

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

April 17, 2024  
10:00 AM



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



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**MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: May 15, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts

**10:01 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

**PRESENT**

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

**PRESENT**

Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)

**PRESENT**

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

**PRESENT**

Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)

**PRESENT**

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

**PRESENT**

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (District 6)

**PRESENT**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****24-0255 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**24-0256 Board of Commissioners**

Proclamations for Spreading on the Minutes. **(NONE)**

**Open & Responsible Government****24-0257 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement, Registration & Elections, to conduct Special Elections in conjunction with the General Election / Non-Partisan Election on May 21, 2024, and General Election Runoff on June 18, 2024, for the City of Atlanta and City of College Park. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0258 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding, Registration & Elections to conduct the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors Election in conjunction with the General Election on November 5, 2024, and Runoff Election on December 3, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0259 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement, Registration & Elections to conduct Special Elections in conjunction with the General Election on November 5, 2024, and the General Election Runoff on December 3, 2024, for City of Atlanta and City of East Point. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0260 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of Right of Entry and Access Agreement, Registration & Elections with City of Sandy Springs to utilize existing facility located at 6110 Blue Stone Road, Fulton County, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328 during 2024 Elections: General Election / Non-Partisan Election on May 21, 2024, General Election Runoff on June 18, 2024, November 5, 2024, and the General Election Runoff on December 3, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0261 Finance**

Ratification of March 2024 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****24-0263 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, March 20, 2024

Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, April 10, 2024

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**24-0262 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the Second Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by revising items #24-0275 as requested by the County Manager, #24-0280, #24-0281 as requested by Commissioner Barrett; removing item #24-0215; and by a super majority vote adding item #24-0286. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**24-0264 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Autism Awareness Month." **(Abdur-Rahman/Ellis)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****24-0265 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 sixty (60) minutes at the First Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed sixty (60) minutes at the Second Regular Meeting. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office.**

**(CONDUCTED)**

**8 Speakers: Greg Fann (Public Speaking); L.A. Pink (Fulton County Jail); Vakelvion Holmes (Item #24-0264/Crime); Mike Russell (Fulton County Sheriff Office); Paul Hershey (Decorum); Maria Gaudio (Board of Registration and Elections); Janet Hill (Deed Fraud) and Robby Caban (Lifeline/Fulton County Animal Services)**

**3 Zoom Speakers: Ben Howard (Senior Services/Housing); Caressa Kao (Crime) and Derrick D. Blassingame (Fulton County System)**

**PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD****Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority**

**24-0266 Board of Commissioners**  
**MARTA Quarterly Update (PRESENTED)**

**Invest Atlanta**

**24-0267 Board of Commissioners**  
**Invest Atlanta Briefing (PRESENTED)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****24-0268 County Manager**

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

**24-0269 Finance**

Presentation, review, and approval of April 17, 2024, Budget Soundings and Resolution. **(PRESENTED/APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**24-0270 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138805C-GS, Carpet, Carpet Installation and Repair Services Countywide in the total amount of \$345,000.00, with (A) G.S.A.T. Restoration, Inc. dba Paul Davis of North Atlanta (Norcross, GA) in the amount of \$145,000.00; (B) HPI Floor, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$125,000.00; and (C) Brad Construction Company II, LLC (Fayetteville, GA) in the amount of \$75,000.00, to provide carpet, carpet tile installation and repair services for Countywide facilities. Effective upon execution of contracts through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0271 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB122123K-DB, Demolition Services for the Super Inn Hotel and the Executive Inn Hotel in an amount not to exceed \$1,071,000.00 with Complete Demolition Services, LLC (Carrollton, GA) to provide demolition services for the Super Inn Hotel and the Executive Inn Hotel. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed for a period of 160 calendar days. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0272 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid #23ITB138801C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups C, D & G) in an amount not to exceed \$981,071.00 with (A) American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$679,630.00 for Group C (Central Libraries) and Group D (North Fulton Libraries); and (B) Good Success Company, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$301,441.00 for Group G (North and Central Senior Centers), to provide janitorial services for selected Fulton County facilities for Fulton County for the remaining eight (8) months of FY2024. Effective dates: May 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Health and Human Services****24-0245 Community Development**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Destination Tomorrow, Inc. in the amount of \$100,000.00 to support the Wellness Journey Program, a comprehensive HIV testing program aimed at increasing awareness, reducing stigma, improving access to testing services within the community and addressing all the barriers which impede a healthy productive lifestyle for individuals; and to authorize the Chairman to disburse funds and execute and administer contracts, and other related documents consistent with any necessary agreement in support of this funding allotment. The term of this Contract shall be upon approval through December 31, 2024. **(HELD ON 4/10/24) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0273 Community Development**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Inner-City Muslim Action Network Corp (IMAN Atlanta) in the amount of \$75,000.00 to complete Phase I renovations of the Wellness Center & Food Pantry located at 2179 MLK Dr. SW, Atlanta GA 30310; and to authorize the Chairman to disburse funds and execute and administer contracts, and other related documents consistent with any necessary agreement in support of this funding allotment. The term of this Contract shall be upon approval through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**Justice and Safety****24-0274 Superior Court Administration**

Request approval to extend an existing contract with A & A All County Monitoring Services, Inc. (Lawrenceville, GA), in an amount not to exceed \$305,000.00, for an additional 30 day period in order to complete the transition to the new service provider for 23RFP1208B-RT, Electronic Pretrial Monitoring Services. Effective May 1, 2024 through May 30, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to call the question.

Chairman Pitts ruled item #24-0274 was not before the Board and entertained a motion to be overruled. No motion to overrule the Chairman was made.

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

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

**Abstain:** Hall

**24-0275 Superior Court Administration**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Superior Court Administration, 23RFP1208B-RT, Electronic Pretrial Monitoring Services in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 with A 2nd Chance Monitoring (Marietta, GA), to provide electronic pretrial monitoring services for the County's Electronic Monitoring Program by coordinating and providing electronic monitoring services for those participants the County has determined to be eligible for pretrial electronic monitoring awaiting trial by and under the jurisdiction of the County. Effective May 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve sounding and voting on items #24-0274 and #24-0275 together. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to hold. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Hall, and Arrington

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

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

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Abstain:** Hall

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****24-0247 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution establishing policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD ON 4/10/24) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve with a friendly amendment by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman to allow six (6) events per quarter utilizing staff instead of once per month. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Hall, and Arrington

**Abstain:** Barrett



**24-0276 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County to clarify the definition of "officer or employee" in the Code of Ethics. **(Ellis) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Hall, and Arrington

**Abstain:** Barrett

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to call the question. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**24-0277 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of Fulton County Anti-Nepotism Policy. **(Ellis) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Barrett, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

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

**Yea:** Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

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

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**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments****24-0278****Board of Commissioners****HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (NORTHSIDE) (APPROVED)**

The Board of Commissioners shall submit a slate of three (3) names, per position, to the Hospital Authority of Fulton County, for selection of one (1) person to be appointed by the Authority for each position.

Term = 4 years, staggered

Terms below expired: 4/1/2024

Anthony Salvatore **(BOC 1)**

Kenneth Kupke **(BOC 2)**

Thomas Hills **(BOC 3)**

**The Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County (Northside) submitted the following slate of names for the Board of Commissioners' consideration to terms ending April 1, 2028. (Ellis)**

**Position #1 - Anthony Salvatore, Douglas Olson, M.D. Adam Marchak, M.D.**

**Position #2 - Kenneth Kupke, M.D., Brian Sydow, M.D., Carolyn Weaver, M.D.**

**Position #3 - Thomas Hills, Marc Sonenshine, M.D., Jennifer Amerson, M.D.**

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

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

**Nay:** Pitts

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0279 Board of Commissioners**  
**BOARD OF ETHICS (APPROVED)**

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: 2/12/2019

Vacant (**Atlanta Business League/BOC**)

**The Atlanta Business League recommended Judy Walker for a Full Board appointment to a term ending February 12, 2025.**

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

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**24-0280****Board of Commissioners****BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (APPROVED)**

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

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

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

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

Term = 2 Years

Term below expires: 6/30/2025

Patrise Perkins-Hooker **(Chair)**

**Chairman Pitts nominated Cathy Woolard to serve as Interim Chair replacing Patrise Perkins-Hooker for a Full Board appointment to an unexpired term ending June 30, 2025.**

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

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

**Abstain:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**24-0281 Board of Commissioners****BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (WITHDRAWN)**

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

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

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

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

Term = 2 Years

Term below expires: 6/30/2025

Patrise Perkins-Hooker (**Chair**)

**Commissioner Barrett has nominated Cathy Woolard to serve as ~~Interim~~ Chair replacing Patrise Perkins-Hooker for a Full Board appointment to an unexpired term ending June 30, 2025.**

**ITEM WITHDRAWN AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER BARRETT**

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****24-0215 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Time-keeping and use of temporary/part-time positions. (**Ellis**)  
**(HELD ON 4/10/24) (REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ELLIS**

**24-0251 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Election (**Thorne**) **(HELD ON 4/10/24) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER THORNE**

**24-0282 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: County Vehicles (**Ellis**) **(DISCUSSED)**

**24-0283 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Follow-up to Cherry Bekaert Procurement Review **(Pitts)**  
**(DISCUSSED)**

**24-0284 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Decorum **(Barrett)** **(DISCUSSED)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****24-0285 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 Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, Arrington, and; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.**

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

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

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

**ADDED TO THE MEETING****Items Added to the Agenda****24-0286 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for the provision of Animal Control Services between Fulton County, Georgia and the City of Atlanta. **(Pitts)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve adding item #24-0286 to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve item #24-0286. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
SECOND REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC  
***"A Court Reporting Firm"***

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning, everyone and welcome to the Second Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is Wednesday, April 17th. It is 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0255**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda - All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any items on the Consent Agenda? None, Commissioners? All right, motion to adopt the consent agenda by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."



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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 3, Second Regular Meeting Agenda, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an item requested to be added to today's meeting agenda, 24-0286: Request approval of an Inter Governmental Agreement for the provision of animal control services between Fulton County Georgia and the city of Atlanta sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We need five affirmative votes to add this to the agenda. This relates to the animal -- resuming animal service within the city of Atlanta. I assume everybody got the date. We need to have this on the agenda today, so I appreciate your favorable vote to add it. Five affirmative votes."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0262**, Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have amendments to today's agenda. First Amendment is on page 5, 24-0275, Superior Court Administration: Request approval of a recommended proposal for electronic pretrial monitoring services. This item was revised to amend the effective date and to provide scores for both firms. On page 9, we have two items for the Board of Registration and Elections, 24-0280 and 0281. This item -- both items are revised to change the wording for item number 3 on board composition. One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County which shall -- which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the board. We're striking the wording regarding Fulton County legislative delegation. And on 24-0281, Commissioner Barrett has nominated Cathy Woolard to serve as chair for a Full Board Appointment to an unexpired term ending June 30th, 2025. We're striking the word interim."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioners, anything else?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion by Commissioner Barrett. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I just have one item. I want to remove 24-0215."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which page?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Page 9 of 10. It's a discussion item. I just want to have that removed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which one?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "24-0215."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "0215. Anything else, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "No, sir."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I just want to be clear on what we're talking with 24-0275?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which page? Which page?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It is on the amendments to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "What's happening here? I'm sorry."

**CLERK GRIER:** "This item was revised to amend the effective date from May 1st to upon BOC approval and to provide the scores for both firms."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, the motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0263**, Ratification of Minutes, Recess Meeting Minutes, March 20th; Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, April 10th, 2024."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0624**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. Proclamation recognizing 'Autism Awareness Month' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Ellis."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Will the representatives of Spectrum, if you're here, please. Oh, there you go. I'm sorry. Please stand on this side. All right. Good morning, everyone. We want to take this time for a proclamation. I'm honored that this has Full Board support. This is a proclamation: WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, autism spectrum disorder, ASD affects one in 64 children in Georgia; and is defined as a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, and behavior changes. ASD begins before the age of three and lasts throughout a person's life, although symptoms may improve over time; and WHEREAS, the term spectrum refers to a wide range of signs, symptoms, skills, and level of impairment; and individuals with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from others without ASD; and WHEREAS, according to the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, children in Georgia are diagnosed at three years nine months on the average; although children can be diagnosed as early as two years old for conditions when early diagnosis helps to ensure children receive timely and appropriate care; and WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, it is important that all children to be screened for developmental delays especially those children who are at a higher risk of developmental problems due to preterm births, low birth weight, or having a brother or sister with ASD; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Health, which is to empower parents with support services through its Babies Can't Wait program for children from birth to age three years old, and through the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services for Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County encourages all parents and caregivers to monitor the developmental milestones of their children, and to be aware of possible red flags for autism spectrum disorder and joins with the public health professionals across Georgia

to hereby proclaim the month of April as 'World Autism Month' in Fulton County, Georgia. Can you please put your hands together for the recognition? Commissioner Ellis? All right, I will turn it over to Ms. Vladick."

**LAURA VLADICK, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you so much for making April, Autism Awareness Month in Fulton County. I do want to make a slight correction from CDC; the latest report is that one in 36 individuals are diagnosed with autism. So you can see that we have kind of a steady climb, but this is something that with early intervention, kids can be fully, you know, participating in life. My son was diagnosed as a four-year-old with autism, and he was a straight A student, and is now attending Berry College and thriving on the Dean's list and doing great as a freshman. So, sometimes it takes a little bit more accommodations for people, but their needs can be met, and they can be successful, thriving individuals and adults. We have a number of adults being actually diagnosed with autism. So Spectrum Autism Support, where I work, we have been around for a nonprofit for 25 years, we celebrated our anniversary last year, and we have a new center in downtown Duluth on Main Street, and we help both the children and the adults with social skills programs. We help the parents with support programs. We have day camps for them in the summer because a lot of kids, especially when they're younger, have behaviors that the daycares can't handle and don't want to handle, frankly, and you want them to be in a safer environment where they can understand their needs and be able to take care of them in a loving way, especially, if the parents have to work. So these are the types of programs that we fund. We appreciate any donations or any sponsorships. I need companies always to sponsor like our Georgia Race for Autism, which is in the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds on October 5th. Anything is welcome. My website is [spectrumautism.org](http://spectrumautism.org), and I just appreciate this honor. Again Laura Vladick, Development Director. And if anyone has any questions, I can stay around for little bit to wait. Thank you."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 3, Public Hearings **24-0265**, 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 on the County website [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we'll start with speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have

received eight speaker cards. Will the first five speakers, please come forward: Greg Fann, LA Pink, Vakelvion Holmes, Mike Russell, and Paul Hershey."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, before we begin, first of all, each speaker has two minutes and when you have 15 seconds remaining, I will say 15 seconds. That's your clue to begin to terminate your remarks. But I'd like to say that probably our last meeting was not one of our finest hours from a decorum point of view. I've gotten several calls and even as early as this morning when I was meeting with John Hopper from Grady. He mentioned he saw something on what is it, this social media stuff; internet, whatever that is -- what it is. Social -- Twitter and all of that, about that meeting. So I would encourage the public to be respectful of the Board; and I would ask and encourage Members of the Board to be respectful of the public and of each other. Thank you."

**GREG FANN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I appreciate you saying that, Mr. Chair, but I am going to address Ms. Thorne this morning. She called my name at the last meeting. Ms. Thorne, let me just ask that you -- I worked for this County for 25 years, I was the President of the Union 20 of those years, and I worked in the Department of Public Works. And every Commissioner who decided for us to come and be with them at a meeting to discuss things to the citizens because they didn't have the answer. And, you know, I know your Resolution -- what you're trying to do it or you're attempting to do. Don't say that I don't know what I'm talking about because I do. I really do. Because there were weeks and weeks that you came down here, campaigning, talking about stuff that you didn't know what you were talking about. So don't ever use my name and say that I don't know what I'm talking about. If you want to discuss something with me privately or publicly, you got staff; you can call me and we can talk. I do that with everybody down here. But Commissioner Ellis told me, when he first came, he said, Greg, don't do that no more what you did. You remember? You said it to me, because you said, Greg don't do it. And I won't do it. I don't believe in -- I believe in being respectful, but I need for you to be respectful also to, okay? And remember that I'm a taxpayer, and you have to respect the taxpayer. Don't call my name anymore because if you do, it won't be the same. Thank you. God bless you and God bless your family and God bless America. Thank you."

**LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Well, well, well. I'm glad that you addressed how we should address you guys, because being that we have so much corruption that have already broken and violated every rights of ours, and that's the community. So, I just have a couple of questions because it got whiff to me that Andrew Boones is collecting money for Commissioner Hall, chasing balls; and Al -- I mean, Ali Carter, and we have a very serious problems with that. I got whiff that it will go away, you know, eventually for her to run again, you know, we will eventually just forget that she was chasing balls through county hall, and nothing would be done about it. Absolutely not. Today, we are asking for Chris Carr to do a forensic investigation. If we have to call out every name down here, trust me people's coming. I'm not coming down here for nothing. There's stuff down the pipeline, believe that, trust me. So while everybody be sitting there, not listening, acting like stuff is not being done, we got a Sheriff right now that put a TPO

against me because he is scared of what I'm saying online. Then we got Ike Arrington sitting over here blowing kisses, disrespectful. How disrespectful is that in public of the people? To a married woman -- my husband don't put his hands on me. So I'm very, very happy; but very disrespectful. Some things need to be addressed while we're bringing order. Let's bring all the way the order, because I'm telling y'all I got a pass to come for y'all's ass."

