

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

March 18, 2026
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: April 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:01 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, Commissioner (District 2)	PRESENT
Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)	PRESENT
Vacant (District 4)	
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	PRESENT
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (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**26-0131 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 Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

26-0132 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Atlanta Children's Day Shelter Appreciation Day."
(Ivory)

March 4, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Marius Antwan Moore Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**

March 4, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Media Girls Network Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

March 7, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Reverend Dr. Gregory A. Sutton Appreciation Day."

(Arrington)

March 8, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Women's Empowerment Day." **(Arrington)**

March 15, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Reverend Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy Remembrance Day."

(Arrington)

March 15, 2026

Commissioners' District Board Appointments**26-0133 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE
CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Arts Council shall be composed of fifteen (15) residents of the county. Initially, each member of the Board of Commissioners shall appoint two persons to serve on the council, one person to serve for a one-year term and one person to serve a two-year term. No term of any member shall extend beyond the term of the District Commissioner who appointed the member to serve on the Arts Council Board; thereafter, each year, each member of the Board of Commissioners shall appoint one member for a two-year term. Each member may continue to serve beyond his/her term until replaced. The Chairman of the Arts Council shall be appointed to a two-year term by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners. The Council shall elect a Vice-Chairman and a secretary from its membership.

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Sandra DeShields-Hightower (**Abdur-Rahman**)

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Sandra DeShields-Hightower for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

**26-0134 Board of Commissioners
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATION PROCESS
CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT
AGENDA)**

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

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2025

Josette T. Bailey, PhD (**Abdur-Rahman**)

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Josette T. Bailey, PhD for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

**26-0135 Board of Commissioners
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF
THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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

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

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

Term = Staggered two (2) year terms

Term below expired: 12/31/2025
Vacant (**Barrett**)

Commissioner Barrett nominated Michael Hopkins for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

Open & Responsible Government

26-0136 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of Sanitary Sewer System Ownership, Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Agreement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Arkan Homes, LLC, for the purpose of granting Fulton County legal access to extend and maintain the sanitary sewer system at 3475-95 Bethany Bend, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0137 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of Sanitary Sewer System Ownership, Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Agreement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and JBGL Atlanta Development 2014, LLC, for the purpose of granting Fulton County legal access to extend and maintain the sanitary sewer system at 2260 Old Milton Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0138 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 6,570 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Rivertown ONO Investment, LLC, for the purpose of constructing The Brooke at Rivertown Project at Ono Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30268. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0139 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 17,008 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Mayfield Development, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Mayfield Estates Project at 1580 Mayfield Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0140 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 17,496 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Mayfield Development, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Mayfield Estates Project at 1580 Mayfield Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0141 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and MHR Land, LLC, for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer easement area at 6000 Jones Road, Union City, Georgia 30213. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0142 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and CHIPT Atlanta Buffington, LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 3600 Buffington Center, South Fulton, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0143 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and SWVP Alpharetta LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 5555 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0144 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and SWVP Alpharetta LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing water line easement area at 5555 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0145 Human Resources Management

Request approval of a Resolution reauthorizing the Child Care Expenses Reimbursement Program for eligible Fulton County employees for February 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026, including program funding, reimbursement limits, eligibility criteria, and administrative authority. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0146 Finance

Ratification of February 2026 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**26-0147 Police**

Request approval of the 2026 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the U.S. Department of Justice for the Fulton County Police Department, establishing the requirements for participation in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program and the restrictions upon the use of federally forfeited cash, property, or proceeds. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0148 Sheriff

Request approval of the 2026 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the U.S. Department of Justice for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, establishing the requirements for participation in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program and the restrictions upon the use of federally forfeited cash, property, or proceeds. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0149 Emergency Services

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Fulton County and the Emory Clinic, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) for a Medical Director to provide Administrative and Supervisory Services for the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program for the Department of Emergency Services in the amount of \$41,200.00 for fiscal year 2026. The fee shall increase by a factor of three percent (3%) annually for each Renewal Term. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2026 with three (3) renewal options. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0150 Emergency Services

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Union City for the provision of 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Services. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2026, with three (3) automatic renewals commencing on January 1 of each successive year. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**26-0151 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Second Regular Agenda as amended by removing items #26-0122 and #26-0124 as requested by Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

26-0152 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2026

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 4, 2026

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

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

Absent: Arrington

26-0153 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Vietnam War Veterans Appreciation Day." **(Ellis/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "Public Works Appreciation Day." **(Ellis/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "National Council of Negro Women Appreciation Day." **(Arrington/Abdur-Rahman)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**26-0154 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)

14 Speakers: LA Pink (Fulton Corruption); Merlon Pierce (Data Centers/Chem Trails); Joyce Farmer (Fulton County Jail/Sheriff); Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice (#26-0156); Jeromey Beaman (#26-0156); Terry Ross (#26-0156); Derrick Green (#26-0156); John Ahmann (Westside TAD); Margie McCloud (Fulton County Jail); Minister Breedlove (Fulton County Jail); Mo Ivory (District 4/Elections); Shawn Walton (#26-0156); Sherry Norman (Friends of Emma Darnell/Seniors); Dorothy Harpe (Street Signage)

2 Zoom Speakers: Imara Canady (Arts Council Support); Robby Caban (Lifeline/Animal Services)

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)****26-0155 Board of Commissioners**

MARTA Quarterly Briefing **(PRESENTED)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****26-0156 Finance**

Request approval of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County expressing its intention to advance Phase Three of the Project Care Initiative and pursue the acquisition, construction, equipping, financing and completion of a new hospital facility in South Fulton County pursuant to the arrangements with the Grady Health System and the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority for the purpose of providing medical services and indigent care in Fulton County (The "New South Fulton Hospital Project"; authorizing the proper officers of Fulton County, Georgia to commence negotiations and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to advance the New South Fulton Hospital Project; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve as amended to include working with Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory School of Medicine and any other local schools of medicine. Chairman Pitts offered a friendly amendment to include the following language "BE IT RESOLVED that the clinical operations associated with the Grady Health System and the New South Fulton Hospital Project shall incorporate and utilize residents, fellows, and trainees from Morehouse School of Medicine's Graduate Medical Education programs to ensure the availability of clinical training placements, residency rotations, and faculty appointments from Morehouse School of Medicine." The motion passed by the following vote:

Commissioner Arrington and Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman accepted the friendly amendment.

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

26-0157 County Manager

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

26-0158 Finance

Request approval of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County, Georgia authorizing the issuance and sale of Fulton County, Georgia General Fund Tax Anticipation Notes; authorizing the distribution and use of a (a) request for bids and/or (b) Preliminary Official Statement and Notice of Sale, in each case relating to such Tax Anticipation Notes and the Solicitation of Offers for the purchase of the Notes and related matters. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0159 Finance

Request approval of a Resolution to Equalize the 2026 Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) among all pensioners by providing those retirees who participated in pension plans without automatic adjustments with the same three percent (3%) COLA that is mandated by the formula provided in the 1982 and 1991 DB Plans and their amendments, effective April 1, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0160 Information Technology

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Information Technology, State of North Dakota #146 Strategic Assessments, Upgrade of the County's Enterprise Resource Planning Software (ERP) application with International Consulting Acquisition Corp. dba ISG Public Sector (Stamford, CT) in an amount not to exceed \$360,000.00 to provide independent verification and validation services during the upgrade. Effective dates: April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0161 Information Technology

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Information Technology, 22ITBC1006B-PS, Fulton PC Refresh, in an amount not to exceed \$2,368,000.00 with CDW Government LLC (Vernon Hills, IL) to provide enterprise business class desktop personal computers (PCs), laptops, monitors and docking stations, specialty computing devices to include iPads, iMacs, MS Surface Pros and supporting peripherals for an additional 9 month period in order to provide additional time to create a new solicitation. Effective Dates: April 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: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Arts and Libraries**26-0162 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the Bear Creek Nature Center, Inc. for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the total amount of \$200,000.00 for environmental education programming. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0163 Arts and Culture

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the Chattahoochee Nature Center, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation, for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the total recurring amount of \$200,000.00 for the operation management of the current environmental education programming based at 9135 Willeo Rd, Roswell, GA 30075, and to provide expanded operational programming. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #26-0163 through #26-0166. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

26-0164 Arts and Culture

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County, Georgia and Hammonds House, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the operation and management of the current arts and culture programs based at 503 Peoples St. SW, Atlanta GA 30310, and expanded operational programming. The term of this contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #26-0163 through #26-0166. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

26-0165 Arts and Culture

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County, Georgia and The National Black Arts Festival, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation, for the purpose of providing funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 to provide expanded operational resources as well as educational and arts-related services to the citizens of Fulton County. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #26-0163 through #26-0166. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

26-0166 Arts and Culture

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County, Georgia and The Art Center, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation, for the purpose of providing funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the operation and management of the current arts and culture programs based at 6290 Abbotts Bridge Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097 as well as to provide a Multicultural Performing Arts Center feasibility study and expanded operational programming. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve items #26-0163 through #26-0166. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Health and Human Services**26-0167 Public Works**

Request approval of lowest responsible bidders - Public Works Department, 25ITB0911K-NJH Standby Miscellaneous Construction, Water System Services in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 with (A) Site Engineering, Inc. (Atlanta, Ga) in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 and (B) Wade Coots Company, Inc. (Austell, Ga) in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 to provide standby miscellaneous construction services for the Fulton County water distribution system. Effective April 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0168 Public Works

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 19RFP090419K-DB, Operation & Maintenance Service for Wastewater Facilities & Pump Stations in the North Fulton Service Area, in an amount not to exceed \$12,470,486.61 with Veolia Water North America-South, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide reliable, uninterrupted operation of the water and wastewater system operations and maintenance management systems in the North Fulton service area for an additional maximum 183-day period effective April 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Justice and Safety**26-0169 Medical Examiner**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Medical Examiner's Office, 25RFP1552437C-JH, Pickup and Removal of Deceased Remains in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 with First Call Removal Services LLC. (Mableton, GA) to provide pickup and removal of deceased remains. Effective dates: April 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**26-0120 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to promote Public Education regarding how to obtain voter identification; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD ON 3/4/26) (HELD)**

ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER THORNE**26-0122 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to procure a third-party independent contractor to complete a comprehensive audit of the Fulton County budget for 2026; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 3/4/26) (REMOVED)**

ITEM REMOVED FROM THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY CHAIRMAN PITTS

26-0124 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of an urging Resolution urging the Georgia General Assembly not to enact legislation eliminating property taxes as a source of local government revenue; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 3/4/26) (REMOVED)**

ITEM REMOVED FROM THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY CHAIRMAN PITTS

26-0170 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to support the growth and long-term sustainability of local, independent small businesses as they expand and create jobs in south downtown, to ensure that local small businesses are included in the economic opportunities provided by the 2026 World Cup, and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0171 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to appropriate nine hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and zero cents (\$975,000.00) to the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation to support services provided to survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (HELD)**

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

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****26-0172 External Affairs**

Presentation: 2026 Legislative Session Update. **(PRESENTED)**

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**26-0173 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: District 4 Vacancy (**Arrington**)

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to appoint Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman to the Atlanta Beltline, Inc. Board of Directors and Commissioner Thorne to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust with a friendly amendment by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman to appoint Commissioner Arrington to the Atlanta-Fulton County Recreational Authority (Stadium Authority). The motion passed by the following vote:

Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Barrett accepted the friendly amendment.

Yea: Thorne, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Ellis

EXECUTIVE SESSION**26-0174 Board of Commissioners**

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

PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE, PERSONNEL AND CYBERSECURITY: Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Arrington; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; Chief Operating Officer Dr. Pamela Roshell; Chief Information Officer Kevin Kerrigan; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

Yea: Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, and Arrington

Did Not Vote: Thorne, and Abdur-Rahman

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the contract for Information Technology Services in the amount of \$66,500.00 in item #1 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for representation in item #6 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for representation in item #7 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

e. motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve the request for representation in item #8 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Barrett, and Arrington

Did Not Vote: Thorne, Ellis, and Abdur-Rahman

f. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to authorize the Chairman to execute a settlement Participation Agreement in item #9 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'

SECOND REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 18, 2026

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 March 18th and it's 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please, call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Present."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda: **26-0131**, 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, nothing on the Consent Agenda? Commissioners, any item on the Consent Agenda?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion to do so by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 6, Second Regular Meeting Agenda: **26-0151**, Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any items?"

CLERK GRIER: "No items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Where are the items by former Commissioner Ivory -- those shouldn't be on the agenda. Where are they?"

CLERK GRIER: "They are on page 11."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Remove those from the agenda. Where on page 11?"

CLERK GRIER: "The first two items: 26-0122 and 26-0124."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Strike those."

CLERK GRIER: "So noted."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Continue. All right. Motion to approve the agenda by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: " **26-0152**: Ratification of Minutes. Second Regular Meeting Minutes, February 18th; First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 4th, 2026."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, **26-0153**: Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Vietnam War Veterans Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Ellis with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "We'd like Reverend McGee to come down here and join us. As he's coming down, I would just like to say this is not my proclamation; this is the Board's proclamation. This is all of our proclamation and something that we all are in unison on and in support of. As Reverend McGee comes down to join us, just a little bit of information about -- this man is going to speak a little bit, but he's the chair of our Veteran's Empowerment Commission, which all of us, you know, are certainly strongly in support of. He's a Vietnam Veteran himself, he's a member of the Sons of Atlanta Vietnam War Memorial task force, and he's spearhead an effort that -- we're going to shine a light on it, and the celebration is going to take place on Sunday, March 29th, right, in Piedmont Park. So I just want to share a little bit of information and proud to share this proclamation and then ask Reverend McGee to say a few words.

WHEREAS, Vietnam War Veteran's Day was signed into law in 2017 designating March 29th as the day to honor the unwavering dedication and the countless sacrifices made by US service members and their families during the Vietnam War; and WHEREAS, March 29, 1973, is the date that the last US combat troops departed Vietnam, on or around the same day, the US Vietnam war commemoration stated that Hanoi had released the last its acknowledged prisoners of war; and WHEREAS, Vietnam War Veterans Day pay special tribute to the nine million Americans -- think about that -- nine million Americans who served during the Vietnam War era. The 58,000 names that are memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC and those veterans who never received the recognition they deserve when they return home. In addition, according to the Defense POW and Missing in Action Accounting Agency, DPAA, nearly 1,600 Vietnam era servicemembers remain unaccounted for; and WHEREAS, Fulton County salutes the work of our own veteran's empowerment commission which guides the Board of Commissioners on priorities, objectives, and policies to support the veteran population in Fulton County. In the efforts of the Sons of Atlanta Vietnam War Memorial task force, which will host a memorial parade and monument dedication ceremony on Sunday, March 29th in Piedmont Park; and WHEREAS, the parade will be followed by a dedication ceremony for the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument honoring the 240 service members from Atlanta in Fulton County who died in Vietnam. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes 'Vietnam War Veterans Day' as an opportunity for a grateful nation to recognize the courage and commitment that Vietnam Veterans showed and continue to show every day; and hereby proclaim Sunday, March 29, 2026, as 'Vietnam War Veterans Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia.

REVEREND MCGEE, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. We can do better than that. Good morning. You know, this is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. I didn't come here; I'm from here. I'm a Grady baby, born in Fulton County, lived in Fulton County all my life. And there was 240 of my homeboys that was killed in Vietnam War where I was wounded in combat. I believe that I live to tell their story -- to tell their story because we face two wars again; you know, two wars again, and we're going to resolve them just as we resolved them before this. Because we are one nation, you know, built on a Constitution that gives us a standing against tyranny -- against tyranny. Whether it be tyranny of enslavement or tyranny of the denial of democracy, the rights that we have under the Constitution of these United States. These young men, I can tell you, all died believing one thing, we are one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all. So as we stand here today, I'm pleased to say that we have a memorial in Piedmont Park for my homeboys, you know, for bringing them home. You know so that their neighbors that their friends, that their families can appreciate the sacrifice -- can appreciate the sacrifice more. So thank you Fulton County. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Public Works Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Ellis with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Again I want to emphasize, this is a Full Board proclamation right here. I just happened to be reading it and we want to invite all of the members of our public works teams who are here today with us; the ones who aren't having to wear boots this morning and trek around. Come on in, come on in, and spread around on both sides here. Come on in. Come on in. All right. All right. Without further ado, I'd like to share this proclamation: WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners finds that the protection of the environment is vital to the health, safety, wellness and economic progress of Fulton County and its citizens; and WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works demonstrates its commitment to managing resources through systematic planning, instruction, maintenance, and operation of water and wastewater infrastructure in the most sustainable efficient and environmentally sound manner; and provides water and pollution prevention education to residents, business, schools, and communities; and WHEREAS, the Georgia Association of Water Professionals is a nonprofit educational association for water professionals and serves as an authoritative resource for knowledge, information, and advocacy of sound public policies, and water resources and related environmental fields in Georgia and beyond. WHEREAS, on November 4, 2025, Fulton County's Department of Public Works receives the following awards from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals: Platinum Collection System of Excellence Award, Platinum QA/QC Laboratory Award in drinking water serving greater than a hundred thousand, Platinum and Gold QA/QC Laboratory Award in the municipal wastewater greater than 20 MGT/MGD categories -- somebody gone tell me what these acronyms mean -- distribution system of excellence gold award, Consumer Confidence Report Gold Award, Gold QA/QC Laboratory Award in the municipal wastewater greater than 20 MGD category and Water Distribution System MasterPlan in large utility category. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton Board of Commissioners recommends and commends the Department of Public Works for its continued dedication in public service to the county; and hereby proclaims March 18, 2026, as 'Public Works Appreciation Day' for Fulton County, Georgia. Let's

give them a huge hand. And we'll say while those awards may be -- that are referenced may be somewhat, you know, confusing to some of us in the audience as you're hearing them, they are meaningful; and I will say we have invested quite a bit in our water infrastructure which serves largely Fulton County outside of Atlanta, and it shows by that recognition. And I'd like to invite the leader of our team -- of our public works team up, David Clark to say a few words."

DAVID CLARK, RECIPIENT: "Thank you. Before I say that, something I do want to introduce the Georgia Association of Water Professionals President to say a few words on behalf of the organization that presented us these awards."

