

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

June 07, 2023  
10:00 AM



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



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**MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: July 12, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:02 a.m.**

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

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

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****23-0361 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #23-0365 for separate consideration as requested by Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0362 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Chasing the Dream Hank Aaron Bridge and Plaza Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
May 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Shoville Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
May 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Julius Ceasar Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
May 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Lisset Bird Pickens Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
May 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Motto Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
May 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Martell Holt Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
May 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Atlanta Caribbean Carnival Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
May 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Adrienne Grainger Smith Remembrance Day" **(Pitts)**  
May 30, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "CNN Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
June 1, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “BreAsia Denna Powell Remembrance Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
June 2, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Mary Louise Palmer Remembrance Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts)**  
June 2, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Travis Harper Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
June 3, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Southwest Atlanta High School Class of 1973  
Appreciation Week.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
June 3-11, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Harry A. Jordan, Jr. Appreciation Day.” **(Pitts)**  
June 6, 2023

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**Commissioners' District Board Appointments****23-0363 Board of Commissioners****FULTON COUNTY CITIZENS COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Fulton County Citizens Commission on the Environment shall consist of citizens from throughout Fulton County to be appointed by the Members of the Board of Commissioners. There shall be fourteen (14) members to serve on the Commission. In making such appointments, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners shall ensure that the terms of appointment are staggered. Each District Commissioner shall appoint one Commission member to a four (4) year term. Each District Commissioner shall also appoint one Commission member to a two (2) year term to ensure staggered terms. After the expiration of each appointee's initial term, the regular term of office for such an appointee shall be four (4) years. No term of any member shall extend beyond the term of the District Commissioner who appointed the member to serve on the Fulton County Citizens Commission on the Environment; however, each member may continue to serve beyond his/her term until replaced. After the expiration of any appointee's initial term, the Commission may recommend to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners a list of eligible persons for consideration as appointees to the Commission.

**Staggered Terms**

Term = 2 Years

Term = 4 Years

Term = Four-year terms, however initially each District Commissioner appoints one member to a two-year term and one member to a four-year term

Terms below expired: 12/31/2022

Lynn McIntyre (**Hausmann**)Christopher Lemons (**Arrington**)Mandisha Thomas (**Abdur-Rahman**)Belinda Morrow (**Vacant**) (**Pitts**) (**Resigned**)

**Chairman Pitts nominated Danyell Little to replace Belinda Morrow for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

**Arts and Libraries****23-0364 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a Change in Award from Orchestra Noir to Q. Parker Legacy Foundation for the purpose of awarding funding in the total amount of \$15,000.00 (Non-recurring) Approved by the Board of Commissioners Agenda Item 23-0044 FY2023 Final Adopted Budget Line J. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Open & Responsible Government****23-0365 County Manager**

Request approval of an agreement between Fulton County, Georgia, the Tax Commissioner of Fulton County, Georgia and the City of South Fulton, Georgia for the billing and collection of solid waste fees. **(APPROVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY CHAIRMAN PITTS**

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

Vice-Chairman Ellis offered a friendly amendment to modify the Agreement by removing the compensation component and allocating the funds to the Tax Commissioner's budget. The amendment was not accepted.

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

**Nay:** Pitts

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**Justice and Safety****23-0366 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Fulton County and Fulton County School Police for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. The IGA is retroactive January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with three (3) automatic renewals commencing on January 1 of each successive year, ending December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0367 Juvenile Court**

Request approval of a Resolution approving the acceptance of saplings from Trees Atlanta, Inc. for the purpose of supporting Juvenile Court's Courtyard of Second Chances Project located at 395 Pryor Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****23-0368 Board of Commissioners**

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

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by moving up item #23-0382 as requested by the County Manager; and revising items #23-0381, #23-0386 and #23-0387. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to reconsider the Regular Meeting Agenda to move up items #23-0386 through #23-0389, and #23-0391. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Abstain:** Abdur-Rahman

**23-0369 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Regular Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2023

Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 17, 2023

Special Called Post Agenda Minutes, May 22, 2023

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0370 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Art Geter Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****23-0371 Board of Commissioners**

Public Comment - Citizens are allowed to voice County related opinions, concerns, requests, etc. during the Public Comment portion of the Commission meeting. **Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, whether such persons are commenting in-person, via emails or via Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed thirty minutes at the Recess Meeting.** In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Similarly, written comments (that were timely submitted) not previously read, may be read at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

**50 Speakers: Councilmember Lee Hills (Board of Registration/Elections); Josh McKoon (Board of Registration/Elections); Stephanie Endres (Board of Registration/Elections); Jill Trammell Cusick (Board of Registration/Elections); Julie Adams (Board of Registration/Elections); Jamie Parrish (Board of Registration/Elections); Ginger Bradshaw (Board of Registration/Elections); Christine Propst (Board of Registration/Elections); David Callahan (Board of Registration/Elections); Debra Alexander (Board of Registration/Elections); Michael Gordon (Board of Registration/Elections); Beckie Parker (Board of Registration/Elections); Rob Cunningham (Board of Registration/Elections); Alexa Finke (Board of Registration/Elections); Caroline Jeffords (Board of Registration/Elections); Katie Benson (Board of Registration/Elections); Matt Rowenczak (Board of Registration/Elections); Dane Seibert (Board of Registration/Elections); Anita Hogan (Board of Registration/Elections); Clay Jones (Board of Registration/Elections); Nia Corsten (Board of Registration/Elections); Brian Dunn (Board of Registration/Elections); Joseph Medley (Board of Registration/Elections); Candy Muldowney (Board of Registration/Elections); Aunna Dennis (Board of Registration/Elections); Orien Roy (Board of Registration/Elections); Kevin Muldowney (Board of Registration/Elections); Henry Fellows Jr., (Board of Registration/Elections); Sarah Pedro (Board of Registration/Elections); Anita Lane (Board of Registration/Elections); Stephanie Miller (Board of Registration/Elections); Mara Gaudio (Board of Registration/Elections); Paul**

Hershen (Board of Registration/Elections); Brett Chromy (Board of Registration/Elections); Jami Tucker (Board of Registration/Elections); Stephanie Ali (Board of Registration/Elections); Earl Ferguson (Board of Registration/Elections); Mark Stancil (Board of Registration/Elections); Catherine McDonald (Board of Registration/Elections); Jane Zoellick (Board of Registration/Elections); Gail Lee (Board of Registration/Elections); Jennifer Kimbell (Essential Theatre/Thank You for Support); Julian Bene (Commercial Appraisal); Paul Bolster (Commercial Appraisal); Kim Brooks (Board of Registration/Elections); Ben Eskew (Board of Registration/Elections); Leigh Eskew (Board of Registration/Elections); David Outten (Board of Registration/Elections); Kristin Nabers (Board of Registration/Elections); and Vic Tripp (Board of Registration/Elections)

2 Zoom Speakers: Ben Howard (Senior Services) and Adrian Coleman (Board of Registration/Elections)

5 Emailed Comments: Angeline Payne (Board of Registration/Elections); Kathy Whitehouse (Board of Registration/Elections); Jeffrey P. Ricker (Board of Registration/Elections); Mike Koblentz (Board of Registration/Elections); and Julie Allen (Board of Registration/Elections)

## COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

### Open & Responsible Government

#### 23-0372 Finance

Review and approval of June 7, 2023 Budget Soundings  
(PRESENTED/APPROVED)

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

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

#### 23-0373 Human Resources Management

Request approval to modify the classification section of the Classification and Compensation plan by adding the new titles of Legislative Policy Analyst (grade 19), Water Meter Specialist (grade 9), Senior Water Meter Specialist (grade 11), Director of Communications, Sheriff (grade 27) and by changing the salary range for the classification of Purchasing Cards Program Coordinator from grade 18 to grade 17. (APPROVED)

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, and Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman



**23-0374 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134894C-MH, Maintenance and Testing of Fire Intrusion Alarm Systems in the amount of \$35,975.00 with Entec Systems, Inc. (Suwanee, GA), to provide immediate replacement of obsolete fire alarm control panel at the Fulton County Health and Human Services facility located at 4700 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022. Effective upon BOC approval.

**(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, and Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**23-0375 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134949C-GS, Tree Removal Services Countywide in the amount of \$75,000.00 with ArborServ, Inc. (Lithonia, GA), to provide additional tree removal services and related debris clean-up in support of landscape renovation projects at selected Fulton County libraries approved and funded as a part of the FY 2023 facilities capital plan. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0376 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 20ITB125775C-CG (B), Electrical On Call Maintenance Services Countywide in the total amount of \$138,500.00 with ALL-N-1 Security Services, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide immediate replacement and installation of 1,065 emergency exit lights in the Fulton County Government Center and Justice Center Complexes located at 141 Pryor Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303 and 185 Central Avenue, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. Effective upon BOC approval.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**23-0377 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to accept a name change and authorizing the Department of Purchasing & Contract Compliance to reflect the name change of CBRE Heery, LLC (affiliate with CBRE Heery/Russell - a joint venture; Heery International, Inc./McAfee3; and CBRE Heery + Russell) to Turner & Townsend Heery, LLC. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0378 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Fulton County Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, RFP#23RFP041723K-JA, Design/Build Services for the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center in the total amount of \$11,377,902.00 with Hogan Construction Group, LLC (Norcross, GA), to provide Design/Build services for the construction of the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Unit at the Oak Hill Child Adolescent & Family Center located at 2805 Metropolitan Parkway, SW, Atlanta, GA 30315. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP) through the anticipated issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) after 217 calendar days or until completion of the construction project as determined by Fulton County. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Health and Human Services****23-0379 Community Development**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners to authorize the adoption and approval of the 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan to secure federal funds supporting projects and services needed by its low- and moderate-income citizens. Funding is as follows: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) in the amount of \$1,475,286.00 and HOME Investment Partnership Program in the amount of \$775,570.00. A Fulton County general fund match is not required for the CDBG Program. Fulton County uses its general fund to support the required 25% match for the HOME program. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**23-0380 Community Development**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Next Level Boys Academy, LLC in the amount of \$75,000.00 to provide services for youth and young adults in Fulton County; and to authorize the Chairman to disburse funds and execute and administer contracts, and other related documents consistent with any necessary agreement in support of this funding allotment. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**Justice and Safety****23-0381 Sheriff**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Sheriff's Office, 17RFP07012016B-BR, Inmate Medical Services with NaphCare of Fulton County, LLC (Birmingham, AL) in the amount of \$4,786,187.20 to provide physical and mental health services to inmates at the Fulton County Jail facilities which includes Rice Street Jail, Atlanta City Detention Center, and Alpharetta Jail . Effective July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**23-0382 Sheriff**

Request approval to accept the assignment and assumption of the contract - Sheriff's Office, pursuant to Article 29 (Assignability) of the Contract, the County consents to the assignment of Contract 17RFP07012016B-BR, Inmate Medical Services with NaphCare, Inc. to NaphCare of Fulton County, LLC and authorizing the Department of Purchasing & Contract Compliance to reflect the name change. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****23-0383 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article 2 (County Governing Authority), Division 2 (Rules of Order and Procedure), Section 101-66 (b)(1) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances in order to impose a distribution requirement before a member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners may place a proposed Resolution or Ordinance on the Agenda for consideration or final vote; to require that the proposed Resolution or Ordinance appear as a discussion item at the first meeting in which it is introduced and voted on at the second meeting; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD)**

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

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

**23-0384 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article 2 (County Governing Authority), Division I (Generally), to create a new section 101-75 of the Fulton County Code of Laws to provide a fair, open and transparent procedure for the Board of Commissioners to make Full Board Appointments to various Boards, Commissions, Taskforces, Committees, Councils and Authorities affiliated with, or operating on behalf of Fulton County, Georgia; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD)**

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

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

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

**23-0385 Board of Commissioners**

Request an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2, Section 2-80 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics regarding nominations to the Fulton County Board of Ethics to replace the disbanded Fulton County Personnel Board with the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce, Inc., and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED)**

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

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

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**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments****23-0386 Board of Commissioners****BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (APPROVED)**

The Board shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and resident of Fulton County, who shall be appointed in the following manner:

(1) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the last preceding regular general election held for the election of all members of the General Assembly received the largest number of votes in this state for members of the General Assembly;

(2) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the election described in paragraph (1) of this section received the second largest number of such votes; and,

(3) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County, which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the board.

Term = 2 Years

Term below expires: 6/30/2025

Patrice Perkins-Hooker (**Chair/BOC**)

Terms below expire: 6/30/2023

Dr. Kathleen Ruth (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

Mark Wingate (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

Aaron Johnson (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)

Teresa K. Smith Crawford (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)

**The Fulton County Republican Party nominated Mike Heekin for a Full Board appointment (effective July 1, 2023) to a term ending June 30, 2025.**

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

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

**23-0387 Board of Commissioners**

**BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

The Board shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and resident of Fulton County, who shall be appointed in the following manner:

- (1) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the last preceding regular general election held for the election of all members of the General Assembly received the largest number of votes in this state for members of the General Assembly;
- (2) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the election described in paragraph (1) of this section received the second largest number of such votes; and,
- (3) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County, which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the board.

Term = 2 Years

Term below expires: 6/30/2025  
Patrice Perkins-Hooker (**Chair/BOC**)

Terms below expire: 6/30/2023  
Dr. Kathleen Ruth (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)  
Mark Wingate (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)  
Aaron Johnson (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)  
Teresa K. Smith Crawford (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)

**The Fulton County Republican Party has nominated Jason Frazier for a Full Board appointment (effective July 1, 2023) to a term ending June 30, 2025.**

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

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

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

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

**23-0388 Board of Commissioners**

**BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (APPROVED)**

The Board shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and resident of Fulton County, who shall be appointed in the following manner:

(1) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the last preceding regular general election held for the election of all members of the General Assembly received the largest number of votes in this state for members of the General Assembly;

(2) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the election described in paragraph (1) of this section received the second largest number of such votes; and,

(3) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County, which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the board.

Term = 2 Years

Term below expires: 6/30/2025

Patrice Perkins-Hooker (**Chair/BOC**)

Terms below expire: 6/30/2023

Cathy Woolard (**Chair/BOC/Pitts**)

Dr. Kathleen Ruth (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

Mark Wingate (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

Aaron Johnson (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)

Teresa K. Smith Crawford (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)

**The Fulton County Democratic Party has nominated Teresa K. Smith Crawford for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2025.**

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

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

**Nay:** Pitts

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

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

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



**23-0389 Board of Commissioners**  
**BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (APPROVED)**

The Board shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and resident of Fulton County, who shall be appointed in the following manner:

- (1) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the last preceding regular general election held for the election of all members of the General Assembly received the largest number of votes in this state for members of the General Assembly;
- (2) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the election described in paragraph (1) of this section received the second largest number of such votes; and,
- (3) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County, which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the board.

Term = 2 Years

Term below expires: 6/30/2025  
Patrice Perkins-Hooker (**Chair/BOC**)

Terms below expire: 6/30/2023  
Cathy Woolard (**Chair/BOC/Pitts**)  
Dr. Kathleen Ruth (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)  
Mark Wingate (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)  
Aaron Johnson (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)  
Teresa K. Smith Crawford (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)

**The Fulton County Democratic Party has nominated Aaron Johnson for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2025.**

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

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

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

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



**23-0390 Board of Commissioners**  
**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS (APPROVED)**

The Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors shall be a five-member board, whose members shall be appointed by the full Board of Commissioners of Fulton County upon nomination by any member of the board of commissioners. Of the five members, at least one shall be a resident of the City of Atlanta, at least one shall be a resident of that portion of Fulton County that lies north of the municipal limits of the City of Atlanta, and at least one shall be a resident of that portion of Fulton County that lies south of the municipal limits of the City of Atlanta.

Term = 4 years.

Term below expires: 6/30/2023

Salma Ahmed (**Post 3**) (**BOC-North Fulton/Pitts**)

**Chairman Pitts and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman nominated Lee Morris to replace Salma Ahmed (Post 3), upon the completion of term (June 30, 2023), for a Full Board appointment to a term ending June 30, 2027.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

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

### **Justice and Safety**

**23-0391 Sheriff**  
Presentation and discussion of Fulton County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Bridging Plan. (**PRESENTED**)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****23-0392 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

**Nay:** Ellis

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, and Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 7, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, good morning ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Regular -- this Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is June 7, 2023. It is 10:02 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:** "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. You may be seated. Continue, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **23-0361**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda: All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any items?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On page 4 -- page 4, the second item, 23-0365, I'd like that removed for further discussion. Any others?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall; it is seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 4, Regular Meeting Agenda, 23-0368: Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have some amendments to today's Regular Meeting Agenda. First on page 7, item 23-0382: Request approval to accept the assignment and assumption of a contract, Sheriff. This item is requested to be moved and heard before item 23-0381."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Also, item to be revised 23-0381, Sheriff: Request approval to amend an existing contract to provide physical and mental health services to inmates at the Fulton County jail facilities. This item was revised to include an amended contract. On page 9 and 10, the Board of Registration and Election items, 23-0386 and 23-0387: These items were amended to revise the nomination language. So it would read the Fulton County Republican Party has nominated Mike Heekin and Jason Frazier instead of their replacing someone."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Repeat that. What do you mean it was revised?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Just revising the nomination language: It says on 386, the Fulton County Republican Party has nominated Mike Heekin for a Full Board Appointment to replace Dr. Kathleen Ruth. We're not replacing; they're just being nominated."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. Anything else?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "That's it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioners, anything?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On the full agenda, let's vote. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Before we continue, just two quick things; Number one, each of you should have received a communication from me yesterday regarding Housing Authority issue, and we'll be talking about that in Executive Session. And secondly, we've been polling each of you to find a convenient date for us to have a -- hopefully, the last work session; and we're all over the map. So what I'm going to recommend -- there's no date where more than one or two of us could be present; so what I'm going to recommend is that we'll have a follow-up work session after our next meeting which will be two -- what's that date? The 21st, so we can -- the 21st. If we can be diligent enough to limit the number of proclamations, et cetera, so that we can finish by around 2:45, and immediately go into a Special Call Meeting to deal with the budget because it's getting time sensitive now. So that we, the Board, will have to give the manager and his team some direction. So that's what I'd like to propose; and hopefully all of us will be able to attend. Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I mean, I think, that's a worthy potential, but I think it's also maybe -- maybe that's something we can -- you can share with us what the polling is so we can identify a date."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. We can get that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I only saw like two dates or something in terms of -- there wasn't like a whole lot of options that were provided."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. We'll go over that and I'll get the dates in."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To make a decision before we leave today. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Just on this subject: It would be my preference that we meet on a separate day. So if there's anyway to find that, that would be my preference."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Well, that's what we tried, but I mean there's one here, two there, one there, so it was -- anyway, all right, we'll get that -- we'll go over it again and see what we come up with; but it has to be done. All right. Madam Clerk, continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 4, **23-0369**, Ratification of Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes, May 3rd. Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 17th. And Special Call Post Agenda Minutes, May 22nd, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, is there a motion on the minutes? All right, motion to ratify or approve by Commissioner Barrett; it is seconded by Commissioner Hall. Cast your vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0370**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates: Proclamation recognizing 'Art Geter Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, just one? All right. Is he here? Well, you can read it. Let's go. We got one; praise the Lord."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right, Commissioner Arrington could not be here and asked that I present this proclamation to you. And, of course, I am honored to do so. Art Geter, reading your proclamation and just knowing your background; you are awesome. So the proclamation reads: WHEREAS, Art Geter organized and worked as President of the Association of West Cascade Communities to bring residents of unincorporated Fulton County and the City of Atlanta together to master plan the West Cascade Business District; and WHEREAS, Art Geter and the Association of West Cascade Communities developed Fulton County's first overlay for the unincorporated area which was later inspired the North and South Fulton unincorporated communities to do the same to master plan their communities; and WHEREAS -- excuse me -- Art Geter stood along with the Association of West Cascade Communities to define a vision of development and quality of life which attracted several grocery stores, multiple bank branches, a sitdown restaurant, conversion of the Greenbrier Library into a regional Library, a major home improvement store -- excuse me -- and several small businesses to serve the commercial needs of unincorporated South Fulton and in Southwest Atlanta which remains vibrant to this day -- yes it does; and WHEREAS, Art Geter stood firm on quality development to protect homeowners from intrusive development, by working with the Association of West Cascade Communities by stopping an eight apartment complex that would have abutted homes with values close to a quarter million at the

time; and WHEREAS, this decisive and tough action lead Fulton County government to acquire the land which a portion of it consisted of the Southwest Art Center. Fulton County has continued investment in the corridor because of this foundational work by Art Geter and the Associations of West Cascade Communities, by investing in decorative street lighting, building out Trammell Crow Park, and a fire station with the police precinct; and WHEREAS, many other nearby community groups, business associations, and nonprofits often point out the work done on West Cascade as their motivation to fix and improve other parts of Southwest Atlanta and South Fulton; and WHEREAS, Art Geter's vision and work exemplify where society grows great when men plant trees and whose shade they shall never sit; and future generations reap the benefits and the principal of Ujamaa shared work, wealth, and good in the world. And NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the legacy of community involvement exhibited by Art Geter and his dedication to the livelihood of his fellow South Fulton County citizens; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, June 7th, 2023 as 'Art Geter and the Association of West Cascade Communities Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations."

**ART GETER, RECIPIENT:** "First of all, I want to thank everybody for being here and I look at the Board of Commissioners, the Chairman about the only one that was here when I was carrying on and carrying on and making things happen. Chairman Rob Pitts and I -- I'm not going to give our age -- but we've been knowing each other about three decades. Okay. Now, I want to honor my wife of 61 years of marriage. We've been knowing each other about 70 years. Now, quickly, we are from Georgia; we spent a lot of time away from Georgia, military and all that. Born and raised -- she and I both Newnan, Georgia. Down the street, I call it; been a very wonderful wife for me. She's been in 12 different countries around the world and I've been in 27, just to give a little idea there. My community service -- I want to let you know that, I had that experience before I even came back to Georgia; in Germany, my first activity as a community person over 45 years of active service as a community serving person. My wife -- my wife was there with me all the time. We moved back to Georgia July the 9th, 1988, Cascade Road, where we live right now. We looked the place over and I told my wife, I said you know what, we done move down here, got some nice homes out here. We ain't got nowhere to go shop: nothing. And we started talking about it and got the word out and it start spreading like wildfire. With all the experience that I had, we pulled together 36 neighborhood organizations in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia, 36. From May's Manor to Camp Creek Parkway. Now, there were some challenges out there, but that was no problem. Being military and already doing all the community -- challenges have been the things of my life, and I want to make it very clear right now, it's not about me, even in the military. It's not about me in the community. When I be elected to do something, I come to do one thing and one thing only: Serve the people like they supposed to do. We could use some more of that today. Look at Southwest Atlanta particularly Cascade. My wife looked and I looked and said that was one -- we call it dilapidated gas station in the area. Saw a car coming up and down Cascade every now and then. Now, you can hardly get up and down Cascade. So I want to share with you we not only dealt with the community for getting businesses, we also dealt with safety



because the media had been put out there along the way on Cascade, but it wasn't only just Cascade, it would also Campbellton Road, the lighting stopped at Dansforth Road. Everything else was dark to Fulton Industrial. Look at the results now. Didn't have a grocery store. Some of you might not remember and some of you probably weren't around. Old Bruno's came, they went bankrupt. I was right there carrying on. There come a store named Ingles come in there, and I know they didn't fit to begin with, but we gave them a try. After a year they left, talking about boarding the place up. I said no, we don't board up buildings out here. After a challenge, guess who we got there now; Kroger. Publix Food Store another one. There was a person and his son went around with me from Cobb County, Dekalb where they had some Publix Food Stores and looked at some, and we came up with an idea what we would like to have, a Publix here on Cascade. Very quickly, there was some complainers: Well, you know, Publix, they come out of Florida, I said, yeah, okay. Then they say well, they got – I'm be finish in just a second, yes, sir. The community said they had a lawsuit about what, discrimination. I said, okay, that's why we want them in here. We get that straightened out. They're here; let's say now, Publix, Kroger, Walmart, Greater Food Store. They wanted to develop a lot of fast food stores. No, we're not going to do that. We're going to get a mixed development. We got it. We have it, and thank the Lord things work when you're doing things right. Y'all be blessed, glad to be here, appreciate what you're doing for me. I didn't know about this but that's, okay. Thank you."

**UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** "I know we're short on time; but can we get a picture?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, y'all, let's go now. All right. All right, Commissioners, back to the agenda for today. There was one item that should have been moved up. So, without any objection, the Sheriff's presentation, 23-0391 which appears on page 13. We need to have that heard before item 23-0381, which appears on page 7. So his presentation that before the NaphCare because they sort of go hand-in-hand. Without objection, will make that correction to the agenda."

**CLERK GRIER:** "So noted."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, Public Hearings, **23-0371**, 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 or submitting their comments in writing by registering on the county's website [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments

being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 50 speaker cards."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Fifty?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Fifty. Will the first five speakers, please come down. Councilmember Lee Hills, Josh McKoon, Stephanie Endres, Jill Trammell, and Julie Adams."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, speakers, a couple of – there's no time limit with respect to public officials; but the general public, you're limited to a maximum of two minutes. When you have 15 seconds remaining of the two minutes, I'll simply say 15 seconds, and that's your clue to begin to complete your -- to conclude your remarks. We have 50 people who've signed up. So two times 50 is 100, 100 divided by what, 60; will give us an excess of the 30 minute, so we'll make a decision when the 30 minutes are up. It's 10:25 a.m. First speaker."

**COUNCILMEMBER LEE HILLS:** "Thank you. My name is Lee Hills. I'm a Roswell city councilmember, and I want to start by saying thank you so much for your service to Fulton County and the citizens in this county. I have lived here for nearly 23 years and I have no intention of leaving, so you're stuck with me and I want to support you in every way that I can. So I wanted to clear that first and then secondly, I'd like to ask you -- I know you already considered this by prayer, and by research, and by conviction in your heart, to strongly consider voting, yes, for Jason Frazier and for Mike Heekin today as candidates for appointees for the BRE. I know one of the gentlemen, and I've researched the other, and I feel very confident in both of their backgrounds and what they're able to accomplish to make Fulton County even a better place to live. So I hope that you'll vote, yes, for both of these gentlemen, and I will continue to serve my Fulton County residents and Roswell well while also serving you. Thank you so much for this morning."

