

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

October 04, 2023
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: November 1, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:00 a.m.**

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

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

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

23-0650 Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

Absent: Hall, and Arrington

23-0651 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing “Anthony Edwards Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**
September 23, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Jardine Spears Autism Foundation Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**
September 25, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Tracy R. Cole Remembrance Day.” **(Arrington/Hall)**
September 25, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Lottie Watkins Remembrance Day.” **(Hall)**
September 26, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Alicia Guyton Appreciation Day.” **(Pitts)**
September 30, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Bonecrusher Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 30, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Momma Dee Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 30, 2023

Commissioners' District Board Appointments

**23-0652 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE (APPROVED UPON
ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Reparations Task Force shall have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members, for a total of 14 members. Each member shall be a resident of Fulton County at the time of the appointment. A member shall serve for a two-year term and subject to removal by the appointing Commissioner for cause. No member's term shall exceed that of the appointing Commissioner but shall remain as a voting member until replaced or reappointed by the successive Commissioner.

Term = 2 Years

Terms below expire: 12/31/2023

Marcus Coleman (**Arrington**)

Vacant (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Greg Fann for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2023.

**23-0653 Board of Commissioners
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION
OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Nine (9) members serve on this authority. Seven (7) regular members (each Commissioner appoints one person to serve) and two (2) housing resident members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The enabling statute calls the Housing Authority Board members "Commissioners."

Term = 5 Years for BOC Appointees
1 Year for Resident Members

Term below expires: 7/13/2025

Pastor Earl Calloway (**Arrington**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Lamar White to replace Earl Calloway for a District appointment to an unexpired term ending July 13, 2025.

23-0654 Board of Commissioners**COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Seven (7) appointees by the Board of Commissioners (one for each District); three (3) appointees from each of the non-profit umbrella agencies, which the County contracts with for aging services; and three (3) senior citizens elected by seniors in the three geographical areas of the County. The terms of such members appointed by the Board of Commissioners shall end at the end of the term of the appointing District Commissioner. Such members may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = Shall end at the end of the term of the appointing District Commissioner

Term below expired: 12/31/2022

Mary Blake (Pitts)

Chairman Pitts nominated Mary Blake for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

**Development Authority of Fulton County
TEFRA (Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act)**

23-0655 Board of Commissioners

Execution by Chairman Robert L. Pitts of a TEFRA (Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act) for documentation pertaining to the proposed issuance of its Development Authority of Fulton County Revenue Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$9,000,000.00 (the "Bonds"). The Bonds will be issued for the benefit of Young Men's Christian Association of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc., a Georgia nonprofit corporation, or an affiliate thereof (the "Borrower"). **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0656 Board of Commissioners

Execution by Chairman Robert L. Pitts of a TEFRA (Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act) for documentation pertaining to the proposed issuance of its Development Authority of Fulton County Revenue Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$11,950,000.00 (the "Bonds"). The Bonds will be issued for the benefit of Atlanta International School, Inc., a Georgia nonprofit corporation, or an affiliate thereof (the "Borrower"). **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0657 Board of Commissioners

Execution by Chairman Robert L. Pitts of a TEFRA (Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act) for documentation pertaining to the proposed issuance of its Development Authority of Fulton County Revenue Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000,000.00 (the "Bonds"). The Bonds will be issued for the benefit of Georgia Tech Athletic Association, a Georgia non-profit corporation (the "Borrower") and an affiliated organization of the Georgia Institute of Technology, a unit of the University System of Georgia ("Georgia Tech"). **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Open & Responsible Government**23-0658 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 20ITB125868C-CG (B), Glass and Plexiglas Repair and Replacement in the total amount of \$10,000.00 with P & E Mirror and Glass, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to cover the costs for replacement of glass/plexiglass at four (4) Fulton County facilities (Evelyn G. Lowrey Library at Cascade, Quality Living Services, 4700 North Point Parkway and the Neighborhood Union Health Center), and to cover costs for any unforeseen glass replacement needs for the remainder of fiscal year 2023. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0659 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB135025C-MH, Generator System Maintenance and Repair Services in the amount of \$135,000.00 with Power & Energy Services, Inc. (Powder Springs, GA), to provide on-site preventive generator system maintenance and repair services for Fulton County. This action exercises first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0660 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134894C-MH, Maintenance and Testing of Fire Intrusion Alarm Systems in a total amount not to exceed \$105,000.00 with (A) VSC Fire & Security, Inc. (Norcross, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00; and (B) Entec Systems, Inc. (Suwanee, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00, to provide on-site maintenance and testing of fire-intrusion alarm systems on an annual or as needed basis for County facilities. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0661 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134833C-MH, Fire Extinguisher Testing and Maintenance Services in the total amount of \$75,000.00 with (A) Cintas Fire Protection, Inc. (Norcross, GA) in the amount of \$45,000.00 and (B) Summit Fire & Security (Loganville, GA) in the amount of \$30,000.00, to provide fire extinguisher testing and maintenance services on an "as-needed" basis Fulton County facilities. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries**23-0662 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a public art contract to commission Rory Hawkins to create a site-specific mural at the newly constructed Animal Services Facility in the amount of \$25,000.00 and authorization of the County Attorney to approve the public art contract as to form and to make necessary changes to the contract to protect the County prior to execution. The term is upon BOC approval through February 29, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**23-0663 Community Development**

Request approval to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") between Fulton County, as the GA 502 Fulton County Continuum of Care ("CoC") Collaborative Applicant, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), on behalf of the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority ("GHFA"), regarding the cost sharing of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award and management of the CoC's Homeless Management Information System ("HMIS"). The term is from December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024. This item is 100% grant funded in the amount of \$76,484.00 (HMIS grant through the DCA). **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0664 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22ITBC077A-KM, Landscaping Restoration Services in an amount not to exceed \$131,923.00 with Ed Castro Landscaping, Inc. (Roswell, GA), to provide landscaping restoration services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Infrastructure and Economic Development**23-0665 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 197,501 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Windward Park Master Association, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Windward Park Commercial District Project at 0 Northpoint Pkwy, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0666 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 82,670 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Milton Land Invest, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Heatherton Project at 1240 Mayfield Road, Milton, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0667 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 63,374 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Milton Land Invest, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Heatherton Project at 1240 Mayfield Road, Milton, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0668 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 10,221 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Branyan Trail, LLC for the purpose of constructing the Crabapple Market Residential Project at 0 Crabapple Circle, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**23-0669 District Attorney**

Request approval of an award without competition - District Attorney, 2022 OJJDP FY 2022 Family-Based Alternative Sentencing Program, Award Number 13624564 with Up Therapy and Solutions named as a sub-awardee in the Grant in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.00 to help build resilient families through trauma-informed therapy groups and supportive services for youth, parents or guardians, and Credible Messengers along with other service providers. Effective upon BOC approval through the term of the Grant, October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025. 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0670 Marshal

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Marshal Department, 22ITBC0412B-EF, Duty Gear & Uniforms in the total amount not to exceed \$58,648.00 with (A) Lawmen's Shooters Supply, Inc., (Titusville, FL) in the amount not to exceed \$6,648.00, (B) T&T Uniforms, Inc., (Smyrna, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$21,000.00 and (C) Smyrna Police Distributors (Smyrna, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$31,000.00 to provide duty gear, uniforms and other related items. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

23-0671 Board of Commissioners

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to adopt the Regular Meeting as amended by revising item #23-0673 as requested by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; moving up items #23-0690 as requested by Vice-Chairman Ellis and #23-0684 as requested by Commissioner Barrett. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Hall, and Arrington

Did Not Vote: Barrett

23-0672 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Regular Meeting Minutes, September 6, 2023

Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, September 20, 2023

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, and Barrett

Absent: Hall, and Arrington

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

23-0673 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing “White Cane Awareness Day.” **(BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing “WSB-TV Appreciation Day.” **(BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing “Digital Inclusion Week.” **(BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing “National Hispanic Heritage Month.” **(Thorne/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing “Down Syndrome Awareness Day.” **(Ellis)**

Proclamation recognizing “Sergeant Tucker Byrne Appreciation Day.” **(Thorne)**

~~*Proclamation recognizing “Shannon Balenciaga Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**~~

~~*Proclamation recognizing “Miguel Wilson Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**~~

~~*Proclamation recognizing “Tracy Nicole Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**~~

~~*Proclamation recognizing “Lisa Nicole Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**~~

~~*Proclamation recognizing “London Couture Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**~~

~~*Proclamation recognizing “Timeekah Murphy Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**~~

Proclamation recognizing “National Plus Size Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**

~~**Proclamation recognizing “Atlanta DREAM WNBA Team Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**~~

**recipient not in attendance*

***removed during the meeting*

PUBLIC HEARINGS**23-0674 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)**

46 Speakers: Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari (Item #23-0684); Dr. Alveda C. King (Item #23-0684); Angela Stanton King (Item #23-0684); Cathy Schneider (Item #23-0684); Stephanie Miller (Item #23-0684); Shelly Faulk (Fulton County Jail); Michael Collins (Fulton County Jail); Mary Clauson (Item #23-0684); Gary Schantz (Item #23-0684); Surrea Ivy (Item #23-0684); Jodi William (Fulton County Jail); Margie McCloud (Item #23-0684); Suellen Wohnig (Item #23-0684); Audra Pagano (Item #23-0684); Estevan Hernandez (Fulton County Jail); Jimmy Hill (Fulton County Jail); Monica Johnson (Fulton County Jail); Giovani Serrano (Fulton County Jail); Sharie Normae (Fulton County Jail); Kristin Butler (Fulton County Jail); Bezal Jupiter (Fulton County Jail); Jani Tucker (Item #23-0684); Sarah Pedro (Item #23-0684); Paul Hershey (Item #23-0684); Julie Allen (Item #23-0684); Dr. Elizabeth Mosley (Item #23-0684); Desirrae Thomas (Item #23-0684); Alma Lott (Fulton County Jail); Allison Coffman (Item #23-0684); Jane Diamond (Item #23-0684); Mara Gaudio (Item #23-0684); Musa Springer (Item #23-0684); Joey Martineck (Item #23-0684); Teja Vyavanare (Item #23-0684); Gabriela Hernandez (Item #23-0684); Devin Barrington-Ward (Fulton County Jail); Dr. Jemmott (Item #23-0684); Catherine Davis (Item #23-0684); Madilyn Drosendahl (Item #23-0684); Keyanna Jones (Item #23-0684); Reverend LS Allen (Item #23-0684); Dominique Grant (Fulton County Jail); Kenny (Item #23-0684); Cait Morigan (Item #23-0684); Tiffani Howard (Seniors Services) and Olivia Harrison (Item #23-0684)

1 Zoom Speaker: Ben Howard (Senior Services)

56 Emailed Comments: Jennifer Storm (Item #23-0684); John Daniel Piper (Item #23-0684); Sarah Rueda (Item #23-0684); Cristina Zimmer (Item #23-0684); Margarita Szechenyi (Item #23-0684); Judith Genesky (Item #23-0684); William Brust (Item #23-0684); Edward Cochran (Item #23-0684); Richard Thomas (Item #23-0684); Julie Smith (Item #23-0684); Maria Steward (Item #23-0684); Mary Anne Kester (Item #23-0684); Margaret Strain (Item #23-0684); Mary Crisanti (Item #23-0684); Eileen Price (Item #23-0684); Meredith Young (Item #23-0684); Katleen Cotta (Item #23-0684); Thuy Trinh (Item #23-0684); Karin Mayberry (Item #23-0684); Sydney Mead (Item #23-0684); Joyce Hightower (Item #23-0684); Glen Micheals (Item #23-0684); Cheryl Fitzgerald (Item #23-0684); Alexander Charles & Laura Brenner (Item #23-0684); Brian Bimonte (Item #23-0684); Janet DiBenedetto (Item #23-0684); Marissa Borah (Item #23-0684); Michael DeLise (Item #23-0684); Jessica Moyer (Item #23-0684); Ana Payne (Item #23-0684); Shannon Nicolosi (Item #23-0684); Judith Genesky (Item #23-0684); Margaret Degance (Item #23-0684); Ami Desi (Item #23-0684); Ann Hall (Item #23-0684); Mary Crisanti (Item #23-0684); Lisa Whitney (Item #23-0684); Christina Pericas (Item #23-0684); Rebecca Bain (Item #23-0684); Kim and George Yourick (Item #23-0684); Kristie Franklin (Item #23-0684); Raymond King (Item #23-0684); Heather Subleski (Item #23-0684); Diane Davis (Item #23-0684); Jill Flynn (Item #23-0684); Brian Schneider (Item #23-0684); Katie Benson (Item #23-0684); Dawn Began (Item #23-0684); Emilie Fillon (Item #23-0684); Ashley McCartney (Item #23-0684); Amy Warnock (Item #23-0684); Ami Desi (Item #23-0684) and Elaine Taylor-Klaus (Item #23-0684)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to extend the allotted 30 minute time limit for Public Comment. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****23-0675 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134621K-JAJ, Roof Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Services Countywide in the total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 with (A) RYCARS Construction, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$700,000.00, (B) Ideal Building Solutions, LLC. (Norcross, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, and (C) Ben Hill Roofing and Siding Co, Inc (Douglasville, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$300,000.00, to provide standby roof maintenance, repair, and replacement services on an "as-needed" basis for Countywide facilities. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

23-0676 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB130146C-GS, Preventive and Predictive Maintenance Services for Chillers in the total amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 with (A) Mechanical Services, Inc. (Hapeville, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$400,000.00; (B) Johnson Controls, Inc. (Roswell, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$400,000.00; and (C) Daikin Applied Americas, Inc. (Marietta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$400,000.00, to provide on-site preventive and predictive maintenance services for chillers on an "as needed" basis for all Fulton County facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

23-0677 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21RFP130049C-CG, Landfill Post Closure Services in the amount of \$746,700.00 with Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc. (Roswell, GA), to provide landfill post closure services at Merk/Miles and Morgan Falls Landfills for Fulton County. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

23-0678 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB135136C-MH, Testing and Repair of Backflow Devices in the amount of \$270,000.00 with B & W Mechanical Contractors, Inc. (Lawrenceville, GA), to provide on-site testing and repair of approximately 183 backflow preventive (BFP) devices for required maintenance on an "as-needed" basis for the Fulton County facilities. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Hall

Health and Human Services**23-0679 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22ITBC073A-KM, Fire Hydrants and Parts in the amount not to exceed \$386,728.00 with Core & Main, LP (Athens, GA), to provide fire hydrants and parts. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

23-0680 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 23ITB137357A-JWT, Soft Dig Services in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.00 with A&K Services, LLC (Dawsonville, GA), to provide soft dig services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

23-0681 Finance

Presentation, review and approval of October 4, 2023, Budget Soundings. **(PRESENTED/APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

23-0682 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, ITB#ITB121622K-DJ, Industrial Racking for the Fulton County Central Warehouse in the total amount of \$208,896.69 with McGee Storage & Handling (Norcross, GA), requesting additional funding to cover the costs to purchase and deliver two (2) Electric Stock Pickers, one (1) Electric Forklift Truck and other related equipment components for the Fulton County Central Warehouse located at 5600 Campbellton-Fairburn Road, Atlanta, GA 30213. 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, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

Absent: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

Arts and Libraries

23-0683 Arts and Culture

Requesting approval of a Resolution approving a sponsorship agreement template for use by the Department of Arts and Culture; authorizing the County Manager or his designee to sign such agreements where funding is in the approved budget of the Department of Arts and Culture; and for other purposes. Effective upon adoption. **(HELD)**

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

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS

23-0595 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article II (County Governing Authority), Division 1 (Generally) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances relating to budgetary controls for members of the Board of Commissioners by reducing the travel/conferences budget for members of the Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Ellis) (HELD ON 9/6/23) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 9/20/23) (HELD)**

ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN ELLIS

23-0642 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to not include or consider any budget enhancements or budgetary increases for any Justice Department or agency in 2024 General Fund Budget; and for other purposes. **(Ellis) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 9/20/23) (HELD)**

ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN ELLIS

23-0684 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to provide financial assistance and logistical support for reproductive health care through the appropriation and donation of \$300,000.00 to Access Reproductive Care Southeast Inc., matching a contribution made by the City of Atlanta.

(Barrett/Hall) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)

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

Commissioner Hall offered a friendly amendment to also fund non-profits assisting women who decide to keep their baby.

Commissioner Barrett did not accept the friendly amendment.

Yea: Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

Nay: Ellis, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Pitts

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments

**23-0685 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL (APPROVED)**

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

Term = 2 years

Terms below expired: 12/31/2020

Marc Boyd (**Hall**)

Joseph Bankoff (**Resigned**) (**BOC-Chairperson position**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Jennifer Pino for a Full Board appointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.

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

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

Absent: Thorne, and Hall

23-0686 Board of Commissioners

BELTLINE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD (APPROVED)

Fulton County Board of Commissioners shall be responsible for the appointment of five (5) members.

Term = 2 years, with such term commencing upon Council approval.

Term below expired: 1/3/2018

Zach Nikonovich-Kahn (**Resigned**) (**BOC #3**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Bobbie Spiller for Full Board appointment to a two-year term that will commence upon approval of the Atlanta City Council.

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

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

Absent: Thorne, and Hall

Did Not Vote: Arrington

23-0687 Board of Commissioners
BOARD OF ETHICS (APPROVED AS AMENDED)

Each member selected after the initial terms of office have expired shall serve a term of three (3) years or until the termination of his or her membership in the organization from which he or she was selected. The chair shall serve as chair for the remainder of the calendar year and until a successor is chosen. (See Fulton County Code of Laws, Section 2-80).

Term = 3 years

Term below expired: 2/12/2022

Vacant (**South Fulton Chamber of Commerce/BOC**)

The South Fulton Chamber of Commerce recommended Walter Vinson for a Full Board appointment to a term ending February 12, 2025.

Term below expired: 2/12/2023

Daraka Satcher (**Gate City Bar Association/BOC**)

~~**The Gate City Bar Association has recommended Daraka Satcher for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending February 12, 2026. (NOT APPROVED)**~~

Term below expires: 2/12/2024

Jamie Bendall (**Resigned/Vacant**) (**Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce**)

The Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce recommended Chris Miller to fill the unexpired term of Jamie Bendall for a Full Board appointment to a term ending February 12, 2024.

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Chairman Pitts, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve as amended by only approving the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce recommendation of Walter Vinson, and the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce recommendation of Chris Miller . The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Thorne, and Hall

**23-0688 Board of Commissioners
FULTON-ATLANTA LAND BANK AUTHORITY (APPROVED)**

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

Term = 4 years

Terms below expired: 8/7/2023
Kyle Lamont (BOC/Hall)
Calvin Brock (BOC/Abdur-Rahman)

Commissioner Barrett nominated Joan Arkins for a Full Board appointment to a term ending August 7, 2027.

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

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

Absent: Thorne, and Hall

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

23-0689 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Whether the designation of personal staff for elected officials requires approval from the BOC (Pitts) (DISCUSSED)

23-0690 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: \$5.3 Million Emergency Funding approved for Sheriff’s Department at April 19, 2023 BOC Meeting (Ellis) (DISCUSSED)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

23-0691 Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

Yea: Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, and Arrington

Absent: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

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

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

Absent: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve the application to move the boundary line of Merk-Miles Landfill to effectuate the transfer of Wolf Creek Amphitheater to the City of South Fulton. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve for payment of a 2024 invoice from the Atlanta Regional Commission for the Technical Assistance Intergovernmental Cost Sharing Agreement in the amount of \$75,000.00 as set forth in item #4 in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
REGULAR MEETING
October 4, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone. Today is October 4, 2023. It's 10:00 a.m. This is the Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. I'm Robb Pitts. I chair the Board of Commissioners. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Natalie Hall. 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.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam Clerk, just one moment. Now, I see a couple of placards. We do not allow placards in Assembly Hall. So if you would put those down, I would appreciate it. Thank you. Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **23-0650**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place

on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any items on the Consent Agenda, Madam Clerk, no? Commissioners, no? All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. It is seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 7, Regular Meeting Agenda, **23-0671**. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item to amend: Proclamations on page 8, 23-0673. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has requested to remove the proclamation recognizing Atlanta Dream WNBA Team Appreciation Day."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Ellis?"

VICE CHAIR ELLIS: "Yeah. I have one requested change that we move up an item on the agenda, item 23-0690 on page 14 of 14, discussion item related to 5.3 million of emergency funding approved April 19, 2023. I'd like that to be heard before the County Manager items. So it would be after item 23-0680."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What page?"

VICE CHAIR ELLIS: "The item is on page 14 of 14. It's the next to the last item, again, 0690."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And to be heard after 0680."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I would like to move up item number 23-0684. We have an elected official with us and I'd like to let her have her say and be here to answer questions on that. So, it's item 684 -- I'm not sure what page, sorry. It's on page 12, top of page 12. If we could just move it up in the agenda, we can take it wherever you think it's appropriate, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else? All right. Motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett. Is there a second? Is there a second? Seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Let's vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0672:** Ratification of Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes, September 6th. Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, September 20th, 2023."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Page 8, presentation of proclamations and certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'White Cane Awareness Day' sponsored by the Full Board of Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. We have a -- what -- 14 proclamations. It takes about -- we have 30 minutes for proclamations; unless you want to amend the rules. This will take about an hour and 15 minutes for proclamations, and we allow 30 minutes. What's your pleasure? We'll take all of them and decide when he gets here. All right, let's go. Madam Clerk. All right. Those who received a proclamation, let's go. You're good."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can I please get everyone with the White Cane Awareness Day, please come forward so we can present this. Good morning. Good morning. You're welcome. Some could come to my left, please. We want to make sure we get you all together for the photograph. Come in some. Swing back a little bit. Come this way. How are you? Do we have everyone, Chairman? Are we ready? Okay. White Canes were introduced in the 1930s as a way of assisting visually impaired pedestrians to travel independently. They were painted white to be more easily visible and to help motorists identify and yield to people using the White Cane. And WHEREAS, the use of White Canes have been protected by law in the United States since their origin and in the 1960s, the National Federation of the Blind became a leader in fighting for the rights of the blind and in pioneering an innovative training program using the White Cane. And WHEREAS, on October 6th, 1964, the United States Congress adopted a joint Resolution designating October 15th of each year as White Cane Safety Day recognizing that White Canes enable blind people to travel safely and independently. And WHEREAS, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first White Cane Safety Day proclamation within hours of the passage of the joint Resolution, and in 2011, President Barack Obama referred to the White Cane Safety Day as blind Americans equality days; And WHEREAS, the emphases of White Cane Safety Day has shifted over time away from safety and towards independence and equality. And now celebrates the achievements of blind or visually impaired people and

highlights the White Cane as an important mobility tool. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes White Cane Safety Day as a date to bring awareness to the rights of blind and visually impaired citizens to be mobile and independent citizens. And thanks to the Department of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance, and the Commission on Disability Affairs for their invaluable advocacy of the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities; and does hereby proclaim Sunday, October 15th, 2023 as 'White Cane Awareness Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please applaud this community that we celebrate today in their independence."

MELISSA CATHRELL, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. My name is Melissa Cathrell, and I am the director for the Department of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance. I am very excited to be here to celebrate with our community partners, our Cota Board, this magnificent day. We are wanting to invite two of our community partners to speak briefly to share more with you."

RECIPIENT: "Thank you. And Chairman Pitts and the rest of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, I am deeply honored to accept this proclamation. I've been working with the Commission on Disability Affairs for quite a long time, and it always leads me to tell everyone that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners has taken the leadership role when it comes to dealing with people with disabilities in the county. So on behalf of the organization that I represent, the Commission on Disability Affairs, the National Federation of the Blind, we have blind veterans with us also; and I am left with this: my mother always would have a quote of some type, 'No one cares how much -- no one would ever care how much you know until they know how much you care'. And I can tell you Fulton County really cares. Thank you."

DOROTHY GRIFFIN, RECIPIENT: "Good morning, everyone. I am Dorothy Griffin, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia. And I am honored here today to agree with the acceptance of our White Cane proclamation and I would like to thank the Fulton County Commission's for giving us this opportunity. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'WSB-TV Appreciation Day' sponsored by the Full Board of Commissioners."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. So I get the one to recognizes -- welcome south brother. So we've got our guest from WSB-TV down here to join us."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can you come around up here?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Come down here to join us."