GARY MCCOY, SPEAKER: "Chairman Pitts, Commissioner, Guest, I appreciate you inviting me here. My name is Gary McCoy. I'm the President of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. I won't read out a lot of these awards because that did it; but let me just say this: those awards highlights the dedication and hard work of your employees, of the 250 employees that's in public works. At the AWP, our main goal is just to highlight organizations -- well, our main goal is protect our most precious resource. And one way we do that is just highlight and just recognize systems such as - - and for these types of awards. Normally, when I travel throughout the state, I present one award and that's it; but y'all sort of showed out, so. When I was asked to come here and I seen this list, I said wow, I'm glad David said is in a proclamation because I had a whole list -- so I don't have to have my cheat sheet. But I just want to say this do demonstrate the hard work of your employees because when I started out over 46 years ago, I started out as a janitor and I see what it takes for every single member and, you know, the Commissioners, we appreciate you for the hard work and giving the resources in order for you to be able to do your job. But the people who are out there in the streets at three in the morning when on Christmas fixing these water lines, you got to recognize them. I tend to get up when we won awards and be in front of the Commissioners Macon and get all the credit, but no, when I'm on a cruise I know where my people are doing, so they do the hard work every day. So I just want to say thank you for everybody who actually participated in this. And like I said, these awards isn't by accident, it takes hard work and a lot of dedication. So I -- on behalf of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, I'd like to congratulate you on a whole host of awards. And this -- I'm not just saying this because this is the most I ever seen at one time, so just congratulations. So at this time, I would like to ask David to join me; you named of the awards, and I just want to say on behalf of our association, I thank you for being a part of it and congratulations on an achievement that not too many systems have in the state of Georgia. So congratulations."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing 'National Council of Negro Women Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington and Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Arrington is allowing me to read it. Will any of the representatives of the National Council of Negro Women, please join us, looking so beautiful. I'm so honored. I am so honored to be able -- come on in; we got enough on both sides. Alrighty. WHEREAS,

the National Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and is comprised of over 350 campus and community-based sections, and 37 national women's organizations that enlightens, inspires, and connects more than two million women and men. Its mission is to lead, advocate for, and empower women of African descent, their families and communities; and WHEREAS, on March 4th, 2016, NCNW Greater Atlanta section, was chartered, and the official installation was held on March 20th, 2026, at Ben Hill United Methodist Church with 210 members becoming the largest section in the 80-year history to be chartered. The chartering president was Diane Powell -- and please charge it to my head and not my heart, I want to say it correctly -- Larche' [Phonetic.] and founding members included Janet Brown, Economy Jackson, Kathy Moody, Michelle Thompson, and Derinda Thurmon; and WHEREAS, NCNW, Greater Atlanta Section, will celebrate their tenth anniversary on March 21st, 2026, with the theme of 'A Legacy of Phenomenal Women', 10 years of service and empowerment; and host their first 'Core 4 Fest' -- now say that four times -- first Core 4 Fest on Saturday, March 21st, focusing on economic empowerment, education, health, and social justice. The gala will serve as a fundraiser to support their future programs, their service projects, and provide scholarships for two deserving students who plan to further their education; and WHEREAS, the NCNW programs are grounded on a foundation of critical concerns that are NCNW priorities. The organization promotes education, encourages entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and economic stability; educates women about health, and promotes healthcare access, and promotes civic engagement, and advocates for sound public policy and social justice. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the National Negro Council of Women for continuing the legacy of making a powerful and positive impact on our communities; and does hereby proclaim March 20th through the 21st, 2026, as 'National Negro Council of Women 10th Anniversary Weekend in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please put your hands together for some phenomenal women taking the lead in our community? And I'm going to turn it over to Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Just excited and honored to be able to honor these women that are doing great things in our community; Diane Larche' was one of those phenomenal women and just glad to be able to do this, not only for the work that these women are doing, but in Diane Larche's honor."

ANGELA BROWN, RECIPIENT: "Hi, my name is Angela Brown. I proudly serve as the President of Greater Atlanta Section of the National Council of Negro Women, and we would like to thank Commissioner Arrington and Fulton County for this. We are so proud to have served the community of greater Atlanta for 10 years, but we know that there is more work to be done, so please join us. Thank you."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 7, Public Hearings: **26-0154**, 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.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 14 speaker cards. Will the first seven speakers, please come forward: LA Pink, Merlon Pierce, Joyce Farmer, Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, Jeromey Beaman, Terry Ross, and Derrick Green."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Speakers, when you have 15 seconds remaining, I'll say 15 seconds, that will be your clue to begin to terminate -- to conclude, rather, your remarks. First speaker."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Alrighty. Well, good morning. As I sit there, I had a *deja vu*. A year ago or so, Mo Ivory set behind me chasing after Hall's seat, and now she sits behind me chasing after Robb Pitts seat. I say that because, there was a Consent Decree that went out, there was a DOJ report that went out, and she sat behind me with these reports. I came down speaking out about the Sheriff, talking about all of the malfeasance and things that were going over there, and not one time did she feel an opportunity to go bond out an inmate. And so, it just bothers me and baffles me that all of a sudden when she check out, those were her stunts and fronts that she did in front of the community. And I felt disrespected by that because I've been fighting for four years down here -- come down here faithfully fighting for our inmates. Talking about the things that's going on with the Sheriff. And for her to use it as an opportunity to campaign off of it, is a slap in the community's face and those families' faces that are off in that jail to play around with it. So I don't take it likely and I'm not going to take it as a joke. I'll see that seat empty and it's going to remain empty until we find somebody that can uphold it. And Pitts, we're pushing for you. I know, Arrington, you're running for it, but trust me, you've got some flaws that you got to take care of before you come into any power or position, and I mean that. Because right now, what we need is true leaders inside of this community because we already see the failings --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that's taking place inside of it. The community right now needs dignity. They need empowerment. They need love, and y'all can't give it to them with all the corruption you got going on."

MERLON PIERCE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Council. My name is Merlon Pierce. I am speaking on a different subject. I'm so happy that she had this proclamation today about the water situation. So there's two issues I'm presenting today that you guys as leaders should present to Washington, DC. One is the water

that they're using for these data centers which they are trying to power the AI. Your brain uses very minimal energy to power the supercomputer that is inside your brain that God gave you as opposed to these data centers is absorbing so much water and eventually they're wanting to build nuclear power plants necessities of these data centers to power them with electricity. We have to stop this before it goes beyond what it's going. Also, the other issue that I'm presenting today is the chem trails that you see them spraying in the air. You guys can also speak about this today. There is a bill that is being presented in Washington, DC called an HR-7452, the air-quality act, which has been introduced to Congress that its explicit goal is banning geo-engineering, stratospheric aerosol injections, cloud seeding, solar radiation management, and other forms of intentional weather and climate modification across the United States. Florida has already signed on; they've banded it in their state. Other states that have banded it. Georgia has to band this, because this will have an adverse effect on the entire population of Georgia. As a Georgian, as a native Atlantean, I am urging that you guys push this forward with Congress, 7452 is the bill. Thank you."

JOYCE FARMER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chair, Commissioners. I am Joyce Farmer a resident of the city of East Point -- excuse me, city of South Fulton, and also a retiree from the Fulton County Sheriff's office that have served 30 years. So the things that are being said, I know what's been going on inside the facility. As a taxpayer, how long are we going to continue to pour water into a bucket with a hole in it? The Sheriff has received millions and millions of dollars, and we all see that he have done what he wanted to do with it. We hadn't forgotten about that sprinter. Where is it? The \$200,000 sprinter. Where are those bracelets that was supposed to let them know if an inmate is in distress? So evidently Sean Thompson didn't have on a bracelet because he was found with those bugs, and we paid the family \$5 million and you gave the Sheriff five million to clean up the jail. I received an e-mail also from the county stating that Chair Pitts was proud to announce that the jail is 90 percent finished. I don't know if you received that report from the Sheriff, or did you actually go see for yourself? Because the word on the street is that they are tearing it up again because they don't have the staff to watch them. Never in the history of the Sheriff's office they've hired a security company to come and man the jail. That's unbelievable. The citizen -- we need a leader that prevent crisis not be the crisis. Thank you."

DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, President and CEO of Morehouse School of Medicine; and I am pleased to be joined today by our students, faculty, staff, and members of the community who are here in support of amendments that we would like to consider as you take action on Resolution 26-0156. The question before us is simply not where we place the hospital, but how do we build a system that truly improves access, outcomes, and sustainability for the communities most impacted by the Wellstar closure. Through the work of Project Care in partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and EY, the data show that those communities that were concentrated in South and Central Fulton County is where we saw the higher disease burden, lower life expectancy, and fewer access points for care. We believe that there are two things that are important: first, we must recognize that a distributed ambulatory network of care is required that brings care closer to where people work,

live, play, and pray, and that a hospital should serve as a destination for complex care. What we also know as the proven premier educator and trainer of healthcare professionals in Georgia, with 65 percent of our graduates remaining in communities where they are trained, that it is equally important that any hospital regardless of location has a diverse healthcare workforce. So while we fully support, we fully supported Morehouse School of Medicine, the hospital that is being proposed in Union City, we believe that it is imperative that Morehouse School of Medicine --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds.

DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- is a part of that hospital allowing our learners and our trainers to be educated. We also believe that we must build a system with coordinated approach for care. We've enjoyed our partnership with you and look forward to working in the future to make this a reality."

JEROMEY BEAMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chairman. My name is Jeromey Beaman, and I have the pleasure of serving as the President of Morehouse School of Medicine, SGA, Student Government Association program. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding the Morehouse School of Medicine's proposed amendments to the Resolution before you. As you can see from the audience, I am joined by many of my fellow students who are here because the decisions you make today will be critical to our future healthcare professionalism. I was born and raised here in the city of Atlanta via Piedmont Hospital; my sister at Crawford Long, and my baby brother at Grady Hospital. So you can imagine how thrilled I was to be admitted to Morehouse School of Medicine and to pursue my dream of becoming a physician right here in my hometown. Because when you come to MSM, you not only receive an outstanding medical education, but you also serve a lifelong mission. The medical school was founded 50 years ago and was to both increase the diversity of the healthcare system as well as improve the workforce and health equity in underserved rural and urban communities much like in Central and South Fulton County. Today, I'm pleased to represent my fellow students here today, and back at the school have had the opportunity to be trained in communities like Central and South Fulton County, which is vital to carrying out the MSM mission after we graduate. But I'm also here to represent future MSM students who have not had the opportunity to walk the halls of Grady or work in an ambulatory clinic or a physician's office in an underserved area. Those engagements are what sets our foundation, whether we are medical students, nursing students, physician's assistant students, Master of Public Health's, and Ph.D. students become the culturally humbled healthcare providers in our community requires and needs. Therefore, it is critical that if a new hospital is built to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: -- 15 seconds.

JEROMEY BEAMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- serve Metro Atlanta or a Georgia community, Morehouse School of Medicine students are allowed to receive a part of our education and training at those facilities. We expect that whether a hospital in Union City or the city of Atlanta, students are – are Morehouse School Medicine students will receive that training. This Friday is National Match Day."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

TERRY ROSS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hey, good morning, Board of Commissioners. My name is Terry Ross. I'm a community member in the Mid and South Fulton area, and I'm here to support the proposed amendment by Morehouse School of Medicine. Living in South Fulton is -- we have the distinction of having the highest rate of chronic diseases within Fulton County. We need healthcare, and we need healthcare options, and that's why I'm here today to speak to you, to ask for your support for Morehouse's recommended amendment. Dr. Rice pointed out that we'll have the highest level of chronic diseases; we don't have specialists like neurologists and cardiologists, we need those specialties within our community so that the community have options and choices for healthcare. And this is all towards building a healthy community. We, of course, support the hospital in Union City, but we also need touch points within Mid Fulton and South Fulton. We need that. We need the options. We need the same options available on the north side. Personally, when I have to go see my cardiologist, I have to travel 40 minutes to get there to see the cardiologist. I just also want to emphasize that this is not just for me personally, but it's also for the generations to come. When my youngest child was born at Atlanta Medical Center 25 years ago, there were more healthcare options. Commissioner Arrington, I saw you Sunday at our church, I'm also an ordained deacon at West Hunter Street Baptist Church. We posthumously celebrated Reverend Abernethy's 100th birthday and thank you for coming --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

TERRY ROSS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- but when Reverend Abernethy was there, there were more healthcare options. When my child was born 25 years ago, there was more healthcare options. The healthcare options are dwindling, they need to grow and we ask for your support. I thank you very much."

DERRICK GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Derrick Green, project director for Morehouse School of Medicine choice neighborhood initiative and resident in Fulton County Commission District 6. I also support the recommended amendments by Morehouse School of Medicine that Dr. Rice referred to. I'd also like to point out I was one of Fulton County, I'm a fifth-generation Atlantean. And since I was born in Holy Family, later Southwest Hospital, four hospitals have closed, Central and South Fulton. They include Southwest, Atlanta Medical Center, Atlanta Medical Center South, which was formally South Fulton, and McClendon Hospital and Hunter Hills. Four hospitals have closed. My grandson, who lives in Fairburn in South Fulton, have less options in Fulton County than I did, and I was born eight years after President Johnson's Great Society Plan. It does not make sense. We need representation, hospitals in Central Atlanta and Central Fulton County. And I just support all of what you're doing. Thank you, Commissioner Pitts, thank you for the Board of Commissioners for what you're doing. Of course, I support what's going on in South Fulton and that recommend hospital, and I hope we approve it. My parents still live in South Fulton. My children do and, of course, my grandchild, but we do need representation -- hospitals in Central

Fulton County, and please make that decision as you move forward in these processes. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Last seven speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: John Ahmann, Minister Breedlove, Margie McCloud, Mo Ivory, Shawn Walton, Dorothy Harpe, and Sherry Norman."

JOHN AHMANN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm John Ahmann, the presidency of the Westside Future Fund, and I also live in Vine City on Sunset Avenue, and I'm a Fulton County Grady baby native, so a long time Atlantean. I'm here to say thank you to Fulton County Commission for your support of the Westside TAD, specifically, projects supported by the West Side Future Fund. Mr. Chairman, thank you for taking a tour with Pastor Alexander several months ago, but I'm very excited to report that we're on track to start a hundred million dollars' worth of development this year in English Avenue, Vine City, all of that is affordable, 100 percent affordable development, prioritized to the members from the community of English Avenue, Vine City, graduates of AUC School and Booker T. Washington. So I'd hope to have the opportunity as the Fulton County Commission deliberates on the Westside TAD projects to have the opportunity to really demonstrate to you the ROI we're contributing, you know, this hundred million on top of \$200 million of West Side Future Funds already invested in English Avenue/Vine City, helping grow that West Side TAD that can then be reinvested in the community growth, so we're excited about it, and would offer the opportunity for any of you to take a tour to really see it firsthand. So thank you for that. Just look forward to the opportunity to come before you later this year as we advance projects that we really think offer an outstanding return investment to the county and its West Side TAD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Is he finished? Good afternoon, everybody. We should all get along, but I didn't come down here. I do go to the Morehouse Clinic, and I'm supporting it because they started sending the veterans there now. So it's important that y'all give them that support. But then also, I want to talk about the jail. Thornton, we have veterans in that jail. That jail -- I went there yesterday, day before yesterday. It smells. You want -- Thornton, you wouldn't won't your child going to that Rice Street. So what I'm saying to y'all, we must take care of that jail, get rid of that jail, whatever you need to do, that's what you need to do. Because, Robb Pitts, you wouldn't won't your daughter to be in the jail. So what I'm saying, it's election time. We are listening, we are monitoring y'all, because elections are coming up, y'all, hey, vote for me, but what you're going to do? When you get in that seat, what do you do? You turn your back against the community. You can't give us chicken no more, not to seniors, because the seniors are getting wise. They're checking things out. And that's what I'm here for, because the community -- I warn y'all, homelessness is not getting no better. It's getting worse. We getting ready for the World Cup, that's all we thinking about, but how about people losing their jobs? You see the airport, they are -- are y'all trying to give them any money to pay their utility bills --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- to pay their rent? I want to see what you do. That's what we are here for, and power to the people. No more fooling us. No more. Take care and be blessed. And I am a veteran, but maybe we meet them by a woman on the court, ain't that right, McGee?"

MINISTER BREEDLOVE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Greetings, people. I am Minister Breedlove, and I have a word for you today and a message. The Lord said to love one another, and that's why I wore this sign that said love. Do you love one another as Jesus love us all? We got a love one another. And the Word speaks to us. And I wait and I hear what you all say. But do your heart and your mind speak the truth? As a 43-year missionary, civil rights leader, marched it with many leaders and Jesse Jackson, we just buried him. I walked across that bridge and I made a commitment and I'm going to keep it. As a member of the first black millionaire, Madam CJ Breedlove Walker, we was farmers. I plowed the mules in the field. I picked the cotton all day for \$6 a day, and we own our property today: Breedlove Town. I came to give you a message. I have waited and waited. I've been arrested in 2002 for something I did not do. This city owe me \$500 million. I was a wealthy woman. I supported English Avenue Vine City 80 percent. Many politicians; feed many people on the streets; went and traveled many of cities. Today I ask as I took this case and sued the city of Atlanta, and the Supreme Court said to tell the Commissioners and the rest of the people --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MINISTER BREEDLOVE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that it's time for you to get paid. Now, college students, you're here today, we got the monies; you all going to work with me, we going to fight this fight. This city is going to give me what belongs to me and every college --"

COMMISSIONER MO IVORY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Commissioner Mo Ivory. I want to begin by noting that I see there is a discussion item today regarding my District 4 vacancy. It is really unfortunate to see that the Board of Elections has decided to hold the District 4 election until November. In the meantime, I remain committed to making sure District 4 constituents are represented. Residents can still reach out to me at moivoryfulton@gmail.com if they need assistance. And my constituent services director, Keisha Ferguson, is still actively working in Fulton County responding to District 4 needs. While I was required by law to vacate my seat, something I did not take lightly, I want to be clear that I am the only candidate in this race required to do so because of how the terms align. Even so, I am stepping up for something bigger than myself and I remain committed to serving. I also want to acknowledge the hospital plan that the Board is voting on today. I am glad to see the Commission finally recognizing this issue and committing to action. However, the plan still does not address the healthcare desert between Union City and Grady and fails to include a partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine, the only historically black medical school in Georgia with a proven track record of educating and training the healthcare professionals that Georgia needs. On average -- on average, 65 percent of Morehouse School of Medicine graduates will remain in Georgia to practice medicine in

those communities. It's important to have hospitals, but equally important to have access points. Finally, I urge you to support item 26-0122 to conduct a full independent audit of the county budget. My constituents in District 4 have asked over and over again --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

COMMISSIONER MO IVORY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- for budget transparency, and I look forward to being able to deliver that to them and to all of Fulton County when I become the first African-American Latina commission chair of this commission. It is a pleasure to see all of my colleagues today, and I look forward to continuing to see you in the meetings and when I become the chair in January."

