place since it's a gap and I don't know that there would really be a whole lot of objection to this, you know, doing so either. You know, you've got to do that in a certain window of time and all that."

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: "We just need a good contact person, our legal counsel has drafted legislation --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- I'm not talking about -- well, okay."

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: "Well, the language --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "The language for the legislation. So I don't know if you want to opine on that or y'all just want to talk off line, that's fine too."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So when the new board was seated, my office did reach out to the HAFC's counsel to offer them the benefit of the research that we had done, so it's my understanding that he was taking it from there, and we are standing by to assist if needed, or as needed."

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: And I remember something -- I think it may have been Commissioner Abdur-Rahman -- I thought you said you made -- it was finding a sponsor -- I don't know.

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "No, what I'm saying is this --"

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: "-- somebody else finding a sponsor --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- yeah, sorry. Didn't mean to interrupt you. But there -- the state legislation -- but we have home rule powers, which we can --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- exactly."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- we can introduce certain legislation. It's got to be done like, you know -- it's kind of like one of these, you know, there's only a few dates in the calendar you can do it, but we would have those powers to do it in certain situations, and if this is one of those, I would recommend that we go ahead and exercise it so we can take care of what is, you know, an administrative issue that I don't think that there's a lot of objections that people would have to it. And you need to get it addressed and if we have the ability to do it, let's do it. So if we can get -- if you would encourage your staff attorney to reach out to our folks and vet that issue to see if we can get it taken care of, I think that would be great.

FELICIA MOORE, FC HAFC: "Will do it."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I'll be brief. I'll follow up with you all because yeah, we did have that conversation about making sure that we did what we need to do on our end. And so, you're right, Vice Chair, we just need to make sure that we get that done in conjunction with what you all are doing. So I'll make sure I'll follow up with you all as well."

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

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Ms. Moore, thank you. Good to see you. See you next quarter. All right, Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on the bottom of page 6, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **25-0603**, presentation and approval to proceed with the planning of option three, which includes construction of a special purpose building to serve vulnerable populations and offset the future need for outsourcing of inmates to out-of-county jail facilities, and renovations at the Rice Street main jail."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Steve Nawrocki, Strategy Office. I'm joined this afternoon by Mr. Joe Davis, Director of DREAM and leaders from our program management team, ACR Partners. Representing ACR Partners today, we have Megan Kachikowski, Jackie Codovis [Phonetic.], and Roger Lichtman [Phonetic.]. We're before you today to provide an update and recommendation on the plan to move forward with the Fulton County jail capital improvement program. Today's update will include an overview of the conditions

assessment conducted on the jail facilities, a walk through of project options including our recommendation, an overview of financing options for the project given by CFO Sharon Whitmore and, finally, planned next steps. Can we pull up the presentation, please? Advance to the next slide, please. One more. Thank you, one more. So I'd like to start with the actions the Board directed county administration to take at the July 10, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting to procure a program management team or PMT. First, the PMT was to conduct facility's condition's assessment at the Rice Street main jail, the South and Marietta annexes, and the Atlanta City Detention Center, or AC/DC. Second, coming out of the assessment, the PMT was to prioritize their findings based on the status and the level of criticality of the major systems across each facility. Next and this is going to be the focus of today's presentation. The PMT was to develop project options for the county to assess with a focus on renovations to the jail. These options were to be delivered within the county's maximum allowable budget, meaning no increase to a millage rate. As a reminder, back in 2024, we identified a little under \$20 million through general fund capital dollars as well as reprogrammed available TAD dollars to be used for debt service. And we forecasted that this potentially yielding up to \$300 million in bond funds. However, you'll see today we have expended those options well beyond the 300 million. Next item, number four, the PMT was to develop plans for inmate housing during construction. This is proving to be one of the most challenging aspects of the project given the current conditions at the federal level, and we're exploring options across other counties potential private providers and even looking at a potential temporary build option on the Rice Street campus. And finally, the project -- or excuse me -- finally, the PMT was to provide estimates of a special-purpose facility which would serve the mental and medically fragile along with other vulnerable groups in our jail population. And now to bring us up to current, we went under a contract with ACR Partners in December of 2024. I'm going to turn it over the Megan to walk the progress we've made over the past eight months. Megan."

MEGAN KOCIKOWSKI, ACR PARTNERS: "Thank you, Steve. Good afternoon, Chairman and Commissioners. Megan Kocikowski, ACR Partners. So picking up from where Mr. Nawrocki left off, our team of specialists conducted facility conditions assessment in quarter one of this year. Identifying deficiencies and needed repairs for each of the aforementioned facilities. Those findings were used to inform development of the options that we'll be presenting to you today. Next slide, please. So shortly following that assessment, what was clear to the team was that the estimated cost to address the deficiencies just for the Rice Street main jail alone, greatly exceeds the maximum allowable budget that Steve mentioned it was set last year. However, the county has identified additional resources within its financial envelope, and the CFO will expand on those funding sources and that information later in the presentation. This team will be presenting today four different options. Each option includes the renovation of the Rice Street main jail in line with the direction of the Board of Commissioners last year, as well as build solutions to address behavioral care needs through either a special purpose facility or continued access to AC/DC. As we review the options, each one includes preliminary estimates for the capital costs, anticipated bed needs and associated inmate outsourcing costs; ongoing maintenance of existing facilities as well as high-level schedule information based on anticipated phasing requirements. What is not included as part of this analysis are the jail operating costs

nor costs to address the Consent Decree. Next slide, please. So as the team present an option, there's a few considerations or key points that are worth mentioning. The first is that looking at the current population, plus some flexibility for classification purposes, we arrived at a current bed need of 3200 beds. This bed count is used in each option purely for consistent comparative analysis. As part of next steps as we undergo architectural programming, we will continue to assess the anticipated bed need and provide an architectural program that is in alignment with that. The second point that you see in front of you is that the numbers the team will be presenting are preliminary figures, and based on industry norms in similar facilities throughout Georgia as well as nationally. As part of immediate next steps, we'll be working with County Administration and the Fulton County Sheriff's office to determine the spatial needs of the special-purpose facility doing that architectural programming process. The third point is that the annexes will continue to be used to house inmates for the duration of the project, but the renovation of the annexes are not included in any of the options. And the last couple points are with regard to inmate outsourcing: So the cost estimates are based on current agreements, and at points where the outsourcing need is anticipated to exceed the current beds available. We've included estimates to outsource to private detention providers. As Steve mentioned, that is one of the greatest challenges that we foresee as part of this capital improvement program. Throughout the study process, we've been in contact and having conversations with a variety of entities to try to ascertain the availability of beds from different sources. What I can tell you is that beds are limited. What I can also tell you is federal law enforcement and agencies are actively seeking beds and quite frankly, they are paying a premium for those beds. So based on the law of supply and demand, we anticipate increasing scarcity of beds and increasing costs to obtain access to out of county beds. You'll see as we walk through the options, this is really what informed our study process as we sought ways to limit the burden and the cost of outsourcing as we largely consider that to a sum cost for the county. Next slide, please. So now Jackie Hadabas [Phonetic.] with our team will provide a summary of our findings with the facility condition assessment. Jackie."

JACKIE HADABAS, ACR PARTNERS: "Thank you, Megan. My name is Jackie Hadabas. I'm with ACR Partners, and I'm going to walk you through some of the key findings from our FCA --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- speak up a little bit, please."

JACKIE HADABAS, ACR PARTNERS: "Sure, I'm sorry. I probably just need this to go high up. Is that better?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

JACKIE HADABAS, ACR PARTNERS: "So ACR Partners conducted a facility conditions assessment across four sites -- still can't hear me? That's better? Okay. Got it. So there's four sites for the Rice Street main jail, the AC/DC Atlanta City Detention Center, as well as the South and Marietta annexes. At each of these sites, we reviewed the architectural, the mechanical, the electrical, plumbing, and life safety systems. And we identified critical deficiencies within each of these systems. Looking

specifically at the Rice Street main jail, this facility was constructed in 1989 with further additions in 2003. It's currently undergoing renovations under the Blitz Program. The team identified multiple systems rated as being in critical condition, and those include the roofing, the interior finishes, the plumbing, the fire protection, and the electrical system. There was also poor conditions noted in the exterior enclosure, the interior construction, and the HVAC systems. The accelerated deterioration observed is due to the operation beyond the original design intent, and that attempts with both the resident volume as well as the classification of inmates housed. An additional concern at the Rice Street jail is that the sanitary sewer piping is failing, which is a major operational and health concern. Looking at the AC/DC facilities, we found this facility to be generally in better condition than the others; however, it was noted that the plumbing system is in critical condition and in urgent need of repair. The HVAC and the fire protection systems are also found to be in poor condition, and there were similar sewer staff issues as we noted at the Rice Street main jail with pipe working undersized and this lean to backups and sometimes flooding in the housing units. The HVAC and fire protection systems are largely original, built in 1995, and are therefore well beyond their useful -- useful life. Looking at the annexes now, both South and Marietta, the core systems, include the roofing, the HVAC, the plumbing, electrical, were all found to be in fair to poor condition, and showing signs of degradation due to their age. We found the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure to be outdated, and we further observed that inadequate detention components were in place at these facilities. So that's a snapshot of our findings from the FCA. I'll hand you over now to my colleague, Roger Lichtman, to will walk you through our option summary. So next slide, please. Thank you."

ROGER LICHTMAN, ACR PARTNERS: "Good afternoon. Good afternoon, I'm Roger Lichtman from ACR Partners. So the scope was basically in terms of renovating Rice Street, and building a special-purpose building. We looked at a myriad of options, and then distilled them down to approximately four options. And the scope was to replace all deficiencies identified in the facilities conditions assessment and the required code upgrades, construct a multipurpose building to accommodate the projected behavioral care and special needs beds, and then to review a standard schedule versus accelerated schedule analysis, and then to review the impact of a transfer of ACDC. Next, please. All right. So the basic option one, and as it was pointed out by Megan that with the total beds of 3200, you can see here the capital cost estimate for the Rice Street renovation is 536 million and the special purpose facility of 172 million. So now during the period of time of construction on this, there is a ten-year minimum maintenance period in which the areas that are not being worked on and renovated on Rice Street needs to be continually maintained. So that occurs, and then there is the ACDC maintenance, wasn't included in this. But then in addition to that, the idea on this option was to take two of the fingers on the towers. You know, there's six fingers on each of the two towers, to take two of the fingers, work vertically on them, be able to close those off so that an outside contractor can come in that would be outside the secure perimeter and work on that. The problem with doing that is that over the period

of time by the time the renovation is complete, we're talking somewhere on the order of ten to 11 years to get the project done. And in addition to that, we surveyed industry, and it's a tough project for industry to tie up forces knowing what's going to happen in ten to 11 years and even to price it. So in addition to that, the maximum outsourced bed need in which to abandon these facilities, or at least a portion of the facility was 924, bringing the total cost estimate for the project up to \$1,000,059,000 -- I mean, \$59 million. So next, please. All right, so now we looked at, how can we make this more enticing to the industry, so that more better competition for the county, and perhaps get this done quicker? So what we looked at then was to accelerate it so that we would do one tower at a time. So you do six fingers on one tower, abandon that completely, and then come back once that was complete, then do six fingers on the other tower and take care of that completely. And then obviously, you know, the in-between portion that combines the two towers, that would be incremental as well. So the issue on this is that capital cost estimate, it saves some money at \$677 million. The Rice Street renovation, 505, the special-purpose building, 172 million, that doesn't change. This ten-year maintenance costs goes down, to some extent, simply because we're getting it done quicker so that more of the facility is renovated, as opposed to needing maintenance as the time goes on. The kicker in this is, as you come down, is the outsourcing, because in order to abandon one full tower, that means that we've got a bunch of inmates that we have to ship out elsewhere. So the maximum outsource bed need is 1,813 in order to complete this project within six to seven years. The other thing that I want to point out on this is that the 600-bed special-purpose facility could occur simultaneous at that point to the Rice Street facility. And then once that is complete, obviously, then you can occupy those 600 beds. So before we go on to the next slide, we said to ourselves, with all that money going out for outsourcing, now, let me just explain this one second. It says the current outsourcing budget through the end of the project. You are currently outsourcing beds right now. So we held that as a constant, to outsource that number of beds. And then the second line on there, the incremental outsourcing, that is what is due only to the phasing and the construction and the renovation of the towers. So that's what brings that up so high. It's 282 million outsourced in addition to the 52 million that you're spending now. So we said to ourselves, we said, well, the 334 million that you're spending for outsourcing, those are sunk funds. You'll never see them. You can't bond them, and it's a ton of money. I mean, that was the original budget that was supposed to be for the renovation of the jail. So what if we were to spend the 334 million in actual capital construction, what would that yield us? Next slide, please. All right, so just what I said, the outsourcing can't be financed. The scenario was investigating to a larger special-purpose facility. The renovation of Rice Street is sequenced after the completion of the special-purposes facility. ACDC lease term expires next year, so we can deal with that. The net cost impact of 123 million eliminates all outsourcing following project completion. Currently, the county spends \$16 million annually on