COMMISSIONER AVDURE-RAHMAN: "Come on, come on. You so cute. Come on. I meant you. I meant you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Well, I think a lot of you probably -- you know, a lot of folks in the audience know who these folks up here are. So we're going to recognize WSB-TV for the role that they played in all of our lives here in the Metro community. So WHEREAS, in 1948, WSB-TV became the first television station in Georgia and in the Southeastern United States serving citizens of Fulton County and the citizens of Georgia; and WHEREAS, WSB-TV, known for its iconic Channel 2 Action News brand has provided valued news and information critical to the citizens of Metro Atlanta and North Georgia since 1948; and WHEREAS, WSB-TV has been a pioneer in broadcast technology from being an early adopter of color television, the first station in Georgia to transition to high definition broadcasting, and the first to launch its own streaming channel; and WHEREAS, WSB-TV has a strong tradition of community involvement in philanthropy with the Family-2-Family Project and the People-2-People show; and WHEREAS, WSB-TV not only is a market leader in Georgia, but also is the top rated local news station in the United States, with staff dedicated to the mission of serving its communities for the past 75 years. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends WSB-TV on its 75th anniversary of service and dedication to the citizens of Fulton County in Metro Atlanta; and does hereby proclaim September 29, 2023 as 'WSB-TV Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

RAY CARTER, RECIPIENT: "Well, thank you to the Commission for recognizing us and honoring us. I'm Ray Carter. I'm the Vice President and General Manager of WSB-TV. It's my pleasure to lead the team forward for the next 75 years. You do have this. I noticed when I walked in, none of your heads whipped around. But when these three walked in, your heads whipped around. I take no offense to that whatsoever. Jorge Estevez, our 5 o'clock, 11 o'clock anchor; Linda Stouffer our 6 o'clock anchor; Condace Pressley, our Director of Community and Public Affairs, the heartbeat of this television station. This last Friday we celebrated 75 years of service to this community, and we're proud of that heritage; we're proud of the tradition. Not only -- and many of you don't know this -- not only is it the number one television station in Atlanta and all of Georgia, this is by share of audience, the number one news audience in the morning, the number one news audience at 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock, and 11 o'clock in the United States. That's WSB-TV. I'm proud of that. You don't need to hear anymore from me, but I would sure like to call on Jorge, Linda, and Condace to just say a few words. Jorge, we'll start with you."

JORGE ESTEVEZ, RECIPIENT: "So this is what the morning looks like. Normally, I don't go to bed until 2. Listen, it is so great to see your faces and joining this team several years ago during a few rough years that we've had here in North Georgia and around the country and around the world has been a gift and an honor. And we do it for people who've checked us in today in security. Who looked at us and said, hey, I know you guys, and then she asked for Fred Blankenship, but that's not the point. The point is she saw our faces and felt comfort and we feel a responsibility to do the work for you. We go where you can't. We ask the questions you wish you could, and our job is to work for you. Thank you."

LINDA STOUFFER, RECIPIENT: "Hi everyone, I'm Linda Stouffer, team member at Channel 2, and I just want to thank all the Fulton County Commissioners and Chairman Pitts for having us here today and to recognize this anniversary for WSB-TV. We appreciate you so much and appreciate your trust in us. We always work so hard every single day so that when you turn to Channel 2, you get the latest information so that you can stay safe, so that you can make the right decisions for your family, so you know what's going in the Fulton County Commission and throughout all the important counties in Metro Atlanta. So thank you for your trust in us, and happy birthday, WSB."

CONDACE PRESSLEY, RECIPIENT: "And again, good morning, everyone. I'm Condace Pressley, Director of Community and Public Affairs at WSB-TV Channel 2. And, again, thank you all to the members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, and to all of you in the community here for the meeting today to recognize us in the service that we provide to all of you as this community. You're not in the community for 75 years without feeling very strongly about the coverage that we provide; as Jorge said, asking the questions you want to ask, going to places that you would like to be, and of course, in my area, delivering the community coverage that you can count on. We thank you all very, very much."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Digital Inclusion Week' sponsored by the Full Board of Commissioners."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. We got more coming. Awesome. All right. The proclamation reads as follows: WHEREAS, digital inclusion week acknowledges the work of the Fulton County Digital Ambassadors program which connects residents to broadband services and digital equity. Which plays an important role in civic, cultural, and economic participation in our society and is necessary for lifelong learning and access to essential services for local communities; and WHEREAS, the COVID-19 health crisis has shed light on the digital divide in the need for home Internet service and the large number of American households in all kinds of communities who do not have it; and WHEREAS, the affordable connectivity program, is a federal benefit program that provides eligible households, such as those who receive federal assistance, with a discount on broadband service and connected devices; and WHEREAS, only half of more than 100,000 households in Fulton County, who are eligible for the ACP program have actually enrolled; and WHEREAS, Select Fulton, in partnership with the Goodwill of North Georgia, and \$150,000 in funding provided by Comcast, developed the Digital Ambassador program to create over 100 strategic access points throughout Fulton County to connect residents with free broadband access via the ACP program; and WHEREAS, the Digital Ambassador program also includes digital navigators who are Internet Specialists that attend civic, nonprofit, and faith-based events to get residents enrolled in the ACP program. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners of Fulton County encourages all citizens to raise awareness of digital equity and broadband access issues with the goal of closing the digital divide; and does hereby

proclaim the week of October 2nd through 6th, 2023, as 'Digital Inclusion Week' in Fulton County, Georgia. Thank you."

SAMIR ABDULLAHI, RECIPIENT: "Good morning, everyone, my name is Samir Abdullahi. I'm the director of Select Fulton. We're the Economic and Workforce Development arm for Fulton County government. So we work to bring jobs and new investment here in Fulton County. As the proclamation mentioned, we learned a lot of lessons during the COVID-19 pandemic; one is strength around small business support, but also want to thank the County Manager for challenging us of what else can you do? And broadband connectivity was one of those major issues. We learned that WIFI devices and wireless is not enough for three kids, four kids, in an apartment, its hard infrastructure in the ground that matters. And that's what the ACP program, the Affordable Connectivity Program offers our residents for free. I want to thank this public-private and nonprofit collaboration that's represented in this partnership today. We have our private partners at Comcast that's stepped up and gave a hundred and \$50,000 to make this digital master program happen. We have our Goodwill partners and our digital navigators that are boots on the ground doing the real work; going to community groups, faith-based groups and educating people in helping them sign up for the Affordable Connectivity Program. So today we celebrate the work that has already been done, but we acknowledge the work that still needs to be done. So I want to anoint everyone in this room as a Digital Ambassador. You're aware of the Affordable Connectivity Program. Make sure you share it with your friends, your colleagues, those in need, and let's get to that 100 percent. So, thank you. Appreciate it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioners, before you sound the next proclamation, let me repeat: there are no placards allowed in the Assembly Hall. I'd respectfully ask you again to lower the placards; otherwise, we'll have to have them removed."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let me repeat. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'National Hispanic Heritage Month' sponsored by Commissioner Thorne and the Full Board of Commissioners."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Great. It gives me great honor today to present this proclamation on behalf of the National Hispanic Heritage Month. I grew up with a Hispanic heritage, a background that I credit that I'm here because of my Hispanic heritage that I grew up with. I experienced one, I grew up in a family with a strong faith, strong Catholic faith, that guided me. Secondly, I grew up with a work ethic -- a strong work ethic that the Hispanic community has. They don't expect anything for free. They work. They have a strong work ethic. My grandparents came here from Mexico and worked their way through being citizens here. Thirdly, the family and the community -- the strong -- the strong bonds that you can -- not even see a family member in a decade and then when you see them, they're there for you if you need them. So I credit my

Hispanic heritage and today, with me, and I have Los Niños Primero. It's an organization in Sandy Springs and North Fulton that empowers Latino students and their families from early childhood, college, through holistic -- academic leadership and community programs. WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is observed annually from September 15th to October 15th, and was established to appreciate and celebrate the colorful cultures, rich histories, and diversity of the American Latino community, his ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America; and WHEREAS, the day of September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of Independence for Latin American countries, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; and WHEREAS, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and 18th respectfully; and WHEREAS, our country has always drawn strength and insights from Hispanic writers, scientists, soldiers, doctors, entrepreneurs, academics, and leaders in labor and government; and WHEREAS, during Hispanic Heritage Month, we reaffirm that diversity is one of our country's greatest strength, and we acknowledge that Hispanic leaders who have stayed in the struggle for equal justice to ensure that everyone in this country can contribute their talents and have the opportunity to thrive. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognize the large impact of Hispanic Heritage in the United States and calls upon all Fulton County citizens to observe this month with the appropriate ceremonies and programs; and does hereby proclaim the month of October 2023 as 'National Hispanic Heritage Month' in Fulton County, Georgia."

MARITZA MORELLI, RECIPIENT: "Buenos Dias (unintelligible.) I'm very honored to be here. Maritza Morelli, Executive Director of Los Niños Primero organization, who has been working for 23 years providing educational service to our underserved population in Sandy Springs, but now we are extended to four different counties. So it's an honor for us to receive this proclamation and to provide services for the new generation of Latino that has been born here, and will be sitting here and be part of this incredible country. Thank you very much."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Down Syndrome Awareness Day' sponsored by Vice Chairman Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Good morning. I would like to invite those in the Down communities, supporters and friends, to come down here and join us. And as they're making their way down, I just sort of want to say when I agree to do it -- when I agreed to do this a few months ago, I didn't know how providential and virtuous timing of this proclamation would be. So, I'm privileged about that and, as a point of personal privilege, my brother was a Down baby who was born a little over 50 years ago; and, on September 23rd, he celebrated his 50th birthday. We've come a long way in terms of the support with those with Down's. We've got a long ways to go, but we've definitely come a long way over that 50-year period of time. So with that, I'm going to share this proclamation, so we've got everybody joining us here. Man, you're a true fan; you still got the Falcons gear on. Optimistic. All right. Yeah. All right. WHEREAS, individuals

with Down Syndrome are active citizens who contribute much to the overall quality of life in this community; and WHEREAS, greater public awareness and acceptance of these persons will increase their access to education, employment, housing, and social and recreational opportunities; and WHEREAS, it is the desire of our community to create a place where all people can explore and develop their varied abilities. Can enjoy productive work and contribute by meaningful participation in the life of their communities; and WHEREAS, it is the goal of Fulton County, to instill positive perceptions of people with Down Syndrome; and WHEREAS, during October 2023, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, Fulton County residents are encouraged to promote positive awareness and greater opportunities for persons with Down Syndrome; and are challenged to look beyond a person's particular disability and focus instead upon each person's diverse abilities and contributions to the community. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County recognizes the importance of National Down Syndrome Awareness Month as an opportunity to embrace the acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome; and does hereby proclaim the month of October 2023 as 'National Down Syndrome Awareness Month' in Fulton County, Georgia. Does anybody want to say anything? Anybody want to say anything? No? All right. I know you can get long-winded, so you've got to be brief on me, all right? All right, this guy right here is a star. We've had him up here before. All right. So just say -- just say a few quick words."

RECIPIENT: "I just want to tell you, thank y'all for supporting us. It really, you know, good things you know."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. All right. Good job."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Sergeant Tucker Byrne Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "It gives me great honor today to give this proclamation to Sergeant Tucker Byrne. He's been with the Fulton County Police for only a year, but he's also spent four years with APD, and he is truly a hero. A hero that puts his life on the line every day like all of these up here -- the officers up here. And their heroics sometimes go unheard or unspoken. Not that they look for awards or proclamations, but I feel it important that we honor -- honor them today because it is so lacking in the atmosphere that we have going on right now. So it gives me great privilege. WHEREAS, on Monday July 3rd, 2023, at approximately 6:00 p.m., Fulton County Police Corporal Tucker Byrne received a BOLO, be on the lookout, call from the Atlanta Police Department for a kidnapping in the area near the I-285 and I-20 connector for a blue BMW X3. Corporal Byrne spotted the vehicle in the area of I-285 southbound near the Camp Creek Parkway exit; and WHEREAS, a traffic stop was attempted on the vehicle when the driver stopped in the middle of the highway causing other motorists and police vehicles to swerve; and WHEREAS, Corporal Byrne noticed a female passenger hanging out the left rear passenger window screaming for help as the vehicle began to flee from law enforcement refusing to stop; and WHEREAS, a pursuit ensued

as the vehicle began traveling southbound on I-285 at a high rate of speed in excess of a hundred miles per hour for approximately 20 miles. When Corporal Byrne initiated a precision immobilization technique to safely stop the vehicle; and WHEREAS, Corporal Byrne approached the vehicle, removed the occupants, rescued the victim, and apprehended the driver. He has since been promoted to the rank of Sergeant. So NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Sergeant Tucker Byrne for his bravery, courage, heroism, and quick response that prevented other innocent citizens from being harmed; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, October 4th, 2023 as 'Sergeant Tucker Byrne Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing 'National Plus Size Appreciation Day'."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can I get all full-figured queens to join me as well as their supporters. We've got one more colleague, so if you all don't mind; and as they're making they are way, you do not have to adjust your dial; yes, we do have full-figured pageant queens. Some of y'all come on this side. We have five queens with us today and I make number six. At the end of the day, in a society that likes to fat shame; like to say that your worth is tied to your size, you never hear anybody go to the steakhouse and say give me the skinniest steak you can find. You never find anybody to go to the bank and say I just want a little bit of my money; they want a large amount of their money. So I say to you what my mother often said to me as a plus teen: don't nothing but a dog like bones, and he bury those most of the time. And so, I take with immense pride and honor today, because we are in a society where more women are plus size, and more men are plus size than what we consider the norm. And so, don't adjust your dial because you have full-figured pageantry -- all of these women are queens. And as of today, Fulton County will honor them. WHEREAS, Latoya François, is a native of Baton Rouge Louisiana and began her career in 2015 starting with the modeling group known as Phenomenally Plush, which catapulted her into the very first plus-size calendar published in the state of Louisiana titled 'Big Beautiful Bosses'. And WHEREAS, LaToya -- excuse me, competed in the Ms. Full-Figured Louisiana Pageant before she relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, and has since graced many stages showcasing the walk that earned her the name, 'The Showstopper'. She also spearheaded the Georgia Branch of the Ms. Full Figured Pageant, which was held on May 19th, 2019; and WHEREAS, the Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Plus Pageant is a division of Ms. Full-Figured USA and was founded in 2018 by CEO Theresa Sparkle Randolph and directed by Latoya François to focus on building self-confidence in women of all sizes; and WHEREAS, Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Beauty Pageant is a pageant for full-figured women in Georgia of all races and ethnicities whose mission is to empower women through pageantry and inspire others while serving the community and the creators model is 'size has no barrier on beauty'. And WHEREAS, on August 12, 2023, LaToya celebrated her fifth year as director of the Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Pageant and in 2021, she was able to produce the first Ms. Full-Figured Alabama Pageant in Birmingham, Alabama. The honorees today, of course, are Latoya François,

Whitney Forfeta, Kenya Thomas, Alicia Ford, Glenda Hayes. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends LaToya François for her outstanding work with the Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Plus Pageant and for her tireless work as a mentor and role model to young girls in her community; and does hereby proclaim Friday, October 6th, as 'National Plus Size Appreciation Day' in Fulton County. Would you please put your hands together for these phenomenal queens."

LATOYA FRANCOIS, RECIPIENT: "Good morning, good morning, good morning. Thank you so much. I am so excited to be able to have a day for LaToya. So appreciate the plus size women. We are here, we are beautiful, we are bold, and we are here to stay. Watch us work. Thank you."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, Public Hearings, **23-0674**, 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 by submitting their comments in writing online by registering on the County website www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 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 in Assembly Hall. We have received 50 speaker cards. Will the first six speakers, please come forward: Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari, Dr. Alveda C. King, Angela Stanton King, Cathy Schneider, Stephanie Miller, and Shelly Faulk."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you Madam Clerk. Now, just for you information: for those who have not spoken before the Board of Commissioners before, there's no time limit for elected officials. Others though, there's a strict two-minute time limit. When you have 15 seconds left of your two minutes, I'll say 15 seconds. That's your clue to conclude your remarks. There are 50 people who signed up to speak today, and we allow 30 minutes for public comment. Fifty here in the Assembly Hall, 47 e-mails. That's about five hours. We can't do that today, so we're going to enforce that 30-minute time limit. So if someone has already said what you were going to say, I would appreciate it if you would just yield -- not yield your time, but be mindful of the fact that we've heard what previous speakers have said what you were going to say because we have a lot on our agenda today, so we're going to adhere to that 30-minute time limit. Again, there's no time limit for elected officials. Councilmember, you have the floor."

LILIANNA BAKHTIARI, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will also try to not take advantage of the fact that I have no time limit and defy what is expected of politicians and try to keep it short. So my name is Liliana Bakhtiari. I'm the councilperson for District 5 in the City of Atlanta. I wanted to speak to y'all today about the legislation that Commissioner Barrett is putting forth around an abortion fund. I also want to thank Commissioner Hall for trying to carry this effort last year and for continuing to work. For those who may not know, last year, the City of Atlanta unanimously adopted legislation to fund access to reproductive healthcare, healthcare through ARC Southeast, which is a black female led nonprofit that helps give access to reproductive health care. Now, most people say or think when I say reproductive health care, I mean solely abortions. I do not. The issue of reproductive health care is all-encompassing. It doesn't just ensure that people have access to doctors, in a state especially where we lead -- where we are top 10 in the nation for hospital shutdowns. It also ensures that people have access to doctors for a number of other reasons, to also ensure that they have access to safe pregnancies; to ensure that they have access to take care of their children. This helps children that are currently homeless in our system, it helps with family planning. It helps families be set up to succeed. I have done this. I have traveled the world on working in this issue. The world. And to the people behind me that have every right to come and state their opinion; I want you to know that banning abortions do not stop abortions, it stops access to safe abortions. The hospitals I've worked in around the country and around the globe, I have seen women that are in the emergency rooms where there's all-out bans on abortions that have basically killed themselves out of desperation because they want to have autonomy over their own bodies. Never have I ever seen anywhere where the health of the community is not directly correlated to the treatment of women and children. We are in a state where we have limited access to healthcare, but we do not have Medicaid expansion. Where we have shut down more hospitals that I can name. We've experienced two shutdowns in the city in the last year already. This is going to cause deaths to go up, and banning it again does not stop access to abortions. No woman, no person should never be made to choose what's between their own life and the health of their child. And I also want to say that giving access to safe and legal abortions and educating family-planning lowers the number of abortions. I, too, want to live in the world where this does not happen. The way you make that happen is by funding family education, by funding access to contraceptives, is by actually having a healthy sex education curriculum, and also ensuring that people have autonomy over their own bodies. And to those who think that taxes should not go to this issue, I also want to remind you that that is quite ironic because we live in a state where we fund -- where tax dollars go to fund trap laws and crisis pregnancy centers. And if you don't know what a crisis pregnancy center is, there is this beautiful thing called Google on your phone, and you should take time to look at it, because crisis pregnancy centers alert people in under false pretenses that they will receive access to reproductive health care and then shames them for being pregnant and scares them out of access to a doctor. To the people up here, we have the ability to do so much good in the city and the state and to lead the Southeast in this work. To the organizers who have been relentless,

tireless, and resilient, thank you your patience and compassion. I'm so sure you are saving lives. To anyone here who thinks that this is an either/or conversation, it is not. It is a, yes, and. To the Commissioners up here that want to do additional work, you have my full commitment. I will do everything I can to do things like fight for better education, to fight for funding homeless initiatives for homeless youth. I will do -- you have me. I will work on every other issue. I just ask, I beg you to please support this initiative, because I believe this too will save lives; and I promise that I am here to help with any and every other initiative that you all have because it's not about one thing that will solve the current epidemic we face with the youth in our city because it's not just about abortion, it's about a lot of things. I promise you that I am here to help with every diversity of tactic you bring to the table to save both the lives of our children. I promise you. I just ask that you please fund this initiative because the city has done it. We're asking to be our partners and match what we are already committing to, and you have my full commitment that I will be with you every step of the way. Before I move on from that, there's one other thing that I wanted to mention: And I would be a terrible representative if I didn't, around the Fulton County Jail. I ask that you please, please, please begin investing in pre-arrest diversion. Commissioner Rahman, I thank you for giving the legislation to Councilmember's Waites. I'll be supporting that legislation for prearrest diversion. Please go back to the audit that we did. It shows that the overcrowding is preventable to some degree, and I know how much everyone up here cares. I don't think for two seconds, the public will yell at us and say that we are responsible for the deaths of individuals. I know that's not what any of us wants. I know each of you personally. I am here to also help in that fight. We had a man that just died from a medical heart condition for stealing aspirin. And so, what we are seeing right now is that we are investing more in reactionary tactics than in diverting people out of a system that is not made for them to recover and have a second chance at life. So, I ask that you please revisit the audit. I ask that you please, please pre-arrest diversion and more diversion tactics. And I am here as a committed partner to you or whatever you decide because I want to do this work more than anything that's why I'm here. And I thank you for your time, and I'm sure I went a little too long, but I appreciate you all. Please, please, please go through this initiative today. Please fund access to reproductive health care. It'll save lives. Thank you."

DR. ALVEDA C. KING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Former state --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- just one moment. It is 10:53, and we are going to go until 11:30 unless there's an objection. We will stick to that first as a few minutes more than 30 minutes; any objections?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "No."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you."

DR. ALVEDA C. KING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Former State Representative, Dr. Alveda King, Georgia House District 28. It's an honor to join you today. On behalf of human

dignity, we ask that you consider awarding funding to assist pregnant mothers to birth their children rather than kill them through anti-reproductive acts of abortion. As people of faith, we declare that human beings should have the ability to live with the dignity, autonomy, and well-being God desires from the womb to the tomb and beyond. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, when we value the human personality, we will not kill anybody. Mother Teresa of Calcutta in her address to the 1994 National Prayer Breakfast said the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion because it is a war against a child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder to the mother herself sometimes, and if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill each other? Sharing the conviction of trailblazers for peace, we implore the Fulton County Commission to resist the temptation to fund abortion, which not only kills a child, but harms the mother and the whole family for life and weakens our society's commitment to welcome all the vulnerable, not just those of our own choosing. Our Father who art in heaven hallowed would be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. Thank you very much"

ANGELA STANTON KING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Angela Stanton King, former congressional candidate, also owner, black owner of Auntie Angie's House. We are black owned organization in Fulton County, and we were created to combat the Black maternal health crisis. As a black woman, I am offended that so many of my black brothers and sisters have aligned with white liberals to believe that they're doing us a favor by somehow aborting our children. These are the same people that say black lives matter without understanding that black life begins in the womb. In Fulton County, Georgia in the year of 2020 alone, in Fulton County, there were 6,070 abortions. Out of those 6,070 abortions, 4,550 of those abortions were on black women and black babies. That means that out of every four abortions in Fulton County, three of them are on black babies. This is black genocide. The answer to the black maternal health crisis cannot be abortion. If the black mother is dying three times likely giving birth to the baby on the table and the black baby is being aborted, then that means that black life does not matter. If this is about a woman truly having a choice, why is there no funding and resources going to the women that choose life? I'm asking today that you all will consider to at least be fair. We have a Planned Parenthood on Moreland Avenue, 440 Moreland Avenue that's already responsible for 74.9 percent of abortions that are happening in Fulton County to black women. If this is about black life, if this is about black babies --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ANGELA STANTON KING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- if this is about black women, please help the women that choose life. Fund Auntie Angie's House as a resource. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Just a minute. You have the floor, ma'am."

CATHY SCHNEIDER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Cathy Schneider, Fulton County resident, Saint Bridget Catholic Church, Walking With Moms In Need. I'd like to ask a question to all of you. Did anyone in this room have a say in how you were conceived? Me neither. There by the grace of God go all of us who were allowed to be born. The strong have a duty to protect the weak, the vulnerable, and the innocent. I am a registered nurse with a Masters degree and I'm a trained sidewalk advocate for life. I stand outside an abortion clinic multiple days a week offering free help and hope to moms with a variety of assistance based on her situational needs. I will tell you there's plenty of money for free abortions out there. Most of the women tell me they have a full scholarship for their abortion, and when they find a heartbeat, they come out and show me proudly the number they have to go out of state for a free abortion. This includes a free ride to and from the state, free hotel accommodations, and a \$200 gift card for food. There are many alternative sources of funding for free abortions from organizations dedicated to abortion. They do not need our taxpaying dollars, too. I ask you to practice, please, fiscal responsibility, not to use our taxpaying dollars to take the lives of innocent human babies with our money. I believe that taxpaying dollars should be used to fund practices that help do morally responsible things in our society. Please do not let this money be used to take the life of someone in a family, but instead be used to help someone in a family."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

CLERK GRI CATHY SCHNEIDER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "President Ronald Reagan said it best; I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born. Let us remember the unborn. We are all unborn once. It's our time to stand up for the unborn."

STEPHANIE MILLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Stephanie Miller, Fulton County resident. I go to our Lady of the Ascencion Catholic Church, and I also work on the sidewalk with Kathy, and I help women. So just to be clear, this committee wants to use \$300,000 to kill innocent defenseless babies who have no way to escape the harm about to be done to them. Every one of them -- every one of you was once in the same position, innocent and in your mother's womb. The babies we are talking about have no means of self-defense from our Fulton County government who wants to use our tax dollars to end these babies' lives. Do you see how absurd this sounds? We are called to protect our vulnerable through the political process. Every person is sacred and unique, unrepeatable and infinitely loved by God. These babies are completely innocent. They have unique DNA never to be replicated again and their fingerprints will never be duplicated. These babies are little brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, best friends, and neighbors that we have not met yet. One of these babies may grow up to marry your son or daughter and bring into the world your first grandchild and later great grandchildren. These babies may have the cures for cancer and Alzheimer's if we can let them live. To share their talents given to them for our world. God made them to

thrive and live the fullness of life and discover their own dignity as a precious child of God. My faith teaches me that even the unborn should have the ability to live with dignity, autonomy --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

STEPHANIE MILLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- the well-being God desires. Abortion hopefully will be looked upon no differently than slavery and Holocaust as an abomination of our society. I pray when we look back, we ask how in the world we let this happen. Will any of you stick up for the innocent and vulnerable here?"