SHAWN WALTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings and good morning. First and foremost, I want to give a moment of silence for the breath of life that God has given us. Take that moment now. Second, I want to represent the encore for Morehouse School of Medicine in their request for a piece of the pie to be represented in the medical plans going on in Union City. I know that many people have come up to speak, but you also see the white coats as well as the students, so consider this the encore. And you have not heard from all of these people. You have seen them stand up, you have seen them clap their hands, but I'm going to give them an opportunity right now to stand up one more time for the encore. Morehouse School of Medicine stand up, and make a real noise. Make some real noise. Make some real noise. Y'all, make some real noise. Now that's they voice, and now let me go ahead and speak on my behalf as it relates to Morehouse School of Medicine. My brother graduated from Morehouse College. We were born and raised in the city of Atlanta, single parent of four, had to move every time the rent was due, but my brother graduated and he provided generational wealth for our family. So not only is this an opportunity for people to have access to health, but also an access to generational wealth. You see how the city of Atlanta is also the place where there's the greatest gap in economic mobility. This is an opportunity not only for Fulton County, not only for Union City, but also for people of color to experience some type of vitality, not only in health, but also in finances. I know that Morehouse School of Medicine --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SHAWN WALTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- is a community, a school that represents and also knocks on doors when it comes to health equity opportunities for all, and I'm a witness at that. I am also one of the, you know, people who support them. That's my time. Peace."

SHERRY NORMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Sherry and I am a resident of Fulton County. I came here to address Commissioner Rob Pitts. Rob Pitts, I'm sure you remember me, given your tenure, as you have been on the Board since 1990 -- I think it's like 1977. Anyway, I'm here today to follow up on the meeting that I came down -- some of the seniors, they couldn't come down, that they requested I come down because of the fact that they couldn't be here, so I came

on their behalf. Anyway, the meeting that I came with another senior on November the 6th, 2025, regarding my removal from the Friends of Emma Darnell. During the meeting I shared with you the details and certified letter that I received alleging something about Sparkman and Mr. Gregory. I think it's Andre Gregory. I believe the allegations was very vindictive, and you had told me that you would get back in touch with me. I never did hear from you anyway regarding this issue. I mean, I think that that was kind of disrespectful. I'm just -- I'm just really concern of the lack of communication and the potential suppression of speech -- speech that I shared with you at the Darnell Center and some of the other centers throughout the county. Anyway, I understand that you said something about leaving a suggestion box, but if you had been going to the senior buildings and not just coming out when it's time to be voted, you would know that there are already some suggestion boxes that are in most of the senior centers. Anyway, I understand that you also --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SHERRY NORMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- we really just need new leadership. We need new leadership here in Fulton County. The seniors are really tired and fed up with all of this. I mean, they told me not to leave any type of business card. They just told me to leave a deck of cards of a joker. They seem to think that there is a joker."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- one more. Just a minute, just a minute, just a minute. We got one more in Assembly Hall. Go ahead, ma'am."

DOROTHY HARPE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. How are you all today? I'm blessed. My name is Dorothy Harpe. I'm from Atlanta, Georgia, and I just want to say to the Commission -- all of you all, it's good that you're thinking about bringing a hospital to the South Fulton. That's a good thing, but what the people were saying out there, the Morehouse students, they should be employed at that hospital. Because we always have to go to the north side to get service, when we already got everything on the southside. If the Commission will look around and say, okay, we're going to make southside get this -- get these people get these jobs, and also my other beef is, I live on Grant Road, and I've been calling the city trying to get them to change my street back to Grant Road, but some joker come out there and put Grant Street. So I'm having a problem trying to get my mail, and I called the city of Atlanta, but no one ever seemed to call me back, no one ever seem to want to talk about it. So y'all just come out there and change the name of that street without any of the neighborhood knowing anything. I think that is so wrong. And y'all need to fix that or all of y'all need to find you another job if you can't do your job. Amen. And I love every one of you, but

you got to get your attitude and do better by the city of Atlanta, because I live in the city. I don't live in South Fulton. Love you. Have a great day."

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

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good morning, Commissioners. First person to speak is Imara Canady."

IMARA CANADY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I hope that y'all can hear me okay. My apologies for not being able to physically be with you this morning, but I just want to take a moment as the Vice Chair for the Fulton County Arts Council, to thank you -- each of you for your ongoing continued elevated support of art and culture throughout Fulton County. Specifically, I want to highlight something that the department spearheaded this past weekend, which was beyond phenomenal. As I'm sure many of you are aware, we are in the throes of the time of the year we take a moment to celebrate and honor the contributions of women of every dissent throughout this globe. I was so honored to attend the opening of the EmpowerHer exhibition that is predominantly housed at the Emma Darnell Aviation Cultural Center, but also has pieces of work throughout the government complex there, and I say why? Because we had close to 200 women artists submit their works and be accepted into this powerful exhibition. What was beautiful about what we experienced on this past weekend was we had well over 500 folks from all across the county representing the diversity of this county come together to not only celebrate our sisters in art, but to celebrate the power, transformative power of art and culture. And that it's because of the continued support that each of you commit to giving in Fulton County. So I'm not coming to ask for anything, I'm just coming to simply say thank you. We see you. We honor you and know that an investment in art and culture is an investment in Fulton County. Thank you and God bless."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Robby Caban."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings. My name is Robby Caban, and I'm a Fulton of -- I'm a resident of Fulton County. For years I've been asking this Board to order a forensic audit of the Fulton County Animal Control/Animal Services contract with the county contractor Lifeline Animal Project. This request is based on multiple whistleblowers throughout the years, former staff, Lifeline staff, and folks who have left on their own accord and some who have been retaliated against, and volunteers who have been banned who have come forward reporting mismanagement, abuse, and dangerous conditions both in the shelter and in field enforcement. This Board has now removed Lifeline Animal Project from animal control enforcement. That decision alone raises a serious question, what happened over the past ten years? For a decade Lifeline operated animal control under this contract, taxpayer funded contract. Officers were deputized under the Sheriff am responsible for public safety enforcement, and took an oath. It is now publicly known through whistleblowers and statements and through the Fulton County Police Department, who posted publicly cruelty cases were not properly investigated, laws were not enforced, and the system failed in its core duty

to protect residents. This is not just an animal issue, although if it were, that would be just as important. Animal control is a public safety and public health function. Taxpayers like me pay for these services. So I'm asking, where is the forensic audit? Where is the investigation? Will the contractor be held accountable? Will residents be compensated for services not rendered? Additionally, Lifeline still controls shelter operations and continues to influence the system all throughout the state of Georgia. That presents an ongoing risk. There have already been multiple losses including wrongful death cases acknowledged by this Board, incidents involving dogs that were not properly --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- contract. Personally, I have not felt safe, and I've not been safe walking in my own neighborhood due to loose dogs and dangerous conditions. This is unacceptable. I am respectfully requesting order a forensic audit of Lifeline Animal contract. Investigate what occurred in the past decade and provide transparency and accountability to the --"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Brianna Sailor. Brianna Sailor. Next person to speak is Charmaine Cook. I'm sorry, Charmaine Crook. Charmaine Crook."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Duke Virginia. Duke Virginia. Next person to speak is Gladys Adeniyi-Jones. Gladys Adeniyi-Jones. Next person to speak is Jenn Simmons. Jenn Simmons. Next person to speak is Nick Waters. Nick Waters. And this concludes our Zoom public comment."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of Page 7, Presentations to the Board: **26-0155**, MARTA Quarterly Briefing."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "Good morning, Chair Pitts, Commissioners. My name is Jonathan Hunt, Interim General Manager and CEO of your MARTA Transit System. I want to thank you for having me and MARTA here today. I also want to thank our dedicated worker of our Fulton County Board Members, Freda Hardage, Al Pond, and Beth Bolton Harris, as well as Board Member Ryan Loke who's here in the room with us today as well as my staff members would stand for a moment. Jennifer Lohse, Cara Lena Ramos, and Chief Capital Officer, Larry Prescott. Thank you for joining me today. Commissioners, I got a very full briefing for you today, which brings me a lot of pride to do so. We'll move on to the first slide. Our agenda for today will go through ridership and capital programs, our partially-funded projects as well as community engagement and other news. Moving to the next slide, which will be

ridership. Next slide. The ridership for streetcar: pre-streetcar closures, our ridership improving well beyond pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, our mobility ridership is strong year-over-year well surpassing our pre-pandemic levels. Bus ridership has remained steady and leveled out, and we are very optimistic that the NexGen Bus Network redesign, which will be launching next month, will increase ridership due to its increased service in higher frequency areas. In rail, we're initiating Better Breeze, which we're going to talk about a little bit later on, throughout our system. With Better Breeze, we're installing new fare gates in the system and transitioning riders to an entirely new fare payment method. As a result, we have many fare gates that are under construction, some that are also open because of needing to maintain access to all stations. Some stations only have two points of access. Once we launched the Better Breeze system, we expect these numbers to have a much better reflection of our numbers; so you'll see a spike in January. In January, we went -- beginning in December, rather, we went to a manual count, so we randomly manually counted our ridership as well as taking video to account for our ridership, and what it's already showing us is that our lost due to fare evasion, fare gates that are malfunctioning, folks who are going through exit/entry points are really diminishing the amount of ridership that we show, which has an impact on us, both from what we're actually performing for Fulton and for the region; but also for what we submit to the FTA. Next slide. We're going to move now into our capital program section. Next slide. I'd like to move to the Airport Station. We continue to see progress at Airport Station, both the -- on the left, the new elevator is completed. It's still boarded up when you go down there, and the new ride store is nearly completed. We are working on our fare gates at Airport Station. So at Airport Station, now you leave the MARTA station through some exit doors and come back into the airport. But we're feverishly replacing those in network; all of this work will be done prior to World Cup. In fact, my team and I met with the general manager at the airport to coordinate completion of our construction activity so that we will not be working and will be completely done prior to World Cup. The next slide and project I'd like to go to now is the MARTA Rapid A Line. We have a few slides on this project because we are extremely excited about the soft launch coming on April 18th, and a formal groundbreaking for this project will happen after World Cup. One note I mentioned in prior briefings, that our bus manufacturer, New Flyer, is having some issues with their batteries and the charging on those. We are definitely moving forward with the launch. We'll be servicing the whole corridor. Four yellow stops will be our temporary stops, and the other stops will have our permanent shelters already installed. The yellow stops -- the stops will be adjacent to the permanent locations, and will be servicing the corridor with 40-foot regular buses that are designed to look like the battery electric buses. The battery electric buses are on site, and as soon as that recall fix has been done by the manufacturer, they will go immediately into service. Next slide. The station canopy for City Hall has been installed as well as many other locations. What you see on your screens is on the left, the station canopy installation work in front of City Hall, and on the right, is what you see for our Carver Station at the South Terminus location which also includes the battery electric chargers, the two large white ABB structures. There'll be a second installation of a shelter at that location, which is located adjacent to Terminal South, a wonderful new food hall. This next slide -- thank you -- this next slide shows two photos of the intersection of Abernathy Boulevard and Georgia Avenue as they intersect with Hank Aaron Drive. The photo on the left is from 2018, and the exact

same photo, same angle on the right is from a few weeks ago. As you can see, the change is dramatic and it clearly illustrates how concerted economic development along the transit corridor can transform a community when business leaders, elected officials, and other agencies partner to bring on a transformative project. This transformation wouldn't have been possible without Fulton County's commitment, in particular, the Development Authority of Fulton County acquiring 450 Hank Aaron, the former Ramada Plaza Hotel, which is being transformed into a mixed income community. Additionally, Kaiser Permanente, you may have heard, has now acquired property along the corridor, up to seven acres, for a development just north of Georgia Avenue. The next slide relates to our MARTA rapid response public engagement, which has been robust. We are shifting to a get-ready-to-ride phase, and we're preparing customers for a new payment process. With BART, you pay and you validate off vehicle. This increases the speed in which people get on and get off the vehicle and allows for a more rail-like experience. The picture to the right is our rapid response team sharing information in January of this year in the Peoples Town neighborhood at their People's Town Neighborhood Association meeting. Let's move on to the next slide, please. And I'm going to turn to our Five Points transformation project. And just as a reminder, Five Points transformation is two projects in one. The transformation, which is at-grade and above, and those are some of the images you see there in the station rehab project, which I'll get to in the next slide. We've relocated our MARTA Police Department, MARTA Hope, which is our outreach program to assist folks who are unhoused, as well as maybe experiencing drug or mental health issues, and are on our system as well as our lost-and-found office to Ashby Station, temporarily. We've also partnered with Mercedes-Benz, as well as several other downtown stakeholders, to increase policing and beautification around the entire transformation project, and we're very excited about the launch of that, which will be in place prior to World Cup. Next slide. Relates to the station rehabilitation project. I won't dwell on this because, Commissioners, you've all heard about this project before. We will complete this prior to World Cup, and we continue to make outstanding progress on the tiling on the floors and the walls including new seating areas for patrons and the lighting bouncing off of all that bright light and tile work is made a dramatic, dramatic improvement. Let's move on to the next slide where I'll discuss MARTA's Cleveland Metropolitan ART project. Pictured on the left is a design rendering of the typical ART bus stop being installed throughout this project. On the right, is the full alignment, and the full alignment spans approximately 20 miles in total, and within the corridor, the route will cross over 40 intersections with transit signal prioritization to help speed up the delivery of our service, and that prioritization is being installed by GDOT. Other benefits of this project include queue jump lanes. So around eastbound Cleveland Avenue and at Springdale Road, the bus will actually have a queue jump lane to allow it to get out in front of traffic to help speed up the delivery of the service. We also have four pedestrian safety beacon, or mid-block crossings, with beacons to allow safer routes to transit along this route. In total, there'll be 53 bus shelters along the corridor, and 38 of those will be solo priority. All kiosk -- or excuse me, all shelters will have real-time kiosk information as well. Could we move on to the next slide? The Rapid C line, or the Campbellton BRT project, along with the Greenbrier transit hub: I do have some good news for the Commission on this. The Campbellton BRT has officially received a medium-high rating from the FTA for their FY26 annual report for funding recommendations. So in short, that means we are

eligible for small starts capital investment. It's not a guarantee, but it puts us in a much shorter line, and we're very, very excited about the possibility of getting supplemental federal funding for this project. We still need to reach final design, but we're doing so in partnership with the community. We have a flyover bridge in this alignment, and that bridge is being put in place to minimize the impact for the neighborhood, to increase the speed and efficiency with which we delivered this bus rapid project, as well as having a pedestrian pathway along there to allow for safer routes to transit. We engaged in the -- we have engaged the public through MPU meetings, bus ride alongs, other public briefings, and the public will be included throughout our design and construction projects. I am very pleased to report that our engagement and our construction teams have done a lot of outreach to the community, especially around the flyover. We hosted a community leader roundtable in November, and we will continue to host those quarterly going forward. Our next slide: this is the Bankhead station platform extension. We're very excited. Under the leadership of our Board of Directors, we completed a land swap in February of this year, so if you're looking at the image portion that says bus loop that's below the existing station that area was not MARTA property. We conducted a land swap with a private party; it allowed us to move the bus loop from underneath the station to that one location. It allows for a better circulation, better pedestrian safety, as well as allows us to maintain the western side of the station for that plaza. We are excited that we're currently at 60 percent design, and the scope thus far meets all of the needs of the increased platform station, so no more short trains going into Bankhead Station in the coming years. Additionally, it will facilitate our new train cars being able to go into that Bankhead Station. I'd like to move on to the next slide which is the MARTA Rapid Clifton corridor project. We previously stated in September that we'd be coming to you with an LPA study by the end of Q1 of 2026. And I want to be transparent with this group, due to a self-launching several of the initiatives, many of which I'm covering here today, the World Cup. We were concerned about getting full and robust public engagement, so we are moving that engagement, that LP study back, and we're going to complete it in 2026, but we're going to go to the public in Q3. So it did slide -- it slid by about six months. We're still engaging in that, but we did move it back to a Q4 2026 target. Can we move on to the next slide, which will get us into the partially funded projects, the first of which is on the next slide, which is our Georgia 400 bus rapid transit project: And we're continuing to advance this project in association with the Georgia Department of Transportation and their partner, SR400 Peach Partners. We're at about 30 percent design on the proposed three inline stations in close coordination with GDOT, and I know the image you see shows four dots, or four stations. One of those stations is not fully funded, as well as there's other aspects of the projects that are not fully funded. We did receive a million-dollar state bond -- a million dollar state bond and \$26 million as part of the solicitation and execution of the transaction with SR Peach Partners, but that is short of the full amount needed in order to fully develop and build this project. MARTA's working diligently to identify additional local funding sources, as well as preparing this for potential additional federal funding. We've worked closely with True North CID to update the cities of Roswell and Alpharetta on the project, and to discuss how we can create truly engaging stations that will allow safe routes to transit that are inviting, considering this is a center running Highway BRT project. If we could move to the next slide. I'm excited to talk about the ATN pilot, or the automated transit network project. This product project is