outsourcing inmates. This equates to 10 percent of the project cost increase. And after eight years, it's actually before eight years, if you invest that 300 and change million dollars in the building, as opposed to outsourcing, it pays for itself. The return on investment is under eight years on that money spent. And it's the gift that keeps on giving, of course, because that savings is appreciated beyond that completion of the building, and you won't have the outsourcing anymore at that point. So upon project completion, with the -- with the special-purposes building complete and occupied, Rice Street will then be able to accommodate single bunking. There will only be 1600 inmates in Rice Street at that point, which gives you greater operational flexibility, and of course, closer alignment to the consent decree. Next. So here you see on the right side, this is the recommended option. And you can see that the entire project is complete in nine years. But I want to point out the important point of this, I believe, is that within the first five years, we have 1800 beds complete as part of the new special-purposes building. And then once that is complete, then in five years, then the construction on Rice Street starts, or the renovation of Rice Street starts. So I think that, to me, I think that this is probably the best of all worlds, because you're getting a new facility, but yet you're maintaining your existing asset and renovating it, and it won't be as overcrowded and as dangerous as it is right now. So the entire schedule for both the renovation and the new construction is nine years, and the maximum outsourced bed need is 741 beds, as opposed to, say, 1813 beds. And one more option, next. We looked at the possible -- if ACDC is transferred and going back to the special-purposes unit of 600 beds, and you can see in front of you, this is what you basically get. You still have the need to outsource the 741. The issue is the -- despite the fact that it's done in eight years, I'm not sure -- this, to me, is neither fish nor fowl. I mean, it needs to be examined. But the issue is, is it doesn't solve Fulton County's justice issues as well as option three does, where you get the new facility for 1800 beds, and then the renovation of your existing asset. And how do we pay for this? Next."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Roger. Good afternoon, Commissioners. If we could go to the next side, please. So I think Roger ended that perfectly with, how do we pay for this? This was the task that I was provided. And the information that is presented here is based on an underlying assumption that we would work through a third-party conduit issuer, the South Fulton Regional, Municipal Regional Jail Authority, to assist us with issuing bonds. We would enter into an intergovernmental agreement to support that. So the first thing that we looked at is for each of the options that were identified, and the total capital costs, what would the estimated annual debt service for issuances related to those costs be? And that is what is presented on this slide. If you look at the third line down, it says estimated debt service for each option. I will focus primarily on option three, because that's the option that has been recommended. In that option we would need to find a little over a billion dollars. The estimated debt service for that is 84.3 million. When we

look at how we would pay for that, we have already built some funds into our budget to support a -- an issuance for a jail. We did that in 2024. So we have 10 million that we've already built in. In addition to that, the Board has previously taken an action by Board Resolution to reserve the increment that is returned from TADs that have closed and to use that for capital purposes. When we came to you last year and presented the envelope, we presented these resources with a note that the Board would need to change its resolution from that being a capital resource to being a resource available for debt service. So in our analysis we've -- we've made the assumption that that would happen, that we would have the 10 million that we've already built in, plus the returned increment, the value of the returned increment that has already been returned, which is about 8.6 million. That would give us about 18.6 million, and the balance to cover that 84.3 million would be 65.7 million. How would we do that? Well, the first thing that I did was to just go ahead and calculate what the millage rate equivalency would be if that were our only option to fund it. So in the middle of the spreadsheet there is that calculation. So in order to support that additional \$65.7 million in debt service, we would need to increase the millage rate by .83, a little more than three quarters of a mil. If a millage rate increase were not acceptable, then I asked myself, well, what other resources may we have that may become available that could be used for this purpose. And so we looked then at the tax allocation districts. And we looked specifically at when those TADs are expected to reach their natural ending. And we tranche them out into two categories, the TADS that are rolling off between 2030 and 2031 and the TADS that should roll off between 2033 and 2045. So that provides a little over \$57 million that is currently being billed out of the county's general fund millage rate that goes to a redevelopment agent that in the future, when the TADS reach their natural endpoint, would be returned to the county and be in our revenue picture, and can be used to support this project. In addition to that, we have a closed defined-benefit plan. It was closed in 1999. Our -- annually, we have an actuary evaluation conducted on that plan. And that valuation is indicating that in the year 2033, we will see a significant drop off in our required minimum contribution to continue to support that plan. That drop off is estimated to be about \$50 million. That money is currently in the general fund budget, but currently going to the pension plan. So it too is also supported by the current millage rate. So if the valuation of the plan is accurate and there are no significant market interferences, we should see a significant reduction around 2033. The combination of the TAD roll offs and the reduction in the pension contribution generates about \$107 million. And this is in -- in 2025 dollars, meaning we based it off our '25 digest values and what we currently have in the 2025 budget to support the defined-benefit plan. So we have resources that will become available in the future that would help to offset this difference that we currently have. Timing will be of a concern, depending on what the construction schedule ends up looking like, whether we go straight from new construction of a special-purpose facility to renovation of the Rice

Street or if there is any gap in between the way that we will be able to structure the bond issue, we would work to structure the issue to stay within the resources that we do have available for as long as we possibly can. And if the TADs don't roll off or if something happens that impacts that current reduction, planned reduction in our pension contribution, then we would need to look at an alternative source. But as it stands now, there are other sources available that we could plan for rather than just a straight millage rate increase. So with that, I will turn it back to Steve for a wrap up."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "All right, thank you, Sharon. You can go to the next slide, and one more. And here we do have our requested action above, which is the to proceed with option three and the team's next steps. Upon favorable approval, we will begin our program activities for the special-purpose facility. This will include refining key parts of the project, including the scope, which is going to be informed by space requirements, and working with the Sheriff's office on their operational needs. We'll update our capital construction costs and start developing operating costs to run the special-purpose facility. And we'll get better clarity around anticipated project schedule. Next, and as part of this programming effort, we'll also be working with Jessica Corbitt and the External Affairs team to develop stakeholder engagement strategies, which may include a hybrid approach of both online and in-person forums. Our plan is to reach out to each of you Commissioners for recommended community groups who would be involved in this engagement. And we'll also be coordinating with the County Attorney's Office to provide updates to the monitoring team to confirm our plans for the special-purpose facility to align with compliance requirements of the consent decree. And looking ahead to the coming months, we'll begin the special-purpose facility solicitations of our key project vendors like the design and construction teams, and hope to -- hope to have those solicitations out to market by Q4 of this year. And with that, the team can take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, preguntas? Questions? Commissioner. Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just have a quick, some quick questions. When you build a special-purpose building, I'm assuming these are individual beds, you're not double bunking."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "That would be determined during the programming effort, Commissioner. I think it's a little early right now. There may be some double bunking, there may, depending on the type and need, medical, mental health, the other populations that would be within the special-purpose facility. I don't -- we would not have at this point what that dispersion or breakdown would be, but it would be very clearly defined in the programming effort we'll enter into next."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I was just wondering, since outsourcing is such a huge thing during the construction process, if we build the special purpose with the

recommended option of 1,813 beds, could we possibly double bunk temporarily until Rice Street is renovated?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes. The plan is to offset all outsourcing. The concern right now, though, is if the ACDC lease ends at the end of December 2026, there's still going to be a couple year period between that lease ending and the special-purpose facility coming online that would accommodate the outsourcing need. And so that's what the team is very much leaning into right now to find those options for that multiyear period in between."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, great. And as far as financing goes, we put a \$10 million reserve for this, which obviously we have a shortfall. And at the time, we were look at 300 million-plus to do these renovations. Would it be in our best interest to perhaps save money this year and allocate more money in that reserve that we saved this year towards next year?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The 10 million is actually built in as a recurring expense to the general fund budget. That \$65 million gap that we have that will be an annual recurring expense for a period of time. It's always good to have funds in reserve. We could certainly -- if we did, we could perhaps try to prefund a debt service, a reserve account so that when we get to the point of actually issuing the bonds, we would have the 10 million we've built in, plus the 8 million from their TAD increment that's already been returned, and then whatever money we, you know, might put aside in a special debt service fund that we could use to cover us until the TAD funds roll in or the pension funds roll off."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other questions? Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I just want to thank our -- thank you all for the work you've done and for our management team's work. I know that y'all have been had quite a bit of discussion on this and involved a lot of hours. So I think it's a complex subject, as we all know, it's something that we've spent a tremendous amount of time on it. And I think have heard and taken in a significant amount of input from a lot of different stakeholders. You know, this is not something that was just sort of baked up within the past few months, it's been -- we started this discussion three years ago, two and a half years ago? And I think, we're reaching what appears to be a very sound recommendation. But as we know, I mean, this is -- this is a complex undertaking when you're looking at how you handle -- you know, whether you like incarceration or not, we know that we're going to have to house, statutorily, we're going to have to house inmates, right? And that's going to be our duty. We may disagree about the way that it's managed and that sort of stuff, but our principal, you know, I think our principal role,

in terms of as a Board of Commissioners is to figure out a way to soundly provide those facilities to allow that to happen. And you know, we can encourage on some of the operational aspects and all that sort of stuff, but ultimately, we don't have control over that. I know when we started this, you know, we were talking about a significant, you know, facility, you know, 4,000-5,000 beds. I think this is respectfully listening to a lot of the comments we heard about mass incarceration and about the need to process cases faster, et cetera. And we've got that in a, what I think is a fair, reasonable number that sort of will challenge us on sort of all of those fronts. And I like the fact that we're prioritizing getting to this 1800 beds is operationally as quick as possible. That's going to give us a tremendous amount of flexibility, and also, I think create a lot more safety, right? We know about classification as a challenge. We've heard that in the consent decree. I think, while how you ultimately set this up and structure that, there's a lot of work that needs to be done on that, right?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And that's sort of like a lot more input, and that sort of stuff is going to need to take place related to that and what that's going to look like. And probably, it's going to look different. The size of it, it's probably going to look a little bit different than what we were originally thinking. We were just talking about 600 beds. I think, you know, that the fact that whether we can -- you know, we've had discussions around ACDC. We've had just -- you know, and that sort of stuff. But we have to plan as if, you know, that's not going to occur, you know, that we would have long-term, you know, ability to access that, so you know, that's done that here. And hey, last but not least, I mean, you know, our ultimate -- you know, we ultimately also have to think about, you know, what resources we have to do all of the stuff, not just jail facilities, but everything that we do, right? And I think this is the -- a very fiscally responsible approach, you know, that puts us in a position to hopefully hold the millage rate flat, while also not so financially exhausting us that we're not going to have the ability to do the other things we desire to do, this stuff that we have clearly planned to do, senior facilities on both ends of the county, a hospital in South Fulton, et cetera. So I appreciate the -- all the work that's done here. And I hope as we began sort of talking to people more and all that sort of stuff that have a better understanding and appreciation that everybody's collective voices have been, you know, attempted to be taken into this. And whether it's taxpayers, whether it's our justice -- justice officials, whether it's community groups that, you know, have certain positions around, you know, feelings around the way that we've -- that our current facilities have been operated and run. And we of course, this has been run, all of that's, you know, been taken into account. We're trying to try to arrive at something that's going to best, best serve all of us. So I'm in support of the recommended option. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you all for the effort and for the presentation and for the meetings and briefings we had leading up to this. I have several questions, but I do want to say -- I sort of want to remind everybody at least a little bit of the history of what got us here. Long before we got here, I believe it was sometime in 2021, this discussion started about looking into what it would cost or what the feasibility would be of a new facility. And that led to probably at least six months' worth of discussion and a authorization to conduct a feasibility study, which included evaluating the condition of Rice Street and whether or not it should be rehabbed, as well as if, you know, the alternative solution of building a new facility. And I think that was, like I said, around the beginning of 2022. By the time I got here in 2023, by, I think it was February, we were -- or so, we were presented the paper feasibility study."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And we, at the time, six of the seven Commissioners here agreed that we needed to move forward as recommended by the national team of experts hired at that time with the building of a new facility. And we had a lot of debate among the group about how big that facility should be, how many beds it should be, what program space it should include and all of that. And in my -- my recollection at the time was that the feasibility study, I think was recommending over 5,000 or so beds. But ultimately, by phase two, we had narrowed that down to 4000 something, 4,400-ish."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "4400, 4500, that range."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes. This presentation is based on 3200 beds. And when, you know, when we had the briefing, you said, and I think you said it here as well, but it was sort of, you know, a quick mention that this was just a number to compare the options."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So, you know, there were some other comments made along the way as we were going through this that said this would eliminate all outsourcing following project completion. Well, I don't understand how that is possible, given that this number is -- like, how can you make that contention when this is only an estimated number of beds, so that you can compare options? We don't -- are we going to apply the 4400 beds to this? Are we going to do a whole nother data analysis on the future needs? Look, this doesn't make sense to me. Could you respond to that?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, Commissioner. So as part of the programming effort in the next -- well, so let me start and confirm, yes, the 3200 was a point in time. I think we took whatever the jail population was in, like, April, it was like