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

STEPHANIE MILLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Please do not contribute."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

SHELLY FAULK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Shelly Faulk. I am one of the deputy chiefs in the Solicitor General Gammage's office. I work on the state expedited acquisition calendar that meets every morning. I just want to tell you a little bit about what we do. Every day, starting at 4:00 a.m. my team wakes up and we work on the jail cases, those individuals who've been incarcerated for less than 24 hours. Our team has been doing that since the pandemic under Solicitor General Gammage's leadership. Most of the people who go before court at first appearance receive signature bonds, which is just a no money bond. Those individuals that we deem appropriate to receive a nominal bond where they do have to pay or individuals who have repeatedly failed to appear, those who are danger to our community, and those that we deem are appropriate where the judge deems it is appropriate. Additionally, we have been asking for additional resources for these individuals mental health, anger management, parenting classes to assist these people who come into the jail to do something more productive once they get out. Finally, one of the things that we are asking for and we thank you so much for all of the Board of Commissioners' support is that we're looking for alternative solutions. Solicitor General Gammage and I went to the jail just last week to see how we can meet these individuals even earlier to grant no cash bonds, so that they can just get out immediately. Finally, we're looking for support in ankle monitors so that we can make sure that those people who are released, the indigent, do receive County-funded ankle monitors to continue to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SHELLY FAULK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- make sure that they are not kept in jail, but we also continue to support our community. Lastly, I just want to say that we are working with PAD and mental health court to continue to help these individuals to receive the support they need and we're asking for your continued support."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers: Michael Collins, Mary Clauson, Gary Schantz, Surrea Ivy, Shani Hahn and Jodi William."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Come on down."

MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi everybody. My name is Michael Collins. I'm from Color of Change. I'm here to talk about opposition to the plan to transfer people out of state from Fulton County Jail. I would be remised if I didn't express my indignation to the scene here two weeks ago when the Sheriff brought incarcerated individuals literally at gunpoint to testify on jail conditions. I appreciate people speaking out from the commission on that, but it was really disgraceful and shameful scene, and I feel a sense of déjà vu as we've have this discussion, "transfers" because, as you all know, the commission just over a year ago pushed for the opening of the AC/DC facility to transfer individuals, and we still have this jail crisis, and that's because you have a sheriff who doesn't have the logistical capabilities to transfer people. We also know, from what the public defenders have said and other legal experts have said, that this is going to be challenged, and that is also unconstitutional. So it's really a complete waste of time when we could be really focusing on the real solutions that we, in the justice advocacy community, have said time and time again which are decarceration, reducing the jail population; therefore, negating in a lot of ways the need for transfers and the need for construction of a two billion-dollar facility. Chairman Pitts, you are proposing to transfer people out of state where they wouldn't be able to meet directly with their lawyers. It's going to cost \$30 million. Why not take at least some of that money and bond people out who are otherwise being held in the hellish Rice Street facility simply because they cannot afford it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Why would we give a blank check to a Sheriff who has shown time and time again that he is somebody not to be trusted? I urge you all to oppose the transfer idea."

MARY CLAUSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Mary Clauson, and I am a family nurse practitioner. I graduated from nursing school in 1985, and the literature and the research that was done at that time was top-notch. Now, a lot of our research comes out confusing, and people don't really know what is health and what is not health. I just want you to know that abortion is not health. It does not empower women, it hurts women. There are multiple studies and I'll quote a few facts for you today that talk about how damaging abortion can be long-term. There are short-term studies that show that maybe help somebody's mental health short-term because they have a relief of a stressor that they had. But long-term studies are the ones that show us what is health and what is not health. I propose this committee tables the \$300,000 donation to the abortion clinics and has a committee to look into this. Have two pro-life and two pro-

choice people on the community and everybody bring all the data together and see what is the truth. What is really healthy for our moms, our dads, our babies, our society. Abortion increases risk of substance abuse, it increases mental health problems. Pregnant women who abort have six times the rate of suicide. If you're a teen, teens who abort have 10 times the rate of suicide. Sixty-five percent of women who have abortions are on antidepressant medicines for the rest of their life. If a woman has an abortion, 65 percent of those women experience something called posttraumatic stress disorder or post abortion syndrome. It's real. People don't talk about it, because our political people want abortion to stay legal. And so, the dangers of abortion are rarely talked about."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MARY CLAUSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So I ask you to please take a pause, take a committee, and find out the truth. Thank you for your time."

GARY SCHANTZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chairman Pitts, and Fulton County Board of Commissioners. My name is Gary Schantz, and I'm a resident of Fulton County. I'm also an ordained deacon for the Catholic Church and a member of Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Sandy Springs. I salute the chaplain this morning that opened us up in prayer. So this is a safe assembly where people are free and comfortable to mention the name God. And this is such a dividing topic in this country by good people that just have different opinions on when life begins; is it a form of reproductive birth control, healthcare for our women? And I think a lot must be done on the subject. You know Jesus Christ had his ministry for a period of three years when he walked the face of the earth, and if Jesus was to physically return to this world today, you'd find Jesus spending a lot of his time on a lot of the issues that you folks addressed. You'd find him spending time on the margins of society with people that are homeless, imprisoned, lack of food, that life is hopeless; and the subject of aborting an unborn, what I call a preborn child, because on Super Bowl Sunday, nobody has an ungame; everybody has a pregame and every baby that's --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

GARY SCHANTZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- in the womb of a mother is supposed to be born. So I implore you to use those funds that could be allocated to support women that choose life and need financial assistance to bring a child (Mic was turned off.) --"

SURREA IVY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay, I'm going to have to read this. I can't see it. My name is Surrea Ivy. I just care, is the reason I'm here. So let's keep things simple and clean. Your answer to this Resolution should be, no. You don't have it. And responsible peoples such as yourself wouldn't allocate funds to take money or talent out of Atlanta. Let's look at it with a benefit to cost lens and weight against your duties. One in particular that I want to focus on is enacting a plans for County growth and development. Abortion ends child growth inside of a woman's wound. A child is an

offspring. So support kills growth and development by destroying posterity and potential. The antitheses of your outline duties: Dealing with the 2022 Georgia abortion numbers, focusing on Fulton County, rape, incest, and I will refer to it as maternal-fetal even though I don't agree with that because any medical care that you get to preserve the life of the mother that results in the death of a child is not abortion. But we will go with rape, incest, MFS, combined are less than 10 percent of the reasons that people have abortions. So that means roughly \$270,000 will go toward bad choices and regret. There's a cheaper and better way. Let's look at alternatives. Most expensive is to have the kid. It's about \$10,000 in Georgia, a little more for C-sections. Abortions are \$475. Regular contraception is about ten to \$50, but there are two methods that will guarantee that there is no line item budget that you need to add that is guaranteed to have no risk, no pregnancy, no doctor, no irritation, no allergy reaction, no physical harm, no psychological harm, no strange people and foreign objects in and out of your body, intense and great pleasure. I did the first methods for 30 years with six engagements."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

SURREA IVY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And 13 years and they all work. It's called abstinence. Zero dollars. Track your ovulation. Zero dollars, and there are apps on your phone that will make that easy. In the results of money you have lost by allotting those deaths."

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

SHANI HAHN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm in support of this Resolution. For the education of our teenagers, for helping them to understand their rights and their reproductive system. I don't know if this bill supports abortions, that's not my concern. My concern is taking care of our youth and looking at the kids who are born in today's society; you guys don't even have a Resolution to help the ones that are homeless. People have homeless children. Figure out how to take care of that first. So what I really came to say is to talk about -- this is what happens when you keep ignoring the demands of the Sheriff's needs to run the jail properly. I served under Sheriff Ted Jackson. He had the same issues. He had projects in place to combat some of the crimes before they happen. His youth programs help to do that, and he had his clergy support the schools and people that were having trouble with their youth. And he utilized all of his resources outside of the jail. I don't blame Sheriff Labat. When you pushed -- when you pushed him in a corner and you have done all -- and he has done all that he can and no one is listening, he shouldn't have to take all of the blame."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

SHANI HAHN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "There's the judges who's not hearing the cases, and you guys should take responsibility also. You need to devise --"

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers: Margie McCloud, Suellen Wohnig, Audra Pagano, Estevan Hernandez, Jimmy Hill, and Monica Johnson."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have 15 more minutes. And once again, if what you're going to say has already been stated, just yield to someone else, please."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. I am speaking about Mississippi. Robb Pitts, I want you to take your jacket off, I want you to take your tie off, so when you go to Mississippi, I don't want them to know who you are, because I want you to test that jail out. Because we should not send -- and I don't want them to know who you are, okay? You are the DUI. You can't bond out, because the judges are not having no trial. So what I say to you, we say, no to Mississippi. And why do you have to send them out? Because we have plans. Private jails is more money. How much Mississippi say they're gone charge? A hundred and five dollars towards a hundred and fifty dollars? Are we looking at money? Are we looking at people? Because no one here would want to go to Mississippi, not in jail. Just like I told you last time, you put them in a frying pan. We got -- we have a plan. He told you the plan. And I'm looking at the detention center, why we can't reach some that's in there already. So while we can put the high risk in it -- we have some females in there already. So won't we work the plans that he said that he had the plan. Do not send to out of the state. Because you wouldn't want your child to be out-of-state. Because you want to be able to go see your child because everybody is not perfect. Families are not perfect. We do have kids that go do stupid things, but some people don't have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay, Robb Pitts. Give me what I want. Just like you say when you were running for election, what do you want? No, to Mississippi. That's what I want. No out of town."

SUELLEN WOHNIG, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Suellen Wohnig, and I'm a Fulton County resident. In 2021, the CDC reported that 74 percent of women who had abortions felt pressured, and that 40 percent of those who had abortions listed financial concerns as the number one reason they chose abortion. You see, no woman really wants to abort her baby. It is not in her DNA. There's a famous quote by Frederica Matthews Green. That quotes says: 'No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg.' Women need help and resources; not abortions for their unplanned pregnancies. We work with over 100 moms in the walking with needs -- Walking With Moms In Need Program through the Catholic Church to help pregnant and parenting moms in need. The money you want to allocate to ARC should be going to help the moms with resources to raise the children they have. These moms need daycare assistance through the CAPS program. You probably know that on September 6th, families in Georgia who received CAPS funding were told that as of

October 1st the family, 'will be required to pay the family copayment for all of your enrolled children --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SUELLEN WOHNIG, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- scholarship starting on October 1st. That was a three-week notice that this subsidy was gone. I can tell you the moms I work with don't have the money to all of a sudden pay these co-pays when they're barely making enough to keep a roof over their family's heads. Please all life is --" (Mic was turned off.)

AUDRA PAGANO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "May God give you peace. Saint Francis of Assisi said not to hurt our humbled brethren is our first duty to them. But to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission to be of service to them wherever they require it. My name is Audra Pagano. I'm a Fulton County resident. I've had the privilege of watching each of my friends become a mother. And beginning of high school when my friend became pregnant at 18, she recalled the doctor's visit when the doctor asked if she was going to have an abortion. And aware of her pregnancy and how it change her life, she firmly rejected abortion and opposed the doctor. Now, today that baby is a beautiful 16-year-old woman, and she is beloved by her family. Truly in motherhood, it is the greatest gift, challenge, and achievement that leads a woman to the fullness of being and life itself. And as a community, we have the responsibility and the sacred duty to care and protect the human life of our sister and our brother in the womb. And to support the mother of that child with real resources, \$300,000 is six months of rent for over 30 moms. It is six months of food for over a 100 moms. It's a hundred thousand diapers. Human life is sacred, and every human being is endowed with the inalienable right to life. Therefore, as a community, we need to do better to support women with real resources. Vote, no on giving this money to access reproductive --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

AUDRA PAGANO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Miss, Miss, please. Come on up. Now, I've asked you before, no placards."

ESTEVAN HERNANDEZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Oh, I thought you meant up there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, no place. All right, the clock is ticking, sir."

ESTEVAN HERNANDEZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Estevan Hernandez. I'm an activist with the party for Socialism and Liberation, and I'm here today on behalf of many people all around Atlanta who are demanding that the Commissioners do not allow Sheriff Patrick Labat to follow through on his threat to send upwards of a thousand people who are locked up inside of Fulton County Jail to Mississippi or to South

Georgia. His threats are actually a crime and I actually think that he needs a reminder of the U.S. Constitution. I want to actually read from the Sixth Amendment: It is a -- in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy trial and a public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crimes shall have been committed. It goes on to say that people should be able to be confronted by the witnesses against them and to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in their favor and to have the assistance of counsel for their defense. So if someone is sent hundreds of miles away, how are they going to prepare for their case? If they're sent hundreds of miles away from their family and support network, how are they going to defend themselves? If they're sent hundreds of miles away and they don't have access to a lawyer who can join them, how are they going to defend themselves? Is it constitutional for people to be locked up without even having charges brought against them in a torture chamber like Fulton County jail where ten people have already died this year? If anybody should be prosecuted, it's Patrick Sheriff Labat."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

ESTEVAN HERNANDEZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "If anybody should be prosecuted, it's every single person in this country who's complicit with the racist mass incarceration which exists all across this country, it's not just Fulton County, it's the whole system of racist mass incarceration --" (Mic was turned off.)

JIMMY HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, I'm Jimmy Hill. I'm the father of Jimmy Atchison."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Did he sign up? What's your name, sir?"

JIMMY HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm Jimmy Hill."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor."

JIMMY HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Well, first I'm going to start off by saying God is good; no matter what I'm going through. I'm Jimmy Hill, the father Jimmy Atchison. A lot of you know it's going on five years for my son, with an unarmed surrender, posing no threat, and was still murder. But I didn't come here today to talk about my son, Jimmy Atchison. Here we are. We're at the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King who had a dream. So many of you in Atlanta in leadership have tarnished his dream. You have stepped on his dream. Have disrespected his dream. So I'm here today because even though Georgia is a confederate state that is about oppression, suppression, and keeping people in bondage, especially black people. You know, but I just wanted to say treat people the way you want to be treated. The Bible says, God's words, do not follow the crowd in doing wrong when it comes time to testify in a dispute. Do not be swayed by the crowd to twist justice, and that's what a lot of you are about. Atlanta, the place where there's no accountability. Nobody wants to be held accountable. It's more about relationship over accountability. It's about the covering of each other's back. It's about

wrongdoing, you're covering the wrongdoing. A lot of you in Atlanta leadership, especially black people, that's what I can't understand. You allow yourself to be manipulated and controlled and intimidated by the presence of power of white supremacy. A lot of you continue to allow yourself to be used as pawns and puppets to suppress and oppress your very own people."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

JIMMY HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So how can you live with yourself? How can you sleep at night? You know, this problem with the Fulton County Jail, you have to accept some of the blame also because you continue to allow this to build up and build up and build up until now, God done exposed this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

MONICA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "All right. Hello, my name is Monica Johnson. I'm also an activist with the party for Socialism and Liberation, and I'm here to discuss how Georgia and this government here in Fulton County seem to be dead set on sending us back to the Stone Age. On sending us, on providing us a space in which the jails punish people for poverty. Punish people for not having the resources that we don't fund. So we have a jail in which most people are there for crimes of poverty or things that we can expect when we have a society in which people don't have resources, don't have good schooling, and don't have access to food; that we are relying upon some idea of this punishment without any sort of rehabilitation. It has been shown time and time again to not work. And Georgia has one of the highest rates of people under carceral control in the nation when the United States is the highest rate of incarceration in the world. So we're sitting right here talking about the funds that people are so desperately needing for housing and healthcare and everything else to be spent on, 1.7 billion for another site of destruction and murder. If Pat Labat has presided over ten people dying this year and we want to give him more money and we want to give him more leeway to send people all across the South basically to suffer further, we cannot say that we are on the side of justice. And we also can't say that while we're here in the South and we have these rates, the highest rates of poverty, the highest rates of devastation, of no resources for people and, at the same time, we are the place where more and more women are suffering and having to bleed out because there's no healthcare when they have an ectopic pregnancy. So we need far more than 300,000 for reproductive care, and we need zero no money, all that money --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MONICA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- taken away for this disgusting prison system; this disgusting massive incarceration system, and fund the needs that we all are begging and crying out for."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "One more. One more."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "One more speaker."

CLERK GRIER: "One more speaker. Addison Clapp."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Who is it?"

CLERK GRIER: "Addison."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Is that all the speakers?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Repeat the name."

CLERK GRIER: "Addison Clapp."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Go to the next one."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman, can we --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- just a minute. Just a minute."

CLERK GRIER: "Giovani Serrano."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "We need to allow everybody to speak."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute. Miss, I'm been very patient. Captain Shealy. If we hear anymore outbursts we're going to clear the Assembly Hall. Now, who's the next speaker?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "The ladies name was said incorrectly, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, what's her name? Come on down. Now, the time has expired. Commissioner Barrett, do you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, I want to be heard. We need to let everyone who signed up speak, speak."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a motion to extend the time until what? It's 11:30. Until 12:30"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I'll make the motion to extend it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There's a motion to extend the time to 12:30. Well, does that include the -- does that include the 40 e-mails as well? Include the 40 e-mails as well?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Whoever signed up to speak should be allowed to speak."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's do it right. Let's take those who are here and the e-mails. We'll begin the regular meeting around 12 or 12:30 today. So everybody here can speak as well as the e-mail. That's the motion on the floor. Let's vote. Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute."

VICE CHAIR ELLIS: "Point of clarification: Are we setting a hard stop at 12 o'clock?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Pardon me?"

VICE CHAIR ELLIS: "Are we setting a hard stop at 12?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No. What I said was, Commissioner asked for everyone here to be allowed to speak and I said you have 40 people who have sent in e-mails. And they too have the right to speak or have their e-mails, rather, read up to two minutes. I said, well, if you're going to do that, let's hear from all of them, if the motion passes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I would respectfully ask that we stop with the people that are here with public comment. We can hear the others at the end."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It's your motion."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "The others are what there --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- e-mails, 40. Forty e-mails."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So they'll be read?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay, that's fine. But the people who have come here today should be allowed to speak."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is allow those who've signed up who are here to speak. Now, let's vote, please. That's the motion on the floor. Just a minute, sir."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: The motion passes. Continue, sir. You have the floor.

GIOVANI SERRANO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. My name is Giovanni Serrano. I'm a community organizer with the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (unintelligible.). And today I'm here to demand that we do not approve the transfer of community members out of the Fulton County Jail. As a immigrant advocate, it is a shame that we have elected officials from Atlanta City Council to the Sheriff position that does not care about people's life. Committee members of Fulton County are human beings. No cattle that you can make profit from. This body forced Atlanta City Council to approve the lease for Atlanta Detention Center instead of transforming it into a center where (inaudible) and public housing. This Body approved transferring the community members to Cobb County and are spending thousands of our taxpayer dollars instead of solutions that address the root cause of crime and to fight poverty. Transferring the community members far away to far away facilities will increase our suffering. There is data that the Sheriff can take steps to depopulate the jail. Many community members are detained for being poor. For being homeless. To say that the Sheriff really cares about the human conditions is laughable. Community members of Fulton detention center have suffered inhuman -- have suffered inhumane conditions primary their immigration status. They face solitary confinement, limited access to edible food and healthcare, Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility is also run by (inaudible) Lasalle Correction -- Lasalle Correction at (inaudible). They don't give two cents about people's life. They only care about making a profit just like Sheriff Labat, cries for the new jail where more community members will die. I wonder what type of contract or how much money our County Sheriff's getting for transferring our community members to these for-profit facilities. I get this Body also wants a paycheck out of this deal, too. A paycheck that kills our community members who are detained in inhumane conditions, and to end -- and to end this, there is no pride in Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month. Our community -- our community --" (Mic turned off.)

SHARIE NORMAE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Good morning. My name is Sharie Normane. I actually ran down here. I'm always around different counties doing work. I'm a behavior health clinician. So I work in drug and alcohol. I'm actually in training, so I came down, and I know it's hard. I know there's problems everywhere, but I wanted to kind of to see if I could help you figure it out. In Fulton County, sometimes it's just getting to the places, getting too embarrassing to even be a resident that pay taxes here. But coming in the name of the late Emma Darnell, she worked tirelessly. And, you know, she would always say to you, when you know better, you would do better. She would always speak truth to power. Do you remember her? She died in 2019. Remember her? She would say help and serve the citizens of Fulton County. That's what we elected you to do. That's what I'm going to do in January. I think it's next year, but that's what my intention is. Elect individuals, councilmembers -- or not councilmembers, but Commissioners that's going to serve and, you know, work for my interest. I'm going to say to you, I'm on the front line of the

fentanyl crisis, opiates. I am she that get up early in the morning, drive from Fulton County. I go from different states. I see the overdoses. I see when I do drug tests that there needs to be continued help. It needs to be help that will come from the jail. They shouldn't be sent to another state. Hey, guess what? The state needs to support y'all with mobile vans. You didn't know about that? The jails can receive mobile vans. The DA has already put that money there and approved it from the federal government. So maybe this could be something that you could consider. You could consider halfway houses. You could consider mobile vans. We need it. You have individuals that come in, they come into the jail, and they may experience withdrawals. If they withdraw, they may have suicidal ideation. If that happens, that can be within the time that they are incarcerated. After a year, they may be sent to prison. So they have already went through the withdrawals and they have tolerances the same, whether it be cocaine, opiates. Whether it had been fentanyl. Whatever it is. It could be methadone. It could be individuals that have mental health issues schizophrenia, bipolar, anything. These are your least of these. That yo girl died, slave for, from a lawyer to a Commissioner. Her name was Emma Darnell. I went to her house and sit down. She said carry that spirit in your hand. Let them know, and I'll never forget it: To serve Fulton County, the least of these and whoever else want to be rich and live in a mansion. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The next six speakers: Kristin Butler, Bezal Jupiter, Jani Tucker, Sarah Pedro, Paul Hershey, Julie Allen."

KRISTIN BUTLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Kristin Butler. I'm an organizer with the party for Socialism and Liberation, and I also work full-time as a nurse, as a postpartum nurse, actually, in a nearby hospital. Commissioners, it is difficult for me to comprehend how you can seriously consider Labat's proposal to move pretrial detainees from Rice Street to Folkestone and Tutwiler. Moving these detainees is essentially disappearing poor people. This is happening right here in the so-called cradle of the civil rights movement. These detainees have not been indicted. They can't afford their bond, and yet this Body is considering condemning them to private prisons hundreds of miles away? Explained to me how public defenders are going to be able to travel back and forth to Folkestone or Mississippi, both five plus hour drives. It is a violation of democratic rights. I also have some words for the Sheriff, too. Labat, you are responsible for the administration and operation of the Fulton County Jail. You oversee a 143 million-dollar budget. You preach about service. Yeah, with all that taxpayer money and all your promises to the public. You're genius plan is to pawn off your responsibilities to private prisons? Where is that money going, Sheriff? And I want be clear, it is the courts and the racists carceral capitalist state itself that has created this problem. There are different rules for working-class people, for poor people, for black people in Georgia. The former president has no issue being booked and paying bail at Rice Street in 20 minutes while poor black people are condemned to rot and possibly die without ever having been indicted. The right to speedy trial was suspended for three years. I want to know what are these judges doing all day? Why won't they take on these cases? The answer is not building another prison to overfill with the depths of human misery and suffering. The answer is not --" (Mic turned off.)

BEZAL JUPITER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, y'all. My name is Bezal Jupiter and I am with the party for Socialism and Liberation. I'm here joining the demand that the Fulton County Commissioners not transport our brothers and sisters in Fulton County Jail to facilities in Mississippi and Folkestone, Georgia. We're demanding that y'all take up these long overdue demands. Demand one, don't move these inmates. Free them. Per the ACLU, 46 percent of detainees face no charges, 12 percent are held in unaffordable -- are held because bail is unaffordable. Sheriff Labat himself said that 54 percent of these inmates have mental health issues. Many are booked for poverty-related offenses like trespassing, shoplifting, and drug possession. Addressing the root issues, addressing the root issues of poverty is crucial. We don't need more incarceration. Demand two, y'all should never give Sheriff Labat another \$2 billion to build a new jail. Fulton County Jail must be shut down immediately and not replaced with another jail. Not another life shall be lost due to the cruelty and negligence of Sheriff Labat and the whole incarceration system in this state, in this country. Sheriff Labat, Fulton County Commissioners, and lastly, Counsel continued to shift blame on each other instead of fixing the issue. Demand three, a bondless cash bail. The vast majority of people locked up in Fulton County Jail shouldn't be there. They're locked up just because they can't afford bail. A racist anti-poor, anti-black policy. Enough. Rather than millions to send inmates out of the state, we need money for jobs, education, policing, diversion programs, violence interruption programs. The solutions to providing more food. The solutions providing more health care; solutions providing free education. I got one last message specifically for Patrick Labat. You are going to be locked up when we have the power, when the people have the power, you're going to be locked up and everyone responsible for genocide against black people --" (Mic turned off.)