**VAKELVION HOLMES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "First of all, I want to thank you guys for the autism. My son, he suffered from autism, and he was one that murdered out in Clayton County, seven charges, and that officer walked free. Mr. Arrington, I've never addressed you. I stood with several parents including the parent of Jarvis Likes, the mother of Jarvis Likes, and I just want you to understand outside of you sitting here, everyone is coming for your bar. As a parent, it's hard, okay? And you're sitting here in front of these Commissioners and you realize that the public may not understand what the truth is, but we do. And we understand that even when you guys are holding up cases and saying that the officers are free to walk, the citizens are paying for it, okay? They don't understand what their tax dollars are doing. So thank you guys for admitting to the autism and things like that, but I want Commissioners -- and standing in front of you guys to take your job serious. Thank you Dana, I met yet an event with the Southern Rights -- the Southern Center for Human Rights. Thank you, Khadijah, I'm always seeing you. You standing, you know, I can call you to phases out for being in the community, because the community is paying. Understand that. So the community is paying for you guys to sit here. The community is paying for you guys to do a job and it means something. Let the tax citizens know when you guys are saying, it's, okay, for Commissioners to do what they want to do on a job. The citizens are paying. So it's, okay to you if it's not coming out your wallet, but the taxpayers are paying. It's, okay, for our kids to be murdered out here on the streets. Officers to walk away with seven charges if it's not coming out of your pocket, but the citizens are paying. It's, okay, for Commissioners to sit here, hold jobs as Commissioners and lawyers and fail the people. It's, okay, right? But the citizens are paying."

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

**VAKELVION HOLMES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "When I tell y'all I will not hush, I will not hush. The parents will not hush. We will continue to stand, and we would let these citizens know that they are paying for our kids to be gone, okay? Make it matter to you. No matter what you have done, make it matter to you."

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. The first thing I want to say is I want to congratulate Chairman Pitts and others who stood firm on the animal control bill and hopefully we'll move forward and the city will pay their fair share because we need that service immediately. My main point today -- the main topic is once again, I'm calling for a full independent investigation of forensic audit of the Sheriff's office. How much more is it going to take before we get four votes to investigate the Sheriff's office? We've had the two recent deaths amongst all the others; one in which the crime scene



was corrupted before the investigator got there. How much more is it going to take? They blamed the jail, but the jail did not corrupt that crime scene. The Sheriff went out and spent, as we know from the independent report, misused inmate welfare fund. The jail didn't do that. We know the Sheriff went out and bought a \$200,000 Mercedes Benz van that looks like something off Pimp My Ride that he's claiming as a control center -- an emergency mobile control center. The jail didn't do that. The Sheriff did. So what is it going to take? The jail didn't go to Martha's Vineyard with Mr. Arrington, the Sheriff did, on our dime. What did we get for that? What did the taxpayers get for that? We need an investigation, starting a forensic audit, today. And Chairman Pitts, sir, a lot of folks look to you for leadership, wisdom, and being the voice of reason. I'm asking you to put your weight behind this so that we can get four votes today. We know this needs to be done. It has to be done. We're the laughingstock of the nation."

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

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I have even got a call this week from overseas about Fulton County and its corruption. This has got to end. We need four votes today to start an investigation and a forensic audit. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last three speakers in Assembly Hall please come forward: Maria Gaudio, Janet Hill, and Robby Caban."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Paul Hershey. And again, I would like to commend Chairman Pitts for his opening comments today. But let's talk about your performance last week at our last meeting. We have -- we have a Commissioner telling the Chairman and Vice Chair to shut up. That's a breach of ungentlemanly conduct. We have him attacking Bridget Thorne, Commissioner, on an item that was discussed at the retreat that her and Natalie Hall were supposed to come up with a recommendation for the use and the part-time use of employees, and he said he didn't know anything about it. I guess he missed the retreat. He's blowing kisses to the Pink Lady. That's a sexual-harassment and unwanted sexual advances, and he should resign right now. That's a breach of ethics and that's going to come. Then the Election in 2020 is going to be reviewed May 7th on Fulton County because the Board of Elections aren't doing their job. And then lastly, but not leastly, we have Commissioner Arrington that says we don't need to get the million-dollar taxpayer money back for the sexual-harassment that was convicted from Ms. Hall. Well, the bottom line is that means that every person in Fulton County is now got standing to cross the line -- district lines and recall Natalie Hall. That's going to happen. That's going to be addressed May 7th at the State Board of Elections. The bottom line is, do your job."

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

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "You've got two audits that basically said there's malfeasance and lack of protocol for spending."

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Thank you. Maria Gaudio, Fulton County. With regard to the resignation of Patrise Perkins-Hooker and the replacement of Cathy Woolard, wholly totally inappropriate. Two years ago on October 13th of 2022, Cathy Woolard entered into a contract to sign over the election data that says: The state of Georgia signed a treaty with the Carter Center, October 13, 2022. Georgia agreed to transfer all the data about its residents and voters to the Carter Center's data centers in Atlanta and Beijing, China. Under what authority, Ms. Barrett -- I mean, come on. You got to be kidding. Cathy Woolard has overstepped her bounds. She does not have the authorization. She's not an elected official to give the state of Georgia, let alone Fulton County, any of our data, especially when the Board of Registrations board members have been asking for data and Nadine cannot, it's only a few keystrokes, to pull up a few lists. They still have not received lists from Nadine. What is Nadine doing for her \$185,000? Nothing. It should be given to the poor. It would be of more use. And certainly not Cathy Woolard who is a partisan hack for the unfair fight action people. Giving our data to China? Absolutely not."

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

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you, sir."

**JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Excuse me. I'm here again now for more than five times to respectfully demand an end to deed fraud, forgery, property theft, and other offenses. At a recent town hall that was hosted by Bridget Thorne, thank you, Commissioner Thorne, Che Alexander responded to this issue for a strategy to address deed fraud by suggesting that there should be some type of interaction with the DA. But at the same time, mentioned that the police department doesn't know what to do. At a minimum, according to APD, SOP -- excuse me -- SOP 5220, the Atlanta Police is to investigate reported crimes involving fraud. In my case, in particular, Susan Property Management admitted fraud to at least eight law enforcement officers, three judges, and nothing has been done. These crimes are systemic and escalating at a rapid rate affecting seniors, veterans, single women, head of household, and primarily African-American, our most vulnerable population. This needs to stop. Thank you."

**ROBBIE CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I want to second what Pink has stated in terms of corruption, and I think it's laughable that anyone would talk about respect. You've added an agenda item that is completely fraudulent."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Could you speak up, ma'am?"

**ROBBIE CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."



**ROBBIE CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. You've added an agenda item that is completely fraudulent. I've sent you e-mail after e-mail with whistleblowers from Fulton County Animal Services managed by Lifeline Animal Project with audio, video, showing breach of contract. Showing they're not enforcing our laws, and you're about to have city of Atlanta taxpayers like me pay for a contract that's not performing under Lifeline, and none of you will do anything about it. That is fraud. That is corruption. That is not respectful. How can you talk about respect? That's a question. You want me to pay for something that's not being done? You have seen whistleblowers, staff members, supervisors, animal control officers, dispatchers, they called, they've e-mailed Alton Adams. Where did he go, because he was here before you, Dana Barrett, and he told Mandy, Amanda Brennan, I don't want to be involved in your legal entanglements because the staff is under duress under Lifeline. You're going to make us pay for something that's not being done, that is malfeasance, fraud, corruption. What else -- people know about the mass incarceration complex with prisoners? What a lot of people don't know is that the animal -- companion animal industrial complex, where animals make bank for NGOs who are tax-exempt who raise funds, and I guess they're giving them back to you because you all appear corrupt. I'm not going to pay for something that's not being done. Ask Logan Brett's mother how long she had to be in court with lifeline who got zero --"

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

**ROBBIE CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- the little boy, mauled to death on our street. You have the same vendor with whistleblowers year after year. Investigate it."

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

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

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings, Commissioners and staff; and special greetings, fellow citizen. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, and Public Policy Analyst. The Georgia Council on Aging is accepting recommendations for issues to be presented through the Georgia State Legislature in January. For information call (404)281-0430. (404)281-0430. Each April, HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, partners with fair housing advocates and organizations to recognize April as Fair Housing Month. The aim is to underscore the Fair Housing Act to raise awareness of fair housing rights and responsibilities and among other things, to highlight fair housing enforcement efforts. So to the movers and shakers of the Housing Authority of Fulton County, I call upon you to be creative enough and ambitious enough to develop an annual event which would demonstrate and implicate Fulton County's commitment to fair housing principles. We'll stay tuned."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Caressa Kao. Caressa Kao."

**CARESSA KAO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**CARESSA KAO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Caressa Kao. I live in the city of South Fulton on Clark Road. For the past number of years, my husband who is Asian and I'm African-American woman, have been dealing with anti-Asian hate directed by people we do not know. One of them being deputy -- Clayton County Deputy Jamaal Hunter. South Fulton Police have helped them apparently, because we go to the city council, we have e-mailed everybody; and basically I'm sick of it. I don't even care anymore. I'm not asking for help. I'm just letting you know for what I seen from everybody else, I'm going to keep it a buck. Either you handle these criminals in your community. Either you handle these miscreants and scum, or people are going to have to make sure that they're safe by any means necessary. We are tired. We pay taxes. We want to be able to sleep. The fact that I have people coming to my house, taking pictures of my children; I am disgusted and livid. So there needs to be a final solution to this problem. That being said, have a good day because this crap is going to end."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Bethany Lange. Bethany Lange, excuse me. Okay. The next person to speak is Derrick Blassingame. Derrick Blassingame."

**DERRICK BLASSINGAME, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay, yeah. Thank you for the time and the opportunity. As I said last week during the conversation with you all, you know, guys like me, we've reached a (inaudible) of our devotion to your system that has kept us incarcerated in your court systems, unemployed, underemployed, sleeping under your bridges, behind dumpsters, you know, soup kitchens for no reason other than because of our perceived or sexual orientation. We are sick and tired of being deprived of life, liberty, and a pursuit of happiness. We are sick and tired of being called sir, when, in fact, you mean to say heterosexual. We are sick and tired of black women exploiting us for their purpose, existence, and agenda. And we are sick and tired of white women sacrificing us when we refuse to live as a gay man rather than the man that our grandparents, great-grandmother, mothers, and fathers raised us to be. We have carried your weight; we have worn your emotional and mental scars and illnesses. We have fought for your causes, we have bore your stripes, we have marched for you and with you. We have arrived. We are of the citizens of those incarcerated in the 1990s due to Joe Biden's 1994 Omnibus Crime bill. We are those unjustly targeted and criminalized by the government; we have arrived. We are here once again to declare that the check is insufficient. We do not seek any handouts. We do, however, seek re-compensation and just due for our labor, sacrifice, and involuntary participation in your various programs and reprogramming. I would like to also commend Commissioner Bill [Verbatim.] Ellis for continuing to focus on ethics, procurement, and making sure that we

are financially secure and stable and able to overcome all of these inequities as far as financial spending is concerned in this county. Derrick Blassingame, the government watchdog."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right, Madam Clerk. Nothing else? Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I would like to take a point of personal privilege, if my colleagues do not mind. To the many people who reached out to me over the past week, I would like to thank you for your outreach and concerns. As a domestic abuse survivor, I understand that last week's meeting was, in fact, a trigger for many women and men who have been victims of domestic violence, and to you I offer my sincerest apology for what you watched last week. When I sit here and I watch executive leadership, when I watch presenters, when I watch colleagues get screamed at, as well as myself, it's not a good feeling. However, I want to ensure you that your feelings, as well as mine, are valid and it's important. It's never the intention of this body to cause harm or trigger anyone with our words or actions. I will be candid at this point and tell you that it does seem like the political theater of Fulton County has become a local reality show and that is not a good thing. I have decided for myself that I'm either going to be part of the problem or I'm going to be part of the solution. I ask that you join me, as well as my colleagues, in professional behavior, but stronger consequences when at any time we do go off the rail. Your strength and resilience has inspired me to be a better advocate and an ally for survivors of domestic violence. Thank you for all your courage in sharing your stories. Together, I know we can work creating a world free from abuse and domestic terrorism in any form. Let us continue to stand together in solidarity to combat the environment right now. I am not proud of what you saw last week, and I will assure you moving forward that I will do everything in my power to make sure that I hold myself accountable, but also hold all of my colleagues accountable. Your courage and your resilience in reaching out to me in the thousands are an inspiration to me. Thank you for your strength and commitment to making a difference, and today I am committed to that difference. Thank you."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 3, Presentations to the Board, **24-0266**: MARTA Quarterly Update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning, sir. Welcome."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Good morning, sir. Thank you. Good morning, everyone; Collie Greenwood, General Manager and CEO of MARTA. Grateful

for this opportunity to go through our Quarter 2 briefing. If I could get the clicker for the next slide presentation that would be -- oh, thank you. All right, so if we go on to the first slide --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Who's with you, Mr. Greenwood? Who's with you? Who's with you?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Thank you. We have -- watching on line we have our board member, Stacey Blakely, Freda Hardage, and Al Pond, and MARTA staff here are Carrie Rocha, Jennifer LaRosa, and Colleen Kerrin. All right, so thank you all. This first -- no, back one, please. Thank you. This first slide I really -- I wanted to dwell for a second just to recognize the fact that this is the second bus that we wrapped to recognize the Civil Rights Icons this year in marketing the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. The Juanita Jones Abernathy's bus is shown in the picture. She served on the MARTA Board for over 16 years and advocated tirelessly for our customers. Thank you, Commissioner Hall, for joining us on April 11th at the event with the Abernathy family. Next slide, please. This slide just goes through the agenda. Next slide identifies the fact that operations updates are next. And the next slide is our ridership chart. Now, it's only been six or seven weeks since we last week met, so the slide is the same. It's a four-year outlook, so six or seven weeks isn't really showing a difference here except for the fact that all of the modes are starting to trend upwards again, so we're happy to see that. You know, in the meantime, I can say that this is a two-dimensional depiction of what's happening in our ridership. It doesn't represent what's happening at MARTA completely. MARTA is doing a lot to make sure that we are ready for the next wave of growth as we all know that is coming. I want to remind everyone that we've done things like a 23 percent reduction in part one crimes over the last two years. I want to remind people the station cleanliness campaign is alive and well, gleaning lot of accolades everywhere from, you know customers to the Capitol. I want to remind people that the station lightning campaign is now visible in 14 of our 38 stations with the next level is brighter in each of these stations, but we won't stop until they're all finished. Those stations include Civic Center, North Avenue, and Medical Center. The MARTA Hope Campaign is alive and well with 33,000 engagements in the past three years; 1,400 placements; 4,400 referrals, and 90 family reunifications. The smart restrooms are alive and well and moving quickly through the area. Four complete -- four more by January 2025, and we'll have one every couple of months leading up to the World Cup. Station renovations, new vehicles, and frankly nailing it when we're called upon during major events, concerts, and world-class sporting events. We're expanding our scope of services with investigation of new things like rapid routes, in-fill rail stations, and reimaged bus network. And we have a nationally recognized transit-oriented development program aimed at building density, growing ridership, and developing the economy. So I just wanted to point that out as we continue to track along those two-dimensional chart that MARTA is more than just the ever increasing ridership chart. Next slide, please. Let's take a look at the bus shelters and amenities: You can see here that we have a commitment for a five fiscal year total of 250. In order to do that, we will have to get 126 in FY24. Very confident that we will do that because of the 126

required. You can see here that 87 are installed, and the balance, 39 are moving whether in construction design or permitting. Next slide, please. This next slide talks about the, you know, it's really a picture of that, but statistics are one thing, but here's what it really means to the customer: A lot of support and a managed space increasing levels of personal health and safety and sense of security in the community. Next slide, please. Just touching base on the security issue; I mentioned earlier that we had a 23 percent decrease in part one crimes. We've also had a 42 percent decrease in operator assaults. A lot of credit being -- a lot of credit is deserved by the MPD, and in this case, working with APD on the bike program. We've also done 5,000 temporary or year-long system suspensions under the ride with respect program and over 70 permanent bans in 2022 and 2023. The actions and the efforts of the MPD have been recognized by the American Public Transit Association. The photo on the right shows them receiving the gold award for their efforts in this space and being named one of the safest transit systems in the country. Next slide, please. The budget: So we are working through our budget now. We're preparing that and we will be sharing that with each Commission office for feedback during the second week of May. There are our dates where we'll be public on May 15th in DeKalb, May 16th in Fulton, and from there we will move through the MARTA board process for approval. Next slide, please. Next slide again, under the capital program; I'm pleased to say that we've got good process moving on five plans. The finding of the most significant impact the Fonsi was signed off on March 25, which is the final environment document required for us to get moving. We are now working with -- the board has also approved, on April 11th, approved our demolition contract with Skanska. So we're now finalizing that contract and moving through the paper grant agreement process, and we expect that this summer work will begin. Of course, that means we will relocate eight bus routes, some of them to Georgia State, some of them to Garnett while we do this work. And I'll remind everyone that it means that the -- while the train traffic will be open through Five Points northbound, southbound, eastbound, and westbound, the concourse level and the plaza level will be closed to pedestrian traffic so we can get this work done as quickly as possible. Next slide, please. Airport station is also making headlines doing well, showing a lot of progress. You can see here that, you know, all the work that's being done already. There's a lot of social media depicting the mess that we've made in the name of progress, and we're very confident that this six-week closure will be exactly what we need to progress the program to its -- to its natural conclusion. While we are doing that, I'll remind everyone that we do have ten coach buses that are filling the gap, so what's happening now is the trains are stopping at College Park station, and we have coach buses shuttling people from College Park to Airport and vice versa. They're busy 22 hours a day. They are full most times, very high reliability. There's assistance with luggage and a high reliability on that campaign with 12-minute head-ways and about ten minutes travel time between the stations. Next slide, please. We mentioned College Park Station. It's worth mentioning also that College Park is also getting a facelift. You can see here all of the parking lot and concourse issues that have been addressed already. The landscaping of the concrete islands, painting of light pole bases and curbs, asphalt binder on top layer, placement on the asphalt, parking striping and parking spaces, and, of course, security cameras. So the work on the station itself will continue with the concourse design