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

**JOSH MCKOON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'm Josh McKoon. I'm a Fulton County resident and an attorney. I'm frankly surprised that these appointments were not placed on your Consent Agenda. The county ordinance is pretty clear that once these names are forwarded, that the appointing authority shall appoint the recommended appointees. I hope that you'll vote today in conformity with the clear language of the ordinance to put these nominees on the Board of Elections. There are three things that are going to happen if that doesn't take place today. The first thing that's going to happen is it's going to be yet another blow to public confidence in election administration in Fulton County when we really don't need that. The second thing that's going to happen is someone is going to go to court to seek a Writ of Mandamus to get the county to follow the clear and unambiguous language of the ordinance. And the

third thing that will happen is there will be a complaint filed with the State Elections Board because no one wants one party to control election administration in Fulton County, which is the situation that will be set up if this Board fails to act today. So I would just urge you to do the right thing. Follow the clear and unambiguous language of the ordinance and place these nominees on the Board of Elections in conformity with state law and simply follow your oath of the office. Thank you."

**STEPHANIE ENDRES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. My name is Stephanie Endres. County Ordinance Section 1430-33 clearly states that the Republican Party Chair, that's me, shall nominate two individuals and that the governing authority in Fulton County will appoint, that's you. I am proud to nominate Jason Frazier and Michael Heekin to the Board of Registration and Elections. To share with you our process, I put a call out for three weeks, had individuals self-nominate, they submitted a statement of interest as well as a resume. I set up an interview panel, it was handled very professionally. We had interviews over a two-week period. Equal time was allotted to each candidate, same questions were asked. We explored answers and ultimately deliberated, then the interview panel made a recommendation to me which I agreed with, took it to the executive community of over 70 people, and they were clearly affirmed. Backgrounds were reviewed. Their work history was reviewed, and I'm excited to say that they are great stewards of the Fulton County Republican Party. I would not have nominated somebody who would not have been a great ambassador not only for the Republican Party, but also for Fulton County. I'm excited about being able to work with you all because the Board of Commissioners should have oversight over the Board of Registration and Elections, and I'm excited that these nominees will definitely present some strong professionalism. I want to thank Dr. Kathleen Ruth and Mark Wingate for their service. They definitely served the party and served the people of Fulton County, but it's now time for a change, because our elections are going to be viewed nationwide. The Fulton County -- we the people in Fulton County are not just Democrats. We identify as Republicans, we identify as Libertarians, we identify as Independents. Therefore, when you represent, you represent all the we, the people."

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

**STEPHANIE ENDRES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I'm excited to work with you and we, the people of Fulton County are Fulton strong. And I thank you for your time."

**JILL TRAMMELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Jill Trammell Cuseck. I am the treasurer for the Fulton County GOP, and I'm also a former candidate for State House of Representatives in House District 50. I've stood before you previously in regards to the zero Election Day votes that we had in two of my largest precincts; JC10 and JC11 where Brad Raffensperger and the other candidate that I ran against, Vincent Kramer also live. When I tried to go in front, I did go in front of the Board of Registration and Elections, and I asked to contest the election and get a verified hand count of the ballots that was placed in the machines. The same exact request that was done in DeKalb County with the Democrat, which once they counted

those actual ballots, 3,810 of them had not even been tabulated. Instead, I was dismissed and I was told to take it to court. I took it to court and unlawfully it was rejected for form. I talked to the Superior Court judge who also dismissed me. Those are election laws that were not followed and elections have consequences. We can no longer afford as a community to allow these things to continue. We must follow the law. I will continue to serve in any way that I can and that's what I'm doing now. And I would implore you to look at the qualifications of the people that we're asking you to appoint. They have represented the people well and while they have brought forth challenges to the voter registration, this is what we need to do. We need to --"

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

**JILL TRAMMELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and we will do better. So I ask you, please vote for our appointees today and let us work together in the future so that we all have a voice. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Jamie Parrish, Ginger Bradshaw, Christine Probst, David Callahan, and Debra Alexander."

**JULIE ADAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Can I go? My name is Julie Adams, and I'm here as a Fulton County resident. Contrary to prior public comment and news reports, the Board of Commissioners has no choice in the matter of the two political party nominees for BRE members. The law is very clear on the matter. All of you Commissioners shall appoint board members put forward to the BRE today. Any of you that vote, no on any BRE members set forth, will be breaking the law. The Board's history shows that for the past ten years and probably for all time, there has never been a Commissioner who has voted, no for a BRE member that has been put forth from a political party. Every single time all four political nominations have served on the BRE. Why is that? Because past Board of Commissioners have understood that it would be lawless to vote, no for any of these nominees. In conclusion, I want to ask you all to do the right thing and do not break the law. Thank you."

**JAMIE PARRISH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, my name is Jamie Parrish. I'm a 32-year resident of Fulton County; and I haven't been paying attention to this Commission very much over the past few years, but over the last few months I have paid attention. And what I found is a group of elected individuals -- adults who sit in a room and call people names like Karen, and for taxpayers like me and many people in this room to keep our white privilege north of I-20, I suggest that people who say we should keep our white privilege north of I-20, to maybe pass an ordinance where we keep our tax money north of I-20. Secondly, secondly, I'm a gay man. I'm a minority, and I have never ever in my life seen someone use their minority status to be so intellectually dishonest in rhetoric in this room. I can't imagine going through my life going well, you did disagree with me so you must be homophobic. You disagree with me, so you must be homophobic, and calling people Karen, really? Is that what an elected -- is that what we sent y'all here for? Okay, so moving on, we have nominated two Republicans to take

positions on this Board of Elections, and the law's very clear. It doesn't say you might appoint. It says you shall appoint. There has not been a group in over ten years say no, not one Commissioner has ever voted, no. Don't be the first. Thank you."

**GINGER BRADSHAW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, everyone. My name is Ginger Bradshaw, and I live in Sandy Springs and I've lived there for long time, I don't know exactly. But first of all, like many of the other speakers have said, these appointments are about following the law. Would everyone in the audience, if you believe we should follow the law, would you please stand up? People have taken off from work. They'd taken a day of vacation, and my job is flexible. But I just have come to say -- I gave you a handout of an abandoned house, have you gotten that? There's no reason these appointees should not move forward today. The Republican appointees have spent tireless hours of their own time working to make our elections more efficient. This benefits all of us. It's not a Democratic or a Republican thing. Cities are opting out -- now cities are opting out of using Fulton County for their municipal elections because their too costly. Charging the cities for ghost registrations, which is been shown by Mr. Frazier's work and the city's own recent research, I think they moved 48,000 voters into the challenge category recently, based on Mr. Frazier making the challenges that he made. I've provided an example on the handout that you've given, it's a picture of an abandoned house that had 20 ghost registrations and obviously, your registration needs to be where you live. It's a waste of hard-earned money of city and Fulton County residents --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds, ma'am."

**GINGER BRADSHAW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- okay. Ghost registrations, I'm a poll manager, and ghost registrations cost the county money because we have more equipment, more polling places, more people, more training based on those. Thank you."

**CHRISTINE PROBST, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, Christine Probst, Atlanta resident. I'm here in support of the nominations of Mike Heekin and Jason Frazier to the Board of Registration and Elections. Mr. Frazier, in particular, has spent the last year uncovering issues with our voter rolls. Instead of thanking him, some have criticized him. I've watched all of the hearings. I have looked at all the data, and let me share with you what I have found: First, Mr. Frazier's submissions were accurate. The registration department reviewed everything that he submitted and they confirmed over 95 percent of his submissions. In addition, as you've heard, the registration department recently published a May report where they show 48,000 registration issues. So, I ask is there anyone here criticizing our registration team for conducting the same analysis that Mr. Frazier did? Second, Mr. Frazier is upholding election law. By law, voters must register with a valid residential address. Not a vacant lot, not a business address, and not a UPS store. This is so important because this ensures voters get the right ballot when they go to vote. Right? I mean, I hope we can all agree that that's a good thing. We want voters to have the correct ballot. Mr. Frazier is helping improve the voter

experience. Accurate addresses mean that voters vote the correct ballot, like I mentioned. They receive their absentee ballot if they requested. They receive notifications from the elections department --"

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

**CHRISTINE PROBST, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and accurate voter rolls also improve efficiency at the polls reducing wait times. And as mentioned, it will reduce the cost. He mentioned 20 thousand duplicate voters, that's at least 10,000 ghost voters that we shouldn't be paying for. Thank you very much."

**DAVID CALLAHAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is David Callahan. I live in the City of South Fulton in District 6. I'm here to speak on behalf of Jason Frazier who is a public servant. I'm also here to speak against what I'm calling ghost voters. Ghost voters are people who are ineligible to vote. Sometimes they are dead voters. Sometimes they are in Georgia, could be even a dead cat, I suppose. They may have moved out of the state or moved out of the county. They -- maybe duplicate registrations. I worked the municipal early voting in 2021 at the South Fulton Annex, had a gentleman come in and he wanted to make sure he was still eligible to vote. When I looked him up and I found out he actually had three voter registrations. All three was the same driver's license number, same first and last name, same date of birth. The voters in Georgia and Fulton County think and believe that the government actually keeps the voter rolls clean. They are mistaken. People like Jason Frazier are doing the work for the government and, therefore, he is a servant and he needs to be in a position -- an official position where he can do that job. Some people like ghost voters on the rolls. Some people think that are an opportunity to help get their candidates over the finish line. Others recognize that ghost voters are a threat to our democracy --"

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

**DAVID CALLAHAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I hope that the people here today will make a decision what they believe. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Michael Gordon, Beckie Parker, Rob Cunningham, Alexa Finke, and Caroline Jeffords."

**DEBRA ALEXANDER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you for serving us. I'm Debra Alexander, and I was born and raised in Southwest Fulton County. Generations of my family have resided in Fulton County, and I just want to say that never in all these years have I seen such opposition or objections to filling these two Republican seats. Mark Wingate and Dr. Ruth have both served several terms and they have never faced such opposition. There are no objections to them. Democrats say Republicans are committing voter suppression and denying votes. Democrats are the vote deniers here; they're being hypocrites. Democrats want to object to everything for what purpose? So they control it all? Isn't that voter suppression? So when two



Democrats are up for new election, new seat, shall we deny them as well? Republicans have the right to nominate two seats and they should be able to do so without objection; the same as Democrats. What is the objection now just because they found many illegal votes in the system? Are they afraid that we're going to find more changing the outcome of the voting? Fair and free elections are what we want. We do not want votes that are corrupt, incorrect, or false. I hope you want the same. I also hope that you, our Commissioners, all believe in truth, honesty, and integrity. Republicans do, and these two gentlemen need to be sworn in and elected today. Thank you."

**MICHAEL GORDON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Michael Gordon, Fulton County. I trust the Fulton County Republican Party, and I support both of their nominees, Jason Frazier and Michael Heekin. Regardless of party affiliation, everyone should value and promote election integrity. It is obvious that Jason values election integrity as much of anyone, since he took the initiative and work hard at no expense of the county to challenge some 30,000 suspect voter roll records because he cares about election integrity. And 97 percent of his challenges were accepted by the BRE as invalid records that they then disqualified. What Jason did was amazing, and this Board as well as all of Fulton County should be grateful to Jason for his contribution. Some people complained that Jason is an election denier who was trying to prevent legitimate voters from having the opportunity to vote. This is complete nonsense. First of all, Jason did not disqualify one person from the voter rolls. The BRE did that because they agreed with Jason. If any real eligible voter was canceled, then concerned citizens should complain about the BRE, not about Jason. Did any of these complainers help clean up the voter rolls? Are these complainers upset that Jason help promote election integrity? Do these complainers want inaccurate voter rolls? Do they want deceased people or people using nonresidential or nonexistent addresses to vote? All such votes are illegal. Do the complainers want our election laws to be violated? If so, then they are law deniers and truth deniers, and their complaint should be seen for what they are, pure nonsense. The only thing Jason has done is to help ensure election integrity in Fulton County by challenging the BRE to maintain accurate voter roll records. Jason is a hero, not a villain, and for that and for the fact that both Jason or Michael --

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

**MICHAEL GORDON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** -- are Republican nominees, this Board should unanimously appoint both as per Georgia law. Thank you."

**BECKIE PARKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, thank you. Beckie Parker, longtime resident. I want to thank you on this Board of Commissions for what you do for Fulton County. This is a very influential county. The people who work here have effect not only this county, but the whole country. So I respect you, and people like Mr. Geter today, inspire me, because I want to see that more and more in Fulton County. I'm here because it's come to my attention that a lot of people have opposed Jason Frazier and Michael. And I want to just say please vote for them today. I know Jason personally. I know his heart is to serve this county. All we're looking for is people that will follow the

law and serve this county. Mr. Geter inspired me today. I'm here because I'm just an average citizen that wants to see the best done for Fulton County. Thank you so much."

**ROB CUNNINGHAM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Rob Cunningham, a Fulton County resident born in Georgia in 1962, lived here my whole life, two decades in Fulton County. I want to thank each of you, first of all. I want to honor you and respect you each for your service. I know it takes a lot. There's a lot of unsung effort and long hours that you put into this. I served our country as an Air Force combat veteran. The people that stood up behind me when they said they stand for law, they are serving their country, and I know in respect that you are serving your country. We all serve our country for the right to disagree, for iron to sharpen iron. We do not have to always disagree, but we have served our country for the right to uphold law. That we did not fight for. No one's serves or died for the right to break the law. We can love one another and come to different conclusions. All that I ask is that the law be equally applied to both sides. I know Jason personally. He is a man of honor and he is a man of integrity. At the end of the day, we are not about election denying. We don't deny that an election took place. The issue here is treason. To interfere with election law, the infrastructure of election law in the United States of America is an attack on our vital national infrastructure. Anyone found guilty attacking the vital national infrastructure of the United States of America is guilty of treason. So the question is not did an election happen --"

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

**ROB CUNNINGHAM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- or did it not. The question is did treason happen or did it not? And I honor and respect each one in this room to want to find the answer to that question. That's something that we cannot let go unanswered. Thank you for your service, okay."

**ALEXA FINKE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Alexa Finke, and I am a Fulton County resident for 32 years. And thank you for your time today. The help America Vote Act of 2002 makes it federal law to maintain accurate voter registration lists. The federal government pays millions of dollars to Georgia. By law if a county has a Board of Registrations and Elections, it is their responsibility to maintain these voter registration lists. According to the Federal Elections Assistance Commission, Fulton County Georgia in 2020 had 113.9 percent of the citizen voting age population registered to vote. That's right. Again, Fulton County had 113.9 percent of citizens over 18 registered to vote. Fulton has fallen short of maintaining our voter registrations. Jason Frazier is a citizen that felt these numbers didn't make sense, they didn't add up. He followed Georgia law and he put in countless hours to help what is the BRE's responsibility. In large part, his volunteer hours were dedicated to duplicate voters. This is residents that have two to 11 voter registration numbers. Jason's dedication to supporting the BRE and the elections department has helped support them to start following federal and state laws. Jason's volunteer work has been within the framework of the state and federal laws. Anyone voting against the GOP nominee for a position on



the BRE will clearly be breaking the law. And you shall vote, yes, today to stay within the law. Thank you so much."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Katie Benson, Matt Rowenczak, Dane Seibert, Anita Hogan, Clay Jones."

**CAROLINE JEFFORDS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'm Caroline Jeffords, And I'm here not only in support of the appointees, Mr. Heekin and Mr. Frazier; but also in support of the law, specifically the ordinance that say that you shall appoint them, not that you might or maybe. Mr. Pitts, I don't know if you remember, but we go to the same nail salon, and I run into you quite a bit."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, I thought I recognized you."

**CAROLINE JEFFORDS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And we have -- we've spoken. He's got good-looking nails and toes. And so, in January of 2021 was the first time that I ran into you at the nail salon, and I proceeded to tell you about -- I proceeded to tell you about the things and discrepancies that I have witness as a recount monitor at the Georgia World Congress Center, and then you told me that the law matters. You told me that my voice matters and I hope you still feel that way because I feel you all have a duty -- the oath of your office that you do have a duty to represent everyone, not just one party or another party, we're all Fulton County residents. and I ask that you please respect that and please follow the law because elections have consequences as well as not following the law has consequences; and I urge you all to follow your oath of office that you each took and allow all of Fulton County residents to have a voice. And I appreciate your time today and your consideration. Thank you."

**KATIE BENSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, my name is Katie Benson. Lest I should be falsely identified as anything other than I am, I would like to be very clear. I identify as a strong independent woman who favors free and fair elections: a woman who will choose to look at facts many of these facts produced by Fulton County. They are as follows: It is fact that it is legally required that Fulton County maintain clean voter rolls. It is true that Fulton County itself found more than 48,000 illegitimate registrations, and that was just the initial report. Based on last year's spent, it is true that registered voter's cost the county around \$37 per voter. Cleaning voter rolls doesn't cost the county money; it actually saves the county money to clear illegitimate registrations. It is fact that Mr. Frazier has not been paid by the county up to this date. Instead, he consistently donates his own time. He's not wasting any funds as he has not taken any. It is a Georgia voter's right to challenge, then go through procedure, hearing, and right of appeal. And a resounding number that were challenged, of almost a 100 percent has been deemed verified as illegitimate by the BRE. As the judge once stated in the production of 12 angry men, it is now your duty to sit down and try and separate the facts from the fancy. I have presented the facts today. Some facts I do wish were not true."

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Matt Rowenzcak, Fulton County resident. When it comes to these four appointments this morning, let me share some context of what you've heard. No Commissioner has ever voted, no on one of these nominees. Yet, at least you, Commissioner Barrett, all of a sudden appear to be attempting to subvert this code; on what grounds? When it comes to Mr. Frazier, I have not heard one comment opposing him that contains any substance. No data. No laws violated. No facts. If you don't believe in properly maintain the voter roll, you don't believe in following the law. You don't believe in being a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars, and you don't believe in protecting the right to vote. Commissioner Hall, I talked to one your staffers yesterday. You all said you were looking into potential red flags. I want to share some red flags with you: On July 14th of last year, during a registration challenge hearing, there were 36 fake addresses registered on Lee Street in Atlanta. Those fake addresses were confirmed by this County's GIS department, yet Aaron Johnson was the sole board member to not uphold the challenges. Does that sound like quote, 'I will at all times truly and partially and faithfully perform my duties in accordance with Georgia law to the best of my ability'. That, by the way, is part of his oath. Last year during the primary, there were three board members including nominees, Aaron Johnson and Teresa Crawford on June 5th who recertified the primary with literally no documentation. No data, no numbers, nothing. How does a board member quote, make a true and perfect return of such primaries and elections when they have absolutely nothing in front of them? Again, that quote is only part of their oath. How about we focus on appointment nominees that haven't violated the law? Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Excuse me, sir, just for one moment. Colleagues, the 30 minutes have expired. We've heard from 17 speakers. We have 33 more. What's your pleasure?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I say let them speak. I mean look at what Atlanta City Council endured on Monday."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I understand. I understand."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We can endure it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any objections? Any objections? All right. Okay. Continue. So let's do this, we have 33 more. It's 10:57. Let's go until 12 o'clock. You have the floor, sir."

**DANE SEIBERT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** Thank you, Commissioners, for your service. My name is Dane Seibert. I've been a Fulton County resident for a total of almost 30 years, and I just want to say, that I'm kind of surprised we're here today. I'm here to support Jason and Michael; and I just question why we're here when the law is very clear about what should be done here. I just particularly want to talk about Jason Frazier I know well. And I want to tell you about the work he's done on his own to do

what the county should have gone. And I want to say that I'm appalled that he got vilified by a lot of people in this room, your staff, and certainly the article in the AJC; absolutely unfounded. Incredible. So I'd like for everybody to back up, take a breath, and go what is wrong with Jason Frazier? Here's a man who's dedicated himself hundreds and hundreds of hours to find all these challenges. You know, people throw election -- you know, integrity around like it's you know, nothing. Well, some of us take it very seriously. A lot of people challenge everybody saying oh, they're election deniers. Let me just say this. Everybody is an election denier on both sides of the aisle when you think every election is perfect. And when everybody is says that election in 2020 and the last election was all perfect, we've seen nothing but people having recounts and showing that it wasn't perfect, and these rule -- and these challenges, many of those people did vote. So let me tell you something, it wasn't perfect. So let's fix that, and let's don't deny these men on this board. Thank you."

**ANITA HOGAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Anita Hogan, Sandy Springs, high school teacher. I'm here in favor of the nomination of Mike Heekin and Jason Frazier to the Registration and Elections Board. Who are these people? Mike Heekin, impressive resume. Accounting and law degrees from Florida, MBA from Wharton, retired Army Captain, CEO and COO of several companies, and on the board at other companies and foundations. He also volunteers for veterans organizations. Michael brings a strong knowledge of election law, leadership experience, strategic thinking, and financial expertise to the Board of Elections and Registration. Jason Frazier has a master's degree in finance and business and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He has led very large engineering projects and managed budgets over \$10 million. Mr. Frazier has project management expertise with experience in Lean Six Sigma training and process improvement. Mr. Frazier is detailed oriented, analytical and highly organized. He will help identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and accuracy of our elections while on the board. Please uphold the law as stated in Section 14-33 to appoint these two nominees to the Board. Thank you for your time."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Nia Corsten, Brian Dunn, Anna Dennis, Joseph Medley, and Candy Muldowney."

**CLAY JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I think this happened to me last time. Am I going?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**CLAY JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. My name is Clay Jones from Fulton County. I'm starting to see a theme here. I think I might leave my kids with Jason Frazier if I ever -- if I ever die. I'm here simply in response to the character assassinations I've witnessed of Jason. I'm just a simple man from Alpharetta; it's a great city, by the way. I'm here to testify to Jason's character as I've gotten to know him over the past year or so. What I have not seen in Jason is some highly partisan, deep state conservative plant taking actions to suppress voters. That's not the guy that I've

gotten to know. What I have seen in Jason is a man fairly close to nonpartisan. I've had conversations with him who sincerely wants to get to know -- get to the truth to the best of his ability. And honestly, he's someone that I think we owe a debt to. As I spend each day working on my business and spending time with my family, Jason has been spending countless hours trying to help clean up the voter rolls, and that's something every serious person knows it is a serious problem. So I want to say publicly thank you, Jason, for all your hard work on behalf of the people of Fulton County. Thank you."

**NIA CORSTEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Nia Corsten, Fulton County resident. I'm here today to demonstrate my enthusiastic support for the nominations and approval of the appointments of Jason Frazier and Mike Heekin to the Fulton County BRE. Both men are immensely qualified and have extensive involvement in Georgia elections through volunteer efforts; their time on their dime including final draft input into SB 202 and many other aspects of recent Fulton County elections. As you're aware and as required by the law, County Ordinance 14-33, the BOC is required to accept the Fulton County GOP nominations. Nonetheless, at the last BOC meeting, a flock of misguided activist citizen spoke out against Mike and Jason's nomination parroting the same tired old and played out arguments; why? They claimed they are election deniers and were the cause of needless time-consuming paperwork by the BRE. I'll ask you to be the judge. First of all, Mike Heekin is an accomplished attorney and is legally bound to adhere to all law of Georgia laws including state election law. Certainly, he would not restrict disparagement and damage his reputation. As for Mr. Frazier, he's been personally responsible for identifying over 20,000 voter registration issues with nearly a hundred percent of those challenges reviewed and accepted by the registration department. These rolls included 25,000 duplicate registrations, 6,000 registrations of invalid addresses, 2,000 registrations with no addresses, and the list goes on, but I don't have enough time to discuss them. Clean and updated voter rolls is the job of Fulton County and the BRE. It appears that Jason Frazier did their job pro bono. So I'll ask you, again to be the judges. Who is trying to improperly interfere with our elections? Mike and Jason or these activists using false claim and intimidation --"

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

**NIA CORSTEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- let that sit with each of you for a moment. In closing, it's worthy of publicly reminding all of us that free and fair election are essential to our country's democracy. It is not a Democrat or Republican issue. It's an American issue."

**BRIAN DUNN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Brian Dunn, a resident of Fulton County. I've read recently an article that the work being done on voter registration, roll inaccuracy is a waste of time, especially the time of the employees of Fulton. With the receipt of thousands of examples of voter registration inaccuracies, Fulton County accepted 95 percent of Mr. Frazier's challenges. About 20,000 duplicate registrations were found, 2,000 had no address listed, about 4,000 were nonexistent, 36 of those were fake and confirmed by the Fulton GIS Department. How does one

register without an address? Registrations must be residential yet 2,000 were found to be gas stations, MARTA station, self-storage centers, postal buildings without P. O. boxes. How about an abandoned house at 850 Oak Street with 20 registered voters, several registered the same day. Eighteen have different last names. This is how Fulton runs our elections? After this, Fulton looked further into this itself and discovered an additional 48,000 bad voter registrations. Is this rampid incompetence? Mr. Frazier has volunteered hundreds of hours of personal time doing Fulton County's job. As a matter fact, it's the law that Fulton do what Mr. Frazier has done. Why is Mr. Frazier being smeared by volunteering his personal time and effort by following the law? The person's talking garbage about this man are either ignorant of the laws in Fulton, partisan, or perhaps they have their own agenda in maintaining these registrations. If Fulton follows the laws and removes all of these thousands of illegitimate registrations, just the 48,000 alone, can save Fulton taxpayers more than \$1.5 million. I'm asking what are we doing here? We're talking about good people on both sides. This is an American thing --"

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

**BRIAN DUNN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- we must work all together to enforce corrections, for fairness of all. Stop making this a nasty political circus. I support the placement of civically interested persons like Jason and Mike to the BRE. We need people like them who care and are competent. Thank you."

**JOSEPH MEDLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Joseph Medley. I'm a resident of Fulton County. I'm here simply to admonish each of you to uphold the law and appoint the two people submitted by the Chair of the Georgia GOP to the positions of the election board. Thank you very much."

**CANDY MULDOWNNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Candy Muldownney, Fulton County resident. I am here today in support of Jason Frazier and Mike Heekin for the board positions on the BRE. There seems to be some criticism regarding Mr. Frazier's registration challenges. He's only trying to help as a concerned citizen who has spent countless hours of his time researching Fulton County voter rolls. He has found thousands of inaccuracies. It is supposed to be the election department's responsibility to do this work. If they were doing their job, then why have so many mistakes been found? How can no one in the department notice a person's name as no-name, no-name, or a street address as missing address, street? It sounds like reckless clerical errors. Why haven't these been found and corrected? Why does it take a concerned citizen to do the job of the registrar department? It doesn't seem like the Jarvis system or Eric are working. Maybe that should be the focus instead of the attacks on Mr. Frazier's work. I think both candidates will be a great asset to the board because they have integrity and will follow the law and care deeply about our sacred right to vote. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Orien Roy, Kevin Muldowney, Henry Fellows, Sarah Pedro, and Anita Lane."