around 24 or 2600, then added in the classification and peaking factors, and that's how we arrived at the 3200, again, for this comparative analysis. To go back to, I think Megan made in her remarks, when we began the programming activities, we've already started assessing the pop -- the jail population and will continue to do that because that will inform the programming scope. And that will eventually inform what -- inform what the design, and is eventually constructed. We do have -- to look at the population forecast, it's a very complex multi -- very -- and I know you know this, and everyone knows, it's a very complex multivariable calculation, relying on what the arrest rates are, what the justice, our justice partners performance is, if there's any justice reform introduced. So while we will make our best attempt to assess that, coming out of the programming, we won't magically know something six months from now that we don't already know today. We do have options, though, once we are into design, into construction, this does allow for, because we can single bunk Rice Street, if there is a spike, if there is a need to shift inmates back to over to Rice Street, there's capacity there. You also heard that we are not planning on using the South Annex as part of this go-forward capital plan. But that is still a county asset that could be called upon. We did get some early estimates of what that renovation will look like. It's in the area of ten to 15 million. So if there is a much greater need at the population level, we do have some levers that we can pull."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I understand that from a numbers perspective, but I think it raises a lot of concerns about the idea of classification of inmates and where they'll be housed. And that as part of the consent decree."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "If we are not -- if we are so crowded that we are having to go back to double bunking at Rice Street, or we're double bunking even temporarily at the new facility, then we're talking about situations where we are once again or continue to be unable to separate populations by classification, and we should not -- as we move forward with this plan, we need to be very clear on the fact that it is mandatory that we have the ability to do that and we have enough space and empty beds so that people can be moved around accordingly by classification. It's not good enough to say, well, we have -- we can squeeze them in somewhere. That's led to the problems we have today. So I'm not, certainly not comfortable going forward with a plan that doesn't acknowledge and address the fact that we need enough beds just to house people appropriately by classification. I think that, you know, if I'm to move personally, to give my vote to move forward, that has to be a part of what comes back to us with a solid plan that allows for that. Otherwise, you know, this is -- it is not useful. The other questions I have -- sorry, did you want to add something?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Well, Roger just pointed out -- I mean, we do have opportunities, again, it's during the programming. It's during -- during the design, we can expand. And then once the facility is complete, this could be kind of the initial stage of a go-forward master plan. So there are other -- there are other opportunities to reassess this, make a pivot, and move forward with something else if that's what is in best interest for the county."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean, I think there's -- let me just be clear and say that I do think, given the options presented, that the idea of investing in a special-purpose building first makes a lot of sense. So at the highest level, I agree that this is the best of the four options presented, certainly."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But I do think there's a lot of holes, and one being the population size, the other being, I think, somebody said the biggest challenge is the outsourcing piece, you know, while we're going through the process. I mean, I'm not really convinced that we have a solution for that. If ACDC -- if we're not able to extend our lease at ACDC at least for some time period, I don't see how that's addressed. So again, without having that information, it's really hard to say if we can even do it, let alone what our costs might be. The other thing is -- and look, I understand you guys were given, for all intents and purposes, an impossible task. You were asked by the Board to spend a only up to \$300 million so that we would not have to raise the millage rate and to address the conditions of a crumbling facility. With the instruction, not as the instructions was given to the original team of, hey, should we rehab this building or not. But we will be rehabbing this building, tell us how we can do it. So I understand that that was the task assigned to you all. So I don't fault you for coming back with the results that you did. But I think it's pretty evident that we're being told by the data that you've provided that renovating Rice Street is not a cost-effective solution, period. The feasibility study, the first one told us that, but we chose to ignore it. Now, if you look at the numbers that you've provided here, you're telling us that to build the new building would cost \$536 million and net 1,813 beds. But to renovate Rice Street, it would cost more, 552 million, and it would only net 1600 beds. So you don't have to be, you know, a master's in -- have a master's in mathematics to understand that that's -- it's not cost effective to renovate Rice Street. I don't even know why we would move forward as with that as part of the plan. So it seems quite obvious to me, and I asked this question at the briefing, Roger, and you said, well, that that's right. I mean, you know, you can't argue with the math, right? But -- but you could make that decision later. It's not a decision that has to be made now, and I agree with that. But, you know, again, if I'm going to give my vote to move forward on starting to develop the next phase of the -- in the program management, the community conversations and all of that around this special-purpose building, I think it has to be with a lot of clarity on the fact that the

likelihood that we're going to move forward and renovate a building that is crumbling and not cost effective to do it is not really a part of the calculation. If we decided to build a second building, a new building after that, it would clearly be more cost effective and it would last longer. So I mean, I just think, again, we have to be really clear on what we're saying yes to here. Is -- it would be, in my opinion, fiscally irresponsible based, you know, by a pretty wide margin, a percentage difference in cost per bed to renovate Rice Street. So I just think we need to be super, super clear on that. And I also think, and I think someone else mentioned this, look, we are in a, you know, we're under a consent decree. We're in a very, very difficult situation right now. And the people in our jail and the employees who work there and all of that deserve better. So this process, while I think we do need to move forward, I would have liked us to have been in program management after the feasibility study over a year ago. I do think we need to move forward with something, but I also think we need to really be mindful of the fact that nothing significant would be happening at Rice Street in the interim. So, you know, I just think that it all needs to be put out there and be very, very clear. Just making sure I don't have any additional questions before I move on. Okay. I think that's about it for me. But I may come back after someone else speaks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much. First of all, thank you for all of your work. Thank you all of our leadership team for all of the work. I haven't been here for much of the conversation, except for what I've been able to witness since January sitting here, but I have gone to the jail several times, and I have seen the conditions. And I do understand that there has got to be a solution to dealing with the facility. And I was just there yesterday, so I see it often, and I want to be because I want to understand what needs to be done to make this better. So I thank you for all of your work on it. But I do not see an option on here that I can support for several reasons because there are so many holes in so many places. In a press conference the other day when asked how long this project would take, I think you replied five years. And there is no five-year option in this thing at all."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "I think I clarified for the special-purpose facility that would --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "For the special-purpose facility, okay."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you. But one of the options, the option that you're recommending, is a nine-year option, which puts us at 2034. And so I -- when this July 10th, 2024 directive was given to find a solution within the maximum allowable budget of 300 million, we are here just one year and about one month later, and that \$300

million option has turned into 1.2 billion. So when I think about what will happen to that 1.2 billion in the next nine years, I just cannot support something that I have no idea how it's going to get funded. To say that we are going to fund this project with a one-sheet explanation of funding that is dependent on things that might happen in starting the year 2030. So five years from now is when the first calculation of money might happen if certain votes happen a certain way. Then the next influx of money is eight years from now on another set of dollars that might happen. And then the final amounts of money come in a time period of 2033 when we might have a certain reduction in our pension. I don't understand how we could make a decision -- this is just the financial hole that I'm looking at -- make a decision about something this large that I've never seen a project in the history of projects not cost more than the initial estimates. And so many of these estimates are just based on industry norms right now, things that might or might not happen in the future. I don't know how that is any kind of sound financial plan. If I was going to vote on something for a billion dollars of taxpayer money, I would need to see more than one sheet about it. I would need to say, year one 2026, year two 2027, year three 2028, and so on for nine years. But this is what I've seen, that this county does. We do these fake numbers, and we say, let's move forward based on these fake numbers and then deal with the crisis when the crisis comes, which is why we're in the crisis that we're in right now. Okay, so that's the -- that's the first thing I want to talk about for financing. There's a hole and I need more information to understand what it -- what that's going to be. It's challenge, I'm not -- I'm not blaming anybody for not providing that information, it's not there. It's not there because we haven't figured out the way to do it. Then I want to talk about going back and talking to the community after we vote today. So we vote today to move forward with a third option plan, to start spending more money towards that plan and then come back and have community forums. Where have we been since July 10th of 2024 to now, while this plan was being discussed in talking to community forums and groups?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Would you like the answer?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Sure."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Well, the first couple of months, we're conducting a facility conditions assessment, so that took some time. But to address the second part, Commissioner, and going back to one of the points you made a few minutes ago, the purpose of today is to get direction from the Board."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Several -- Commissioner Barrett kind of walked through a high level of the timeline. In the previous life, and this team did not exist yet, an option was brought to build new for one -- going to get the number wrong, 1.7, \$1.78 billion. The Board rejected that. Then again, as Commissioner Barrett laid

out, new direction was given to come back and find an option within a renovation component, bring us a plan. What we're before you today is seeking direction from the Board so that we know how to dive in and engage with the community, to fill all those holes, because they're holes for us too, because we are not at that point yet. And so we are seeking direction from the Board to then put a full effort into gathering of the information, so that when we come back to the Board and we propose a scope and we propose a fully baked cost estimate, you can confidently say we support this. But this point right now, it's all based on estimates, it's all based on industry norms. We're fortunate that we do have leading experts in the industry have their finger on the pulse of those costs, but we are still getting to the start line right now --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah, I respect that."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "-- so I --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "No, I respect that. And I think we discussed that when we were in our discussion the other day. I think what's missing is another option for you to ask us, now that we are looking at these numbers, is this the right way to go forward? It's not is option three the right way to go forward. It's, you've looked at these numbers now, and if it's more cost of effect -- cost effective to do something different that is whether building a special-purpose building, and then building a new jail as well so that you don't have that double bunking and we are in that same situation since we're getting into a decade-long project, right?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And we've got to get it right from the start. So perhaps option one, two and three aren't really what we should be talking about, how to move forward today. But maybe in light of what we've discovered in these numbers, the more cost-effective thing to do with taxpayer dollars is to create an option four for you to look at, which might be even less than option three. That may be the way we need to move forward. So maybe, and not because we don't need to make a decision about how to move forward expeditiously, but because this 1 billion doesn't even include the costs of the consent decree, right, at all. It doesn't include, like Commissioner Ellis said, all of the things that we have ahead of us like two hospitals. We have an exorbitant amount of costs that are going to come to us and to the taxpayers. So perhaps we should look at a new option quickly because we have the numbers. I feel very confident that the folks here could take these numbers and say, okay, here's a fourth option. If we weren't renovating and we were just building two new buildings, what would that look like for outsourcing? What would that look like for all of the things that you have laid forward on here so that we can just maybe, this new Board, go back and look at something an older -- an old Board wouldn't approve. Well, actually, six people had approved it at first, and then it changed, and then it wasn't approved anymore. But maybe that

perhaps, is something that we should look at again, and that is just because I believe, if it's a more effective and cheaper option, not -- not because I love or hate the Sheriff, if it is cheaper for taxpayers because a millage rate increase is coming. So we should be examining how we can look at that more cost effectively. But listen, thank you for the immense amount of work you're doing. There are others out here doing an immense amount of work in trying to find a solution for this also. So we just need to maybe present a fourth option, which is something that I would like to look at and see if I could support."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel like I have a little bit of inside baseball here. So I'm going to, like, throw you a really easy one. I believe, correct me if I'm wrong that there were like 14 options originally. And you all narrowed them down to the best four. Is that true or something like that?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yeah, in that range, correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. So I don't know that there really another option. But I do think fleshing at least one of these options out further is necessary for us to make a good decision. And like I said earlier, I think I just -- we need to be really clear that we're not -- we're not saying, yes, we're going to spend 1.2 billion. We're saying, yes, move forward and get us a better plan. And I just want to -- I did remember my other question, which is why I got back in the queue. And my other questions were around the finance side, Madam CFO. So just to clarify, you talked about the .83 mils that would be forgetting about the other money that's coming in later. Was that .83, 83 mils just to cover the 65.7 million difference?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, it's the estimated millage rate equivalency to cover that difference."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, but it seems like you've then left off 142 million, which would be the difference between the total project cost and the capital cost. So there's no millage rate calculation here for the 142 million, at least if that -- if my math is right that would be required for the outsourcing and the maintenance."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "My focus was purely on the construction aspect of it, so your analysis would be correct that those costs are not included in the millage rate equivalency calculation."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right. So I think this is a little misleading because -- and this conversation about the idea that we would not, and I can't do the math that fast to say what the mils would be for the extra 142 million -- what is it? So -- so, you know, that's a big miss -- you know, that's very misleading to say we would not have to raise

the millage rate, and we have this other money. Now look, depending on your creative financing and ability to pay things later than earlier and what have you, maybe there is a way to use these other funds. But you know, if -- if we just -- if we put that 142 million aside for a moment and we just talk about the TADs and the pension, if you just look at the 65.7 you're trying to cover, if we focused on the pension money of 50 million, and we had -- then we really are only needing to make up 15.7 million from the TAD increment that's returned. And it seems to me that we could make a very -- if we're -- again, according to my -- you know, by the math you have on this sheet, we're sending 57.27 million over to the TADs right now. And I would assume we could make the ask of the city to give us pilot payment back of 15.7 million. We're sending 50 -- 57.27 over. So it would seem to me that we could, you know, keep open the option to extend the TADs, or at least certain of the TADs, or at least to have that conversation and ask for a pilot of 15.7 million that would cover the difference we would need after the pension rolls off. So I think, like making this seem like it's an all or nothing out of the TADs, or we're all in the TADs, and being all out of the TADs is the way to cover the cost of this is not accurate either. I think there's some room here. And I also think if we continue to negotiate, as I know the Chairman has been doing, with the city of Atlanta, that perhaps we can extend. We have a better chance of extending the lease at ACDC. So I think this page also just needs to be really, really fleshed out and a lot more clear. Did you want to say something?"

MEGAN KOCIKOWSKI, ACR PARTNERS: "I was just going to say that the maintenance, there is already an existing maintenance budget for Rice and then an outsourcing budget. And so most of that cost is actually already accounted for, I believe --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "You have -- you have 1.230 here. So like, I'm just saying the difference is 142 million. How much of that's already in the budget, how much is not? Unless you're going to tell me the number right now."