progressing and I expect work on the platform will begin in late May, early June, and finished in December of 2026. Next slide, please. More work to talk about on the I-285 express lane transit. This is the study program that's been going on that MARTA is leading. And the project team is doing very, very well. The policy working group and technical working group are now meeting regularly, and as the station locations are being evaluated, we are looking at the potential demographics that are being affected by the project. Here's one example of that work and that's really talking about -- the red dots are those that are transit dependent, cost burdened, and lacking access; and the yellow dots are those that are transit dependent and cost burdened. So these are the populations being prioritized in station location and design considerations. One other piece of information that we gleaned is that you'll look at the apex of the ark and you'll realize that about 88 percent of all travelers go as far as the perimeter center at the top and not beyond to the other side of the ark. So that will inform whether or not the bus on the rapid transit starts at one end and goes all the way around or simply does a short turn at the middle being more useful to more people more times. Next slide, please. In other MARTA news, next slide. Earth Day is April 22nd. That's Monday, but we're starting early. On Saturday, April 20th we'll have a global growth community garden, and that is an opportunity for MARTA to celebrate a diverse network of farmers growing food for refugees and local markets. So on that day, we invite you to join us, spend the day learning about pollinators and gardening, touring the gardens with East African women who run it, and then purchasing fresh locally grown produce to take home. It's a fund-free, family-friendly event. And later that day, the Atlanta electric vehicle car show is going on. Again, you can see EVs of all makes and models, ask questions of the owners, and check out EVs from different manufacturers; again, a family event. And finally, next slide, please. Thank you. Our art bound program: Just a reminder, we are seeking more than 20 artists to design art for our rapid transit shelters across metro Atlanta. And art bound is also seeking an artist to create a design for the pedestrian bridge -- not the bridge, the bridge screen. We let engineers design the bridge, but artists will do the bridge screen. The application deadline is today, but I wanted to mention it just one more time, and you can apply at the links seen down on the lower left corner, [MARTA.slideroom.com](https://MARTA.slideroom.com). Last quarter, you remember we announced that MARTA art bound would host a special black history month event at College Park Station; that was on February 29th, featuring Atlanta artists Rafael Von Winda doing a live painting celebrating black history and culture. And so, here you can see a photo from the live painting in progress. And lastly, in partnership with the Fulton County Public Art Program, we'd like to announce that the 2024 public art future residents are Mira Kaufman and Owen Rahm who will help us explore production of 3D and collectibles. Thank you, Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Mr. Greenwood. Commissioner Arrington followed by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Good morning Mr. Greenwood."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Good morning, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "What is the timeline again for the Five Points station?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "So, yeah. Five Points -- we'll start working immediately this summer, start dismantling. It's our expectation that this work at a minimum is going to be phased into two phases; one being ready -- extensively ready in terms of safety and operations and some level of engagements and aesthetics by the time the World Cup comes around, but the project itself won't be completed until after the World Cup."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. Mr. Greenwood, thank you for being here. You know I'm a big fan of MARTA. However, I do want to bring to your attention a couple concerns of mine. And we can have an off-line conversation, if you'd like. I have starting as about two weeks ago, I started receiving calls about the bus operators feeling as though they were being phased out by contract workers. And the second call that I received was about the safety of the buses. I have had some operators to reach out to me and tell me, in their opinion, here this is -- I'm only repeating to you what they said -- that certain measures are not being done or the very tight safety factors that you've had in place are beginning to be a little lax. And so, these are two concerns that have been brought to my attention. Like I said before I started this, I am a big fan of MARTA. I will continue to be a big fan of MARTA. But, you know, we do have to take the bad with the good. So if there are concerns or any things that you may be aware of that have been rectified, I want to give you an opportunity to speak."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Thank you, Commissioner. I appreciate you being a fan, and I can assure you we will continue to earn that status. In terms of bus drivers feeling that they're being phased out with contract work that is far from the truth. Contract work only comes in when there are no operators to be found. In the case of the airport, this is, you know, the world's busiest airport, a major disruption to the people that live and work here. We've had to guarantee a reliable level of service. Currently, our operators are exposing us to absent rates in excess of 18 and 20 percent. So, in fact, this week I've been updated that the operator absenteeism rate is in excess of 25 percent. That kind of number doesn't allow us to produce the kind of reliability that the customers and the public deserves. And so, that is why we are using this as an option. We continue to work with the union, with ATU, in seeking opportunities for us to A) improve operator absenteeism and, B) work out a process by which they will continue to have first right of refusal for all overtime work, as is the case today. So that's that. In terms of safety, I mean there's nothing more important to MARTA or any transit agency than safety, and vehicle safety is chief among them. So I'd be happy to talk offline in

specifics, but there is no truth to the concept that MARTA is relaxing its safety protocol in any way."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you. I appreciate you for addressing that."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't know what page this is because there's no page numbers, but at the top it says airport station rehab and it looks like it's --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "It's page 10. Right there, yeah."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, that one. The timeline says first six-week closure April 8th to May 19th. The way that it's written, does this mean that this is first of several closures, or is the -- you're shaking your head."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Great question. Yes, thank you for that. We divided the work -- I mean there's a lot of work that has to happen in the closures and outside of the closures. This closure is going to save us 15 months; is that right, Carrie? Oh, thank you. The six-week closure saves us 17 months of otherwise, you know, of project time. If required, there is a second closure that's in our schedule for early 2026, in order to make sure that we're ready for the World Cup, but that's if required. At this point, you know, they're in -- in week one or week two of the shutdown, so it's hard to tell; but at this point we're very pleased with the level of progress. They're ahead of schedule, as we speak now."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great. Thank you. And then on -- I sense -- if that is page -- what was -- what did you say, 10?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "That was 10, I believe."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. That was ten then go to page 12. The title says I-285 express lane transit, and when I looked at this, I was -- let's see, because I don't need -- I'm not old enough to need reading glass, I guess. So the thick blue line says I-28 ELT study corridor, and it stops above I-20. Is there nothing happening on the southern part of Fulton County because this is all north of I-20? Is there any thing planned for the southern part of Fulton County?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Right. That's a great question. This project is a northern arc from, you know, East-West Station to the western point and doing an arc all around. That's the current funding, the current study that's ongoing. There is -- I mean there are conceptually matters that we want to on the southside, but at this point there's been no funding identified. So we will continue to work with our partners, our



southern contingencies. But that project or that concept is not at a point where I could actually bring it to this forum to talk about plans. We don't have that yet."

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

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "You're welcome."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, other questions or comments?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "None. Thank you, Mr. Greenwood. See you next quarter. Madam Clerk, continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4, **24-0267**, Invest Atlanta Briefing."

**DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, PRESIDENT/CEO, INVEST ATLANTA:** "Good morning, Commissioners. It's a pleasure to be here and thank you very much for having us. My name is Dr. Eloise Klementich, and I'm the proud president and CO at Invest Atlanta. So today's presentation, since it's quarterly, I'll start off with the very overview of 2023, and then I'm going to allow my colleague, Jennifer Fine, to speak about some projects that we funded in Q1 of 2024. Did I move this or you? Next slide. Thank you. So this is a reminder for those that are watching us on the screen. There were ten -- there were ten TADS, tax allocation districts. One has been closed, so there are nine tax allocation districts in the city of Atlanta and Fulton County. Next slide. So, we're excited to present the 2023 results on a very high level. First off, I want to thank the Board. Because of your commitment, we were able to fund 19 projects in five of our TADS, and this resulted in a leveraged amount and investment in the county of \$409 million in private investment. And what does that mean for the average day, or for all of us as citizens? It means that there are 1,131 housing units of which 1,050 were affordable housing, and that means affordable housing for 20 plus years in the city of Atlanta. And we were able to activate some of the commercial space in the city and in the county. So now I'm going to move into Jennifer who is going to talk and highlight just specifically, because the numbers say one thing, but is not until you actually see the projects that make it very real. Jennifer."

**JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA:** "Thank you. Next slide, please. Okay. I'll flip through these. Next slide, please. Next slide, please. We're going to try to get one more. Try to get to the images and I can reference -- there we go. So the previous maps that I just went through really quickly just identify exactly where these projects are so you can see kind of the breath and range of location. These three slides are going to give you a visual perspective on a few of these projects. And again, the range of impact, not only on the built environment, but obviously to the residences and the

business owners in Fulton County, as well as people who work in Fulton County. The image on the top is the residences that shows Wood Park. This received a \$2 million beltline TAD increment grant for the construction of 107 multifamily housing units and it shows Wood neighborhood adjacent to the beltline Southside trail. Ninety of the 107 units will be rented at 50 to 60 percent of area median income, so deeply discounted. The bottom image similarly is Trinity Flats. This is a project where very excited about because it gets into another piece of work that Invest Atlanta does in terms of the disposition of city-owned properties and assets. This is a property across the street from City Hall, less than an acre. Invest Atlanta is layering several of our financing tools to try to get this project across the finish line. What we're finding in particular in residential projects but all projects, very difficult to get completely financed for lots of different reasons. So in addition to a \$3 million Eastside TAD grant, we're also layering tax-exempt bond financing, as well as city of Atlanta housing opportunity, bond financing to get this project done. Hopefully, when completed by the end of 2026, it will include 218 units of housing, all of which will range between 50 and 80 percent of area median income. It'll also have about 7500 square feet of commercial to really try to activate Central Avenue, which is a difficult corridor in terms of being pedestrian friendly. And so hopefully, this project is going to help that. Next slide, please. Image on the top shows the expansion of the existing -- oops, sorry, previous slide. There we go. Thank you. Previous -- this is the existing Salvation Army shelter on Marietta Street. It's going to be converted into a modern multipurpose homeless shelter, transitional living facility, and workforce development center. It received a two million-dollar Westside TAD grant to help complete the 30 million-dollar project that will double the bed count, which is its core operation. We, in the Salvation Army, want to thank this Body; this project came to you last year for approval, so we thank you for that. And this project has had to its steam. Additionally our partner organization, Atlanta Emerging Markets also layered in some new market tax credits. So again, multiple tools being used to get these projects up and running. The images on the bottom are of the redevelopment on the lawn vacant Grove Park Theatre into the Grove Park Performing Arts and Cultural Center in the heart of the Grove Park neighborhood; and \$830,000 Perry-Bolton TAD grant was used to completely -- will be used to completely renovate and rehabilitate and add square footage to the property to provide not only contemporary space for the arts, but also accommodate a lot of need for community serving business and retail to the neighborhood. Next slide, please. I think this one should be the last slide. So the top images show the new construction of pedestrian scale multifamily along Joseph E. Boone Boulevard in the English Avenue neighborhood. A \$900,000 Westside TAD grant was awarded to the Westside Future Fund, that's a part of this nine million-dollar capital stack, to bring 33 units of affordable housing again to the Westside in English Avenue. In addition, this project will have about 1,200 square feet of commercial space since Boone Boulevard is very much an active commercial corridor. All units will be restricted with rents ranging between 30 and 80 percent of area median income. And then lastly, the bottom image, also a project by the Westside Future Fund, new construction of 24 units of multifamily development at the intersection of Donald Lee Hollowell and Northside Drive, also in English Avenue. Invest Atlanta provided a \$640,000 Westside TAD grant again to the Westside Future fund for this development. It's an investment of

about \$6.5 million into the community. Completion expected in mid 2025. And so, just these two projects alone represent 57 units of deeply discounted, affordable and workforce housing that will be restricted for at least 30 years. So we're very proud of that duration of affordability. And I think, Dr. Klementich, you wanted to mention a couple of things about these projects?"

**DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, PRESIDENT/CEO, INVEST ATLANTA:** "Yes. These two projects, 839 and 646, and I'll add one more. It's 385 Joseph Lowery, still need to come to this Board for approval, so I just wanted to flag that for you. Together, they will represent 89 affordable -- 89 units of which 73 will be affordable; that's 82 percent. So it does not require any additional funding by this Board, only approval. And we believe that this is important for our communities and to be able to continue to live in their communities and sustain themselves in a way that's affordable to them. So with that, we've moved any specific financials on each of the TADS to the appendix, but we have that information, and I thank Nino for joining me. Nino is our CFO at Invest Atlanta, and I'd open it up to any questions that the Commissioners may have. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership in asking that we have a regular quarterly report from Invest Atlanta. I think it's good for us to know as a Body and for the public to know what Fulton County's contribution is to some of this development within Atlanta; and just for us to have a sense of how the TAD dollars are being spent, so thank you for that. Dr. Klementich and team, Jennifer, Nino, thank you guys for being here. I want to commend you also for taking this approach as an organization and in your leadership on this, Dr. Klementich, too, always look to include community benefit when you're looking at economic development. I think it's hugely important, and the idea that you are always looking to include affordable housing, looking at things like food deserts, public health deserts, and all those things I think are just critically important. So thank you for your leadership on that. And then I just want to ask you one clarifying question on the three items that you mentioned that will come before the Board. I know you mentioned no additional funding, which I think is an important point, but also just reiterate for everybody. This is because of a quirk in the way one of those TADS is written; is that correct?"

**DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, PRESIDENT/CEO, INVEST ATLANTA:** "That's correct, yes. The Westside TAD specifically states any project in the Westside TAD needs to come back to this Body. So after it gets voted on by the Invest Atlanta Board of which thank you for your participation, it needs to come here; but again, I'll just reiterate, no additional funding. We just need to ensure that we can get your approval."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah. I just want to make it clear that that's -- that all of the projects don't come, just several, and it's because of this work. Thank you very much."

**DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, PRESIDENT/CEO, INVEST ATLANTA:** "You're welcome."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** ""All right, other questions? Any other questions or comments? Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "On the TAD Activity Report, where do the numbers -- it says like, for instance, the top line, 495, and then 1.45. Is that Fulton County's portion in that column, and then the overall of all contributors to that TAD? I don't know what chart it is -- it was this chart, whatever this chart is."

**DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, PRESIDENT/CEO, INVEST ATLANTA:** "Oh, this one here."

**JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA:** "Oh, okay, got you. So you're asking about the numbers on the very last row?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, it has had -- you know, headers for leverage, but the two prior numbers, it doesn't have any heading on it."

**JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA:** "Oh, I see. I see. The number on the furthest left column, that's the amount of TAD money that was awarded to the project."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA:** "And then the column to the right of that is total project cost. And then the leverage is just the difference between the two."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And is there anywhere --"

**JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA:** "-- it's very small on my printout, so I hope I -  
\_"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, no, no. That's great. I appreciate all of the detail and all that you've put in to this presentation."

**JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA:** "I will make sure you all see the numbers, but it's no -- yeah, it's just TAD funding, total project cost, and then the difference of those two is basically how much funding is being leveraged by the TAD commitment."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. That's great. Thank you. Is there a breakdown of how much is Fulton County's portion is of the TAD?"

**JENNIFER FINE, VP, INVEST ATLANTA:** "Not on this. I mean, anecdotally, it's always going to be for -- well, yeah about 23 percent unless sometimes in the corridor's TADs. It gets a little quirky there, but yeah, it's always going to be about 23 percent, because that's the contribution to the increment."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Thank you. That was all I had."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, other questions or comments?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you very much. See you next quarter. All right, Madam Clerk, continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 4, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **24-0268**: Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Mr. Manager."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. Good Morning, Commissioners. We will have a brief report today and then anticipate returning to the full operational report in the month of May, so let me start with the cyber response. We continue to address the incident that began on January the 28th, so we're approaching now about the three-month mark. All of the major systems have largely being restored. We're now in the detailed work at an individual service level. In fact, we're tracking over 375 services that we are working to completion with steps and dates that clearly -- clearly outlined. They range from something like a simple phone line that may not be completely pointed to the right place or printer connectivity and specific users -- of course, specific users or reports, like the one that I would use for this, not being able to generate. But we're glad to say, as an example, public printing has been restored in all of our libraries and another, we're still needing to manually enter information for vendor registration rather than having that self-service option. So that's a couple of examples. I've characterized it to our leaders as three yards and a cloud of dust, meaning that there's nothing sophisticated about getting this across the goal line now. It's really one thing after another to continue to resolve. There's always the opportunity for some setback, again, with this underlying technical implementation that we're doing. But I have great confidence that we will now see it's fully restored in the next month to month and a half. So by the end of April to mid-May or so, I believe we'll be fully restored. We continue to encourage customers to contact us with any difficulties at customer service at [fultoncountyga.gov](http://fultoncountyga.gov) or call our customer service number at (404) 612-4000. Last, I just want to note that Human Resources under Ken Hermon's leadership has resumed hiring and all other HR transactions as of this month, so I want to thank our staff for

being patient with us as it relates to bringing that service back, as well as their continued hard work and focus, as well as the public for their understanding. Turning to animal control for just a moment, we know you will be addressing this situation later today. We're fully prepared to resume services to the city of Atlanta immediately. We've communicated with our EMA director, 911 Director, External Affairs Director, and Police Chief this morning to ask them to be ready to move forward upon a favorable execution. I want to let you know that our staff has continued to, I think, handle this situation with a great deal of professionalism. We have taken in 98 dogs; if we'd only found two more, it would be a round number of 100, but those are in our care; they have either been returned to owners or been adopted or still in our care. So again, thank you for considering that. The issue of water bills let me just address that briefly: We have continued to evaluate that information. We are meeting it internally on those. We have not found any past due bills since 2007. There may be some late fees that have been implemented that perhaps could be due. Our CFO is meeting with the Atlanta CFO and Watershed personnel on May the 9th, and that's the date that they selected for a joint meeting, so hopefully that's on its way to resolution. On capital projects, as you recall last meeting, we gave an update on the behavior health crisis center. I just wanted to let you know about two or three more: All of these are public health focused, so I want to compliment the Board in terms of in the midst of everything else that certainly we have to contend with maintaining your focus on public health in particular, we will be issuing procurements for the North Fulton Health and Human Services Center campus, as well as the South Fulton Developmental Disability Facility this month. So look for those and then that work to begin. Also we anticipate a significant announcement today from Grady to better serve South Fulton. Of course, that's been a focus of this Board since the closing of the AMC facilities. And I think when the public fully understands our commitment and then also Grady's announcements, they will be very pleased with that. Finally, on Elections, our cross functional team continues to meet as Elections prepares for early voting, which begins April 29th; 36 locations. We're confident that the team is well-prepared and we'll have the resources to address any issues. Each meeting, we meet directly with Elections leadership and address any issues with technology, facilities, security, human resources, finances, and public relations. And this whole of government approach has really served us well since summer of 2020. So we look forward, Mr. Chairman, to a successful Election in 2024. So I think with that, that concludes our operational report, and if there are any questions, I'm prepared to answer those."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, questions, Commissioners? Any questions?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** "(No response.)"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So you're going to be meeting with the city, because I want to resolve this water bill issue once and for all."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, let --"