**AUNNA DENNIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commission, my name is Aunna Dennis. I'm a resident of Fulton County born and raised over 30 years. I am also the Executive Director of Common Cause Georgia, which is a state and local based organization that favors transparency, advocacy, in elections and administration across the state. I'm here to talk more about what's happening here in Georgia when it comes to elections and particularly in Fulton County and why we value transparency. People who have been appointed or wants to be appointed to this board have been deemed election deniers. They have created distractions; they have bottlenecked our county's elections. Leading toward to May '24, our county is going to have more scrutiny; literally the world is watching our county and watching our state. We definitely implore the board and we implore the County Commission to really think about what these appointments means to the integrity of our elections, and also the value of how citizens feel about what happens in our elections in Fulton County, and what happens in our elections across the state. Because down goes Fulton, down goes the state of Georgia. So I definitely want you all to think clearly and have more discretion around what is called an election denier, and how we position ourselves, and our country and this state, and how we value what happens at Fulton County elections. As a person who is a very passionate about elections, it's been my life's work, I know I may look young, I'm not. But it's been my life's work. I enjoy elections. I enjoy watching the elections, getting to the intricate workings of it, and I have a faith and confidence in our Board of Elections --"

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

**AUNNA DENNIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and they are will to do their job. So I would like you all to do your jobs and really look at these election deniers and think clearly about what happens next for Fulton County. Thank you."

**ORIENT ROY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello my name is Orien Roy, I'm an Alpharetta resident. I've lived in Alpharetta/Milton for about ten years now. I just come here to voice my support for the Republican nominees for the Board of Registration and Elections and tell you about representation. So I graduated from Cambridge High School back in 2018. I wasn't allowed to be in the Republican club at my high school because I was an actor; I wanted to be an actor. And then after the teacher who was the head of that club left, there is no Republican representation at that high school leading to just an adverse effect on the students there not being able to voice their concerns about what they have they going on in the school. That is why I worked so hard to make sure that Republicans are represented and engaged in my community. I have gotten 50 people to become precinct chairs in the Republican Party in the state of Georgia, and I will continue to do so. Not only that, but as a Catholic it is my mission to have as many children as possible. So in three generations -- you can laugh, that's, okay. People call me crazy for it, and that's fine. I will have a thousand Republicans in



three generations. That is my goal because I am working to make sure that every single election will have a Republican in office, so thank you very much."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "That's a very fertile dude. Kevin Muldowney, Fulton County resident. Jason Frazier is a trained engineer. He possesses an uncanny understanding of systems and processes. He was able to identify thousands of inaccurate voter registrations. The BRE has agreed with this finding and has begun the process of removing close to a hundred percent of these illegal registrations. This has exposed a real problem with Fulton's voter rolls. So much so, that the Fulton BRE hired a third party to examine those voter rolls. This third-party found another 48,000 illegal voter registrations. The BRE has since started the process of removing these additional illegitimate registrations that they found. I've made a copy of the elections department voter list maintenance update, and this has been distributed. There have been wild claims that Mr. Frazier, being an election denier, a threat to democracy, all the standard talking points that pry on motion, completely void of facts. The facts of the matter is that between Jason's work and the resulting work that the BRE was then embarrassed into performing, has exposed the reality that close to 10 percent of our voter rolls were illegitimate. These illegal registrations once removed will result in real savings to the county of hundreds -- of hundreds of thousands if not millions of taxpayer dollars. It would be unprecedented for this Body to turn down Jason's nomination, and I believe illegal. As was mentioned in Municipal Code 14-33 reads, two members shall be appointed by the governing authority for nominations of each party. It is so worded --"

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

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I cannot allow a partisan option. His work as a citizen has only protected the sanctity of our voter rolls, and has pushed the department -- and in fulfilling their legal responsibility to clean up these rolls. He's been doing the job already and exceptionally deserving of this appointment. Thank you very much."

**HENRY FELLOWS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Commissioner Pitts and other Commissioners, my name is Henry Fellows; I'm a resident and property owner in Fulton County. I'm here on a different subject, the subject of the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors to support the nomination of Lee Morris to be made a member of that board. He's well qualified for the position. He does commercial real estate development work. He's very familiar with commercial real estate valuations, and he can add a great deal to the board. I'd like to share something with you. I'm here in three capacities: One, as a homeowner, two as a grandparent -- I've got three grandchildren at one of our APS schools, Morris Brandon School, and my daughter-in-law teaches there. My daughter also has been a teacher of the Sparks school. I'm also here on a pro bono basis on behalf of low income individuals who own residential property in Atlanta and who are struggling to pay their ad valorem taxes. Folks, we have a massive imbalance in valuations of commercial real estate in Fulton County and residential properties."

Particularly the so-called trophy properties in Buckhead and Midtown which have gotten enormous tax breaks to develop properties that they would develop anyway. And so, what's happened is these developers have gotten away in not paying their fair share of real estate taxes --"

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

**HENRY FELLOWS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- all of us residential as residential owners are subsidizing. Let's put a stop to it. Thank you very much.

**SARAH PEDRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Sarah Pedro, I'm a Fulton County resident. First, I have to say that the proclamation for Mr. Art Geter this morning was one of the best I've seen. Such a deserving and inspiring community hero. Thank you for recognizing him and his dedicated service to making Georgia a better place to live. He has indeed. He saw a problem and he didn't wait for someone else to fix it. It's a good parlay into why I'm here. I'm here today to voice my support for Jason Frazier who saw a problem and didn't wait for someone else to address it. This is not partisan or political. It is simply support for the diligence and competence that I have personally witness in Mr. Frazier. To my knowledge, he has not been working for either party prior to his involvement in the voter roll cleanup effort. He is just a concerned citizen with strong data analysis experience who has selflessly donated his expertise to our state at no cost to us. The Republicans were the only side to give them him a platform to voice his concerns. So Democrats, if you're mad about that, that's on you. If anything, we should be grateful for such a dedicated citizen who has spent his own time and resources cleaning up what has become an unrighteous mess over time. Clean voter rolls benefit both parties, and if you don't think so, then I question your integrity as a voter. When you purchase an airline ticket, your name has to exactly match the name on your license or they may not allow you the plane. Is flying a plane more -- flying on a plane more sacred a right than voting? When I registered to vote, I validated all information I entered and went back and checked my information in the system prior to voting. Why wouldn't everyone do this? The hit piece in the AJC highlighted the two to three voter challenges that were clerical and neglected to mention the thousands of challenges --"

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

**SARAH PEDRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- related to UPS store registrations, illegal multiple registrations, to an empty lot also illegal; registrations with no name along with other -- a litany of other issues, very deceitful of AGC journalists. We as Georgia citizens just want clean voter rolls and one vote per vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers -- next five speakers, please come down: Stephanie Miller, Mara Gaudio, Paul Hershen, Brett Chromy, and Jami Tucker."



**ANITA LANE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. My name is Anita Lane, and I wanted to use my two minutes to bless you and thank you. I am just shocked. I have been participating watching for several months and you guys have been through a lot. I've heard some pretty nasty comments, and I just want to let you know that you're great people. We appreciate you. I live in Fulton County. Commissioner Arrington, you and your father were a guest of the Pittsburgh reunion that I hosted where 800 people came, and we gave 1500 backpacks to kids in need in our community; and you did not know I was a Christian. You did not know I was Republican. We had a great time, and you loved the food that we had on that event. Ms. Hall, you and I are good friends, and you loved every post I have on Facebook. You are a Christian and a lovely person. Ms. Bridget, you are just adorable. I've heard you speak in many occasions, and I just want to say life and not death. I've heard some horrible, horrible things spoken about you guys, and you are public servants, kind of like Jesus, and kind of like me. When I first started coming here, I would walk in and there would be different groups that would offer me a little hit job paper to say something wicked about you or one of the rules that are going on. And I just feel that's very indecent, but I wanted to say this, Jesus wouldn't die if Pontius Pilot wasn't pressured by wicked people to persuade you or intimidate you. And I just pray that you stand on your faith, you continue to do good, and just like the BRE has simple rules, just follow the rules because these guys --"

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

**ANITA LANE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- are very healthy, very kind, and they're going to do Fulton County well. Thank you so much. Have a great rest of your week."

**STEPHANIE MILLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, I'm Stephanie Miller. I'm a Fulton County resident and I'm here to support Mike Heekin and Jason Frazier for the Board of Registration and Elections. I just want to make sure -- I'm another very simple person, and I see what's going on. I just want to have Democrats and Republicans and fair elections. And I'm on the group that nominated these people, and I just want you to take our nominations and just -- as our elected officials, I want you to represent us and vote, yes, because we nominated them. Thank you so much."

**MARA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Mara Gaudio, Fulton County resident. I have a special affinity for those with finance and MBA degrees; and so I love numbers and we have Mike with an MBA degree also from Wharton School, and Jason with a finance degree also. Both of them are uniquely qualified for this position. And as the law says, they shall be nominated and put forward, so I hope that that all goes -- I don't think that we need to have this many people, but there was something that went out on the wire on the other side, and so we are responding. If it costs \$37 per elector for the last four elections, and Jason has found 25,000 illegal registrations. You know, he was just the catalyst. There were many other people who have jumped on and said, what, let me see this, and they've found other -- they've found more also for a total of about 35,000 illegal registrations. Then your -- the last few months, your agency has found another 48,000, so that's a total of 83,000. When you multiply that by \$37 per illegal voter that's

a total of 3.071 million dollars that were wasted. I don't think we need Jason Frazier now, we needed him before. That's money that could have been saved. You know we lost two hospitals, and to -- if the Buggy Works needs 1.3 to 1.6 million that money saved on getting rid of these illegal registrations could put probably two places in South Fulton.

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

**MARA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- that are like the Buggy W. Could we have saved maybe the two hospitals with that money or may be one? Good question."

**PAUL HERSHEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Paul Hershen. I'm in Milton. The question I've got is this: I'm appalled that we're here today discussing what we're discussing. I've been sitting back and I had something that I was going to say, and now I'm going to say it more bluntly. I just heard that there was two members of this Board that there were trying to vet these two individuals. That's a violation of your oath. And I want the County Attorney to look into that as an ethics violation. I've got one member of the Board that's an attorney, a member of the clerk -- a member of the court. He's in violation of his oath. Fifty-seven years ago, I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. That oath dies with me. It doesn't just take the time that I spent the 28 years in the Marine Corps. Two members of this Board abstained from a vote because they were not given the opportunity to vent what was going on, and I commend those two individuals, and they know they are. This Board is not being controlled by the parliamentarian. You have violated your ethics violations and you should be resigned right now. The County Attorney should be investigating whoever's trying to vent him. The county, the member of the Board that is an attorney that has violated his oath as a member of the court, this is appalling. You've got a statue's it says, shall. What are we doing here? Get off your -- and do your job. That's what you need to do. And every one of you should look at your own --"

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

**PAUL HERSHEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and if you're not ability to (inaudible) then resign, get out of the business, because you are not -- you are not representing the members of Fulton County. You're representing yourself and your party. Get away from it."

**BRETT CHROMY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Brett Chromy, Fulton County resident. The current Fulton voting system is not held in high regard. You've heard this from both the right and the left. Some believe it is the laughingstock of the nation. Fulton elections and our reputation should not be a partisan issue. Your jobs on the Commission are to support all residents of the county and to act professionally. Currently, you're a national embarrassment. Simply supporting appointment of the Republican Party Board of Election members will help your reputations, and they still be in the minority. In particular, Jason Frazier is an excellent choice for the board. He's a reformer, not a

partisan. It's sad that only one party would want someone to fix the currently broken system. The radical left that has attacked Jason's appointment are conspiracy theorists. They apparently believe in ghosts. They're also fact deniers. Once Jason starts working for the board, I'm sure that the chair of the Board of Elections who all the Democrat activists supported and loved, she'll be excited by this pick as it will raise the representation and decrease the costs of elections in Fulton County. He'll be an asset to Patrise, and he will make the system more efficient and will even increase the representation of the Fulton Board of Commissioners which, in and of itself, is quite an accomplishment concerning the behavior shown through many of these public meetings. Do your job and support the appointment of the two honorable men chosen by the Fulton County of Republican Party for the Board of Elections."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Stephanie Ali, Earl Ferguson, Mark Stancil, Catherine McDonald, and Jane Zoellick."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have the floor, ma'am."

**JAMI TUCKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, Commissioners. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm here to -- Jami Tucker, Fulton County. I'm here to support Georgia law and Fulton County Ordinance Section 14-33 to appoint Mike Heekin and Jason Frazier. Mr. Frazier has taken time to analyze voter roll data and provide recommendations based on fact, not bipartisanship. I personally know this, because a friend of mine who typically votes Republican received a letter challenging her voter roll address. The challenge was appropriate. Her address on the voter roll did not belong to a real residence. It was a typo in the voter roll which was never checked or verified. Some of Mr. Frazier's challenges were based on the same issue as you've heard mentioned. The address is not a real residence, the voter's name was no name, no name, the voter had died. There are many reasons for challenges, but all were based on facts and real data. My friend, a Republican, without Mr. Frazier's challenge would possibly not have been able to receive an absentee ballot, or been able to vote because the name would have been inactive on the voter roll. After my friend's address information was challenged, this person was able to get it corrected and, therefore, prevent future issues with her ability to vote. Anyone Democrat, Republican, whoever, if you are facing a challenge, you have a right to bring it to the board and you should, if you are a real person, you should."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Fifteen seconds."

**JAMI TUCKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "The point of having someone like Mr. Frazier focus on accurate data is to make sure no one is disenfranchised. So let's stop bullying and labeling people as Karen's, having white privilege."

**STEPHANIE ALI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners, and As-salamu alaykum. My name is Stephanie Ali, I am the policy director for New Georgia Project Action Fund. We are a statewide organization who's registered hundreds of

thousands of people across the state, in the last year alone knocked almost four million doors, to turn out people to vote. Right now, we have a board monitoring program that monitors boards in 110 of our counties in Georgia, and I am here today to oppose the appointment of Jason Frazier onto the Board of Elections in Fulton County. Don't take this lightly. It's not about the fact that he's a Republican or whatever that might be, every party and every person in this county deserves representation on this board, but this is about the work that he does. This is about the job that he would be taking on. Part of the work of the Fulton County Board is around building the trust for voters, ensuring that voters feel like the county is doing the right -- is doing the work; that they have an accurate and equal access to the ballot, and Mr. Frazier is doing the opposite. You know, we've heard differing numbers about how many people has he challenged, and why is that; because he brags about challenging 20,000 or more people when numbers have shown that he's actually challenged 9,000. Why does he want it to be more; because he wants to make it look like Fulton is worse at their job. He wants to make it look like Fulton is worse. This is an intentional way to break down people's trust in voting. Many, many people have said hey, he's pointing out things that Fulton already said themselves. Okay, Fulton is doing the work. He's adding to that work by making them do extra investigations; making them spend extra time and money. Finally, I just want to say that --"

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

**STEPHANIE ALI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- Fulton is better than having someone like this on their board. Fulton is better and would need someone better in this time. Thank yall."

**EARL FERGUSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Earl Ferguson, I am a Fulton County resident. And I'm representing AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens. One of our concerns, major concerns, is voter integrity, and when the article showed up in the Atlanta Journal, we thought that it might be a concern that would deserve some attention to make sure that the law was followed. I don't have much to say about it, about what has been said before, except to a suggestion that the skills that Jason Frazier has might be helpful with the staff down there at the center. That's it. Thank you, bye."

**MARK STANCIL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon Fulton County Board of Commissioners. I am here like a lot of these folks to support the nomination of Jason Frazier and Mike Heekin for the BRE. This is my first Board of Commissioners meeting I've ever attended. It's the first time I've ever spoken, obviously. So I just want to say I appreciate you listening to us and considering these two gentlemen that might not be your cup of tea. And it's hard sometimes to listen to folks that we disagree with and try to find some connection; some kind of -- some kind of something that we can agree on. So, I want to say I appreciate your consideration and listening to us. I'm a CEO of a company and the way that I sort of hire and fire people is I consider, you know, what kind of job is this person doing. So the reason I wanted to put -- and vote, yes, for these

two gentlemen is because I feel like it's like the story at the telegraph office where they were going to hire new people and there were 20 people sitting in there to apply for the job, and they could hear the Morse code. And one of the job applicants jumped out of his seat and went right into the office because the Morse code that was coming over said, if you want the job, come into the office right now, and only one of those people was listening; when only one of those people was doing the work even though it wasn't his job to do the work yet. So that's why I just wanted to say consider these gentlemen and I appreciate your time today. And God bless you."

**CATHERINE MCDONALD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Catherine McDonald. I'm a 30 plus year resident of Fulton County and I appreciate the opportunity to speak. The integrity of our voter rolls is a basic minimum responsibility of an election board and absolutely essential to a large nationally prominent county as Fulton County is, nothing you don't all know. If Fulton County is ever to fully regain a representation of competence and voter integrity, it must have a balance of board members. There is no credible reason these two appointees, Jason Frazier and Mike Heekin should not be approved to join the Fulton BRE. Every member of the Fulton BRE must be committed to ensuring that Fulton's voter rolls only contain eligible Fulton residents who permanently reside in a home in Fulton if, in fact, each voter has fulfilled all legal requirements and registered properly as well. I am confident that Mr. Frazier and Mr. Heekin will provide necessary oversight and assurance in this essential effort. Speaking as someone whose also done a lot of research and investigation into questionable voters in Fulton, I discovered myself in the last two years people who had moved out of Fulton to other counties who shouldn't have voted here, people who have sold their properties in Fulton and moved to other states and should no longer have voted, people who very likely registered in Fulton and voted in 2020, but never lived here and then magically moved back to other states and voted there. I implore you to look at a candidate who has already done this work in Jason Frazier and in Mike Heekin in his experience as well --"

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

**CATHERINE MCDONALD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and appoint them to this board, thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Gail Lee, Jennifer Kimbell, Julian Bene, Paul Bolster, and Kim Brooks."

**JANE ZOELICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. I'm Jane Zoelick, Fulton County resident, and I want to thank the Board again for selecting a strong and qualified candidate to be the next Board of Registrations and Election chair for Fulton County. I believe that the Board of Registration and Election Members play a critical role in our democracy. It's essential to free and fair functional elections for Fulton County to have members of the Board of Registration and Elections who embrace the responsibility for ensuring all Fulton County voters have access to the ballot. Who put the voters over the respective

political parties and who will advocate for proactive solutions that meet the needs of the voters. Who will support the Board of Registrations and Elections staff; celebrate their progress and champion their needs. Please ask yourself how the nominated board members will support the progress of Fulton County Registration and Elections staff who have diligently made over the last two years. How will they affect morale and the smooth functioning of the Department? How will they affect voter registration and the execution of elections? Please support the nomination of Mike Heekin, Teresa Smith, and Aaron Johnson or any other candidate who has a strong record of support for enhancing voter access and rights. Please vote, no on anyone who is unable or unwilling to support voting rights over political affiliation. Thank you for your time."

**GAIL LEE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, I am Gail Lee of Atlanta. My comment is simple. In any legal proceeding one side or the public doesn't get to choose who represents the other side. And in any sport, one team doesn't get to choose who's on the other team. Jason Frazier and Michael Heekin have been chosen by Fulton County Republican Party to represent them. So unless Jason and Michael don't meet the legal qualifications for the position, justice and fairness demands they be appointed to the Election Board. Thank you."

**JENNIFER KIMBELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, my name is Jennifer Kimbell. I'm speaking to you today on behalf of the Essential Theater. And then what I hope will be a refreshing change of subject for just a couple minutes. I would like to thank you individually and as a whole, for your long-standing commitment to the arts in Fulton County, and specifically for your support of our theater company. Essential Theater is the longest-running theater company exclusively dedicated to Georgia Playwrights, and since our inception, we have been fortunate to call Fulton County our producing home. Fulton County has been a steadfast supporter of our work for pretty much all of our existence and, in fact, the first grant we have ever received was from Fulton County almost 20 years ago. We are deeply thankful for the support of the Fulton County Arts Council and yourselves. In particular, we would like to lift up Commissioner Natalie Hall who, on multiple locations, has recruited local artists, including ourselves, to engage her constituents on topics ranging from health and wellness to local and regional history. David Manuel, who joined Fulton County as Director of the Department of Culture during the pandemic in 2021, and has been an active engaged and resourceful addition to your team from that time on. And finally with the sale last month of the West End Performing Arts Center, I cannot say a proper thank you today without specifically lifting up the tireless and committed work of the Director, Mary Cannon, as well as Mitcha Miko, Alexa Whitehead, and the others we've met there in the nine years that we have called the West End Performing Arts Center our home. Since 2014, this partnership has brought arts programming to over 10,000 Fulton County residents and visitors. The Essential Theater artists, staff, and board thank you for your support, your commitment, and prioritization of the arts in your community has created a unique oasis in Georgia's cultural landscape for which you deserve praise and thanks. Thank you."



**JULIAN BENE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Julian Bene, former Invest Atlanta Board. Chairman Pitts and Commissioner Rahman, thank you from nominating Lee Morris to the Board of Assessors. His expertise and leadership will be a great asset, and I hope the Commission will appoint him. Commissioners, you have a tax haven operating here in Fulton County, which allows profitable trophy towers and high-rolling tenants to pay half what they should in property tax or less. 725 Ponce, a \$300 million office for Black Rock and McKinsey paid just \$4,000 the last two years, less than your residents pay on a modest home. It's simple to see, the assessors is grossly under-appraised high value commercial. Compare sales price to appraisal. In 2021, 44 Atlanta high value properties sold. Aggregate sales value was 3.8 billion. Appraised value was 2 billion, 53 percent of market; 2022 sales, same. The rest of Fulton County, same. Glitzy Towers are underpaying by hundreds of millions a year, and the expensive schools, cities, and counties, your residents. I'll happily meet with you to go over these numbers. The city of Atlanta leaders get this now. You all need to get it, too. You're now mulling in new sales tax or raising residents' property tax, but most of you known trophy buildings are undertaxed since the AJC and Channel 2 ran stories in 2018. You claim that you needed state law changes. You don't. You need a couple of appraisers expert in this trophy segment using sale comps and construction costs, and nail appraisals to market value and an expert attorney to win appeals; time to fix this. Please tell your Board of Assessors no more tax havens for profitable commercial towers, fix the massive hole in local revenues --"

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

**JULIAN BENE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- so Atlanta and the county can become more equitable communities. Thank you, Commissioner."

**PAUL BOLSTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Members of the Commission, I thank you for staying here all of this time to listen to us. My name is Paul Bolster. I live in a -- for 50 years, I've lived in a genderfied neighborhood of Elmwood Park in the City of Atlanta, and I used to be a member of the Georgia House of Representatives. So I studied this issue for a long time. The issue here that -- I'm trying to support Julian -- the issue here is that state constitution says that all of the property in this county needs to be assessed equally. And you know and I know that's not true. You look at the data, you look at the studies; and commercial property, especially the high-rise properties that we built in the last few years, they are not taxed at the same way residential property is. So kind of -- who's hurt by this? The big hurt is those who are residential owners and I'm hoping that maybe this crowd here will get behind this issue, because it's likely that their taxes are higher on their house because a commercial property is not properly assessed in this county. Who else is hurt? Well, the children of this county are hurt. The City of Atlanta children, the Fulton County children because the tax base is not there to support the expansion of their educational needs. The children are really -- the biggest harm comes to the lack of funding for our public education systems. If you think about it, fire and police are hurt, too because these big buildings take more energy and people who are low income will need a different opportunity to have affordable housing. The local



governments don't have the resources to do that. So what can you do about it? The first thing is you can do another study. You did one three or four years ago that proves all these facts, you could do that again. The second thing is you go to the legislature and try to get resources which we tried to do a couple years ago, and the final thing is, you give them more money so that they can fight the assessment --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last five speakers here in Assembly Hall: Ben Eskew, Leigh Eskew, David Outten, Kristin Nabers, and Vic Tripp."

**KIM BROOKS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Kim Brooks and I'm Jason Frazier's peer. I also work on voter roll cleanup in the State of Georgia. I also work on fraud and voter rolls in the State of Georgia. If you don't put Jason on the Board, he's still going to go 21-2-229 and unlimited number of challenges in Fulton County. So you're not getting rid of him one way or the other. We work for free, full-time, and I'm here to say that 20,000 is an amazing amount of numbers, but it's only because there's so many problems in the Fulton County roll. I've looked at your rolls. I don't think some of these people have passed third grade that's doing data entry in the Fulton County rolls. It's abysmal. You have a low bar, but I'm here to tell you about the fraud. You better buckle up. We have fraud from 2019 all the way through current Jarvis cutover. You've got new street names, canceled voter's street names. You're taking those canceled voters that the duplicates were merged and you're reinstating them as active voters in another county in Georgia, we are on it. So you better buckle up. I'm telling you right now. Jason Frazier deserves to be on that board, he's worked full-time tirelessly, he is a smart man, he's dedicated to the mission. If some of you don't follow your oath and somehow he doesn't get on the board I'm laughing back there because he's just going to keep challenging. We are not stopping. God bless America."

**BEN ESKEW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. Hello, my name is Ben Eskew. I have worked extensively on a precinct analyses here in Fulton County, across the State of Georgia, and across our country. I have see extreme abnormalities in the 2020 election, the 2022 primary, and the 2022 primary. People here are accusing Mr. Frazier of being an election denier. From my analysis, there were problems with several of our past elections. I am a concerned citizen about the handling of our elections. One key element of clean elections is our voter rolls. They must be cleaned up. I'm here to support Mr. Frazier because he is working very hard to clean up the voter rolls in Fulton County. Everyone knows Fulton County has problems with their voter rolls and how they handle elections. Why are people trying to stop Mr. Frazier from being on the Board of Elections? To clean voter rolls should be a nonpartisan issue. Everyone here should be very happy a person on the Board of Elections has served his country for free and cleaning up our voter rolls. Please approve Mr. Frazier to the Board of Elections. Thank you."

**LEIGH ESKEW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. My name is Leigh Eskew. Thank you for letting me speak to you today. I'm here to support the Board of Election nominees today. Clean voter rolls are the foundation of a clean election. Duplicate registrants are

defined as two separate registration IDs for the same person. Literally, the same person has the same name, same address, same birth year, but two different registration IDs. These duplicates have nothing to do with party, race, or demographics. Every month, there are more and more duplicate registrants on the voter rolls. Jason Frazier has worked tirelessly for free to clean up Fulton County's voter rolls. He has single-handedly challenged 20,000 duplicate registration IDs. That is 10,000 registration IDs that do not belong on the voter rolls. This is not a suppression of a vote, but an elimination of a second ID for a lawful Fulton County voter. Mr. Frazier has also found that this duplicate registrant issue leads to double voting in our elections. When someone double votes, it waters down the valid vote for the rest of us. Jason is a patriot, and his service to our country should be commended. He will be extremely qualified -- an extremely qualified addition to the Fulton County Board of Elections. Please vote to put Jason Frazier on the Board of Elections."