JANI TUCKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, Commissioners. My name is Jani T. from Fulton County. As a young woman, I was told that an easy way to deal with irresponsible sex is just to abort the baby. It's just a word, right? No. It has real implications. As an adult, I had the glory of giving birth to my children. I've come to realize the masterpiece of life. Literally, God's creation. In fact, I did not know what abortion even meant back then. Do you know how they abort an unborn baby? They dismember the child by sucking them out limb by limb. It is torture. Instead today, I ask you to not only protect life, but do not give \$300,000 to. That's my hard-earned money. Do not give it to Arce Southeast whose number one mission in life is to destroy life. When you think of ARC Southeast, I want you think of murder of the unborn. I stand before you today with my black and minority brothers and sisters and the unborn. And I give you my permission to use my tax dollars to help organizations like Auntie Angie's Place, who teaches these mamas how to take care of their babies, to give them a place to live. They teach them job skills so they can be self-reliant. Commissioners, can and should do better and I pray --" (Mic turned off.)

SARAH PEDRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Sarah Pedro. I'm a Fulton County resident. Speaking of black genocide, here are some

statistics that came directly from the Georgia Public Health Information portal, which captures the Georgia Department of Health abortion numbers. In 2020, total abortions reported in Georgia were 37,794, which seems disturbingly high in and of itself, especially considering that some medical care was withheld due to COVID that year. You can conceivably get an abortion but not a cancer screening. But comparing who received the majority of abortions that year is even more troubling; 24,607. I'm talking about the state of Georgia of the total were committed on black women, which means in 2020, in Georgia, 65 percent of babies killed in the womb were black. The numbers for 2022 were very similar at a percentage of 64 percent. That means that two out of three abortions in our state destroyed black lives. I would not have been, okay, with my taxes funding the gas chambers or ovens in Nazi Germany or even the train transportation to the death camps just as I am not, okay, with any funding that would promote the current Holocaust of our youngest and most vulnerable Georgians. It is shameful to even be discussing the killing of the freeborn as healthcare. Healthcare for who? Certainly, not for the baby and neither should you be, okay, with this utter and atrocious misallocation of funds. You should be aware that the black population is not growing. From the National census data for the years 1990 to 2020, a 30-year period, the black population rose from 12.1 percent to only 12.4 percent. In contrast, the Hispanic population for the same time period rose from 9 percent to 18.7 percent, doubling in size. I wonder if abortion has anything to do with the stagnant growth in the black community. And, for the record, those who performed illegal abortions in 1972 are the same people who performed illegal abortions post --" (Mic turned off.)

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. The first thing that I'd like to say today is, it is appalling to see anyone with a person of color support Planned Parenthood. Margaret Singer designed Planned Parenthood for the extension of the black race. That's exactly what you're trying to do right now. This is not about abortion and the morality, this is about birth control. And the bottom line is this, you've got this \$300,000 that you want to give away. Give it to the people that are asking for it today. The people that are supporting the mothers of color that need help. Given them that. And the second thing is, I'd like to see an opinion from the County Attorney that this bill and this assumption is a violation of the anti- de (inaudible) law. In other words, the use of public funds. This is outside that realm and should be looked at, and I'd like to see that opinion. The Sheriff: You got 341 people living on the floor. You got 358 people that the beds are already vacant in Fulton County. Why not move the people into those beds? Why hasn't that been done? You've got a DA that is not following her oath. You've got 209 people that haven't been indicted, 509 of them over, over 500 days, for the 90 days. And lastly, I still haven't heard anything about my request to you, Chairman Pitts, on the Board of Election issue that we've been talking about. I have received no word from anybody on your staff this week. So we're back to square one. What do I need to do to get that information? I've asked for it. I've tried to be nice. But what do I need to do? I'd like an answer to that now, right now."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else? Next speaker. Call the next speaker."

CLERK GRIER: "The next six speakers: Dr. Elizabeth Mosley, Desirrae Thomas, Alma Lott, Allison Coffman, Jane Diamond, and Mara Gaudio."

JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I was called with the prior group, so that's why I'm stepping forward even though my name was not read. I am Julie Allen. Yeah. Good morning. Commissioner Barrett, you are my representative and I thank you for serving. But I'm here to ask you why you voted to raise the millage rate and are now asking me to fund other people's abortions with your Resolution for donation to access reproductive care providing financial assistant and logistical support for abortion through the appropriation of \$300,000 to access Reproductive Care Southeast. You proposed taxing me to kill society smallest, most vulnerable members like ancient pagan societies. You abuse tax -- Fulton County taxpayers with your personal politically progressive agenda. My great-grandmother was raped by her brother-in-law when she was 16. Had abortion been legal, I wouldn't be here. Instead, my grandmother lovingly -- was lovingly raised in a family including her mother, aunts, and grandparents whom she adored. Likewise, I'm the youngest of four children of a mother with mental health issues. I was her legal guardian and caregiver from 1994 to 2015. Shortly before her death, she told me that my father didn't want her to have me. Had it been 1973 instead of 1963, I wouldn't have been there to care for her. There's no group weaker or more vulnerable than unborn babies, yet these are precisely the victims that feminists and secular progressives insist we must ignore to advance sexual freedom. Archaeologists note they found a Greek or Roman brothel when they unearthed a pit of newborn babies' bones. Abortion is really a form of legalized infanticide and not so different from the baby killing of the ancient world. Abortion and infanticide exist on a continuum that includes other ancient practices like slavery, the sexual exploitation of women and children, and general disregard for the weak and the poor. Most cultures look at the powerful and the wealthy and assume that they must be doing something right to have such might. The poor are poor because of some failing of their own. Into this predatory powercentric pagan world, I insist you consider the innate and equal value of all human beings and begin condemning practices like infanticide. As the values of our pagan past grow more influential and pervasive --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- 15 seconds."

JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- progressives should take note. A society built on babies' bones won't long respect the rights of anyone except the powerful. Thank you for your consideration."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Next speaker."

DR. ELIZABTH MOSLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, Fulton County Commissioners. My name is Dr. Elizabeth Mosley. I'm a resident, a small businessowner, and a voter here in Fulton County. I'm also a professor of public health, and I specialize in sexual and reproductive health including abortion and birth control. I have a Ph.D. in public health, a Master of Public Health, and 15 years of research experience. I'm also a

doula, someone who supports people during pregnancy. And I implore you as leaders of Fulton County to please support abortion access by funding \$300,000 through Access Reproductive Care Southeast. Our university research center has found that when our state leaders banned abortion at six weeks gestation, about 88 percent of abortions were happening after that time, and that's worse for people who are black, who are teenagers, or who are less educated. We're talking upwards of 91 percent of people who need abortions are no longer able to access them here in Atlanta, especially young people and emigrants. Our research has found those groups, vulnerable groups, people of color, lower income, and younger people have a hard time accessing needed abortion care because a lack of transportation, lack of childcare and because they learn about their pregnancies later. In fact, I've heard that there's movement for funding support for homeless youth in our county, and we fully support that. In fact, research tells us that young people and people who are unhoused are more likely to experience sexual violence and unintended pregnancy, but they face greater barriers to things like birth control and abortion care. And another study that I'm reading right now have shown that 90 percent of Georgians, the 90 percent of abortions whose no longer meeting that six-week gestational age limit could increase our maternal mortality in our state, because we're forcing people to give birth --"

VICE CHAIR ELLIS: "-- 15 seconds."

DR. ELIZABTH MOSLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- including -- including when they need to have an abortion. That could increase the maternal deaths in our state by 35 percent. But among black women, that could increase by 55 percent. Abortion is healthcare and it's needed. Please fund this."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Next speaker."

DESIRRAE THOMAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners, my name is Desirrae Thomas, and I'm the local campaign manager at the Amplified Georgia Collaborative a reproductive justice organization based here in Atlanta. I'm also a Fulton County resident and I live in District 6. I'm here today to ask you to please consider the Resolution that would allocate funding to ARC Southeast for abortion funding. You've heard from a lot of people today. I could get up here and be very heated and upset and loud, but I really just want to clear up some of the misconceptions that you've heard today. Most people have abortions do not regret it. There are more people who regret having knee replacements, having hip replacements than they do having abortions. If you don't believe me, look it up, girl. Second of all, I would like to say that this is a health equity issue. People who have the resources to have abortions will always have them. They will go out of state. They will order the pills online. They can do all of those things. However, the people who don't have those resources, the people who are poor, the people who are emigrants, the people who are queer, the people who are low income, those people don't have access to those same resources, and those are the people that will be forced to carry pregnancies that they do not want. I don't want people who don't want to be pregnant to have to be pregnant. A lot of

people will tell you that if somebody doesn't want to have a child they can just not have sex, they could just not get raped; whatever. But I'm here to say that nobody who wants to be -- who doesn't want to be pregnant should not have to be pregnant. Pregnancy is a health condition. It kills people. People die trying to have kids. It's so important for people to have access to reproductive health care, especially in a place where the state government is using taxpayer dollars to fund centers that --

VICE CHAIR ELLIS: "-- 15 seconds."

DESIRRAE THOMAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- deceive people. That use deceptive practices to get folks in the door. ARC Southeast is a phenomenal community organization that I really urge you to look more in to, and if you have questions about abortion funding, please let me know. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Next speaker."

ALMA LOTT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. My name is Alma Lott. I'm speaking on behalf of the Fulton County Jail, and how y'all trying to transport inmates to Mississippi, the most racist town I've ever seen. What they gone do; put them in the cotton field or the (inaudible) for \$3.00. I'm also here to speak on how you all could fund so much money with so much homeless going on in these communities. So we're asking that you all give money to the Sheriff, or find another place for these inmates. We need somewhere for our inmates to go. These people are not going -- these low income families is not going to be able to travel out of town to Mississippi to see their family. So who will have the big heart to say, no to this? Stop trying to use race -- our race as an excuse. We have children in there now that's nonviolent. But another thing, Fulton County need to try to get their laws together. Y'all would change malice murder and put it on self-defense, that's crazy. It's crazy. What kind of laws y'all have? Think about people. Think about families. Think about grand mamas that raised their children, not going to able to go to Mississippi or wherever y'all trying to send these inmates. It's a shame that's the only option that y'all have. Y'all should be ashamed of y'all self. Think about the voters. If y'all would not be in these damn seats."

ALLISON COFFMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Allison Coffman. I am the Executive Director of the Amplified Georgia Collaborative and the chair of the Atlanta RJ Commission. And I'm here today to speak in support of the Resolution to fund Access Reproductive Care Southeast. Reproductive justice is a human rights bodily autonomy. It's a right to have children, to not have children, and to parent those children safe in sustainable communities. This framework is about the black women in the nineties, and it's so powerful because it breaks down the theoretical silos between abortion access, birth justice, and parenting. I gave birth in Fulton County two years ago. Before that birth, I experienced two miscarriages and needed three surgeries before I could carry a pregnancy to term. And then I had a complicated birth. I experienced severe postpartum hemorrhage and needed rapid medical care to save my life. This was incredibly hard for myself and for my family. And I'm one of the

privileged who got high-quality care and I'm able to be here today speaking with you all. I am very troubled by the way that Georgia and the U.S. has changed in these past two years. My story is not unique. Giving birth is no small thing, and no one should be forced to give birth against their will. Should I get pregnant again, and God forbid I need life-saving abortion care, my ability to access that care must not be dependent on my ability to pay for it. This is why we need this Resolution today to allocate \$300,000 to Georgia's only abortion fund. I've been working with abortion funds for the past eight years and have seen how they are an access lifeline for community members. They've not only help cover care, but they help people with travel, lodging, childcare. These are people making the best decisions for the children they already have, and for their families. I'm also here to say that I will stand up and support a Resolution to support families and children, like homeless youth, like postpartum Medicaid expansion, and I'd like others to do the same with me. Thank you."

JANE DIAMOND, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon now, not good morning. I'm Jane Diamond. I'm a resident of Fulton County, and I have a Masters of Public Health. I too am here to encourage the Commission to allocate \$300,000 to support ARC Southeast. Please follow the lead of the city of Atlanta in this regard. Georgia's new abortion law and similar laws in nearby states not only severely restricts access according to the duration of pregnancy, now only six weeks, but by extension it seriously limits access according to the individual's economic status, which is an even greater inequity in healthcare. Many women do not even know that they are pregnant before six weeks. In order to access abortion in a state that still allows abortion after six weeks, requires travel, requires childcare. As was stated previously, so I'm going to take your advice and at least keep my testimony a little bit shorter because I'm repeating some of what was stated previously. Women who can afford it, can make this travel, they can have their child care, take care of it themselves and pay for their travel themselves. Women who have less income cannot do so. ARC Southeast will help with this and reduce the health and equity. Abortion is healthcare. It is a very personal decision between a woman and family and her physician and her faith. It is not a government decision. We need to help women continue to have access. Thank you."

MARA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. Mara Gaudio, Fulton County, and I'd like to begin with Commissioner Pitts' discussion item, whether the designation of personal staff for elected officials requires approval from the Board of Commissioners. Staff members need to be vetted and their qualifications must fit the job description. It should include a criminal background check for professionals, attorneys, CPAs, they need to be recredentialed at least every two years to commiserate with the Georgia Secretary of State's Board of Examiners, so that we can see that they are maintaining continuing education, and their licenses do not have judgments. There needs to be a morality clause when you hire people. That would alleviate a lot of your problems on many levels. I would also like to see clarification of censorship. I don't understand why Mrs. Hall is still here. I don't understand why she is still voting. I don't understand why she's still on committees. It doesn't make sense to me why Marvin Arrington made a big fuss about the censorship issue when there

doesn't seem to be any repercussions for her lack of morality. We've already raised the millage rate to pay for the unqualified employee who only provided hanky-panky when Mrs. Hall wanted it in her closed-door office. Do not fund abortion. Please pay for the prenatal care and housing that these women may need; food and housing. They need support psychologically, but they do not need their babies killed. I think that if you have had a morality clause, Labat would have never been hired in the first place."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers: Jackie Toepfer, Tajay Vyavanare, Grabiela Hernandez, Mousa Springer, Devin Barrington-Ward, and Dr. Jemmott."

MOUSA SPRINGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "All right. Good morning. My name is Mousa Springer with Access Reproductive Care Southeast. As-salamu alaykum (inaudible). I think it's interesting that we open up the session with a prayer, but as a Muslim, I feel my heartbeat just to say, As-salamu alaykum. It feels a little bit interesting to say the least. I'm here today to urge you to pass this critical Resolution allocating funds to support reproductive access in Fulton County. This Resolution will provide essential resources to help people navigate abortion bans that are at this moment absolutely devastating black, brown, and other colonized communities across the South. The money would assist with travel costs, childcare, lost wages procedures and much more. Helping to ensure that no one is denied control over their bodies, lives, and futures due to a lack of funds. As we've seen, one's class position should never determine who can access abortion care or any healthcare for that matter. I would also be remised, however, if I didn't mention the deeply connected nature of this issue with other issues mentioned today. Fulton County has provided willing dedication, major resources, and support to projects like Cop City, recently indicating over 61 local activists on RICO charges for exercising their right to protest; along with green lighting a \$2 billion jail project, all against the will of the community. At the same time, reproductive care remains unfunded. And we know that those mothers who will be made homeless, those individuals will be forced to drop out of school. Those individuals, who may lose their jobs because they cannot access abortion care, will be majority black people who will also fill the halls of this new prison you intend to build. I would also be remised not to mention that there's a handful of tokens sitting with the white women wearing all white, and it paints a picture about who this issue is really about. Thank you."

JOEY MARTINECK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Commissioners. My name is Joey Martineck. I'm a Fulton County resident. I also represent the Archdiocese of Atlanta on behalf of Archbishop Hartmeyer. I'm here today to speak in opposition to abortion funding. I do want to say like in charity to those who are supporting this bill, I really believe it's coming from a good place in a heart. Like, I think sometimes pro-lifers can villainize people who are pro-choice as if like they're the enemy. I don't think those who are supporting this bill are the enemy. I think they're trying to do this because they really generally want to help women. But I think -- I think there's a better way to help women. I think this approach supports abortion is again good intentioned, but misguided. And I'd love to see this money go into solutions that actually help moms in

needs, while not doing violence to the preborn. I think we can find nonviolent solutions that honor the preborn child as a human person. And so, I would love to see that going in and support those who have spoken about the many different ways that we can help women. I do want to say too, since we're speaking about abortion, just very clearly for anybody who has experienced abortion, maybe in this very room, I just want you to know like the mercy of God is available to you, and I just want -- I just want to -- that no one is beyond the mercy of God and extend that. And we'd love to work together with you toward real solutions that love -- let's love them both, moms and the babies. Thank you. God bless."

TEJA VYAVANARE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Teja, and I'm a Fulton County resident, and I also work for Sister Love, which is a community-based reproductive justice organization on the West End of Atlanta. I would like to take my time to share my story with you all. When I was 19, I had a positive pregnancy test. A few weeks before that, I was sexually assaulted. I've never been more scared in my life. Days passed, my situation became more urgent. I was a full-time student, and I couldn't afford the cost of an abortion with no healthcare or the transportation to get to the nearest clinic, which was outside of the state lines. I was only able to afford my abortion because of community care and mutual aid. Because of my abortion, I was able to finish my education and go on to get a Masters degree in public health. I was able to heal and grow from my sexual assault. And now I'm able to create my own family in my own way on my own time. This abortion fund will allow young women like me to be able to safely make decisions about their own bodies and their own futures. ARC Southeast is the only abortion fund in Georgia. With new abortion bans post Roe v. Wade, young women like me might have to travel even farther for abortion care. \$300,000 will go towards the cost of abortion procedures and logistical support, like travel, lodging, and childcare so that people can get to their appointments. Supporting this abortion fund means supporting community care, public health, reproductive justice, and taking away the financial burden from women during an incredibly stressful time in their lives. Fulton County leads in so many things. Let's support them in continuing to be a leader in public health and abortion care. Thank you."

GRABIELA HERNANDEZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this funding Resolution that would donate \$300,000 to ARC Southeast. I am Gabriela Hernandez. I am a legal fellow with Sister Love. Sister Love has been paving a way towards reproductive justice for 35 years right here in Fulton County. I'm also a Fulton County resident. Sister Love is a grassroots advocacy education, HIV prevention health services advocating organization. I believe -- and in this context, Sister Love requests that you, the Board of Commissioners, approve today's funding Resolution. I believe that abortion care is healthcare. Abortion care provides all women and gender expansive people the opportunity to make the most informed decision about their lives and their safety. It should not take a risk of death, rape, or incest for me to decide what happens to my body. I'm a first generation Latino. I'm the first person to complete a postgraduate degree in my family. I graduated from Emory Law this past May, and I am on track to become one of the 5.8 percent of

Hispanics who are attorneys in the United States, and I am on track to become one of the 2 percent of Latinos who are attorneys in the U.S. My career matters to me. My career matters to my family. My career matters to my little brothers, and it matters because it allows me to make these decisions that relate to my career. I think that it is absurd that opposing side wants to talk about God as if the Constitution didn't separate church and state for the very fact of allowing me to speak here today. I think it's also absurd that there are 89 CPCs in the state of Georgia, \$10.6 million of taxpayer money within the U.S. has been given to these CPCs and yet all we're asking for today is \$300,000. Thank you."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm here today to speak about the situation and the crisis at the Fulton County Jail, the ongoing crisis, the crisis of our undoing. But to my friends who are just joining us, I haven't really seen you all at our Fulton County Commission meetings before, the proliferators who are here, the white evangelical Christians that are here. Where was this outrage for black life when black lives were being snuffed out in the streets? Where is the outrage for black life inside of the Fulton County Jail? This ongoing crisis. But I'm glad that you all decided to show up today with outrage. Thank you. Now, to the business at hand: What I have here is a Resolution that I hope that you all will ask for its immediate consideration, and the immediate consideration is required because the crisis at Fulton County is not going to be solved by a new jail. It's not going to be solved by sending inmates to Mississippi and South Georgia. It's going to be solved first by making sure that we are diverting people from getting into the jail in the first place. Atlanta Fulton prearrest diversion. It is an initiative that is a county and city funded initiative. We need to be doubling down on diversion, because the problem is that we are taking people -- we're taking people like Samuel Lawrence. We're taking people like Montea Stinson. A man died inside of Rice Street because he had a heart condition and he stole aspirin. This is madness, and the fact that people are coming down here claiming that they are pro-life, what about their life? What about the life of Jimmy Atkinson? What about the life of Samuel Lawrence? What about the life of Montea Stinson? Those lives matter too. So if you're going to be pro-life, be pro-life all the way; otherwise, don't show up. Stay at home. This is a progressive county. We're not here going backwards. We're going forward, and to go forward, I need y'all to consider this immediate Resolution today, because we are in crisis. Prearrest diversion today."

DR. JERMOTT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Dr. Jermott, and I'm an internal medicine physician. I have a Masters of Public Health specializing in reproductive health. I advocate for reproductive justice, and I'm here today to encourage the Board of Commissioners to allocate 300,000 to access reproductive care southeast. ARC Southeast is Georgia's only abortion fund. We must mitigate the exacerbation of the public health crisis caused by the Supreme Court overturning Roe V. Wade and the subsequent implementation of Georgia's early abortion ban. First, I fully support Fulton County's public health mandate. Healthcare is a human right and abortion care is an essential component of reproductive health care. When people have access to a full range of healthcare services including birth control, abortion care, and

maternity care, they are healthier and families thrive. Next, I'm excited and proud that the Atlanta City Council has been a leader in the south and in the United States by allotting 300,000 of their budget to support people seeking access to abortion care through ARC Southeast. Elected officials should stay focused on the health, safety, and economic security of our communities, particularly of people of color working to make ends to meet. Elected officials should do this by dedicating local resources for safe and accessible abortion care. Ensuring that we can each access reproductive healthcare is an important part of ensuring equal economic opportunities. I'd like to take a moment here to also emphasize that funding for homeless youth falls under the umbrella of reproductive justice, because children deserve to grow up in safe and sustainable environments. So I fully support funding for homeless youth as well. I look forward to Fulton County's Board of Commissioners doing their part. For these reasons and more, I once again encourage you all to allocate 300,000 ARC Southeast funding for abortion care. Thank you for your time."

CATHERINE DAVIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. My name is Catherine Davis, and I am the president of the Restoration Project. At the very start of this hearing today, we had the young lady stand up and talk about safe abortion in Georgia; and I came today to tell you that abortion is not safe in Georgia. We have 14 abortion clinics. Six of those 14 clinics are in Fulton County. Only three of them are licensed. None of them have been inspected. No one can tell you what the inside of these abortion centers look like. They don't know if they are clean and sanitary. I can tell you from first-hand testimony that they are hiring people who are not qualified to work in those centers. I had a young lady in Columbus, Georgia tell me that she was the ultrasound technician. She had a ninth grade education. She told a pregnant mother who was having twins that one of her twins was six weeks and the other was seven. That's biologically impossible. That doctor from that clinic surrendered his license and the investigation stopped. He waited a couple of years and came back and is now performing illegal abortions in Columbus, Georgia and should be arrested. We don't know how many other facilities are violating Georgia law and committing criminal abortions because no one is asking. Today, you've heard that over 6,000 abortions were performed in Fulton County. Fifty-three percent of that 6,000 were potential homeowners. That's 3,217 people. The average tax property tax is \$5,000. And you're funding 300,000 to ARC; you are denying yourselves over \$16 million today. I urge you to --" (Mic turned off.)

CLERK GRIER: "The next six speakers are: Madilyn Drosendahl, Andy Agrez, Catherine Davis, Joey Martineck, Kenyatta Jones, and Reverend LS Allen."

MADILYN DROSENDAHL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. I am here today to support the Resolution to fund ARC Southeast, and to add to the talking points, I would like to point out some policy changes that would also do well to further the cause of reproductive justice in Fulton County. I would like to support funding for homeless youth. I want to support PAD and other diversionary programs to keep people away from the carceral system. I also want home and community-based

services for disabled Fulton County residents to become a bigger priority for the Board of Commissioners. Institutionalization, which is the alternative oftentimes to these services, is an extension of the carceral system, and the carceral system frequently kills disabled people. I want LGBTQ+ youth and adults in Fulton County to be protected from the State of Georgia's attacks upon that population. I want birth control protected. I want maternal care funded, and I want crisis pregnancies to no longer be supported in any capacity by the county. All the crisis pregnancy can give you is a sermon, a pamphlet, and as the State of Tennessee found out a few months ago, an HPV epidemic. Thank you for your time and thank you for listening."