MEGAN KOCIKOWSKI, ACR PARTNERS: "Yeah, so 70, 70 million of the ten-year maintenance estimate is already budgeted. That's based on a roughly, I think, \$7 million per year budget for the Rice Street maintenance. And then the outsourcing at \$16 million per year, again, as I believe, already in the county's budget."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. But again, we don't really know if we have outsourcing options, we don't know how much they're going to cost, et cetera, et cetera. So just to say, this is a flat, no additional cost, sure -- the .83 doesn't get at the whole story. I take your point, though, thank you for making it. That's all I had."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain a motion. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote, please."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman, can you please read out exactly what we're -- because there's no written motion? Can you like make an act -- like, can we have a motion to do a particular thing?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to proceed with the planning of option three, which includes the construction of a special-purpose building to serve vulnerable populations and offset the future need for outsourcing of inmates to -- out of county jail facilities and renovations at the Rice Street main jail. All right, motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I want to -- I want to take this opportunity to just ask my colleagues, we have quite a few people that's sitting here, and we allow leniency for the public conversation. I want to make a motion before our Clerk reads that we move up 25-0615 through 25-0619. And in that motion also that we combined it. In the wake of time, we've got people waiting here. We've got people online, and I think it is in the best interest to move that up. So I make a motion to move that up."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And combine."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to move up those items by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Anything else you want to add? All right, Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I do not have any objection to moving the items up, but I object to combining them. I think each item should be taken individually so that we can vote for Art, separately from the Magistrate Court, separately from the Public Defenders, separately from Senior Services, and separately from our Veterans."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "My motion stands to combined. It is 1:44. I think in its best interest of time, that's the motion that I have put forward to combined and to move up."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's see here, Commissioner Barrett. Then I'll --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I knew this is going to be an unpopular thing to say right now, but in the interest of health, could we maybe break for lunch and Executive Session? I'm feeling like I need to food."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah, I agree with that. It is 1:45."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And it's a motion on the floor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, we've got a motion on the floor. We got to deal with the motion on the floor. Now, it is possible to -- a Commissioner can ask for a -- the motion includes combining all of them. You can ask for a division, which I'll grant."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I would like to divide that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. So let's vote on moving items up, then we can divide them."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now, it's proper for a Commissioner to ask when there are more than one items in a motion, to ask for a division. That's what you're asking for."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes, I'd like to move to ask for a division of every item that's already --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Sound the first one."

CLERK GRIER: "I have page 9, 25-0615 --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Point of order, Mr. Chair. Just to clarify --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- kind of the process we'll run through. We will sound these together, but we will vote on them separately; is that the way the division is going to work?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Or we can sound -- either way, it doesn't matter. I mean, you take them individually."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "But we're sounding them all together --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, that's --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- then we're taking individual votes, is what we're going to do?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's fine."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "They're not going to be individual, they're sounded together, correct?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's fine. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "So we're sounding them all together?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You can sound them all together. We're going to vote on individually."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0615, Request approval of a resolution to amend Fulton County's current budget, to increase the departmental budget for the Department of Senior Services in the amount of \$294,000. 25-06 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "She's going to sound them all, sound them all together. We're going to vote on them individually."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. 25-0616, Request approval of a resolution to increase the departmental budget for the Office of Public Defender Atlanta Judicial Court in the amount of \$4,897,313. 25-0617, Request approval of a resolution to increase the departmental budget for the Magistrate Court in the amount of \$611,939. 25-0618, Request approval of a resolution to increase the departmental budget for the Department of Community Development in the amount of \$1 million. 25-0619, Request approval of a resolution to increase the departmental budget for Department of Arts and Culture in the amount of \$1,700,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, that's all of them?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, you want a division, right?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The first one is Senior Services in the amount of what?"

CLERK GRIER: "\$294,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Entertain a motion. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to speak to -- I'll just speak to all of these sort of generally, even though I know we're going to vote on them individually. To me, all of these resolutions that are here run afoul of our process and protocol that we have in place. We've got an adopted budget, modifications to such should come through a process which is managed by our Finance and county

management team, through our soundings process. And that's not happened here. We've not followed that process. We've not taken into account the discussion and dialogue of all parties, other Commissioners, county staff, consideration of other priorities and all financial considerations and applications of any such changes. And in fact, this runs counter to the approval of discussion we just had when we were setting our millage rate and the recommendation of our county management staff as to how we would proceed through the rest of the year, handling our expenditures and our budget. So therefore, I'm going to offer up a motion to file on this particular item, as well as all, all other ones coming forth after it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Substitute motion to file. Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Properly moved and second. Let's vote on the motion, substitute motion to file. Can you -- okay, just a minute. Can you -- are you able to program this, or not? You do not -- you can? All right. You have the motion to file. All right, Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "What Commissioner Ellis just said is a gross misrepresentation of what we are allowed to do as Commissioners. I am well within my right as a Commissioner to put an item on the agenda. I am well within my right to have people come and speak to that item on the agenda, as you have done many times in your right as a Commissioner, as well as you have done, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. This, my friends, is the politics that you are watching playing out. The politics of not agreeing with something, and then calling it un -- not done in a proper way. It wouldn't be on the agenda right now if it was done improperly. So while that is a convenient political -- political argument from my fellow Commissioners. When you do not like something, when you do plan to put in of no vote, but you want to protect your politics around it, then you call it improper process. It's improper for you to even say that it's improper. That's what's improper. I have the same rights as a Commissioner as the both of you do, as anybody up here does. And that is why it is on the agenda today. I stand by every single one of these budget items in lieu of the fact that last meeting, we found out we had a \$69 million surplus out of nowhere. So I do think Seniors, Veterans, the Magistrate Court, the Public Defender's Office, which has a direct impact on what we were just talking about in the jail population, and Arts and Culture deserve, does deserve the money that we held from them in January because we didn't have a surplus, and said we'll come back in August and reevaluate it. And here we are in August, and you want to play the political games of, this is not proper. It is proper, it's on the agenda. And let everybody out there know that sending it to file so that it can't come up again, that's what filing means. Send it to the file so next meeting, I can't bring it up again when they fail it, because they don't want their vote on the record to say no

to Seniors, no to Veterans, no to Arts and Culture, no to the Public Defender's Office, and no to the Magistrate Court. This is political protection. See, I didn't come here to play political games. I came here to work for the citizens. So note, here's some civics for the people, filing makes it so that it can't come back. That's a tactic that they're using right now, so that when we meet in September, it won't be back on the agenda again, because it will fail. We know Commissioner Arrington is not here. We know who the yes votes are going to be, for Arts and Culture, for Seniors, for Veterans. We know for the Magistrate Court, for the Public Defender, we know who those yes votes are going to come from. And we know today it's not going to add up to four. So that's clever, that's clever, that's political. That's great. That's what you voted us in to do, keep playing political games, which is why we're here, still talking about building a new jail, still talking about doing all these things that this Commission has failed to do long before I got here. So go ahead and file it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'll keep talking about it so that everybody will know how this political process works and how -- because this is not about doing what's right for you all, this is about putting it away so we don't have to deal with it, so next meeting, you can't come back yelling about it again. Seniors, take note. Arts and Culture folks, take note. The folks who are worried about their kids dying in the jail, take note. This is it. This is what is happening --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- and I will stand on my principles at all times."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- so therefore, go ahead and file it, if you may. Do it right in front of everybody. And then I will take that, and I will post it again and again and again, and I will keep bringing it to your attention."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order, Chairman."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I know that I'm standing on the right thing to do today. And so that's what I will continue to stand on you all. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair, you want to be heard? You want to be heard? All right, Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Commissioner Ivory for your words and for your intent to fund some very important groups and departments in this county. I agree with everything you said about this political process being deeply, deeply flawed. And I want to go on record as saying that

I asked for money for all of these things in January. And I would have been a yes for Seniors, a yes for the Public Defender, a yes for the Veterans, a yes for the Arts absolutely, and a yes for the Magistrate, all of them, because I asked for it all in January. And I also want to add that in January, when I asked for it, it would have been millage rate neutral. I asked for a minor cut in non-agency that would have amounted to, like, \$24 million total, I think is the -- and there were other departments in that ask as well. And I was told, no, no, no, that money cannot be found. We found over 42 million in non-agency midyear. So thank you for bring this back up. I apologize to all of you who are not going to get your money. I stand with you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I want to make it clear I'm not being political. I'm doing what I think is best for the people. I am a fiscal conservative. I think it's irresponsible to just go and spend money right now after we just got a jail presentation that's going to raise millage rate. We received hundreds of emails, hundreds of emails, hundreds of people came down here to our three hearings to speak on how they do not want the millage rate increased. But I guess to some Commissioners, it's best, oh, let's just go ahead and spend now, and we'll raise your taxes. We are going to be a spend and tax Commissioner, we're going to go ahead spend. We don't even have any proof that things are really needed. I talked with the Veterans Board. I talked with them because last year, we had the \$1 million for them. They filed an only 250 million they could come with be spending. They told me they need to regroup, because they feel like they're not in sync with trying to allocate that money better. But let's just go ahead and give them \$1 million and we can get some military logos painted on pianos for \$40,000. That's really going to help the people of Fulton County. And one thing that really kind of bothers me is this is what, quote, resources directed that were most needed. Well, who determined that these are the resources that are directed most needed? I would be on board maybe with a few of these things. I would maybe, you know, our partial funding of some of these things, but I wasn't talked to. There was no collaboration with other Commissioners to collaborate, to go over and see what we felt like. Maybe we could try to tackle, maybe we could try to work in, maybe in the budget cycle next year, we really need to try to focus on this. There was none of that. There was no collaboration with the Finance team, no collaboration with the County Manager. We need collaboration when we're spending people's tax. That's the responsible thing to do. So for me, I just think the procedure, the way it was presented to us, I saw the emails going out. Get all the Arts people down here, get you all demanding the money. I saw those emails. I was part of them in the chain, maybe mistakenly. And I do hear you, but we are in a crisis right now in our jail. We're in a crisis with the consent decree. We need to focus on that right now. Lives are at stake there right now. I would love to entertain, I'd love to have conversations. I'd love to sit down and maybe collaborate, because I do believe

we need to maybe increase some areas that are listed here. But maybe not to the exact amount maybe that we -- we are getting two State Court positions. We are going to have to fund more for that and the Public Defender too needs to be added on for that. I do realize that, but that needs to have conversation. It doesn't need to be just plopped on the agenda and no conversation involved. So that's more -- I'm more about the process of how it was put on the agenda, not about the actual spending. Thank you."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sound the next one."

CLERK GRIER: "Page 6, **25-0602**, County Manager, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We got to do these quickly, three. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. It's on the second one, 0615? Oh, the next one, 0616."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. **0616**, Request approval of a resolution to increase the departmental budget of the Office of the Public Defender Atlanta Judicial Circuit in an amount of \$4,897,313."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. This is a motion to approve? Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. You want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah. Just that, thank you, Commissioner Thorne for agreeing that some of these items should be funded. I understand that you're feeling, you know, emotional about wanting to be collaborated with on these things. But we talked about this in January. We already collaborated by saying that we would come back in August for budget soundings to give this money, so they just filed to the money Seniors away to not be brought up again. And I'm sure they're going to move to file on this next one, which is the Public Defender, where exact -- which is where exactly those two State Court Judges that we have to fund would come from. That's the budget that it would actually come from. So I'm going to ask you to please support what you've just mentioned about it is our responsibility to fund those two State Court Judges and not move to file this money that I'm trying to give to the Public Defender's Office, which also reduces the stress on our officers and helps to lower the population that's being sent to the Fulton County Jail. So I would hope that we would at least take this one separately."