**DAVID OUTTEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is David Outten, and I'm from Gwinnett County. And I'm sure that you all here are proud of Fulton County. And in 2020 -- in the 2020 election, I sat down, as many of you I'm sure did, to watch the election happen, and what happened in Fulton County at 10 o'clock in the evening was they've shut down. And the truth of the matter is that 61 percent of the votes cast in Fulton County were cast in early balloting on machines. Another 10 percent were cast on Election Day; 85,191 were absentee ballots counted before 7 o'clock that evening. So we should have had 87 percent of the vote ready to announce by 8 o'clock. By 9 o'clock, it was only 27 percent of the vote recorded -- announced on the Nightly News, and they shut down, or supposedly shut down. You see signs of them kept going, and a lot of votes came in, in the middle of the night, but I support Jason because I believe he's the kind of person that will help see that Fulton County is a county all of Georgia can be proud of. Thank you."

**KRISTIN NABERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, my name is Kristin Nabers. I'm the state director for All Voting is Local Action. We are a nonpartisan organization that advocates for policies that will improve voter access and aid counties in running smooth elections. I know we've heard a lot today about the nomination of Jason Frazier to the BRE. I wanted to highlight just a few of the people he challenged in his most recent challenge hearing. There was a cancer patient who was a homebound cancer patient, but still attended the hearing to make sure he didn't lose his right to vote. This man's address is 508 Church Street, there's some sort of system error that shows his address as 505. He'd actually already filled out paperwork to fix the typo in the last election, but the system still said 505. The list Mr. Frazier was using said 505. The voter was challenged as having an invalid address and had to come to defend his right to vote. There was another woman's whose address had been changed from Confederate Court to Trussell Tree Court. Confederate still appears on her voting roll, which is not the fault of the voter. Mr. Frazier said she had an invalid address and she had to show up to the meeting with two kids in tow to defend herself and make sure she wasn't removed from the rolls. And finally, he also challenged a sitting member of the Fulton BRE, Dr. Kathleen Ruth's entire family was challenged on the basis of being registered at a

business address despite the fact that they live in a townhouse. Dr. Ruth told the AJC she thought the challenge was probably because her voter registration did not include the word northeast. These are just three examples of the more than 9,000 voters Mr. Frazier has challenged since the beginning of last year. They are not the exception, they are the rule. Mr. Frazier claims he wants a clean voter roll, ignoring the fact that Georgia already has an MBRA compliant procedures in place for keeping the voter roll up to date. He claims he wants to prevent people from double voting, but that's based on a lie that assumes random fraud in the system."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Fifteen seconds."

**KRISTIN NABERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Many speakers have spoken about how Mr. Frazier donates his time, ignoring the fact that his challenges create huge amounts of work for the Fulton Election Office. The staff had do a research, send letters, hold a hearing, send a follow-up letter. He's wasted a huge amount of time and taxpayer --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, ma'am. Come on up, sir. That's number 50, the last one."

**VIC TRIPP, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Fulton Commissioners, my name is Vic Tripp and I live in Tucker; and I have heard a lot of words recently against the confirmation of Jason Frazier, but no good arguments. What I hear is that he has challenged 25,000 voters and that he works to suppress -- to suppress votes. The facts are just the opposite. He's has not challenged voters, he has challenged 25,000 invalid, erroneous, and fraudulent entries in the voter rolls. Maybe I should say minus three. They are the entries for dead and bogus and duplicate or triplicate names, and they do not represent real voters. Here's why he has done the opposite of suppressing or disenfranchising voters. Every fraudulent or phantom vote that is counted cancels the vote of one of the real voters. It suppresses the legal vote and disenfranchises that voter. Frazier's work helped to restore the rightful votes of 25,000 minus three legal voters who will no longer be suppressed by phantoms and frauds. And you can't tell me that the votes -- the phantom votes are never counted. So much data has surfaced in the last two years but nobody believes that anymore. But even if those who say the phantoms votes never get counted were right, then there's no possible harm in removing them from the rolls. It's hard to stuff a ballot box without first stuffing the voter rolls. Mr. Frazier is a hero for helping his country discharge its responsibility of maintaining this county --"

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

**VIC TRIPP, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- maintaining accurate voter rolls, and for making it harder to cheat, but not a bit harder to vote. Election integrity is not a partisan issue. Please do the right thing and not the partisan thing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. So that completes the 50 -- and how many do we have on -- we've got four more minutes."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman, we have two speakers on Zoom and six e-mailed in comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We've got four minutes. Let's go quickly."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings, Commissioners. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. To the citizens of Fulton County, in addition to tuning in to these meetings of the County Commission, I invite you to tune in to two other public meetings that affect our daily lives. You can follow millions of dollars being shuffled about at meetings of the Development Authority of Fulton County. You can follow discussions about housing conditions in Fulton County and about that FBI investigation by tuning in to meetings of the Fulton County Housing Authority if you can find their meeting notifications which, by the way, are required by state law. You may ask Fulton County information to put you in touch with these two entities. The county information number is 404-612-4000; that's 404-612-4000. For senior citizens, you can follow events at the four senior multipurpose facilities like the upcoming men's health event on Friday, June 16th at the Bowden facility by calling the Fulton County star line at 404-613-6000; 404-613-6000. Thanks."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Adrian Coleman."

**ADRIAN COLEMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. And thank you for your service and allowing the extension of public comment this morning. I am calling -- I started to notice that you will be considering an extension of the mental health provider at Fulton County Jail. There's a couple of things to this. While you consider that, I am deeply concerned at Naph's report last year about the conditions in the jail. So, to my way of thinking, where they found that men were wasting away, that the Fulton County jail was not doing the medical providers' recommendations where inmates were not allowed to do their daily activities; that they were not being given their medications on a timely basis; the physical conditions of the jail. As you know, LaShawn Thompson was an extreme case, but there have been several instances of inmates being harmed or who have, unfortunately, died in Fulton County Jail that are suspect and require a review and feedback. As you consider today whether to extend that, the medical providers are not there daily to make sure that their recommendations are being put in place. I'm surprised and disappointed that Fulton County Commissioners have not taken it upon yourself to have an independent review and recommendation on how to ensure the health and well-being of inmates in Fulton County. It is deeply concerning to the residents, and I hope that you will make it a priority. Thank you for your time this morning."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, how many here?"

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And this concludes the Zoom comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Six e-mails, can you summarize those e-mails quickly, please."

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, sir. The first comment is from Angeline Payne. I support Jason Frazier and Mike Heekin and for the BRE. We need bipartisan members and our BRE because we need checks and balances?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Go to the next one. We got it. Next one. What are the next? What's the next one?"

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, sir. The next comment is from Mike Koblentz. I have been Chair of the Northwest Community alliance for nearly two decades. I have been involved in numerous issues as chair and from working to keep the airport out of the state's hands. To me, one of the obstacles of the leveling the playing field is the disgrace of well-being Atlanta Corporations and companies. There is no excuse for this travesty to keep continuing. In the last year I have written to key Atlanta councilmembers to make sure investors don't take advantage of senior homes incomes. Personally, I'm tired of having to contest my property's increases. And lastly, I am an avid Democrat and that's putting it mildly. I have full faith in Lee Morris as a Republican to be head of the BRE. This is government 101, and needs to be handled ASAP. And that concludes the e-mailed comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else? All right continue, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 5, County Manager's items under open and responsible government, **23-0372**, Finance Review and approval of June 7th, 2023 budget sounding."

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a few items on the soundings documents. A couple of adjustments to the annual hardware/software maintenance support list that required no additional funding, that's for spending authority only. And then an item from the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management funding to establish a building maintenance manager position that will be assigned 100 percent to support the jail maintenance."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question about the first one concerning the library and public works. On the library portion, it says that the requested change is a result of the increase and usage of the product which resulted in an astronomical increase in the price of the service. Which branches did we experience this increase in; where are they located?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Commissioner, we can try to get the information for you. We do not have that right now."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You don't. You don't know where the increases were experienced?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "No, we don't. I mean we can get it for you. We'll reach out to library."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So how did you know there was an increase in the library's --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, it's software, so I'm not sure that we can track it back to a specific branch. We can certainly get the library to provide the utilization details, but unfortunately I don't have that information with me -- with me today, but we can -- we can provide the Board with that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, so this is software that they just -- they don't log into it, they just access it freely?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Commissioner Hall, the Board approved a substantial investment in electronic and virtual resources for the library, and that has contributed to this use. So we can track by program what the -- what the investment has yielded as far as increased use. It may not be by branch, it will be by product type. So, for example, we've seen a substantial increase in the paper code, which is a tutoring company for constituents and so forth. So we can break that down by investment and by product."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, thank you so much."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "You're welcome."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, the motion on the floor is to approve. Please vote."

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

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**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair --

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: Is it possible that we can revisit the agenda? We have one of the South Fulton councilmembers here to talk about the item we're answering questions about the Tax Commissioner items. I was wondering if we could move that up here next."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which item?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "365. It's the one that was pulled from --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- that's on the consent agenda?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, it was pulled from it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Any objections? All right."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4, **23-0365**: Request approval of an agreement between Fulton County, the Tax Commissioner, and the City of South Fulton for the billing and collection of solid waste fees."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, that's the one I asked to be pulled. So the question I have here why are we -- seem to be treating -- well, a little bit of background here. This involves a Tax Commissioner, who is compensated, and we seem to be treating this one different from the others, and that's my question as to why."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "If I may, Mr. Chair. I believe he declined to receive any additional compensation and is providing that compensation to his staff or his senior staff instead of going directly to him."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I hear the words, Commissioner, but it seems to me that it's different from the way we've done this with the others."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I think it mirrors either the Sandy Springs or one of the other ones. It's supposed to mirror the language from one of the other contracts that we did for Sandy Springs and one of the other cities."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's not how I read it; I may be incorrect. If I'm incorrect, I'll --"



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- I think on the other ones he took the additional compensation himself, and I think this time instead of doing that, he is spreading it around to his employees or senior staff at least."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Have you looked at that, Madam County Attorney, in terms of the consistency or lack thereof?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "We have, Chairman Pitts. Our office has worked closely with the Office of the Tax Commissioner in developing this language. It does deviate from previous --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- in what, repeat that?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It does deviate from previous agreements in that in the past; I believe it was typical for the Tax Commissioner to take his -- his compensation as provided for in the statute. And in this particular agreement, the Tax Commissioner and the City of South Fulton have agreed that the compensation that would have gone to the Tax Commissioner under the terms of this statute that he desires that to be given to the county to then pass through and be given to members of his management staff."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So is that going to be true in the future for others -- the other cities or --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I don't know how many cities still remain who might come forward and request this kind of service. But each -- I would imagine each agreement would be case-by-case, depending on what the involved parties would desire to happen."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Would we have the authority to direct that any compensation -- any compensation that he receives go to his employees versus to him personally?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "As a practical matter, I believe we will have to comply with our personnel policies and procedures and any kind of compensation that flows through to the employees department; and as a constitutional officer, Dr. Ferdinand's employees are also employees of Fulton County under the Civil Service Act. So, so long as we comply with those policies and procedures, I don't know of anything that prohibits Dr. Ferdinand from foregoing compensation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Therein lies a problem. Commissioner, strike that. Councilwoman Willis, would you like to be heard? But therein lies the problem, from my perspective."

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "Thank you for recognizing me, and I want to thank all of you all for everything that you do for Fulton County. I'm just here to say that we voted

on this as a council -- City Council, city manager form of government, unanimously. We have recently rolled out our new sanitation program as of June 1st. And so, the Tax Commissioner already collects on our behalf the property taxes. He already has a systems in place. He's collecting for other cities, and we just would like the same opportunity for him to collect our sanitation fees on behalf of the City of South Fulton. It was put on record by our city manager, Ms. Sharon Subadan. We asked was there any other recommended way for us to collect our sanitation fees, and she said, no, this is customary for the Tax Commissioner to collect fees on behalf of cities. He's doing it for several other cities in Fulton County, and she recommends that we go this route. So if we -- I just work --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- is it time sensitive?"

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "Yes, it's very time sensitive because the Commissioner would like to send our sanitation fees out -- sanitation bills out in July, and give residents 60 days to pay; and he doesn't want to comingle the time that he has to send out property tax bills. So it's very time sensitive."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Yeah, I'm supportive of him doing what he's being requested to do, but the issue here though is additional compensation for his employees, which addresses a bigger issue. That's why I raise it, so."

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "-- well, Chairman Pitts --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- I think it's his -- I think as a constitutional officer he, you know, he can either -- as we know, constitutional officers have this power to get this extra compensation. And so, in this case, he is declining to take it. I think historically he has taken -- he and others have taken hits for taking that money. And so, I think he's doing the responsible thing and spreading it around. Now, you know, if I had my druthers, I would probably do it a different way. But I believe that -- I don't believe there's anything that conflicts with our employment laws for Fulton County, for employees. And I don't believe there's anything that prevents him from declining to take it or passing it onto the rest of his staff. And I think it's going to his executive staff, which is his personal staff, which he has a different, you know, which he's able to do more for than just all employees."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All of that's correct. Commissioner Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So, I think this -- I think the nature of these -- lends to sort of, I don't know -- for lack of a better term, sort of a farcical approach, but. So heretofore, there was some period of time where these agreements didn't need to come before us, right? Then state law changed and then said that we had to then approve these agreements, even though we weren't really parties to negotiating the agreements; is that correct? That's a question, right? So like four or five years ago, something like that, the law changed --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The law changed."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So prior to that, he was a constitutional officer. He can enter into an agreement with an individual city and it could be whatever that generally -- whatever these, as long as it was lawful, whatever that agreement was, right?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Right."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And then the law changed and it said that those agreements had to come before this Board for approval."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The necessary parties to such an agreement changed with the change in the law that you're referring to, originally the parties were the Tax Commissioner of a county and the municipality, and now the necessary parties are the county and the municipality. The reason this agreement is drafted with the Tax Commissioner's signatures is because he's foregoing the compensation that is allowed under the statute and, therefore, he became a party, but the statute does not necessitate --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- allowed but not required, right? But we vote on it, but we really have no engagement in the negotiation of the agreement. That's where I get to the point where this is somewhat of a farcical thing. So, you've got two parties --the cities want to do it, they're okay with it. We don't like some particular provision of it: the compensation component of it. But we get subject to approving it and we don't like the compensation of it, and we deny it, then we potentially pose the cities are looking to try to do something. And we do approve it, and then we potentially approve something that we're sort of philosophically against in terms of additional compensation to either the Tax Commissioner or the staff and we may think that hey, (inaudible) druthers, we were negotiating -- we will negotiate this, the funds will revert back and be part of the general fund or the budget of the Tax Commissioner as a whole, but we don't have the authority to change one of these provisions right now and then approve it."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I think you have the legal authority, but as a practical matter because the operation of this contract is going to reside with the Tax Commissioner, that is why the negotiated terms and all of those --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- but then if I decide I want to offer an amendment to it and say that the compensation will just revert back to the Tax Commissioner's office as a whole and that would be, you know, none of it will be distributed as additional compensation to anyone. If I offer that modification and then somebody agrees with me and somehow that gets approved, then the Tax Commissioner can then turn around and reject it."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, that's the farcical nature of this thing in terms of -- it ought to be set where how's it going to work in state law and not have us going to come back and get stuck in between with something that -- so I'm not going to be in support of it because I philosophically disagree with this sort of component of it. I do think it needs to be fixed. I'm fully in support of the cities who want to, you know, contract with the Tax Commissioner, but I just want to go on record on that. I'm opened to offering a friendly amendment to this agreement and then send it back to the Tax Commissioner to see if he will support it. I mean, I'll put that on the table right now if somebody would --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Repeat what you --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- so the agreement would be amended such that the compensation's component would be struck and that the funds would just -- all funds that the City of South Fulton would be paying for this agreement would just, you know, go in to the Tax Commissioner's budget as a whole."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I mean I think I can support that. My goal is to help the city."

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "I think he would not agree to collect under those terms, and now South Fulton is caught up in between politics; and all we want to do is have our fees collected for sanitation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "He won't do what?"

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "If you want --"

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "I'd agree to --"

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "If you do what Commissioner Ellis is suggesting, which is to strike the provision to not allow the money to go to his employees and then go to the general fund instead, he is --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- you didn't say general fund did you?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "No, Tax Commissioner budget."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Tax Commission's budget."

**(Vice Chairman Ellis not on mic.)**

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "And we've gone back and forth with this agreement for over a month now, so our attorney have worked with your attorney and his legal team, and we have finally come to an agreement that we all agree upon. And at the end of the day, City of South Fulton just want to collect sanitation fees, so that we could have an

efficient collection process. And this is very time sensitive because he has said that he does not want to get in the position where he's worrying about sanitation bills being sent out along with property tax bills being sent out, and we need our bills to go out in July."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm very sympathetic and want to help. This constitutional officer mess is getting out of hand. This is another example of that Commissioner Arrington -- are you finished, Vice Chair?"

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "Well, I just -- I mean, I just want to go on record in terms of I am in support of the cities and what they want to do and, you know, but I just -- I don't agree with this particular thing. I stated this before when we had, you know these agreements come back before us in the past, but just wanted to highlight sort of the farcical sort of nature that we get sort of stuck in with this that, you know, we almost really don't play a role, but we're asked to rubber stamp something, so."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, you know, I don't necessarily agree with the idea of constitutional officers receiving extra compensation. I imagine that we would be -- that there will be likely be a lawsuit if we were to limit the additional compensation of one constitutional officer and not limit the additional compensation of the other constitutional officers. Certainly, if I was the one of the constitutional officers and there was an attempt by this Board to limit my additional compensation and not limit the additional compensation of others, it sounds like that would be grounds for a suit. But frankly, because this Board is a statutory creature and not a constitutional creature, this Board does not have the authority to amend constitutional officers' compensation. We don't have that authority. They are constitutional officers. And so, despite the fact that I disagree with that additional compensation, it is provided for under Georgia law. And so, I disagree with that law. That law probably should be changed, but that law allows for, as we learned earlier, Clerk of Superior Court to receive additional compensation. It allows for the probate judge to receive additional compensation. And frankly, Commissioner Ellis, at least we're at the table. In those other examples, we're not even at the table, at least in this example, we are a third-party at the table, and I hear your point about it being farcical, but I think it's even more farcical to do what you proposed because we don't have the authority. He's a constitutional officer and like you stated, he's just going to say he's not going to do it. And so, then we're going to leave this one city out and we're going to let other cities allow him to collect for other cities, but not allow him to collect for the City of South Fulton? That's not fair. The law needs to be changed for constitutional officers. It's going to be a long hall trying to get that law changed because what happens is here in Fulton County, we see these big numbers oh, this person is getting this much, this person is getting this money. But when you go to the other hundred and fifty-eight counties around the State of Georgia, those constitutional officers rely. They rely on that extra compensation. And so, hey, I disagree with the idea of additional compensation. You know, and, you know, it may be this is probably a bad example. But it reminds me of slavery. Slavery was legal. It was

legal. But it was unethical. It was immoral. It was improper. Well, this is legal. It doesn't mean that it's right, but it's legal. It's allowed under the law. And we are allowing and we have voted to allow other cities to do it. And the complaint has always been, the pushback has always been that extra compensation going to the constitutional officer. And so, in an attempt to get away from that pushback -- and an attempt to not have people highlighting the additional compensation received by the constitutional officer, this constitutional officer has personally decided that he will not receive that extra compensation, but instead distribute it to his senior executive staff. I mean, I don't know what else we can do, but I think it's completely unfair for us to allow this in other cities in our county and not allow it here. And I hear you, Commissioner Ellis; I disagree with it fundamentally as well. And I'll go down to the legislature with you. We can go down to the capital hand-in-hand to try to get it changed. I think we're going to have 158 other counties working against us, but I'll go down there with you to have the law changed. But don't -- don't -- please; please don't punish the City of South Fulton. This is a three-party negotiation, as you heard from Councilwoman Willis, the city, the city attorney, the county, the county attorney, and the Tax Commissioner and the Tax Commissioner's attorney. And so that's, Commissioner Ellis, why it's not -- why it is not as farcical, I think, as you were stating, because the biggest negotiation back and forth wasn't between the city and the Tax Commissioner; the biggest negotiation, the biggest hurdle to getting to this point was the county attorney and the Tax Commissioner attorney. It was the inner fight between the county attorney and the Tax Commissioner's attorney. That was the biggest -- that was the biggest fight that held this up the longest, not the terms between the city and the Tax Commissioner, the terms between the county and its own Tax Commissioner is what held this up. And so, there were -- there were arms-length negotiations between the Tax Commissioner's attorney, the county attorney, and all those parties with the city. And so, you know, I believe in equality, but not only equality, but equity; and I implore you to not punish the City of South Fulton and the vote in favor and allow them to have their tax bill collected. As the councilwoman has stated, this is a time-sensitive matter. We do this for, I think, what seven other cities? How many other cities would do this for, Madam County Attorney?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "We estimate six."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Six other cities. North Fulton, South Fulton, please don't punish the City of South Fulton, third largest city in Fulton County, eighth largest city in the state. Please don't punish them that way."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to just weigh in here and say that I agree with my colleagues that the way constitutional officer take fees is not something that I agree with. That said, I very much agree with Commissioner Arrington in the sense that this is not the battleground to have that discussion, and I would also happily go down to City Hall -- I'm sorry, to the State and lobby for this to be different, but I don't think we should hold the City of South Fulton hostage over this. I'm



sort of just weighing in here to concur with Commissioner Arrington and say that I will be supporting this, and I hope my colleagues will do the same and will take that fight elsewhere."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, indeed that fight needs to go elsewhere. We have to take it up where it resides. But my question is concerning the employees. So, the Tax Commissioner is going to have that extra compensation go to their senior executive staff only?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That is correct. That's the way the agreement is currently fashioned."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Is there a reason why it's not going to other staff because it was -- I remember not too long ago the Tax Commissioner and others saying that their staff that are still in that lower percentile. Not a real living wage. And so, is there a reason why that staff is not getting some of this extra money."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm not aware of what, if anything was considered in that respect, but this term in the contract is based on a request from Dr. Ferdinand that it be distributed in this fashion."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So there's no legal reason why it's only going to the senior executive staff and not the other staff that don't make a lot of money."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "There's no legal -- there's no statutory mandate that it be done in that way? The statute -- the new statute simply says that the county may decide what, if any compensation will be collected from the city and given to the Tax Commissioner as part of his compensation. The way that this agreement is fashioned deviates from the statutory language to the extent that he has decided to forego any amount that the county would agree to provide to him and redirect it to his executive staff."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "While we're talking about the Tax Commissioner, is he here? No."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "If I may, Commissioner Hall. I think there is a legal reason. I think the legal reason is because there's a difference in his personal staff and the rest of his staff. I don't believe that our personnel policy will allow it to go to the staff. Our personnel policy allowed him to do that for his personal staff, but not for his entire staff. The personal staff I don't believe is subject to the same employment rules. Additionally, because of the pushback and ridicule that he has received for the additional compensation in the other contracts, that's why he's not here today."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Wait. I see --"

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "But it doesn't matter to him whether you all vote, yes, or no. We're the ones that will suffer; not him."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, I support this. So I mean let's get that clear upfront so there's no question about it. But I saw our county attorney shaking her head in the affirmative while Commissioner Arrington was speaking and that does not get on the minutes when you're just shaking your head, so I want to hear from her."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I just wanted to say that Commissioner Arrington is correct that there are rules that are slightly different for personal staff. So, for example, one of our initial recommendations was to have the money flow to the Tax Commissioner's general budget, and then he could utilize one of our policies and procedures to provide a bonus to his personal staff of an elected official which includes all of these executive members who are designated in this contract. That is an option that he does not have with respect to general employees who are limited to being within a certain pay range. The personal staff are also limited to pay range, but outside of that pay range, they can receive this bonus. That is not the way this is structured. This is structured so that the money would flow to Fulton County and then Fulton County would directly give the money to the executive staff. So it may be a distinction without a difference, but I just wanted to mention that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you so much for that. That answers my question, thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So really, what you just said to highlight this. Really, the point of contention was not about -- I want to go and back this up. We're not -- we're a party to an agreement that we're not negotiating. You negotiated with this with them on behalf -- you're trying to get the agreement to conform with our law to do what he wants."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes, that is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "That's what -- that's what all the wrangling was about, to get to what he wants. So I'm just going to say this again, you know with the law -- most of these agreements are in place. We never approve -- because the law was in place where he could enter into them on his own. We've had two or three of these come before us, when they passed the law and a couple of counties have decided to pushback and say, hey, we're not going to approve these type of agreements going forward for new things, and some of those Tax Commissioners acquiesced and did

something a little bit different. But the law changed to allow us mostly the County Commissions to have a voice in the agreements and be a party to the negotiated negotiation. That's a joke. We do not. Okay. I mean, we can call the Tax Commissioner's bluff and say, hey, going forward with these new agreements that we have to approve, this is the structure of compensation that we will approve. You want to go tell the cities, no, when you're receiving adequate amount of funds to do the service for them as a provider which is the funds are coming into the county collectively as a whole or the Tax Commissioner's budget, that's a perfectly valid arrangement for him to enter into, correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Enough said."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, Chair, I'll be brief. I just want to thank you for coming down here and being a voice of South Fulton for us. It helps me a lot to try to understand your situation. And, thank you, Commissioner Arrington, for your perspective as well as yours, Commissioner Ellis. I agree with both of you, but I feel like our hands are tied. We can't punish South Fulton for something that they have no control of and we do. So with that respect, I also want to mention that the Tax Commissioner collects the storm -- or collected the storm water fees for John's Creek. And from their city council, they tell me it didn't go well, so now they've taken it in-house. So I know you're a young city, so if we can't legislate properly, maybe you can talk to the other cities and do the collections on your own and maybe make the money for yourselves in the future, thank you."

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "In the future, but right now, we've got a lot of other fish to fry."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "You got a lot of challenges ahead of you, I understand. But thanks again for coming down. I'm glad we could accommodate you."