REVEREND KEYANNA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Reverend Keyanna Jones. I'm the associate minister at Park Avenue Baptist Church, which is located here in Fulton County. And I find it so amazing, as Devin said before me, that all of these Christians are here. The Catholic Church then came out strong. I guess they want more babies for the priests to molest, I don't know. But then they're not going to worry about them when they get beat down in the street by the cops. They're not going to worry about them when they end up in Fulton County and get eaten alive by bedbugs. This is atrocious. Y'all on the brink right now, Fulton County Board of Commissioners, of looking like the Atlanta City Council. Don't let Pat Labat make ass clowns out of you the way Andre Dickens is doing, the Atlanta City Council. We absolutely need this funding for ARC Southeast, because I was a young person who was pregnant, and I'm a proud mother of three biological children and a support parent to two stepchildren; and I was in a situation where there was a choice between my life and the life of an unborn child. And that decision had to be made and was made with my husband and my medical professional. It was made by the people who are qualified to make it. And it was an abortion procedure that had to be done, and it did save my life. It made it so that I could have more children. If we really are pro-life, then we need cradle-to-grave legislation to protect children, give them an education, make sure that they don't live in poverty, that there is no more food insufficiency, and that people don't molest them and try to make them have babies when they get them pregnant. The last thing that I will say once again, is stopping letting Labat make you look stupid; and stop giving money to Fani Willis too, because she ain't doing dog darn thing either, but making sure that she throw out some RICO charges that ain't helping nobody in Fulton County. If you are against public funding for abortion, that you ought to be against public funding to have to settle these lawsuits, because Fulton County ain't got no insurance, but they're getting sued left and right. Y'all know what to do. Do the right thing."

REVEREND LS ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon, Fulton County Commissioners. I hope that we're not have happened, but I am a black Baptist ordained minister, and usually when I say praise the Lord, or good afternoon, or how's everybody doing, people respond to me. I am a human. I would love to hear from you. So good afternoon, Commissioners. I heard a couple of Praise God, and thank you for my siblings in the back. This is -- I'm here today to support the Resolution from Commissioner Barrett. Very proud of Commissioner Thierry in my county, DeKalb County, for introducing similar legislation. I'm extremely proud of Councilmember

Bakhtiari for her leadership and bravery. I find it appalling -- and frankly nauseating -- that people would dare to continue to use the name of the God that I serve and weaponize that against God's own people. I said at the start that I am a human being, and we are not talking about an issue when we talk about reproductive injustice, which is what is currently happening in the state of Georgia and all across our 159 counties. We're not talking about an issue when we talk about access to safe and sustainable communities including housing for all of our children and families. We're not talking about an issue when we talk about the fact that over half of the counties in the state of Georgia have no access to an OB/GYN or pediatrician, and we continue to close hospitals and medical facilities? I am not pro-life. I am not pro-choice. I am pro-access, and what we're asking today is to fund ARC Southeast so that people have access to decide for themselves and to be able to secure the healthcare that they need. This is not an issue. People's lives are at stake. You know what to do, so do the right thing. Support Commissioner Barrett. Let's get this thing done, so that we can move on to the real issue (inaudible)." (Mic turned off.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anyone else?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes. I have Dominique Grant, Kenney, Cait Morigan, Tiffani Howard, Olivia Harrison, and Selena Guerra."

DOMINIQUE GRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. Alexander Hawkins, Christopher Smith, Monte Stinson, Noni Batista Kosocco, Christopher Gray, Shamar McLeroy, LaShawn Thompson, Chandree Dunmore, Davion Blake, and Samuel Lawrence. These names you may not know or remember, but these are the names of people who have lost their lives to a Commission that was put in place to represent them. Last year, before the list got this long, community members and the members of Communities Over Cages Alliance begged you all to consider what it would look like releasing people who are caged up for nonsense. Last year, we gave you the opportunity to do right by your people. Instead, you all chose to fund 55 million with more resources to purposely watch a jail fall apart with people in it. Mind you, the people stuck in it have no business being there, and the conditions are so horrid they can't even stay staffed. Now we end up where we said we would. The real issue never addressed threats upon the community with more separation while the Sheriff continues on a crusade for more money for newer jail to kill people in. The Sheriff constantly standing behind these families knowing that he had a direct hand in their murders while pointing a finger at y'all. When will we finally admit that people are dying? And it's not because people are bad. It's because they were brought here poor with no access to resources. Thank you. And I would also like to put on record, it is very clear to the community that AC/DC is being kept open to house homeless people for the World Cup that will be coming here the same way that it was bought and built in 1996 for the Olympics. Thank you."

KENNY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. My name is Kenny. I am a helpline associate at ARC Southeast. So every day I talk to people who need abortion, and I

just want to say abortion saves lives. We have saved children who thought about suicide because they cannot receive an abortion. Last month, I helped someone living in their car who had nowhere to go, and she needed an abortion. I've helped children kicked out of their homes because they were pregnant. I've helped so many people who've been through so many situations; people who want to be pregnant, people who don't want to be pregnant. I've helped 40-year-olds; I've helped 15-year-olds. I've helped so many people, and I believe if you pass this Resolution you will continue to help the people in Fulton County. I'm a little activated and nervous today because I had to hear so many people shame people for abortion. It is a right. It allows us to live our best lives today. It allows children to have a good life today. It allows people who are homeless to have a good life today. There is no other option. There's no prenatal care. I'm sorry. Even if someone -- even if there was prenatal care, even if there was expanded Medicaid in Georgia, people deserve to not to be forced to give birth. Thank you."

CAIT MORRIGAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. I'm Cait Morrigan, and I'm speaking in support for the ARC Southeast funding. I recently watched a documentary on the atrocities of the Holocaust. There's a quote that stood out to me: it's easy to kill someone when you don't have to look them in the eye. Recently, a family's friend's daughter-in-law had to receive an abortion that likely saved her life. Just like many of you in this room today, she was Republican, white -- or is, excuse me. A police wife and a Christian. Abortions happen to different people all across society for many reasons. I know this, because I commute from Metro Atlanta to the Greenville Women's Clinic, the only independent abortion clinic in the state of South Carolina. I have had to console pregnant people and had them literally cry in my arms because their partner decided after they got pregnant that they didn't want a baby, and that young person had no resources. One of my colleagues who has a child, who is the same age as a child who was raped who came ironically from Georgia to South Carolina before our six-week band was passed, and had to console her because of people like them who harass our patients because she was terrified. The reproductive justice framework not only cause us to support abortion access, but also children and families. So we need to be supporting children who are un-housed as well. I will also say that Fulton must be better than the state of Georgia. It is wrong for anyone with a capacity to become pregnant to be a second-class citizen. When we pay taxes, we serve our community, we work, and we do everything else the same -- just the same. This is your chance to stand out from your peers and be on the right side of history, because I'll tell you something right now: That woman, who I mentioned, and some of the patients that I've helped were lucky, and they can get procedures. Some of your loved ones will not, and they will die or be permanently disabled. Thank you for your time."

TIFFANI HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you all. My name is Tiffani Howard, and I am the President of Stimulate America. We were a Georgia based 501C3 nonprofit. We've served the community now since 2009. And our latest initiative to support our seniors age 60 and over is called the Magnolia Club. And what we do, it is a free club to provide our seniors with resources and edification events to

combat senior depression and to also heal some of the critical issues that were exacerbated during the COVID-19 epidemic and also the inflationary crisis that we're in. And what we're doing -- our biggest initiative is to give Christmas to a senior, and we're asking donators, we're asking county leaders and city leaders to help us with getting the word out there to the public so that they can participate by donating the Christmas gifts, and we're also looking for funding. We've presented this to City Council Member Michael Julian Bond. He has pledged his support and I've come today to ask you for your support. Now, once we get all of these gifts, we're going to give them out at the Christmas Carol Celebration 2023 at Simpson Street Church of Christ, and it's powered by Georgia Power. So we're doing this to show appreciation for our seniors, and we need your support. So please contact me at (678) 803-9737. And you can go to our website, which is StimulateAmerica.org, and get some more information. I'd love to talk to each of you. I've talked -- spoken to Commissioner Hall. I'd love to speak to the rest of you and get you some more information. Thank you so much."

OLIVIA HARRISON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning or afternoon. My name is Olivia Harrison and I'm here as a member of Atlanta's Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. I'm speaking in support of the funding for ARC Southeast. I moved home to the South, specifically to District 6 of Fulton County, from New York on June 24th, 2022, the date that Roe versus Wade was overturned. An occasion that should have been celebratory, moving to a new place that I knew to be vibrant, exciting, and full of possibilities, turned into one of the darkest days of my life. Atlanta no longer felt like a safe place for me as someone who may at any point need to seek abortion care. Since last June, I have been dedicated to reproductive justice work in addition to my full-time job in an unrelated field; but most working people don't have capacity or privilege to continuously fight, and they should not have to. Abortions are healthcare and healthcare is a human right. But Georgia's medically-unnecessary and harmful abortion plans place massive financial burdens on people, working people, who seek reproductive care. It's your duty as elected officials to lessen that burden. In addition to a lot of blatantly false information, I'm hearing a lot today about defending the lives of unborn babies. But what about the lives of women and people with the capacity to become pregnant. If you don't want an abortion, don't get one. A woman's bodily autonomy should not be up for debate. Not providing funds for abortion care is not going to stop abortions from happening. We know that. It will, however, make accessing safe abortions a whole lot harder especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community. Please support the funding of ARC Southeast. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board. They're no further speakers in Assembly Hall, but we have six speakers on Zoom."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anyone else in Assembly Hall? Now, the motion did not include the 40 on Zoom -- what's going on? There were 40 on Zoom before, now it's down to six? Forty e-mails. The motion did not include -- it excluded, rather, would be a better

way to put it, the e-mail crowd. There were six on Zoom. What's your pleasure? We'll hear from them? We've heard from everybody else."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Mr. Chair?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIR ELLIS: "My preference is we start the meeting and hear those at the end. That's the way our Resolution was structured originally around public comment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any objections? All right. That will conclude then the public comments section of the meeting. Those who are on Zoom and e-mail, we will hear from you at the end of the meeting. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 9, County Manager's renewal items under open and responsible government, **23-0675**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval to renew existing contracts in the total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to provide standby roof maintenance, repair, replacement services."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Unanimously with Commissioner Arrington. On page 10, **23-0676**: Request approval to renew existing contracts in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 to provide on-site preventive and protective maintenance service for chillers."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0677**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount of \$746,700 to provide landfill post closure services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0678**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount of \$270,000 to provide on-site testing and repair of approximately a hundred and eighty-three backflow preventive devices."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **23-0679**, Public Works: Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount not to exceed \$386,728 to provide fire hydrants and parts."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0680**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 to provide soft dig services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the first item moved up on today's agenda on page 14, **23-0690**, Discussion: \$5.3 million emergency funding approved for the Sheriff's department at the April 19th, 2023 BOC meeting sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

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

VICE CHAIR ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm going to pass out just some documents I just want to share with you all related to this discussion item. I was just going to walk through it. So just as a refresher, we had approved 5.3 million in spending was approved on an emergency basis. It was brought forward as an add-on item, and it was approved at the April 19, 2023 BOC meeting. There were different tranches to that funding; \$1 million for additional emergency management in support. I believe that was a contract with EMSI; is that correct? Thanks, Mr. Manager. There was a 1.1 million for 91 additional jail surveillance cameras; 630,000 for 40 imaging of mail contents detecting narcotics, and 485,000 for sanitizing and clinical grade sanitizing. And then 2.1 million for devices to provide real-time tracking of detainee heart rate and blood pressure for inmates in the medical and psychiatric units. This request came to us after very disturbing circumstances were revealed about the death of an inmate which took place in September of 2022. And the purpose really of this discussion item is I want to focus and have some discussion and share some information with you related to the 2.1 million in funding for the devices to provide the real-time tracking of detainee heart rate. And, at the front of your packet that I provided, just sort of give you sort of timeline and a reference of the documents within here: That in May 2020, the organization that this \$2.1 million contract went to this organization called Talitrix, and that was when this organization started up, it was formed. So the startup organization May 2020. Unbeknownst to us, and I think this wasn't revealed to us when we had the request for the emergency funding; the Sheriff's Department and Talitrix actually entered into a master monitoring subscription agreement on September 22nd, 2021. And you will see there's a different -- there's an clipped second set of documents, is a clipped set of contractual documents that were entered into with the first one starting in September 27, 2021. This was not a contract that was brought before us for approval. This was a contract that was entered into between the Sheriff's department and Talitrix. A couple of things of note went in it. It's a three-year term subject to annual increases. It appears to give Talitrix certain data rights and royalty-free licenses for predictive analytics and monitoring and modeling. There's a statement of work: the first statement of work in here appears to have a maximum value of \$1.63 million. And the first statement of work appears to be one that is supposed to take place at the South Annex; and then there was a revised statement of work where the stuff to take place at the Alpharetta jail, with the value of that statement of work at \$865,000. I remind you that the Alpharetta Jail has a maximum population of 50. So, I guess, that means that if that was full day-to-day, that would be something like what is the math on that, \$17,300 per inmate for this particular service. What's unclear is how much has been paid to Talitrix by the Sheriff's Department in 2021 and 2022, or -- and pre-April 19, 2023 per these arrangements. There are some documents that show that payments were made to Talitrix by the Sheriff's department, and these were made from an inmate welfare fund in 2022 of \$230,000, and there's a document within that that kind of shows that. I think it says general fund ledger. So we know at least 230,000 was paid out of the inmate welfare fund to Talitrix for some form of services. I'm not sure exactly what. And then there's a press release on February 17th, 2023 which Talitrix, a press release by Talitrix, which indicates that the Fulton County Sheriff's office is the first in the state to secure groundbreaking technology to improve jail safety. So, I

guess, this is Talitrix's first customer announcement and it is with the Sheriff's department. Again, this is on February 17th, 2023. On April 19th, 2023, the Sheriff appears before this Body with an emergency ask of 5.3 million, including to 2.1 million for delivery of 1,000 wearables that would be up and running at the Rice Street facility with a July timeframe. And enclosed within here, a PowerPoint presentation that was provided at the meeting on April 19th which notes that particular timeline for the deliverables. On -- so that 5.3 million was approved on the 19th and included the \$2.1 million of funds. And then from the period of time from April to September 2022, there were no wearables which were implemented at Rice Street, and we see five deaths occur at Rice Street post the July date that the 1,000 wearables were supposedly to be up and running and the purpose of this particular request that was made to us. And the additional contract -- in the contractual documents, if you follow them through, there are other statements of work that are added after the approval of 2.1 million which is the first statement of work shows 2.1 million broken up into 1.47 million to be paid upon a completion of the statement of work; basically, you know, getting 505 wearables up and running and then a payment of \$625,000. Later, it appears that statement of work is revised and provides for a payment of 733,000 upon execution of the statement of work; simply a mobilization fee. So no work required, but a payment of 737,000 to be made. And then later, future payments to be made of 737,000 for the thousand total wearables, and then another 625,000 with different components of that payment. According to information that's been provided by finance, there was a for -- payment that was made to Talitrix on April 26th of \$733,687 paid out of our general fund, and then a copy of that invoice or payment is included in the packet as well. Now, what's further sort of disturbing about some of this, and I think there are a lot of questions just, if you go to through that timeline, that arrays with this contract related to transparency in contract, and a lot of different other things. But what becomes further disturbing is that the -- as of the recent report, you know, that's provided here, is an article, that shows that on September 22nd, that only 15 wearables are deployed at Rice Street. And so, I raised this early as a point of discussion really on a number of different fronts. Number one, transparency in contracting. This appears to be a no-bid contract, no review of it, and a potential -- and a clear misrepresentation. Don't say potential, a clear misrepresentation to us when there was an ask for 2.1 million about the existing relationship with this particular entity, and what had been contracted, what had been paid, et cetera. We've got a nonperformance of what is supposed to be -- and this was brought to the -- this \$2.1 million ask was brought to us in the form in an emergency to address a particular situation. And I will remind all of us that one of the places that local governments get in trouble are in emergency contracts, in emergency contract. And we see that just down the street from the city of Atlanta, and some of the stuff that happened back a few years ago. So emergency contracts really need to be taken with a high degree of caution and then looked back on. And this is one that was entered into and, right now, we have nonperformance, clear nonperformance of the contractor at this point in time. That is undisputable based upon the information that was provided to us when we entered into it or when we obligated the funding. The Sheriff entered into the contract. It's a contract between the Sheriff and this entity, and not between Fulton County government and this entity. There are questionable contracture terms within

this, and this does not appear that this is the solution that was ready to be implemented and it's not working and it probably wasn't prepared to work when we -- when we provided the \$2.1 million for additional funding. The other thing that I have some serious concerns about is some of the terms of the contract that I think it potentially opens us up to, potentially unwarranted and unevaluated liability going forward. We're dealing with a lot of privacy issues, security issues, biometric data, which has a lot of different connotations and ramifications today in terms of how that information may be collected and utilized by a third party. And I do not think that evaluation of that was really given its full due. We've got precious funds to utilize, to try to make a difference on what is, and has been noted a crisis. And the funding that was provided for this is not having an impact, and we needed instead be diverting this kind of funding into something that's going to provide -- that's going to be clearly procured, clearly delivered, clearly articulated and measured about what the impact that it's having. We cannot afford to essentially toss away two million bucks. I mean, and that appears to be what looks like has taken place and potentially even more money when we have a full understanding of what may have been paid prior to April of 2022 or 2023. So I raise all this stuff to provide you with information. You know, I will be making a written request to the Sheriff to ask him to terminate his contract with Talatex, and to make no further payments. And if there's not action on that, I do think we need to explore all our options as a Board relating to this, and clawing back that funding and certainly providing no funding going forward until we have things that are clearly bid -- clearly bid; a contract that's clearly understood with clear deliverables."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's see. Mr. Manager, Mr. Adams, Ms. Strong-Whitaker, Madam County Attorney, I want to hear from all of y'all on this. Commissioner Arrington, do you want to be heard before we hear them?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Commissioner Ellis for this information. I certainly want to have an opportunity to look through it and review it. I look forward to hearing from our staff in this regard and, frankly, from our Sheriff. I mean, I think, he deserves the opportunity to answer questions regarding this information that you have presented, so that we can hear from the horse's mouth exactly what is going on or what has transpired and what has not transpired. It's easy to look at contracts that may present questions, but -- and I don't know if you've had an opportunity or not to speak with the Sheriff, but a lot of times a phone call might be able to answer some of those questions. So I look forward to hearing from our Sheriff in this regard. I'm glad this is a discussion item, because I don't -- I don't have enough information nor have I had the opportunity to read through this information that has been presented; but thank you for bringing it to our attention."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Thorne, do you want to speak before we hear from the manager?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. Commissioner Ellis, I want to thank you for all the time, the research, and everything that you've presented to us. It just shows we do

need more transparency. We approved that 2.1 million in April because we were led to believe we were in an emergency, we're in a time of crisis. We had just been presented with news of LaShawn Thompson's -- the results of his death and the investigation in that. And I personally felt the need to do something because the same old, same old wasn't working, and this was presented to me as a solution. And it's disheartening to know that it was more of an experiment; there was no proven track record. I thought with these monitors that the mental health patients that are put in solitary confinement could at least be monitored. If we know they're in a crisis that it would be a solution to getting them help immediately instead of finding them with bedbugs and lice and lack of care. So, I thank you for putting this together. I will certainly review it and I agree -- I do need to talk with the Sheriff. I'd love to hear from him, and I'd also love to meet with Talatrex. I did meet with them to go over their technology and their plans and their future. I went to their offices, and I do believe they're on a path. I'm just disappointed that I was led to believe that that path already existed. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, I want to reserve my questioning and comment to after the County Manager and executive team weighs in. So if I could hold that until then, I would appreciate it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner. So let's begin then with the purchasing director. Ms. Strong-Whitaker, where are you? What was your involvement in this contract?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Commissioners, the contract, you all approved it for the Sheriff's office. I simply was the conduit to get the contract signed and to issue the purchase order. As you all know, when it comes to constitutional officers, they do not have to come through the procurement process, and that's the way it is right now. So I was simply the conduit to process it; to process the contract and to process the purchase offer."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So you're saying you had no involvement in it? Is that what you're saying?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. I did not have any involvement in this procurement nor any detailed insights into this contract."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Mr. Adams?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "I will echo the County Manager and Ms. Strong-Whitaker. I was not involved in the discussions. What I will say though is I'm familiar with Talitrix. I've met with them. I've seen their presentation. I've seen the technology. And I do believe that the description of it being an experimental technology is accurate; and while I'm not totally familiar with the details of the budget or the purchase details that Vice Chair Ellis laid out, it is my understanding, based on everything I've heard, that that's pretty accurate. So I don't have anything else to add."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam CFO, you authorized payment for portions of this?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Did I personally, no, sir because there was a contract and a purchase order in place once the department submitted an invoice and a receiver, the item was processed automatically."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam County Attorney, were you aware of this or involved in any way?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So, as Ms. Strong-Whitaker mentioned, this is a contract that went through the Sheriff's Department, negotiated by and entered into by the Sheriff's Department. So my office would not have negotiated it or reviewed the contract, nor were we aware of the previous 2021 contracts that existed at the time when the emergency funds were given for the most recent contract in April of 2023."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett. I'm sorry, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Pardon me."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. This is very disturbing to me. And the reason it's disturbing to me, two weeks ago, the Sheriff brought inmates in here under guard. The Sheriff pretty much let me know that the legislation that I put in for accountability with Commissioner Ellis was nothing. Those were his words, not mine. Now I'm going to give him something that he did not give us two weeks ago. I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt and ask that he comes here and let us know what's going on. Because at the end of the day, it is about accountability. If we are in crisis, then we need to do what we need to do. But that does not bar anyone, whether you're a constitutional officer or not, from having accountability. And the fact that this staff did not know, the fact that this information in black and white is in front of me, is very disturbing. But what's more disturbing was two weeks ago, this Body, certain members of this Body was pretty much told that you're not going to tell me what to do, meet me on the south side, and all that all other foolishness, when as Commissioners, we are stewards of taxpayer's money. So I'm going to give -- I'm going to give the Sheriff the benefit of the doubt and ask him. Because I imagine, right about now, somebody's already text him and told him what we're talking about. But I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt to come to this Body and explain to us what's going on, because you can't have the best of both worlds. Which means you spend money that

you ask us to approve in an emergency, but then you want -- you want no accountability. Don't ask me, don't you dare ask me what I do with the money. And I'm offended by his behavior two weeks ago with Commissioner Ellis. Anybody got a problem with that, so be it. Because Vice Chair Ellis, as well as the rest of us, everybody on this Board, is a steward of taxpayer's money. And as sitting Commissioners, we should be able to ask a question about the money being spent without being attacked. So Sheriff, hear it from me, you need to come here and have a conversation with the Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a question regarding communication with the Sheriff. Vice Chair Ellis, did you speak to him before bringing this? I'm just curious if you had a private conversation about this."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett, I believe in transparency. And when the facts are there, I think their worth sharing. And so, no, I did not have this conversation. I was still accumulating some of the data, and provided it here today. So, just as we've had stuff brought us in sort of the spur of the moment, I'm not asking any action. This is a discussion to lay out the facts. I didn't want my judgment to be clouded either. I wanted facts to be presented to share."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Listen, by no means was that a criticism. I was just purely wanting to know if you had spoken with him. And so, let me just flip it over to this side. Everybody sort of is saying they had not -- no real knowledge of the company, which is fine. It is what it is. But Mr. Adams, I just have question, the same question for you, you know, how much -- I know, nobody really knew a lot about this before the contract happened. But have you had conversations with him since then, in terms of the implementation?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "I have not had conversations around the implementation of Talitrix at the jail. We have had conversations about Talitrix and -- and the technology. And as I said, I -- and I, on record, I believe that it is early stage. And as I said to Talitrix when I met with them, I don't believe that I would advise a county of our size to be the beta test for any technology. Test it in a small county somewhere else, and then bring to us once it's been proven. That was my biggest concern about it, still remains my concern. And I've had that conversation with the Sheriff, and I've had it with Talitrix."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I just want to reiterate my colleagues here, and say that I'm disappointed that it wasn't presented to us as experimental or beta or any of those other things. And I'll just sort of echo what Commissioner Thorne said, in that, you know, in that moment the way it was presented to us, it was presented as a solution for the Rice Street jail to, you know, try to keep people alive there. And, you know, we were trying to do the right thing in that moment, and it was presented as a