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- if we -- hold on."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANGER:** "No, go ahead. I'm sorry."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "If we owe, I want to pay it. We do not owe, we need to put it to bed. And after that meeting on the 9th, if we cannot reach an agreement, then what's the next step, arbitration?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, I think it would be, but let me defer to Sharon Whitmore, our CFO, who is leading that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But I don't want to do it is keep going back and forth."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I honestly don't expect that we will resolve the matter on the 9th. I think that it will take beyond that. It really depends --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- why is that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Our analysis that we've conducted thus far goes back to 2007. In part, we've used data that the city of Atlanta has provided us, where we can see that, based on what they've billed, and based on what their record show we've paid, or our records show that we've paid, we had in essence every year paid an amount equivalent to what we have been billed. So I think that this is going to, like I said in the last meeting, be a very old balance that they have not yet been able to provide any details to support. So I'm not certain that the very first meeting that we have we will reach a resolution. We are going to go with all of the information and analysis that we've prepared and hope that the city will come with their own analysis so we can review it and try to isolate the period of time that this balance accrued actually belongs to. So, I don't expect that we'll resolve it in one meeting."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Have you communicated to the city what you expect from them at that meeting on the 9th?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I asked simply that we have a meeting to discuss our account, and that we have that meeting with the city CFO and with members from Watershed; and we will have representation from the County's Finance Department and the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management. We have not yet decided whether or not we would invite the member of the County Attorney's team who has been meeting with us. We are having weekly meetings in order to be as prepared for that meeting as we can be on the 9th."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Again, I don't want this thing to drag on. We need to resolve it, and Commissioner Arrington, at the last meeting, brought up the statute of limitations and which made sense to me, if that's accurate. And, Madam County

Attorney, have you had a chance to review that, because if that's true, then I'm not sure what we're talking about."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "There are statutes of limitations that apply. We have not reviewed what the city of Atlanta has provided to see if it may fit with any exceptions that also may apply, that may alter the application of this straight statute of limitations."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All of this needs to be addressed, ladies and gentlemen, because I've been -- this has been going on too long. Vice Chair, followed by Commissioner Barrett, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I concur with you, but I'm going to openly on record ask the County Manager as well as the County Attorney as well as the CFO; my contention is not for us to be adversarial with the city of Atlanta. First of all, let me be crystal clear, and I don't think anybody here wants to be adversarial with the city of Atlanta. However, moving forward, I would not like to see anything, County Manager, that we're working on conditionally based on us giving city of Atlanta something. I think that's not a good faith, in my opinion. I think you have shown a reasonable amount of attention to detail; but the issue that I have today that I think needs to be addressed is, if we have a conversation or partnership saying I can't do this unless you give me that, it's just not a good-faith way of doing business. I think collaboratively we have the same concerns whether it's homelessness, whether it's getting, you know, our justice partners to help move the court system along. I think all of that we're on the same page; at least I would hope we are. But I do believe that in any negotiations that you do moving forward, both sides need to be fair and it needs to be an understanding of what we are negotiating for, not after the negotiation is done, okay, I've decided if I'm going to do this, I want you to throw this in. I have an issue with that. I want to publicly let the voting taxpaying citizens of Fulton County and city of Atlanta know that I have a problem with that. And I will ask at anytime if you see that happening that maybe you would hit the reset button."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to ask this, but since you brought up the statute of limitations, I just wanted to come back to you for a second, Madam County Attorney. The exceptions you're talking about are what if they have continued to present a bill, like what changes the game here?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So again, not having seen what the city has presented, I think ultimately this dispute is going to come down to, as the Vice Chair



referred to, what we actually owe, not -- you know, not necessarily -- so in order to determine that, we're going to have to see whether or not any exceptions, such as for example, anything that would toll the statute of limitations. The whole question of the statute is when do you begin a calculation of the time running? And such certain things will allow the time to restart. We don't know if there's a situation in this instance that creates such an exception, but that's what we would look for before we would assert that position."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, so I just want to make an official ask then that you all work together and give us an answer next meeting on whether or not that would apply. And also, Madam CFO and Mr. County Manager, given -- and I appreciate what you said, Madam CFO, about the time that this will take, and also, of course, the Chairman's request that we deal with this once and for all because from what I understand from you through other conversations this is something that sort of bubbles back up every seven years or something like that, and there's some conversations that are had and then it just we sort of don't get the information we've asked for and it sort of dies away again. So, could I make an official ask that we just get reports on this at each meeting until it's resolved? And that we do set some sort of timeline, and I'm not sure -- I'll leave that to you, but some sort of timeline to say, okay, now it is time to move to mediation if we're not getting the response that we want so that we can sort of put this to bed once and for all?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We'll be happy to do that. We are internally meeting weekly working on our own reconciliation effort, and offered multiple dates to meet with the city, but the earliest date that, I believe, in part, I think it's their budget season for them. The date that came back from them that we agreed to was May the 9th. So, we will -- I don't know that we'll have much to update you with on the first, but certainly that second meeting in May -- yeah, and we do have someone from Soo's team that is in our weekly meetings that we are sharing all of our information with so she can advise us accordingly as we proceed."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** Yeah, I appreciate that. I just want make sure. Obviously, e-mail updates are great too, but I just want to make sure because the public is paying attention to this from the city's side and from our side that we're being as transparent as we can about what's going on."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Absolutely. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Do we receive any of the actual bills or do you all receive any actual bills, because the only thing I saw was that spreadsheet that was forwarded."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We receive a monthly utility bill from the city, yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. I guess what I'm -- maybe, I didn't do a good job of asking the question. As it relates to the outstanding balance that they are claiming, have we seen -- have we received any specific bills related to that outstanding balance that they're claiming?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The monthly utility bills include a previous balance listed on each individual account bill."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And so, are you saying that we've received bills for the last four years that have that outstanding balance on it?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We have received bills at least for as long as this current billing system that they're using. If there was a previous balance the document that we received would show the previous balance. The previous balance could be a long-standing balance or it could be that they had not yet applied our most recent payment and was carrying forward a balance from the previous billing cycle."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. All right, and I guess I'm curious. I guess I want to see the bills. I mean -- for me, it's about dates of service."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We can share some sample bills with you, like the most recent ones that we've received."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, and in particular, I want to know how long -- how long have we been receiving the bill that says that we owe \$4.7 million, because I can't imagine that you were receiving a \$4.7 million bill and not paying it."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "As I indicated in the last meeting, because we have over -- I think it's 90 accounts -- individual accounts with the city, it's not one bill, so it's multiple bills; the largest of which is the bill that we received for the property that the jail resides on. So that bill will have the largest outstanding balance. And I can tell you that based on the information that the city sent us, which is an Excel spreadsheet, this was provided to us back in 2018 or 2019, maybe it was 2019, the balance as of 12/31/2007, was \$2,054,000. The balance as of June of 2019 was two million seventy something thousand, but you could see in each year the amount that they billed and the amount that we paid. So we paid what they were billing, which is why I'm saying I think this is going to be a very old balance that has never being substantiated to us which is why it hasn't been paid."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, I think the first step, Madam County Attorney, is to provide the analysis on O.C.G.A. 9325. This is an open account, and the

statute is clear that claims on open accounts must be brought within four years. So I would hate to see our staff spending time going back to 2007 on something that is uncollectible. Anything -- this is 2024, so anything that's prior to 2020, April 17th, 2020, is uncollectible. So, I think that's the first step in the analysis to prevent a whole bunch of busywork back to 2007. I mean, if they can't collect on anything prior to 2020, I don't know that there's any reason to talk about it."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "We will provide that. We have our finance team already working on that matter and primarily they just need to examine the invoices for the very thing that you were asking about, which is whether or not the outstanding balances indicated on each monthly invoice, but we will provide that."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would also like to see those bills that are for the period of time that we're speaking about because last meeting you did kind of give us a history, and you took that history all the way back to the 90s; and that was very concerning that we have been in this situation repeatedly since the 90s, and it hasn't been reconciled, so that would be great to have that information. As of today though, what exactly do you actually have that you're reviewing?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, we're using data out of our energy cap utility management system, where we upload the bills monthly and that information goes back to 2017, I believe. After that, we're going into our financial system looking at all of the transactions that have posted, and we will then have to go and pull hardcopies of individual documents that have been provided. We also have information that the city of Atlanta has provided to us in an Excel form which is their billing and payment, and adjustments information that goes back to 2007. So looking at and analyzing the information that they actually provided to us in an Excel file, is why I can say that between 2007 -- the end of 2007 and the middle of 2019, the amount that they billed has been paid for that period of time. Again, which is why I keep coming back to this balance is from 2007 or earlier than that. We also have documentation from the city indicating to us certain amounts that were owed around the time of the United Water transition, where we can show we paid what they said was owed, but we asked for additional information and never received it. Let me say this: we paid what they invoiced us for, what they sent bills for; but they had a balance beyond that, which they could not provide the documentation to support. Which, as far as I know, was never paid, so that's why keep coming back to it. I think we're going to go all the way back to the transition to United Water; and maybe even as far back as to how payments were applied against an escrow account that was established with them in the mid 80s. So it is not a -- in my opinion, it is not a current billing issue. We're paying currently what they are currently billing us. It's a really old long-standing balance."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. Okay and I'm sitting here thinking about the last discussion we had at the last BOC meeting, and the comment that was made earlier about what happened? But what a lot of people did not see that was happening is that Commissioner Khadijah kept talking over me when it was not her turn, and I kept stopping and saying to her -- I would allow her to speak if there was something she needed to say, and the Chairman kept banging the gavel to say to her please stop, Commissioner Hall, you have the floor. During that time, by the time it got to Commissioner Arrington, he was already frustrated from the disrespect and the disruptive behavior -- so by the time it got to him, and Commissioner Khadijah started talking, trying to talk over him, his anger was at a different level."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We're talking about the water bills now."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, I'm talking about the animal control stuff and the water bills and all of that, because this was the conversation that happened last time. And speaking of being triggered, that was a trigger for me because I, too, have been bullied all my life for being tall and skinny and long hair and called Olive Oil --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Hall, the matter before us now is the water bill --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- the same woman trying to fight me --"

(Whereupon, Commissioner Hall's microphone is muted.)

(Whereupon, Chairman Pitts bangs gavel.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- Commissioner Hall, please. Commissioner Hall, please. Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Hall, you're out of order. Commissioner Hall, you're out of order. Commissioner Hall, you're out of order. Commissioner Hall, you're out of order. You're out of order. Commissioner Hall, please, please, please. All right, Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm trying to get back my mic here. Here we go. Thanks for bringing us back to regular order. I just want to make sure I understood that basically we've paid everything that we've submit -- that's been substantiated that we owe, we are current, and we paid it. That's what I heard you say; is that correct?"

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

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**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So I'm with Commissioner Arrington. I don't want you all wasting any more of your time to try to disprove a negative. The onus is on the other party to demonstrate that we owe something and it's substantiated. If they can't, I don't know why, we have a lot of things that we need you focused on, and going back and looking back water bills pre 2005 or 2007, is not in any of our best interests, in terms of the value of your time. So, you know, you all want to have a meeting, great, but you told me all I need to know. We paid everything that's been substantiated that we owe, and it should end there until somebody can substantiate that we actually owe something different. And if they do, we should verify that some sort of statute hadn't run out on it. And then with all that, then after that, if we need to have a conversation, we can have a conversation. But I don't know why we are trying to go and do the work ourselves. It makes no sense; total waste of your time, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I concur. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I want to take this time to apologize to the audience and thank you for getting us back on track, Chairman. I appreciate your leadership. What I would like to say to you, Ms. Whitmore, I concur with what Commissioner Ellis says, but I just want to add that as a sitting Commissioner that get calls from one end of the county to the other. I have had to answer to constituents who have had billing issues, who have said I've asked, I know this bill is incorrect, blasé. So I say that to say this: I believe that you in what you do and from your expertise, know what is owed and that's what's been substantiated. I do not want us to be on this whirlwind of trying to defend something that has not been substantiated, because even in our everyday lives, if we have a billing error, what do we do? We call the company and we ask them to substantiate it. And so, I don't want this to become politicized. If we owe and the statute of limitations does not apply, then yes, we should pay. But if it has not being substantiated, I know the United Water, I know that from way back then there were some challenges. There were bills that we received that were not correct. And so, what I'm saying to you, which is getting to sound like a broke record is if, in fact, we owe, I am of the utmost belief in your capability to let us know if there's an issue. If we do not owe, then I would want to be put to bed, and I would appreciate it if that is the mindset that you and the County Manager take with this, because we have more pressing issues in Fulton County to argue about a bill that is no -- doesn't exist. And if even if it does exist, it is on the behalf of those that billed us to substantiate it as opposed to us having to substantiate it. So I would appreciate it if we would allow the executive staff to do what we pay them to do. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'll be brief. I just want to say that I concur with the previous comments made. The onus is on them. They need to provide the burden of proof and then if we need to defend it, we can research and defend it. But I don't think you need to spend countless hours in your department going through archive files. I

imagine there's probably paper files or whatever, microfiche, I don't know what you'll have to go back to, but I don't want you to waste your time, your valuable time on this. We're launching a new financial system right now and you guys need to be focused on that and not on this water bill issue. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other comments? All right. Madam CFO, Madam County Attorney, you have your marching orders. You need to resolve the issue of the statute of limitations first. Thank you. Anything else, Mr. Manager?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, sir. That concludes our report."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 4, **24-0269**, Finance: Presentation, Review, and Approval of April 17th, 2024 Budget Soundings and Resolution."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, this is a no funding required ask for an add to the annual hardware/software maintenance support lists for Westlaw, for the inmate's use at the county jail paid for out of the inmate welfare fund. Excuse me, out of the inmate services unit and nonagency."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0270**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders in the total amount of \$345,000 to provide carpet, carpet tile installation and repair services."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0271: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$1,071,000 to provide demolition services."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0272: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders in an amount not to exceed \$981,071 to provide janitorial services."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas -- unanimously, with Commissioner Ellis."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, under Health and Human Services, 24-0245, Community Development: Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Destination Tomorrow, Inc. in the amount of \$100,000 to support the Wellness Journey Program."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, is there motion? Is there a motion? All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I know it was held last time and I just wanted you to speak on it, because you thought it might conflict and just what you heard when you researched this item."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes. The reason I supported the hold of it is because I think there was a little conflict on what the work that they do. The actual person from Destination Tomorrow is here if you want to come forward and just explain to my colleagues what it is that you all do, and so we'll know moving forward what this actual program does. Thank you."

**ALEX SANTIAGO:** "Good morning. I'm Alex Santiago and I'm the Chief Operating Officer of Destination Tomorrow. I was in the last meeting when I heard several people said they had never heard of us. And it didn't surprise me because we're kind of a small organization that kind of gets swallowed up by the big fish. But we're an organization that -- we don't just focus on HIV testing; we focus on the entire person. So we focus on



the things that get them into the position where they are. So we have a workforce development program, we have a financial literacy program, we partner with the Atlanta Postal Credit Union to be able to open an account, so people who can't normally, you know, access bank accounts. So we're more than just a one-stop shop. We provide services and resources for the whole person."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Just a question to you. Do you exclusively just work with HIV only, or do you work with the greater community?"

**ALEX SANTIAGO:** "The greater community. HIV is a very, very, very small part of what we do. We focus on -- on empowering people and putting them in positions where they're not at risk for HIV. So we figure that if we can get the social determinants of health like lack of food -- we have a food pantry. We have a workforce development program. We have a GED program. We do things to help the whole human and not just one part."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, I see this is as listed under Community Development. Who do we have here from Community Development to talk about this?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Good morning, Stan Wilson, Community Development."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So, I guess tell us about this and why you're requesting this and how this came about."

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "The item came about. It was included within the budget and it's part of the budget, funding this agency. It was assigned to Community Development. So it's a project that's under my department."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And have you worked with this group before?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "No, I have not."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Are you aware of this group prior to today or the last meeting?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "No, not prior to. Not prior to reaching out to them after it was included in the budget."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry; you keep saying that it was included in the budget. Did you include it in the budget for your department?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "It was a Commissioner recommendation that was added to the budget."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You said it was what?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "It was a Commissioner recommendation and the Board approved it as part of the budget."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It was a Commissioner's recommendation that was added in; which commissioner?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "On the initial discussion started it was Commissioner -- Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you for being here. Thank you. I just wanted to weigh in, but I think we got the answer. This was something we committed to. It was a Commissioner's budget enhancement that occurred on the day of the budget. We were provided with a brief paragraph about the organization ahead of time, but nothing beyond that. So I think that may have been why there was some confusion. It sounds like you do great work. I'm going to support it, obviously, but in part because you're doing great work; and in part because we made a commitment as a Board. So I just wanted to weigh in and share my support."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other comments? The motion on the floor to approve. Let's vote."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** **"24-0273:** Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the Inner-City Muslim Action Network Corporation in the amount of \$75,000 to complete phase one renovations of the wellness center and food pantry."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, **24-0274**, Superior Court Administration: Request approval to extend an existing contract --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- point of order, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "274 and 275 seems like they going in tandem and work with each other. It seems like we should hear them both at the same time and vote on them at the same time since they're contingent with one another."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No objection."