being conducted down at GICC in partnership with the ATL Airport Community Improvement Districts, the AAC IDs. In studying the feasibility and deployment of an automatic -- automated train transit network, easy for me to say, in South Metro -- the study will evaluate potential benefits, costs, and impacts as well as operations and costing. The second project governance meeting and I want to take a moment to thank you, Chair Pitts, for attending that meeting in January. The PGC community unanimously approved the notice to proceed for Phase 3 of construction activities. We held a groundbreaking on February 11th, and construction has commenced on this project. Next slide. On the feasibility side of this project, so that's the pilot side, and construction's begun on that. On the feasibility's study side, in conjunction with the ATN pilot, we've held meetings that were in conjunction with the PGC and independently. The route evaluation methodology included two tiers: The first tier focused on network connectivity, population and employment access. And the second-tier criteria focused on the feasibility, implementation considerations as well as minimizing community impacts. At the second PGC meeting in January, the Southeast connection, or the orange line, received the majority of the committee's support, so that particular route is going to move forward for additional feasibility study. If we could move on to the next slide. And the next segment of our presentation here is community impacts. I will not detail all of the hard work that our external affairs group has been doing. I will highlight a couple of items. In February, the Community Affairs Group hosted several robust events throughout Fulton, but specifically for my comments in South Fulton in Districts 1, 6, and 7, each event effectively built awareness around MARTA, our new initiatives launching today -- I mean, last week through the end of April. We also held several open houses at MARTA headquarters that went extremely, extremely well. We conducted additional events in North Fulton at the Benson Senior Multipurpose Facility as well. Could we move to the next slide? In other news, and we have a robust other news: Our legislative priorities -- we were happy to hear that our House Bill 1137 received unanimous support in transportation committee. It did not make Crossover, but we're hopeful that we're able to revive that piece of legislation. Also, the BRT camera enforcement legislation currently sits in the Senate Transportation Committee to move forward and we're optimistic at this point that that's going to move forward. And that bill will allow the buses to have cameras to enforce the bus-only lane instead of having to have officers stationed throughout the bus-only lane, in order to maintain a rail-like experience. On the next slide, I'm going to talk about our NextGen Bus Network, which we are 31 days away from launch. We are working extremely hard internally to prepare for the launch including a very, very large staff deployment over launch weekend. We've develop a launch-day playbook, and we're training all of our bus operators for the new bus network now. In the month of February, we held 25 open houses in the community and gave everybody the opportunity to directly engage with MARTA regarding any concerns, questions regarding this launch, and we've also provided partner toolkits to all of your staff so that you're up to date and aware. And just for a moment, on the next slide, in terms of engagement, this slide is put up there just to show you where we are and how excited the MARTA team is. This is a result of work that began back in 2021 from six public meetings and stakeholder -- 26 stakeholder briefings all the way through public hearings till being just a hair over 30 days away from launching a new network that took into account many years of public engagement as well as planning. We can move on to the next slide, which is MARTA Reach. As part of

the NexGen Bus Network is MARTA Reach. We launched MARTA Reach a week ago very successfully. It's the 12 zones you see in the image on your slide. Rides will be complementary through March 28th and customers will see zones and will be able to use MARTA Reach through the app. You can get a ride through our website, or you can call for our on-demand, curb-to-curb service. And just as a reminder, each one of these zones allows people to hail a ride, connect with one of the fast frequent bus routes, or to our rail service. And if your ride begins and ends within the zone, then you'll get a door-to-door service. On the next slide, we're going to go into our Better Breeze, which is coming, and on this one, sort of like the airport, I want to remind, we're going to have some short-term pain for long-term gain. We currently have over 23 stations that are under construction now replacing fare gates, 95 percent of our rolling stocks, so all of our buses that have tap to pay, all of -- 95 percent of that equipment has been replaced. And additionally, we're working through the rolling stock for our neighboring jurisdictions that also feed into the system in Cobb and Gwinnett. We encourage riders to spend down their fare during this period through May 2nd. We have listened to our customers. After May 2nd, we'll be fully on the Better Breeze system. So from March 28th to May 2nd, we'll have a transition period. You can use either system from May 2nd forward is just a better breeze system. But from May 2nd to October 30th, we're allowing you to transfer any balances or trips from the old system to the new system, so you don't have any loss. We're very excited about that, and thus far, we're very, very proud of what we're going to deliver to the community. Next slide. The next slide is on public safety. I saved this one for last; not because it's the least, but it's what I get the most excited about, and I don't want to run on too long about it. As of March 2nd, our overall crime rate is down 21 percent as compared to last year, and it's just a reminder, last year we drop our overall crime rate by north of 25 percent. We had no homicides thus far this year. I do want to be transparent with this group, our robbery percentage was up 50 percent, but what that actually represents in hard numbers, is we went from two robberies through this time in 2025, and we've had three robberies through this time in 2026. None is the goal, but I just wanted to put that in context, and to share that you have one of the safest transit systems in the nation, that we are extremely proud of as well as being able to partner with Fulton County, as well as many other cities, for special enforcement actions, whether driven by MARTA or driven by those jurisdiction's police forces in targeting specific crimes. Previously, when I first came to this group in early September, I indicated that we wanted to get to 250 officers, which was our budgeted amount, before the end of 2025. I am pleased to report that by the end of November, we reached 250 sworn officers on the rolls. And I also mentioned to this group that I committed for 2026 an additional 30 officers over the budgeted allotment. Today we're at 278 sworn officers with additional cadets in all of the participating academies like Fulton and Clayton that support us by allowing our officers to go through the academies, so we will be over that number, and we're just over the moon about that as well as how safe they're making the system. With that, I think I'm at the end of my -- I am. I will yield for questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Great news on the hires. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I just have a couple of questions; some concerns that my office has personally received. Any of the MARTA stands that have trash receptacles at them, whose responsibility is it to make sure those are emptied?"

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "So that is -- that is a very interesting. It's not a simple answer, but I'm going to give you the truthful answer. In part it's MARTA's, in part it's the local jurisdictions. So you have a receptacle that's in the public right-of-way, typically, it's whatever government jurisdiction's obligation to empty the trash. Acknowledging that we're placing an additional burden, we, through our advertising contracts, had two receptacles. When we take the receptacles and empty them twice a week to augment whatever that local jurisdiction is also doing. That is kind of the deal, for the lack of a better word, in Fulton County. So if there's any trash receptacles that are overflowing, we should be getting calls as well as your services as well, but that's the complicated --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- thank you. Thank you for answering, because I have had constituents call in and I gave them the same answer. But I think if you all would do a little bit better outreach in letting the community know that you are trying to do your part in making sure it's done, but it is not all the way your responsibility. And so this is why I ask it openly, because I wanted you to answer it openly and it not come from me. Secondly, a concern of mine, aesthetically, some of our stations don't look as good as other stations. I would like -- in reference to the Bankhead station, I pass by there a couple of times, and the aesthetics of the grass and the area that's outside of the station needs a little better upkeep. Since we have the World Cup coming, I don't want the constituents to be left out after the World Cup leaves. And so I would ask that MARTA takes a proactive role in making sure that all the stations are aesthetically pleasing to the eye for all the citizens of Fulton County. I have personally passed that particular station a couple times, and I'll be honest with you, I was disappointed as to how it looked versus other stations that I have passed. And so, I would ask that even though it may not look like an equity issue, it can be perceived like an issue that you're not being equal with how some of the stations look on one side of town versus the other; and this is coming from me. Last but not least, I know that we have seen publicly people who have had concerns about their money on their cards not transferring. I know that you stepped on it -- you talked about it, but do you have -- does MARTA have a plan in place for those that for whatever reason, because we know any time you're going from one system to another, it can glitch. There's got to be some type of follow-up or some type of way to resolve. The last thing that I ever want to hear as someone who was a single parent, as someone who used to have to get on a bus -- a train, and a bus, to drop off my children at the local daycare and go to work and go to school, missing funds of my card could be the difference between me keeping my job, could mean the difference between me getting my children to childcare. And so, I would just ask -- and you don't have to tell me what the plan is, but I would hope that doing that little catch period of changeover, that you all will be open to make sure that nobody falls through the cracks of losing any funding that they have on their cards."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, thank you. I'm going to take your last two notes in reverse orders; first with the concerns, we are keenly aware and attuned to that in how not everybody are choice riders, some are dependent riders, and during that May 2nd to October 30th period, it's not just a technological solution, to your point may glitch, may not catch it right, may not -- somebody may transpose a number or the system and might not get a number correct -
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VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- exactly."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "But with our customer service department, we're training them now, they will have a human being that they can call to assist them to get through that so they'll lose any funds. So we're keenly aware of that."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I appreciate that."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "And on the aesthetics point, you stated that exceedingly well, and I'm going to state it more plainly. If a station doesn't look good, tell us. We need to do better. So you mentioned Bankhead, but we're not doing beautification for World Cup, although that's important, we're doing it for our Metro Atlanta citizens -- Fulton County citizens, day in and day out. The level of attention and care and service to our customers is raising at MARTA, so if there's a point where we're not providing that, do let us know, including myself."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I definitely will. And I just want to challenge you and, because you're at the helm of leadership, is all of the energy and everything that we're doing now, which is great, we want to keep that same feeling afterwards. We want to keep that same posture afterwards. Being someone that just recently turned 62 years old, I can remember the Olympics, and I can remember all of the work that was done during the Olympics. I can remember even the posture of the changes it was going to make, some businesses were going to just be able to carry moneybags to the bank, and it didn't happen. I would say that MARTA has a golden opportunity here, and the beautification, you're correct, should go on. It has been going on and we look for MARTA to be the leader in making sure that it goes on. But I would be remiss if I didn't tell you that there are constituents that are concerned. They feel as though, you know, it's almost like when you have company from out of town and you make sure the house is clean, and everything in the bathroom has Pine-Sol and everything is spick-and-span, and you can eat off the floor, and then when the company leaves, it goes back to looking at the same. So I would just challenge you into saying what you doing let's continue to be partners and keep it going."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "I couldn't agree more, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. I could not agree more."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Vice Chair. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Hey, thanks for coming down here, Jonathan. I just had a question. Did MARTA update their payment systems like three years ago, two or three years ago? I know it was before your time."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "I have been working at MARTA 14 years, so I can't use that excuse. We did do upgrades to the Better Breeze system, but it wasn't a wholesale replacement by any stretch of the imagination. These systems get stale, technology move forward, so it would allow us to continue taking fares, we need to do upgrades, but it wasn't what we're doing now."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Because I remember some type of payment system right around when I first took office, but I knew this payment system was in existence, so we upgraded and now we're redoing."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "We're not redoing, so for example, we didn't have tap-to-pay, so how you go to grocery store now that existed three years ago. We didn't have that. We have the same fare gates. We didn't replace those three years ago, we didn't replace the equipment on the buses three years ago. It was mainly a software update in the back end rather than a front-end wholesale replacement of our entire fare payment system, which is what we're experiencing now."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Yeah, because I know in New York they had this system three or four years ago in place."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "Correct. We can't let New York out do us."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "They have a little bigger system there to work with."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "True."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So, okay. And then secondly, I notice that we had a new shelter on MLK as well, that looks identical to the city hall shelter."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "That's the standard shelter. They all look like that to help identify, hey, you're at a bus rapid transit stop versus a normal bus stop, which is why the ART shelters also look just slightly different than those two."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Thank you. That's all I have."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "My pleasure."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions? So while you're here, would you address your request for the Resolution for the extension of the one penny -- that bill -- the bill didn't crossover, did it?"

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "The bill did not crossover. We're still working with leadership under the gold dome in terms of figuring out a way or a path to attach our legislative priorities to it in order for it to move forward. My external affairs group had a great idea when I took over at the helm, myself and Deputy General Manager, Rhonda Allen, to come to all of the jurisdictions and explain all of our legislative priorities and ask for a Resolution of support for those legislative priorities; one of which being the penny. The penny supports our underlying work. So we do receive a lot of federal funds, formula funds. We receive some state grants. We receive other miscellaneous grants that we can apply for. All of those funding mechanisms have strings attached, meaning we can only use them for certain things. That core penny is our sustaining penny -- it's our sustaining and largest funding source. It pays for things like my salary, the staff's salary, but also pays for all of those officers. It pays for all of our employees who live in Fulton County as well as throughout our jurisdiction, and even broadly, we have employees who live as far away as Butts County and up in Cherokee County, so it's not just within our footprint. MARTA is an economic development engine. If we get underneath that 30-year period, because we're at the request is to support a Resolution to extend the penny from 2057 to 2067 -- if we get within that 30-year period, then all of those funding sources will look at your core funding source, your core and local funding, as more in jeopardy, meaning you're less competitive for grants at the federal level in particular, which is things like CIG grants, which I mentioned we are in a good position for -- for Campbellton. We've already gotten allotment of 60.9 million that we look really good for the Southlake BRT, which will connect directly to the airport. All of that becomes more at risk. Additionally, we do have a fiscally conservative agency. We have a triple A bond rating from two agencies and a double A plus from the third. We go underneath 30 years of sustaining core penny funds, they will look at that negatively. They could raise our interest rates. If we have a lower bond rating, that results in a higher interest rate, not a higher cost of capital because of change orders, because the price of steel went up, because the price of petroleum products went up; merely because we didn't move quickly enough to make sure that we didn't get within that 30-year period. Effectively, raising the cost of all of our capital projects, putting downward pressure on our ability to do operational items as well. That's why we sought out the Resolution and sought out the additional engagement early on."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So now that the bill -- since the bill did not crossover, you're no longer seeking that Resolution from us?"

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "We always love your support, and we would love to have the Resolution, because we are still working with leadership under the gold dome to see if there's anything they could do."

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

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "If not, I'll see you next quarter."

JONATHAN HUNT, MARTA, INTERIM CEO: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, County Manager's Items under Open and Responsible Government, **26-0156**: Finance. Request approval of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County expressing its intention to advance Phase III of the Project Care initiative and pursue the acquisition, construction, equipping, financing and completion of a new hospital facility in South Fulton County pursuant to the arrangements with the Grady Health System and the Fulton/DeKalb Hospital Authority."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Let me explain what's before us here and then there is a presentation, correct?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You're going to make a presentation. But in summary, what's before us is Project Care, and this Resolution simply expresses the Board's intent -- key word here is intent, to do three things: Number one is to move to complete Phase III of Project Care. If you'll recall that Phase I was the creation and building of a freestanding emergency clinic in South Fulton; Phase II, which I've talked about, is the freestanding medical facility which will house specialties. And this is Phase III, which speaks to a brand-new hospital in South Fulton County. So our intent then today -- what this Resolution seeks to do, is to advance Phase III to move forward. And number two, it will provide for the construction, the equipment, and the funding which is important of this, and number three, it would authorize the Manager and his staff to begin negotiations with the parties, and the parties being Fulton County government, Grady Hospital, and the Fulton/DeKalb Hospital Authority. This is a 900 million-dollar project, \$300 million from Fulton County, \$300 million from Grady Hospital, and \$300 million from the Fulton/DeKalb Hospital Authority and their supporters. So I'm going to move approval, and we will hear from a presentation in here for Members of the Board, and I would hope that we would act favorably."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order, Mr. Chair, I've already moved to approval and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has already seconded the motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I didn't see the -- okay. And then after I have an amendment, then I'd like to make, after your presentation, and others will be joining you for the presentation."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Dr. Pamela Roshell, Chief Operating Officer, Fulton County. Good morning, Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Board. Today our discussion is related to agenda item 26-0156, which we'll discuss the restoration and expansion of the healthcare infrastructure in Fulton County with a special and specific emphasis on South Fulton. Today I will briefly ground the discussion in the public health context that brought us here today. I will then be joined by the Grady team who will walk through their public health response strategy, and then our CFO will discuss specifics related to the Resolution which includes a funding strategy. As you all may remember, in 2022, there was a closure of two healthcare facilities, the Atlanta Medical Facility, Central and South, which created a sudden and disrupting impact for healthcare access in Fulton County. This hospital and these hospital closures really pointed to the sole acute care hospital in South Fulton ceasing operations. We also had the Central Fulton facility, which was operating at a 180-bed capacity, close after more than a century of service. Thousands of residents were left confused, frustrated, and without information and most importantly, without proximity to emergency and inpatient care. The immediate impact was sorely felt in what were already medically and disadvantaged vulnerable communities. Patients were forced to travel substantial distances for care. Existing providers had to absorb the overage of these closures without planning or notice, and the community again was impacted, which resulted in fear and instability in the system. Next slide. Next slide. As a result, the Board of Commissioners recognize the magnitude of this issue and treated this is a public health emergency, not simply a market shift. Rather than react episodically, the county initiated a structured data-driven response known as Project Care. Next slide. This was a seven-week undertaking, and the results were sobering. While we knew of the existing healthcare inequities, there were some specifics that I want to cover today, if we could go to the previous slide. This study specifically pointed to three things: We wanted to assess the existing healthcare gaps, we wanted to assess access structure, we wanted to quantify those gaps, and we wanted to analyze healthcare outcomes. Specifically, the healthcare access issues that were uncovered, there were 12 specific ZIP Codes that were identified as medically underserved; however, eight of those 12 were within five miles of the closed hospitals. No acute care or ER services were in South Fulton, and residents traveled 30 minutes or more to reach care. The study also revealed that South Fulton had fewer than ten sites of care per 100,000 residents versus 28 sites of care in Central Fulton. And as we move to healthcare outcomes, life expectancy in Central and South Fulton was a staggering five years lower."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: Dr. Roshell, did you need the previous slide?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Can we get the previous slide, please?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Thank you. Thank you. There was also a lack of specialty care: cardiologists, pulmonary physicians, cancer care physicians were nonexistent and are nonexistent, in a community that suffers from higher than average chronic care conditions. As we looked at the social determinants of health, 50 percent of the county residences lack a college degree and 70 percent in South Fulton. We also

looked at other social determinants of health that simply did not bode well for overall health outcomes in South Fulton. So the Project Care study pointed to all of these revelations, some again that we were quite aware of, and some that were uncovered by the study; and we, in the county, at the direction of the Board, made some significant investments to begin closing the gap. Next slide, please. What you see here is a map of Fulton County which points to 14 investments totaling \$61 million that were immediately launched after the conclusion, or at the conclusion of the study in April of 2023. These investments span the entire county, but as you can see, are centralized in what was the most impacted part of the county due to the closures. These advancements include a behavioral health crisis center, North Point Parkway 23 million, a Health and Human Services, north facility, at 61 million. We also launched a Medicare senior clinic to provide access to seniors who had not been using their Medicare wellness visit. We deployed a team across all four senior multipurpose facilities and one neighborhood senior center that was closely aligned with the healthcare desert. We concluded that work at the end of December with one team, and that RFP is on the street right now for us to continue that work into 2026 and beyond. We also opened a South Fulton developmental disabilities training center with an investment of ARPA dollars at \$5.5 million. This restored access in South Fulton for families who had been traveling to our central facility. We also partnered with Grady Hospital for two primary care clinics that you will hear about during their presentation. We, in addition, opened a primary care clinic in partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine right down the street from one of the closed hospitals. We also opened up a behavioral health crisis center at Oak Hill, which is serving that community with the first behavioral health crisis services in Fulton County. And we are planning a Health and Human Services' facility in South Fulton, which will house an array of public health and human services. That feasibility study will be brought to the Board in June. And finally, we worked in partnership with Grady Hospital, and the Board approved a 19 million-dollar investment for the construction of the freestanding emergency facility that will open in June. I'd now would like to turn the conversation over to the Grady Hospital team who will walk you through their public health response."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Good morning, Mr. Chair, and Commissioners. Thank you for arriving at this moment. We've, together, been doing a lot of work, the Board, and I really want to recognize Dr. Roshell, Dick Anderson, and Sharon Whitmore. We, together, have spent much time getting to this point over the last two years. And the support and the partnership from the county has just been phenomenal, so thank you. So continuing that discussion around the next steps from Project Care, Grady opened -- took three different actions. On the left side of the slide, you can see that Governor Kemp provided \$130 million in ARPA, COVID funding for us to be able to add an additional 160 inpatient beds on the main campus. That includes 52 critical care beds as well, and that entire project of creating that occurred within 12 months. That additional bed capacity pretty much replaced the average daily census that was being seen at Atlanta Medical Center. Secondly, as Dr. Roshell noted, we opened two new ambulatory clinics south of I-20, one at Cascade which opened in July of 2023, and the Lee and White Center in September of 2024. Through these, we've been able to bring primary care and specialty care to those communities to close that gap in healthcare coverage. And finally, and very importantly in the midst of COVID and

the closure of these hospitals, we worked with both counties and the Fulton/DeKalb Hospital Authority to sign a truly landmark county operating agreement, which we signed in December of 2024. It provides the county the ability to use the funds donated or given to Grady to help expand the need in communities of need, so thank you. Now I want to introduce to you Grady's -- this is Anthony Saul, by the way, Anthony's been with Grady for seven years. He was VP of Finance, Chief Financial Officer, became a senior executive vice president over operations, and as of yesterday, became Grady's president and chief operating officer, and I will continue to serve as the Chief Executive Officer through the end of this year, and as of January first next year, Anthony will be the President and CEO of Grady Health System, and so we're thrilled, absolutely thrilled. I will be hanging around to help raise \$300 million from philanthropy for this project, and to assist these two incredible folks with some oversight of this project. So with that, I'll turn it over to Anthony."