We've already failed our seniors in the first one, so let's not continue to move forward in this and fail the Public Defender."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not going to belabor everything that was just said. And I'll echo a lot of stuff, though, that Commissioner Thorne indicated as well that we'll be taking all this, all these things, back up in a normal budgetary type process. So again, motion to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Properly moved and second, let's vote on the motion to file."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item, 0617."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0617**, Request approval of a resolution to increase the departmental budget for the Magistrate Court in the amount of \$611,939."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Vice Chair, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Again, I want to offer up a substitute motion to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Substitute motion to file."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please. I'm sorry."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah. So for the record, I'd like to say we've now failed Seniors, we've now failed the Public Defenders, and we are now getting ready to fail our Magistrate Court. And I would implore everybody to go back to the videos on FGTV, where these meetings are public, to see what several of these Commissioners have on the record from the meeting, budget meetings in January, which contradicts completely what they're doing today. It's important to do that. I'll do the homework, I'll get it. But if you would like to on your own, just go back and do that. It's important for you to know the inconsistencies in their positions, because these are people that you vote for, that you put here. So you don't want somebody telling you one thing in January and then

coming back in August and saying something completely different, which is what is happening. So we've now failed our Seniors, we've failed the Public Defender, and let's get ready to fail the Magistrate Court."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion on the floor is to file, so please, substitute motion."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0618**, Request approval of a resolution to increase the departmental budget for the Department of Community Development in the amount of \$1 million."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett. Is there a second? Is there a second? Is there a second? All right, fails for lack of a second."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "No, I'm -- yeah, I'm seconding."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Looks like Commissioner Ivory is in the queue ahead of me."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah. Okay, I'm sure that Commissioner Ellis is getting ready to file on the Veterans, the department of Community Development refers to the \$1 million that I've asked for, for Veterans. And so go ahead, Commissioner Ellis on failing Veterans."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "What I'm going to offer up a motion on is not failing anybody, okay? I'm going to offer up a motion to fail -- I meant to file on this particular item. That's what I'm offering up."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Properly moved and second. Let's vote on the motion to file."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0619**, Request approval of a resolution to increase the departmental budget for the Department of Arts and Culture in amount of \$1,700,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Have a motion to approve. Is there a motion? A motion -- motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'm very sorry to everybody that this is what your public officials have decided to do to you. I am a lover of the arts. Others have said they are, but they will not put their money where their mouth is. And so I want you to know that I always will. I have -- every one of these motions was thought about -- thought out well, was approved to be put on the agenda within all of my rights as a Commissioner. And I'm very sorry that we have failed you, Seniors; that we have failed you, Veterans; that we have failed you at the Public Defender's Office, the Magistrate Court, and now finally, Arts and Cultures -- Arts and Culture. We must do better."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I want to take this time to address those that are sitting here and those that are listening. A motion to file means Commissioner Ivory cannot bring it back, but it does not mean that anybody else on this Body cannot bring it back, okay? There is protocol and procedure of what we do and how something goes on the agenda, especially when it is financially impacting. The County Manager, the Finance Department, as well as the Commissioners are do a conversation. While Commissioner Ivory is telling you to go and look, go and look at my swearing in, when I stated that if you do not within two weeks' time, have a conversation with me about an item that you're going to put on the agenda, the answer is, no. Commissioner Ivory did not have a conversation with me. I don't know who else she had a conversation with. She did not have a conversation with me. I went to the County Manager and asked him, did she have a conversation with him, because I said, well, she didn't want to speak to me. But did she speak to him, the answer was, no. And so as much as you would like to make this the Mo Ivory Show, it isn't. It's the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, and we serve everybody. Now, having said that, that does not mean that I will not request funding for Arts and Culture. What it means is I will follow procedure. It will not mean to our justice partners, to the Public Defender, we have had several conversations dealing with the Diversion Center. I know you need more money. Quite a few departments need more money, but we have

protocol and procedure. No one here has the opportunity to circumvent protocol or procedure, or do they have to assume that my vote is going to be, yes. You need to have a conversation with me so I can get my questions answered and you can get your questions answered. So the telling you that we are doing a disservice is fable, it's a lie, and it's not true. In coming weeks, you will see information come back out. But today, because protocol and procedure was not followed, that is why I am standing up, because I would do it with anybody. It doesn't matter who it is. So you can't tell me what my vote is going to be because you didn't have a conversation with me. So those of you that are impacted by the decision for us to require a fellow colleague to follow protocol and procedure, I apologize to you right now. But I did not come to this Board for anybody to be a renegade and decide they're going to do what they want to do on their own. So I suggest that you reach out to me, because at the end of the day, like it said earlier, a lie will hurt you over and over again, the truth will set you free. Today it's being filed. Watch and stay tuned."

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Welcome to the theater of Fulton County Commissioners. Bravo. Bravo. Here's the thing about policy and procedure, if it's not being followed, then it can't go through. There's never been a time on this Commission by our Clerk here that if you didn't follow the procedure and the policy of an agenda item, that it would then appear on the agenda anyway. So policies and procedures, 100 percent followed. Personal preference of how you want to be treated is not a part of the Board of Commissioners. But let's just say that it was, and let's just say that somebody says, I'd like to be talked to a certain amount of time, and let's just say that that is two weeks before, some arbitrary number of two weeks before. Well, let's talk about six months ago, when that conversation actually happened, and it went like this, hey, Commissioner Ivory, if you could stand with me on the budget this time so we could be a cohesive group on the budget, come August, we'll get the Arts and Culture people their money. That's the conversation I had six months ago. Six months ago, not two weeks, six months ago. So then I say, well, if it means so much to you, why would you wait on something that you could do today, right now, if you plan to do it in the future? Oh, I know, personal preference. Because it wasn't done the way I'd like it to be done. I don't want to do that to you all. I want to get you the money, so you could get it in the awards that are about to be given out, so that you can move quickly in your planning, so that you can implement the programs that you are getting ready to get the funds for, that's why. Because guess what I did, I did it within the allowable policies and procedures. That's what I did. So I understand that people like preferences and all that stuff, and I even don't mind that. Adhere to those six months ago when the deal was made. Oh, I stand behind Arts and Culture, and come August, because just stand with me in January, and August, we'll get them their money. And here we are in August, and we've

done asked to file it, and bring it up at another time, because right now, it's not being done the way that I wanted to do. So call it the Mo Ivory Show. I'll stand on that every single day. Every single day, if you want to call it that, then great, because I might borrow that name too and make that one of the things I do on social media. It's fine. That doesn't mean anything to me. I'm about getting the Arts and Culture people, in fact, I already had a Mo Ivory Show for a really long time on the radio. You told me you used to listen to it. So I don't want to continue with this theater. I want to get you your money. I want to get the Veterans their money. I want to get the Seniors their money, a group we all advocate for. I want to get the Public Defender, and I want to get everybody else that was mentioned, Magistrate Court, Arts and Culture their money swiftly. We don't have to wait until it's done the way I like it to be done. We should do it the way the people need it to be done."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Call the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Question is being called. Thank you. Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's vote on the call of the question."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open on call the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Calling the question, stop debate."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion fails; three yeas, three nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Who's next, who's in the queue? All right, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Commissioner Barrett -- oh, all right, okay. I -- I'm going to say this, and then I'm going to put in the motion to file, okay? Because I'm not here for a popularity contest. I'm not here -- I'm here as a Legislator. One is one, four is four. You can say all you want, but you must work and collaborate with your colleagues for them to be on the same page at the same time with you. And so I will say one is one. I'm responsible for one vote. But to anything to pass here, it takes four. So having said that, I put in a motion to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right. Is there a second to the motion to file? All right, motion to file by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Let's vote on the motion to file. Madam Clerk, we ready?

CLERK GRIER: "The vote is open on the motion to file. And the motion passes; four yeas, two nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch, Executive Session, we'll take up items of real estate, litigation, and personnel."

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

Recessed for Executive Session at 2:16 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 3:46 p.m.

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Matters coming out of Executive Session, call the meeting back to order. Madam County Attorney."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in items 1 through 3 of the Executive Session agenda?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the negotiation of a staffing contract for tower staffing at Fulton County jail facility -- excuse me, at the Fulton County Jail, not to exceed an annualized amount of \$8.8 million?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Have a motion by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve double overtime through December 31st, 2025 for Detention Officers and Deputies providing detention services at Fulton County Jail facilities as determined by information in the Kronos timekeeping system; however, if information about the work location of Sheriff's Office staff as previously requested in a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners is not provided within 60 days, this double-overtime funding will not continue."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion and a second."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any other items come out of Executive Session?"

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right, thank you. Madam Clerk, next item."

CLERK GRIER: Back on page 6, 25-0602, County Manager, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report.

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We actually just -- was that item time sensitive? Could we get that done to them? Could this get a quick motion for reconsideration that we could take the Fulton County Board of Education millage rate up first? Any objection?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Okay.

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7 --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That's 25-0605."

CLERK GRIER: "Page 7, **25-0605**, Finance request approval of a supplemental tax resolution to affirm the 2025 Fulton County Board of Education millage rate."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We have a motion and a second."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 6, **25-0602**, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right, just a couple of comments. So we'll start with the justice section, and Steve will lead that. I think there are a couple of things to take note of. One is, of course, the jail population topping 2900. Also, we'll talk about things that we're doing in Jail Blitz to double down on maintenance resources at Rice Street with the enhanced contract JCI, and then what we're -- we're replacing CGL at the -- at the South Annex. Dr. Leftwich from the Board of Health is still here. Appreciate that, Dr. Leftwich. I know you'll want to hear about West Nile virus and efforts there to both educate the public and suppress that. So appreciate him and his staff staying. And then the last part of this is really just some research information on Fulton FLEX Program that we've had since before the pandemic, and any notions about return to the office. So we'll provide that research information to you. So, Steve."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Thank you, County Manager. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Steve Nawrocki, Strategy Office. Please go to the next slide. Move a couple, please to the Justice System Scorecard. You move to the next, move to the next, and then one more, please. Great, thank you. Starting with our

Justice System Scorecard and a few other slides that are presenting here. Did want to call out that the data for both June and July is going to be new. We did not give an ops update in the month of July, so we are doing a bit of a catch up here for both June and July data that you'll see today. Looking first at the average length of stay, we had a four-day increase to 42 days in the month of July. Next for our unindicted jail population, we saw a 1 percent increase up to 20 percent. The clearance rate for felony criminal cases saw a significant decline in July, down to or by 65 percent after a very productive month in June at 117 percent. And felony cases disposed within 180 and 365 days, both saw a decrease down to 25 percent and 54 percent, respectively. Next slide. And next, we'll move to our Jail Population Update if we move to the next. Thank you. Looking at the average monthly jail population, both June and July, as the County Manager just mentioned, both saw a continued increase, with July averaging 2,909 inmates. We have seen numbers consistently above 2900 for the full month of August, and have a one-day snapshot here of 2,974 at the midpoint. Next slide. And here is the table representation of the data from the last page. We can move to the next. Thank you. Next, is a one-day snapshot of the length of stay for currently incarcerated inmates as of August 8th, of the 2,090 -- 2,984 inmates, 51 percent have been incarcerated for 90 days or less, and about 16 percent have been incarcerated for over one year. The average duration of 207 days, which does -- has actually seen a bit of the decline since we last reported in June at 210 days, so about a three-day improvement in the average duration. Next slide. Next, we have our facility utilization for the jail population. As of August 14th, 1,963 beds in -- were in use in Rice Street, with 515 offline for either Blitz or regular maintenance repairs. And Joe Davis will breakdown that 515 in the following Blitz update. Next slide. And here we have our inmate analysis of the jail population. About 66 percent or 1,961 inmates are either currently indicted or accused, or both indicted and accused, while 610 or about 20 percent of the population is currently unindicted. We can go to the next slide. We can look at that unindicted population. And here we have the aging of the unindicted population. About 76 percent or the 465 inmates have been unindicted for less than 90 days, which is the measure you want to see the highest and that's been fairly consistent from previous months. Next slide, please. Here we have an update on our county-funded ankle monitor program. We currently have, or it should say, as of August 4th, we have 668 participants. And we can move to the next slide for a historical view. Looking at the six-month rolling participation, if you see over in the total column, we have held fairly consistent in 700s the past few months, but did see an overall decline down to the 668 in July. We do see some good progress, though, looking at the far right column, where you'll see the percent greater than one year has dropped down to 37 percent, which is an improvement over the past several months. And I have spoken with David Summerlin, the Superior Court Administrator, earlier this week. And they are prepared to come to the September ops report meeting and just give an update. I think they did that several