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0274**: Request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$305,000 for an additional 30-day period to complete the transition of the new service provider for electronic pretrial monitoring services; **24-0275**, with the amended effective date: Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$2 million to provide electronic pretrial monitoring services."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. I object to these items being heard together."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote on whether or not we should take 0274 and 0275 together."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Point of order, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Arrington, can you explain why?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I may support one, but not the other."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Fair enough."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. You ready?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote on whether or not to take the two together."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Mr. Manager, do you want to give us the context here and where we are?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. I'm going to ask David Summerlin from Superior Court, who will be the program administrator for this and Steve Nawrocki from the Strategy Office, who had been working hand-in-glove; and then obviously, Felicia will be available to answer any questions. You know, the net net of this is we have had an ankle monitoring provider. The RFP was issued, a new provider was selected. We are now in the process of planning the transition to ensure a seamless transition and Steve will overview the steps that have to be taken. The good news is there's some technology that allows that transition to go fairly seamlessly for about half of the folks who have an ankle monitor, but there is, you know, a series of steps that have to be taken to change ankle monitors out for those that are on older technology. So again, Steve can overview that. David can also answer any questions about the program overall and the Board's direction, which has been, I think, very much accepted by and endorsed by the chief judge as well as others on the bench. So we'll be glad to talk to you about all of that. All right, Steve, go ahead."

**STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE:** Thank you, Mr. County Manager. I believe there are two slides to kind of help guide the conversation right now, if we have those. Do we have those, Ms. Grier? And as they're pulling them up, I can kind of set the stage, so thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Vice Chair, Commissioners. As the County Manager teed us up, just to give some background: currently, we have about 1,100 plus participants in the county funded electronic monitoring program. The next agenda item, or excuse me, this agenda item to approve the -- excuse me. To extend the -- to extend the current provider will help kind of with the transition -- oh, there we go. Could we go to the next slide?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Who are you, sir?"

**STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE:** "Excuse me, Commissioner Arrington. Steve Nowicki, County Manager's Office, Strategy Office. Okay, so we have currently about 1,100 participants in the county-funded electronic monitoring program. Under our current configuration, using ANA All County Monitoring now owned by Talitrix, there are two separate counties providing the technology and the devices. Roughly half of them, about 600, are using older technology. Sentinel Omnilink, and about 500 -- so the balance are using this new technology, AMS/Scram. What we're try to do here, with the approval on the next agenda item, to move to A 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance. All of their ankle monitors would be exclusively this newer technology, AMS and Scram. So upon Board approval, we will need to swap over both the technology component and devices, for the technology deponent with AMS/Scram, that process has already started, and will be completed on the 19th, again assuming we have favorable approval by the Board of

Commissioners. For the older technology that roughly 600 participants, we will need a period of time, several weeks, to transmit all the information, provide necessary information and contact the participants on the older technology, and then schedule appointments and start swapping out those devices, and we believe this can be achieved within kind of the last week of April timeframe. To support these, we know there's a pretty large population of 1100 and they're spread out throughout the county in the Metro area. A second 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance will have locations throughout the Metro area; they're different facilities. Most of them are at the County jails of both Fulton and the counties in the surrounding Metro area. And the target to swap out everything on the older Sentinel Omnilink, monitors would be complete by early May, first or second week of May. So if there are any questions."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Go ahead and go to the next chart and then ask for any questions in terms of what the plan is."

**STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE:** "Thank you, Mr. County Manager. So our next plan is kind of the continuation. Once we do have the ankle monitors -- or the new -- the ankle monitors transitioned over, once Superior Court's kind of continuing monitoring and a reduction plan would look like and I'll ask Mr. Summerlin to speak to that."

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, SUPERIOR COURT:** "Good morning, Commissioners. David Summerlin, Court Administrator. And this is just to reiterate what Steve just kind of explained. This program is sort of being turned over to court administration to manage. We're going to be monitoring the monitors. So we're going to be receiving information. We're going to be reviewing all of clients who are currently monitored. Those folks who have been monitored for an extended period of time, let's say 12 months or more, we're going to start reviewing those first and see which monitors can come of defendants and then work our way down from there. The goal is to get to a point at which monitors are not placed on individuals for more than six months. So that's our current kind of plan as we transition to the new vendor, if that is approved by the Board. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve 0274. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman Vice Chair, followed by Commissioner Barrett and followed by -- it's something we haven't laid everything out, right because there was -- not a protest, but on the bidding. No, that'll be on the next one; those comments. All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm confused, Chairman. Are we not taking both of them together? Or are we doing them separately?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, we're going to take -- we're going to vote on each one separately; we're talking about them together, but it'll be two separate votes --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- no, Mr. Chair. What we voted on was to vote on them together."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- yeah we --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- we already voted on them together and that was what was approved."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order. Maybe, we can get the Clerk to read it back. I believe the motion was that they be read together or heard together. Let's pull the tape. Let's get somebody to read it back."

**CLERK GRIER:** "I have Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair; make the motion to have them heard together."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Heard together is not vote together."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "No. I made the motion to have them heard and voted on together."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order. Voted on was not in there. It was heard together."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's hear them together and we'll vote on them separately. Now, let's talk about the -- what is that?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "They're playing the tape back. It just said heard together. We can't really hear that, so whoever is playing it back may need to turn the volume up and rewind it. I think the Chair has ruled that's it's going to be voted on separately."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order. It was specifically to be heard and voted on together because Commissioner Barrett explicitly asked Commissioner Arrington why would you object to that. And he said because I might want to vote for one and not for the other, okay. So that is what I asked for, that's what the motion was, and that's what we voted on. You want to overrule it, change it that's your prerogative, but that's what I motioned; that's what was seconded, and that's what we voted on."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, I can't -- stop. I can't hear that, so stop it. Stop this, please. Thank you. All right, my votes -- ruling once again is we're going to --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- point of Order. Sorry, I just have a quick parliamentary question. While, I agree with the, you know, what everybody just said

about what went down here, this feels like a material change to an agenda item. So, I mean, if you're -- if you're combining two things together isn't that effectively a new agenda item? And if it is, then shouldn't that require a supermajority? I mean, there was -- what was presented to us on paper and what we approved at the beginning in the meeting was to vote on these two things separately. So, I'm just -- I'm just not sure when we have to get things approved ahead of time, when we don't to make these changes, so it's just a question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On this particular item, once again, I'm ruling that we're going to hear these and vote on these separately. Is there a motion to overrule me? Is there a motion to overrule me? Thank you. Now let's put this in context. It's my understanding, Mr. Manager, that the Talitrix submitted a bid on this item -- Madam, Purchasing Director, can you explain what happened and the disqualification and so forth? So we all have the same information?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "So on 24-0275, the initial one. Yes, sir. This was a competitive sealed proposal. We received four proposals. The proposals were from A 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Monitoring Company, Allied Universal Electronic Monitoring, ANA All County Monitoring, a Talitrix Company, and Tyler Technologies. All four were reviewed by the evaluation committee. It was shortlisted to two firms. Two firms were invited in for oral interviews, discussions. The evaluation committee elected two -- their recommendation was the firm, A 2nd Chance Monitoring that you see here.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "There were two firms invited, who was the second one?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "ANA; ANA, All County Monitoring, and A 2nd Chance were the two shortlisted firms. They both were invited to the oral interviews and the product demonstrations. The evaluation committee, based on their scoring, the top ranked proponent would be -- is A 2nd Chance. You're speaking to the issue that we had on a number of ANA Contacting David Summerlin. As the County knows, we have a no-contact provision for the County that says that you cannot contact anyone during a procurement other than the purchasing agent, and the purchasing agent's representative; our RFP speaks to that in many places. A contact was made. The basis of the contact was about invoices. It did have some other information in it. After reviewing it and the timing, I elected to -- I did send a disqualification -- I'm sorry. A disqualification letter to the firm because the no-contact provision does not give me discretion; however, after some review with the County Attorney's Office and the response from their counsel, I elected to withdraw that because at this point in time the ANA is not the recommended proposal. So that's how this happened in a nutshell."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And who submitted the lowest price? Which firm?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "This is not a -- this is not a bid."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I understand that. I understand that, but who submitted the lowest price?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "The lowest price was submitted by ANA, and as you can see, they got the -- they receive the 25 points. So this is on a hundred point scale. There are other evaluation factors, which is why it is a competitive sealed proposal. Yes, they submitted the lowest price and they got the highest score for that price."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Natalie Hall. Motion on the floor is to approve 0274."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, I have two questions. My first question, and I just need an answer as close as possible. If we are transitioning, is there a point where we will stop allowing Talitrix to put the monitors in place in order to make sure there is a smooth cut off such as are we doing it up to a certain date or they still doing it now? What is the cutoff for to make sure that they do not provide it to anybody else?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "If I may, Commissioners. Currently, ANA does have an extension contract with us that goes to April 30th. So any new ones we would have to talk to them about those. If this is approved today for A 2nd Chance, there is a contract execution period that we have to go through where they'll have to sign a contract because they cannot start work until a contract is executed by both parties, that includes the County and them. And so, there will be a little transitioning there, but they do currently have a extension for 30 days. And we also have another extension on for the transition of the new services. But we don't want anyone to be caught in between, the new contract hasn't been signed, we have the current provider; if there's some participants that need to be put on ankle monitors, you know, we kind of still have to provide the service. So there will be some transitioning that we're going to have to do and we'll have to work with David's office and Mr. Nowicki to make sure that we're doing it in a -- I'm not sure fashion, seamless fashion."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Well, I know with anything that you've got to kind of have an ABC plan. But my concern and clearly, you all or the subject matter experts, that's why I'm asking. What plan do we have in place to make sure that we do not pass whatever optimal date that you all have that the current provider will no longer be taking new people? I guess that's my question. Do we have a failsafe in plan? Do we have a date exactly? What are we proposing for that date to be, and has that been communicated to the current provider not to take anymore after a particular date?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Commissioner, we can't communicate anything to the current provider until the Board takes action today to either award the current contract -- I mean award the 24-0275. After this point in time --

after the Board takes actions today, then we will reach out and we will start doing that transition, and we can keep the Board abreast of how that transition is going once the contract is signed by A 2nd Chance, if the Board approves that today."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Well, let me reword my question. Once upon -- and if it is approved -- upon BOC approval, will we communicate to not take anymore? I guess that's what I need to know, Sharon?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I guess what I would say to that is that part of the overall plan is to actually document all of the dates that would be necessary to get through the transition. That will be one of the dates that we will document. The date that 2nd Chance will take over the process of placing new participants or clients, I'm not sure what the right word is, on an electronic monitoring device. So that would be one of the many dates that we establish as part of the global transition plan. And yes, it will be communicated to both parties."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. And my last question and here I'm just playing devils advocate, which I don't like to play, but I need to ask the question: ultimately, we would hope that everybody would play fair during the transitioning. If in chance -- if per chance, and I'm just saying per chance, I'm not saying they will -- if our current vendor does not want to participate in the transitioning, do we have a failsafe backup plan, County Manager? That's my only other concern, not saying that they would, but I'm just asking."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am, we do, but it will be smoother if both vendors work in a cooperative manner over the next 30 to 45 days to complete it. But we do have a backup plan."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, thank you, County Manager."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I got my question answered, but I'm just going to take what Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman said and take it one step further. I'm assuming because this 0245 -- I'm sorry, 0274 is an extension of the existing contract, there's no particular wording in that contract that talks about a transition plan; is that correct?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "In the extension -- the extension will specifically before the transition to occur, so that A 2nd Chance can start doing it a hundred percent. We just did not want to -- their current -- Talitrix's current extension expires on April 30th. We're not sure that the new firm or the new provider will be able to -- the total 100 percent transition. And so, we just wanted to have a Plan B, so that if that does not occur that we have a Plan B and there is no one out there not being monitored."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I got you. I think what I'm trying to ask and maybe I didn't ask it well; is do we have something in writing or will we following this meeting, have something in writing that not only commits them to a contract length of time, but to participate in the transition process."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Absolutely."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** Okay. Got it. And also, Mr. Nawrocki, sorry. I think you -- it seemed like you wanted to say something else for clarification, so I just wanted to give you the opportunity if there was something you wanted to add."

**STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE:** "No, ma'am. Thank you, Commissioner Barrett." I think Ms. Strong-Whitaker summarized it well, but thank you, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Got it. Last question. With any new monitors that go on before all of these I's are dotted and T's are crossed and signatures are on pages; do we at least have a commitment that they will be the newer technology, so that they will be switched over as a software only transition?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Yes, that will be in the contract, subsequently, yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Perfect. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, on that same point, I was unaware that we had old technology and new technology. And I think it would be good moving forward with just one technology. That would be a positive with this new vendor. I do appreciate going through the whole RFP process. As we know, you run a very good program over there, Felicia. So I appreciate you going through all that trouble so that everybody had a chance, everybody had an opportunity, and the vendor was awarded the correct contract. So, I just want to thank everybody on the work that they did on making the process fair."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So first I'd like to hear the story about the disqualification and then the requalification and the question about the invoices and all that, because it was a bit confusing."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "I apologize, Commissioner. I can be very specific about dates if you would like. On 04/08, Mr. Summerlin, who is an evaluation committee member, was an evaluation committee member, received an e-

mail and he forwarded that e-mail to me. As you know the County has a no-contact provision from the time that the RFP is issued until the recommendation is on the Board. The County Manager places the recommendation and it is posted on the agenda the Friday before the Wednesday's meeting. This correspondence happened during that no-contact window, and the code does not give me a lot of discretion. However, there was some questions -- there was a sentence about invoicing on the email. It said some other things, but there was also a question about some invoicing. I reviewed it initially. I disqualified them. Their counsel came back and said -- well, there was some back-and-forth. So I reconsidered that, and I withdrew the disqualification so that this could move forward."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So what were the other questions? They were pertaining to the bid?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "The second paragraph in my estimation did pertain to the solicitation. If he had only asked questions about the past due invoices, because we have this all the time. We have contractors who have current contracts with the County, and they also are submitting a proposal to the County. They cannot talk to anyone about the solicitation that they are proposing on, but if they have a current contract, they can do business as usual, ask about their invoices; they can do those kind of things, but you can't mix the two."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So the other questions were pertaining not to their current contract at all, they were pertaining to the upcoming bid?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. That's more clear. And then, what happened with the score sheets, why were they submitted so late?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "So initially, as you know with Legislar, you have to have everything in, in order for it to be on the agenda. At that point in time, it was placed on the agenda; I had not withdrawn the disqualifications. So they were disqualified, so the only person you would've seen was A 2nd Chance, because there was only two shortlisted firms. Once I decided to -- after consultation to withdraw it -- I put the other shortlisted firm score for everyone to see on the agenda."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay and you said this is not a low bid contract?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "No. I'm sorry."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's, okay, go ahead."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "This is an RFP. In an RFP, there's several evaluation factors. For instance, on this one, there was their approach

which included their equipment specifications, their transition plan. They had to do a product demonstration, their staffing plan, their maintenance and support, equipment repairs, response time, how they were retained, and store our data, qualifications of key personnel, relevant project experience."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "What are you reading from, because my scoresheet doesn't say all of that?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "So the scoresheet, under project approach includes all of those factors. So you should have, on your scoresheet -- your scoresheet is like a summation, so you're going to have on your scoresheet -- I'm sorry."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "This scoresheet -- well, this says, evaluation committee recommendation letter dated April 11th, 2024."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "On the third page, Commissioner, is the detailed scoresheet. It's the scoresheet project approach, qualifications of key personnel, relevant project experience, availability of personnel, local preference, service disabled and costs."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I don't have that."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "That should be the third sheet."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Under 275?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Yes, attached to the evaluation committee letter. It should be three pages."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I don't have that, so was this provided later?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "It's also in the original packages."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The only thing I have is this one page that has only A 2nd Chance on it; it has the weights."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "If you have the evaluation recommendation letter, it should have three pages attached to it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I don't. I don't know how that happened. But this was pulled -- oh, thank you, Sharon. This was pulled right after everything was submitted on Friday. Oh, yeah, I don't have that. So is this what was added later?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "The initial evaluation committee page package was there, but it only had one firm's name on it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, that's what I have. One that only has 2nd Chance monitoring on it. So this was added later?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Right. But the initial one should have had three pages as well."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. All right. I didn't get that."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "With the detailed scoresheet."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So now I see what you're talking about now. Okay. So -- wait. What did they win by? It looks like one point something."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Correct. That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "They won by one point something difference?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "And if you look, coming out of technicals, the top ranked proponent was A 2nd Chance on the cost proposal because Talitrix had the lowest cost; they received the full 25 points. That's how the RFP process works."