fully-formed option. So I'm disappointed really, in all of us for not having more information. It kind of goes to my desire to have a more robust committee-type system where we have time to review these kinds of things before we bring them a vote. That said, I do thank you, Vice Chair Ellis, for doing this research. And I look forward to hearing from the Sheriff."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Let me be crystal clear on this. The Sheriff is a constitutional officer, which with that becomes certain duties. However, my issue is, why am I or anybody on this Board chastised for asking for accountability. So if the -- if the Sheriff come to us with an ask and it's a needed ask, then I'm going to be the first one to sign on the dotted line. However, I'm going to be the first one to ask for accountability. And right now, the Sheriff's posture -- and I have had -- I have told him this, is don't ask him anything. He don't want to be accountable to us because he feels as the Sheriff, he can do what he wants to do. And so let me be crystal clear where I stand on this, Chairman. If we approve the money because there is an ask, there should be no problem with a question coming from anybody on this Body. And I think the posture has been, sign the checks, but don't ask the questions. And everybody on here has a right as an elected official to ask any questions they need and get the answers they need. So Sheriff, I'm asking the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Sometimes it's not the question that you ask, but the way that you ask it. Depending on the tone of how you ask a question, someone might get offended. And we are all here to do what we believe is in our best interest. I believe our Sheriff does what he believes is in the best interest of the county, just as we do. And so I would just humbly request that we be reminded that presentation can affect the outcome, just as people come down here to attack us about topics. And a couple weeks ago, I think the people that came down and made their presentation without attacking us, right, because you can support your position without attacking someone. When you attack someone, they start to tone -- tune you out, and they become tone deaf to the content. So I would just remind us to be careful about our tone and how we ask questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other comments? Anything else? So where do we go from here? You want to invite the Sheriff at our next meeting to -- to respond, Vice Chair or Mr. Manager, Mr. Adams?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Mr. Chair, yeah, I think that would be -- that would be -- and I also think that I've got some written follow up, I think. And I could include all the Board on, I think, for some additional detail around, you know, payments, performance, you know, other things that are sort of not -- not necessarily clear. Then we can get that information in advance too."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I mean, I think we ought to invite Sheriff and Talitrix to come and explain, right? Like, I -- I don't know how we get -- I don't know how you present one side of the information, right. And so we need to have the people here who can explain what happened, what went right, what went wrong. I -- that's the information that I need in order to reach a conclusion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just one last comment. I agree with the Sheriff coming down. I do not think it's appropriate for the vendor to be here and ask the question. I think the questions really are designed and the response merits from the party that enter into the contract and the payments and so forth around that. He should be able to articulate around that. I think that there's some -- it's, I just don't think it's appropriate for the vendor to be part of that particular discussion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I -- well, I certainly want them here. They got our money. I want to know where our money is. I think you said, don't give them any more money and try to get money back. I don't know how we do that without having them here to be part of the conversation. So they -- they are a party to the contract. We have to pay the contract, so I want to hear what they have to say. I want to know why we only have 15. Do we actually only have 15 that are up and running? What is the reason for the delay? And certainly, I think our Sheriff can answer, but I think they can answer too, especially if they want to get paid."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I mean, they had a contract, they haven't met it. You know, it's September. But you know, others can be the determine of whether they want the vendor here. I just don't necessarily think that's necessarily appropriate for the discussion that needs to be had. But I'll let others make that determination."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right, anything else? All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "The next item that was moved up on today's agenda on page 12, **23-0684**, Request approval of a resolution to provide financial assistance and logistical support for reproductive healthcare through the appropriation and donation of \$300,000 to Access Reproductive Care Southeast, Incorporated, matching a contribution made by the city of Atlanta, sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all heard a lot about this already this morning, so I will not be overly repetitive here. This is a resolution to, again, give \$300,000 to ARC Southeast for financial assistance and logistical support for reproductive healthcare. So in the last year with the changes to -- with Roe V. Wade being overturned and the changes to the federal law, and therefore, the addition of the state law taking place, the six-week abortion ban, we find ourselves in a situation where access to care has been severely limited and has resulted in harmful consequences for women and families. And in Georgia, what's happening is this lack of access to safe reproductive care is deepening the health inequity that we have already felt tremendously in Fulton County and is inordinately impacting Black and socioeconomically vulnerable women. This is a donation that was made by the city of Atlanta, approved unanimously. That group of elected officials were able to put political differences aside and make a unanimous decision to support this two years in a row. Last year when Commissioner Hall brought this, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners was not able to get this over the line. But I will say that my predecessor, Commissioner Morris, did support this measure. And the people of District 3 support this measure. Commissioner Hall, thank you for bringing this last year and thank you for cosponsoring it with me this year. This, to me, is an issue of equity. This Board has made equity a priority in terms of healthcare. We have taken it upon ourselves to directly address the healthcare desert in the south part of the county. We have committed money towards opening with Morehouse School of Medicine, the Buggy Works Clinic, to try to address some equity there. And I think, you know, this is part and parcel to that disparity and in dealing with that disparity. As a citizen last year before I was elected, I watched the meeting in which this issue came up last year. And I listened to the objections by some of my colleagues. And so as I put this resolution together this year, I wanted to make sure that I addressed those questions. And the main one was really, where is the money coming from, and you know, can we -- can we afford to do this? And the answer is, in January, in our budget we put \$5 million aside for healthcare reserved -- a healthcare reserve, excuse me, designed to address health inequity. We have spent -- well, we budgeted to spend, I believe it was 3.6 million, or 3.3 million perhaps, on the Buggy Works facility. We saved some money on that. There is some money remaining. And I did clarify with our Finance Department that there is money in that healthcare reserve to spend this \$300,000. I would like to also point out that of our overall budget of over a billion, this is .02 percent. So while it is a very, very, very small percentage of our overall budget, it is a dramatic amount of money for ARC Southeast, and help them tremendously. With that, I will just say that I hope my colleagues can see their way to putting political differences aside the way that the City Council did and will vote to support this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you, Chairman. First, we can't afford -- I don't care if there is a little wiggle room somewhere in the budget, we assign that money to

Senior Services for driving, for the driving thing that's going over budget. In our last meeting, we were just presented with budget shortfall this year. The county is looking at ways to cut costs. Commissioner Barrett recently expressed her opposition to any new county programs when she vehemently opposed the addition of a senior center in North Fulton. Now, she wants to support a new program through a donation? A donation that will only deepen our budget shortfall. Even if we didn't commit to support this program, we have the responsibility to put it out for bid, then track how the money is being spent. Two fiscal responsibilities which were avoided by designating it as a donation. But again, the crucial issue here is, we simply don't have the money or the budget for this expense. The 300k in funding, you talk about it just being a small amount. We give \$6.8 million to community -- our community service program recommendations. We spend monies in all these areas to address homelessness, to address healthcare for children's and youth services for seniors, yet the highest person, the most anybody gets is 85k. 300k, that's more than three times than Hosea Feeds the Homeless. Are they not worthy of more money? Is this ARC Southeast donation more worthy than Hosea who feeds the homeless? 75k, we give to Boys and Girls Club. They would be getting four times the amount of what the Boys and Girls Club would get them. And then there's peoples like -- you know, we talk about homelessness and how we can, if we cure homelessness, we won't have people in incarceration. We only give 25k from Shelters to Shutters, does housing and job placement. 25k to Safe House Outreach, a homeless population, we see them down the street and the work they do day in and day out. 35k for the Urban Clinic, which provides free primary clinic in Fulton County. We only give 30k to the Westside Future Fund for economic mobility and stabilization support for economics; 30k for Ser Familia, homelessness for Latinos; 35k for City of Refuge; 30k for Gilgal; 30k for Intown, and the list goes on. Why -- this came up a year ago, why didn't ARC apply like our other partners? Why didn't they apply to be a community service program? No, they want it as a donation, so that we just give 300k into the wind. They have no accountability to us on how they're going to spend it. And as Commissioners, we have the fiduciary responsibility to have a contract. We just saw a contract go array because we didn't look at it. They should be vetted. We should make sure the money is being properly spent. And we would be circumventing that. Is that fiscally responsible? No, I say, not. Second, I will continue to oppose agenda items that seem to serve primary purpose of driving wedges between us as Commissioners. This is a very divisive issue, as we can see. We have two sides. If we donate -- in fairness, if we're going to donate to organizations which help women terminate their pregnancies, we should donate to organizations to women -- to -- that help women keep their babies. Regardless of the motivation, the inevitable result of us taking sides on this issue is simply going to drive us apart. And we're just going to attempting to demonize one another. We should be working together, respect each other's perspective, and not look for ways to draw a line in the sand. As for the timing of this resolution, the fact that's being brought during the month of October, will no doubt be seen as insensitive and antagonistic to our many Catholic constituents, who are celebrating respect for life this month. On a personal note, as my Christian faith has grown, I personally cannot support abortion. And I certainly don't want to use our taxpayer dollars to pay for. But I understand that not everyone shares my opinion. And

I look forward to hopefully, having some time to have open and honest conversation about what we believe, and how we can come together and not apart. Many a people question -- have -- feel strongly about when life begins. Is it at conception? Is it a six weeks? Is six weeks okay, is 12 weeks okay? Is when a heartbeat starts, is that okay? Is it 20 weeks, or is it after birth? Rape, incest, and to save a mother life is legal. What other cases are legal for a late-term abortion. I'd love to have a conversation. I welcome the opportunity to discuss with each and every one of you to see how we can come together, and not be driven apart. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Let me go ahead and apologize now, because some of the things that I'm getting ready to say is going to be offensive to some of you all. But I must stand on truth, truth to power. We can all agree to disagree without attacking each other. I am a Democrat, and I am pro-choice, because I feel like a woman's medical decision in her room is not big enough for me and her doctor. Only she and what she believes and what she does, that's her decision. My mother, the late Victoria Travis Jackson, a civil rights person, in her own right, helped build this city. But one of the things that she shared with me as a youngster, was how in school, one of her best friends died. She came to school, she had a real bad odor on her. She had been what they call the basement butcher. She was pregnant, was scared, and didn't tell anybody. She went and had an abortion, and she died from it, somebody who was friends with my mother. And my mother told me as a young girl, I trust you will do the right thing. But if you're ever in a situation, you come talk to me. Now, those of you that are on the other side, I may disagree with you, but I'm not going to disagree with your right to stand up for what you believe in, because that's part of what this great country was founded on. If you feel strong about something, stand up for it. But that does not to -- mean to demonize anybody on either side. But sometimes we have to make decisions, and they may not be popular decisions. But they're decisions that have to be made because they're right. Now, the issue that I have with this is, we had an item that came before us for \$250,000 of funding centers in the north and in the south. And those are centers that I watched firsthand open up. And some of the reasoning behind those centers being opened up, a young man came to school smelling like onions. He was teased to the point that he wanted to take his life. Why? Because he didn't have any deodorant. His grandmother was his person that takes care of him and the money was just not enough to go around. A young lady is using wads of tissue for feminine hygiene, because her mother does not have money to buy sanitary napkins. This is one of the reasons that these centers were put in place, among others that you can go in and you can use the washer dryer. You can go in and get mouthwash. You can go and get a pair of clean underwear, whatever the student needs. We know in this economy that we need both of those centers on the north and on the south. Commissioner Barrett voted against that, and that's her right to do that. But how can I vote for this, knowing that we are sending a message to students that they -- we don't care about them? We're sending a message that at the end of the day, we are going to put money for reproductive rights, but if you need sanitary napkins, you

on your own. If you need mouthwash and deodorant, you're on your own. I cannot, in good conscience -- I asked her to hold this. I even told her I would be willing to support it, but she made a choice to bring it today. And I'm standing on the choice that I got to stand up for homeless students on the north and the south. I got to stand up for grandparents who are raising their children, and they don't have enough money to make ends meet. And if we cannot, in good conscious, give \$250,000 to make sure that homeless or that challenged child has deodorant, mouthwash, or sanitary napkins, I will be damned if I put any vote towards anything else. I'm going to stand on that. I'm going to offend some of you all. But guess what, nobody in here has a heaven or a hell to put me in. And I hope we can get past this. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just a few remarks. Obviously, this is a deeply personal issue and topic for a lot of people. I'm not going to get into all the arguments that have been made around that, but I want to focus in just a few things. One, sort of focus around our role and our priorities, what our job is, and what we're supposed to be doing. And on to other on -- touch on process and procurement. I'll touch on that one first. And first off, in terms of the way this particular resolution is styled, it's really almost framed up as a matching gift, charitable contribution. We're not a nonprofit organization. City of Atlanta chose to do something, a resolution that says, hey, do they do, be the matching gift, you know, that's not good governance, okay. A lot of stuff was made contrastly, a lot of remarks were made around during work related to homelessness and youth and that sort of stuff. I'll remind the folks in the city of Atlanta, when it comes to homelessness in the city of Atlanta, that is their responsibility. We have two -- we have two distinct responsibilities when it comes to dealing with the homeless. We have responsibility, Fulton County government, outside the city of Atlanta, and the city of Atlanta has it within. So, you know, take care of your own responsibilities. But we had a specific program and a process of stuff that we talk about and funded for youth homelessness. It was competitively bid, competitively procured, and we made those rewards, I want to say, last -- at the last meeting. And there's an announcement around those, and you'll see what they were. That's good governance. It has a process, it's properly procured. There's measurables, there's check-in points on it. This is not -- this is a, essentially, an addition charitable contribution, give some funding to an organization, who know what they're doing, what's the accountability for it, et cetera. Appears to be, you know, more politically motivated. Hey, and you know, part of this is, if this is a cause you believe in, rally folks around it, and provide the private support to it to do it, just like other folks do with nonprofit organizations. We're not a nonprofit organization. Secondly, what's our role, and the types of roles that we play. And Commissioner Thorne noted this, and it's not lost on me that the sponsoring Commissioner on this voted to deny funding for a center that was provide senior developmental disabilities and behavior health services just a few weeks back. Our core services that we're obligated to provide, we are the provider, and one in areas where we got some deficiencies in those areas. And I think we all know what they are. And we've had specific asks for those. And that denial was based upon funding

scarcity. But, yeah, just a few weeks -- few weeks later, we're bringing back something that's not even our responsibility. Abortion policy is not our responsibility, the laws around it, that's the State Legislature. If you don't like them, work with them to change it. Providing abortion care, that's not our principal responsibility. And the funding for that, and quite frankly, that comes through the feds, Medicare funding, other source and that sort of stuff is funding that's provided to Planned Parenthood today and other organizations. That's not our responsibility. So this has not come in a way that procedurally and process-wise, it's done the right way. And it's not something that's in line with what our roles are, which we're currently underfunding so many right now, and we got so many challenges. You know, why we would divert funding into something that's not part of our principal roles, responsibility, and objections, I have no idea. I mean, there's like -- definitely, this is a personal topic for a lot of folks, including me, I'm not going to try to bring that into the equation. I just want to focus on those particular points. And I cannot support this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, let me say, I think it's a sad day when adults who have been elected, decide on how they're going to vote based on tit for tat, and whether or not someone voted for something they wanted or not, instead of just voting on what is good for the people. We shouldn't be like that. In addition, Fulton County funds nonprofit organizations all the time. We have a grant that funds nonprofits who do anything in the health and wellness area. That's one of the categories. So I don't see where this falls outside of that. This is a very serious matter, just as the jail is a very serious matter. Both involve death. Let's not condemn mothers for their choice. It is their choice, what they do with their bodies. So I'm going to request that we be fair about this. If we're going to fund one side, we need to fund the other side. And I heard today, an organization that I've never heard about before called Auntie Angie's House, and heard from residents that said, why are we not funding the mothers who decide that they want to keep their children? And I agree with that. We should be fair in all things. And yes, I'm a Christian. I'm a Christian who believes in the word of God from the Bible. I call the Bible, basic instruction before leaving earth. I don't judge people based on their mistakes. I pray for my enemies in a good way, not in a bad way. And I personally do not believe in abortion. But I believe that every woman should have the ability to decide what she does with her body. I don't want to make that decision for any woman, because that is the hardest decision to make. I think that's a decision that she has to make before God, herself. And so if we're going to support one side, we need to support the other. And I want to make a friendly amendment that we fund the nonprofit that helps the women who decide that they do want to keep their baby. And I hope that you would accept that as part of this."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "While I certainly appreciate that request, Commissioner Hall, I would like to keep those things separate. And I'm not opposed to considering something like that under a different resolution. But I would like to have this stand on its own. So I'm going to reject that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "That's it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I wasn't going to respond to any of the comments, and just let this go to a vote. I think the votes will speak for themselves. But I feel like I've been accused of a few things that were -- either require further explanation, or are just not true. And I just feel the need to speak on the record about a couple of those things. One being the fact that, Commissioner Thorne's comments about me vehemently opposing a behavior health center in the north, is absolutely a lie. I brought up the conversation about postponing the building of some facilities in order to save money at the time for now. That's the only thing I said. There was also not a vehement opposition to any new programs. Again, in an effort to work within the millage rate we set, as we planned the budget for next year, we were -- we were advised by the County Management Team that we would not be able to fund new programs in 2024. I - there was no vehement opposition from me. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, with all due respect, the items that you talked about so passionately, I fully understand your passion. None of that was brought to my attention prior to the vote at the last Board meeting regarding the programs you're discussing. And again, to be clear, the reason that I voted against that measure was because the program you're referring to is run by Atlanta Public Schools. They are a taxing body, they set their own millage rate, they have a billion-dollar budget."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Outside city of Atlanta --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, then it's Fulton County Schools, it's --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- it's -- it's a school-funded thing. The schools have school boards, the school boards have millage rates and they tax. And we are looking at a difficult year next year and beyond with our own expenses. And the arguments were made that we shouldn't be giving money to a taxing body. That is the reason I voted, no, not because I oppose the programs. So as I said to you when we spoke privately, if you want to bring back, or you want to bring it back and have that money directed to a nonprofit that does that work or whatever, I will support that, because it was never the program that I objected to. I gave you my word that I would support that. And I do think that it is disingenuous to equate these two issues when we approve other spending all the time. And yes, we do, in fact, do things this way all the time. The one that's popping into my head right off the bat is a donation that we gave to Atlanta Technical College, which was just that, a donation, it's worded the same way. And nobody's going back to make sure they're spending money in some prescribed fashion."

So that is also disingenuous, because we do it all the time. People on this Board are looking for an excuse not to support this. You do what you have to do, but this is a vote that is clearly, exactly what's written in the documentation, and the vote will just stand."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'll be quick, Chairman. Let me just clear up a couple of things. First of all, Fulton County gave a commitment of \$250,000. Fulton County gave a commitment, which is the same as me giving my word of saying, I am going to collaboratively do this. And so that was a commitment by Fulton County that this Body said that we couldn't really afford to do. So there was a decision made that we weren't able to do that because we didn't have the money. Well, if we don't have the money to do that, then we don't have the money to do this. And when you're saying disingenuous, you are an extremely intelligent, meticulous person that looks at everything. So I should not have to have brought anything to you. We make important, what's important. I want my constituent that's sitting out there to know the reason that I cannot support this, is because if -- either we're going to tell everybody, no, or we're going to tell everybody, yes. And the day that we tell homeless children and grandparents and caretakers that can barely put food on their table, but the child is trying to get an education that we cannot give them funding for that, but we can give funding for them, is the day that I will sit here and be against this in principal, but not because I don't believe they're doing good work. So when you're talking about being disingenuous, as an elected official, it is upon you to come in here and make sure you know everything about every issue and everything that you're voting on. Nobody is going to freehandedly give you the information. I respect you as my colleague, but on this issue, I must be against it, and that's the reason why."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It's almost a quarter to 2:00, ladies and gentlemen. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Sitting here, listening. Sitting here, listening. I guess if I adopted that, then I wouldn't be able to support this or pre-arrest diversion, if I adopted that mentality. If I adopt the mentality that, oh, they didn't vote for my thing, I'm going to vote for this -- so, I'm not going to vote for their thing. So, okay, so I won't vote for this either and I won't vote for pre-arrest, because on I'm going to support all, or I'm going to support none. That sound crazy as hell. It is crazy as hell."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, anything else? Motion on the floor is to approve. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, 23-06 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Actually, let's do this, let's recess for lunch and Executive Session, items of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Let's vote, please."

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

(Recess for Executive Session at 1:46 p.m.)

(Back in Regular Session at 2:49 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam Clerk, where is she? Madam County Attorney."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I'm here, okay. From Executive Session, is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item number 1 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, which is seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the application to move the boundary line of the Merk-Miles Landfill to effectuate the transfer of Wolf Creek Amphitheater to the City of South Fulton?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for payment of a 2024 invoice from the Atlanta Regional Commission for the Cooperative Technical Assistance Intergovernmental Cost-Sharing Agreement in the amount of \$75,000 as set forth in item four of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **23-0681**, Finance presentation, review, and approval of the October 4th, 2023 Budget Soundings."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have one item for the Board's consideration today. It's a \$1.2 million increase for the Senior Services Department to fund the contractual obligation related to Common Courtesy for the Uber/Lyft style transportation program."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall; is there a second? All right, I'll second. Let's vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0682**, Real Estate and Asset Management, Request approval to increase spending authority in the total amount of \$208,896.69 to purchase and deliver two Electric Stock Pickers and one Electric Forklift Truck."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Arts and Libraries, **23-0683**, Request approval of a Resolution approving a sponsorship agreement template."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, have a favorable motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, just sort of had a general question. So we're expending county funds on sponsoring events, correct?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "Hello, Commissioners. David Manuel, Arts and Culture. Some of the events that we do and programs that we do,

initiatives that we create and also, some initiatives that we partner with, sometimes rely on support, partnerships, or collaboration. And so with our regular process, it's like a 30-day net. But we been working with Purchasing and Legal to kind of create where we can move the process a little bit faster, when it comes to supporting these events. And part of the results is, this gives us an opportunity to market, put our logo, get a good reach in terms of what we support."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So we're arbitrarily sponsoring certain events?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "Some events, yes, that are already created that align with what our goal missions are."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. I guess, I don't know, as a practical matter, I mean, I certainly support the work we do for Contract for Services, and then specifically identify the stuff that we vote on for funding. I don't personally support sort of the general notion of government sort of arbitrarily providing sponsorships for events and -- nor letting that determination be made by staff. I just think that there are -- number one, I don't necessarily feel like that's an appropriate use of funding. And then number two, I think it runs the risk of things being done and things that are sponsored that may not necessarily enjoy the full -- enjoy the majority support of the Board. So I'm not in support of this arrangement, nor really arbitrarily doing sponsorship agreements that we don't individually vote on."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I just had some questions, maybe more for the County Management Team on these things normally get handled. Can someone kind of just explain the process as it is right now?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So, Commissioner Barrett, the Department of Arts and Culture will have the opportunity to review requests that sometimes come into the county, or they may seek out these specific types of sponsorship arrangements. Specifically, because the sponsorship approach is not a part of the procurement process, this agreement would formalize the sponsorship approach in a way that will allow us to clearly identify what the county receives for their sponsorship. It will also identify what the county will be responsible for providing in return for that, as well as the fee. And so, again, the department, depending on what their goals and objections are, they seek out or are approached regarding certain sponsorship opportunities."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So is Arts and Culture the only department that sponsors anything?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, they are. And now that the Fulton Films is a part of Arts and Culture, there are even more opportunities for

that department to be recognized in the community as a player when it comes to the county being a place for film. Of course with the recent strike, there has been little of that lately. But we've seen even more requests and approach -- the department approaching sponsorship opportunities, especially with the film component. But yes, this is the only department that has this unique approach, because they are Arts and Culture and because of the film component."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean I'm -- I'm in support of, you know, Arts and Culture programming, and that, you know, we have some of that as part of our county budget. I just -- this seems like a little bit odd to me, because there's a line in the resolution at the top on page 2 of the resolution, page 405 that says, line 26 and 27, it says, for sponsorship opportunities are short term and sometimes unexpected. Then if you flip to the next page, I think a couple of times after that, it talks about the funding for the event having been approved in the budget. So if it was approved in the budget for that event, how is it unexpected? I'm sort of confused about that."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So the specific opportunity isn't identified. But in the operating budget, there is an object code or a line item for these types of engagements. So when the budget is passed by the Board in January, the department has an operating budget, and one of the line items in the operating budget is for events of this nature. So as a whole, events are approved, but which events those may be, some have been annual, some are opportunity specific."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I would argue that the language in the -- this is a County Attorney question, I guess, but I would argue that the language in the resolution is wrong then, because it says for the event, not for events. So I think that would need to be fixed if this were to go forward. And then I'm just wondering if we don't need a policy, and I guess this is getting to a little bit what Vice Chair Ellis said, do we not need some kind of a purchasing policy that does directly apply to sponsorships across the board. Because what's to say, another department won't want to sponsor something? I know, you know, we've been -- we've had conversations about that for our own budgets, about, you know, we're not supposed to sponsor something, just give a sponsorship. We're only supposed to do it if we get something of value, like if we're buying tickets or a table. But do those rules apply to everyone? Did they not?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So in this agreement, one of appendix that's required is, what is of value in exchange for the fee. And so again, that is why this specific template was created in partnership with the County Attorney's office, so that we could formalize the process so that we could track what the deliverables are, and so that we could agree to what those deliverables are."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean, I'd like to see a more broad policy around sponsorships. And I think, there's a two-pronged thing to this in terms of Arts and Culture, one is the ability to provide some funding to those organizations that are

holding those events, which would then to some extent, be outside of the grant process."