months ago, but just give a refresh and update of where they stand on the overall management or administration of the ankle monitor program. So look for David and representation from Superior Court next month. Next slide, please. And one more. And we'll wrap it up here with our priorities. I do want to call out the second item there. Starting in September, we're going to look to began reporting on utilization and performance data of the Diversion Center. That's something that had been talked about. We look to roll out reporting those measures next month. Also, look to either in September or no later than October report, expanding to reporting on Accountability Court. Now that we're several months post the administrative consolidation that was approved by the Board, like to give an update on where they stand in this new environment as a consolidated operation. And then finally, just for awareness, because this had been a item of discussion previously. We're looking to post that new justice project management resource publicly, also in the month of September. With that, I can take any questions."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any questions from anyone? Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Hi. I just had a question with, the Sheriff said the uptick in the jail population was about the new law that was passed, SB63 I believe is the law. Yet, he said there were only eight inmates that had a bond that was less than \$100 that were in the jail system. Is there any way of working with our Judges to maybe get those eight people placed on ankle monitors?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, ma'am. I think that's -- I know there had been previously an effort between the Public Defender's Office and the DA's Office, where they were looking at maybe individuals that would fit that level of charge and level of bond amount, where it would be more appropriate for them to be on an ankle monitor. But I think that's something, absolutely, we can take back and discuss next month, when we kind of do a refresh of where we stand, with the overall ankle monitor program."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And he also mentioned that he had one resident that is homeless, so he couldn't be released because he had no physical address. So I don't know what the remedy would be there, but --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- it would be good if we can see what other counties are doing, or at any rate, we'll need to maybe try to advocate for legislation to accommodate people who are homeless from being incarcerated for -- yeah, I think he had a \$15 bond."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Okay, we can look into that."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Anything further? Commissioner Ivory."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Thank you, Commissioners."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "No, I have one question. I have one question. In just going back in to Commissioner Thorne's question about, like, you know, trying to find some solutions for things that have been lingering on the unindicted jail population. You have 18 that have been unindicted for a period of longer than 101 -- 80 -- 181 days to a year, and then two that have been greater than a year. Is there any way to place an emphasis on those 20 to figure out what -- I mean, obviously, starting with the two that have the greater than year, and then dealing with those other 18?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, ma'am. The 20 that are over 181 days, they all do have pretty significant charges, murder, rape, and very high or no bond amounts. For the two specifically that are greater than one year, one is a murder charge where bond denied, and the other was a rape charge with a \$75,000 bond. And so the other 18 are kind of in that same level of classification or not classification, but same level of charge, as well as very high or no bond amounts."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So then -- so then how -- how we ad -- I mean, they're just going to not -- they're not going to just stay unindicted. So how are we move -- regardless of the charges and regardless of the bonds, they're going to need to be indicted. So what -- what are we doing to move that forward?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "I'm happy to ask the DA what her plan is on those individuals. That would be her --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I mean, I think it's a small -- I mean, the next time -- I know that the last time -- I know that this is not your -- I know it's not in your --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I know you're the messenger of this."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I know that the last time that this chart was presented, this was, these numbers were on here still."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And so I would just like at some point when we look at this chart again, for there to be some movement on, on those particularly. And I'm not at all saying that I can purport to the complications that are, you know, wrapped up in those two. But I would just like an update as to, like, why is it that they're not moving."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, ma'am. And we can ask the DA to also -- because we have justice partners come down and copresent their specific areas. So happy to put a request to DA's Office, where she could elaborate on what her plans are, because I would not want to speak on her behalf."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah. No, absolutely. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Anything further? I just have one question for you."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "On the -- so our -- the total authorized sort of number for ankle monitoring is, electronic monitoring is up to, what was the number?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "The cap is in the 15 -- I forget the exact number, but in the 1500s."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So we've had that many at one point in time, then we're down to 668. I guess, you know, the other question similar to, like the indicted number, which is ticked up and it's double what the target is. This number is, while we expect it to come down, we did have the program so that it can be utilized, right?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We deemed it to be something that's cost-effective and so forth. How do we have any sort of assurances that collectively, this is a tool that's being deployed appropriately?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yeah, understood, Commissioner. We thought it would level at some point. And if there was going to be any significant movement, it was going to be, again -- and I don't have the slide number here, I think it's -- if could go to that ankle monitor slide."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I mean, I guess, you know, kind of what -- if I look at the category, I would expect to be more static. Would be the six months or less."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Exactly."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And this actually looks like it's gone down more than most of the other categories, so --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- that would seem to be most appropriate place for this to be deployed."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So this, you know, putting this out there for it to be utilized, we've said it was a good solution, yet we're, you know, well less than a half utilization on it."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So I did raise it with Judge Glanville and David Summerlin last Friday. And they also said it clearly could be, you know, that maybe we just drifted away from that. That's my word, not their word. But they -- they would go back and take a look at that."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So I think, let us follow up by the next meeting."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I it's very valid. It's strange that the population is going up and the ankle monitoring is going down."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right, okay."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you."

STEVE NAWROCKI, FC STRATEGY OFFICE: "Thank you, Mr. --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Just a -- no, you're fine. This is actually not a question for you, but thank you, Mr. Nawrocki. This is just a response to Commissioner Thorne, just to let you know that I did work with the Sheriff, and the \$15 bond has been paid."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right, Mr. Davis."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Next slide, please. Next. Sorry, keep going. Forward. Next slide, next, next. Thank you. The first slide is a -- Commissioners, is an update on the Jail Maintenance Blitz. We have completed nine of 11 housing units, representing 82 percent of the overall planned work for phase one. Housing unit 3-North was completed on August the 14th. We are currently blitzing housing unit 7-South. We're somewhat in of -- a hybrid approach now based upon the needs of the Sheriff's Office. So we're addressing 7-South, but you see below that where it says next blitz unit is 3-South. So as soon as the Sheriff's Office moves the inmates off of 3-South into the recently completed 3-North, we will then have two active blitz areas, although we're focusing the majority of our efforts on 7-South due to the Sheriff's Office need for the high-max security cells that 7-South provides, to provide them a little bit more flexibility. We are now anticipating the end of the blitz to be

the end of October of this year. Next slide, please. You heard Mr. Nawrocki reference bed availability. What you see here is a chart detailing the location of the beds that are currently out of service due to active and/or scheduled repairs. 3-South, as you've heard me mention, active blitz, along with 7-South, represents 407 of the 515 cell -- beds, excuse me, that are not available, with the remainder split across 5-North, 6-South and 6-North. And it's important to point out that 6-South and 6-North are upcoming blitz areas. Those areas will need to be addressed with the movement of residents. Next slide. Here's an overview of jail maintenance. For the month of July, we received 1489 work orders, 1151 were completed within the month of July, representing 77 percent of all corrective maintenance work orders that were issued in the month of July. We have 76 work orders from the month of July that were ultimately completed in the month of August, given us an effective completion percentage of 82 percent for work orders issued in the month of July. The grand total of work orders completed from July 1st through August the 13th are 1,361. Please, I do apologize for the typo on the next major point of preventive maintenance that should say July of 2025, and not May. We had 323 preventive maintenance work orders scheduled in the month of July, 267 of those were completed for a total of 83 percent. We have a total open work order count of 1,372, of that 1,372, 735 are in upcoming blitz areas. The bar chart below is a graphical depiction of the information that was listed above with a relative to two prior months. So we have a three-month overview of work orders issued, those that were issued and completed within the month, as well as those that were completed during the month from a prior month. We wanted to make a special note about jail maintenance as a whole and certain things that we're taking in response to the goal of improving overall service delivery. First and foremost, we have a new maintenance provider that will be starting at the jail South Annex on September the 10th. We will be adding five additional full-time employees to the jail maintenance team for the 901 Rice Street. That should have a direct correlation to our completion percentages that we've just reviewed. And then we've also extended the EMSI contract through the end of this year to assist DREAM, not only with the overall maintenance operation, but also working with us to track things that we have to get done, things that -- how long it's taking certain things to get done, to provide some analytics for us and to help us with the Sheriff's Office, as well as DREAM to creating some processes and procedures to improve the overall jail maintenance operation. Next slide. To give you an overview of the work order backlog, we have 590 open work orders that are less than 30 days old, that represents 43 percent of the total number of work orders that are open. We have 420 that are between 30 and 90 days old. That is a 31 percent of all total open work orders. And we have 362 that are greater than 90 days, representing 26 percent of the total number of open work orders. On the bottom right of the slide, you'll see the graph, the information just recently, just covered that's broken out in a graph to give you a visual. But I do want to point out that our overall goal is to reduce the ongoing backlog

to less than at least 1,000 work orders over the next quarter through the additional five FTEs that we mentioned on the previous slide. Next slide. As the Board will recall, several critical repairs and upgrades were approved. The first being the fire alarm upgrade. We have completed that project as of August the 4th. We are now going to be moving to phase two to replace what we call defective field devices. This will bring the jail fire alarm system into its full code compliance. And just to give you an idea, the first project was necessary in order to identify what needed to be done in phase two. So that's why we structured it the way we did, but right now, we have a fully functioning fire alarm panels throughout the building. And now we're going to replace field devices that have either become defective or were damaged, so forth and so on. The padded cells in the South Annex were completed back in January. We also completed the kitchen equipment replacement that was within this allowable budget in June. As we've mentioned previously, we have placed the elevator -- excuse me, the laundry equipment replacement on hold, as all current equipment is currently functional. And we have a specialty laundry vendor that comes and checks on all our equipment each and every week at the jail. We have finalized the solicitation documents for the elevator modernization. Purchasing has to provide the final approval before it can be advertised. I believe that is going to probably happen sometime this week. But we have gotten it down to the -- almost to the finish line, to where we're about to advertise. And that's the end for the jail maintenance and blitz slides."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I thank you for the report. And I just have a couple things. I know I've asked about the -- first of all, I know you put the chart at the bottom, partly because I and others asked for it. So I appreciate that. I'm just wondering if we could simplify it to a more, like, specific aging, like this many or 30 days, like that we see for the jail population, like a very specific, you know, this many indicted over this many days. Because it's kind of hard to parse what this means --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- and what it says for the overall backlog and that sort of thing. Like, how many are over more than three months, and you know, some of those things. So that's just a request. Take it as you will. The other thing, and I think I've said this before too, that I find concerning on this -- this list of the five repairs that we just went over. And this was originally, this money was set aside. And I believe it was a year ago, August of 2024. And it's taking quite a long time. I think this is the -- the governmental red tape that people are frustrated by. When we authorize something, we authorize money, and it takes well over a year to get something done. I just think it needs to be pointed out, and we need to be -- that needs to overall long term change, like we can't take a year to fix something that we've identified. The other thing I'm

having a very hard time, and again, this is by no means an accusation to anybody. But I'm just having a very hard time not connecting this chart that we saw as oppose -- you know, as a part of the new plan in this evaluation of Rice Street, to what we're doing. I mean, there are five systems on here listed as critical. Do we have plans to address these? I mean, it's just very puzzling that this is our responsibility, and we have five systems that are critical, and they're major, roof, interior finishes; plumbing, fire protection, and electrical. We have, you know, two that are listed as poor, exterior and - exterior enclosure and interior construction. I mean, these are really serious, and the rest are just there. So, you know, again, I understand, you know, a lot of pressures and limited budget and all those things. So I'm not necessarily looking for an answer, but I mean, long term, we have to do better than this."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yeah, agree. So that goes well beyond the -- the scale of that goes well beyond the budgets that we have. So this would be issuing bonds and starting, you know, on those renovations. But Joe is predominantly focused on -- Joe, and you correct me, day-to-day maintenance, as well as then the housing units."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I get it."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So we are kind of between a rock and a hard place --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Some of these are plumbing --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- as it relates to that."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Not to interrupt you, I apologize."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, that's all right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "You know, some of these are fire protection. I mean, it's just really hard to parse. And again, I'm not -- you're -- you happen to be standing there, really not directed at you. But I'm just saying as a county, we need to do better, whatever that means. And it's very hard on the same day to listen to like things are going well, and then also have this. That's all I'm saying. Thank you."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Commissioner Barrett, may I respond to your -"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Sure."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- your questions --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Please."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- just so that everyone is aware? As it relates to the length of time that it's taking for some of those immediate repair needs that Board

approved to get done. Please keep in mind that the jail maintenance environment is extremely fluid, and in the intervening time, while we've been working on this particular list, I've lost count of the number of emergency actions that we have gone through Purchasing to get really immediate things that needed to be done addressed that's not even covered on this list. So unfortunately, I have to say Purchasing is rather swamped with jail activity, if you will. And so some of the more complex solicitations, such as the elevator monetization, took a little bit more time to sift through what the consultant gave us as specifications and then working with the Purchasing Department to get it down to what we have now, awaiting final approval. So I just wanted to share that because there's been so many other Purchasing actions not shown here."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I appreciate that. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Thank you, Commissioner Barrett for trying to link together all of the pockets of money that are being spent on repairs to the jail, and I tried to get you more money. I was at the jail yesterday, and I went to 3-North, and I walked around and it wasn't completed. There were a bunch of punch list items from my former, you know, building years that I saw. There were no inmates or residents at 3-North. I did walk it, and you know, anywhere from surfaces inside of the cell that had not been sanded and repainted, so would be dangerous too. There was no shower, the kind of shower doors that would allow the minimal, most minimal amount of privacy. So they couldn't move anybody to 3-North today. And like I said, I was there yesterday, so I know that. So do you consider that unit is blitzed when -- when you've completed, sort of the what was in your blitz project, and not including, say, the Sheriff's punch list or whoever comes after to say, oh, you know, these couple of things were missed? Like, what does completed actually mean?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So completed means we have finished the identified scope of work for that unit. In the case of 3-North, we were advised yesterday afternoon, which is our typical timing of our jail blitz logistics call, to review the blitz program as a whole and discuss scheduling. After a previous walk through by both the Sheriff's Office and DREAM personnel, in which it was determined that the floor was, in fact, completed, I found out late yesterday afternoon that a subsequent issue arose that changed the previous determination that it was ready. To address your comment, I can't address all of them. But what I do know in terms of showers, once we finish the work of recoating the shower, the Sheriff's Office handles the curtains and things of that nature that go up. I was not aware of anything in regards to a cell that needed some more sanding work, because that's something that was observed, or I should say, inspected, on two prior occasions. And again up until yesterday afternoon, we were advised the Sheriff's Office was going move 3-South to 3-North, only to find out that it's not going to

happen because there were certain things that had not been planned for, like TV installations."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So when -- when this presentation was written on and we thought 3-North was completed on August 14th, then August 19th, late yesterday, the 18th, whatever day it was, you came into the knowledge that there was more stuff that needed to be addressed because of the fluidity of those type of situations, or the punch list that came to be, which is why, when I walked through it yesterday, there were no inmates, residents in that area?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "That is correct. We were advised yesterday that they were not able to move, and they're targeting this weekend to do so."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And -- okay. So like, how long normally does -- when you -- when you deem something completed, a punch list comes up, how long does it usually take for that to be fixed? And like, for completion, completion to happen?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "That would depend on the item. There are certain things that we can take care of with resident staff, and there are others that we're going to -- we have to go out to a subcontractor. And finding someone -- and of course, we're always in the mode of trying to do this as quickly as humanly possible. So it means finding someone with readily available personnel that has already been approved to be in the jail from a background check perspective. So it just depends on the nature of the work. Most work that we've seen at the end of a blitz unit that gets brought up are things like low water pressure at sink in cell 301. Those are adjustments that have to be made in the pipe chase. And those are the small hanging chads that we have to go in and address. But I do believe on 3-North one of the biggest things is that there are no TVs. And there's a problem finding the TVs that were removed, so we're looking for those. And then those would have to be installed. And we're looking to get that done over the next 24 to 48 hours. And so once we do that, as well as address maybe couple of other items, I think we'll be ready to move. But I do want to say, the blitz program was intended to make the units habitable and safe, not necessarily aesthetically pleasing."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Not total renovation."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So to get them into a habitable and safe shape."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And that's what the blitz program has done. Is financing these things to move them faster, a part of the equation that's keeping the time from

lagging a little bit? Whether it is 100 hundred percent of the problem 50 percent or 10 percent of the problem, is it a part of the problem?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "No, ma'am. The issue -- a jail is a very unique maintenance environment. Everything is specialty in terms of the materials that are used, even the tools that are used. And unfortunately, in the current marketplace, anything made of steel has -- that has to be fabricated because of the age of our jail, things are no longer made, and therefore they have to be customized. And that is what it takes a long time to get done."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So that would be a problem we would always have if we were in that jail, that because of the way it was originally built, we would always have to use certain types of items. Whether that is today or ten years from now, if you remain in that kind of a foundational build that it is, you will always have this problem of trying to find these items?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "I don't know that it's a function of the design of the building, as much as it is certain things are made differently now, i.e. a door is still a door, but the --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Technology of doors has advanced."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- you know, the locks haven't changed --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Right."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- at all."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Right."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "But getting a lock may have -- has definitively changed."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett. Done? Okay. Any other questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Davis."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right. Dr. Leftwich and his staff, again, they're here to brief us on West Nile virus and their suppression efforts. Thank you, Dr. Leftwich."