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Thanks, John. Good morning, Commissioners, Mr. Chair. Next slide, please. Grady's approach and vision for the South Fulton market is more of a two-pronged strategy. While we recognize the need to, and the call to action to bring medical services to that community, a community of over 300,000 community citizens, we also realize that we must preserve the capacity at downtown trauma center for the high QB services that the market needs. So we envision this strategy not only benefiting the south, but also as a strategy to strengthen the trauma center. It will create space for future inpatient critical-care expansions at the trauma center as well as create a sustainable clinical financial hub for the south, which will link clinics, urgent cares to the inpatient care that those citizens need down south. Next slide, please. The phase approach, as you all have heard, begins with the freestanding ED, which opens this summer, a public private partnership with the county, a \$38 million investment, which for Grady as a system, this will alleviate over 24,000 visits from those ZIP Codes that currently come to the trauma center and being able to service them with care close to the home. Phase II, as you all have heard, is bringing more doctor services in a medical office building to that market. This five-story hundred thousand dollar -- 100,000 square-foot facility, will add primary care, specialty care, orthopedic services, imaging labs, rehabs, as well as a partnership with Children's of Atlanta that will bring much-needed pediatric specialties to the market. And the third phase, as you all are aware, is the new acute care hospital. This \$900 million investment represents an opportunity to improve access, improve the health of our communities, and show the communities of the south that their care matters as much as everyone else's. In total, Grady's investing with its partners over a billion dollars in this market. We're proud to stand with the county Commissioners and be in service of this great opportunity, but also the citizens who are our communities, who are our families, who are our friends. And I'll turn it over to Shannon Sale to talk more detail about the strategy."

SHANNON SALE, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Thank you, Anthony. And I think we right at noon, so good afternoon to the Commission. I'm Shannon Sale. I'm the Chief Administrative Officer for Grady. I've been with Grady for about 14 years. If you can hit the next slide, please. So this we are thrilled to show you. This is the concept of the campus. Today, we are talking about and we're shortly going to

celebrate the opening of the freestanding ED; it's that smallest part of the campus there, to the right. We'll open that on June 2nd. I'm grateful again for the partnership for us to get there. Building up the medical office building allows us to build out the medical staff and those services Dr. Roshell mentioned, that Project Care eliminated, Anthony went through the services that we know the community needs closer to home. And so, imaging, surgery, cancer care, orthopedics, and again, that partnership with CHOA, to bring pediatrics to the community; very thrilled about that. And so, the medical office building takes a little -- didn't take quite as long to build as a hospital. We'll start that here shortly as we continue on the journey to that 200-bed acute care facility. This allows folks to get to care closer to home. It immediately addresses that social determinant of health of transportation and not having to drive 20 to 30 minutes, but having care close to home, community healthcare resources. And once we have that fully -- that fully designed campus -- so this gives us the first -- this is actually phase one, two, and three, but you can kind of see up to the right that the hospital could actually be duplicated, and over time we set that vision so it could be a 400-bed hospital into the future as we continue to -- the community continues to grow and we see those needs being met. As Anthony mentioned, it's a one billion-dollar investment in total. We'll have over 2,000 jobs created in that we see as jobs for the local communities. So the community will reflect the people who work at the hospital, all of our staff, will reflect the community. It gives great opportunity for growth and economic advancement. And we see the full campus being developed by 2031. If you'll go to the next slide, please. So this is again kind of restating those major key points of the jobs created, the billion-dollar investment, and focusing on the needs of those 360,000 residents who live in that area. This project, we've referenced -- you have heard throughout the day of Project Care, this project directly addresses the needs that were identified in Project Care, redistributing those assets to enhance health access, enhancing care delivery efforts, creating a delivery system. Not a fragmented system that some of it's close to home and some it's far away, that's altogether right there in South Fulton. Reducing financial barriers, we've remained committed to our mission as a safety net and treating folks with regardless of their ability to pay, being again able to address that social determinant of health around transportation, reducing transportation costs, and economic development for the community. If you'll go to the next slide. So putting it all together, again we're really thrilled for the opening of the freestanding ED, and again grateful for the partnership on getting us there; the funding being distributed between Grady and the county, with the county bonds of 19 million. The medical office building will be developed with developer funds and through the Grady operating -- operating expenses; and then looking at that inpatient acute care hospital, \$900 million as previously described. Looking at that, is 300 million through county bonds, 300 through philanthropy, and 300 from Grady debt. And so all told, when we put this altogether, again, a billion dollars invested in transforming South Fulton from a healthcare desert to a thriving healthcare destination, and addressing the needs that were identified through Project Care. We again are grateful for the opportunity to present this to you, for the partnership to get us here today, as John said earlier, and look forward to what's to come for the community. I'll take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else at this point?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Mr. Chairman, we do have the CFO is rounding out the presentation. Thank you, sir."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Mr. Chairman, I will be quick. To round it out with regard to the item that is before you today, that would authorize us to begin to move forward with that bond issue. Of course, we have been working with Fulton/DeKalb Hospital Authority to issue the bonds. They would be underwritten and supported by intergovernmental agreement. We expect that they would be 30-year bonds and based on current analysis at current interest rates, max annual debt service of around 19.3 million. So that's the summary of the financial obligation for the county, and we would look to actually be issuing those bonds in 2028."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Speakers, Commissioner Arrington, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Barrett, and I'll make a few closing comments. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor. Motion on the floor is to approve."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. I guess, you know, the big elephant in the room is all of these wonderful Morehouse School of Medicine students. What current arrangement do you have with Morehouse School of Medicine, and how do you envision Morehouse School of Medicine being involved going forward with, not only the hospital in Phase III, but also Phase II in the office buildings."

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Absolutely. So Grady has had a nearly 50-year relationship with Morehouse School of Medicine and our other physician partners at Emory School of Medicine. As we have grown, our two partners have grown with us. And so the current Grady environment, we have doctors from Morehouse, doctors from Emory, doctors from Grady. We expect those conversations to continue in all of our future growth opportunities."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So I guess this sounds like there's not necessarily any formal arrangement."

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "So we are working on an extension of the affiliation agreement, our contract with the two schools, the three of us are at the table together, and that's looking at a ten-year extension, so it's a formal contract with the schools of what we provide, and where we partner. And so embedded in the conversation now is every new doctor position that Grady brings to the table, the three of us partners will discuss them and decide whose best to employ that position. So it's embedded in the contract in how we go forward."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And so, Grady wouldn't have any problem including Morehouse and -- Morehouse School of Medicine and other -- Emory and other local schools in this intention language or intention Resolution? You wouldn't have any problem with that, would you?"

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "With having the discussion and the planning and who occupies which seat and employees with docs, no, absolutely. They would absolutely welcome our partners to continue being at the table."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Awesome. So I'm going to make a motion to amend the Resolution to include working with Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory School of Medicine, and other -- any other local schools of medicine that will make sure that we have the diverse staff and diverse skills that you all already have and, you know, because I mean, what I'm looking at is, I saw the agreement for -- it was an agreement that we did with Grady in the extent I guess there were two terms, two 10-year terms, right? So what I'm looking for is to know that over the 30 years of this bond, the Fulton County taxpayers helping finance the building of this that we will make sure that we are using these qualified, competent doctors of the future who, you know, be taking care of me and others, right? We need to make sure that they are at the table. And it sounds like you all do not oppose that and have no objection to it, and are enthusiastic about doing --"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "-- absolutely. And our intent all along about staffing this hospital and MOB is always to include our academic partners. However, we do have our own medical group as well, so if we have created a new infrastructure through our agreement with the schools, that gets all three parties to the table to discuss who should give which resources and what type of physicians are needed and who's going to employ them. Because almost all of these physicians at the main hospital are employed by Morehouse School of Medicine or Emory School of Medicine, we cover the costs."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "To your point, Commissioner Arrington. When I said earlier that I had -- I wanted to make an amendment, what you've just stated is in the amendment and I can share with you when we do it at the --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- well, I've already made the amendment. I don't need you to make the amendment that I already made. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, as the seconder of the motion, will you accept the amendment to make sure that they include Morehouse and other local schools of medicine?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Commissioner Arrington, not that I won't second it, but can you allow everybody -- because I -- Commissioner Barrett had some comments she want to make, so I don't want to kill your motion as of yet, but if you can --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- y'all let me preside now."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Let the -- I want to let my colleague give an opportunity to speak."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute, everybody. This is a great day for Fulton County. It's a great day for South Fulton. Let's be happy. Commissioner Arrington has the floor. As I said earlier, followed by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I was not trying to foreclose anyone else from speaking, but I was just trying to make the amendment to make sure that we include the next generation of leaders."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, I understand and I completely support it. I just want to give all of my colleagues an opportunity to speak."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No, I don't think it would for -- anyone would be foreclosed from speaking. This is just about the amendment, so. You know, I guess that's my biggest concern. I do want to also just set the record straight that -- because I've been hearing these things on TV and all of these announcements at press conferences, we're all excited about this new hospital and, to some extent, it doesn't really matter who gets the credit right? But we have people that are going around beating their chests, talking about that they came up with the term healthcare desert. And on December 7th, 2022, I was the person that authored the legislation declaring a medical emergency in Fulton County, in South Fulton. And you, Mr. Chair, did not even vote in support of it. We had six votes, and now you're going around talking about you came up with the term, healthcare desert, please. What are you talking about? I've got the record right here, December 7, 2022. That is what led to Dr. Roshell doing the study. That is what led to Project Care. And so you have not only not led, but not only did you not lead, you didn't even vote in support of declaring a healthcare state of emergency in Fulton County. So we're going to set the record straight here today, right now. Okay? This is about making sure people have health care. This is not about you running around talking about a healthcare desert. Not only is it a healthcare desert, what's more important and what I said on that day, is that it is an emergency care desert, more specifically, because there's a bigger, broader healthcare desert, but the closure of the two Wellstar Hospitals, what you lose when you lose a hospital, is you lose the emergency care, and in an emergency, that is what is most needed. And not only that -- what it really is is medical apartheid going on in South Fulton. I am happy, I am grateful and thankful to Grady for doing what Grady has done in stepping up, but do not think for one second that that is enough. They got at least four hospitals in North Fulton, and we need at least four hospitals in South Fulton. So don't run around here talking about you coined the term, what you call a healthcare desert. You didn't even think about it. You don't even know what that is. Please, get out of here with that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This is a happy day for Fulton County, especially the people in South Fulton County. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Oh, Lord have mercy. Thank you, Morehouse Medical. Thank you, y'all really showed up and showed out, and I appreciate you all. Listen, you all, I often say this, and I'm going to say this first as I go into my other comments: I was a Grady baby, but more importantly, my two eldest siblings, they are

deceased, were McClendon Hospital babies. And so, what I think happens a lot of the times when we have these conversations, individuals begin to lose focus. I love what is happening today, you know, I support it, I've been behind it, but let's be crystal clear. This is the beginning of a solution. We need another hospital; we need the caregivers to have a holistic approach. We've got to look at the social determining factors, we've got to look at the fact that a lot of the people in the district are living below poverty level. A lot do not have the adequate skills, life skills; a lot have issues that a holistic approach needs to be used. And so, I liken this, because the conversation has went a direction that a lot of times it goes, but let me bring it back. If I am starving -- if I am starving, and you give me cheese and crackers, I'm going to be satisfied with that, and Grady, you're not cheese and crackers, so please understand. Grady saved the life of many of my family members including my eldest child. So let's be crystal clear, Grady is not cheese and crackers. But if you give me cheese and crackers while I'm starving, I'm going to say oh, that tasted like filet mignon. We are in need of more than one hospital. Let's be crystal clear where I stand. This cannot be the beginning and the end of a conversation for the other side of I-20 for a hospital. Because see what happens, is that people with their own political agendas, as we saw this morning, will hijack the conversation and tell you, you should be just happy with peanuts. No pun intended. We must have a bigger conversation, which means it includes more hospitals; it includes changing the mindset at the state. It does not matter what our goals are, my colleagues, until we get the state to understand that healthcare is not a desire, it should be expected for all. And until we have people at the state to understand that we need expanded health care, we will continue to have these arguments with each other pitting Grady against Morehouse, Morehouse against Emory, Emory against -- stop. Time out for that. Morehouse Medical is a great institution; Morehouse Medical is part of the fabric of the landscape. You cannot talk about the city of Atlanta; you can't even talk about Georgia and not talk about Morehouse Medical, but you also can't do it without talking about Grady. And both of them had made great contributions. And so, let's not take today and politicize it and say, okay, we're getting a hospital, woo hoo, because baby, baby, baby, we need more than one. We need more than one. The southside has suffered a long time, and I know I'm going to get in trouble for this, Chairman Pitts: it has suffered a long time with people who look like me in leadership positions. So as my elderly mother used to say, you may be my color, but you are not my kind. And so, we have a problem here that people are trying to hijack, and I will not be on that plane with the hijackers. We need more than one hospital. I'm in fully support of this, I am fully in support of Grady, I am fully in support of Morehouse Medical, Emory and all of those others being at the table. But let's be honest and candid with each other. This is not the solution to a problem that's been going on for years. Let's not pretend it is. Let's not pretend that there's not a lot of work at the state, and at the table that needs to be done to make sure that all the institutions that are represented today have not only their fair share at the table, but can work in harmony. I am so tired of individuals pitting one against the other for their own political financial means. It is 2026; it is time over for that. And so what I say as the Vice Chair is that we need a broader conversation here that below I-20, we need more than one hospital. We need a holistic approach. We need individuals that's gone to come to the table that not only look like us, but understand it's bigger than sending somebody to an emergency room. It's bigger than just having a conversation. You got to find out where people are, how they're feeling, how they're living, what they're eating,

what they're dealing with from a mental point of view. If we're truly going to be about setting goals of dealing with a healthcare desert, I get so tired of that healthcare desert being thrown around like it's a meal at Shoney's, and I'm showing my age now. It's not about a healthcare desert; it's about a holistic approach of making sure that our generations moving forward will have the full behavioral, mental health, societal health, all the health they need to flourish. Thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Thank you, Vice Chair. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it's a rare thing for me to say this, but I kind of agree with all of my colleagues. Look, at the end of the day, this is a very good day. We're going to move forward on having a new hospital in Union City in South Fulton which is a phenomenal thing. This is really like the very first step in that third phase of just putting out the -- you know, moving forward the bond inducement, so that's great. I'm thrilled for that. But I do, you know, want to echo. First of all, I want to talk about the language here a little bit, because I think there's some confusion, and I don't know that the terms matter all that much. There is a healthcare desert; we do have a healthcare emergency, as Commissioner Arrington pointed out in Fulton County. But whether you want to call it an emergency or a desert, it doesn't really matter. At the end of the day, the outcomes are significantly worse in South Fulton County than they are in North Fulton County. People die younger, they get sicker, they have more chronic health issues. You know, childbirth and women's issues are not taken care of in the same way they are in the north part of the county. There are significant inequities in our health. And to be clear, those existed long before the two hospitals closed. So putting a hospital, to my colleague's point, is not the solution, it is part of a much larger solution. And the other terminology I think that's getting a little intermixed; I think there's two different plans that are being talked about here that are all sort of being lumped under Project Care, and so I just want to be clear, because a lot of people do actually pay attention to this stuff, and I'll come to you, Dr. Roshell, for little clarity here, but the Project Care study was -- was that presented in 2023?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, ma'am. It concluded in April of '23. We presented the findings, which included a five-part strategy; the primary strategy was to redistribute, access, and to create new access points."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right. And my, you know, recollection is not going to be 100 percent clear on everything in Project Care, because I don't have it sitting in front of me. However, that was a partnership between Morehouse School of Medicine, EY, and Fulton County to develop that Project Care initiative. The three phase --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We paid for it. Yeah, we paid for it with Morehouse School of Medicine."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right. So we paid for it. Excellent, thank you for that addition, Mr. Chairman. This three-phase plan is not the same as anything in the Project -- this is a separate three-phase plan to put a hospital and services in Union

City. It is not -- this is not phase III of Project Care. This is phase III of the Grady Hospital plan. So I just want to make that clear, because if anyone goes back and pulls the Project Care study, which is available online, I believe, this is not -- it will be confusing. So I want to just make that abundantly clear. And I think to my colleagues' points, if you drive around Fulton County in District 3 or 2 or 1, there are many, many, many hospitals. Like, I have -- I am -- I have lots of choices if I want to go to the hospital in my district if I need to go to the hospital. There are many, many, many, many, many medical office buildings, so having one is phenomenal, very excited about it. But we need a lot more, and I think, you know, it is clear by the attendance today by the folks from Morehouse that they are at least feeling shut out of the conversation, and should not be happening, because we need all the partners. We need to work with all the partners, and to make sure we're covering as much geography as we can, as many specialties as we can, and that we're keeping our homegrown medical professionals here in our community. So I do want to say, again, I'm going to keep coming back to this is a great day, right? I don't want them to be left out, and I don't want us to think that we've checked a box, and that Project Care is done when this hospital is built because it isn't. We need ambulatory care throughout South Fulton. We need clinics. We need community health workers. We need copays at federally qualified health centers. These are all things that were in that original study, if I recall, and I'm sure there were others. So I'm very excited that we're moving forward on this, but I don't want them to be shut out. And so I think what I have, my concern, I guess, is they are asking for some amendments here. And I know you have some language, Mr. Chairman, and I know Commissioner Arrington suggested some things. But I just want to make sure that -- and I want to, Dr. Montgomery-Rice, I don't know if you want of come up or not, but I -- my understanding is -- you're welcome to come up, yeah. I wanted to just clarify, because I know we've talked about this. But putting aside right now the ambulatory care network that I know you all want to build in partnership with us. You also, I think, were talking about having this Union City Hospital be a teaching hospital; is that correct?"

DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PRES, MSM: "Correct, right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And I want to just let everybody know that even though they're not here in droves, I also did hear from folks from Emory who would like to be participants in that as well. So, I'm going to come back to you, John, in a minute. But can you speak to sort of where you feel like Morehouse School of Medicine fits into this ongoing initiative to address these inequities in South Fulton?"

DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PRES, MSM: "Sure, thank you. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak. And I speak on behalf of not just our learners, but our faculty members, our clinicians, and the community. And I speak on behalf of our partners. Grady has been our long-standing partner, and who we utilize to

educative and train our physicians, and they've been great partners. And what we saw with the closure of the Wellstar Hospital shocked all of us. But as you said, it didn't just start there, but it did energize all of us to really come together, to come up with a, I think, informed, integrated strategy. And while Grady has been working on one thing, we've been working on with you all, Project Care. Much of what Dr. Roshell brought out was what was in Project Care. The one great thing that we saw was we could actually, for one of the first times, see where assets have been placed, and where they were not. But then also see a solution, and that solution, to me, is multipronged. It is not just about a hospital, it is about building out an ambulatory, integrated network that will place assets where people work, live, play, and pray. And they should be within a two-mile radius, and it should be able to address the level of care that the person is seeking, such that they don't have to go to our great emergency room at Grady and wait for seven hours because they cut their finger. And we can do this if we do it in partnership. So you are right. We sort of been working somewhat on two different things, but we do need to come together and work together. Now I believe, and I think the community agrees with us that all opportunities should be opportunities to educate and train. Because I know we produce the most culturally competent and culturally humility driven providers when they're able to work in all communities. So that is why I would love to see the hospital in Union City, or wherever we put another hospital, that it will always have a teaching component to it, because I think that's critical. And I would like to see this ambulatory network built out. And I'm totally open to doing it with Grady. I've never not wanted to do something with Grady. Grady is our partner. But I also think there are other entities within the state that can bring value to this. So it's about partnership for us. It's about partnership and doing this together. And what I have seen with these Commissioners, and I've worked with you all, met with each of you all, with the exception of Commissioner Ellis, but I know that you care also. But I will say to you all, I think everybody is committed to this. So let's do it together, and let's make sure that nobody feels that they don't have a voice at the table to make sure we do right for the residents of Fulton County."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you for that. I will not take up too much time. John or Anthony, I don't know which one of you want to answer. I'm like going half formal, half informal, how I'm addressing people. I don't know why, but --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Formal."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Sorry, formal, sir. I know you like it formal. Can you guys speak to sort of the decision about whether or not the Union City hospital should be a teaching hospital, of cost differentiation between a nonteaching hospital and a teaching hospital. Because I don't know -- I certainly don't know what those numbers look like, and I'd like to understand that."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Yes. So the decision was made early on, this would not be a teaching hospital. And one of the main reasons is the federal resources that exist to fund graduate medical education are not there, and Grady does not have the resources to fund each and every resident position, which the cost is 200,000 each. The federal government, when they do provide reimbursement, provides around 135,000. So Grady is already underwriting medical education for the program we have, the \$20 million a year. Now, I do want to add that in the years I've been at Grady, the allocation of those scarce resources, which are GME positions, graduate medical education residencies, have in -- we have increased that presence for Morehouse by 50 percent, while at the same time, its only increased by 1 percent for Emory School of Medicine. I don't ever want anyone to think that Grady does not have an incredible passion for investment with Morehouse. But I will be honest with you, the infrastructure and the costs that come with graduate medical education need to remain on our main campus. It would not be affordable on this campus. Apparently, there's going to be a second hospital around I-20 that could possibly be a teaching hospital if the resources are there. But I don't think that's what we want this facility to be. We want this to be a community hospital where the patient has a sustained, direct relationship with their providers. As you said, this isn't just the solution at all, and we didn't mention it here, but we are going to be creating additional multi-specialty sites throughout South Fulton as well as urgent care centers, as we move along pathway, because as you said, Commissioner, this is kind of a starting point. But you do have to have critical mass to make a hospital work, given particularly the funding issues that all hospitals are facing. Did that help?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes and no, because I understand the cost per resident and that there is some federal funding. But it's hard to know how that impacts the overall cost of, you know, how many residents are we talking about, what does that change in terms of the overall costs to operate on annual basis. So it's a -- I mean, that is a number, it's not at all the numbers --"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "No."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- and so -- so I think there's more conversation maybe or data that I need to really fully understand that. I do see that Dr. Montgomery Rice, I think, wants to make a comment here. And I will -- I'm happy for that to happen, so --"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Yeah, and I just want to add, I didn't come here to get into a debate --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "No, absolutely not. And I'm not looking to make a debate."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "-- and so you all decide where that goes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "No, no, absolutely not trying to have a debate --"

DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PRES, MSM: "This is no -- this is no bait, this an and conversation. And I think that Commissioner Abdur-Rahman said something that I think we have to take in consideration. There are opportunities to partner with the state. There are the opportunities to look for where we can get additional funding through some of the supplemental payments, et cetera, to consider this. But one thing that I know for sure, and the data does support this that when you create a training opportunity, and particularly in residency training, that is the highest chance that someone is going to stay in that community to practice. And what we're talking about is how we create sustainability and stickiness. And so we believe that there is a value-added opportunity when learners are in the hospital system. And so while I am not -- want to get into a debate at all about how we fund this. But I think that if we put our smart brains together, we can look at solutions and pull in other stakeholders with us, there may be some opportunities for this for us to make sure that we are able to create the stickiness that's required for people to have an experience there and then to stay in that community."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I just want to be, like, abundantly clear. I was not trying to set up a debate. I'm not trying to pit one, one hospital's, you know, one group against another here at all. So I apologize if it felt like that, Mr. Hauptert, not, not my intention. What I do want -- you know, I was not expecting the entire room to be filled with Morehouse folks. And I just wanted to make sure that, you know, because they're here and this is an issue they obviously care deeply about, that they're heard, and that we are continuing to work with all of our partners to serve the entire community. I -- to me, this is a yes and great day, and what else can we, great day and how do we include all of these folks in the solution. That is a literally all I'm trying to get to here, not pitting anybody against anybody else, so just to be clear. I think that was all I -- oh, I do want to make one other comment, and I think this is more of a comment than a question. Look, a community hospital is great. We also lost a level-one trauma center. This will not be a level-one trauma center. So just getting back to the things we lost, you know, that is also some -- another reason why this is -- more needs to happen, more needs to be done. I think that -- I literally, I -- there's one other question, I think it's going to probably pop up for me when someone else starts talking --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Was it Emory?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Did I say Emory?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, I think you did yet."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Oh, I did mention that Emory, also, you know, is interested in the teaching options. So I think -- I think everybody wants to help be part of the solution again, so definitely not a three-way debate either. But I do think they, they would like to be a part of this conversation as well. So I guess my other question is, I know we're -- this is really just this move forward on the funding for the build. But will there be other opportunities that come before this Board to, you know, have some more of these detailed conversations about integration here, for lack of a better term?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This just expresses our intent, so there will be other opportunities."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, all right. Did you want to add something?"

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Yes, two comments, Commissioner. One, it's about the model and the funding as a reason those other hospitals weren't sustainable. So it's about the model and the funding. So there's a lot of discussion to go on, what model works, and what model can't work without additional subsidies from the -- from the counties. And secondly, the trauma center, just to comment on that, we've studied data, we've studied the numbers of what AMC was doing. Grady's nearly doubled in size its trauma center with plans to, once we're able to move out some of these medical patients to Union City, to continue increasing that capacity. And so we'd love to sit at the table with you and talk about that as well."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I appreciate that."

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "John has one more."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Just so you know, when -- when that hospital closed, while it was operating a state-recognized level-one trauma center, it had not been federally verified. But it was part of that ecosystem, and so we did get into a regional conversation about, okay, how do we regionally address this? Because it doesn't necessarily make sense to have two level-one trauma centers within 3 miles of each other. And so I was thrilled when I got into a conversation with Wellstar that they agreed to upgrade their Kennestone Hospital to be a federally verified level-one trauma center. They became a level-one trauma center, and Northeast Georgia Medical Center did the same thing. And so when it comes to level-one trauma centers, you have three well-dispersed, geographically separated level ones to serve the community, and we have numerous level twos, which pretty much the same cap -- ability as a level one."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm going to state the obvious, those are to the north. The things you're mentioning are north, not south, just -- just thought I'd throw that out there. Okay, I --"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Well, and this -- this hospital is intended to be a level-three trauma center. That was in our report."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Got it, yes. Okay, I think that's all I have. I am happy to support this obviously. And I think Chairman has an amendment coming up that will get to some of this. So I'll look forward to the rest of my colleagues' comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And I'm going to address the funding aspect of it too. I have a brilliant idea to talk to our CFO about. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you. And Commissioner Barrett, I agree. I came down here thinking, this is a great day for South Fulton, and then I was kind of shocked that there's some battling that I wasn't aware of with the whole Morehouse relationship going on here. I wish I could have been contacted to be preempted by that before showing up at this meeting. I think I do have an open door with you, Dr. Rice, any time, love to sit down with you. And thank you for that explanation on the teaching hospital and what it involves. My main goal right now is to get the help in South Fulton, and cost is an issue, so we need to operate, get a hospital up and running, operational. I'm looking hear the impact it's going to have in the community to reduce financial barriers, the economic development, the 2000 jobs, the enhanced care that it's going to deliver. I think there were some comments about the ambulance service lacking, or the time to get to hospital, it's going to reduce that time, and then to redistribute assets to enhance health access. So I applaud you for the efforts that you've done in those four areas. I hope maybe in the future once this hospital is up and running, you know, maybe it could incorporate more of a teaching aspect to it. And like my fellow Commissioner, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman said, this is just a start, a starting point. And I'm hoping with that economic development, we can get better jobs, we can get better schools, better quality all around on that whole road of continuing care in the hospital industry. And Dr. Rice, thank you for the clinic that you've set up in the community, health service workers that you have there. I'm hoping that they will know that they have employment right around the corner and not having to come in town to a hospital. Overall, Georgia has a shortage of doctors, you know, from what I hear. The state is possibly opening a Medical School at University System of Georgia. I don't know if anybody wants to speak to that. Because even in the north, I have one hospital my district, and even getting care there, its appointments are months out to get an appointment. So I look at as a state issue, not just a local issue. Would you -- someone want to talk to that?"

DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PRES, MSM: "So it's very interesting that you bring up the state medical school, and you bring up the appearance of Morehouse School of Medicine students here. So let me -- let me clarify for this Body and for those listening. One of the things that is a part of an educational experience is to be able to the -- listen to the voice of the community, listen to the voice of your patients and those who you are humbled enough to be able to provide care to, and hear what their needs

are. And Morehouse School of Medicine has been great at doing that for the last 50 years, in fact, that's why we were founded. We were founded to diversify the healthcare workforce in Georgia. We were founded to work toward the elimination of health disparities. We were founded to address access issues, and that's what we've been doing for 50 years. So the appearance of our students here today was in support of this hospital, and to say that we believe that it should be an opportunity for us to also have it as one of our locations for where we educate and train the community and our students to understand how we can be better. So there was nothing against Grady, this is nothing against Fulton County. This is what advocacy looked like. And you see some people here in a blue jacket, those are public health students. They live their entire career advocating for the community and for the public. So this was an opportunity for us to show them what this looks like in real time. And we appreciate this Commission having a forum where you can do open, public statements. And we signed up appropriately. So it wasn't a surprise that we were coming. We signed up appropriately that we were coming. And I -- my students, wanted to come, and I wanted them to come because I wanted you all to see how much they care about this and how much they feel that we need to invest their time and energy in the south side. Now, as it relates to the University of Georgia new medical school, when it was coming, when it was announced, the AJC called me and wanted me to make a statement. And my statement was, bring it on. We have 119 counties in Georgia that are underserved. That means they don't have enough providers to care for the population. So this is always in hand, and welcome the opportunity for University of Georgia to start their medical school and to be partners with them in that medical school because Georgia needs more healthcare professionals. Our workforce is aging, and it takes a long time to grown a doctor, to grow a nurse, to grow a MPH student, even to grow community health workers now. And so we need as much as we possibly can in this healthcare workforce to make sure that we're meeting the needs. So we are very supportive of the new medical schools coming on board, and hope that we can share in resources to increase our educational efficiency and to save costs on how we educate and train this next generation."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "And it will be several years before they even have a medical student ready to go into a hospital environment at the student level, not a resident level, and we call that LCME. But we have been discussing with the University of Georgia having their medical students potentially participate at Grady. However, they can only participate if they go through Morehouse School of Medicine or Emory. And so that is ultimately a Morehouse in an Emory discussion. We've had discussions with the Emory Dean, their former Dean, and they will consider that. But Dr. Rice is correct. We need all the doctors we can get."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Well, I just want conclude thanking all of you for being so prompt and responding to need to help the people in South Fulton. And I -- to me, you

guys are moving to at lightning speed, with your clinic up and running within 90 days to a standalone emergency room, to the medical building, and now a hospital. So I just want to applaud, and I want to applaud your efforts, the county team as well, Dr. Roshell and Dick Anderson and CFO Sharon Whitmore working together, as well as Commissioner Pitts for being in on getting everybody together and everybody at a table -- seat at the table. So I hope you all feel like you have a seat at the table. But just thrilled that I think it is a good day, Commissioner Barrett, that we're going to get a hospital hopefully soon in South Fulton."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. I want be clear and make sure that I understand, we're looking at 900 million for the hospital, 300 million being financed from the county, 300 million from the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "300 million from Grady Health System, not from the Hospital Authority."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So 300 million from the county, 300 from Grady, that's 600. Where's the other 300?"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "300 million in philanthropy."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "In philanthropy."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Well, philanthropy."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, all right. And so when we talk about the decision being made, so when I pull money out of my pocket, I make all of the decisions. When I go ask somebody else for some money, guess what? They get to be involved in those decisions. So what I need to hear is for me to make an informed decision, what are -- what are the costs of making it a teaching hospital? Because you're asking me for money, you're not coming in here saying, hey, we're financing this our self, and we decided. Unfortunately, y'all don't get to make the decision, because y'all are asking us for money, so we're involved in that decision, right? If we're going to provide money, we're going to have to be at the table and involved in that decision. So I need to understand what those costs are, and why you guys are making the recommendation that you are making, right? It might cost more money, maybe we've got more money. Maybe we want to put up more money to make sure that it's a teaching hospital. So we don't -- one, one party doesn't get to make that, and then go ask somebody else for some money, certainly not for \$300 million, right? For \$300 million, I need to know what's going on. I need to know how much does a teaching hospital cost, what does it cost for not being a teaching hospital? I don't think anyone gets to make that decision, and then go ask somebody else for some money."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "In general, a teaching hospital versus a community hospital, the teaching component increases the underlying cost by 40 percent. Now, teaching is incredibly important. And on our main campus, we made the decision -- the federal government only funds 450 positions. We have a need at both schools for 500. Grady is fully funding those other 50 residency slots, of which the majority have gone to Morehouse versus Emory, and that's a cost we bear through our operations."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, we contribute 50 --"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "But our operations --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "We contribute \$50 million a year to your operations. So we're back at the table again. And I don't -- I'm not trying to put you on the spot --"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Oh, you can."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- I'm not saying it's something that we have to answer today."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Oh, absolutely."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm just saying, I'm just saying that, hey, we can't come in -- you can't come here and say, we made this decision that we're only going to do this, and ask us for money at the same time, right?"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Sure."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And if you -- if you're asking us for money, we're going to ask about these other things, and say, hey, how do we get there? And you may have a perfectly reasonable answer as to why you're doing -- it costs 40 percent more, or whatever. But if you're coming to us, asking us for money, we have to be involved in that decision."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Well, and you all just needed to find how you want to be involved. We have been meeting every week with the leadership team. They've been involved in the medical staff model planning, the facility planning, that decision around teaching, nonteaching. But you know, we are fully transparent, and we will share whatever information you want. Now, we can get you quickly, a small white paper about that cost and what goes into that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. I mean, because, you know, you just can't come here and say, hey, we made this decision, and but we want y'all to put some money up, right? Like, you know, that, that's got to be part of the discussion. And

you know, I don't necessarily know what the leadership is. My definition of the leadership are the seven -- six people up here on this Board, the ones that make the decisions and have to vote. That's what my definition of the leadership is. So maybe we have different definitions of leadership."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "No, we don't have a different definition. I'm talking about the team behind the scenes, our team behind the scenes that spent hours and hours and hours and hours looking at the data, running the reports, determining if this could work, what it needs to be, what the models need to be so that it could come here, because this is your decision. But there was hundreds of hours of work that went into this for you all to decide."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. And I'm thankful for that, but as we see, obviously there are -- there might have to be more hundreds of hours to go into it, right? But we're thankful for Grady for building this freestanding emergency room for phase I, phase II, office building and phase III, full-blown hospital. But you know, it -- it's apparent that there have to be some further discussions, at least to me."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "We'd be glad to engage in those discussions, whatever you decide to those are."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I guess I will just read -- restate my amendment, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. I think mostly everyone has had an opportunity to speak to amend this item to make sure that it includes -- because this is just about our intentions to move forward, because our CFO said that this wouldn't -- this bonding wouldn't happen until 2028, I believe. So I want to make sure that we are clear that we do an amendment to include discussions with, what I will just call area medical schools, right, which includes Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory, Emory School of Medicine, Morehouse and Emory School of Medicine as part of our intentions for moving forward with the financing for phase III. Awesome, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'll try not to be redundant. But I wanted to say, I think it is a phenomenal day. Do we know when the last public hospital, county hospital was built in Fulton County, I mean, built in the state of Georgia?"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "We'd have to talk to Ryan up there."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "No, in the state of Georgia. Probably 1958, probably was who?"