**COUNCILWOMAN WILLIS:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioner Arrington and then Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, I was going to call the question, but I'm happy to let Commissioner Abdur-Rahman speak."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you. I'm in support of this. I just have a question. Kenneth Hermon, just for those that may be watching, and that's always my concern, with the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County. What the Tax Commissioner is

trying to do versus what it states, so my understanding -- let me be clear. The understanding is the money is to go to a particular pool for a particular amount of the staff; is that correct? I would just like for you, in layman's terms, if you don't mind."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. From what I understand, based on the document that is presented to the Board of Commissioners, the agreement allows for that money to pass through the county to then be paid specifically to the personal staff of the Tax Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. I don't have a problem with this. I do want to put a side note. We have lost quite a bit of that staff, historically sensitive staff down there that has been down there a while. And so, if this would help us keep some of the people that we need to have in place, I support it. And so, on that note, I don't see a problem with it, and I'm in support of it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. The motion on the floor is to approve. Motion by Commissioner Hall; seconded by Commissioner Arrington. The motion on the floor is to approve. Please vote."

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

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

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**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Chairman Pitts, I would like -- with all due respect, I would like to make a motion to move agenda item -- the approval of the GOP nominations forward. With all due respect, there's several officers of the nominating committee here."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, which item? Which one? What page?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 9 and 10, 86 and 87."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, any objections, Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, Mr. Chair. I'm going to object. If we're going to bring up the nominations, I think we need to bring them all up, not just the Republicans, but I'm fine with doing the Republican ones, first."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I would do that friendly amendment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, let's -- just a minute. Just a minute. So the request is, is to bring all of those BRE nominations up -- all of them. Any objections? All right, no objections."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I object."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I mean, if we're doing it based on who's in the room, we have the Sheriff sitting in the room, too. Are we going to move everybody who's in the room up?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, go ahead. You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Frankly, we should move the Sheriff up so he can get back to what he's doing."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman. Chairman, with all due respect, and with all due respect to you as well. I do understand they're here. But we've got to be consistent in what we do. We sat here on several of the occasions and we moved up what was time sensitive or we gave deference to elected officials. And so, to move up something just because somebody can't wait here long enough, we are setting a very dangerous precedent; and I'm going to have to speak against that because we can't do for one that what we're not willing to do others. And so, I understand, we gave the extra time to speak, we relaxed our rules for that, Chairman. But we cannot start doing something based on a particular preference if we're not going to allow it across the county. So I would have to speak against that unless it is something that is really, really time consistent or time sensitive, I'm going to have to object to that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, Commissioner Thorne, your motion would be to bring up all of the recommendations, correct?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And this is seconded by Commissioner Ellis; is that correct?"

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "Correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, let's vote. This is to reconsider all of them. All right, Commissioner Hall, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, because I have literally sat here before and moved things up because there were people in the audience waiting. So I cannot -- I can't sit here in good conscience and not say that. I have -- I'm in my sixth year as Commissioner, and I've done it very often and asked for items to be moved up on the agenda because there were people waiting. And we didn't want them to have to wait and wait until after lunch, and come back and all that, so I just wanted to say that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, the motion then on the floor is to -- Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, I wonder, Commissioner Thorne, if you might do a friendly amendment and I don't know how long our Sheriff is going to take, but I'm not necessarily opposed to moving anyone up, but I'm more worried about our Sheriff's time than I am about anyone else's time. So for me, I would rather move our Sheriff up first and then hear the other matter after that. I could support that, but I don't know if I can move up the nominations and then still make our Sheriff wait when I know he's got more personal things to do."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I believe his time is very valuable and I would agree to that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So with that friendly amendment, I could support it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Just a minute. Just a minute. She has accepted the friendly amendment to bring up the Sheriff first, and we're just getting silly here today. Commissioner Ellis?"

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "I mean as a practical matter, the Sheriff's item is very likely to take an extended period of time. It will take us into lunch and Executive Session."

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

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "And, therefore, these nominations aren't going to be taking place until after lunch -- after Executive Session, time unknown. So we may as well just keep them at the end of the agenda. I mean, you know, the Sheriff is here, he has an office here, he can go up and come back down, I mean."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "If I may, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "To the extent that practically it doesn't make sense, I could live with doing that one, but I would still want to do Sheriff after that and there maybe that would mean after lunch, I could live with that, and then that could give the Sheriff time to do lunch. So I mean --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's fair."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's fair. That's fair. All right, let's vote on the --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "What we gone vote on?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wait a minute. I'm going to tell you if you listen to me now. The motion on the floor is to reconsider the agenda to take the nominations, I'm underscoring nominations, by both parties first, then after that, we will hear the Sheriff's presentation at some point. But that will be the next item after it. All right, that's the motion on the floor. That's a motion by Commissioner Thorne, and seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote in the affirmative."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Call the --"

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay, on page 9, **23-0386**, Board of Registration and Elections. The Fulton County Republican Party has nominated Mike Heekin for a Full Board Appointment to a term ending June 30th, 2025."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, is there a motion. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Let's vote, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, sir. Vice Chair Ellis?"

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "Just a couple quick questions. Do these votes require unanimous consent?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "From the Board of Commissioners?"

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "No, it's a majority vote."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And then I believe the statute says a person has to be a resident of the county; is that correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes, there are certain qualifications."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And they're not running for office, right? But as a resident, they're not running for office, right?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I would have to --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- is that what the statute says?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I would have to consult on that."

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "So Mr. Heekin is not doing any of those two things, right? There is no requirement, he being a University of Georgia grad even on, so right? He's a University of Florida grad?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm not aware of that requirement, no."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I just wanted to state for the record that I have reviewed the language regarding the word shall: Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the County Executive Committee. So, yeah, I been practicing law for 27 years now. The word shall is compulsory; however, this is from nominations made by the chairperson of the County Executive from the political party. In my mind, that charges the chairperson of each political party to make nominations that are acceptable to us. The word shall, yes, we shall appoint them as soon as they put someone up that's acceptable. So let's just be clear: The word shall is there, but it is not -- the word shall doesn't control my vote. I control my vote. And I don't know if the county attorney wants to speak or provide an opinion on this language. But, you know, I've been practicing law for 27 years. I know how to read a law and interpret it. And we are not compelled to accept any nominations from either party. We have and we have been elected to make the determination just like we do for Board of Registration and Elections for any other boards, and task force, authorities that we nominate. The buck stops with us. We get to make the final determination, so let's be clear about that. We're not going to rewrite the law. The sky is not red. The grass is not blue. We're not just going to start making stuff up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. The motion on the --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- in reviewing the statute, we analyze it as a two-part process. The statute does have some mandatory language; that is true. But we analyze it as a two-step process that sets forth in a manner in which the appointment will be made. So what is mandated is that the method of appointment will be as set forth in this Georgia law. It is mandated that the appointment that this Body makes will be from the designated pool. It is mandated that the source of the designated pool of



nominees will be from these two parties. What is not mandated by the language of the statute is that the BOC appoint any particular nominee or particular slate of nominees set forth by the parties."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Can I speak, please."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So if you compare it to the DeKalb law, there is a provision where they can reject, but there is no such provision written in our law."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That is correct. DeKalb County has adopted an ordinance that incorporates the Georgia law, but adds a clarification of the implication that exists in the Georgia law; meaning that because there is no explicit mandate that you select a particular nominee set put forward, which would be essentially allowing the party to make the appointment as opposed to making a nomination. DeKalb County has just clarified that in their ordinance. Our ordinance in Fulton County has just not made, taking that extra step to clarify that that implication --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- so there is some gray area in the law, correct? Because I spoke with numerous -- lawyers have contacted me and they did see that there is -- it's not well spelled out and maybe we need to get some adjustments to the law. But it is not spelled out, and are we opening ourselves up to potential litigation?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Well, I don't want to necessarily give that legal advice in this public form, but I will say that I think the DeKalb County ordinance is a reflection of their interpretation which matches our interpretation that it is implied by the language of the statute that the 'shall' applies to the appointment from this pool rather than the appointment of say the first nominee who was presented."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Thank you for that clarification."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, the motion on the floor is to approve Mr. Heekin; is that correct? Mike Heekin. Let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0387**, the Fulton County Republican Party has nominated Jason Frazier for a Full Board Appointment to a term ending June 30th, 2025."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chair; I'll be very brief in my comments. I just want to go on record saying that if you look at my history even as far as two years ago, I oppose Kathy Woolard's nomination. And so, it is in that same spirit that I have not been convinced of certain things that are boggling to me whenever we're talking about putting somebody on the Board of Registration and Elections. I have a duty to all of the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County, and I take issue with someone giving the impression that we're all going to fall in line. I'm the furthest thing from it, but I want to go on record saying that there is no fraud in Fulton County elections. And if you need proof, it's right here. The proof here, Bridget, Commissioner Thorne, was not the person that was the powers to be individual -- that they wanted in office, but she's here. Commissioner Barrett was not the powers to be person, and she's here. Commissioner Khadijah definitely was not. And so, I take issue with the fact that you want to say it's fraud when you disagree with me, but when I agree with you then I'm, okay. So we have a right and a duty as Commissioners to do what is right for all of Fulton County not just whether it's the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, because my history shows that I will do what's right and not what's told. I just want to go on record saying that, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, in all due respect, I mean that was -- I'm not sure really kind of those arguments made a heck of a lot of sense. I mean first off, that Kathy Woolard thing was -- that's a vote on an appointment that's made by us. This is a vote on appointments that are made by other parties and I'm not sure kind of like the fraud piece is really relevant to the discussion one way or the other, and how individual elections may have panned out for the people on this board. I'm not really sure how that really kind of extrapolates and has any bearing on this particular discussion right here. So again, this person is a resident. They're not running for office, correct? We got a statute -- as far as we know it's never been challenged; is that correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "We haven't found any other challenges, no."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So, there's no case law on it. So, we're sitting in interpretive of individual opinion on that. So, you know, not approving an individual from one of the parties would be, you know, a new precedent -- would set a new precedent. It would potentially open us up to litigation which probably is unnecessary. And probably continues a lot of sort of unnecessary what I term tribal warfare. And, you know, I mean, quite honestly, I thought we saved democracy a few weeks ago when we, you know, just ripped apart Lee Morris and got his nomination revoked but, you know, I guess we have to kind of go back at it again today. And, you know, I also learned some interesting things this week starting on Monday or Tuesday, I began to receive e-mails

from constituents -- I use that term -- put that term in air quotes, that were suggesting that this individual not be approved, and what was interesting about many of those things which e-mail came through as a constituent, that was sort of the lead in to the line. And their addresses appeared, and on those -- on most of them as well, and it turns out I've got constituents in no less than 20 states. So I have no idea that my commission district was this big. So man, I tell you what, I'm going to have a heck of a time at that next reelection. But anyway, so that was kind of an enlightening process, but you know, look, I mean, I think it's a dangerous precedent for us to go down. I mean, there are individual things, so I think we can dislike about, you know, things that, you know, a representative from the other side. I think that's the nature of this, right? And I think that the way that this thing is structured, it's been every intention that is if somebody just if one resident that weren't running for office, then you know, that they would be approved. That was sort of the basis for which we would apply the test, you know, and, you know, we all want to get into sort of philosophical things about it. Well, you know, we just talked about a particular item about sort of philosophical stuff around tax stuff; and we said, well, our hands are tied. We basically got to approve it, so anyway. I would really caution us against kind of setting, you know, this new precedent. I'm not really sure that it serves a high degree of purpose for us, and I think it's going to lead to just further unnecessary litigation and unnecessary just perpetuation of, you know, this whole sort of topic of election politics. When we could have just four representatives we can approve today. Those parties all go to work with a new chair and put us in position to have a great election in the next government. So those are my comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Please. Commissioner Hall, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I initially didn't have anything to say about this until one of the constituents came forward earlier and said that he talked to someone in my office who told them that I was checking for red flags, which is completely false and completely inaccurate. I was never checking for any red flags. So let's clear that up first. And then what I just heard about our vote could open us up to litigation, I want to ask our county attorney about that. How could our vote on this open us up to litigation?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I think what's been discussed today is that if you interpret the statute to mean that your appointment of a particular nominee is mandatory, then that would open us up to litigation is the basis of that position or thought. You can't stop someone from litigating, so anything can open us up to litigation in that sense. What I offer you is not a guarantee of how it's going to turn out, but what our interpretation is based upon, the state of the case law, the non-existing case law, and the plain language of the statute only."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I just have a couple of quick notes here. First of all, Madam County Attorney, just to be clear: Again there is some different ways to potentially interpret this state law, but I think there's certainly evidence that when a group is supposed to have their choice on a particular board, that the wording is different. For example, we have the -- just a couple weeks ago, we had the spreading on the minutes of an appointment made by the Clerk of Superior Court. That wording was such that the Clerk of Superior Court made the appointment. We did not get to vote, yes, or no on that. The appointment was made, not a nomination, and it was just spread on the minutes. In this case, it seems quite clear that there is a nominating group and an appointing group. The governing authority, we are the ones appointing based on a nomination, correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Correct. Excuse me, it's a two-step process, and as of comparing contrast I don't know if you are familiar with DeKalb County's original Board of Ethics statute, which allowed certain entities from the community to appoint, to actually make an appointment. So in this instance, it is the Board of Commissioners who makes the ultimate appointment from the pool of nominees submitted by these parties."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you for that. And I also just want to add to that, that I think we just showed by our vote that we are happy to abide by the law and appoint a good-faith nomination from either party. We just voted, yes, on Mr. Heekin, because he was a good-faith nominee on the part of the Republican Party. I don't believe the same is true about Mr. Frazier. And we can, you know, get into the details of all of that back and forth, but that is my opinion. As to -- by the way, I will say this on that front. One of things I did in researching this person and the work that he has done that's been talked about today, was to look at the bylaws of the Board of Registration and Elections. And one of the stated purposes of the Board of Registration and Elections of Fulton County says that their purpose is to quote, 'articulate the department's goals and accomplishments to the public and to the elected bodies to which the department answers, so that the public and elected officials maintain confidence in elections administered by the department'. This is not something that Mr. Frazier has done or shown himself capable of doing. To me, that is not a serious nomination. In terms of precedent, my thoughts are this: The dangerous precedent being set here is being set by the nominating body. By sending us a nonserious nomination, the dangerous precedent has already been set. We have an obligation here to take these appointments seriously and to consider them seriously. I will not be supporting Mr. Frazier's appointment."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, let's be clear. I don't take lightly to threats -- legal threats and lawsuits. So number one, I don't appreciate someone coming down

here and saying if you don't vote a certain way, we're going to sue you. Let's be very clear about that. I'm a lawyer. I go to court every day. I don't give a damn, okay?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, please."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So let's be real clear, all right? Now that's number one. Number two, the unanimous vote of Mr. Heekin is the number one defense to any of that. It's the number one defense to any lawsuit. We just voted unanimously for this man; a nomination, a nominee who got unanimous support. I would challenge anyone that is talking about filing a lawsuit to put forth another name that can get unanimous support. It's real simple. Also, Madam County Attorney, I would ask you to draw up the ordinance for the next meeting, so that it looks -- so that we make the same clarification that you said Dekalb County made. We need to have that clarification and we need to vote on it at the next meeting."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "We will prepare it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, does that have to be legislated in?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "The amendment to that? Is that something the state legislature has to be involved in, or can we just do that?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The clarification?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, we can do that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I was just checking. So, wow. I know what it is like to be called names. I've been called a lot of names up here. And Jason Frazier has been called a lot of names. Voter suppressor. Whose vote? Whose vote? Not one person came down here saying their vote was suppressed by Jason Frazier. Election denier. Okay. How does cleaning the voter rolls an election denier? Cleaning the voter rolls is law. And for decades, Fulton County, we have not obeyed the law. I don't know if you're familiar with Ralph Jones. He was in charge. He was the chief of voter registration. He refused to clean the rolls. We knew that more people are registered on our rolls that possibly live in Fulton County. And currently right now, according to a national election commission, we have a 113 percent of the people eligible to vote on our voter rolls. And you think that's, okay, that we not obey the law? You think that's, okay? Who here

thinks it's, okay, that we just don't ignore the law? Like Ralph Jones did for years. So that is why SB 202 was put in place. Yes, I go to ACCG conferences, and every year they're like okay, what is Fulton County going to screw up so we're going to have to legislate something? And they had to legislate the voter challenge process because they knew counties were refusing, ignoring, to clean their voter lists in accordance with the national voter law. So that is why Jason Frazier, as a citizen, has been looking there. He is an engineer; an engineer from Purdue. Unfortunately, not Georgia Tech, but from Purdue, and he has an MBA. He retired at age 35. He is a pretty brilliant individual. He can merge databases. He can -- he can merge the NCOAs to match the voter bases to spit out incorrect data. He can look at GIS systems. He has the capabilities. I got an e-mail from somewhere, some person; one of these e-mails that were mass mailed where you just put in your name and address and hit send and it automatically generates a letter. That's why we will have constituents from Hawaii and everywhere else contacting us about this issue. Yes, he knows how to merge databases. They were concerned. They said we need to hire people that can do this work, and I couldn't agree more fully. As a data analyst myself, we need to hire somebody, and that's why I am glad that on Monday, we fired our registration chief. So hopefully now we will replace that registrations chief with somebody that can look at databases that can understand databases that can write code to merge, sort, and spit out bad data. So, Commissioner Barrett, you say we have not a serious, not a good nomination, and that we just put up a laughingstock. I listened to the Chairman, Stephanie Endres and I was not familiar with the process. I've been interviewing candidates over a two-week period vetting them, having people vote. Having a majority vote and then having the vice chair. It was a multistep process, and they took the top two that they thought were appropriate. I'm sorry that Dana Barrett doesn't think it's appropriate, that they're a laughingstock. I apologize, but I think the Republican Party in good faith as put whom who they thought was best. And I noticed that there -- the only people that came down here to speak were Democratic activists. Your friend, Dana Barrett -- Commissioner Barrett, Stephanie Ali, from New Georgia Project Fund, she was like one of the four that spoke: Building trust for our voters. How on earth are we going to build trust if we say, oh, we only want ours, but we don't want yours, keep bringing people forward until we believe that they're serious; that we believe that they are in good faith nominating the correct person. I am frustrated for all of you who think that having dirty voter rolls; with having 880,000 people on the voter rolls is good. All of you who scream about the elections are underfunded: we are wasting money by not cleaning our voter rolls. Do you realize for every person in the precinct, for every 250 voters, you have to have one ballot marking device. Those machines aren't cheap. Law dictates a vote. So let's just put an extra 48,000 like they just identified, the faulty addresses, let's just put 48,000. What is 48,000 divided by 10 or 50? How many BMD's are we buying? How many precincts? They try to limit our precincts between two to 4,000 people in a precinct? How many extra precincts are we having to staff and pay? How many more equipment are we having to program and do logic and accuracy testing? Yes, you complained that it's so costly, we cannot afford it. There's so many mandates, but yet we are just wasting money by not cleaning our voter rolls. And I hear some of you are like, oh Jason is causing so much time for our staff to sit there and go



through all the challenges. Well, for a decade, we have been cleaning the voter rolls, it wouldn't be such a huge project, and but now it is. And Jason has stepped up to help volunteer, and he is demonized. I know what it feels like to be demonized when all you're trying to do is do what's best for Fulton County. What you're trying to do is doing the best for all the people. How is it that someone is registered, 20 registrations at kind of a condemned looking house, and 18 of them are registered on the same day? How is that? I don't know. I sent our Elections Director an e-mail to ask her to verify and I don't think she's replied back yet. How is it that somebody lives on a bridge on I-20? Fortunately I don't think he's voted. How is it that somebody with first name is no name and last name is no name is in our system? Several of them and one of them has voted. How is that? Is that integrity? Is that trust in our system? I think we need to restore trust. As we said, I think we need iron that sharpens iron. We may not agree, and Jason Frazier, when he's on the Board, frankly he's going to have to stop doing the voter challenges because he's not going to have time. He needs to abide by supporting the board and their vision and helping the Fulton County be the gold standard in elections. That's what we need. That's what our goal is. So I don't know if all of you -- there was some misinformation that he cleared all these voters off because of a small minor address change. I questioned the article in the newspaper, the writer of the article. So, Bridget, you put voter challenges. I'm like, no, he put two lists, one list for challenges. One list he said these are address corrections. If you're not going to do your job and correct them then send them out as challenges, and that's exactly what the Fulton Board of Elections did, and they put Jason Frazier's name as the challenger for a simple address correction that they could have got in. He told him how to correct the addresses. He went through all that trouble. So even Dr. Ruth, BRE member, her voter was challenged, her whole family, as it was mentioned. It's not partisan, it's a bipartisan effort. It's good for everybody. How are you got to get your absentee ballot if you're address is not correct? How are you going to communicate you -- assign you the right precinct if your address is not correct? So I challenge my board members, do we want to have an efficient department? Are we, okay, with people who might disagree and maybe we can come and represent Fulton County both sides of the aisle, thank you, Chairman Pitts"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. All right, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to call the question. Is there a second? Is there a second? All right. Properly moved and seconded. The motion on the floor is to call the question. Let's vote on calling the question."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on call the question. And the motion passes; five yeas, two nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to -- motion by -- is to approve Mr. -- strike that, yes, to approve Mr. Jason Frazier. Let's vote."



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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 11, **23-0388**, Board of Registration and Elections. The Fulton County --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wait a minute, wait a minute. Hold it, hold it, hold it, hold it. All right, go."

**CLERK GRIER:** "23-0388, the Fulton County Democratic Party has nominated Teresa K. Smith Crawford for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2025."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, and it is seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Sorry. Yeah, I believe that I need to submit to the wishes of the Democrat Party. I believe that that's what's fair. Terry Crawford, I have met her. Actually, when she first came on board, she was really quite pleasant to talk to. Things kind of changed after Cathy Woolard came on board. But she seems to be a fair, levelheaded person. But her qualifications to get on this board, basically, she concluded four years leading the Democrat National -- North Fulton Democrat Organization. She worked with membership budget programs incentives and that impact Democrats. Other than that, she began her career after college in a general tire retail division, raised four daughters, which is incredible, spearheaded the formation of Hewitt, Texas first public library, and she's the founding member of the Bryan Area Reading Coalition of Bryan Texas. She has nothing on here, data analysis, no master's degrees, nothing. She's just kind of a person that they put on the board because she's a Democrat organizer. And it seems like she's qualified to be on the BRE. She was pretty darned clueless when she came on, I had to admit. I follow every meeting. But yet, that's who the Democrats wish to have on this board. And I think I should honor their wishes. And I respect Ms. Crawford that she'll do a fair and balanced job. So, I wish that my colleagues would do the same. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a second?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, properly moved and seconded. Let's vote on the call of the question."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12, **23-0389**, the Fulton County Democratic Party has nominated Aaron Johnson for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2025."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, it is seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor, followed by Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Once again, they put Aaron Johnson back up here again. And I've spoke, as a private citizen, against him being on the board. But they -- there is no justification, even though I really find it suspicious when both these nominations were put in our agenda, which I'd like to submit their resumes to make sure the public has access to those records with both nominations. I'm like, can I get some kind of resume or bio? And we were quickly sent over Aaron Johnson's bio. From 2016 to present it says he is the Atlanta Realtors Association, Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors. Okay, that's good, he's a realtor. 2015, '16, Fulton County Office of the Chairman, Senior Assistant for Policy and -- he goes on. But he fails to mention some crucial things, very crucial things. He fails to mention that he is the Chief of Staff for the City of Atlanta Chairman, Atlanta City Council, Doug Shipman. And somehow he kind of leaves that, politely leaves that off the resume that was sent to us. It's on his LinkedIn, it's on his bio. We all know that he's the Chief of Staff for Mr. Shipman. He fails to leave that off. He was also the District Director for Nikema Williams, U.S. House of Representatives in the 5th District, full time. Just coincidentally, he got that job after he voted not to fire Richard Barron when the other Democrat did. He got an award, it was COVID, the office wasn't even open, he was getting \$80,000 a year. He would come to meetings from his house in the background. When he finally did -- was in the office, there was no furniture in there. So why would he fail to leave what his job, his current job off on a resume? That just brings suspicion, suspicion, lack of trust, lack of trust. I believe that it's a conflict of interest if you are on the Board of Registration Elections and you get a paycheck from an elected official. When you are voting on where precincts are going to be, when you are voting on how many precincts are going to be in your area, who's going to work, who's going to be -- when you have that much control on the

Board of Registration Elections and you get a paycheck from an elected official, it seems like there would be a conflict of interest. I know he, Mr. Shipman, probably run -- you know, it's a nonpartisan thing. But still, anybody who runs against him, is that a conflict of interest? I don't think it's illegal. Obviously, the law doesn't specify that, they can't be running for office, but they're working and getting their paycheck, their livelihood from an elected official. What control do they have on the Board of Registration Elections? You talk about trust, maybe we need to get it changed. It's not changed, so legally he can be on there and legally, the Democrats want him as their nominee. So, I'll support that. Thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just, apparently this nominee is a resident of Fulton County, and he's not running for office; is that correct? And there's no, in the statute, there is a person who works for an elected official, are they prohibited from being on the Board of Registration and Elections, based on your interpretation of it? Of both either the statute, or the -- or after they began to serve."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm sorry. Vice Chair Ellis, the second part of your question, I missed."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So, there's the -- there's a nominating statute, an approval of nomination statute, right?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Right."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And then there's certain rules, which govern people once they're on the board, right?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Do either of those prohibit a person who works for an elected official from holding a role on the Board of Registrations and Elections?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm not aware of any specific prohibition on that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is there a second?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, properly moved and second. Please vote on the call of the question."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "On the motion on floor, which is to approve, let's vote, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Colleagues, it is 1:22. The Sheriff is okay with us having lunch and Executive Session. So, I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and items of Executive Session, real estate, litigation, and personnel. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes; six yeas, one nay."

(Recess for Executive Session at 1:23 p.m.)

(Back in Regular Session at 2:26 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. And will someone summon -- not summon, ask the Sheriff to make his way to the Assembly Hall, please. Madam County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Chairman Pitts. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation set forth in items number 1 and 2 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes. Motion to approve by Commissioner -- Commissioner Dana -- Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's continue until the Sheriff arrives."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 5, bottom of page 5, **23-0371** -- 373, Human Resources Management request approval to modify the classification section of the Classification of Compensation Plan by adding new titles."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6, **23-0374**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval to increase the spending authority in the amount of \$35,975 to provide --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "A motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0375**: Request approval to increase spending authority to provide additional tree removal services."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Could you add my, yea?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Six?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Six."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Six with Commissioner Thorne."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0376**: Request approval to increase spending authority to provide immediate replacement and insulation of emergency exit lights."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You skipped one, didn't you? 0376, all right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0377**: Request approval to accept a name change and authorizing the Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance to reflect the name change."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm sorry. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I thought that we had adopted a policy that there could not be name changes without a fiscal study as to the financial impact of such a name change. In fact, I know that we did."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Commissioner Arrington, this is a name change for a contractor on a contract."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, Commissioner?"