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

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "You're quite welcome."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "When -- what day again was the disqualification letter sent?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "The disqualification letter was sent on April 10th."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "On April 10th. Okay."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "The e-mail was sent on April 8th."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So April 10th that was last week, the same day as our Board meeting."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And then when were they -- when did you rescind the disqualification letter?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "I rescinded it on, I believe it was yesterday. Yes, yesterday. I sent an e-mail on yesterday. I was out of the office on Thursday and Friday. I was out of town. And so, when I got back on Monday, Mr. Ash had sent me an e-mail, and I reviewed it and, on Tuesday, I did rescind it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, this item was added to the agenda on Friday and the recommendation was made prior to the rescinding of the disqualification?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Yes. Commissioner, the evaluation committee signed their letter on -- they signed their letter on April 11th. And as you know, it takes some time for us to get agenda items on. There's a process to get agenda items on for Board meetings. And so, I did disqualify them on April 10th; we had the original evaluation scores from the committee. They made their recommendation on April 11th."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So the evaluation committee made their recommendation based upon only one vendor because the other vendor was disqualified at the time."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "No, sir. They had already done their evaluation and completed their -- they reviewed the technical."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm just going off what you said now. You said you disqualified them on April 10th -- on Wednesday, April 10th, and then you said on Thursday, April 11th, the evaluation committee made their recommendation for the other company."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "So let me --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- so if one company was disqualified on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the evaluation committee made their recommendation on the 11th, that means that they could not consider the company that was disqualified on the 10th."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "So let me back up, Commissioner. I should have said the evaluation committee signed their evaluation committee letter. The evaluation process started back in March. As soon as we received the technical proposals, the evaluation committee, which was made up of four people, received the technicals and they reviewed the technical proposal of all four firms. They gave us scores at that time. At that time, it was determined that we



shortlisted it because of the scores, the technical scores, to two. Those two firms was A 2nd Chance and ANA. Both of those firms were invited to oral interviews. The evaluation committee scored their -- after the evaluation score, the technicals once again. Once the technicals are totally scored, then and only then can we open costs. We open the cost, the total scores, for all those two firms. We've already had all of their total scores. When I disqualified, all my team did was remove the other firms' scores from the evaluation sheet. Once I rescinded it, I put it back. They were already -- they had already been scored. That is the process."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, I don't know about the procurement process. I'm not involved in it. All I can tell you is it doesn't look right. Now, I know 2nd Chance and Daniel, he's a great guy; but to disqualify one of two vendors prior to making the recommendation, and then to rescind the disqualification yesterday after the items were placed on the agenda last Friday, it just doesn't sound right. Like, hey, 2nd Chance is -- I assume they are good people. I know Daniel is a great guy. This doesn't have anything to do with 2nd Chance. This has to do with us and our practices and our policies and our procedures. So, in my mind, it does not make sense that someone could be disqualified on Wednesday; another party recommended on Thursday, an agenda item placed on Friday based upon the Wednesday disqualification and Thursday recommendation, and then a Tuesday, April 16th reinstatement. It's just messy. It's real messy. It doesn't sound like it was done proper. Like, it's not clean. The process was not clean. And so, despite the fact that I know Daniel, and I know he's a great guy, I'm not going to be able to vote for this based upon that chronology and that timeline and the way it transpired. I don't think that that is proper. It just does - it doesn't -- it doesn't feel right. It doesn't smell right."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Commissioner, the top ranked proponent never changed. The top ranked proponent never changed."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I, I -- hey, that's your area. I can't speak to that. All I can tell you is it doesn't pass the smell test. It does not pass the smell test to disqualify somebody on a Wednesday, recommend somebody different on a Thursday, print an agenda item on Friday, and then three or four days later on Tuesday, yesterday before today's meeting, to rescind a disqualification letter after someone else has already been recommended, the item to put on the agenda. That does not pass the smell test."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Felicia, did you consult with the County Attorney on this?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "I did. One of the reasons that we reconsidered was when I reached out to ANA to ask if they would assist us during the transition because their attorney had sent me an e-mail explaining and asking me to

reconsider, they indicated that it depended on our response whether they would sign an agree to the extension. So that was one of the factors that was considered in that this is a really big contract with the lot of participants as part of it, and we did not want to not have a Plan A, B, and C."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Got it. County Attorney, could you speak to this as well since you did see the letter and made the decision?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Apparently, Ms. Strong-Whitaker may have consulted with someone in my office, but I was not briefed on this prior to. If you would like to hear the contents of the actual discussion, I can ask one of our deputies to come up and address that at this point."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Denval, do you want to speak to it?"

**DENVAL STEWART, DEPUTY ATTORNEY, FC:** "My name is Denval Stewart in the County Attorney's Office. On this matter, I did not deal directly with Ms. Strong Whitaker directly on this issue. It was another attorney, but they report to me. So I can flush out or answer anything that you have -- if you have a particular question for me on this."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So you were advised to reinstate them on Tuesday or Monday? After you received a letter from their attorney?"

**DENVAL STEWART, DEPUTY ATTORNEY, FC:** "Yes. What we do is we will consult with Ms. Whitaker because we will make it clear that the decision whether to disqualify belongs to Ms. Whitaker alone in her capacity as purchasing agent, and also whether or not she wanted to reinstate them was her decision. Our role in legal would only be to advise her on possible consequences if she were to take whichever action she decided. And so, based on that, she decided, base on the fact that she may have initially had directed them to contact Mr. Summerlin, and that may have at least created the avenue for there to be some gray area as to the purpose for the contact along with she may have also thought about -- like she indicated about making sure that there was an extension in place. She decided to reinstate them, but the decision is with the purchasing agent."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes. But she followed procedures correctly, and she has the authority to make those decisions that she made?"

**DENVAL STEWART, ATTORNEY, FC:** "Yes, she does. She alone has the decision whether to disqualify, and she alone has the decision whether to reinstate."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Great. On the evaluation committee recommendation letter, listed here I only have the matrix, the weights for 2nd Chance Monitoring. I don't have ANA."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "That should have been an updated package that you received that had both of those scores -- scores on them. If you would like for them to go through the scores, I can do that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "If you could just read off quickly like project approach."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Sure. On project approach, the top weight was 35 percent. A 2nd Chance received 35 percent, ANA received 28.44. Qualifications of key personnel: the top weight was 10 percent, A 2nd Chance received 9.38, ANA received 7.5. Relevant Project Experience was 20 percent: A 2nd Chance received 16.25 percent, ANA received 16.25 percent. For availability of personnel, the weight was three percent, and A 2nd Chance received three percent, ANA received 2.25 percent. Local preference was five percent. Both firms received a five percent. On service disabled veteran's preference, it was two percent. Neither firm received the two percent. On the cost proposal, the top weight was 25 percent: A 2nd Chance received 17.71 percent, and ANA received 25 percent because they did submit the overall lowest score -- lowest price."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah, that's what confused me, because what we received it says 2nd Chance monitoring got 25 percent, but that was just based --"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "-- that was based on them being the only one, yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Now, I understand clearly. On another note, you mentioned we had Steve Nowicki. You mentioned we had 1100 plus people on ankle monitors currently."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** And you going to review so that people stay on ankle monitors try to aim the max of six months. We set a cap of 1,518. Have we been able to work within that cap?

**STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE:** "Mr. Summerlin can correct me, but I believe we have been under that cap since the Board approved that level of the cap. And we've been hovering around this 1100 for a couple of months."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** We haven't had issues with needing more, extending more?"

**STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE:** "No, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And in the future, if we really are evaluating people who are only on six months, we shouldn't go beyond that."

**STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE:** "Yes, ma'am. It's an initiative the Superior Court has taken very seriously, and we have part of our transition planned because for those that are within that 12 months -- 12 to six months, ideally instead of having to do a swap, they're just coming in and getting the monitor removed and they're going on about their business. So it's one less monitor that needs to be attached for any of those in that population."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, that's good to hear. Thank you."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I just wanted to speak again because I feel like I wanted to summarize everything that's been going on so that we're clear, because there's been a lot of sort of accusations and questions being tossed about, and I just want to clear up. First of all, thank you, Ms. Strong-Whitaker, for your work on this. I think it's -- if I'm following the timeline correctly, the bid evaluation process went all the way through essentially, and A 2nd Chance was chosen because they had the highest score, correct?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Correct, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "In the meantime, Talitrix did a disqualifying thing in that they broke the no-contact rule and, therefore, you chose to disqualify them, but regardless, they were not going to win the contract because of their score."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. The only reason that we chose to undisqualify them is because there was a potential that they would not sign the extension contract and, therefore, make this transition harder for us and potentially -- you know, less smooth and maybe some public safety issues. So in order to have the smoothest transition possible, you removed the disqualification essentially as a favor to them because it looks better for them to have to go forward into other negotiations without having been disqualified by Fulton County, correct?"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I just wanted to clear all of that up. I believe everything you did is above Board and correct, and if there's any smell tests that would need to be thought through is that ANA, a Talitrix Company, was threatening not to transition without us removing the disqualification. So I just want to make that clear, and I want to thank you for your work on this and your patience through this questioning."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'd like to call the question on 0274."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. 0275 is before us."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, sir. Both items were read. There was a motion for them to be heard together, 0274 precedes 0275 on the agenda. We were discussing and having discussion on both items, and you ruled as the Chair that we would vote on them separately, and I just did a motion to call the question on 0274."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "The scoreboard says 0275 is before us."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "0275 is before us. Let's vote on the call of the question."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order. My call of the question was not on 0275. 0275 is before us because we heard both items together. She first read 0274 and then she moved to 0275. My motion was for a call of the question on 0274 because you all voted to hear these items together."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam County Attorney, Madam Parliamentarian. I have ruled that we were going to hear them together, but vote separately. What's before us now is the vote on 0275."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "What I heard your ruling was, was to vote on them separately and currently the single item that is up on that -- that is -- has been read and is before the Board is 0275."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order. That is inaccurate. The single item that there is a motion on -- there's only one motion -- I made the motion to call the question on 0274. Madam Clerk, did you read 0274 prior to reading 0275?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, Commissioner, I did."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'm going to rule that 0274 is not before us. 0275 is before us. I'll entertain a motion to overrule."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm going to make a substitute motion to hold."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay, Mr. Chairman, we have a couple motions already in the machine, so we're going to have to clear those out. So, now the motion on the floor will be for Commissioner Arrington's hold?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, substitute motion to hold or to table this item."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which one, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Sir, you just ruled that 0275 was the only item before us."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So how can you ask me which one if you just made a ruling that that was the only item before us?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I also ruled that the motion to -- the call of the question was before us."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Sir, my call of the question was on 0274. So once you made a ruling that it was 0275, I then made a substitute motion to hold to table the item."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's deal with the motion to hold 0275."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay. And I need a second please, for the motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is there a second? Is there a second? All right. Properly moved and seconded. Let's vote on the motion to hold."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion to hold. And the motion fails, two yeas, five nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Now, I'll entertain a motion again on 0275 which was to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Hall wants to be heard."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. This question is for Madam County Attorney. Is it unethical or illegal for a vendor who is up for bid to give a sitting Commissioner a fundraiser prior to the bid coming up for a vote?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So the ethical question, I don't have very many facts surrounding this, and I would have to research it with more facts. The ethical question is something for the Board of Ethics to consider. An illegality is not something that my office considers either. We deal with civil matters that pertain to Fulton County, but not criminal."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote. The motion is to approve 0275."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On 0274, is there a motion?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Motion to approve."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve on 0274. Is there a second? Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. Further question for Mr. Summerlin, regarding our monitoring of this kind of going forward. I will say I'm a little disappointed that the proactive monitoring of this has not seemed to have occurred already. I thought that's the pathway that we were going when we had this discussion, I want to say back in October, November; and an acknowledgment by the court that -- and the judges that -- that this is sort of grown out of control and that there was going to be more aggressive monitoring of it. So, I guess what I'm looking to hear from you is that Superior Court is serious about this and will be doing it and how will we be -- how would this be reported back to us that that indeed is occurring?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, SUPERIOR COURT:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Is my mic on?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS** "Yes, I can hear you."

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, SUPERIOR COURT:** "So in October or November, I think there were about 1,500 folks being monitored, give or take, there was about 1,500 folks being monitored. At that time, we discussed a transition where we would begin to proactively look at those folks that are being monitored to see which folks could come off and also, at the same time, implement a process by which judges on the front end when placing folks on electronic monitoring would limit that to six months. And with only in unusual circumstances would the judge need to come back and add additional time for that monitoring would that occur, which would be extremely rare. So we did discuss the process. This procurement process is going on a little bit longer than we anticipated. We thought that the cleanest process would be once if there was a determination on a contract moving forward that we, at that time, sort of begin proactive management, and we're ready to do that. We're starting, we're gathering the information, the data right now, and we're prepared to do that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Preparing or will be doing it?"



**DAVID SUMMERLIN, SUPERIOR COURT:** "We will be doing it as soon as we're able to move forward."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote, please. The motion on the floor -- Vice Chair, you have the floor. All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote, please."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 5: Commissioner's Action Items: **24-0247**: Request approval of a Resolution establishing policies, limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, do you want to explain where we are? This was held at the last meeting."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Sure. So, basically I want to clarify there are three -- after meeting with Commissioner Barrett and, by the way, thank you for your courtesy and respect by meeting with me for over an hour the other day, I do appreciate your input that you gave me. Commissioner Ellis, I appreciate you responding, the courtesy and respect by responding that you're good; and Chairman Pitts, you met with me a couple of times, and, also, thank you for saying move on, that you agree with everything. And then, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I do appreciate the input that you have given me and some of it you have some changes still that you'd like to be made, but I just thank you all for responding to my e-mail. I sent an e-mail out with times that we were available Friday, Monday, and Tuesday virtually or in person; and so, I do thank you all. The problem that wasn't really quite clear to the public, I think, is there are three types of events. There are events that the department heads do and it's part of their responsibilities of doing community engagement. They budget for it, they plan for it, and then there's a second one that's kind of an intermediate where they have an event going on in the Commissioner's district, and they'll ask the Commissioner to come on and help promote their event to be a part of their event. So they're kind of collaborative events. And then the third kind is a Commissioner-driven event. The Commissioner wants to do an event; they contact the various departments and try to get their event arranged using county staff. So this particular item only -- and I stress only -- applies to Commissioner-driven events. So in these Commissioner-driven events, the first one, there's been no changes: Commissioners shall prioritize using their own staff to support events. The second one, Commissioners, as Commissioner Arrington stated, it is campaign season out there, and Commissioners need to avoid the appearance of using

County staff and facilities for campaigning purposes. Public outreach is primarily the job of our individual departments and Departments of External Affairs, although we do, do outreach, that should not be our primary job of just hosting events. So if you ask what your Commissioner is working on and they say I'm working on this event, this event, this event, we need to be working on the policy and the running of the County, and really diving in and trying to find solutions and problems that way. Our job is not to primarily host events. Individual Commissioners -- we added this wording a little bit better -- individual Commissioners should generally collaborate and join the efforts of individual departments rather than schedule their own outreach events on behalf of the departments. Thirdly, Commissioners shall provide and request staff support in writing a minimum of 14 days -- I think there was some issues there that somebody didn't think it was 14 days. With the exception of External Affairs and D.R.E.A.M., they need 30 days notice primarily for publicity of events and for equipment, and facility usage. Fourth, a Commissioner shall not request County staff for more than one event per month that takes place at a non-Fulton County facility or after normal working hours. Libraries that their normal working hours are different than most of the others, so libraries are open on Saturdays, so events are welcome to be held there. That's considered normal working hours. The after working hours provision applies to events held at both Fulton County facilities and non-Fulton County facilities. Any events that occur during the normal working hours should not interfere with normal departmental budgets or operations. The fifth one, County staff participation in scheduling is subject to the direction of the department head, not at the direction of the individual Commissioner. We need to work with our departments. We don't need to be mandating their scheduling and their participation. Sixth, Commissioners shall not expect County staff to attend or provide supplies, materials, and equipment to any of event of a municipality government agency other than Fulton County, nonprofit or commercial organizations such as a vendor fairs, NPU meetings, town halls, grand openings, and ribbon-cuttings. And this is primarily for supplies, materials that we request specifically for our events. A lot of our departments come and they bring -- because they are doing their outreach and they already have materials that they normally bring and goodies. I know Samir when he came he treated all of the students that came down here, students of Johns Creek with socks, and it was quite a hit, but it was nothing -- it was of surprise to me, but it really made the event great. Seventh, County staff shall not be used to boost coverage of Commissioners' attendance at third party events for purpose of this section. A third-party event as defined as an event that is not held or funded by the County department or where the event is not approved held or supported by the Full Board of Commissioners. County staff shall not -- also not be requested to prepare materials or goodie bags for Commissioners to take to third-party events. And then we added this eighth one, just to really clarify again: Department heads may involve County staff, supplies, materials, and equipment subject to their individual discretion in alignment with departmental goals. Department heads are not obligated to support Commissioner events when it would interfere with their normal operations and goals. So basically, I'm not profiting from this. This is not something that I enjoyed doing, but I see it as a need for our County mission and our staff to be used wisely. I also want to take note that I did reach out to Mr. Fann who came down here. Somehow the