DR. BRANDON LEFTWICH, DIRECTOR, EV HEALTH: "Oh, next slide. Next slide, next slide. All right. Good afternoon. Thank you all for having me. As Environmental Health Director, I just wanted to provide overview of our mosquito control program and the steps that we're taking to protect the communities from mosquito borne illnesses, particularly of West Nile virus. So in this presentation, we're going to highlight the impact mosquitoes have, strategies that we use to monitor and control them, and also the measures in place that we ensure that treatment methods are both safe and effective for residents of Fulton County and the environment. So from my goal today is for you all to just get a clear understanding of what -- what work is being done with the mosquito control program with Fulton County Board of Health. Next slide. So this graphic on the screen here is just a picture of the mosquito life cycle, how it starts from an egg, then it progresses to a larvae and matures over to the adult phase. Common breeding grounds for mosquitoes is standing water. It doesn't take much water for mosquitoes to breed, as little as a bottle cap for mosquitoes to breed. So it's important that, you know, when people have these items at their homes that they're dumping those items out and make sure that is not retaining any water. So things like birdbaths, even gutters, old tires and even puddles in your yard. Active periods are usually in our warmer months of the year, and then mosquitoes are very active in the morning times and also in the evenings. Next slide. Okay, so what is West Nile virus? So West Nile virus is -- it's very common in the United States. It spreads when infected mosquitoes bite people. It can also affect animals as well. But in relation to people, it's rarely transmitted from person to person. In extreme cases, it can be transferred through like a blood transfusion or organ transplant or if there's a pregnant woman who may deliver a baby or breastfeeding, then that West Nile virus can transfer there. But that's in rare cases. Most people who have West Nile virus, they often don't show any symptoms. If they do, they're mild symptoms. But if you are showing symptoms that -- that includes, like a fever, a headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea and rash. And people who are at a higher risk are -- are elderly people and people who are immune compromised. Next slide. So prevention, how do we prevent West Nile from spreading? So currently, there is no vaccine to prevent West Nile virus for humans. To prevent West Nile virus, people must protect themselves from mosquito bites, just don't get bit, right? And the way we can do that is by eliminating potential breeding sites, like I was mentioning before, about standing water in homes and things of that nature. And the local efforts here in the county is that we have our mosquito control program. Next slide. So Fulton County Mosquito Control Program, it's been around since 2001. We've had different vendors throughout the years, but currently our vendor is Vector Disease Control International. We call it VDCI for short. And our primary objective of this program is -- is to reduce the risk of West Nile virus through surveillance, routine testing, larviciding, adulticiding, and community outreach. So with surveillance, we have multiple traps set out through public parks throughout the county. We set those out during the springtime,

and during the springtime, we do what we call larviciding. That's basically attacking those mosquito eggs. We're trying to get the mosquitoes not to mature to the adult phase where they can go around, fly and bit people, right? So what we do, we conduct routine testing, and that's done weekly throughout this period. And as you can see on the right of the screen, those are some different various traps that we use, and we set up it around the parks in the county, where we collect mosquitoes and send them off to the lab. Once we send those mosquitoes off to the lab and they come back positive with West Nile virus, that's what we do, what we call adulticiding. And that's when we spray for mosquito to attack the adult mosquitoes. And we only spray when there's a positive mosquito result. And a lot of times, I know that you all may receive the email from me about West Nile virus being in your district, right? That's part of our community outreach. You all are just one avenue that we use to get that word spreaded out to the community. Next slide. So in regards to being -- as far as prevention of being bit by the West Nile by mosquitoes, we have this thing called the Five D's, right? So one of the D's is dusk to dawn. So again, like I mentioned earlier, mosquitoes are mainly active during the morning times and the evening times because it's cooler outside. Mosquitoes, they're just like us, they don't like to be out when it's really hot. So they're - they're -- they like to be active in the mornings and the afternoons. If you are out during those times, we advise people to wear loose fitted clothing that reduces the exposure of your skin to -- for the mosquitoes to bit you. Also, use mosquito repellent. So in mosquito repellent, we tell people use this thing called DEET. It's an active ingredient within the -- within the repellent that's proven to be very effective against mosquito bites. And again, we ask people to drain. So any empty containers that may hold water could be a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes. So if you have something in your yard, we encourage you to dump those to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. And lastly, doors, so make sure that your doors are tightly sealed so the mosquitoes can't come into your homes. Next slide. Next slide. Oh, next slide. Oh, there we go. Okay, all right. So what happens when a positive is detected? So again, when we send these mosquito samples to the lab, if it comes back positive for West Nile virus, we're then notified. Our mosquito vendor they will go out and do the larviciding treatment, where they're attacking the baby mosquitoes. Then us in Environmental Health, what we do is we will go out and do the outreach, community outreach, where we're going to go in a 1-mile radius of that effective area and notify the residents of that positive case. So we'll go door to door to provide educational material about ways to prevent mosquito breeding and how to protect yourselves when you're out, when you're out and about, whether it's physical activity or just doing yard work or things like that, and next, and that's when we do the adulticide spraying only within that 1-mile radius of that effective mosquito pool sample. We will spray for consecutive nights, weather permitted, and it's conducted during the nighttime. Reason being is because that's, we want to limit -- we want to not expose people too much to spraying during the night, so

people are inside, pets are inside mostly. And also, we want not to -- we want not to target non-target insects. So when we're spraying, we're not spraying -- it's not going to affect other type of insects. It's only for mosquitoes only. So once we do the adulticide treatment, we will retest that area, and we'll see what the results come back as. And if there's a positive result again, then we'll just repeat the cycle again. Next slide. So this is an example of some of the educational material that we provide to the residents. It's a public health notice where we just notify them that -- that there was a positive sample within the area. And we just provide our contact information where if they have any questions in regard to spraying or just mosquitoes in general, they can notify us. There's a QR code at the bottom of the pamphlet, and it's also some helpful tips about how to prevent breeding within the yards. Next slide. Addressing community concerns, so I know one thing is about the spring. Again, the product that is being used is EPA registered, and our applicators, they are trained, they're licensed, and they do follow strict labels in regards to applying the -- the spray. The bees are pollinators, so spraying occurs at night when pollinators are not active. So I know there were concerns about the bees and things of that nature, but that's one of the reasons why we spray at night, because they're not as active, or not active at all, whereas, mosquitoes are active and we can target those mosquitoes. Pet and human safety, low exposure risk due to the droplet sizes and the application method. So when it sprays, it breaks down pretty quickly, and it doesn't persist in the soil or the water or anything like that around the -- around your home. Next slide. And if you all have any questions, just feel free to give me a -- give me a call or shoot me an email. Contact me, and we'll be glad to answer any questions that you all may have in regards to our mosquito control program."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Any questions for Mr. Leftwich?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Thank you so much."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "No, Vice Chair. There are no questions, but if you could, Dr. Leftwich, just make it clear that the cases that you have found have been in mosquitoes only, that there are not --"

DR. BRANDON LEFTWICH, DIRECTOR, EV HEALTH: "Yes, that's correct. So when we send those alerts out, it's only for mosquito samples. It's not for humans. To my knowledge, we have no positive human cases here in Fulton County. But again, when we send those alerts out, it's only pertaining to the actual mosquitoes and not humans. Thank you."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Thank you, Dr. Leftwich, appreciate it."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thanks for hanging in with us, too. And thanks for the door hanger that I got myself, yeah. All right, so this, I think, is -- will be fairly quick, but we tasked Strategy with looking at our flexible work model, when we got into it, how it started --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Before we get into this, I know you said very quick, but it's like about ten or 15 slides. Did we -- I'm just wanting to ask my fellow Commissioners, did we think that this something that we wanted the rest of the Board here to hear? And I weren't know if you were asking for direction on this somewhat or not."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, I mean, I have recommendation that's very straightforward. Rather than go through the slides, let me to say what we found."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "First of all, we've been in a flexible work model since pre-COVID. So we've been in it for a number of years. It is a very effective recruiting tool for us, meaning allowance for some level of flexible work, both from home, different locations and in the office, differentiates us from others, and we've got some examples that we could show in this, this report. The second thing, it seemed to be there was a lot of question about 141 Pryor. At 141 Pryor, that's about 20 percent of our employees are here in this government complex, about half of them have a flexible work schedule. So now you're down to 10 percent of the total employees. And only 1 percent of total employees have a complete work-at-home model. So that's very minimal. We went out and looked at McKinsey research that's just recently been done, but then we did our own research. And in both cases, it fundamentally comes across that 70, high 70 percent enjoy that flexibility, and likewise, if they did not have it, this is the most compelling, would potentially seek other employment. So in other words, to take it back or have a return to the office mode, return to the office expectation, would generally mitigate or work against our ability to recruit and retain. We did also go and look at high-profile announcements. The one, of course, I'm the most familiar with is AT&T. But we looked at UPS, Home Depot, obviously, the feds. And it really boils down to is, what is your objective? Is your -- if your objective is to reduce headquarters staff, return to the office is a very good tool, because you will reduce some number of folks that will opt out. If it is to retain folks or recruit folks, particularly when we don't have all the amenities here that people expect in a modern work environment, then it's counterintuitive to have. Last, I've just visited two state government offices very recently, which we have pictures in the -- in the deck for you, DBHDD and GRTA, both of which looked very much like the one that we just set up recently at Central Library, which I would encourage you to go by there and take a look at the folks that moved from 140 -- or 137 Peachtree to the library. All of those looked very much the same in our set