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0378**: Request approval of amended proposal to provide design/build services for the construction of the Fulton County Behavior Health Crisis Unit."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7 under Health and Human Services, **23-0379**, Community Development: Request approval of a resolution by the Board of Commissioners to authorize adoption and approval of a 2023 HUD Annual Actual Plan."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0380**: Request approval of a contract with the Next Level Boys Academy, LLC to provide services for youth and young adults in Fulton County."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Vice Chair, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just one quick question. This -- I was looking at sort of the scope of what this is, and it seems very similar to programs which we approved due to the scope of our CSP. So number one, is that accurate? And then number two, if so, in the future could this be something which would be subject to that same process for application?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Yes, Vice Chair, it's accurate. That is the scope of services that are provided by the agency."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So my question is that scope of services is very -- seems very similar to many of the types of scope of services for programs that are agreed to via awards via our CSP Program."

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "It's some overlap in terms of the youth services, yes, sir."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "What's that?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "It's some overlap in terms of the --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Some overlap with --"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Yes, sir."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- okay. So in theory, it could be, in the future, it could be the type of thing or should be, potentially, subject to the same CSP process."

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "We can look at for next year."

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

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



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I was just going to say, just to be clear, this was approved during the budget process. And so, this is just the approval of the contract for money that's already been budgeted. And specifically, this group works with those facing charges in Fulton County. And so I don't know how many of the CSP programs are actually or youth programs are actually dealing with those that are actually facing charges. But this program is for those that are actually facing charges in Fulton County and provides a diversionary program for them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, we have a motion on the floor to approve by Commissioner Thorne, it's seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays. Are we ready for --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, he's in route, correct, Mr. Adams?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, is that -- what's his ETA?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "(Off-mic response.)"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Take up, what? Oh, yeah, where's that?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 13."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's go."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 13, **23-0390**, Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors, Chairman Pitts and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman have nominated Lee Morris for a Full Board appointment to a term ending June 30th, 2027."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote, please."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is that him? It is? Look like he lost some weight. Anything else we can do before we -- yeah. All right. You should have received an updated list of dates for this next meeting. Did everybody get it? This was -- this is updated one that you just -- that's on your -- in front of you. And it looks like one, two, three, four -- one,

two -- June 13th and June 14th, we can have four. On that next meeting date, we can have all seven. So, I still think it's preferable to have that at the next meeting on the -- which, that'll be what, the 21st?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I certainly would prefer the meeting date. I'm not available any of these days."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The 21st. That would -- we will shoot to finish the regular agenda by 2:45, and convene the Special Work Session at 3:00 o'clock."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I expect that we convene it at 2:00 o'clock --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We can do 2:00 o'clock if every -- no proclamations, and no, you know, stuff, extra -- all right. Because we need to give the -- we need to give the Manager and his people some direction -- 2:00 o'clock, we're going -- that's our goal to finish up, 1:45 --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "2:00 o'clock to start the work session."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. That's the goal. So let the buyer beware. All right. Let's confirm that with everybody. Sheriff. So which one are we taking first?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "23-0391, Page 13, Presentation of the Bridging Plan."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How you doing, Sheriff?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "I am outstanding, good afternoon. So we will, understanding that time is of the essence --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, we good, we're good."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "We will certainly be brief. Again, thank you all, thank you for the opportunity. Again, just really level setting where we are and an opportunity to -- for you to understand as we get ready to move forward. You see this title right here, it's the Bridging Plan. One thing that we understand in depth is that, while we wait to this -- or get to this next phase, we have to currently take care of what we already have. And so as we move on, you'll see -- next slide. As we get ready to talk about the objectives and where we are, each of you should have a copy of this. But one of the things that was made really clear as we worked with the Emergency Management Services, Inc. is that we need to make sure that we, not just tell our own story, but really concisely put together an observation opportunity for you all to be a part of what next looks like. So it's, you understand one thing that we've been battling continuously has been recruitment. Creating this Bridging Plan really, again, as I previously said, really level sets an opportunity. We continue to move forward as we look at a replacement jail as opposed to -- I don't say -- I don't dare say, new jail. Right now, the jail, as you know,

because I've emailed many of you, each opportunity I get, and/or text you, jail is falling apart. That's where we are. And so, I do want to thank our County Manager and his team, just with respect to really leaning in toward what the next several months will look like. You'll see one of the things that we have to do is create this glide path, if you will, toward what medical care and medical services look like. We have a couple things there that you will actually, I hope you'll be pleased with, a staffing analysis, which I have been saying for the last year and a half, we have to do. Our last staffing analysis was 2015. And the current one, I know there's one built into the jail plan, however, we need to do a complete staffing analysis of Fulton County Sheriff's office. Ultimately, you're talking about \$400,000 there. One of the things that we are building is a dashboard that ultimately, I would like to see published, much like the crime -- the crime analysis data for APD, so anybody, your constituents could go online, see how we're spending this money, understand what these new fixes look like. Really, one of the key objections here, making sure that we create a battle cadence, right? One that each of you and our constituents can follow along with as we move through day to day and what that looks like. Next slide. As we talk about Bridging Plan and our outcomes, one of the things, now this really highlights drills down a little further in terms of the objections, looking at, as we talked about, a staffing analysis, what our recommended staffing levels will look like currently and both -- both down the line. Maintenance has been the bane of everyone's existence. And so I do want to take an opportunity to thank Mr. Davis and his team. We have been chasing our own tail when it comes to this particular building. Rice Street, in and of itself, as many of you heard me say, it is the Titanic, right, looking for an iceberg. The medical situation right now, I appreciate you all's patience as we look to optimize or look at optimizing what best and best care looks like as we move forward. We already talked about the dashboard. One of the things that we recognize from the a public facing and really telling the story, is working with Ms. Corbitt, our team, we brought on, many of you may know, Natalie Ammons from the GBI, from 30 years of public direction, if you will. I don't say PIO, but we have a building of really good team there. And then potentially, some additional communication opportunities, and you'll hear about those as we continue to move forward. Next slide, please. One of the things that we've created, and I told our Chair, there are no -- no rock we won't overturn. And so, what we've done is two different -- focus on two different fronts, and one is these blitzes. And these term blitzes, really amass to or amount to an opportunity for us to take the necessary resources, be it medical, or be it command staff, and really delve in to, every other week, every other month, looking at what we have discovered. So when you see medical and medical health units, one of the things that we did on April 17th was take the entire medical staff, take some of our security staff, and we saw over 1,000 patients, so 1,000 detainees. Doesn't matter what their issue, their concern is, we want to make sure we lay, in one day, laid eyes on every individual -- as many individuals as we could on that day. But the result, the unintended consequence was, the more we did this, the better at it we got. And so we did it again on June 1st, and we saw every single individual at Rice Street in one day. So again, creating this blitz. Now, what we did find in both instances, there were some people that still needed to be treated for ectoparasites. And so we can expedite that and we continue to treat them. In that same vein, you see that next bullet we talk about, really,

a command staff blitz. So on April 24th, we took the entire command staff and did the same thing with respect to maintenance, not just talking to detainees, but maintenance. And what that ultimately yielded, was a separate report to -- and this is the kind of thing that we want to ultimately publish. And this is where Mr. Davis and his team were -- been very, very proactive in helping us there. But that ended up with 692 cell doors that were broken, 543 electrical issues, 115 malfunctioning toilets, 318 malfunctioning sinks, et cetera, et cetera, 25 windows that had had some damage to them. So I do, again, I cannot overstate, if you will, Mr. Davis and his team's ability to come in and help us start rectifying that. But again, the -- what this does tell us is that as we prepare to move forward, regardless to what we do, we still have to take care of the current situation. So in that, you'll see that we're going to open up the South Annex again, take minimum-security individuals, put them out there in an attempt to completely empty one zone. So, Commissioner Khadijah, as you've been over, you understand where, for instance, we take One North, and we completely empty that zone, and completely repair that zone from stem to stern, whether it be doors, sinks, commissary, phones, whatever it looks like, repair that zone, then turn around and move internally. So we only have to move the South Annex once. Move internally to those areas and completely repair other zones. So, of course, there's a price tag that comes with that, and we'll get to that shortly. So ultimately, the other piece to that is, doing it in this fashion allows us to really be proactive about safety and security when it comes to contractors, when it comes to our staff, and certainly, those that we supervise from there. Next slide, please. So this goes -- this marches down the road of some of the things that we are doing constructively to try and address this issue. So, as you know, we have 13 towers. Some of those towers have gone unmanned at time. So we're seeking, just like we do the front security to this building and several other buildings and what they're doing in Charlotte Mecklenburg is, getting private security to come in and man those towers. So there's no -- there's no officer or inmate interaction there. It is just build-around safety. The other thing that we have continuously asked for since last year is -- and we're moving to the senior pay structure. What we have done is, if you recall, with the approval of the \$11 million, not just in overtime, but -- or overtime and double time, and we'll talk about that shortly. But what we did was gave 20 percent pay raise to line staff and Sergeants that were affected. My senior staff got nothing. And when they got nothing, ultimately, they're starting to leave. So I got, for instance, I got one Lieutenant and a Captain that's now in Clayton County. Because we made a commitment, just as we did with the civilian personnel, gave them 5 percent and that was clearly understood. But there was a decision made at that point not to pay the 20 percent there. And that came on the administrative side. There is a hefty price tag that goes with that. To complete the remainder of this year, that's a \$4 million price tag. I mentioned going back to double time and triple time. Somewhere in the midst of this constitutionality and the approval of the \$11 million, I intentionally had the system pay for and had the system set up so that if we had emergent situations, we could pay time and a half, double time, and in any instance, triple time, depending on what that needs to be. So there has been legal advice that says you all have to approve that, that's budget neutral at this point. And I clearly don't understand it, but that's something that that you all can get -- hopefully, get some clarification on there. Staffing analysis, we talked about that,

ultimately, we need to level set there. Next slide, please. This is just a reset to give you where we are real-time. If you look at our personnel, our vacancies, et cetera, those total 1,026 individuals. And but again, today's count -- now this is -- this is delayed information that you're looking at, but today's count, for instance, overall count is 3,541. That too, will be affected by a court or everything that happened in court today. The thing that's important to note, over at the city of Atlanta, we just moved an additional 52 individuals over there. Our plan is to get, in the next month or so, get to that 700 that we discussed, hopefully pretty quickly, that's our goal there. Next slide. Public information, one of things we've talked about is creating a JIC, right, a Joint Information Center. Again, a lot of us, we continue to get requests, multiple requests, but we want to make sure that we disseminate information in the most effective and efficient manner possible. So again, we have hired several individuals that hopefully, can lean into that, work with Ms. Corbitt, who has been a jewel to work with, and really, come up with an overall effective plan there. Next slide. So, this gets in to the nuts and bolts of the presentation. We talked about maintenance, which you're talking about nearly \$8 million that will flow through the system, and ultimately, Mr. Davis and his team, and certainly, Alton, who's been very intentional about working through creating and this plan with -- is it EMSI? I got it right, finally?"

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

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "With EMSI, and charting this battle cadence that would allow us, hopefully within ten to 11 months, completely rehab the entire facility. So that's our goal, but that's a price tag there. We talk about food, a couple things that we did that had, not necessarily, an unintended consequences, but it has had better consequences for us in terms of introduction of contraband is, we completely eliminated any personnel bringing any outside food into the facility. And so, in doing that, we still have to feed our team. And so the rising costs, the rising supply chain costs, those kind of things is how we got there. We talked about the personnel costs, ultimately, year over end that is an \$8 million ask. But the rest of this year, we cut that in half. One of the things that we will continue to talk about, and if I'm not mistaken, it will come up a few moments from now is, the inmate medical care. To that end, we believe we have a sustainable opportunity as we get ready to end the year. But that, in and of itself, is a \$4.5 million cost. I've already mentioned the JIC and the opportunity for a public information conversation. And that is a net -- that is about a \$500,000 ask. Next presentation -- next slide, please. So what, what are we doing? What is the ask, right? There are a couple things in terms of -- and this is why we want to do, really bimonthly, if you will, or not necessarily bimonthly, every other month updates for you all that include the disinfecting of 3 North, 3 South, our mental health, our medical, and our medical observation units. But ultimately that gives you, really, a lens to look through to see how that 5.1, \$5.2 million is being spent. You look at -- and this -- that's going great, by the way in terms of taking full advantage of that biweekly cleaning. The first cleaning, in and of itself, took about three weeks because it was so heavily needed that we had to get involved. And now we suspect that the next few cleanings will take exactly what we protected, somewhere around two weeks to do. But that's every other, that's twice a

month, ultimately that goes to what we're trying to get ready to do in terms of presenting to you all with a couple opportunities. One of which, when we talk about the JIC and Joint Information Center is, inviting you all over to see what we have done, right, where we are with respect to ultimately, what that looks like. So, what's the ask, right? What do we need you to do? At some point, I need you, today hopefully, vote on the medical extension, what that looks like. I'd like a ruling, whether it be from the Law Department or otherwise, with respect to triple time. I will give you a great example, and that is, most of you heard about the story where there were three holes in three different fences, a window on the fifth floor that was breached, et cetera. Now, we do believe, ultimately that it was used to attempt to bring contraband in. Everyone was accounted, but we had to stop everything we were doing, bring every resource we had and do a master count. Four or five hours later, we can -- we determined no one had escaped. That was really not the concern, but we also found several dozen shanks, knives, you know, things that ultimately took hours to do. That gives me the opportunity to say, okay, listen, some of these folks supposed to be at home. Some of these people had other things planned on a Friday evening. And to do so, whether it be double time or triple time that falls squarely in my wheelhouse. I paid for the adjustments to happen for us, the flexibility to be able to take care of our team members. And I'd like to be able to do that. There's an opinion from the Law Department that you all have to opine on that regardless to whether it sits in my budget or not. But I will let -- let that go from that perspective, and we can continue to deal with that. Now, ultimately, this is a Bridging Plan. This ultimately, is how we get to these next steps. There's a much larger ask. Does it have to happen right now, today, absolutely not. But again, it goes back to what Commissioner Ellis said a couple meetings ago. My goal is to make sure we keep each of you all informed, make sure our constituents are informed. And I'm not bashful about coming down here. You know I've come down here more than any Sheriff in the history of Fulton County. And so I will continue to do that and in making sure that we are collectively engaged in this solution in these processes. But it's unfair to each of you if I don't tell you what I need, if I don't tell you what we need to be successful. And this is the first opportunity to bridge this gap, understand where we are. And certainly, if there are any questions, I'll stand by to stand by."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Sheriff. Commissioner Hall, followed by Vice Chair Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you so much for this update on all of these. And I'm so proud and happy to know that our County Manager and County Executive Team, you and your team, and contractor, Emergency Management Services have gotten together and agree on this new approach. And how often will we receive these updates from --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So -- and that's a really good question. So, the plan is every other month from me. And I say that specifically because, it's only fair to the team, Mr. Davis and his team, to say, okay, we've identified these issues. Now, my team, my command team will go in every other week, right, that's our goal. As well as



we will continue to do the medical blitz, right. So those are twice a month each, each one of those blitzes. But our goal is to come back every other month because we want to give people an opportunity to receive what we say is broken or needs to be fixed and give them some time to fix it. So, essentially, bakes out to six times a year."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And you are absolutely correct. I have never seen a Sheriff who has tried to keep us abreast of exactly what's going on in the jail and tell us what you came into. In the six years that I was Chief of Staff to Commissioner Garner to the - - I'm in my sixth year as an actual Commissioner, I have not seen this level of communication about exactly what the needs are of the jail until you. And I mean, you came in day one, communicating that to us. No glossy booklet, once a year, right before the budget talking about stuff that nobody could confirm and the community was going on from the Sheriff's Department. But actually, coming in here and trying to resolve issues that you inherited. And I want to be clear that you absolutely inherited what you got. And I personally appreciate the fact that you have been open and honest in trying to be transparent about every aspect of the needs and picture -- from pictures of what's going on to, you know, details and investigations and everything. So, thank you for this, and I'll look forward to every other month."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And if I may, first of all, I appreciate -- and the pictures I send you, right, some are pretty graphic. I get it. But it is also important to note that some of this is a direct supervision -- is a causational situation respectful of the lack of personnel, people being unsupervised, and the way the facility is constructed, right. So ultimately, and I say this, right, Rice Street represents a old way of thinking of warehousing individuals and simply moving them along if the courts are moving and if things are happening. So again, to that point, and then, perfect opportunity for me, not only to think -- I know you've been very helpful with, not just pre-arrest diversion, but one thing that we did create, and you made me think of it, is an Inmate Advocacy Unit. And so what we do in this unit is twofold, right. We pull -- week before last, we pulled every misdemeanor we had, recognizing that 24 of the -- that we had 29 misdemeanors that had holds for other agencies. And so, we were able to get 24 of them out of the building immediately, going to represent those holds. But we're also working with Solicitor Gammage and his office. And we were able to release 87 individuals, who would have been sentenced to less time than that had already been. Now, similarly situated, 48 hours later, we had 57 arrests, right, that were misdemeanors. But the second part of this particular unit's job is to look at the people that have been there the longest, right, four or five years, understand what that -- what has taken their cases so long to get in and throughout court, whether it's a mental health situation or a competency issue. Because ultimately, and many of you have heard me say this, what ultimately happens is, whether it be Georgia Regional or Grady, once an individual is found competent, we got 30 days to get them on a court calendar. That 31st day or 32nd day, depending on the calendar, they go right back into rinse and repeat and they fall off the calendar. And so their job is to monitor that and try and get individuals out of jail that deserve to be out of jail. And so this Inmate Advocacy Unit is really up and running and doing some magnificent things."



**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I would love to -- can we get a report of --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Absolutely."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- on a regular basis? How regular could you provide that to us?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "I would ask that it be the same, at the same cadence as an update, right --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Every other month?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- so that you can see impact every other month. And ultimately, you'll be able to see the impact of where we started, how many people have come and gone since then and the reasoning behind it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That would be great. Because I know you recall this Assembly Hall being kind of packed with people who were saying that you were not trying to release people who needed to be released. And so this is a step in the right direction --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Absolutely."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- to address those concerns. And so I'd love to have that report. Will we get the first one after this meeting?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Yes, you will."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Because I --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "We'll make sure."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- would love to share that with many of those who were at this meeting, saying that you were not trying to do this and show them that you really are actually doing it."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Absolutely."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So, thank you for that."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "No, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Vice Chair Ellis, followed by Commissioner Barrett."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Sheriff for being here, and thank you for the report. Just as you try to be open and honest with us, I'm going to try to be open to and honest with you. Hopefully, you'll appreciate that, and respect that where I'm coming from with my remarks. You know, the -- I think a lot of this stuff here is good. I think we're still got -- we're still probably operating a little too much in the anecdotal, and we need to get to more true measurements and stuff and looking at them, you know, hard, real time within a good cadence, and seeing whether or not we're getting progress or not. There's just, in my opinion, you know, in terms of both the -- both in terms of what you presented to us on here, as well as what we've heard in some of the court operations and progress there, we -- still too much anecdotal stuff. So I like getting hard measurements. That was part of the discussion we had last week. And just as, you know, kind of the, you know, the courts need stronger performance, you know, which would in turn, benefit, you know, all -- and reduce some of the pressures around your operation. I think we need, you know, we need some stronger performance in some of the aspects that are here as well. So I'm glad that we're all working together on this and that we're going to have a good cadence of reporting. One, I would suggest that every other month is probably too light, it probably needs to be every month. Given the importance of this, that'll be my own sort of personal view. And then I had a few points that I want to make in terms of, you know, kind of what we have here. I'd -- for me, I mean, the most important things that I -- for us, for me, you know, that I want to see about progress on and insight into is, retention and recruitment and hiring specifically for manage -- for management of the jails; two, the inmate medical; three, jail maintenance and repairs. And then fourth is, maximizing utilization of the facilities that we have access to. To me, those are the four most critical things that we could -- we should get routine, monthly reporting on, if not more than monthly reporting on it. That's here, somewhat, I think it can be improved upon. There's some components to this that I had sort of, while I understand the potential, you know, look at, I also would question, really, why -- why we should expend any money towards right now. And one of those is, if we have -- whether it's 190, 200 people, 200 vacancies, why are we doing a staffing analysis when we've got 200 vacancies? And we're going to be creating a new facility that we're looking at trying to staff around, what that's going to look like as well. I'm not going to approve a new staffing analysis thing when we're sitting at almost, you know, 15 to 20 percent vacancies. I mean, if we were close to, you know, filling all of it and that sort of stuff, then it might make some sense to me. But that piece of it, I don't understand why we would even look at that at all right now. The -- and I understand your remarks about the Senior Officer pay structure. But that is not my understanding of what we approved in the last budget cycle. It was specifically for the Detention Officers and Deputies. I -- none of this stuff about overtime is in here, so I can't really speak of that because I don't even -- it's not here, and I haven't had a chance to really kind of think about it. What you're talking about with the contract security to fill the tower positions, I mean that gets at the heart of -- heart of things. I think that makes some sense to getting these facilities more secure. I mean, because we can put more maintenance cost into stuff, but obviously, if there's not adequate enough direct management -- and look, you know, we all get the other thing that I just -- I think we've repeated enough, and I think it's good and I think we all understand it, at

least on the terms of this Board, or maybe six of the seven of us do, the need for a new facility. But that ain't happening tomorrow, it ain't happening next year, it probably ain't happening for, you know, two to three years. So, we got what we got. And we got to make the best of what we got. So I mean, we can, you know, continue to talk about that. But that's not going to solve any of our immediate problems. So how do we best utilize what we have? And part of that, you know, if we're going to add additional maintenance stuff in there, what are we doing to ensuring we're not just coming back and repeating the same maintenance activities over and over, because this stuff's getting destroyed because we do have adequate enough management oversight of inmates. On this common operation -- common operating picture, just two observations of that. I think on the retention metrics, I would just like to see something down here that shows open vacancies, have a fifth box for it to actually know what it is. And potentially, have that look at sort of a trend of what that could look like. You know, here's where it was at the beginning of the year, here's where it is now or here's where it is now. Does that make sense? So we can see, you know, what progress we've actually made. I see that, you know separations in hires. But I don't -- this is -- I want to see actual number of vacancies. The start of the year we had 229, what is it today? Let's put it down on paper so we can see it and let's track it. On the current jail population, this maximization of the facilities that we have access to. I think this is the -- one of the most critical things. And you and I have had conversations certainly about have we maximized our ability to utilize ACDC. And like on this piece, it would give the appearance, and this may just be the way that it was sort of self-generated that, you know, we're above capacity at ACDC. But that's not accurate, right? I mean, you're -- I don't know why we'd be applying the same kind of 80 percent, you know, methodology at a facility that we're more selectively putting specific people into. So, this population versus operational capacity at the top or at the -- in this first box over here, 3593 struck up against 2619, I don't think that bottom number 2619, is reflective of the operational capacity that we have access to at the moment across the multiple facilities. Because the last box is showing operational capacity at ACDC of 300. Following me?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "I'm waiting."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I know if you follow me --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Yeah, I'm with you."

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

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And it is absolutely misconstrued, so --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "What's misconstrued that we have 750 beds at -- or 700 -- whatever it is, 700 to 750 capacity at ACDC? What's misconstrued about that?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "We still have to have the personnel to get to house it. Because having --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But operational capacity is 700 to 750."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "No, 700."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "700, so that number should say 700. It's another issue about why we may not have gotten there. But this is the -- but operational capacity of showing 300, that's not necessarily accurate. I mean that gives the impression that we don't have access to enough beds. When really, the issue you're saying is we don't have enough staff to put people in the beds."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Not necessarily. There's so --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, that's what you just said."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "There's so many more -- that is -- that coupled with there's so many more nuances that go into moving people over."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Give you a prime example, we have sent over 100, 140 people to be a approved."