messages we left him got lost in his voicemail, but I do welcome public input as well as Commissioner input as well as the department input. I'm trying to get everybody's input and draft a solution that's best for everyone."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, let's get a motion on the floor. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Vice Chair, you have the floor followed by Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Barrett."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I'll be brief in my comments. Thank you for holding this. I was the one that put the hold in place because I believed that it needed to be flushing out. I want to thank Commissioner Barrett for meeting with you. I think sometimes we get caught up in the politics of stuff, and we don't understand that all of us are down here to legislate. It's not a matter of whether you necessarily agree with the person, but you need to find common ground, and the only way you're going to have common ground is to have a conversation. You can't find common ground if you have decided not to ever speak to the person or not to ever return calls or not ever do your due diligence as an elected official to meet. We do the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County a disservice when we come down here to politicize something and then when all the lights, camera, and action is gone, we don't even try to meet with our colleague. And so, let me just say that. I would like to make a friendly amendment. I want to change the requesting County staff for one event per month to six events per quarter. I feel like that is fairer to me, not saying that the other was not fair, but just making sure that we do something that across the board should be, you know, adequate for all the Commissioners. And also, I want to read into record that I want to clarify that point six does not pertain to supplies. An example: brochures and giveaways that have already been purchased by the departments. This point pertains to departments making special orders for Commissioners' events for additional supplies. We have to have continuity. We had a transportation for the Commissioners that was abused. Unfortunately, we went through what I would call some rockiness in it, but at the end of the day, we did away with the transportation. I didn't necessarily agree with it, but I accepted it because I understand there was abuse. Any time that you have abuse with an issue, it must be addressed and, unfortunately, in these cases, we need to put in black-and-white what the expectations are and what it speaks to. So I would hope Commissioner Thorne that you would accept my friendly amendment; and I just want to go on record making sure that we clarify that, in six, the point pertains only to departments making special orders for Commissioner events for additional supplies."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'll accept your amendments, and we'll just see how it goes. We do -- Commissioner Barrett and I did think that we need to have another round of -- this is just a preliminary. We need to have another round of going, so we'll just see how this works for now and discuss in our next retreat what we need to do moving forward."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess I want to start off by asking about number eight again, because there was no number eight on my -- in my booklet nor on our online system. It only goes through one through seven. I disagree with the underlying premise that there are only three events, department events, and whatever those three areas that were listed. There are also community events that are hosted by the community where the community reaches out and requests services. So that is at least a fourth type of event. The public, who we are here to serve, can call and request that to have staff; to have people come to a voter registration event where we provide voter registration; to provide the mobile clinic where they take blood pressure and do all those types of things. So, there are more than those three types of events. So the underlying premise that there are only three types of events is flawed. Later -- also number four says, Commissioner shall request stall for one event per month that takes place at a Fulton County facility or after normal working hours, i.e., a start time of 5 p.m. or later; anytime on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday. But our libraries are open on the weekends. And so, obviously, that language right there is contradictory in and of itself, because there normal working hours could be on a Saturday or a Sunday. So that language is contradictory in and of itself and makes it vague and ambiguous because is it working hours or is it a Saturday or a Sunday? So, you know, there are also other events, and so -- let me see where I'm lost. I lost my place, but I'm not going to be able to support this. I believe that perhaps there may be some reasonable efforts that are needed. I believe that this falls short, and I'm not going to be able to support it even with the friendly amendment that -- oh, NPU meetings and events, town hall meetings. In the city of Atlanta, the NPU meetings are the meetings with the highest attendance. And so, the idea that we would limit staff from attending NPU meetings is illogical. Since I've been here, we've attempted to hold various town hall meetings on various subjects and attendance has been low. And I found that doing that at the NPU meetings, where there's already high attendance, is the best place to provide the information rather than trying to create our own event or our own hearing or notice or public hearing. It's always better to go, especially in the city of Atlanta, to the NPU meetings and to provide information there. So -- and what was number eight again?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "It's in your -- it should be in your folder, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, I don't -- I don't -- number -- this is what's in my folder, it's got one through seven. The document online that we have here on this pad has one through seven as well. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You done, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, sir."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah. I just wanted to respond to that. Since, like, we had a meeting a week ago, it was a bit hard to do the turn around and accommodate and get all the changes done and everything. So Commissioner Arrington, I apologize that we placed in your mailbox on Monday. And it was on your add-on folder on your desk. I'm sorry that you missed it. Again, I'm appreciative to everybody who reached out to me and did collaborate with me. And I hope we can collaborate more together. I really enjoyed it. And community -- in regards to community-driven events, if someone came to me and I'm requesting, like, I -- it would be really great if the library attends that event. I would certainly put it out to the library, hey, you know, we have a great event, they're going to be 200 people there, can you come? And let the department heads try to see if they can fit it in their schedule to come. Because what's good for the community, is also good for our department heads. And as a Commissioner, I'm happy to make connections. But I don't need to be the face of that event, saying on behalf of the -- you know, I brought the libraries, I brought this. I don't need to take credit as a Commissioner. So I certainly encourage community-driven events to reach out to your Commissioners if they need information about the county. And I'm certain that all of us would be willing to provide that."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Thorne, thank you for, you know, offering to collaborate with everybody. And I appreciate you taking the time to listen to my requested changes and to incorporate a good number of them. I really do appreciate that. And I do think, to respond to some of Commissioner Arrington's concerns, item number eight that was new, I think really does address a lot of those concerns. And I'm just going to read it out loud again. Department heads may involve county staff, supplies, materials, and equipment subject to their individual discretion and alignment with departmental goals. Department heads are not obligated to support Commissioner's events when it would interfere with their normal operations and departmental goals. And I think the point of that is -- and I think it may get at one of your amendments, a little bit, Vice Chair, in that if the department wants to come, if External Affairs thinks it's a great idea or voting thinks it's -- you know, Department of Registration and Elections thinks it's a great idea to, you know, bring materials or supplies or swag or whatever it is to a particular event, and it's aligned with their mission, they can do so. So it's not forbidding them to bring those things to an NPU meeting or for them to show up to that if it's aligned with their goals. So I think -- I think that number eight really does clarify this and allows some of those things that are beneficial to the community, and to respond to neighbor -- neighborhood requests and things like that. So I do think that line item is super helpful. I do have a concern about the change from one a month to six a quarter, the friendly amendment. That'll be two a month, but saying six a quarter, I think takes away from what you may have been trying to accomplish based on our conversation, Commissioner Thorne, in that, the whole idea about, you know, putting a whole bunch of events at one time and, you know, can look -- can sort of not pass the smell test and it looking like it's campaign related. So all of a sudden, if somebody's doing a whole bunch of events, you know, six events now, if you

change it to this amendment in May or in April, then it would -- it would smack of that campaign situation. So that is concerning to me. I'd be more comfortable with making that two a month versus one a month. Although, I personally think one a month is more than enough. I also want to just share with everybody else some of the conversations we had. I stick by what I said last week, in that I would love for us to have taken this up sort of together at the next retreat meeting, which I know we've now polled for dates and are getting that scheduled. So I'm thankful for that. But -- and hopefully we can continue the conversation. But I think we had some very positive conversations about what else we can do longer term to sort of address some of these issues. And I want to just express that it is always helpful, I think to note -- to quantify the problem we're trying to solve. And I think right now, we're all trying to solve a problem based on anecdotal evidence. We've heard this, we've heard that, we've seen this, we saw an ad for an event, that kind of thing. So I hate to drag you into this, Mr. County Manager, but I think we need to find a way -- and sooner than later, to track the requests. So right now, it feels like Commissioners are making requests to various departments. There's no central location for request to go through. So I don't know if that should be going through our Clerk or if it should be going through External Affairs or something. But there needs to be some sort of hub where requests come through. And then some sort of tracking so that we know, and we can get some kind of regular reporting on events that are scheduled, events that have occurred. And -- you want to respond? I feel like you do. No?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No. I was just going to say, well, Dr. Roshell took the lead on that. But our last discussion was to create a portal that would allow you to enter in request, track them, you know, see any resource utilization. So we'll -- we can report back in the next meeting on that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Yeah, I think in a perfect world, it is all in a system, and it is quantified in terms of costs and all those things. So I think this is, overall I think it's a really good first step to try to rein this in a little bit. But I would love to be able to quantify, again, the cost and what we're doing here. And also just have a view into what's happening. Because there is -- you know, one of the downsides of doing something like this, unfortunately, this is true for a lot of rules that apply to Commissioners, and we're going to get into this more later with some of the other issues, I think. But the enforcement mechanisms are challenging. So at least if we have visibility, we may or may not be able to say, well, you know, this rule says this, there's some discretion, right, on whether an event qualifies as one thing versus another. On the other hand, if we can see that one Commissioner is really abusing or two Commissioners or three are particularly abusing the resources, then we have more basis from which to act. Anyway, I just wanted to add that, and I look forward to continue to working on this. And so I'm not sure that I can support it because of the friendly amendments. But I appreciate the -- the general work, and I hope to continue it."

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



**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, I want to go to number 3, and this is part of the revised resolution. At the last meeting, I asked Dick about the fact that he had stated 14 days was sufficient for -- what is this -- the -- to provide for -- within 14 days' notice for External Affairs and DREAM. And it still says 30 days on here. Is this -- is that not being updated or changed?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. I think what the original was 30 days. Then we, in conversations with Commissioner Thorne and her staff, said we could do 14. And in the -- if I recall, in the context of the conversation, said well, if there's something like a mobile stage or, you know, some logistical support, that's why DREAM is on here, perhaps it would be better to have a 30-day notice. And then Jessica, I don't recall if we consulted with you. But there was a question about in order to have -- if it was FGTV or someone like that, that 30 days would be preferred. Let me let you speak to that one."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Dr. Roshell spoke with me. And I did tell her that for us to support an event for which we are providing publicity, that we -- that 14 days is not sufficient to develop the materials, seek approvals, and then provide adequate notice to the community. And so that's where 30 days came from."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So the 30 days remains?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Can I comment? The 30 days remains just for External Affairs and DREAM."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Speak into the mic, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I heard her."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "It -- just for the two departments. We did initially, when we were planning, we -- we went -- we had 30 days for everything, then we thought, well, that's a little long, we'll do 14 days but then they came back. And in the last meeting, we didn't really change anything from the last meeting here. We just kind of clarified the reasons why External Affairs needs 30 days and why DREAM needs 30 days. But it's -- it was there last week. It's 14 days for everything else, just 30 days for those two departments."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. And I think it's an absolutely great idea to have a portal to track resource utilization. Is -- when would that be done? Is there an estimated time of completion?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I don't have it today, but I'll -- I promise I'll get that back to you. I don't recall if Dr. Roshell already had kicked something off. Do



you recall, Sharon, for that? I don't know. We had the conversation. I'm not sure we initiated something yet with IT."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so this doesn't address how NPU neighborhood, business, and civic associations and other organizations should make their request. I've been here 13 years now, six with Commissioner Garner as her Chief of Staff, and seven, this is my seventh year as a Commissioner. And we were told from the beginning back when I was Chief of Staff that they needed to make a request through their Commissioner. And then the Commissioner make the request known to the departments. So what is the process now?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So now, the process is that you just -- whatever staff they want there, you can submit the request with the -- department head can say, no, sorry. It's not an official -- it's not a Commissioner-driven event. So it's left up to the department head. If it fits their mission, if it's aligned with our goals, aligns with their schedules that they have and it doesn't interfere with the current work they're doing, then they can accept that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Well, I don't -- I don't have very many Commissioner-driven events. So I'm not -- I'm trying to really understand. The only Commissioner-driven events that I had were approved in the budget. And they were two youth conferences that I had before over the past for several years. And the Joan P. Garner Walk and Health Fair. Those are the only Commissioner-driven events I have. So I don't -- I'm trying to understand the resolution, because it doesn't really fall under what I do."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, it's mainly to not have county staff feel like they have to abide by all the events that you're telling them to go to. That they can -- they can set their schedule --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I don't tell anybody to go anywhere."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, then you'd probably be fine."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. And so what is the procedure, because it's not in this resolution?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We don't have a procedure driven. They're going to try to work on developing a portal. To do it for now, you're just going to have to communicate."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So we're going to approve this with no procedure. And so how do the community -- how does the community know how to move forward with no procedure? You sit there and you berate Nadine Williams about not having standard operating procedures, but we're going to approve a resolution with no standard

operating procedures for the community to know how to move forward with a request? I'm going to go ahead and ask that our County Manager work on some type of process that we can share with the community so that they know and they're very clear about how to make requests for their events and their meetings."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. Our goal or our responsibility as Legislators is to legislate. The County Manager deals with processes. And so first and foremost, I would like to say that. Secondly, I would like to say that if you say two per month, this still would not work for me. That's why I said six per quarter, because if a Commissioner does not need a month, that would allow them the space to have six opportunities. For my particular District, my constituents have a tendency to come out in the warmer months. They come out, they will attend in spring and summer, sometimes even fall, but when the colder months, they won't attend. And so I have a tendency to have -- based on the patterns of knowing my constituents, one of the best times of the year for them to come out. If it goes back to one per month, if the Commissioner doesn't use it, they lose it. And so I thought in meeting with the Commissioner Thorne, and fleshing this out, here again, I say, as Commissioners, we should want to communicate with each other outside of just the BOC. We should want to have a common ground that we meet on. And so the purpose of my friendly amendment was to make sure that the concerns that I was hearing, that I made sure that Commissioner Thorne had. But Commissioner Thorne did state this is the beginning process. This could -- this can be tweaked as we go. But I think this is a good starting point. I'm going to support it, and I'm glad that you accepted my friendly amendment. Thank you, Chairman."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Several of the comments brought up -- brought something to mind that Commissioner Thorne and I did speak about, but I want to bring up to you, Mr. County Manager. I do think that whatever portal we put together should not be solely for the use of the County Commissioners requesting events, but also for all county events. And -- and I think we should be -- we should have a complete reporting and audit on all county events. Because I was looking through the External Affairs newsletter, I think it was the most recent one that came out, and I think there were something like ten events listed there. And to Commissioners -- Commissioner Hall's point, there are some events that, you know, she initiated, but that have sort of become a routine part of county business now and no longer fall under her department. So I think, you know, for the benefit of the taxpayers, we should, you know, have a view into how many events the county is putting on, sort of

what the purpose of the event is, you know, how many people we're serving in that way, geographically where these events are occurring? I mean, I think we should really be able to evaluate overall our events program, if you will. And so that we don't, you know, we can start to ensure that we're not, for example, doing a lot of health events in one area and none in another area that might need them, or something along those lines. And in some cases, different areas need different things, I acknowledge that. But still, I think there's just not a clear place to go and look at overall what events the county is doing. And by the way, I think there's also a, who is paying issue because in some cases, they're grant funded. And so we want to be clear on that too, right? But then the staff still has to spend time. And so I think it would just be good to see a comprehensive report, and probably on some kind of regular basis. And I think having a portal would help that if everybody is using it. So, you know, if Behavioral Health is throwing an event and they need to make a request from DREAM for a stage, then that would go through the portal as well. That's my point. Thanks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Brief. All I'll just say about this is, I think it's really hard to codify common sense, common courtesy, and good behavior. I applaud the attempt. I'm going to support it. But I'm not fully convinced that if you don't have a good compass about what it means to be appropriate in your ask and not abusive in your ask and not pushy in your ask and abuse -- ask, and not abusive to the process in general, then we will continue to have questions and problems and frustrations held by our staff. You know, so I'll just leave it at that. And also say -- no, I'm just going to leave it at that."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Sorry to get you choked up, Mr. Chair. If I need to do the Heimlich, let me know."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So we have a motion to approve by Bridget Thorne, Vice Chair Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, second. Clerk, go ahead and offer the vote."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yours didn't register, Chairman. Oh, I'm sorry."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Hold up for second. The Chairman voted, yes, did it register it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "No. We do not have a vote for the Chairman. Mr. Chairman, are you voting, yes?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**CLERK GRIER:** "So that makes the motion pass with four yeas."

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**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you. I'm going to entertain a motion for lunch and Executive Session. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And vote is open for Executive Session."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And lunch."

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

**Recessed for Executive Session 1:26 p.m.**

**Resumed Regular Session at 2:14 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam Clerk, please continue."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6, **24-0276**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article 2, Division II of the code of laws of Fulton County to clarify the definition of officer or employee in the Code of Ethics, sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, it is seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Ellis, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, colleagues really just really simply, this just amends our -- you know, this particular portion of the code to clarify that the definition of officer or employee shall include these specific words, any elected or appointed official whose department or agency is -- is appropriated funds from the county, that they would be subject to the same ethics code that we would, for example. So seemed to be some lack of clarity around that with coming out of some of the ethics codes -- Ethics Board's rulings that they took. And so to me, this looked like it needed clarity, so this seeks to add it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Could you repeat that, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So this, what it does is it clarifies that the definition of officer or employee in the code of ethics, it adds this statement: This definition shall include

any elected or appointed official whose department or agency is appropriated funds from the county."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "There are about 1000 things that need to be changed in the code of ethics. The priority of changing this one thing is very low. Not only does there -- are there 1000 things that need to be changed in the code of ethics, the members that comprise the Board of Ethics need to be removed and the whole board needs to be disbanded. And we need to have Hearings Officers. There's no way in the world that I will support this."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Just a question about any potential issues with this. I mean, I think this would then incorporate a -- potentially a lot of people that aren't currently included, is that correct, Madam County Attorney?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm not sure it would incorporate people who are not currently included. I think it clarifies that they are included. I know there was a recent decision by the Board of Ethics that a certain official was not included. And if it is the intent to this Board to include all of the elected officials, then this proposed resolution rectifies that -- or ordinance."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, just for clarity sake, the issue is whether or not the person who's being brought up on an ethics complaint is a -- is -- if their salary is being paid by the county. So I guess, part of my question is if their salary is not being paid by the county. But their county or agency or, I think I read it that way, has any funding from the county, then they would be able to be -- you know, those complaints will be able to be heard by our -- by our Ethics Board. But I think the question would be, like, is that appropriate, if it's a state employee or if it's a -- some other board. I don't know, I -- there's a lot of boards and there's a lot of places where Fulton County invests money. So does a membership, for example, constitute us appropriating funds? So in other words, we pay a membership to Atlanta Regional Commission. Is that appropriating funds? Would that subject those folks to Fulton County Board of Ethics?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I would not expect that to be -- anyone to argue that it would reach to that extent if a membership is in the nature of the subscription as opposed to appropriating funds to someone's budget. I think this, in my mind, would cover more officers that -- whose departments receive an allocated budget from Fulton County, and perhaps some other situations that don't come to mind at this moment in the abstract."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm -- I don't have a strong objection to this. I'm just wanting to make sure that we're not sweeping other -- that we're not making something

that's so broad that we're sweeping other people potentially into this that shouldn't be there. So that's -- that's what I'm trying to get clarification on."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Commissioner, if I may, the -- what it's clarifying is the definition of officer or employee, which means, quote/unquote, as it reads: Any elected officer of the county; any person appointed to the county board, commission, or agency by the Board of Commissioners; any person employed by the county including contractual employees; and any person retained by the county or any agency of the county in a consulting capacity. That's the way it currently reads. So this would clarify that that definition would also include any elected or appointed official whose department or agency is appropriated funds for this county."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean, like I said, I'm really just trying to get -- I hear what you're saying, and I understand what you're trying to do. But I'm just voicing some concern that we may be sweeping others into this that don't belong here."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The question has been called. Let's -- is there a second?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Second."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go back to the -- Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The Fulton County Board of Ethics is a joke. The Fulton County code of ethics is a joke. And if -- if this were approved, would it be retroactive, or would it be going forward?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Most legislation is applied prospectively."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So what does prospectively mean?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "From the point of enactment, forward."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "From the point of enactment, forward, so this will be going for -- if it does pass, it would be going forward. It would not be applicable to anything that happened in the past?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "This one would be a prospective legislation, yes."