up for hoteling, and again, a modern work environment. Lastly, there was some question about, well, could we, you know, completely fill this building. We could from the perspective of, we have about 100,000 square feet of space leased out to the Assessors, the District Attorney, and the Public Defender. The issue with that is the same one that we ran into when we were thinking about remaking the floors, just as we had envisioned, and it's the capital cost. So the rough estimate is 120 to 130 million to outfit our offices appropriately, to move those groups back in. So I don't think that's on the near-term horizon. But that, having said all of that, you know, I would not recommend 180-degree change at this point. I would continue to monitor, we would develop, you know, more expectations. Obviously, that if there are folks that are not bringing their people in for group meetings or sessions where they can get a sense of the culture, be -- have more connections with their peers that we would develop that expectation, for sure, but still leave it in the hands of the department heads, which we have now for, again, five-plus years. But do appreciate and respect in particular, the Chairman's view, you know, that a return of the office should be considered. And some, some have announced it. Atlanta has announced it. I'm not sure if it's five days. The feds, we know what -- what they have done. The state has not done it. Certain corporations have done it. The McKinsey study says most do not. So it's a, you know, it's not a clear on the one hand conclusion to draw. But looking at it from the perspective of our employees and our research, I would recommend staying in the posture that we're in."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Any questions or statements for the Manager here? I wouldn't really have it as a voting item or anything like that. I guess you're just asking for --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, sir, it was really an update based on questions."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Okay, okay. All right, any questions? None? Okay, all right. Oh, you're in there, sorry. Commissioner Barrett.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. And I just wanted to sort of clarify. So you're not looking for any kind of direction that we agree with you and want to continue on?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, I'm just providing information unless -- unless I guess the will of the Board were to tell me to do otherwise."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, okay. That's fine. I just want to make sure I didn't miss anything."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, ma'am."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, all right. Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And I think, Mr. Vice Chairman, that we have the standard financial and emergency protection or emergency purchase orders. But without any questions that would conclude our report."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Does anybody have any further questions for the Manager or team on the remaining items?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Hearing none, next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, **25-0604**, Finance, Presentation, review, and approval of the August 20th, 2025 budget soundings and resolution."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Mr. Vice Chair, we have one item before the Board today. It was mentioned in our midyear review, it's the funding for the Medical Examiner's Office for the transport services. It's a move of \$131,000 from contingency to the Medical Examiner's Office."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. We have a motion in a second. Any discussion?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0606**, Information Technology request approval to utilize corporate purchasing in the amount not to exceed \$584,000 to provide support for IT services and operation."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any discussion? We have a motion and a second."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Arts and Library, **25-0607**, Request approval to award a contract without competition for Automated Handling Systems in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Have a motion and a second. Any questions? Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **25-0608**, Public Works, Request approval of an intergovernmental agreement between Fulton County and the city of Roswell for water main relocation associated with the road improvements at Hardscrabble Road Project in an estimated amount of \$404,431,490."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0609**, Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 to provide small water meter installation services."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We have a motion and a second. No discussion."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, **25-0610**, Request approval to renew an existing contracting in an amount not to exceed \$185,709.50 to provide building code administration, construction management, and planning services."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "A motion and a second. No discussion. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0611**, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$106,624.76 to provide concrete manhole parts."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0612**, Request approval of a contract item agreement, memorandum of understanding between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for relocation of water facilities."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0613, Superior Court Administration, Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 to provide comprehensive drug testing and technology services."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Favorable motion by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, 25-0614, Real Estate and Asset Management, Request approval to extend an existing contract for comprehensive operation and preventative predictive maintenance services for the Fulton County Jail and the South Fulton Municipal Regional Jail in an amount not to exceed \$3,558,014.10."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Favorable motion by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Is there any discussion? Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Add-on item, 25-0621, Discussion, process for appointment of members of the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections in light of another recent court, sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Since our last regular BOC meeting, it has become even more critical that we consider this item. Two more courts at this point have declined to stay the original order. It is time we obey. The Fulton County GOP has been deprived of their selected board members on the BRE, and it's highly unfair that we continue to drag our feet. We are currently in an election cycle for Senate District 21 and Election Day is Tuesday. By this continual delay, we are doing irreparable harm by not allowing the Fulton County Republican Party to have proper representation on the Board of Registrations and Elections. On Friday, we were ordered by a court to comply with the writ of mandamus. On Monday, a Judge once again, ordered us to stop stalling and to comply. By merely filing of the appeal, does not remove or suspend the lower court's order to appoint. Without a court order stating otherwise, I do not support any action other than complying with the order of the court to appoint the Republican Party's nominees, Julie Adams and Jason Frazier. With that, I make a motion to approve those nominations of Julie Adams and Jason Frazier."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. We have a motion and a second. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I want to start by saying that I certainly respect the Judge's order that we have to take vote today, and which is why I'm still sitting here. And I do want to also say that the reason we did not take this vote up, in my opinion, in the previous meeting, or in the special call meeting, which was about a completely different issue, was not because we were trying to disobey the Judge's order, but rather because we believed we were in the appeals process and were waiting to get the result of that. That said, elections are under attack in this country. Legislators are gerrymandering districts to disenfranchise voters. They're limiting early voting, and now they're threatening to take away mail-in ballots and even eliminate electronic voting. It's worth noting that if mail-in ballots go away, the people who will be the most disenfranchised are our seniors and our most vulnerable populations who cannot get to the ballot box. I ran for this seat in large part because I wanted to be in a spot to defend the integrity of our elections, and I stand by that commitment today. The Judge's order denying the stay says clearly, quote, the court knows the rule in this type of case is that the court can only compel the public body to act while it cannot dictate the decision that must be made. No Judge can compel any elected official to vote a certain way, because we are hired by our constituents, and only our constituents can remove us from office. No court, no lawmaker, no political party can compel me to vote any particular way. We're elected by the people, and I'm going to represent the people of my district. I've spoken about my objections to both the Fulton County Republicans Party -- Republican Party's nominees, Jason Frazier and Julie Adams. And I don't feel like I need to rehash that today. They're election deniers, and they're doing everything they can to undermine faith in the election process in Fulton County. The bylaws of the Fulton County BRE state, the last bullet point of -- of the purpose in the bylaws is to articulate the department's goals and accomplishments to the public and to the elected bodies to which the department answers, so that the public and elected officials maintain confidence in elections administered by the department. Neither of these two people have any desire to do that, as they have proven by their actions over and over and over again. They've been written about in the local and national press, and they're notorious for doing just the opposite. While again, I respect the rule of law and I have the courage of my convictions to be here today and take a vote, unlike some of my colleagues who do not. I do also appreciate that my actions have consequences, and I'm willing to face those consequences, because I cannot, and I will not cast my vote for people who are actively undermining not only our elections, but our democracy."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Anything further? All right, thank you. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett, for your bravery. I know how important this is to you, and just the four of us remain to deal with this issue. So I want to thank Commissioner Barrett for staying. I want to thank Commissioner Ellis for staying and doing what we were voted to do, which is attend the meetings from the beginning to the end when we adjourn. I'm an officer of the -- a licensed member of the Bar of Georgia, and have been an attorney for over three decades. So I clearly believe in the rule of law. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, not who you vote for, but the right itself. And those who oversee elections must be fully independent and accountable. My vote today is not even about of partisanship at all. It is about principal and assuring -- ensuring that appointments to this board reflect the highest standards of fairness and responsibility. The court has ruled. I respect the authority of the court, but I also, like has been mentioned, have a duty to the people that I represent. The act of voting itself is discretionary, any vote, the ones we take here or the one that you cast when you vote in an election. Discretionary, nobody can tell you what or how you should vote. And I am part of the people, we are part of the people. And in this role, I'm a part of the process that the people went into the booth to elect me to sit here, and that still remains discretionary. No one should force an elected official or any voter to cast a particular vote. We're opening up a very scary door to do that, no matter where your politics lies. Our residents deserve appointees who are unquestionably committed to fairness, transparency, and ethical standards in our election administration. This is not about personalities or politics, although that's what grabs the headlines. It is about ensuring that the Board of Registrations and Elections in Fulton County is held to the highest level of accountability, and that our elections or fair. And we have been told that they are. We have actually been commended on the way that we do our elections in this largest county here in this state. So while I respect my colleagues and the legal requirements before us, I stand firm in my belief that Fulton County deserves better than what has been presented to us. So I will continue to push for a Board of Registrations and Elections that's representative, ethical, and accountable to the people, because the stakes, our democracy and the voices of our residents are simply too high. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any other further comments, Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Barrett? Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just want to correct some things because there is a lot of misinformation that goes around, and I think public comment corrected. There seems to be misinformation that Julie Adams had three lawsuits, she had one lawsuit. That misinformation was stated by Commissioners up here on the dais. It was repeated here by Democrat officials that claim they're not partisan, but they're so highly partisan, it's ridiculous. You need to know the difference between mail-in ballots and absentee ballots. Mail-in ballots are when states mail everybody a ballot. Absentee ballots are

not going away. Seniors are not going to lose their ballots. That was something that's put out there, and it's misinformation, disinformation. Electronic voting, yes, there are people that want hand count, hand paper ballots counted, hand-counted paper ballots. There are people that want those. We have electronic voting. We need to make it more secure. But the Democrats were for hand-marked paper ballots. Elena Parent was on the floor advocating against the Dominion machines. Well now, they seem to got the system in place that works in their favor, so now, oh no, we want to keep these machines. Fair Fight, Commissioner Ivory, you're familiar with Fair Fight since you are a former Fair Fight activist, or still are and your staff is. They are at our election GAVREO Conference recruiting election members to become a part. Election deniers undermine our faith? That's so ridiculous. What is an election denier? Election denier is anybody who wants integrity in our elections. By state law, we need to reconcile that the number of people voted equals the number of ballots cast. We do not obey that law. There is a new rule that we have to do it for certification. That is why Julie Adams, her lawsuit was I need information to make sure that the number of people voted equals the number of ballots cast. That's called integrity. That's called checks and balances. That's called transparency. We are anything but transparent in our elections. And all we are doing is advocating for secure processes. Did you know in the PSC race, we had eight tabulators that came in -- or I think maybe seven tabulators that came in on Friday night and were not secured. No security at all to them. They sat in our warehouse 'til Tuesday with hundreds of temp workers all around it, night and day. But no, we have secure elections because the press, the liberal press, local and national news says that we have secure elections. So we must be undermining our democracy by calling out these questions, by calling out these things, by advocating for more secure processes. And I do respect both of you for staying up here. Thank you. I appreciate you guys being here and stating your decision not to appoint them. I respect that, honestly. And I hope in the future that we can have simple conversation. I know Commissioner Ivory, you and I have talked about, we are on opposite sides, but we don't get anywhere by just staying on opposite sides and putting out misinformation. We need to have a talking community. We need to face each other, face to face, dispute the facts. So I do appreciate that. I hope we can have further discussion later. But with that being said, I think this whole we're undermining our elections. If they get nominated, it's going to -- our democracy is going to end if you have someone in there that's actually questioning to see materials to make sure things add up. To make sure our voter rolls, people aren't voting twice, because there are people who are voting twice. They vote in our state and they vote in their state. And they're not removed from our voter rolls. So we are advocating for better election process. This is who the GOP picked to represent them. And courts now have said -- have given us an order that they need to be appointed. So with that being said, I think we need to take a vote."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Commissioner Thorne. And I just want to add, just I've been pretty clear on this since we started having this conversation two, three years ago, I think when it first came up. You know, I flew back specifically from vacation to take this particular vote and -- and some other votes, tax votes, and so forth that are -- because I remember that specific week. But I was clear in my statements then, and I felt like the law had -- had two things before us, if they met the test to be on the Board of Elections, which was quite simple, and I think there was -- they're Fulton County resident, they're not holding elected office and over the certain age, or something like that. I think it's just the first two. But there's an age requirement, obviously, they have to be a valid, I think, registered -- and registered to vote or whatever. Whatever those were, they met those, then our obligation was to -- shall confirm them. And we've gone through multiple rounds of this. We've, you know, spent countless hours on it. And now we have a Judge telling us twice and Appellate Courts also saying, yeah, we see no reason to take this up. And we should do what we're compelled to do and I think what the law says. And hope that despite whether or not you feel differently about those particular two nominees or whatnot, I felt differently about individual nominees that have come before us on the Democratic side, but I've not gone out and personally slandered them, attacked them and so forth. I hope you would vote to approve today so we can move on from this chapter. And as I understand it, the appeal could continue if that was the desire of our Board. So I've said my piece on it. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I will note that it is accurate that there have been, you know, other presented nominees, and they did not just go through because you voted no, because your vote is discretionary. So let's not muddle the two issues here that you do have the right to vote no because you've exercised that many times in the past as to nominations that have come up. So for us to be forced now, because we did not agree with a certain nomination, to be forced to vote, yes, yes, to that, is in my eyes, unconstitutional."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Well, I just, I will correct one thing you said. Yes, we have -- we are -- there are plenty of times where we may have the obligation -- we may have the opportunity to vote no on something, but this is -- has some very specific statutory language in it, which is much different than the normal course board appointments that we deal with, you know, over the course of things. It's very distinctive, it's very different, and now we -- now it's been litigated, and we have court rulings on it, and this is what I felt like the interpretation of it was before, and this is where we are right now, with a Judge's decision and it compelling us to actually comply with the law. So that's what I hope we'll do today. And we can continue to kind of add on and add commentary to it if you want to. But I've said my piece then, I've said it now."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "All right, and thank you for that. And I will add that a vote here, although it is not going to pass, but a vote would then wipe out the opportunity to continue to appeal that statutory language that you are talking about or the county's ability to go to the next court level to find out if the -- if that language is exactly what is. So if it were that we were forced to not -- you know, put these two into the Registrations and Election, would wipe out our ability to appeal. And that is not what would -- is a good course to take, nor is it a fair adjudication of a final ruling, which, you know, could go as far as it could go."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I just want to make one final note, and that is to say, this Board of seven is welcome to come up with a four-person majority to vote this through. There has been a four-person majority block that has voted together on this Board for at least the last two and half-ish years. I have not been a part of that majority block, much to my chagrin, on many days. Two of those people have decided not to even have the courage of their convictions to be here to vote. My vote is not going to be in the positive for this appointment. The voting block has not needed me for anything else. So they don't need me right now. They can vote how they like."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just want to make a comment on behalf of Chairman Pitts, who is not here. He had something he had to go to today, and that is why he was trying to hurry public comment so that he wouldn't miss the meeting. So I don't want it to think that he left. Because he had previously scheduled event that had to be at today."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yep. In addition to that, this has been a five-two vote all along with -- you know, not a four-two vote, but a five-two vote on this particular issue. So I think -- I think we've all heard enough of this. Let's just vote this up or down, one way or the other. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. So just want to correct what you said, Commissioner Thorne. I appreciate that the Chairman had a schedule to keep, but it's also his agenda, and he runs these meetings. And if he had wanted to take this vote before he left, he could have."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. I think -- I'm not sure personal attacks on everybody is particularly worthy, or, you know, useful for all of us. And it's quite unfortunate, is what I would say. This is a matter that has been sort of well documented, and it's been set up on partisan lines all along, and looks like it's going to

be set up on partisan lines today. But maybe there'll be a miracle. So let's open up the vote."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Other items to come before us?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right, thank you. We are adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.