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "Right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Which I think it's again, what Vice Chair Ellis was saying. But then there's also the secondary side to it, which is sort of positive branding for Fulton County. And then from that perspective, I feel like Jessica's department should be brought into this because that's under their umbrella. So I think I would like to just see and maybe again, this is something for our rules discussion around the county in general. But I think -- I'm not opposed to y'all having some of this. But I think there needs to be some guidelines and boundaries. So, I would ask that maybe we hold this and/or come back with a corrected document and -- and I'm just -- not asking to hold, not making a motion to hold right now. I'm hear -- want to hear what everybody else has to say. But I just wonder if it doesn't need some guardrails, so that it doesn't become sort of any department now, can sponsor things."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, you making a substitute motion to hold?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "No, I'm not. I'm just saying I'll consider doing that as the conversation continues."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Dr. Roshell, you tried, but -- Commissioner Arrington. You tried to explain it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are these funds already in the budget?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "Correct. Under special projects and initiatives."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And do the events align with goals and purposes of your department?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "Every event that we decide to be a part of, and maybe sponsorship might not be the right word, maybe collaboration or partnership, they all align with what our mission and goal is in the department."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Yeah, because I'm -- I guess, I'm a little confused with the word as well, because to hear someone say that there are no sponsorship of events, I remember, I started the Joan Garner Walk, and we had all departments sponsor the event. They all helped, DREAM, everybody. And so I don't -- I don't understand. I don't understand how someone could say, no other departments sponsoring events. Dr. Roshell, can you help me with that? Do departments sponsor

events? Do departments help sponsor Commissioner Hall's event that she does annually with -- with the young men?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir. This is specific to --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "They do? They do sponsor that event, right?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes. Yes, they support that. Yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And other events?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So anyone saying that departments don't sponsor events, is not being truthful?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Departments do sponsor events."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Let me just ask you a question, generally speaking. Whether it's sponsorship or collaboration, is this not just a Fulton County, is this a practice across the board in other counties?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "Yes, it is."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. And I'm asking you a question that already know the answer to. And so I don't know if the wording -- I, first of all, I support this, because I know what you're trying to do. But for my colleagues that may not -- maybe don't understand or maybe are caught up on the word, I don't know. I'm willing to ask for a hold, to hold this if it's not time sensitive. Because I do need them to have the information they need to have to be comfortable. I'm comfortable in supporting this today. And so whether it's sponsorship, whether it's collaborative, I know that this is a practice done in other counties, municipalities. And I understand the nature and the reason why. So I'm asking you if I put in for a hold today for my colleague to get more information, is this time sensitive?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "We could definitely do a hold. It's not that time sensitive. But I also want you to keep in mind that the programs that we do, the programs that we partner with or sponsor or collaborate, whatever word you

want to use, it benefits the -- the integrity and awareness of what Fulton County offers in Arts and Culture. And if you look around, and I'll give you an example. We just did a media event, and we had 80-plus media represented at this event. That's our logo, that's our branding, that's our positive word, in terms of our promoting and sponsoring what we do in Fulton County. So it's a huge benefit for the county. But I understand more information might be needed, so when we make a decision. And I hope that we make a decision that supports these initiatives, as well as these organizations that are really trying to put their foot forward in terms of partnering and collaboration with the county."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And so if I put in a motion to hold this to the next meeting, would that -- that would not interrupt anything that you have on right now? I'm just asking."

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "No."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. I want to make a motion to hold this until my colleague -- substitute motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Substitute motion to hold, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Barrett, you still want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I appreciate that, and appreciate getting the time to actually review this. And I would ask -- first of all, I'm a little frustrated that I asked if other departments sponsored, and you said, no. And then Commissioner Arrington asked if other departments sponsor, and you said, yes. So did I just not ask the question clearly?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So this -- this agreement is for external organizations that we partner with by providing a fee in exchange for something of value. Departments --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "-- do not provide any fee to a Commissioner or anyone internally. We may provide staff to help plan an event, we may bring items to the event. But internally, we don't call it sponsorship --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, yeah, but let me -- let me interrupt you. Sorry, I hear you. I take your point on that. I think, though, as -- as Commissioner Arrington speaking, it reminded me that, I believe -- and again, I don't know what the cost or the arrangement is. But I believe the Behavioral Health Department is participating in the Pride Parade. Is that a sponsorship? Do they pay to be in the parade?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "There are some events that we participate in that there is no fee associated with it. The arrangement may be that we have a table, that we provide information or a speaker. For the events that we are trying to formalize here, they usually include a fee and a sponsorship package that details specific things like a ticket, the number of tables, logo placement, opportunities for media interviews."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I get it. I would ask then, since we're going to vote on a hold here, that as part of this coming back, that we come up with, either document what our current policies are around sponsorships, be it paid or unpaid, internal or external. So there's one source of information about how sponsorships work, and that it is fairly used across, you know, the board. So that -- I would like to ask that that come back with the hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to -- substitute motion is to hold. Commissioner Arrington, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't know if further discussion is needed or not. But my understanding is that in order for staff to be allocated at -- is there no fee? Is there no costs associated with staff being allocated to deliver? Let's just say for example, we ask staff to deliver the stage somewhere on a Saturday, is there no cost to that department for that?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "There is, but we -- in this case, we're actually cutting a check --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "-- to a third party. And that -- that's what we were trying to --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So we don't cut checks to staff?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "For their payroll, yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, so -- so which came first, the chicken or the egg? I don't -- I don't understand the difference that we're trying to make between the costs. Either there are costs -- so at a table, do we give away items at that table?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "We do."

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "What type of items do we give away?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "Pamphlets, different items that we purchase that --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Are those items free?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "We pay for them."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You pay for -- oh, so, there are costs?"

DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE: "There's cost associated with the purchase --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't -- I don't understand what y'all are talking about. Either there is a cost, or there's not a cost. Either we pay for staff to be there, or we don't pay for staff to be there. We're paying, or we're not paying. If this doesn't make any sense, what are y'all talking about? Either there is a cost associated with helping sponsor the Joan Garner Walk, either there is a cost associated with the Behavioral Health event, either there's a cost associated with Commissioner Natalie Hall's event and being there and having staff there and passing our items, or there's not. What are we talking about?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So this matter speaks to payment of funds to a third party for a sponsorship, correct?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So that's what we're talking about."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor -- were you done, Vice Chair?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This needs a lot of work, Mr. Manager, Dr. Roshell."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "The next two items are mine. I'd respectfully request that we can hold those items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Without objection, we'll be holding 0595 and 0642. Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **23-0685**, Fulton County Arts Council, Chairman Pitts has nominated Jennifer Pina for Full-Board appointment to a term ending December 31st, 2024."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0686**, Beltline Affordable Housing Advisory Board, Chairman Pitts has nominated Bobbie Spiller for a Full-Board appointment to a term -- to a two-year term that will commence upon approval of the Atlanta City Council."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 13, Board of Ethics, **23-0687**, the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce has recommended Walter Vinson for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending February 12th, 2025. The Gate City Bar Association has recommended Daraka Satcher for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending February 12th, 2026. And the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce has recommended Chris Miller to fill the unexpired term of Jamie Bendall for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending February 12th, 2024."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Have a motion to a approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second? All right. I'll second it. All right, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I have no problems with the recommendation by the South Fulton Chamber, nor the greater North Fulton Chamber. However, the person that has been recommended by the Gate City Bar Association is the past President of the Ethics Committee, who I hold solely responsible for all of the

irregularities, policy violations of Ethics Board violations, and constitutional violations that our County Attorney has previously spoken about. So I would make a substitute motion to only allow the -- to remove the recommendation from the Gate City Bar, and to allow the other two to move forward."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. The substitute motion, you heard the substitute motion, in other words, to approve Mr. Vinson and Mr. Miller, and not approve Mr. Satcher; is that correct, Commissioner Arrington?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That is correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right, is there a second? Is there a second? Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'll second it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, properly moved and seconded. Discussion?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, I would just, Mr. Chair, yeah, we can vote on it. I don't care if we vote on it individually. I don't -- I just don't know if it may be useful for the -- for the County Attorney to speak on all the irregularities that occurred under this person. And additionally, frankly, if that person stays on, I'm going -- I will have an objection for the rest of my life. They'll never be able to hear anything against me, ever."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam County -- Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I was just going to recommend that we just sever and vote on them individually. I mean, the same thing potentially, but --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We can do that, all right, take them one at -- is that -- that's fine. We will take them individually."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, point of order. I already made a substitute motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You did."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't believe we can have a substitute of a substitute."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You're correct, you're correct. So right now, what's before us is the approval of Mr. Vinson and the approval of Mr. Chris Miller only, that's what's before us. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the substitute motion passes; four yeas, zero nays. Five, with Vice Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Anything else on this for now? All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Page 14, **23-0688**, Fulton-Atlanta Land Bank Authority, Commissioner Barrett has nominated Joan Arkins for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending August 7th, 2027."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, and I seconded that. Let's vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Discussion Items, **23-0689**, sponsored by Chairman Pitts'. Discussion whether the designation of personal staff for elected officials requires approval from the BOC."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. So this came about, Commissioners, because I had a conversation with the Manager. And he believed that there -- well, not believe -- that he had been approached about approving through or in conjunction with Mr. Hermon, certain additions to the personal staff of certain officials. And I do not believe that the Manager has that authority. And so that's why this is on the agenda for us to discuss that today. I had a discussion with him about it and a discussion with the County Attorney about it and had a discussion with the CFO about this. Because I believe that if this is approved, we're opening up Pandora's box, and we're going to see four or five others come and pretty soon, every employee will be on the personal staff of whoever they're appointing -- whoever their department head, which is really -- the county is headed in the wrong direction if this is approved. No disrespect to any of the individuals who've come forward wanting to name up to 26 people on their personal staff. This makes no sense. And there are some legal issues with that and some financial implications. But if that's the direction, which this Board wants to take this county, so be it. But it will be done without my participation. So, Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A little bit of background on this particular situation. We have met several times with Solicitor Gammage over the course of the last year or so, between myself and Ken Hermon, specifically talking about the measurement and pay of employees at the individual level, something that we had discussed at the Board level. And obviously, you've given us direction to proceed and that fashion. Most recently, we met with Solicitor Gammage

and his staff on September the 14th. Participants in that meeting included the County Attorney's office through Dominique Martinez, as well as Steve Rosenberg on the Solicitor's side, so three lawyers actually involved in that conversation, counting the Solicitor. It was a two-part discussion, part number one was taking the additional step to add Investigators to the list of personal staff and the logic was twofold. One was, he would like to reward and pay folks commiserate with their skill sets and with their productivity in that role. He believes that he could differentiate and clearly quantitatively justify that. In fact, as a consequence of moving forward with that, Steve Rosenberg wrote a note to us, indicating that that would be clearly the plan. The second piece is, he has difficulty -- I just looked at his reports this morning. He's got a vacancy rate just slightly below what the Sheriff has right now, so he does have difficulty in recruiting. One way to get after that, again, is to be able to target folks who have exceptional skills in this arena. And he mentioned a couple during the discussion, and be able to offer them salaries, while still within the pay grade and still within his budget constraints, but they would be differentiated from others that are already in those -- in those roles. The last part of that discussion that, to me, was very compelling was, by however we got here in terms of process over time, both Attorneys in the Solicitor's office, as well as the DA's office and Executive Assistants, not just one, but the Executive Assistant class in both of those offices, are personal staff. So this is adding to what it already exists, not some new convention necessarily that was being requested. So for all of those reasons, the fundamental process that is used, and the only thing that is even alluded to in our policy is that the Chief Human Resource Officer, along with consultation with the County's attorney -- County Attorney's office, makes that determination. Obviously, I'm the supervisor, ultimately, of the Chief Human Resource Officer, participated in the discussion. And from my perspective, this made -- this made good sense. So that's how the -- the decision was reached. The other thing to, you know, to keep in mind, I think is, the Chairman raises a good point, and that is, is it the purview of the Board, because these are elected officials that personal staff applies to, and perhaps that's where the decision should rest. Hence, the reason that this item is on the agenda to get clarity from this group. And then if that's the will of the Board, then we'll change the policy to reflect that. But there was no getting around any existing policy, nor was there, in my mind, getting around anything that wasn't logical and straightforward. And, you know, quite frankly, every day I try to balance, you know, efficiency, effectiveness, as well as engagement of leaders. And that's not a one plus one equals three formula, it requires judgment. So you'll just be putting yourself in that position of trying to make those judgments, which is -- which is fine and may be appropriate."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington, followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Barrett. And I'd like to hear from the County Attorney and the CFO, or y'all want to hear from them first? All right. Madam County Attorney, while they're -- go ahead. You want to -- you want to speak, be heard first, Commissioner Arrington, or you want to hear from the County Attorney?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "We can hear from the County Attorney before. I have no problem with hearing from the County Attorney first."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Obviously, this is within the purview of the Board to decide whether or not you choose to delegate the decision making as to how an entire classification of employees is going to be treated, whether their -- will be treated for -- by HR as personal staff or not. Currently, the County Manager is correct, that there is no specific requirement for that decision to come to the Board. I think, historically, it's my understanding that it's been treated as something that HR in conjunction with the County Manager's office, will decide based upon legal advice from the County Attorney's office. The County Manager is correct that Dominique Martinez of my office was in attendance at that meeting. In fact, the County Manager and I have had previous discussions about this topic. We have, in fact, advised caution in expanding the personal staff designation, not to say that it's not appropriate to expand it in certain circumstances, but that it should be undertaken with caution, in part because it is not a direct modification of a classification in the traditional sense, like changing the paygrade or the job description, but it is a change in an indirect way. You are removing an entire group of people and treating them in a different way for employment purposes. So I do think that it's something that the Board should consider whether or not you would like to weigh in on it in the way that you weigh in on changes in the pay and classification plan, or if you would like to continue to take delegate it to the County Manager and the Chief Human Resources Officer. One of the reasons we advised caution is because it -- changing someone to personal staff designation removes certain rights that employees traditionally have under FMLA, under FLSA. It also allows someone to have discretion, as their appointing authority, in how much to pay them within the pay range without the protocols that, say, another department head would have to go through in order to show that someone was exceptional and deserving of a higher-than-funded amount for that role. So, again, in certain instances it is absolutely appropriate to treat someone as personal staff. But it should be undertaken with extreme caution because you are changing a -- an individual's rights under federal law. And you are potentially opening up an avenue for folks to feel that their differences in pay as compared to their lateral colleagues, may be based on something that could be a basis for claims of discrimination among other things."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam CFO, you had some reservations?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, my reservations, Mr. Chairman, really centered around how the meeting was -- what is presented. I thought we were there to discuss a pilot program for pay for performance versus changing out Investigators from current classified employees to personal staff. And the only other thing that I would add is, is that my understanding is that whatever change happened in the Solicitor's Office would also have to carry over into the District Attorney's Office with regard to her Investigators or anywhere else there are Investigators working for elected officials. Oftentimes, Mr. Hermon is placed in the crosshairs, if you will, by the elected officials regarding how our Human Resource policies and procedures are designed. And they often push for things like -- like this. And not that there's anything necessarily wrong with that. But it is frustrating because we try to follow the policy and procedures,

and then ultimately, it seems to always end up here at the Board with a, you know, some sort of a complaint about the length of time that it takes for something to happen, or that they can't get to where they need to be because our policies are constraining. So those were my thoughts on the issue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I get better at this job the more I understand everybody's roles. The Chief Financial Officer is here to protect the money. And so that is what she does, and her decisions are based in that regard. I guess my question is, how many people -- we'll just use the Solicitor's Office for example, how many personal staff do they have already? Is it -- is it a percentage? Is it, okay, you can have 20 percent personal staff? Is there a standard percentage across the board?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "Good afternoon, Commissioner. Kenneth L. Hermon, Jr., Chief HR Officer. It's not a percentage, it's a classification. So in the Solicitor's Office, for example, all A Solicitors, one, two, three, all the way up to the Deputy Solicitor, are his personal staff. So the mix of positions that he can create within his budget, that's the mix that he would have. Also Executive Assistants, his senior leadership, and his Investigation Unit, would all be personal staff. But in total, right now, however, around three -- around 300 personal staff members throughout the DA, the Solicitor, some in the Sheriff's Office."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, wait, slow down, slow down. How many are personal staff in the -- how many total staff does the Solicitor have, and how much -- how many of those are personal staff? And then we can do DA and Sheriff after that. But right now, I'm just talking about Solicitors. I can't keep up with all those different numbers at one time."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "Give me a minute, Commissioner, let me pull up that file for you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Our Solicitor is there, he can probably tell us. Mr. Solicitor, can you -- can you help us with that."

KEITH GAMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "May I come down?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Please, absolutely. Madam DA, good to see you. Thank you. You can come down too if you want."

KEITH GAMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "Good afternoon. I'd like to thank the County Manager for understanding and having a listening ear to those of us who really have our shoulders on the grindstone in trying to move these issues forward in a way that delivers the best justice to the folks we serve. Thank you for that. Thank you for the

question, and thank you for entertaining it. So in my office right now, of the -- we've got about 48 Attorney positions, all of them are personal staff. I've got an Executive Assistant, those positions are personal staff. They all report directly to me. We have our Chief Investigator, who is designated as personal staff, reports directly to me. So out of the roughly -- I'm including ORCA positions just for this analysis. Out of the roughly 140 some-odd positions within the office, 30 percent or so, 40 -- about 35 percent would be personal staff right now. And I think the other important part of your question, Commissioner Arrington, is this, Prosecutors raise their hand and they swear an oath in front of a Judge to be loyal to the elected that they serve on behalf of you all and our constituents. And they function in court and in other ways on behalf of the Solicitor General, that's why they're Assistant Solicitor's General. My Investigators also raise their hand and swear a similar oath to the integrity of law enforcement and also to my management as Solicitor General. Same for the District Attorney's Office, those folks have a structure, but ultimately, when they show up to the serve a subpoena at someone's home, that subpoena has got my name on it. They're serving on behalf of the Solicitor General. And the gun is -- that's issued to them, is mine, right, it's the county's, it's the taxpayers, but it's through my authority. I'm the one that signs off on their training. So the notion that this is unusual, what I'll also share, and we shared it in the very healthy conversation we had with the County Manager and HR team members is this, when we look around the state, this personal staff characterization or classification is not even really utilized in most places around the state because the presumption is, just like you all, the people who report to elected officials, I didn't say department heads, I said elected officials, those folks have to have loyalty with us. And so just as Commissions have personal staff who they have to rely on, the confidences, et cetera, so do we. And we're not seeking to make every employee personal staff. We're seeking to make Investigators, law enforcement professionals. And I will tell you, and I know the DA can do it more so because of recent developments. These folks are protecting my life. We all get threats. They're more personal to me than even a Prosecutor, I got to rely on them to protect my life. I don't have the issues the DA has to deal with, don't have the number of threats. But to be able to hire a Georgia State Patrol Officer and pay them more than \$56,000 when it's within my budget, personal staff frees me up -- designation frees me up to just that. It frees me up, Leaders, to be able to pay someone based on what they deliver, within my budget. And so if I have someone underperforming, I don't want to give them a pay increase. I want to be strong when I go out and recruit. And right now, although we never got to key classifications being law enforcement unfortunately, that is why we need, from my perspective, the flexibility to go out and recruit the best. On one side we've got still these issues with backlogs, et cetera, crisis throughout our County. And all we're asking to do, pursuant to Georgia and federal law, free us up to recruit the best. Thank you for the --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So this would be within your budget?"

KEITH GAMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And if you made all of the Investigators personal staff, what percentage would you go from? You're saying you're 30, 35 percent now, I mean, how much of your staff would then be personal staff?"

KEITH GAMMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "It would be about 24 more individuals. And Mr. Commissioner, they have all already signed an agreement designating them as personal staff. In fact, the agreement I had them sign, those who started back in 2017 when I did, they signed that agreement then, because I believe then that the law supported it. And as early as, I started January 3rd, 2017, by January 31st, 2017, we were seeing these challenges with hiring even more pervasive now. And then Patrise Perkins-Hooker and I talked about this and tried to get it accomplished even back then. The sole purpose is to give the ultimate hiring authority -- and really, quite honestly, you all, with full respect, the HR department is working hard, but they can't tell me anything about recruiting a law enforcement professional, now, I'm just telling you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And Madam DA, what about your numbers, as far as personal staff, please?"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "(Off-mic comments) About 65, so all of my 150 Lawyers are personal. My top-tier of Investigators, which is about 20, are personal staff. And then I have probably about 20 Executive Assistants. So it's probably half already of personal staff. This would make all of my Investigators personal staff, which would bring us to 70 more people. So I'd probably be at about 50 or 60 percent would be personal staff. I do want to say one thing, because I have some Commissioners on here that worry about the employment rights of the employees, and I think that you should. Every single one of my personal staff members has the benefit of FMLA, vacation, all of those things they have. Those are not things that are ripped from them. So, I have somebody out right now on paternity leave. He has it just like another member would have it. So I just didn't want to -- not want to leave that out in the air. I don't know if you have any other questions, but --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So how many would -- if you did these additional people as personal staff, who would be -- who would be the people remaining that aren't personal staff? Who would -- who are they?"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "Oh, it would still be a lot. It would be my Victim Witness Advocates, are not personal staff. My Legal Assistants are not personal staff. And we would still have some other Office Administrators that are not personal staff. But to Mr. Gammage's point, everyone that takes an oath to me, would be personal staff. He just kind of hit on it very precursory. But the -- the challenges that we have right now with recruiting are huge, and only for me in this particular area, and also in retention. I lost someone, which I kind of find embarrassing right now, to Pike County. I'm losing them to Atlanta, to Clayton. And I don't lose them because they're unhappy at the job. I'm losing them because the pay scale for Investigators here -- Investigators and law -- excuse me -- and Police Officers are premium right now. It's a

dying profession. And I -- it's a profession that we really need, but people aren't going into it. And so you have to attract at top notch. So we're losing them to the cities in the county. But worse, I'm losing them to -- I've lost them to Gwinnett. I lost them to APD. I lost them to Clayton County. I just recently lost them to Pike. I don't even know where the hell Pike County is. Who cares about Pike County, other than I lost an employee there. I've lost them to Google. I lost them to Cash App recently. I mean, I'm losing them to everywhere because everyone is paying top dollar for these premium people. And I want to talk about threats, okay. So we -- you all don't get to hear all of them. Unfortunately, I've now damaged probably some of your customer service personnel, who does get to hear a fraction of them because people are threatening me in that way. But I have, in the last probably two months, over 150 threats that have come into the office. They come in through the customer service line. They come in through my phone line. They come into the Magistrate Court. They come in through written letter. They come in through text messages. The demands that I am a putting on my staff right now to try to track down and investigate the threads, but also keep me alive, which has become a real concern for me. I have got to have people that are loyal to me and that my life means something to. And so we have some real issues here, and I don't want that to get lost. But Mr. Gammage is absolutely right. These people take an oath. My Lawyers and my Investigators, I don't want to say they are the most important, you know, because I don't want to offend any of my other staff. But they are the ones that are doing the heavy lifting, and are keeping this community safe. And my Investigators are as important as my Lawyers, and I need them to be as loyal as my Lawyers, and I believe that they are. I brought with me, my Deputy Chiefs that are really the heroes that are keeping this county safe. I've got my Deputy Chief of Major Crimes here, of Civil Rights. I've got my Deputy Chief of Case Intake of Major Case. And they can each tell you a sob story. Just last week -- and this is one of the conversations me and Mr. Gammage had, I lost somebody who we went back and forth with Mr. Hermon on, because I wanted to try to make them a Senior. And they had corrections experience and not this. One of the best Investigators I've ever had, actually a woman, and I lost her to Atlanta because she was tired of playing the games. I've got emails going back and forth, not to Mr. Hermon, but to his underlings saying, can you please raise her? Can you raise her? When do it? When do it? When do it? She did what she should have did, she left. And when she left, I think she left with a little bit of unhappiness with the county, not because she didn't appreciate working for Deputy Chief Baez. In fact, she wrote a very nice letter saying how much she enjoyed working here, but she got a family. Why wouldn't she go make more money? If I had given her a very little bit of money, I could have kept her. But I didn't have the authority to do so. This has got to stop. And that's one anecdote, it's only on my mind, because I just lost her in the last two weeks. But that has happened to me time and time again. And I can't keep playing this game. And Ms. Whitmore said it right. It is very frustrating to keep going back and forth with the county trying to get people hired. And no one -- all of your staff is personal staff. I can't tell you the value of Ms. Dorsha. I can't tell you her value. I know that it's something I probably don't even appreciate. Because only you know, what services she provides, how often she's out in the community, how often she represents you, that she knows 9:00 to 5:00 is a joke, you know what I mean? That she has to do

these things, those are the same things for our Investigators, and we need them. And I need to be able to pay them commensurate with everybody else around them."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And again, this, if you did this, it would be within your budget?"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "It would be within in the budget, we will be able to raise them, yes. And I would be able to -- quite frankly, let me say it on the other end, there are some people that the county has classified as Seniors, and they had never written a search warrant, you know, they did not have the kind of experience that I needed. And I couldn't make determinations that, this is really not a Senior in the needs of a District Attorney's Office. So it's not always that someone's salary would be higher. It's that their salary would be commiserate with their experience and what they did for the office."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Madam CFO, do you concur that if they made these changes, it would be within their budget? Or that they would have to stay within the pay range?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We would require them to be able to make the changes within their budget and on a recurring basis. Meaning, they would have to find the recurring source of funds from within their budget to support the changes now and in the future."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, you know where you hid the money. They don't know where you hid the money."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Madam DA knows where she has her money."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. That's all that I have, Mr. Chair. I, you know, I don't -- I don't have any opposition to these people being designated as personal staff. Now, the question of whether that is a County Manager or a Board decision for elected officials, is a separate question. But I think that either way, they should be allowed the personal staff that they need as elected officials. But I think that, again, the question of whether that's a County Manager or Board decision is something separate. But frankly, as long as they're staying within their budget and there's no fiscal impact, I really don't care."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. So this designation will allow you to not only retain the staff that you have, but maybe even bring other staff in?"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "It will allow me to recruit -- I, right now, just to tell you, just to give you, I have a 150 Lawyers. I only have 90 Investigators. I have two vacancies for Lawyers, which shows you how -- for Investigators, even though it's almost half -- Lawyers don't do math that well, but close to half. I have about eight vacancies. I can't keep up with keeping my Investigators because of they're being pulled from everywhere. You know, you take it as a compliment at first that people want your people. But at some point, we're having to retrain people to do things. So, yes, ma'am, it would help us to recruit and to retain."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Same thing for you, Solicitor Gammage?"