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "70-plus years."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "We were 1892."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right. So you know, probably going back to, like, the 50s or the 60s. So we've gone the other direction. The Grady model has worked. I mean, look, I mean, we can go back, what, 16, 17, 18 years, and you know, the conversation in this room is a mess about Grady, right? Now, we've got a model that has been so effectively. We had two hospitals close down, and what you -- what you shared with us, 166 beds, funds contributed by who?"

DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PRES, MSM: "The state."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "The government."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "That state. That's partnership. They saw a model that worked, they recognized where their problems -- problems were. And that loss was largely absorbed, right?"

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Right."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Right."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "In turn, right? Now, we had this gap, right, that existed. We did the study. We identified, okay, where would be -- seem to be the most appropriate location for this facility, given where the needs were, correct, Dr. Roshell?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, sir, that's correct."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right. And this became the identified location. We started this in 2023 --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- right? And we're talking about -- we got something about out of the ground to start running with, with emergency department. And you got -- then we're on these next phases. I'm not going to pick on them, but let's contrast that with the amount of time it takes to get a transit project done. Decades, right? This, 2031, fully operational."

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Started the conversation, 2023. So listen, conversations and doing all this kind of stuff, it -- it's messy work, right? We all know that. We understand that. And that's sort of just the business that we're in. But this, this right -- this shows something that hadn't been done in the state of Georgia in 60, 70, 80 years, or whatever it is, right? You know, predates, you know, probably, you know, any of us being born in this room. So let's recognize that and let's celebrate it. Yes, there's

continued work to be done, continued discussion that needs to be had. But this definitely is a historic day, and -- and I hope, you know, that's what we will focus on today, with a continued sort of focus of moving forward, just like Fulton County has always done. Do we know how much we invest in health resources, relative to other -- any other county in the state of Georgia?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Overall, when we consider operations personnel, it's approximately 200 million."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right. And best we could tell, probably there's no other county in Georgia that even strikes up close that, right?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "No, sir. Our study did look at comparable counties, and none of them were in Georgia."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So you know, let's recognize that, let's celebrate it. Let's also recognize that we have more work to do. But let's not let that get lost today. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, anybody else at this time?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a -- one moment. You want to say something right now, Doctor --"

DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PRES, MSM: "I do want to make sure that we are clear. Morehouse School of Medicine values significantly its partnership at Grady. It is our primary teaching hospital. But also want to make sure that we understand that we share that with Emory, and Emory has 7 percent -- 70 percent of the resident slots, and Morehouse School of Medicine has 30 percent. And part of the challenge with us being able to grow, as John said, is that they are over the cap, and so can't expand more. But when you have a need for G.I., a need for cardiology, et cetera, and we have 425 people who've applied for three slots of G.I. or 725 people who applied for a slot for cardiology. That tells us that we need more. And another hospital is another opportunity for that. So we are not opposed at all to the hospital in Union City. We just believe there's more that's needed, and there's an ambulatory for integrated network that needs to make sure we place the assets in the right places, such that people are not utilizing the hospital for services that can be given in an amatory setting. And I think we all agree with that. And so I look forward to those continued conversations."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Sounds like y'all need 70 percent at the new hospital in Union City, and Emory needs 30 percent so we can have equity."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any further comments at this time?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So I want to commend the folk who been working on this for some time. Dr. Montgomery Rice, you and your staff, Chief Operating Officer, the Manager, CFO, we spent hours, weeks, and months working on this to get us to where we are today. That's why I say, today is great day in Fulton County, Georgia. But more importantly, a great day for the people in South Fulton County. And it's come clear to me, I've been reading, and reading, and reading about this. And the reason why this issue about Morehouse School of Medicine is so important, because everything that I've read says that healthcare outcomes are better when physicians look like the people that they're treating. That's why this is so important. And I also say that a great Atlantan once said, you can accomplish a lot in life if you don't care who gets the credit. And I totally believe that. The other point that I'd like to make from reading the document, and I read it two or three times last night to make sure I understood is that, cost overruns will be borne by Grady; is that correct?"

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "Correct."

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "That's correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let me repeat that. Cost overruns will be borne by Grady, not Fulton County. And lastly, on the financing of it, and Madam CFO, I mentioned this to you briefly, I spent a lot of time doing international stuff, and one of the -- one of the things that occurred to me, in fact, a couple of days ago was that in the -- from a financing point of view, there is a federal program called EB-5 program. It's a federal program. And someone between 25 to 35 percent of projects like this can be paid for using federal dollars, that's when -- it's called EB-5 program because foreigners who want to come to this country, they pay millions of dollars, and that money goes into a pot that is used for projects just like this, and hospitals have been funded. So I'm asking that we review while we're, again, we're expressing our intent here today. But we look at the -- this EB-5 program and see how that -- see whether or not, even though I have concluded that it is, that it is applicable to this 900 million that we're talking about here. And if it is applicable, that will certainly reduce some of the financial burden on the taxpayers of Fulton County. Now, the motion on the floor is to approve. That motion was made by Commissioner Arrington, it was seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Arrington has made a -- wants to amend it, which I support the amendment. I have some language that I think encompasses -- not speaking for him, but I think it encompasses the spirit of what he's saying. And that is, be it resolved that the clinical operations associated with the Grady Health System and the new South Fulton Hospital project shall, not may, shall incorporate and utilize residents, fellows, and trainees from Morehouse School of Medicine's graduate medical education programs to ensure the availability of clinical training placements, residency rotations, and faculty appointments from Morehouse School of Medicine and you --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- add Emory, right? And Emory, so --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I think that encompasses --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I will accept that as a friendly amendment. But I think -- I think I see our partners from Grady over there -- is that language acceptable to you all? I thought I saw a couple of flinches."

JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "We need a definition of shall."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Shall is compulsory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, that wording --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Shall is compulsory."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Struggle with that definition of shall. You might --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute. Now, just a minute. We in court on shall already."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No, we're not in court over shall, we're in court over -- we're in court over people that want to miss -- try to misapply it and misuse it. The word shall is compulsory. They -- there's may, there's will, and there's shall. The word shall is compulsory, period."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So included in this resolution, it authorizes the management team to continue negotiations. And anything will have to come back to us. So this is, this today, as I said earlier in my opening comments, expresses our intent. And hope that what I just read encompasses what Commissioner Arrington's motion."

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "We're open to Morehouse having that seat at the table. It just changes the -- if you change the model, we have to go back to the management team and review the numbers, that's all. But we're open to that --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And back to this, any costs overruns in the document will be borne by Grady. That's key."

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "What, we're talking capital cost overruns, Mr. Chair --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, I didn't say --"

ANTHONY SAUL, COO, GRADY HOSPITAL: "-- but operate, we're now into the operating costs, and that's where we'd have to relook at the model, and get with the administrative team about --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. We'll be -- y'all be negotiating that, assuming this is approved today. All right, the Arrington motion to amend is on the floor. It's been seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Is there any further discussion at this time?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "With the language you just said."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "With the language, is that, the language acceptable?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That language is accepted. I accept the friendly amendment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right, further discussion, comments?

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Cast your votes, please. I hope they're affirmative."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's a round of applause for that. All right. Madam Clerk, next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Next item, **26-0157**, County Manager, presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, it's 1:00 o'clock, are we going to go through the whole operational report before --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I've asked them to cut down. So how long is the operational report --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can you cut it down to five minutes?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Well, let's recess, then come back to it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- Executive Session, where we may take up items of real estate, personnel, and litigation. Let's vote. All right, motion to do so by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

Recessed for Executive Session at 1:08 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 2:28 p.m.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, without objection, we'll resume the regular order of business. Items from Executive Session, Madam County Attorney."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve a contract for Information Technology Services in the amount of \$66,500 as presented in item 1 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 6 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "A motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation presented in item 7 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 8 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, it is seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for represent -- excuse me. Is there a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute a settlement participation agreement as presented in item 9 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 8, **26-0157**, County Manager, presentation of the Fulton County operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Manager, you're on the clock."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Good afternoon. Given the feedback that we received, we'll be brief. We've submitted the operations report to you. We'll stay with Steve and Mike for any questions. Let me make a couple of comments. First and foremost, of course, we've just been through the penultimate operations report with the Grady Hospital. I want to thank the Board for all of your support during that process. I want to thank Dr. Roshell, clearly, for her leadership, and Sharon, for determining a path, a path forward, and look forward to Friday's event to recognize this. Of course, most importantly, thanking Grady and John Hauptert and his team for being the terrific partners that they are. In the operational report that we have submitted, you're going to notice a section on Behavioral Health and HIV elimination. Again, if there are questions about that, we'll -- we'll take those. In the justice report, there are only a couple, three things I wanted to make sure that we pointed out, and then, if you had questions, answer those. Number one, Commissioner Arrington, we have put in a trend chart going back to January of '22 on jail population, as well as -- at least some broad-gage events like the cyber attack that drove up the population when we couldn't process cases as quickly. So that's probably not holistically responsive to what you've been asking, but is a start on that process or start on that analysis. We've also put a chart summarizing the jail population reduction initiatives with owners and next steps. Hopefully, you'll find that helpful. I want to emphasize again, it really is up to the justice

partners to own these and implement these, but with support through the Strategy Office and through Steve specifically. I've asked Steve to give a -- and hopefully, we have time for this, just a brief explanation on why we need one data set that is the source of truth for the justice system. You know, any time we get into one of these discussions, one has one view of how many detainees are in for something else, and another has another one, and that's what gets ruled by anecdote. And that really is not where we want to be if we don't have sustainable progress. So we're working in that direction. I'll glad to have Steve explain that, if necessary. I was very encouraged by APD and the Justice Policy Board meeting that we recently had. Their commitment to the Diversion Center is clear. One of the neatest things I saw was, they have a sticker in the back of every APD car now that says, ask your officer about diversion. I mean, I thought that was just brilliant. And you can tell from their results that it's -- it's certainly having an impact. Also in the Justice Policy Board, and I'll touch base with the Vice Chair on this specifically, we're going to recommend coming out of that meeting, and then we have a fresh look at our, I'll call it Fixed Diversion Center, and then Mobile Diversion Center. As you recall, before we had a Fixed Diversion Center, PAD was the answer. Here's the Vice Chair. And they provided a mobile set of diversion services, plus ongoing case management. Now we have a fixed center, and there was a great deal of discussion in that -- in that room about the two. Both have a role, both need to be funded. And I think, a fresh look at the strategy of those, probably in concert with the city of Atlanta. The city of Atlanta, as you know, funds 2.5 million for the Diversion Center, as we do. They fund 2.4 million to what I'll call the mobile efforts through PAD at 2.4, and we fund .4. So hopefully, if the Vice Chair agrees, we will undertake a fresh review of that, and find our self in a good position. And then we continue to -- the Jail Blitz program, driving the order backlog down, as well as making our way through the housing units, that's in the report. We meet weekly with EMSI's assistance and the Fulton County Sheriff's Office and DREAM to review those -- that progress and any issues that pop up. Of course, next up, post today, is bringing back, either at the first or second meeting in April, the overall Jail Capital Improvement Program and plans for bond issue with that. So that will be another, I'm sure, lively discussion. So with that, Mr. Chairman, we're ready to answer any questions that the Board may have on the material that we've submitted."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Are there questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Nada, nothing."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "26-0158, Finance request approval of a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County authorizing the issuance and sale of Fulton County general fund tax anticipation notes, authorizing the distribution and use of: Request fund -- request for bids and/or preliminary official statement and notice of sale."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes. Madam CFO, how much do these tax anticipation notes cost us? What's the annual amount of money that we pay for these tax anticipation notes?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "That's driven by the interest rate that we receive. In years where the interest rate has been super low, the cost to borrow has been very, very low. In years past, it's been several million dollars."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I guess, can you get me a report that would identify what it has been over the last five, ten years?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We can. Borrowings and the total amount we borrowed and the interest rate."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Because when you say -- I don't know what -- very low to you might be different than very low to me."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Like, less than \$100,000 in some years."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. And but up to millions or --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Several millions, yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But you still want the report, though?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, please, and --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We can provide that, no problem."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, thanks. I guess, yeah, maybe ten years would be good, because I don't know, you know, I don't know if the five-year sample will be the low years or not."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Ten years should, should cover it. But if it doesn't, we can go back further than that to give you a good idea of what it's looked like over the course of time."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You're talking just about on the TANs only?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Is that clear?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. So we'll provide the amount we borrowed, what the rate was and what our interest repayment amount was in each, in each year."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0159**, Request approval of resolution to equalize the 2026 cost-of-living adjustment among all pensioners."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0160**, Information Technology request approval to extend an existing contract for upgrade of the County's Enterprise Resource Planning Software Application in an amount not to exceed \$360,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a question, Mr. Kerrigan, about why we need this, and is this impacting the rollout schedule for the ERP system? Is it delayed? The original amount, I think, was 1.25, now we're up to almost 2.2 million. So I'm just curious as to what's going on."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER: "Now, good afternoon, Commissioner Barrett. So yes, we've had delays with the project. So this is for the independent verification and validation firm that's helping us monitor implementation. So we wanted to extend them because we have had delays with the project. I've spoken on this before. We've had delays related to payroll processing and merging separate datasets. We're honestly still working through that. We have some change orders that will be coming forward that still keeps us within our overall contingency. But then there's going to be another item that we'll bring back that will be a larger change order to get the project, you know, back on track and funded for CGI to extend the overall limitation. So we're negotiating that because there's, I think, you know, responsibility from CGI to deliver on what was in the contract initially. They've had to extend resources and the timeline, of course, but so we'll be negotiating what that looks like. And we're currently going through that where they're going to be coming back with, you know, the associated service fees to land the project. We're also looking at a two-phase approach now, where we would take phase I, where we would go with active employees for payroll, and then there'd be a phase II for our pension and poll workers. So that's something we're working through now as well. So overall, we're still working through a schedule. We're looking at a summer estimated go live for phase I, and then we would -- we would then work with them to determine the right date for -- for go live for the second phase, which includes pension and poll worker payroll accommodation."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But the first phase includes all the other ERP function --"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER: "Exactly, yes. I meant to say, it's basically 90 percent of the functionality. We would still use our old system to handle pension and poll worker needs until we could bring that into the new system."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "You know, I've been looking forward to the advanced reporting capabilities of a new ERP system, like since I got here. So I just like to have it happen before I leave."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER: "No, understood. And we -- we are pressing and working in closely with both CGI and ISG to get to that go-live date, and have it be both of quality that, you know, the county needs to be successful."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I'm sure Madam CFO is looking forward to it as well. Thank you, that's all I have."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, **26-0161**, Request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$2,368,000 to provide enterprise business-class and specialty computing devices."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Arts and Libraries, **26-0162**, Arts and Culture request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the Bear Creek Nature Center, Inc. for the purpose of providing reoccurring funding in the total amount of \$200,000 for environmental education programming."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: Why is this one separate from the others? Why they not together? They're all separate? All right, so, okay.

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Can I make a motion that we take them all together, the remaining Arts and Culture? Unless anybody has any objections."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, no objection. We'll take them all together, just sound them, the captions."

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0163**, Request approval of a contract with the Chattahoochee Nature Center, Inc. for the purpose of providing reoccurring funding in the total amount of \$200,000 for the operation management of the current environmental education programming. **26-0164**, Request approval of a contract with Hammonds House, Inc. for the purpose of providing reoccurring funding in the amount of \$200,000 for the operation and management of the current arts and culture programs. **26-0165**, Request approval of a contract with the National Black Arts Festival, Inc. for the purpose of providing funding in the amount of \$200,000 to provide expanded operational resources as well as educational and arts-related services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion is to approve all four. Motion to approve --"

CLERK GRIER: "And on page 10, **26-0166**, Request approval of a contract with the Art Center, Inc. for the purpose of providing funding in an amount of \$200,000 for the operation and management of the current arts and culture programs."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Again, the motion was to approve each of the five. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And Dr. Roshell, when will the funds be distributed?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "So Purchasing will work with the department to create the purchase orders. And we will request the invoices, I would say no later than 30 days."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, thank you. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0167**, Public Works request approval of the lowest responsible bidders for standby, miscellaneous construction water system services in an amount not to exceed \$3 million."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I have a motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0168**, Request approval to extend an existing contract for operation and maintenance services for wastewater facilities and pump stations in the North Fulton service area in an amount not to exceed \$12,470,486.61."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Have a question, were you -- Madam Purchasing Agent and/or County Attorney, where it says in the North Fulton area for an additional maximum 183 days. Does that mean not to exceed?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "Yes, Commissioner -- yes, Commissioner."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Not to exceed?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "Yes, Chairman, yes. Not to exceed the 183 days, which is approximately six months."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "I provided the Board with the status of the bid protest proceedings. And where we are, we expect a decision by April 6th. Based on that decision, we will have to move forward with either awarding the contract, contract execution. Once the contract is executed, there needs to be at least 60 days for transition to a new service provider."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's the mobilization, in 60 days?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, not to exceed."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "So if, if it is awarded -- if something happens before the September 30th, there will be a 60-day notice to them that we're moving forward with transitioning --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "-- but we need that much time so that we don't have to keep coming back to the Board to send the contract."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion is to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Justice and Safety, **26-0169**, Medical Examiner request approval of a recommended proposal for pickup and removal of deceased remains in an amount not to exceed \$350,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Action Items, **26-0120**, Request approval of a resolution to promote public education regarding how to obtain voter identification; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I'm going to ask to hold this item again because of the climate. It's just there's a lot of discussion the SAVE Act with voter identification. And I just look at it as if there is an issue resolving that issue, make sure, as a county, because it is the law of the land, since SB202 was passed. But I understand the political climate, the nature of it, that it might be not the right timing, right now. So I'm just asking to hold it. I'll possibly remove it, and just bring it back at a later date if that's okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right. Any objections, motion to hold?