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

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "That takes time. By the time we do that, we can move those individuals, many to Cobb, right; with less issues, and then continue to function. So while we are doing that, our goal in the next month or so is to get to the 700, whether it be operational capacity at 300 and that's where it says there, ultimately, we're going to fill that with 700, and then open up the South Annex next."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Well, this -- this is a point of the kind of stuff where I'm getting at, to me, it's -- it's getting there may be with a backdrop on it, but that's the anecdotal. The real operational capacity is 700. That's what we worked to go get access to, that's what we funded to try to get, you know, kind of more people in, more Detention Officers, et cetera. So this is what I want to measure to. It's like, we've got access to this, why are we not hitting it? This gives the impression that we've got -- we don't even have access to enough beds. And that's not accurate. I mean, we got a facility that's mothballed with the South Annex. I don't see the Alpharetta jail on here. I know that's only like, 40 or 50 beds. Is the operational capacity of -- yeah, and then this operational capacity of 300 and 750. I think this needs to be, what are the total beds that if we manage ourselves appropriately, we should have access to, and that's the operational capacity. I mean, this is moving -- this is moving stuff around, it creates a different impression, and potentially, leads us to a different conclusion. I mean, that's -- that's what I'm looking to see in terms of utilization of the facilities that we have access

to, how many beds are available for us to use from operational capacity standpoint, and then how many people do we have there. I don't have any comments on the inmate medical. I know we're going to discuss that next. But those are my -- those are my comments in terms of the Bridging Plans and the types of things that we're looking at. Like I said, many of which, you know, I'm in total agreement with. But there are a few things that, you know, I don't know that I necessarily agree with from a funding standpoint or necessarily a timing of doing standpoint."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sheriff, you want to respond --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Yes, so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- before we go to the next person?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So, quickly --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead, Sheriff, you have the floor."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "With respect to retention, right, if we'd have done what I said a year and a half ago, we wouldn't have that conversation. Because it would have -- we would have funded them accordingly. With respect to the staffing analysis, which has not been done since 2015, but the population in Fulton County has continued to grow. Our jail numbers continue to grow. Then in 2015, we didn't have 3600 detainees. So it is very valuable to know what we need on a daily basis. In 2015, we weren't moving as many people. Now that COVID has ended and we're moving people back to court, back and forth to court, we simply weren't doing this. And so to level set understand what we need as an agency, is valuable. If I don't know what I need, right, I can only assume that. So the fact the -- it is very practical, and I've asked for this when I first became Sheriff, it is very practical to know what you need as an agency and not use 10-year-old numbers, right. That I wouldn't do that in any business. Going back to our current vacancies of 122 today, and that's across the board. And so we want to make sure and this, we just got that updated. So I want to make sure you have that. But again, even if we fill the 122 positions right now, ultimately, we will still need to man the towers every day, we will still need to support senior staff, who is leaving here for better opportunities. And so -- and we will certainly get three or four to you, so that we - - you'll have a line of sight into what our goals are. But it is absolutely imperative that we hold this building together, which is being held together, God knows how at this point, duct tape and bubblegum. I don't know what the answer is, and I don't envy Mr. Davis, because here is the really clarifying point, and I have said this, we don't own the building. Every instance when my elevators were down for three and a half months, there's nobody from the Fulton County Sheriff's office that's going to go and work on it. That building, and -- and to say that we -- we have to maintain this building, no, DREAM has to maintain this building. And so you all need -- I would suggest, we need to give them the resources. We have worked together to get them a certain point. And we still paying \$300,000 a month in maintenance, and there are security issues that even

maintenance and even the medical teams, we have come up with blitzes to make sure that we have access to do strike teams to go in there. But when you have a population that is growing younger every day, that's going in there and destroying everything we do. We've already projected it, so let me tell you today, so you don't hear this a year from now and be, Sheriff, we didn't hear this. By the time -- the next 11 months, by the time we get through 78 units in all the zones, we're going to have to restart at number 1. So this is an ongoing issue. And if it's data you want, data is not going to solve the problem. What's going to solve the problem is, ultimately, us moving forward in a unified fashion, which is what we are attempting to do. And it's a price tag that goes along with it. I was very, very honest and transparent when I said I needed \$211 million, we're creeping to that number now. And had we done it then, we probably wouldn't have this conversation. And as far as monthly reporting, I'm not coming in here every month. I will come in here every other month and give an opportunity for DREAM and the other contractors we bring in, an opportunity to resolve some of these issues. But to have hundreds of toilets and sinks out of order, it's a human crisis. And I have been begging for the resources for 887 days in every conversation I've had. And I'll continue to do that because that's my job. The only difference between me and some prior administrations is I'm not sweeping anything under the rug. I am simply being very, very transparent in telling you what I need. And if you don't believe me, I've already told you, right, and you mentioned somebody's resume earlier. I'll give you my resume. I've been doing this 32 years. So I don't have to -- I'm really, really tired of begging for money to do my job, and that's all I want to do. And so, I'm going to continue to give you and be transparent about that, so that we can hopefully work together to make this happen. If there's more data you want, we'll get you the data. The data is not going to solve the problem. When I have Captains, Lieutenants, and other folks that can retire that are leaving and going to either get a second paycheck or simply because we didn't honor what we did. Because it was very specific, the letter that I wrote to each one of you that said, it was a 20 percent across-the-board pay raise. It did not say senior staff -- I mean, it did not say Line Officers and Deputies. That was reserved for double time. And you can pull the letter that I wrote you. Matter of fact, Michael, please get me that letter. I will resend it to you. I was very clear in what my ask was. HR decided that wasn't enough. And that couldn't happen based on the dollar amount, and we moved forward. But I was very clear in my ask, and there was a reason I did it. There was no distinction in senior staff or otherwise, it was across the board. We will get you that letter again because I know you like data. We will get you that letter again, and make sure we have at least some line of communication from there."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But your letter may have said something. But that's not what we, as a Board, approved in our budget. You know, that may be two different things. So I know distinctly what we approved, and wasn't that. And I'll go back on the staffing, I mean, you said we had 120 vacancies, but yet, here's an email from Mr. Shoates yesterday that says, you have 181 vacancies. What is it?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So, it's 122 today. And that's based on --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So, we -- that happened, that changed overnight?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "No, it didn't change overnight. That is the late -- that's information you got that was misrepresenting where we are. And so I asked Mr. Shoates to verified that, right --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Philip was -- this is his thing was a from Michael Shoates, vacant positions --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And then we --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- 181 --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- and we got 15 in orientation today. So --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Is it 181 or 123?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "It's 120 --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Simple question."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "It's 122, which goes back to your original question --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But why --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- again, if we don't have a staffing analysis --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "That doesn't have anything to do with a staffing analysis --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "It absolutely does --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "It's how many vacant position do --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "It's --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- we have today?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- 122, right."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "What is this then --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Again, it --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- why didn't you say 181 on this email?"



**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Again, right, what we have is a problem with our own data. And we have had it for quite some time. Not ours, from the Sheriff's office perspective, but every time we link up with HR, there's something different. And so right now, what I asked my team to do was to get you the actual vacancies as of today, right now. And so, with 122 with 100 and -- with 15 individuals in orientation right now. And we have other people that are online that we are trying to bring. But again, this is where we are. So, you know, again, I am -- will get you the answers to three and four, in terms of that data. And we will continue to figure out what this looks like as we move forward."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, I mean, somebody's got to give us, whether it's HR, somebody's going to give us some accurate data. June 6, 2023 at 3:10:44 p.m. from Michael Shoates, vacant positions, 181. You're telling me 123 with 15 in orientation --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "122."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- I don't -- I don't -- I mean this -- it shouldn't be this hard. Somebody -- if you're going to give us a report, y'all get together, give us a consistent number. Because what I see -- what I see, looks like we got about 180 to 200 vacant positions. Even on terms of what you just showed here this Bridging Plan, and, you know, look, I mean, I like data, but I damn well like results better. And we've provided a significant amount of funding. We've provided access to a significant amount of beds elsewhere --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "No, no, no, I did."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "We -- we --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "I did, no, I did. I did. I --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I did? I did?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Let me say --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "We didn't go to bat --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Let me tell you, what I said --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- helping you get access to 700 beds?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold on. Hold on."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "No, you got access to 700 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sheriff, hold on, hold on."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- beds after I --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Sheriff, Sheriff --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "We all -- we went to bat and we help get 700 beds. Everybody up here that was on the Commission at that particular point in time."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Don't get it -- don't get -- look, it was one person that reached out to 158 Sheriffs, and that's why we got people in Forsyth, that's why we got -  
-"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I understand that."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- people in Oconee County. That's why we got people in Fayetteville, et cetera. Because what we did was create an environment, where we did as a collective, go back and forth with the City Council and ended up with 700 beds, to which, they get to determine who comes. So ultimately, there are people that need to go, and we will continue to do that. But it's going to take staffing to do it."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "In which, we provided extra funding to try to get more people on board. And you told me we've hired a bunch of additional people. But if I look at sort of how we've utilized facilities, and I mean, it -- what it could look like and what it could appear to the average person looking in that what we've done is we took one facility that we had, may not been the greatest facility in Union City, and moved all those people over to a new facility, which we went and helped you get access to, which we're paying additional money for. We moved those people over there, and we've got about 50 to 60 other people over there."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And look at the results. Not one fight over there and not --  
"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- one stabbing over there --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But, but --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- because it is direct supervision --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But -- that's great."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And that's one of the --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But one of the primary reasons, and the primary reason why we were all so focused on getting access to, was relieving pressure at Rice Street."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And do we not understand, here is the ultimate problem, is that crime has still -- crime is still happening every single day."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I get that."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And when you got a jail running at --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I get that, but --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- 93 percent."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- we've got other access to two facilities which we've not maximized, while we've got this other facility, which is, arguably, we all know is overcrowded. It's facing all kind of, you know, all kind of violent situations to it. What is our plan to maximize use of these facilities that we have access to? That's what I don't hear necessarily within here, in this Bridging Plan and which I would like to hear."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And I'm clear. It starts with recruitment and retention. And if you look back at what was approved -- and I'll ask the Law Department to approve that -- to get that information. The 20 percent was approved. The funding wasn't. But in theory, the 20 percent was approved. And that is what I asked for and that is what I predicted we would need. And again, not moving in that same vein, every time we lose a Lieutenant, we lose additional resources to make those things happen. And so, going back to that 180 number, that's a number that, according to Mr. Shoates, came from County HR. So, again that is something that needs to be rectified. But these are issues that I've been telling you that have been going on for longer than I've been Sheriff."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And we need to make sure -- I can tell you what ours are on our pen and paper, and then we can get ready to go from there."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, I mean, you presented us a plan that's different than what the number you just suggested too. So I mean, you verbally gave something, but in looking at these numbers, you're giving us something different."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "We'll get --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I mean, it's got --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "We'll get you our data."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Y'all got to get on the same page. For me, I mean, this is -- if I hear two different numbers, one from HR, one from you, and a different number on

this piece of paper, I don't have anything that I can necessarily have a whole lot of credibility and faith in."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And honest --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And I can't sign on to, let's do a feasibility study around something when we're upwards of 18 to 20 percent. I know -- I already know we need more people. I mean, when we get -- when we get down to, like, you know, 50 people, 75 vacancies or something like that, and we're not experiencing the same kind of turnover, we can talk about doing one then. Or when we set up and we actually, you know, get -- you know, get these facilities to, you know, kind of an optimal level, you know, we could talk then. But I don't understand, to me, it doesn't make a lot of sense to do a new feasibility study, separate from figuring out how are the cost of, you know, structure and staff and operate a new facility and doing those things, to me, that's sort of throwing good money after bad on a facility study -- on a staffing study when we got this high of a vacancy rate."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Well, I will simply tell you that those things take time. And so ultimately, whether it'll be 122, whether it be 180, when we get to 75, I will absolutely call you directly, let you know what that looks like. And then ultimately, we are now two or three cycles behind making that happen. So again, we don't know what we don't know; it causes us angst at that point."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Barrett followed by Commissioner Thorne, and back to Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Hi, Sheriff."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Hi, how are you?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you for being here, I appreciate it, and I appreciate the report. I just had a couple quick questions. On the dashboard, the way it's described in the -- one of the earlier slides, is that it's a real-time, common operating picture. So I'm assuming it's this slide that you had up a moment ago with the common operating picture, but real-time. Is that something that only your team will have access to, or is that real-time view something that the public and/or us would also have access to?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Well, my goal to -- and it's a very good question. My goal is to have us do the blitz, update the information, and have it real-time published online."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So everybody has access to it."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So somewhere, there will be, like, a dashboard or a set of dashboards --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- with real-time data --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Correct. And preferably, you'd go through the Sheriff's app to get it, right. So, we have a Sheriff's app. We can put that on the front page, and people can get all of the data that ultimately, is real-time."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So, I would just, you know, ask maybe, my impression of wanting regular reports, to me, isn't necessarily you coming down here and every meeting or every other meeting or whatever, to relay the data. To me, if the data is available that is you updating us. That's just my take. I don't think you have to come here every month. That's my personal take on that. But I also want to make a clarification. I can form it as a question if that's helpful. But I think I can make the clarification on the difference between operational capacity and physical capacity. Because they are, in fact, two different things. And I believe Vice Chair Ellis is talking about physical capacity, not operational capacity. Because, you know, anybody who's ever had -- built any kind of structure, knows that there is a difference between the two. I think you made this point, I'm just going to make it little bit louder, in that, operational capacity is not just physical beds. It's actually also programs, services, staff to support -  
\_"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- those spaces. So, if you don't have the people or the process is taking longer, then your operational capacity number is likely to be different than your physical capacity number, correct?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Like how I made it a question at the end?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Yep. I appreciate that. I appreciate it. And in addition to that, in jail standards, 10 percent below occupancy is really what you like to keep in terms of occupational capacity. Ultimately, what we end up with is, again, still people sleeping on the floor. We end up with people that we cannot move and give maintenance and give DREAM an opportunity to rehab these units as we go along. That's ultimately our plan with reopening the South Annex."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. And I think, you know, if you're going to look at actual capacity and be very literal about that physical capacity of the 700 beds at ACDC,

then you would have to take a different tact at looking at the capacity at Rice Street, because Rice Street was built originally for how many?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Originally, it was built for 1250. Then it was doubled from that, right. So, here's the thing, and Mr. Davis makes this point even more distinctly, right. So when you talk about a building that was built for 1275, 1250, somewhere around there, you double the capacity to that point in terms of bed space, ultimately, now you've put strain on plumbing, you put strain -- additional strain that wasn't anticipated when it was built. I mean, this is an interesting piece that, Rice Street was built for \$50 million, right, 1989. And it was built to sustain that level of productivity. But now we've doubled, and then almost tripled it in some cases. So, you're actually correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah. Well, I'd love to see the, you know, use of technology to have these dashboards be as real-time as possible and accessible as possible. But I guess, I'm thinking it may be, it will be helpful for people who are confused about the numbers to have the actual physical numbers of beds and then the operational capacity than the actual. Maybe that would help clear up the numbers. That's just a suggestion. As to the retention metrics, the number on here though that fifth column essentially isn't there. The math, I think, puts this particular piece of paper at 132 vacancies if you map it out, which is pretty close to the 122. And you said this wasn't today, so --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Well, another point, right, if you look at the chart, and I know we're big on charts, it says, vacant position, year start."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. Right. And I --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "It's 181."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And I appreciate you bringing that out. We're at 122 today."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So that's positive in terms of what we're looking at. But in terms of that lens that other folks look through, this does say year start. And so that's where we need to make sure we do a better job of --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah. I --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- explaining that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- had just have one other question, just from a timing perspective. On the transfer to the South Annex, what's the timeframe around that?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So, again, I primary focus is getting 700 beds filled at ACDC."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Now, ultimately, all of it we -- our goal is July 1 to start at the South Annex, simply because we have to empty the zones to get the zone, and specifically, One North clear, so that DREAM can have a painting to work on, right. They can have a canvas in which they can create. And that's ultimately the goal from that perspective."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Gotcha. Okay, thank you very much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Hall -- strike that, strike that. Commissioner Thorne, sorry."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, Chair. I just had a couple quick questions. You mentioned a Inmate Advocacy Unit. Could you give me some more -- I mean, it sounds like a fabulous idea, and it sounds like it's much-needed. What is the makeup of that unit? How many people on it?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "It's a great question. So, we have four internal in -- well, three, and then we're bringing someone on a contract that used to be with the Sheriff's office, in terms of understanding the processes, et cetera. But what we were looking for, are individuals that have the charisma, the ability to be able to recognize that an individual that's been in jail for five years, talk to the specific Judge or the Calendar Clerk for the Judge and understand why. And really have that conversation about how do we get them back into court and their case adjudicated. Someone that has the charisma to talk to the DA's office or the Solicitor's office and/or whoever their contact person is and say, okay, here's an individual -- in this case, again, three weeks ago, we pulled just the misdemeanor cases, 229 of those individuals were misdemeanor cases, 24 of them had warrants or holds for other agencies. What do we need to do to get 24 of those individuals out of the building? Then we had another situation that arose from years of practice, where a Judge would call in a defendant from the state prison system, have them in there for months on end, and ultimately, not see the case, hear the case. But having this unit, they pool that information. We sent 30 people back to the state. And we talked to the Chief Judges and said, listen, if you commit to seeing this person inside two weeks or 30 days, then we'll get them, and we'll hold them, and then you can adjudicate the case. But ultimately, we found upwards of 100 of individuals that had that problem. So we are turning over every rock we can, now, and to include probation and parole. Many instances, people have violated their probation and parole, so now we're talking directly to the individuals at probation and parole to see what we need to



do if they need to -- if their -- if it needs to be revoked and ultimately get through the court system that much quicker. And so that -- we are really looking at carving out as many individuals as we can, reducing the population, and continue to move forward."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "That's great. Another note, did we approve some scanners that were new scanners, was that for the courts, or was that for the jail?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So, no. And I actually have that data as well. So, we did approve \$629,000 Ray Secur additional scanners. Those scanners have been put in place, received, put in place, and we've actually stopped 52 packages to date that had contraband going into the facility, hence, really setting aside our staff concerns as well as medical concerns. Because again, if you recall during that conversation what was happening is, loved ones were contaminating the paper, whether it be with roach spray, fentanyl, or whatever that looks like. This actually is able to help us detect that ahead of time. And so we've averted 52 packages at this point hopefully, saving lives."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I was just wondering, because we're paying three-point -- our projected shortfall 3.8 million for food for employees. With these scanners, would that allow them to start bringing in their food or --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So, scanners don't scan food."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And so ultimately -- and then, I can see that conversation. We're going to scan your food. No, you're not, right. We're going to put x-rays rays through my Chinese food. It's not going to happen, right. And I can see that being an issue. But what I will tell you is that based on our collection of contraband, the one thing that has gone down is the number of cellphones that have gotten in the building. The number of devices that have gotten in the building, be it screwdrivers, et cetera. And that's the important point here is that, when we talk about contraband and I send you these pictures, these are pieces of the building, right. We rarely get a cellphone now and those individuals that we hold responsible for violating our trust and bringing that contraband, we are prosecuting. So, no, I don't think that at this point --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "That's not going to work?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- that won't be helpful."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And then you mentioned a half a million dollars for the communication per the Bridging Plan as we go into the completion of the replacement jail. As a county, we're also talking about hiring for that as well, would --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "That's in conjunction."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "In conjunction?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Great, great, great. Thanks."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "That's all I have."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Yes, ma'am."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, I want to go back to the discussion about the staffing study. Because it was my understanding that the reason why we have done a jail study and have hired EMSI and our having our County Manager and County Executives work in collaborate to address all of the needs of the jail and the Sheriff's Department, is so that we can know all of the information necessary to resolve the issues at the jail and with your staffing. And so have we -- do we have within our jail feasibility study, a staffing study that will take place?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Did I hear -- I heard a, yes, real fast. Oh."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So, we have one that is germane to the jail only. And so as an agency, we need one day that is -- has more breath to it to understand courts, Grady Hospital, not just the jail, everything that we do. And so ultimately, that's the ask. But if -- and I certainly won't --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, so --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- speak for Mr. Alton, but he was very --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You called him Alton, is it Alton or Alton today?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "-- prophetic."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It's Alton, today."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "It's Alton, today?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Commissioner, you are correct. There is a staffing analysis. And to the Sheriff's point, it's designed specifically for the new jail when it comes online, which would be, you know, first quarter of 2029 on the current plan. So on that date, we would be able to say, this is what we need. Obviously, we're going to know beforehand because we're going to have to staff up. But that's what that particular component is."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so the conversation about a staffing study, is that something that you need right now in relation to your being short staffed? And then everything else that is being looked at by EMSI -- am I saying that right? I'm trying to say the acronym. EMSI and County Manager and County Executives and you and your staff, is that something that you need more currently because of the staffing shortages you have right now --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Well --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- and the changes that are going to, of course, take place because they must take place right now?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And so the answer is, yes. And let me provide some clarity. 870 -- 887 days ago, we didn't know what we had, right, except a bunch of vacancies. And so ultimately, we didn't know what we needed. We didn't know what need -- needed in terms of staffing to service warrants or service, you know, court orders. Ultimately, we are doing what we can to keep up with that demand. But court orders have gone through the roof. I get calls from certain Defense Attorneys that want to know, you know, why their individuals hadn't been served, right, what that looks like. So holistically, is what I'm looking for so that we have a place to start. We used this amount because it was approved in 2015 to do this study. But for us to know what we need as we get ready to even go into 2024, right. And so ultimately, we need the data to be able to present to you the facts and figures to say, this is where we are, right. And so -- and again, we can't start three months from now, saying we need a staffing analysis after we get down to 75 or 50 individuals in terms of vacancies. But once we do; now we're starting three months behind. So ultimately, the ask is to say, let's -- let's figure out what this looks like. But that's not the biggest ask for today. So, I -- you know, I am ultimately -- I'll acquiesce to whatever you all -- the approach, I just want to make sure, as I've done every single time I've come up here, is be very transparent about what I need. And ultimately, you all can fund it or not fund it at that point. I appreciate it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, I -- it was my understanding that we were approving EMSI because they've worked for us before, they do good work, and they would be able to come in and work with the Sheriff's Department and our County Executives to start

quickly rectifying a lot of situations that we needed to address immediately. And is that so? Because --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Because I want to ask, you know, this entire -- I thought this presentation was a collaboration, as Mayor Dickens would say, a group project of all of you coming together and assessing the situation and putting this together in a collaborative method. I see a bunch of heads shaking, yes. But go ahead --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes. Yes, ma'am, thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- Mr. County Manager, yes."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am, thank you for asking that question. And Madam Clerk, if you could just, I think, go back to the slide that has midyear costs, one, two, three, four, five across there. There you go. So, I believe we are working in a collaborative fashion. And if you think about just this chart as a good example, we know that we have to house folks, that's number one. We know that we have to feed them, that's number two. And on number one is, you know, principally, Joe Davis is working with EMSI, and then also the Sheriff's staff. Because as he explained, we got to move people out, then fix an entire section, then move them back in. So that's clearly a collaboration. And I think number one on the list. Number two, of course, is the new contract that we've entered into. That's not work to be done, that's already in place. Number three, of course, is probably the linchpin, and that is a judgment of how much staffing and pay enhancements do we need to affect retention and recruitment. And I think all of us are attempting, as best we can, including HR and the Sheriff's office and the Sheriff himself, to determine what that right mix is. Of course, med -- inmate medical is something we have all worked on together, been on many calls with the Sheriff as well as with the County Attorney's office. And that, I'm proud to report, is where it is. So that's a -- very much a good news story. Because that could have been a huge challenge for the rest of the year, absent coming to an agreement on that. And then in public information, I want to compliment the Sheriff. You know, I think being able to bring all of our resources together, which we have worked to agree to and do, will serve us quite well, rather than the Sheriff having information going out, the County having information going out, and perhaps not having -- and by the way, I would say that, we didn't do a good job, we, I'm talking about myself, when I say this, in explaining that the dashboard that we put up today -- I don't want to say, Sheriff, that it's a mock up, but it deserves a lot more work. We weren't quite ready for that. But we wanted to show you that we think having a dashboard, having something that we're consistently speaking from, having something that shows the citizens progress, and has an expectation implied in it, is where we need to be. So that will be improved as we go. It was one of those things that we had not quite put in place yet. The biggest thing I think that has been accomplished, to your question is, number one, getting this plan holistically put together. Because it does have to be housing, feeding, medical staffing

to supervise. And then the -- ultimately the information, so we have the elements of that. The thing that has the most depth to it, we chose not to go into today, it's very hard to read when we put it up on a chart, is on this maintenance of the facility. So we have floor by floor that Joe could walk through, but again, it's very, very detailed in terms of what would be fixed and when. And it also necessitates the movement of personnel. So I feel like we have made a lot of progress. This is still a very, very significant program to execute over a number of years. But I feel the best at least in terms of where we have been here to for in terms of a common perspective and collaboration to get this done."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Sheriff, anything else?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "No. I would echo our County Manager's sentiments. This has -- and I'll tell you, this has been probably one of the most collaborative experiences we've had. I appreciate the recommendation to bring in that company because and to the County Manager's point and Alton and Mr. Davis, this has been all hands on deck trying to solve these issues as we continue to -- we're building an airplane as we're flying it, and that's the hard part. And so ultimately, I want to thank them publicly for, not only their patience, but their input. And bringing this company in has proven to be extremely valuable, so, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Sheriff."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Which item were we taking next?"

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**CLERK GRIER:** "We moved up item **23-0382** --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What page?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 7."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Oh, all right."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Request approval to accept the assignment and assumption of the contract, the county consents to the assignment of the contract, Inmate Medical Services with NaphCare, Incorporated to NaphCare of Fulton County, LLC."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, it's seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Is there money attached to this one?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It's just a name change."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's a name change, that's correct, all right. Let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0381**, Request approval to amend an existing contract in an amount of \$4,786,187.20 to provide physical and mental health services to inmates at the Fulton County jail facilities."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. There's a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, it is seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Hall, you have a question?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I have a question. Let's see. Something changed about the pharmaceuticals. I was reading this and noticed that there are a lot of new costs that seem to be now placed on the county. And let me see, does this is have a title? Well, it says page 4 on the bottom. It is section, Roman number 3, Roman numeral number 3 under pharmacy requirements, number 5, page 4. So, I noticed that there's a second paragraph that she says, service provider shall not be responsible for the costs associated with blood factors, biologicals, on and on, and it ends up saying that the county is responsible. And then there's another section that says, service provider shall not be responsible for the costs associated with shipment of HIV, hepatitis C, and on and on, and that the county, it shall invoice Fulton County on behalf of the Fulton County Sheriff's office on a monthly basis. So I see a lot of these new costs, and just wanted to know is this something that we are all -- that we already have accounted for and we have funding for, or is there a projected funding requirement that's going to be needed to cover these costs for the pharmaceuticals?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So ultimately, the total amount of the contract was reduced with respect to understanding the rising costs of medication, and try and create a balance there."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Good."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "But medication has gone through the roof, and that's been our approach."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, good, okay. So, the approach was to try to reduce that increase? Is that what you just --"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The \$4.7 million amendment does include an estimate for a half year of expenses, the pass-through costs of the pharmaceuticals. So we did factor that into the total cost, in effect, it's getting pulled out of the payment that is going to NaphCare as a fee for service, and they will bill us separately for the cost of medication --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- plus shipping. But we did incorporate an estimate of that in the 4.7 million, which we'll have to monitor. And if the cost exceeds what we've included in the estimate then we may have to come back to the Board for additional approval for that piece."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, great, thank you. That was my only question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other questions, comments? All right, the motion on the floor is to approve. Sheriff, you leaving about 200,000 on the table today. Every time you come, you get 5 million, this is about 4.8."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Really."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, think of something before we vote. What do you need?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "You're right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You're good, brother. I got to give it to you, you good. But I do have a serious question. NaphCare will be handling the medical. I'm a big proponent of NaphCare, which the world knows. But they will not be prohibited from bidding --"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- when the RFP goes out; is that correct?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Correct, correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I want to make that crystal clear, okay."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Absolutely."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote."