KEITH GAMMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "Yes, ma'am, Commissioner. Thank you for the question."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "So, County Attorney, and this is just a question, you don't necessarily have to answer it now. But I would like an answer from it. Is there not a way that we can do that with our policy, with -- because I hear what you're saying, the slippery slope. But I feel as though we're getting too far in the weeds with this. I feel like I understand your position, and I even understand what the Chair is saying. However, what no one has articulated to me is, how can we make this work and still have the protections in that we need for the employees that we need? And so that -- my question to you, which I know, that's a tall order. You probably cannot answer that right now. But for me, I'm just asking because in the back of my mind, I feel as though we can do this, that we can do both. And so that's why I don't think it should really be a us versus them, or if we allow them to do it, then it may affect me. Do you understand the point that I'm trying to make? And so what -- what protections do we need to stay in place, and is that a policy question that can be answered?"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "Just for some edification, and I believe Mr. Gammage would say the same. My Lawyers have the same protections as anyone else in the office. They get the same FMLA. They do those things. So I don't want anyone to leave -- because I did hear her say that. You know, I got two women right now out on maternity leave that happen to be Attorneys. So they do get the privileges of Fulton County. They get the retirement that Fulton County gives, the pension. So I don't want you to think that they don't have all of those things, they do. The things that are attractive about Fulton County, my personal staff still gets those things. In fact, we just were given bonuses, right, countywide, or at least my office. My office got bonuses because we reached our metrics. And all of my personal staff got that bonus as well."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. So since, Madam DA, you brought that to my attention, what is -- what is the issue? What is the issue of -- of what needs to be protected?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So first let me say, I agree. It's not an us versus them. We do not see it that way. We are charged with giving legal advice. And I know

the County Manager said there were three Attorneys at that meeting. But there was only one Attorney there who is charged with advising Fulton County and the Board. Our issue -- and I believe Mr. Gammage mentioned Patrise Perkins-Hooker, I've actually had a chance to review a memo from Patrise Perkins-Hooker to Mr. Gammage back in 2017 that basically advised the same caution. So we're not opposed to our justice partners having the ability to recruit and retain. We just want to make sure that the expansion of personal staff meets the federal definition. Because if there are claims brought forward, our best defense as a county, will be if we can show that they met the definition when we designated them as such. I will say that the Attorneys in the prosecutorial offices, per case law, have personal staff status, that's -- that's established. So that's how the Attorneys became personal staff. There is no set designated percentage. They just have to meet the definition, which includes factors such as whether or not the elected official has powers of appointment and removal; whether or not the position is personally accountable to only the elected official; whether the person -- the position at issue, represents the elected official to the public, such as the Assistant DAs, Assistant Solicitors, who meet that definition; whether the elected official exercises a considerable amount of control over the position, the level of the position within the organization's chain of command. And this is kind of old-fashioned wording, but it says, the actual intimacy of the working relationship between elected official and the person filling the position. So we just are advising that we consider how each position meets this definition before pushing forward with expanding personal staff. When it comes to the FMLA, FLSA protections, et cetera, it is true, it's my understanding that there is voluntary compliance with those things. They don't have a federal right to it. But I understand that our prosecutorial offices have traditionally afforded them the same treatment as if they were subject to FMLA and FLSA protections. So, but that is a voluntary thing, and I think there is -- it's easy to contemplate a situation where an employee could come forward and say, this didn't happen for me, and I lost my protections. So it's a risk assessment. It's a risk assessment that this Board will decide whether you will do or delegate to the County Manager and Chief Human Resources Officer to do. So we are not advising against the expansion, as a blanket matter, but just, we would like a consideration of each position under this definition, so that we will know in advance how we're going to justify if called to justify, why the position fits into this definition."

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "And so that you're aware, each employee has to sign that they understand that they're personal staff. And it is made part of his HR file, as well as my internal HR file. And right now, between both of our offices, we already have 25 Investigators designated as such. What I'm trying to do is help the others to also be designated in this way."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Madam DA. So I would ask, on my behalf that if I could be given information, my office, as to what the concerns are and how do we put policy in place to address those concerns, while freeing up elected officials to do what they need to do in order to be able to not only retain the staff, but to be competitive and bring other staff in. Let me say this while I have the mic, some of

the things that we do here are very archaic. And we would be remiss if we did not make that a reality. And so sometimes when we do things archaic, and we make it as a rule, well, we've always done it this way, well, this is 2023. This is a whole different beast. So I think it would behoove us as the elected officials to see how to tweak and how to work this, in order to benefit everybody. That's my role. Because I hear liabilities issues, and I hear the other things that you're saying. I am not an Attorney, but however, I do believe that this can be worked out on what I'm hearing today. Now, if I hear something differently, that's a whole different thing. But if we put in the protections that we need, if we make sure that there is, for the lack of a better word, a designation as to who is considered personal staff, and who isn't considered personal staff, that's -- in my mind, that makes it ABC. So, I don't know how you all feel about that, but that's just where I would --"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "Your Honor -- oh, I'm used to being in the courtroom. On behalf of the District Attorney's Office, I'm willing to sign a statement that says any person that works for me, with me, alongside me, and under my leadership, I'm going to let them have both FMLA, paternity leave, all of those things. As you know, Georgia is already an at-will state. So I don't see where they're losing protections. What you're doing is giving them an opportunity to make some more money, and that's just it. At the end of the day, that's really what I'm asking for, is the ability to, when I see an Investigator, and I'm in that interview, and ask them what kind of cases they work, have you done geo-fencing, have you done a search warrant? I know that they are a valuable asset to be able to pay them what they're worth."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, Solicitor Gammage."

KEITH GAMMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "I think the only thing to add is that, all of the characteristics in the criteria that Honorable Counsel laid out, are satisfied and met, in our view by the work of the sworn law enforcement investigator. I swear them in. And those other characteristics under federal law, is interpreted through the states, they fit the category already. And to the point by our DA, they've already signed a waiver or at least an acknowledgment that they're personal staff. There's a secondary form, and Counsel for the county, I'm sure, knows that civil form better than I do, have read it, did work with it, then talked with the Counsel within my office. And the County Manager has already asserted that it's reasonable and appropriate. And we believe the county policy as well empowers the County Manager to make these kinds of decisions. So I hope you'll consider it, and continue to -- to listen to us. And I think that the biggest takeaway should be, we just trying to get these things accomplished in the very best way, in a way that's fair to the people. I'm a union man. I'm a proponent of labor and organized labor, very much supported by that. I'm not going to do anything that's irresponsible or improper with regard to the rights and protections of not only my staff, but the hundreds of thousands of citizens that I work to protect every single day. And so the thought that we might be abusive to an employee undermines the very point that we're seeking the personal staff certification they've been designated by the County Manager and team. With your approval, if we would abuse the folks, we wouldn't be

here asking for the ability to better recruit. Because if we were abusive that would get out, and we would still have the same problems with retention and with hiring. Because reasonable to consider, especially though -- I want to be careful with my words, out of respect. Investigators, Attorneys, and others have a specialized education and training. They are not normally those who traditionally, governing authorities have sought to focus those protections on. It's folks who might not have as much specialized training, that's why those labor, right, I'm a labor guy -- why those labor protections were fought for in our country. That's why I support them. So, thank you all."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you. County Attorney, and you don't have to answer this right now, in fact, I don't expect for you to answer it now. But I do want to follow up with you -- how, if at any time, will this affect a sitting Commissioner and my staff? Will it have any affect? Does it have anything that may come back and affect me?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "No. The Commissioners' staff are all specifically designated as personal staff. Your staff is quite small."

KEITH GAMMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "Right."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "And the most important factor in the analysis of the factors in the definition is that intimacy factor, is actually something that is readily met by all of your staff. And also, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, what I heard you saying that you wanted from our office is for us to provide information regarding any concerns or issues that may arise, along with potential solutions. So we will provide that to the Board."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, I appreciate that."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "And Commissioner, if I may also, if I offer some insight. You know, you asked a question about, you know, how could we do better, because this is an archaic process. And the personal staff designation has only been around since 2018. Before that, it was -- it was even worse, because the elected officials were truly limited to the exact personnel policies as anyone one other department. They didn't have the ability to pay an Attorney at the maximum range if that's what they desired. They said, nope, you have to start at the minimum and that's it and that's all you got. But I think the process that we have developed thus far, since maybe stepping into the personal staff world in 2018 and further expanding it through conversations with elected officials, once we get a better understanding of, this new role, like what we created for the Sheriff when he created his Accreditation Officer. Well, he have to walk us through the process, let us understand, you know, how are you hitting those six to five, those one-to-six criteria that the County Attorney was articulating, so that we could all be comfortable that when we bring it to you as the creation of a new classification, we know that it's going to be designated as a personal staff. It's already met all of the prerequisites, legal tests that go to either HR and legal

looks at. And you know, more than -- the majority of that legal test is also based on some case law that, you know, they, Soo and her team review to make sure that they -- it's close concert with what courts have already identified and designated as a true personal staff decision -- or position. So I think we have a lot of that built in. It's just when you get to this very cloudy, you know, roles of the -- and Investigator is a perfect example, you have an Investigator, yes, the Solicitor swears them in, the DA swears them in. But in between the Solicitor and the Investigator, there are, like, three levels of supervision. So there are three levels of supervision, how could you get there? But I think it, nonetheless, going back to the original question that's on the -- on the table is how, how could we bring a better process to -- and who approves? I would recommend that, you know, the process has worked. You know, the -- this started with a Judge attempting to put me in jail, if you want to know the back story. And Patrise had to come and save me out of the clutches of the Judge at the time. But I think the process where we have right now, has worked. It's just they're one or two minute areas of some concern, where this one has resolved itself now. And if there are others, I think we could get to a resolution in the future."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Well, what I'm -- what I would like is -- thank you for that. What I would like is the input, because I would be remiss if I didn't tell you, we've got two elected officials that's standing in front of us. And this must be really important, because I know you all's caseload. And I'm not saying that to be one that is just trying to blow smoke, so to speak. What I'm asking, I go back, County Attorney, to what I said. Maybe it's a policy situation. Maybe we have to have something written a certain way, and you all weigh in on it. But I would really like to know the pros and cons, what do you all feel is the best, and can we not be on the same side and see if we can allow you all to do what you all -- that you need to do, while protecting the interest of the county. I know -- listen, I see the Chairman looking over at me. I can feel his rays. And it's -- but I understand, because he has to be the Chairman. And he -- and ultimately, at the end of the day, we have to all protect Fulton County. But in protecting Fulton County, we must protect those elected officials that put their names on the ballot to serve Fulton County. And so I would say please, let us know if there's a policy, if there's something we can tweak better and get their information. Thank you, all."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Madam DA, did you want to say something?"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "Just, well, let me yield the floor to you. And I want to say something, but --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I will have questions, you'll have a chance. I have a couple questions here, and some of this may be because this is my first time sort of hearing about the -- this movement of designation from personal staff to normal Fulton County employee. But Solicitor General Gammage answered this I think, basically, which is, do the Investigators meet the criteria the County Attorney listed? And the

answer sounds like it's, yes. Am I -- is that correct? They do rise to that, they do meet those qualifications --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Our recommendation --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- as all staff --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "-- has previously been, no. But that doesn't mean that -- I'm sorry, I think there's too many mics on. That doesn't mean that we couldn't look at it holistically. And what, again, I take as my instruction from this discussion, is to analyze, not only the concerns we have under expanding the designation, but also to look holistically at how we can meet the operational needs and concerns of these two elected officials that have been expressed today."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I guess my other question is -- go ahead."

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "Just, I would like to chime in here. I -- whatever the previous analysis was, I think it is wrong. The -- the analysis legally, I believe is, they do meet the criteria of personal staff. And I think that's why Mr. Gammage starts with the oath. But I think the oath is just the beginning of why they meet the protection. My Investigators meet it because all of them are put on independent protective service of me. And I mean that in the very literal sense. In addition to that, they all take directives from me. But after that when they are out in the community, nobody represents me more, probably in some ways more than the Lawyers because they're the ones in the street, interfacing with the community under my name. And so I believe when you do the analysis and you look at it holistically, as the County Attorney has said, you will find that they do. Mr. Hermon could tell you also, and this kind of the piggyback on the Commissioner for the Mighty 6 is concerned, is that when we were hiring personal staff, I think he could tell you, we can do it twice as fast as we would be able to do other designations. And so I can get Lawyers in here faster than Investigators because of all of the archaic processes that I love so much. So in so many ways this designation, it assists us in just a practical matter. But also, legally, I think that it is sound. And we're already qualifying Investigators. So it wouldn't be like, oh, this is the first time an Investigator has been qualified as personal staff. That's just not accurate."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "That's my other question is, it sounds -- I'm sort of surprised, I guess, that there's -- it sounds like these two elected officials are having to get permission from Mr. Hermon to make a designation change. I didn't -- I feel like that's a little bit of us inserting them -- ourselves as the county side, and how are justice partners are operating their departments. And that feels like an overstep to me. So I'm sort of confused about how Mr. Hermon's become the decision maker on that."

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "And let me give you a practical example of that, and this is not to disparage anyone. Law enforcement have different roles, right."

So the Sheriff, he has people are trained to keep people in custody. That's typically what they're trained to do, and they learned all kinds of skills that I know nothing about, to do those job duties. However, because you might look at a Sheriff's Deputy, and say, oh, he's been a law enforcement officer for ten years, they qualify him as a Senior. In my office, the skill set that they've learned is not in line with the skill set that I need. Whereas, I might have an officer on the street who has done investigations, they've done search warrants, they've done geo-fencing, they know how to locate a witness, all of the skills that I need. And the county will come back and say, oh, they just qualify as a regular Investigator. And so it puts you in this bind. And I'm like, you all don't even know what I need, why I need it, or what the job responsibilities are. The other thing is, we talk about this intimacy. I can tell you, everybody in my office, my Lawyers, and my Investigators particularly, know that they report to me, and all get called down individually for things that they do. Of course, in a county this big, I have people that serve alongside me and -- and help me to facilitate that leadership. But I believe sincerely that they do meet every requirement of personal staff, and no benefit will be taken from them. What we're really asking you for is, can you help me, so I can pay my people? That's really the ask."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I think this gets to -- there's two things here. And first of all, I don't think we need to make a change in terms of inserting ourselves even more into this process, which is sort of sounds like why the discussion item was brought up. But -- but it sounds like, I'm hearing a whole additional can of worms being opened. It sounds like we need some different designations for Investigators in different departments, because they have different skill sets. That seems like a problem that I'm hearing you describe. If the personal staff option is a way to solve that problem, I don't have a -- that's fine with me. But it does seem like we have a -- several different problems going on here that we probably need to look at, whether it's, what's the chain of decision making here. I'm sort of still confused about whose legal right it is to even make this decision. At the end of the day, if it's -- if it's these elected officials' legal right to make that decision, then that's their right. If it's -- if it's ours, then it's ours. But it seems to me that -- that's the first question I need answered. And I don't -- I, so far, haven't really heard that. I've heard opinions on liability. But in terms of whose actual respond -- does anyone know whose actual responsibility this is, and where this lies? Because I'm not hearing that."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "You mean in today's policy?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean, in the law. Like --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Oh, in the law."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Whose -- whose --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "It's a legal designation. For example, in Title VII -
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COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But who decides? Does the elected official decide who gets the legal designation, or do you? Or are you just advising us? Because -- and this is my confusion."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "That is why I'm saying, you, because under the current policy, there is no specific reservation of the decision making to you. So it appears in that void, and has been treated as such that it is delegated to the County Manager and Human Resources Officer."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But they don't report to them."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "It is -- it's a legal designation regarding employment status."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But who decides which -- no, I think that -- I think we need further information on that. Because I -- I -- that doesn't make sense to me. Either they run their own departments or they don't."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So for example, they cannot make the decision that a personal staff member -- your personal staff members, for example, they cannot sue you under Title VII, because under Title VII, the definition of employee for purposes of Title VII, specifically exempts personal staff of elected officials. So it's that type of the legal designation."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right, but again, that's a -- seems to them that's it -- to me that it's up to them to have their hires, their personal staff hires sign a piece of paper, which it sounds like they do, that says they acknowledge those things to be true, and that they're choosing that form of employment. I just don't even understand why we're having this conversation, if I'm being honest."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And I don't understand why we're getting in the way."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, I think you've hit right on why we had the meeting. It didn't make logical sense, but it is our policy to have HR decide which positions become personal staff for elected officials. And that's what I said front, that it's the balance -- and Commissioner Arrington said it quite well, it's the balance of what's most efficient, what's most effective, what mitigates risk. And then ultimately, also, what keeps our leaders engaged in what they have to do. And it was that decision process in that meeting that I described, where we then arrived at, they should be doing exactly what they're advocating for. And then the alternative, you hit right on, and that is the -- the alternative to that is to reserve that decision, I suppose for the Board of

Commissioners. The other alternative, which you're alluding to is, you ascribe it to the elected officials themselves."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I'd like to see the policy changed, such that they make that designation, and they don't have to get permission from Mr. Hermon. That's what I would like to see, that's where I land on all of it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'll be brief. Just as we've seen in a couple of these, you know, previous meetings, and that sort of stuff, I'm not -- I don't like to opine to make a decision on something in the heat of the moment without having all the facts before us. We've, quite frankly, have just been burned on that. What's being presented ask, may make perfect sense. I think what your ask is, were -- or there may be some sort of nuance that needs to be kind of considered with it. I guess what your ask, Mr. Chair, is -- brings this forward is whether or not you feel -- whether or not we feel that the decision to make on that is -- rests with the Board or rest with the Manager; is that --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That sum --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- summation of your question?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, an hour and about 15 minutes later, that's it. It's a simple question. We have a --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I think it rests with us."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And it's --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I think we should briefed on the issue in full, and then make a determination, and go from there. I do -- I mean, look, I mean, everybody has got their own views on this --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- and a lot of stuff, whatever. But I mean, I do think that there -- when you -- and sometimes in an organization, there are views that people have, operating in a particular silo of the organization, about a process maybe antiquated or they don't like it or it should be changed. But in the entirety of the organization, making that change has unattended consequences. We've had that play out before. This may be perfectly fine, and there may not be any unintended consequences to it. But I do think it'd be worth us getting -- getting briefed on that by our County Attorney, understanding what the puts and takes on that, and making a decision, move on."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We'll have legislation at the next meeting. We're complicating something that's very simple. I think that Mr. Gammage has mastered coming to you to get what he wants. That's not the way public policy is made. And I think that we are this -- this county government, in my judgment, and I've been at this a long time. We're headed in the wrong direction here. This is a simple matter here. Does -- and I do not believe that the Manager has the authority to make this decision. I think it's a Board decision, that'll be an up-or-down vote. If it fails, then the Manager, he can make the decision, he can let Mr. Gammage hire everybody including the janitor, put him on his personal staff, he wants to. And this will translate, though into, see, I told you so, further on down the road. And it's also going to translate into, come budget time, as we get into the 2024 budget. So anything else on this today? Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, Mr. Chair. I think the question -- I think the question is a bit more nuanced. I think that the question is, is it the Board, the County Manager, or the elected officials themselves? And so I think that is the additional nuance. I don't think it's just, is it the Board or the County Manager? I think it is, is it the elected official, the Board, or the County Manager? And I think that third bucket creates a bigger depth, and really, we have to rely on --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I get that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- the law and maybe the --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Throw that in there, too."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Put the elected officials in there, and this -- and -- but further, it doesn't complicate it for me. But this notion of this not dealing with constitutional officers, you're totally -- but that whole issue --"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "We are --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Huh?"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "I agree with you, we are --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I said, not totally. Not Gammage."

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "You're talking about him?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Not Gammage. Yeah, not Gammage. But anyway, we'll have something at the next meeting. And hopefully --"

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "And Chairman Pitts, the only thing that I would ask, and I think that you're already doing that is that, we do this next week. Because every day, we're losing people --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, ma'am."

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "-- we have just too much work to do. So in closing, I would just ask that this is a decision that's made in an expeditious manner. And I agree with Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Rahman. I think that this is really something that the elected should have always been doing. I think that Mr. Gammage and Mr. Anderson having the conversation, and him explaining and looking at it. And you know he's conservative and he looks at this, and he realizes that these are people that take an oath to us. These are people that report directly to us, and they're people that should be designated as personal staff. You have less people to hire than me, but my guess is, because I've talked to some Commissioners, you know the frustration of trying to get someone hired in this county. And we lose good people every day we deal with that frustration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I've heard y'all make an argument today to get rid of the HR department. They seem to be a stumbling block for everything. That's a discussion for another day."

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "Well, I think what it really is, is that you shouldn't have to have 20 forms to hire one person, 10 of which asks the same thing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I agree with you, Madam DA, go back to work. We need you."

KEITH GAMMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "Thank you, all. And thank you again, Mr. County Manager."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We'll have something ready for this next meeting."

KEITH GAMMAGE, FC SOLICITOR: "Sensible approach."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else to come before us today?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, I was in the queue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm sorry."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I would just ask and reiterate again that the County Attorney gets all of that information to all of us including Commissioner Thorne. Because I think if we're going to talk about moving on this within two weeks, I think we need all the information now. And so what I -- what I would humbly ask is what I asked of you earlier, is your assessment pros, cons, and a holistic, how can we do this and still

address any concerns you -- you have from a legal perspective. And for all Commissioners to have that. Thank you."

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "May my office also provide you a writing?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, please."

FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY: "I'd just like to thank our County Manager Anderson for putting this on today."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else to come before us today?"

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

CLERK GRIER: "-- and Members of the Board, we -- I think we still have one speaker on Zoom, public comment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What happened to the -- the what do you call it, the emails."

CLERK GRIER: "Emails, we can do those also, or --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Send them. Send them."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, now, let's go back to the beginning now. Y'all voted to extend it, again, you heard --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "But they can email. I put in a motion that they email the emails."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We don't need a quorum -- just a minute. Just a minute, just a minute. Just for the record, we don't need a quorum to hear from the public. We're not voting on anything. Continue. You have as much time as you want."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay. We have Ben Howard speaking from Zoom."

BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC COMMENT: "Greetings, Commissioners and fellow citizens, Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. For the Fulton County Office of Aging, please look into the concern of Ms. VB about the tardiness and cancellations of her scheduling with the mobility bus service. To the movers and shakers of the Housing Authority of Fulton County, please correct your website. We all know Commissioner Natalie Hall did not and cannot, under state law, make two appointments to your board. Be also reminded HAFC is not a private, social club. The millions of dollars you fool around with at your semi-secretive board meetings are extracted from the taxpaying public. So no virtual meetings via Zoom, no social media, no FGTV, only in-person monitoring of what you do allowed by citizens who must travel to the Housing Authority's long-distance office, no. Please pass a motion to override that Chairperson's autocratic ban against virtual onlookers. A little more openness and transparency, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What about the email?"

CLERK GRIER: "Regarding the email --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: I put in a motion to email it to the Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. What did she say? Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now, don't tell me y'all don't want to hear from the public."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "We do, but they can email it us, Chairman."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "There's only three of us here. Motion to have the emails sent to us --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second. Seconded."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- for our review."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fails. Fails for lack of four votes. All right. Any other matters to come before us today? All right, if not, we're adjourned."

(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.)