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Continue.

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, **26-0170**, Request approval of a resolution to support the growth and long-term sustainability of local, independent small businesses as they expand and create jobs in South Downtown to ensure that local small businesses are included in the economic opportunities provided by the 2026 World Cup; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I'm supporting this because, like I kind of alluded vaguely in my comments, to MARTA this morning, we want to make sure that local businesses are being included in the economic opportunities. We know that a lot of time and money is going to be spent in a lot of intergovernmental agreements, whereas we're going to -- every -- we will be on the world map, I guess that's what I'm saying, for the lack of a better word. So we always want to look out for the small business owner. We want to make sure they have the opportunities. And we also want to make sure that in our preparation -- and Commissioner Barrett, I don't know if this could speak to it, but a lot of my -- a lot of small businesses are being interrupted by development and are losing their customer base. What are we doing or what position are we taking as a county, as 15 different cities, to make sure that these businesses aren't displaced? I support the World Cup. I support it being here, but I also want individuals who will be here after the World Cup is gone to still have a viable audience. So therefore that's why I will be supporting this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Madam Vice Chair. I want to take a moment just to say that this is, again, nothing coming out of the general fund. This is money that's already been allocated into the West Side TAD through our current increment. Total for all of this, both the four businesses and the downtown pop-up fund is, I believe it's 112,500; 112,500 total, 12,500 to each of four businesses to fill out the rest of their \$50,000 grant, that all four of these businesses are walking distance from here, walking distance from the stadium for World Cup. And they are, to your point I think, Madam Vice Chair, they are long-term businesses that are going to be here, revitalizing Downtown, and they're taking up spaces that were empty for a long time. So anything we can, I think, do help and support them is great. And then this Downtown pop-up is a really interesting, and the Pop-up Opportunity Fund is a really interesting opportunity, both to showcase our county when people are here for World Cup, so that we don't have empty storefronts. This is an opportunity for small businesses to create pop ups in empty storefronts so that we're filling everything out and giving our visitors an opportunity to engage with local business owners. And I think also to your point, Madam Vice Chair, giving those business owners an opportunity to benefit from the World Cup being here and to reinvest that to grow their businesses and continue to help revitalize. So I appreciate the support. I hope everybody will support this. And if anyone has questions, I'm happy to answer them."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is it inside the storefronts, or in front of the storefront?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Inside."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Pop-ups will be inside?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. It's being -- the Downtown Pop-up Opportunity Fund is actually being -- it's being administered by Central Line and Progress."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0171**, Request approval of a resolution to appropriate \$975,000 to the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation to support services provided to survive -- survivors or intimate partner abuse and their families; and for other purposes sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I'm going to put this on hold. There are some conversation about the funding, and I want to make sure that the

funding, where it's coming from that it's solid. So County Manager, I know you were going to actually weigh in on this. But colleagues, I'm going to need, in the sake of time and in the sake of transparency in making sure that we identify the correct funding force for this -- sources, I'm going to put it on hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Without objection, motion was to approve, be a substitute motion to hold; is there a second? I'll second it to hold. Let's vote on the substitute motion to hold."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. Vice Chair, could you put motion to hold?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to hold."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0172**, External Affairs, Presentation, 2026 Legislative Session Update."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Mr. Chairman, I know you like us to be brief, so we'll go pretty quickly. We only have a couple more of these before session is over. Just wanted to note -- next slide, please. Next slide. So wanted to note that the Senate is now considering the FY27 budget, one of our, really, our top legislative priority this year was additional resources for Superior Court. And the so-called big budget, FY27 budget, does include funding an additional Superior Court judgeship, as well as the corresponding Prosecutor and Public Defender. So we're really pleased with that. A couple of other highlights are mentioned here, but won't go over those in detail. Next slide. This is just a recap of our delegation meetings. Just want to mention that on Friday, we have an upcoming delegation meeting, our department for HIV Elimination, Marshal's Office, and Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Court will present. And then our final legislative delegation meeting will be the following week. Next slide. So again, House Bill 1365 made Crossover Day, has been assigned to Senate Judiciary. We are feeling very positive, and have had very positive conversations with our delegation members and other legislators about this addition to our Superior Court bench. So just appreciate everyone's support with this, and the next step will be its hearing in Senate Judiciary. We expect it to be heard along with other additional Superior Court judgeships. And so we do not have the date for that yet, but we will provide an update as soon as we have that. There are two more weeks left in session. Next slide, please. Also, another item in our package was support for Family Justice Centers. This legislation does not provide funding, but essentially allows those centers, which are kind of a one-stop shop for victims of elder abuse, domestic abuse, abuse, child abuse and human trafficking, to

be recognized from the state in several different models, and we hope will pave the way for potential future funding. So this has already passed the House, has been assigned and has a hearing this afternoon; is that correct, Jasmine? So we'll be monitoring that and providing an update. Next slide. Also wanted to note that this legislation, I may ask Jasmine to speak to this one, House Bill 295. This has passed the House, is now in slow go. Jasmine, why don't you say a couple words about that one?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. So one of the primary policy priorities was to oppose any legislation related to sovereign immunity waivers. This Bill will waive sovereign immunity for local governments who don't comply with certain ordinances that they pass and resolutions. So ACCG has an opposed position to this, and we've been monitoring it as well, and we do expect it to have a hearing in slow go."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Jasmine. Next slide, please. Next Gen 911, want to thank our 911 Deputy Director for presenting last Friday, along with our Director of Emergency Management. The delegation really appreciate that information. Again, this will help improve public safety across Fulton County and across the state. So this Bill passed, House Resolution 1243 passed the House. It has also passed out of Senate Public Safety. So it just is -- the last step will be the full Senate vote; is that correct, Jasmine? So just want to make sure I didn't miss a step. So this is looking really good. This was one of ACCG's top priorities as well. Next slide, please. And then House Bill 1116, we've talked a lot about this Bill. It is continually morphing at every stage in the legislative process. A substitute has been introduced. Another substitute is very likely in a hearing tomorrow. We've just heard from ACCG. So it's been difficult to provide very precise analysis, because the Bill has changed at every step in the process. But really what we are monitoring is ensuring that, as a fully municipalized county who has a very complex sales tax landscape, that we are just ensuring that Fulton County's needs are met in the best ability. So we will, as we see the substitute is expected tomorrow, will look -- look through that, work with ACCG, and provide some analysis. But really, we're expecting significant changes, as I said before, before this is final. And we anticipate that it will continue to be negotiated frankly through Sine Die. Next slide, please. There's been a lot of talk about elections. And this is just a hot subject in general. So one of the Senate Election Bills did not cross over. Senate Bill 214, is an omnibus Bill. There's been a lot of discussion about paper ballots as an issue. Senate Bill 568, would have required paper ballots this year. Obviously, people had a lot of concerns about that. This Bill would instead require hand-marked paper ballots two years from now. And so, of course, there's a lot of -- a lot of runway between now and then. It has a lot of other changes. We don't have to go into that line by line, but certainly, this is a preferable implementation timeline than six months from now. Any other comment on that one, Jasmine? Next slide, please. Don't want to go into this in too much detail, but Senate Bill 535, which would reconstitute

community service boards, this Bill has gone all the way through the process. It's on its way to the Governor's desk, so we'll just continue to provide updates on this. Next slide. So I did want to -- next slide, please. I did want to call attention to House Resolution 1523, which would recognize Victoria Travis Jackson Memorial Highway. So we were very pleased to see that Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, that's a close member of the Fulton County family, and so just wanted to highlight that. Again, there are other Bills we don't have to go into. We can stop and take any questions, Mr. Chairman, unless you'd like us to keep going."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's your pleasure? Keep going."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay. Also here, just wanted to mention, there's a couple of other Bills, another highway renaming for former Senator Beach, current Treasurer. Also CIDs, this is some changes around creation of CIDs, some APS related legislation. Next slide, please. Gambling casinos, that was something that we had in our package. This Bill did not cross over. There was a lot of debate on Crossover night about this, and it just did not make it. It did not have the support. Next slide, please. Again, there's a number of other tax-related Bills here. So we can take any questions about these, but bona fide conservation property is one. There's some others kind of going through this. Next slide. A couple of other Bills that did not cross over, the Bill, House Bill 560, related to the LOST negotiations; House Bill 1240, which was related to the TAD recreation process or TAD renewal process; House 1386, which was related to development authorities. We already talked, you heard this morning from MARTA about their 1 cent sales tax extension. House Bill 1336, which would have made some changes in the -- how the funding from aircraft are allocated; House 1482, which would -- was related to municipal jails; and then 1114, around homeowner incentive adjustment clause. Next slide. A couple of others on the Senate, we talked about House Bill 568, another Election Bill on Senate Bill 563 -- I'm sorry I said House Bill, Senate Bill 577, which was about PFAs. That was something we were monitoring for our water along our water utility, along with Senate Bill 538. I see Commissioner Ellis is about to fall asleep, so I -- I won't keep going. I'm just kidding, Commissioner Ellis, I didn't mean to call you out like that. That was the mom in me, I'm sorry. With that, Mr. Chairman, we're glad to take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I just have one question. Thank you guys for the update and for following all of this. I know some of these are changing rapidly, and for keeping us updated on the ones that do change. But I just have question on the ones that did not cross over, are we expecting, you know, the concepts or language from any of these to sneak into other Bills?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "It's absolutely not unlikely, not out of the question. We have not seen that yet, but we're certainly keeping an eye on that. I think that's a very real possibility."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. So that -- just because they didn't cross over doesn't mean they're completely gone, so --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Nothing's done until --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- we're done, and done. Yeah, okay."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So you guys have a way to kind of monitor that and --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We are, we're keeping an eye on those. I mean, typically they're still be assigned to the same committees, or you know, there's a lot of people tracking these same Bills, so we do have a sense of that."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0173**, Discussion, District 4 vacancy sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. I just wanted to bring up the District 4 vacancy, because I know the public may not understand exactly what's going on or why the vacancy was created. But the former District 4 Commissioner made the choice and the decision to run for Chair. And when that person qualified to run for Chair, that served to automatically vacate that seat. And so I want to be clear about exactly what that means. I think, pursuant to our rules, one staff member was allowed to stay on, but the elected representative made the choice to vacate that seat when they made the choice to run for Chair. So I want us to be very clear about that, because there's been discussion that -- that there was no other choice, but to resign. And so this was not a resignation. This was the seat being vacated because the former Commissioner qualified for Chair. And then I wanted to ask, I guess, the County Attorney what that means for the different Board appointments that the former District 4 Commissioner

had, and are those board appointments automatically vacated as well by -- with by the vacation of the Commissioner's seat? Do we need to make appointments to those seats? And then, I guess the other thing is that now the Board of Elections, to my understanding, on Monday said that the seat, that election, a special election to replace the District 4 Commissioner will take place in November. And so that means that the seat will be vacant and unrepresented by an elected official, by the elected official that had previously being elected to serve a four-year term, that seat will be empty until at least November or December if there is a runoff. And so I certainly don't think that the board seats -- let me -- let me withdraw that and say it again. We know that this Board seat, the District 4 Board seat will open until November or December. But I don't think that our Fulton County Board seats on the Beltline and the Rec Authority and all of those other things should be open until November. So I guess number one, County Attorney, I want to get some clarity from you. And then number two, I'd like for us to have a discussion about what we think we want to do with those open seats. Do we -- is it the will of the Board to leave them open until November, or not? So Madam County Attorney, if you can advise us on whether the other board appointments are automatically vacated or not. And then I guess we can have whatever discussion we need to have. But I also, you know, and I guess depending on that discussion, I had some nominations that I would like to make. But I want to hear from the County Attorney first."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So thank you, Commissioner Arrington. As I understand it, Commissioner Ivory, former Commissioner Ivory served on three boards. One of them is the Atlanta-Fulton County Recreational Authority, the Atlanta Beltline, and also the Other Post-Employments Benefit Trust, OPEB. So for the Rec Authority, the person appointed, if there are a public official of the city of Atlanta or Fulton County, serves only so long as they remain a public official to the city or county government that originally appointed them. So that position became vacant by operation of law as soon as Mo Ivory ceased to be a Commissioner for District 4, which occurred when she qualified for the race that she's currently in. So that is a vacant position. And the term of that position that is left vacant is through December 31st of 2028. And as such, the BOC may appoint a Commissioner to fill this vacancy."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. And what about the other two, the Beltline and the Post-Employment trust?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington, does it say a Commissioner, or a person? What does it say?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Any person appointed to membership on the authority who is a public official of the city of Atlanta or Fulton County at the time of his

appointment shall serve as a member of the authority only so long as he remains a public official of the city or county government which originally appointed him."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But what I'm asking is it restricted to public officials? Because I can recall when it was not."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I'm not looking at the original document at this moment. But because it says appointed to membership who is a public official, I presume there must be the option of not necessarily having to be a public official."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, because we previously had a community member appointed. So I think, yeah, I think that the option is still there to -- option is still there, I believe, to do that if that is the will of the Board. But what about the other two?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Okay, hold on just a moment. For the Atlanta Beltline, if a member no longer serves on the Board of Commissioners, which he or she represents, they are deemed to have resigned without further action, and their successor is automatically deemed elected and appointed to complete the remaining term. That term vacated by former Commissioner Ivory is through July 12th of 2026."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, but there is no successor. There won't be a successor until November."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Right. So the language does not designate what happens when there is a long gap before the successor is determined."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, thank you. And then so that just leaves the trust, and I know you're working your way through the document --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, so --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- so I'm not trying to rush you, I'm just --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "The OPB -- excuse me, the OPEB trust says that Trustee Position 2, which is the position that former Commissioner Ivory occupied, is to be filled by a sitting member of the Board of Commissioners other than the Chairman. That position may be replaced by another sitting member of the Board of Commissioners. However, there is no remaining term on that. It would just be for a new term, the term, the previous term ended December 31st, of 2025. So I guess that means, I'd have to calculate when the current term ends. I have to look up whether or not it's two or four years. But we are -- it's the beginning of a new term."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So then I would like to, I guess, make a motion to appoint Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman to the Beltline and Commissioner Thorne to the Post-Employment Trust Boards."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can I give a friendly amendment? Chairman, I was a waiting, because I was in the queue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, Vice Chair -- repeat your motion, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "My motion was to appoint Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman to the Beltline and Commissioner Thorne to the Post-Employment Benefit Trust Board."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. There's a second by Barrett. All right, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, I would like to, Commissioner Arrington, make a friendly amendment that we as this Board take a stand in our actions. The reason for my friendly amendment, if the -- if my colleagues would be, just indulge me for a second. I heard our County Attorney state, former Commissioner Mo Ivory. But I also heard this morning, former Commissioner Mo Ivory come in this -- in this chamber and consider herself still Commissioner Mo Ivory. I also had a call, I had three calls from a church member, one deacon and two church members, who Commissioner Mo Ivory, former Commissioner Mo Ivory identified herself before she spoke of the congregation as Commissioner Mo Ivory. There -- we are in unprecedented times, and I think we need to protect the institutions that we all serve. And to have a former Commissioner go so far against the boundaries. I know as a sitting Commissioner that when a Commissioner vacates and leave their post, their position, that that office, it is up to the Chairman if the Chairman wants to take on -- and Chairman, I -- you correct me if my recollection is little cloudy. But your -- as the Chairman, there's legislation in place that if you wanted to absorb the employee in order to make sure that that office didn't go unrepresented, that somebody was able -- be able to take the calls and everything. And I clearly heard misinformation this morning that the person that you hired as an extension of your office to make sure that District 4 office has someone that will answer the phones and answer the constituent services that she was put in place by former Commissioner Mo Ivory. That is not true, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's not true."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And so we have someone that has transgressed boundaries and have disrespected the protocol and the way we do things down here. And so in order to protect all those boards and make sure that this person doesn't show up and say, hey, I'm here, nobody told me I couldn't be, I am going to ask for a friendly amendment to appoint Commissioner Arrington to the Recreation Authority for the rest of the term that -- until which time that we have a new Commissioner for District 4. That's my friendly amendment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So the motion on the floor to approve is by Commissioner Arrington, and it is seconded by Barrett. So the question would be, where's Commissioner --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I accept."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And who's the second? The second or first, you accepted?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes, I accept it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right, friendly amendment. Anything else? I'm sorry, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I just had a question on the Beltline Board. I'm happy with everybody's nominations. But when did the last term, when did the term start that was vacated?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Which board?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "The Beltline."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "For the Beltline, the appoint -- the original appointment was January 8th of 2025, and the term ends on July 12th of 2026."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So are they one-year terms; is that what you're saying?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I don't know if -- I think that may --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "That was because Commissioner --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "-- be because she came in in January of 2025, and perhaps it was vacant at the time."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, it was Commissioner Hall, so she was the successor. So I'm just confused about it. I'm only asking because I would have been the successor when I started here, and I was not given that opportunity. So I was just curious to see if we follow the rules some of the time or all of the time. Sounds like we do it some of the time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Have these boards -- I know, the Clerk handles generally board appointments and notification to these different authorities and so forth. Have these boards been notified that the former Commissioner who used to sit to my right, is no longer in service and therefore no longer the Fulton County representative on these boards?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes, yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So they do -- so there's no, there's no -- there should be no confusion about that from any of these boards?"

CLERK GRIER: "Correct. My office notified each board."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve with the friendly amendment being accepted by the seconder and the maker of the motion."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it? I thought we had another page. All right. No other matters that come before us today, we -- there aren't? All right, we adjourned. Thank you."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.