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



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "\$5 million man. Next."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, Commissioners' Action Items, **23-0383**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend the Fulton County Code of Ordinances in order to impose a distribution requirement before a member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners may place a proposed resolution or ordinance on the agenda for consideration or final vote, to require that the proposed resolution or ordinance appear as a discussion item at the first meeting, in which it is introduced and voted on at the second meeting and for other purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Colleagues, I brought this item forward along with the, I guess, the next item because of what happened at the last meeting and things being put on the agenda without an opportunity for participation by other colleagues input or anything. And so I think -- and I received yesterday a text from Commissioner Barrett asking if I would make this a discussion item. I'm happy to hold it if we need discussion. The whole item is about allowing discussion, so I don't know that I could certainly not invite that discussion, right? But I mean, just the idea that an item can be put on the agenda at 10:00 a.m. on a Friday, circulated 2:00 a.m. on a Friday, and we have to react to that by -- in two or three days is crazy. I mean, and we just need a more orderly process. Frankly, all items should be discussion items. Frankly, when Commissioners draw up a resolution, it should be circulated to all Commissioners. Hello, Bueller? Bueller? Why are resolutions hidden from people? Why are resolutions hidden from us? Why -- why don't we see them until they reach an agenda? It makes no sense. Please, please support this resolution. We don't have to support it today, we can hold it. But it makes no sense that information is hidden, distributed on a Friday at 2:00 p.m. and people have to try to react to it by Wednesday morning, the next week, in three to five days. Please, Lord."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I would sort of take a counter view to it. I mean, we -- this Board's been operational for a long period of time. And there was a period of time when there were some stuff that was out of bounds, where people were bringing resolutions the morning of the meeting, and they were getting added. Now, that's not appropriate. But, you know, we've got a clear procedure in place, just like all the other things that come before us, you know, they're posted on the Friday agenda, the material is there. You know, I certainly don't believe that, you know, if -- that anybody should be able to place wording on here saying a resolution or something, and the resolution not be there and then it be brought -- then the resolution show up on Tuesday or Wednesday, that's out of bounds. But if somebody's worked through the process of developing a formal resolution and they place it on the agenda on Friday, the resolution wording is there for

everybody to review along with their other packet of information, we have to review -- I mean, look, it's the nature of our job, what we signed up for. We're to review a lot of information and figure out what we're going to have to vote on. In there's stuff, I mean, hey, it's just, we don't have all the time in the world, the government doesn't have all the time in the world to act. And I think, as a general rule in terms of -- I mean, I think the maybe board nominations are a little bit different than what we're talking about here with resolutions, that's a second -- another topic. You know, when -- if this Body, if collectively, if we're not ready to act upon it, it is held. And it becomes and converts to a discussion item. But if it's fairly straightforward and we all agree upon it, I don't see a reason with not reacting to it and approving it at that point in time versus having to -- two cycles of it. I mean, we have a lot of cycles of a lot of things that are probably unnecessary. But I mean, I think this is something that we can self-regulate ourselves on, and have done generally, a pretty good job of it, as in terms of resolutions. But I would be, you know, would be supportive certainly of, if you don't have the resolution ready, you should not be allowed to place something, just the words on the page up there and then resolution show up on, you know, after that Friday date and the public not have a chance to review it and react to it, et cetera."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Commissioner Arrington, I appreciate you being willing to make the item about discussion up for discussion. I think there's a lot of -- I support your reasons for doing this. I fully get it, and I feel like one of the biggest frustrations I've had in the six months that I've been here is how little communication there is about some really important things. And then all of a sudden on a Friday afternoon, to your point, we're sort of forced to shuffle and react. And in fairness that's, you know, often, it's basically two business days to take care of these things. And I have no problem working hard, certainly. But I think for me, this probably goes beyond just Commissioner resolutions and Commissioner ordinances because, you know, I was just making notes yesterday. We got a correction at 3:01 p.m. on item 23-0382. We got a correction at 4:28 p.m. at 23 -- on 23-0381 from the management team. So while we're trying to learn all the things on a resolution we heard on a Friday afternoon, we're also trying to react to all the corrections last minute that we're getting with less than 24 hours to go before our meeting. So I do think we need to put some -- some rules in place because common courtesy hasn't really prevailed. Because I agree, we should all be circulating our resolution if we're trying -- if we have an idea and want to get buy in, why wouldn't we to talk to our colleagues about it? So, it seems like we're not doing that, just generally, and I agree we need something. And I think, you know, I certainly can't speak to how the Board operated before I got here. But I can say that I've had some conversations with folks who serve on other boards and other councils. And I also serve on some other Boards. And most of these other boards and councils have committees, and these items are discussed in detail in committee. And then they don't come to the floor until the committee's had time to review, investigate, ask questions, and make a recommendation. Then they arrive in front of the full board for a vote. DeKalb County, for example, has every other meeting, I believe, is their committee of

the whole, in which they, I believe, don't take votes. But do exactly what this is sort of leading to. They have discussion about the particular items acting as one large committee, still open to the public, but they don't take public comment on that day. I don't believe they do proclamations on that day, it's a work session, it's a discussion session. So I think there's a lot of ways to, you know, get to where we both want to go here. And I just wanted to discuss it because I want to make sure that whatever we do is comprehensive."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I agree. I love the intent. And you're talking about the morning of the meeting, I mean, we've actually gotten resolutions during the meeting handed out to us and had to vote right away. So, if we could even enforce the Friday by 10:00 a.m. rule, I think that would be great. But we have no mechanisms to enforce that. Things are just getting slid in, placeholders are getting put, but no documentation. My main concern is the 72-hour advance. So, are you saying, by Tuesday -- so after this meeting, by Tuesday of next week, we've got to notify everybody of a potential resolution that we're going to have?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I mean, I'm open to an orderly process, whatever that orderly process is. You know, I think this is basically a draft, again, to get the discussion started. Whatever the will of the Board is, is what it would be, right? But in my mind that would allow some time. But -- and the other thing that I -- you know, maybe when the County Attorney sends it back, or maybe there's something that before it can be placed on agenda, it's got to be circulated to everyone, or maybe the County Attorney has to circulate it to all of us when they circulate it back to the Commissioner that requested, right? You know, there is a way to have an orderly process that is inclusive and allows participation on the front end, which frankly, should cut down on confusion and disagreement on the back end."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, I fully agree, and I fully think we need a process. I just think it'd be hard turnaround for me to get prepared especially if it's a holiday weekend on a Monday, and then we have to have everything in on Tuesday. So, yeah, I think we can maybe tweak. And when we can find some common ground that all of us can agree on."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I mean, it could be a long -- it could be two weeks. It could be a longer period, it could be a week, it could -- you know, or it could be a shorter period, 48 hours. I mean, you know, I just think we need to work it out. And I certainly appreciate your comments and Commissioner Barrett's comments, and any input you want to have. I mean, I guess, you know, we have to take credit as an author. But I don't -- I'm not worried about taking credit as the author of the thing. I'm worried about addressing the issue."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I appreciate that. And appreciate you raising the issue. And I hope we can come to some kind of agreement to do something. That'll be great, thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Commissioner Thorne, just a question for clarification or maybe a conversation, I think I get what you're saying. But I think sometimes what we forget is, a lot of these resolutions are not actually urgent. So I agree, if you have something that's urgent and you're coming back from holiday weekend, getting it done on a Monday to be turned in on a Tuesday, is difficult, right? But a lot of the things we're talking about in resolutions are a broader picture of something that don't have to happen that week in order to be effective. We've lived XYZ way for a month or whatever, you know what I mean? So, going another two weeks so everybody has time, I think has merit. But that, you know, maybe there's a way, Commissioner Arrington, in the midst of all of this, to have like, if there's a time constraint, then XYZ happens."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Makes sense."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Absolutely. I'm completely open, right, there's an exception for every rule, right? And emergencies are emergencies, you know, I asked the City of South Fulton Councilwoman earlier today, hey, is this time sensitive, right? If something's time -- there should be an exception for time sensitivity."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean, to be honest, I -- another one of the things I have found, I think, the most surprising since being here is, how little, like, actual discussion we have, even on discussion items. I brought up a discussion item early on about the commercial property appraisals, which was brought up again today in public comment. And I think I said why I thought it was important, and nobody had anything to say. And so, like, I would love us just -- I mean, this is just a comment, nothing to do with the ordinance. But I would just love us to have genuine discussion as a Board, where we're all weighing in on, you know, this is -- this, what you're proposing, is a really, pretty major change to our process. And it seems like it should be a collaborative effort to get to something that works for all of us. And I think generally speaking, when we bring discussion -- I don't know if that's, I assume, what most of us want is to have that collaborative discussion. So, that's just an add-on commented, not really asking for anything there."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, you know, but it's -- it's willy-nilly, right? It's like, you know, and also, it's -- there's so many -- there's so much wiggle room, right, and that's why it's so important to have the right people in place. For example, previous

county -- when I first arrived here, the county -- I could ask the County Attorney for an opinion, and I could get that opinion back. And then a subsequent County Attorney made a rule that they wouldn't give me an opinion individually, they would circulate it to the entire Board. Well, I stopped asking for opinions. Because I needed to be advised on it first before I could determine whether -- but again, there should likely be a policy for that, right, a written policy so that it's not subject to who's in the seat at the time. Neither one of them was the current County Attorney. Neither one of those people was the current County Attorney. But it -- I don't know that it should be subject to who's sitting in the seat that day. It should be a formal written policy. And hopefully, people are observing and as far as I know, the Clerk does a good job of making sure that anything that is not on there by 10 o'clock, is not on there. But you're right, there may be somebody putting something on there as a placeholder and not adding something. So maybe that's another rule that we could do, right. Hey, if you don't have the supporting document, it can't be on there, right. And so then that -- the Clerk has clear instructions then. But otherwise, she's -- one of us send her something and we say, put this on there, she's going to put it on there unless there are clear instructions not to."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I totally agree that we need to have clear instructions. I just want to make sure we're comprehensive in them. Because again, you know, not to keep calling out the County Management Team, but they know what items they're planning to put on for a long time. And we don't hear about them until Friday at 2:00. I'd love to know about that stuff sooner if we could, you know, for the same reason. Because we are then trying to quickly read 375 pages of contracts and make sure there's nothing out of line, and we all do it because that's our job, and that's fine. But, you know, it does -- it would change the game, I think, if we had more time to review some of this stuff."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I think in a perfect world, all this stuff sounds great. But in a practical world, where you got people trying to negotiate contracts, we got Attorneys trying to -- they're with limited resources, trying to get stuff done, working through the system to get stuff with multiple departments or Purchasing and Legal, it's just not, it's not practical. And this is not -- you know, we may wish it to happen and all that sort of stuff, but practically it's not. And, you know, I think we've got a pretty good process, you know, I think there are -- there are some tweaks that could be done. But you're talking about pushing stuff out, you know, I need to see a two weeks in advance, three weeks in advance, one week in advance, I mean, it's just -- there's just so many -- there's just on so many levels, where that's -- we're going to find that that's not particularly practical for our Management Team, and quite honestly, maybe even for us. Because most of the time when we're trying to get -- you know, I can only speak for my own self, when I'm trying to get a resolution ready to bring forth to hear, I'm generally going back and forth with Legal on it until late Thursday, oftentimes, before I've got it ready, the back and forth. And I'm not trying to hide the ball; I'm just trying to get it to something where it recognizes what the intent I'm trying to represent. And hey if, you know, you bring it in

here and people aren't ready to act on it at that point in time, you hold it, you have discussion on it, you move on to the next time. You don't necessarily need a rule to try to, you know, address all of those particular situations. You collectively respond to it at the Board at that particular time. We got items and we say we're not comfortable, we ask the Manager, is this urgent? No? We hold it, right. So we got mechanisms to sort of deal with that already versus trying to create this, you know, potentially different sort of bureaucratic, you know, response that, you know, potentially is going to put our staff and our efficiency as a government, in a much worse place."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Commissioner -- back to Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'll let Commissioner Arrington go first."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, what I will say, Commissioner Ellis -- thank you, Commissioner Barrett. What I will say is that, I think it's larger than us, and your point is well received, Commissioner Ellis that, you know, an ideal world, unified curtain makes sense, it's just not practical, right? So I get it, I get what you're saying. But what also happens is, what we experienced at the last meeting, 200 people come down here in response to something that was put on there and asked to speak. So then now, the whole meeting is pushed back because now, all those people have got to speak because they found out at the last minute too. And so I don't know about efficient or not, it's probably more efficient not to have those 200 people come speak on something that's pulled off the agenda moments before we start the meeting. So, I think it's a double-edged sword. But, you know, hey, the will of the Board will prevail. And Commissioner Barrett, if you -- I assume you're going to do a motion to hold."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean, sure. I would like to -- like to come to something that we can agree on that puts some additional guard rails around all of this and -- and makes this better for everybody. And, you know, one of the other -- I'm just going to keep going back to this -- but one of the other frustrating things for me has been that answer, and this happens everywhere, not just here, this answer of, it's always been this way. Just because something's always been this way, doesn't mean it's right. And, you know, I did bring up examples of other boards and committees that run with -- you know, differently and operate differently. So there are lots of different ways to do this. So I would love to make a motion to hold, and have some discussion offline about how we can fix it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a second to the motion hold?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, properly moved and seconded. Let's vote on the motion to hold, Madam Clerk. Motion to hold by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington."



**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion to hold. And the motion passes, unanimously."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0384**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend the Fulton County Code of Laws to provide a fair, open, and transparent procedure for the Board of Commissioners to make Full Board Appointments to various Boards, Commissions, Task Force, Committees, Council, and Authorities affiliated with or operating on behalf of Fulton County and for other purposes."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, I mentioned this item at the last agenda at the last meeting. And I guess it's kind of a companion piece to the item before this, right. Again -- and it's really funny because I -- the first thing I found out -- I've been here, this is my ninth year now. And so as I asked the County Attorney to draft this, they came back and their initial draft said that there is -- while there is a policy, there is no definition for District Appointment in anywhere of the laws of Fulton County. There's no definition for Full Board Appointment in the laws of Fulton County. And so in drafting this, we're defining for the first time, what a District Appointment is in writing. We're defining for the first time, what a Full Board Appointment is in writing. And I think that that is a good thing. I think that we need to know that. We all need to be on the same page. We had a discussion earlier in Executive Session regarding some of these items. And who -- you know, because frankly, it may not even be a District Appointment. Madam County Attorney, we might -- it might, based on the discussion we had in Executive Session, it might actually be a District Nomination."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I believe that's correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It's a District Nomination, which requires a Full Board Appointment. So I can nominate someone for my District. But unless the full Board votes in favor that person doesn't get nominated. So technically, it's not even a District Appointment, it's a District Nomination. Full Board Appointments, again, we just should not side swiped by an item that's added to an agenda at 10:00 a.m. on a Friday, distributed at 2:00 p.m. on a Friday because someone had inside information. If one Commissioner has the information, we should all have the information. If, in fact, it is a Full Board Appointment or a Full Board Nomination for a Full Board Appointment, we should all have the opportunity to nominate someone. There shouldn't just be one person that says, oh, I'm going to nominate someone, and y'all have to -- y'all going to have to take it or leave it because I got the information a week before y'all. Ha, ha, ha, I got the information early. I'm going to sneak this one in. No, we're all Commissioners,



it's a Full Board Appointment, we should all be able to have a discussion. We should all be able to submit names. This is not a single-Commissioner County. There are some single-Commissioner Counties. I don't know if anybody knows that, there's some in Georgia. This is not a single-Commissioner County. So one Commissioner shouldn't get any information before the rest of us get it. And then they certainly shouldn't be able to use that information to throw us all in a frenzy over a weekend because they made some type of nomination and nobody else knows about it, and nobody else had a chance to participate or nominate. That's bananas. We need an orderly process. First, we need to define District Nominations and District Appointments Full Board Nominations and Full Board Appointments. And then we need an orderly process that allows for inclusion and participation and doesn't just allow one person to sneak off and smile and say, I got this one in, and then replace it at the last minute after working up a frenzy of hundreds of people coming down. That doesn't make any sense, people. That doesn't make any sense at all. So, I'm hopeful that we can pass this one. We don't have to do it today, although I would like to. I'd love to hear from other Commissioners about what they would like to see and how they would like to see this included. But my goodness, I mean, you just got to -- you got to -- I guess, the early bird gets the worm, right. The early bird gets the worm, you just -- that's just a mad dash to a point. Let's all sprint up the stairs, first one at top of the stairs, gets to make the appointment. I'm going to be last, I got a boot on. But if there's an orderly process, where information is distributed equally to everyone and everyone has the ability and opportunity to participate and make nominations, it doesn't matter if I'm last up the stairs because we have a process, an orderly process that includes all of us and doesn't give a benefit to one person who might be in a position to get information before the rest of us. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Commissioner Arrington for bringing another very important discussion to the floor. I once again, agree wholeheartedly with your intent here. But would like to sort of discuss the logistics of how we do this. I guess, my first question and/or suggestion would be, could we separate out and have one resolution or ordinance or whatever it should be that defines a District Nomination with Full Board approval so that that procedure is clear? I think that's the much simpler of the two procedures, right? So if we could just -- I think that's one we probably could agree on pretty easily. So if we could just maybe get that definition and layout that procedure in its own document, would sort of take that confusion out of one document, combining both. And then maybe focus the second one on the Full Board situation. And then I guess my question is really to Madam County Attorney about, given the suggestion, and I think this is right that everybody should have an opportunity to know this is happening and make a nomination if so desire, how would that work? I mean, logistically, what do you do if you have seven nominations? What do you do if you have three? Because we're I got lost in this ordinance a little bit, was trying to math out what happens if there's three

nominees, and then two people vote for this one and two for that one and three for the other, and then, how does this work?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "If I can, before the County Attorney answers, the intent was to have the top two vote getters move on."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Everyone else would be eliminated. And so then everyone will be forced to vote for the top two vote getters."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Well, I guess my -- some of my additional questions there would be, I think the language said something about a Commissioner is present. So, in other words, if we only have six here that day, then it would only be -- it would be the majority of however many present. I think that's the wording in there. Did I make that up? I think I did. I think that's right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm not sure. I'll have to yield to the County Attorney on that. But --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm pretty sure that -- I'm pretty sure that's what it said, right? Is that -- am I wrong?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It is. But you could also -- is your concern that some of the Commissioners would not be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, yeah, yeah."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Because that be the same as any other vote on any -- like, if you chose --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, it still seems --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- to not be present --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- to me that it shouldn't be the majority of those present. It should be the majority. So it should be a four? It should be a -- you know, you need four votes to get across the finish line, as I would think, versus if somebody's not here and it's three to three or three to two."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Absolutely, I hear --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. The way this one is written --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I don't think -- I don't think there is a -- we cannot have a -- the Commission cannot act without four."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So, we'd have to get to that on that second vote --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So we'd have to get to four on the second vote -  
-"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- not on the first one, right?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The first vote could have fewer --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But on -- for someone to be approved --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "We'd have to have four."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- they would have to have four."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So, as long as the language says that, I think I'm comfortable with that. The other thing I think that would be helpful with the removal of the sneak attack would be a clearer notification process, not your fault, by the way. But in other words, maybe we make a rule that when anybody is -- when any vacancy comes up, naturally, you already know this, we would get a notification with a reminder within a certain period of time that this is happening, and that --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We get that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, we don't get regular notifications. Like, for example, we just put somebody into a seat that's coming out at the end of a term that's ending at the end of June for Board of Assessors, and we didn't get a specific notification telling us something us that that was happening --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "(Off-mic comments.)"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I get that. But the bigger point is, we don't get those regularly. That data exists, what I'm suggesting though is when there's somebody who's made a decision to leave or is leaving for some other reason that the Clerk get the notification and send it to everyone, and that then there is also a specific date, timeframe of when the vote will happen. Because one of the things that I think

happened in the last meeting was that all of these appointments for BRE end at the same time. And generally, if I understand the history, they've been reappointed or new appointments made in June, and that was May. So it was at least one meeting earlier than it would have normally occurred. So maybe if we could just narrow down that the nomination is always made, you know, two meetings before the person would take office or three meetings before or something like that. If we could make it clear to everybody involved, this is when this is happening, it would also eliminate some of the sneaking it in on a meeting before other people are even thinking about it. Does that make sense?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm open to anything that is a orderly process that doesn't allow the sneak attack, and the sneak, you know, the unintended consequences that cause 200 people to come down here to speak. And to have us doing stuff over the weekend to stop something crazy from happening, right. I mean, I could do it. I did it that time, right. Just -- if that's what they want me to do, I'll do it again and tear them up every time. I tore them up. I'll tear them up again if that's what they want. But I'll rather us have a orderly process."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "If I may just offer a practical point is, working backwards from the date, with your building the deadlines backwards like that, I think what we would be in danger of is, the way it's currently written and certainly we can continue to work with all of the Commissioners to tighten up the language to make it as clear as possible. But it's, the dates are triggered from when the opening comes up. So whether someone resigns or whether a vacancy occurs, if we're working backwards, it's possible that we will be out of compliance because the time is too compressed to make that two-week deadline if the vacancy comes up too close to the deadline."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, okay, so if the vacancy occurs normally, just because the term expires, that, I mean, we can plan for, right?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And that would happen before the term expires?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So the person is still sitting. In a normal situation, their term is up at the end of June, when is an appropriate meeting to have the vote, is the question."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So, for the example -- right now, there's not a specific timeframe because it's presumed that the vote will occur at some point before the vacancy --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. Well, this is all -- all I'm trying to avoid is the, at some point before. I want to say, specifically, before, you know. When it's normally-occurring vacancy that at least one month before the vote shall occur or something like that, it just -- I -- that's all I'm trying to say is, there was a -- there was a precedent that generally, the BRE stuff was voted on in June. This time, it got voted on in May, and nobody was expecting that. So, how do we narrow that down so that there's a more clear timeframe?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Well, do you envision that that would be the target date, or that it would not be valid unless it happens on that date? Because I think there has to be some provision for maybe --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "That's a good question."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- unforeseeable circumstances."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "That's why I wanted to have a discussion, you know. I don't know the answer to that. But I think that that might help, if there's a clear, and like, this person has it -- you know, this term is expired, Full Board Appointment, and we'll be voting on it on XYZ day. But, again, open to -- I'm open to being shot down on all these, I just -- brining up ideas here to try to, you know, get to where we want to go."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's it? You finished?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I want to make a motion to hold this item because I have questions as well. You know, I was once told by one of my colleagues; you can't have it, Khadijah, because you don't have the four votes. And so we can't pick and choose when we want to be fair on certain things and not be fair on other ones. So I think what begs the question for me is, to have a conversation about this and see how, if we're going to truly change the culture of how we do things, because for some stuff it's, oh, that's the culture here. For other stuff, we need to change it. And so if we're going to -- if we're going to have a serious conversation about this, because I have some ideas on -- myself, a Full Board Appointment, a Full Board Nomination, of Full Board -- or a District. And so I would ask that this be held, and everyone, I would implore my colleagues to submit their questions to Commissioner Arrington and we have some dialogue about it. Because we are not -- I'm not prepared to vote for this today. And it's not that I don't support it, but I have my own ideas and concerns. If we're truly going to do something differently, then let's -- let's go on, go ahead and do it. So, I want to make the motion to hold this item."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, the motion --"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- is to hold. Is there a second at this time? All right, Commissioner. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I support the motion to hold. You know, and I do agree that we can probably dispense with the district piece fairly quickly. I think, you know, in practice that works -- works fine, it's on the -- you know, I think we actually did adopt a rule, where we, a few years back, where we defined what was, you know, what do you want to call it, a District Nomination or a practice -- and the rule it -- it was all to go on the consent agenda. I believe that wasn't always the case, but I believe we changed that and made that a rule, three or four or five years ago. Does that sound right, Ms. Grier?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, that's correct."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And that those Boards, all seven Commissioners had an appointment."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, so, I think that one's fairly easy to finally, you know, to dispense with. Because I actually think we do have a fairly good working process. If somebody doesn't like a particular appointment, they're pulled off, they're discussed, and we've had -- been the beneficiary of that fun discussion and have the people voted down, right, when they're pulled off, or further discussion on them and want to talk about it and they're brought back up and whatever. And we also got a mechanism for Full Board Appointments. If you don't like somebody, you could offer a substitute, you can offer it be held. So everybody has that option. And, you know, I mean, help -- I mean, I guess apparently, we had all this brouhaha at the last meeting and somebody brought up holding it. And a lot of people that advocating for this said, no, we're moving on and we're voting. So, I mean, you know, kind of suits for whatever the moment is, I guess, but -- in terms of the four-vote kind of comment. But there are mechanisms if you don't like it to, you know, offer up a substitution, offer it for it to be held, you know, just like we have other mechanisms to do so. So, I mean, I do think all that point needs a whole lot further discussion. And the piece that I don't understand and I don't agree with is this multiple-round voting mechanism and all that sort of stuff. I mean, I generally think, you know, I mean, look, we're going to have some issues over appointments, where we're all not going to agree on them. And that obviously, was evidenced at the last session. But there are also, guess what, there appear to be clearly adequate amount of time for people to voice their opinions on it, get citizen engagement on it, and the whole thing

get, you know, reversed from what it was in the Friday agenda. So apparently, the process does work ultimately."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. I just think it's inherently unfair for one person that's in a position that gets information to be able to submit that information prior to the agenda being printed without sharing that information with their colleagues. That's pretty un-collegial. How are you going to get the information, not share it, make a nomination, beat a deadline, put it out? That -- that's not fair. It's not fair. Maybe it's fair if you're -- maybe you think it's fair if you're the one that gets the information. But for the other six of us, it's not fair. We should have opportunity to get the information. Do we have a chance to object? Yes. Do we have the same amount of time and the same amount of notice? Notice is a fundamental requirement under the law. You got to give notice. We should all be entitled to the same notice. Notice is fundamental. If you don't provide notice, you don't -- there's no due process of law. That's a violation of the 5th and the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution. You have to have proper notice. So, to say that there is a process and that the process works, is just -- yes, there is a process, yes, it work, yes, I burned them up. Y'all want me to tell you -- y'all want me to tell the whole story? Because I can sit here and tell the whole story and that's -- y'all want to know what happened. If we want -- y'all want me to get into it, I'll get into it. Let me tell you. Because we couldn't get the two -- the two Commissioners to move, we had to get the nominee to move. So I know exactly what happened. We had Patrice Perkins Hooker lined up. We had Alicia Ivy lined up. We had these people lined up. We contacted Commissioner Morris. We made the deal for him to be the Board -- Chair of the Board of Appraisers. And then they brought it back here today. Don't get me started, I'll tell it all."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Transparency."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0385**, Request an ordinance to amend the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics regarding nominations for the Fulton County Board of Ethics to replace the disbanded Fulton County Personnel Board with the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce and for other purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. This is, I think, fairly self-explanatory. There are several groups that have -- make nominations to the BOC to serve on the Board of Ethics. One of those entities, organizations was our Personnel Board. We no longer have a Personnel Board, so we're recommending that the -- what's it called -- South Fulton Chamber be -- replace the old Fulton County Personnel Board. And then they then, from among their membership, would nominate, nominate someone to us to be approved by us to serve on the Board of Ethics. That's all this does. We have a motion on the floor to approve. Any questions? All right, let's vote."

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "No. No further items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No further items, no other matters to come before us today; we are adjourned. And again, at our next meeting, we will attempt to begin to terminate or conclude the meeting by -- what did you say, 2:00. So please limit proclamations and other stuff, so that we can get to our Work Session. Thank you."

(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.)