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

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0277**, Request approval of Fulton County Anti-nepotism Policy, sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, this is a fairly straightforward thing, which is a supplement to our currently anti-nepotism policy. And what this supplement would do is that it would ensure that there is the same level of treatment for employees in terms of responsiveness and so forth, also would extent to elected and appointed officials. So no elected or appointed official whose department or agency is appropriated funds from the county shall engage in or advocate for or be in violation of our particular nepotism policy. And it's going to apply to all employees, independent contractors, contract personnel, any elected or appointed official whose department agency is, again, is appropriated funds. This is meant to supplement our policy. And in the event there were to be findings of violation of the policy by an elected or appointed official when we've -- if there are findings of that, that an elected or appointed official has engaged in a violation of the policy that is to be reported to us as the Board of Commissioners. And it would give us the authority to take action, should we choose to do so in a manner which would include but not limited to issuing a public censure or imposing a fine that would be paid by the violator or automatically deducted from the violator's compensation after there was notice and an opportunity to be heard. So this is just to provide certainty that the public that there are -- that all of us are sort of subject to the same rules as our employees. And if we violate them that there are potential repercussions associated with those as well. It's not a hall pass."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Too much, too little, too late. Madam County Attorney, would this apply retrospectively or prospectively? Does this apply to things



going forward, or does this apply to actions that have already -- that took place in the past?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "If approved, this would also be prospective legislation."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So what would that mean if something was done pursuant to this policy prior to this being enacted?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That would not be a possibility because the policy didn't exist, and therefore nothing could have been done pursuant to this policy prior to enactment."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, they censured Commissioner Hall. Doesn't -- this -- the language in this policy prior -- right now, does not give the Board of Commissioners the opportunity to do any of this, nor does it give the accused the opportunity for notice, which is why it's being put in there now. Was any of that language that is being proposed today, was that in place at the time when they censured Commissioner Hall?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "First, to let me say that the censure --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Madam County Attorney, that's a yes-or-no question. And you can explain after that."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm sorry, what was the question?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Was this language that is being proposed today in there when they went forward to censure Commissioner Hall?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "No. But that implies that it was necessary. It was not in place. But I do want to say that the censure language in this proposed legislative does not require notice and a hearing. That requirement is tied to the monetary penalties."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, either it's there or it's not. It says, after notice and an opportunity to be heard. Does not -- doesn't the proposed language say that?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes, for the monetary penalties, if imposed."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And that language was not there previously, correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "This is new legislation."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And who is responsible currently for doing this? If there are violations, what does the current policy state, who is responsible for violations of the policy?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I don't understand the question. Do you mean, who is responsible for violations of this policy that's being proposed?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, this is --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So if you mean who was responsible for something like this at that previous time when the Board voted to censure Commissioner Hall; is that what you're asking?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I guess it was that personnel policy. Who was -- who does that personnel policy identify as the person responsible being able to take action?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I would have to look at it, but I -- that action was not taken pursuant to the personnel policy because the personnel policy -- this Board is not able to take disciplinary action against another Commissioner. And that was not disciplinary action, it was an expression of an opinion of certain Members of the Board."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That personnel policy identifies the County Manager as the sole arbiter of that personnel, doesn't it?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Perhaps. I'd have to look at it again. That sounds correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That sounds correct, I thought so. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple things. There's some wording I think that needs to be reconsidered, potentially, for clarity or maybe it's just a grammatical error. But I'm certainly -- on page -- I guess it's 177. According to what I'm looking at, in the first item, item 1, statement of policy purpose, the wording is currently: It is the policy of Fulton County to ensure effective supervision, internal discipline, trust, and positive morale in the workplace and seeks to avoid. I think the word seeks just needs to come out, it should say and to avoid. It is the policy to do XYZ and to avoid, not and seeks to avoid. So that's just grammatical, but I think for clarity it should be -- and it's also just more concrete, if you take out seeks. The other wording choice I'm questioning, and this may just be me not understanding, so it doesn't necessarily need to be changed. But I do need an explanation. On the next page under item 4 where it says violations, in the first paragraph it says, the county -- so

there's two paragraphs, right. The first paragraph seems to relate to everyone, including employees and what have you. And the second paragraph seems to apply to elected and appointed officials. And in that first paragraph, it says the County Manager or his slash her designee shall investigate alleged violations of this policy. All findings of violations of this policy by employees shall be reported to the applicable appointing authority. So I'm not clear on who the appointing authority would be in that case."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So in the -- under violations, there are two different scenarios that are possible. If you do have an appointing authority, say, you are an employee who reports to a department head or to the County Manager, then it would be reported to the person who has disciplinary authority over that employee."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Is that referred to as appointing authority in all of our HR policies?"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So the second paragraph is the other scenario --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Correct."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- if you have no appointing authority, because essentially, for example, the voters are the ones who have put you in office, and not an individual within Fulton County --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right, I understood that."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- then you would -- you would default to the second paragraph."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. That's fine. So I just think then it's that first word in that first paragraph. And it probably needs to just come out. I'm not going to change my vote based on that one way or the other. I just think it should be fixed. But I do have a question about going forward on this right now. And my question relates more to the violations, you know, to the punishment essentially, which is that we are saying we can issue a fine. But I don't see a fine schedule attached. Do we have such a thing?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That could be something that this policy allows for the County Manager in conjunction with my office to come up with procedures that match the policy. So it's something that you could insert as the Board, or you could delegate it to the departments."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean, I hear what you're saying. But it's -- if this passes, is it effective immediately?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The policy is effective immediately. The enforcement mechanisms would need to be developed, and that would take some time."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, it feels to me like there should be a complete policy, including a fine schedule and a procedure in order to vote for it. Because if you come back with a fine schedule, and you say -- I'm not saying that you would. But if you come back with a fine schedule, and you say it's \$60,000 per violation, I'm not going to support that. If you say it's \$5 per violation, I'm not going to support that either. That doesn't seem right. Or it's somehow -- in some way not fair to everybody who commits the same act, then, you know, to me, it's incomplete without the fine schedule. Saying we can find somebody but not saying how much, leaves it to be pretty arbitrary. So I'm going to make a motion to hold until we get that part of this, you know, made public and so that we can approve it all together."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. There's a substitute motion to hold. Is there a second on the substitute motion to hold? Is there a second on the substitute motion --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "It's Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, I did it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Oh, Commissioner Arrington, sorry. All right. The motion on the floor is to hold. Please vote."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm still in the queue for discussion, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. You have the floor, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And so was Commissioner Thorne."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Thorne, it's -- now we're on the motion to hold. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "With a fine schedule, that would be -- have something that would require a tremendous amount of work because you have to think out based on a person's salary. Because this is across the county, across different salary schedules. So like one fine may be punitive to someone, but not very punitive to another in the county. And I think we maybe just approve it, and have it enacted once the fine schedule is developed. So that -- I would make a motion or a friendly amendment that we would implement it once -- how we're going to impose the fine and the fine fees is established by the County Manager and his staff and brought forward to us."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. The motion on the floor now is to hold."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "See, I don't think they can add -- I don't think between our next meeting, they're going to be able to develop that. So I think we need to go ahead and put the policy in place. Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Then, not to hold."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I think that this needs to be held. How would -- how would we receive -- or how would anyone receive notice of the fine schedule once adopted by the County Manager or County Attorney? How would any employee or Commissioner or elected official, how would they receive notice of it? How would you know what the fine is going to be? How would you know what --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So two possible ways that you would receive notice is constructive or actual notice from it being codified once it is developed. And the other way is that presumably when the individual received notice of the hearing and opportunity to be heard, they would receive that information as well."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, codified, that's what they're trying to do right now. So that -- that doesn't answer the question. Because if they codify it right now, if this gets passed right now, you guys have -- the County Manager, County Attorney, and others, the Chief Operating Officer will be responsible for coming up with the fine schedule. So then when and where would that fine schedule be presented? Would it have to come back to this Board to be approved?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It's -- that level of detail is delegated to the County Manager to develop in conjunction with our office. But it's also posted on the county's website along with all the other policies and procedures that pertain to our employees and officials."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Posting on the website is not notice, ma'am. Notice is a constitutional requirement."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Notice of the hearing is a requirement when there is a requirement for hearing. But notice of a law can occur just by having the law being passed and being on the books."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I would submit to you that people need to have notice of a fine schedule. And they need to know what the fines are -- are going to be or possibly would be. And that if you do not provide them that notice, you are depriving them of their due process under the law."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I don't think we need a fine schedule. I think that the policy is clear on its face. It gives us the authority to take action including, but not limited to issuing a public censure. Including, but not limited to, there could be other actions that we could take. But if we're going to impose a fine, then, you know, there's got to be notice and an opportunity to be heard. And obviously, it's got to be something that's within the realm of reasonableness and stand the test of legality. So I think the policy is fine as the way it's written. I think you're getting too far down into the weeds to try to ask our Attorney or our Manager to prescribe a schedule for every type of situation. That should be left to us to determine, that should be our role."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Commissioner Ellis, is there a particular reason that this is -- needs to be done this week? Is there a hurry for this?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I see no reason why it shouldn't be done right now. Given some of the events that have occurred within the county, I think it's up to us to provide a response at on go-forward basis, this is what we stand for. And I think the sooner it's done, the better."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "In the entrance -- in the interest of transparency for the citizens and fairness, I think is very important that we have a fine schedule. With any standard violation of, I mean, a law, generally speaking, there's a fine schedule. If there's a fine that can be levied, there's a fine schedule. So if you, you know, if get caught speeding, you don't just get randomly whatever dollar amount somebody, some judge feels like giving you. This is -- there's no reason why we wouldn't want to do this in a way that is advertised and fair. So the idea that we don't need a fine schedule -- I could see if you said we didn't need it now for some reason. But you seem to be saying we don't need a fine schedule at all, which makes no sense to me. We have to have some guidelines here because then, you know, if you don't, we're going to be called into question. If two people commit this violation, and one of them gets \$1,000 fine -- and I'm talking, not Commissioner Thorne, about an employee versus an elected official, I'm talking about two different elected officials commit this -- this violation, and one is fined \$1,000, and one is fined \$5,000, then we have made some kind of a arbitrary political decision, which I think is completely inappropriate. So we do need a fine schedule, and it should be with this policy. And the idea that we should just push this through because we want to have this arbitrary power to slap fines on people, is untenable. I definitely cannot support it without -- I was just asking to hold. I'm still asking to hold because I would still like to see this fine schedule. But, you know, if that's not even something you're willing to consider adding to it, then absolutely, I don't support it. And I will stand on that and get as loud as anybody else in this room gets to say this is inappropriate."

We should have -- we should be meeting out legislation and creating policies that are fair and that are transparent. And this is neither."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Well, if that's the position you want to take, knock yourself out. We have human resource policies, you know, in our code, right, which we say things like including, but not limited to up to termination, right?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So with every type of situation, if you've ever managed people, you worked in our organization, if you want to try to prescribe every element into a construct of a personnel-like policy, which this is one, you're going to get yourselves in trouble. And there's a reason why years and years of experience in terms of the way that policies and procedures are constructed, have this type of language in them. And that's why this is contained here, and that's why I want it here."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Mr. -- excuse me. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Two things. First of all, a point of order on decorum. Telling me I can knock myself out is inappropriate. Are you going to respond? That's --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Commissioner Barrett, I apologize for my choice of words for knock yourself out. But if you would like to go and proclaim this is the position you want to take, feel free, that's your prerogative."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Secondly, to Mr. Hermon, are -- how many policies do we have in HR that include punitive violations that -- I'm sorry -- that include punitive fees for violations?"

**KENNETH HERMON, SR, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. You said fees? Fines?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yes, this is a fee, this is a fine for -- a punitive fine for a violation of an HR policy. How many of those do we have on the books?"

**KENNETH HERMON, SR, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Off the top of my head, Commissioner, I don't believe we have any that imposes a fine on an employee for some bad act. It's typically some type of discipline action or a recoupment of funds if we find some bad actor in our population."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. And correct me if I'm wrong, but this policy now is saying that we would be also implementing a fine on an employee who does this wrong, correct? Am I reading this wrong?"



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Fine is only in respect to an elected or appointed official who cannot be terminated."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So it is a personnel policy, or is it just a policy? Because if it doesn't apply to personnel, and it only applies to appointed or elected officials, then how is it a personnel policy?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It's not a personnel policy. And that's why this policy, I think, is being brought forward. There is already an anti nepotism personnel policy that is part of the Civil Service Act. But the Civil Service Act only reaches and applies to people who are classified as employees of Fulton County. There are a lot of other folks associated with Fulton County who represent Fulton County in some capacity who are not classified as employees. And I think this policy seeks to hold them to the same standard as our employees. So the portion of the proposed policy that talks about fines being imposed is in that second paragraph that applies to people who are not beholden to or report to an appointing authority. So that, practically speaking, would be officials."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Thank you for clarifying that. I know we have -- I know we have at least one other policy that allows us to levy fines, and that would be our decorum policy. Are there others that allow us to levy fines?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I don't know any off the top of my head, there may be. But since you bring it up, the decorum policy is another policy that, like this provision in this policy, is an attempt by the Board to essentially hold itself to a certain standard. And so you don't report to an appointing authority. So you, as a Board and as a Body, are deciding then to hold yourself accountable in this fashion."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Does that policy not have dollar amounts associated with it?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I believe it does."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So it's practice then, certainly, to come up with a relevant dollar amount that we think is appropriate to fine, as opposed to just making up numbers based on whoever's in front of us, or whatever we feel like?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That is one of your options in terms of taking this kind of action. But allow me to say that if you did it on a case-by-case basis, that is also not -- there's no reason why you couldn't do case-by-case evaluations. As well, you would just be subject to the same reasonableness evaluation on review as any other action that you would take."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you. I would just like to be really clear. I support the idea of this policy. I'm not anti- this policy. I would just like it to be meted out fairly. And was asking for it to be held so that we could come up with an appropriate fine schedule, and be fair about how we do it and be transparent with the citizens about what we're doing here and how we're doing it. That's all. I'm supportive of an anti-nepotism policy that goes further than the one that we had. I'm supportive of an anti-nepotism policy that is for elected and appointed officials. Just to be clear, just want everybody to know, what I don't like is the way this is being pushed through without clarity on what the fines are."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else? 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 to hold fails; three yeas, four nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Back to the main motion on the floor, which is to approve. Let's vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **24-0278**, Hospital Authority of Fulton County. Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County submitted slate of names for the Board of Commissioners consideration to terms ending April 1st, 2028."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. And I'll just make one statement. I still have no idea what this board here does. Motion is to approve."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 7, Board of Ethics, The Atlanta Business League has recommended Judy Walker for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending February 12, 2025."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner -- Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Natalie Hall. Let's vote, please."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm in the queue, Mr. Chair."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. The Board of Ethics is a joke. The Fulton County Code of Ethics is a joke. And the members of the Board of Ethics are a joke. They need to be disbanded, and we need to have Hearing Officers."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. Commissioner Arrington, you've made the statement multiple times. You have active matters before them. We've all heard this. You've stated your opinion. We've all heard it out. I would just ask that we no longer hear it anymore."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of -- this is a free country, this is America. I have a First Amendment right of freedom of speech. And I'm going to say it every time and any time that I want to."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, **24-0280** Board of Registration and Elections, Chairman Pitts has nominated Cathy Woolard to serve as Interim Chair, replacing Patrise Perkins-Hooker for Full-Board appointment to an unexpired term ending June 30th, 2025."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I just want to say I think Ms. Woolard is an excellent choice for this. So I appreciate the nomination. But I do have a question, did -- to the County Attorney, I guess, or the Clerk, did we receive a resignation letter from Patrise Perkins-Hooker?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "My office did not. I don't know if the Board has received it. But she did announce in open session at the meeting of the Board of Registration and Elections that she is resigning effective upon the appointment of her successor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So my question is, is there a specific policy about how someone on the Board of Registration and Elections removes themselves? Like, I know we have -- if we are trying to remove somebody, it has to be for cause and with a hearing."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But if they're removing themselves, does it have to be in writing?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "We are not aware of any specific method by which they would resign. And because she is -- she is a member of the board as opposed to an employee, I'm not even sure that our methodology would apply to her. But she did make a public announcement of her resignation."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, we have -- there are policies that determine that -- that constitute how that board operates."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And so if there is nothing there, I mean, if there is nothing specific about how she should resign, I just want to understand for clarity because we're heading into, you know, election season here. And, you know, we're going ahead and replacing somebody without something in writing, which I'm fine with, we all heard it, it was in an open meeting. And I -- I'm accepting that as a standing method of resigning. But that's not written anywhere, we just all sort of took that to be reality. So -- and she attends it to be reality, I'm sure she wouldn't have said it. But my -- I think my -- the reason I'm bringing it up and asking the question is because if we don't have an official policy on how somebody resigns from that position, we should probably get one instituted. Because I don't -- I think, you know, if -- if Ms. Woolard, for example, were to say, you know, I've changed my mind, at some point like, does this board just replace without a formal letter? Does it have to be that they say it in their meeting? I just would like some clarity on that. I'm not holding this up for that. I'm absolutely supporting Ms. Woolard. But I just want -- I would like to get some clarity on that. And you can get it to me offline, if possible."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So we will come up with some recommended language for your consideration."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Awesome. Thank you so much."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just want to state for the record that I realize this is kind of poor timing for a Chair to step down. And we need someone who can pick up the gavel right away and lead our Election Department. So I do see the need for somebody with experience. I have reached out to Cathy Woolard, tried to schedule a meeting virtually, in person, whatever she could accommodate. She is moving her mother into a nursing home is my understanding, this week. She's out of the country next week. So I haven't had the opportunity to meet with her and talk to her and see what her ideas are moving forward with -- on the Election Board and things that she would like to see done. And I would like to be able to work with her in the future. So at this time, I simply can't vote for her. I did -- I'm privy to her past as a Board Chairman. I'm hoping I can work her forward, moving forward, but simply without being able to talk to her, her being available, I can't vote for her at this time. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I don't want to get too much in the weeds on this because for some reason, we seem to want to get in the weeds on a lot of stuff and make it political. I believe that Patrise Perkins-Hooker, she resigned in an open meeting. I take her for her word. She's been a pillar of the community, known her for quite a while, her and her husband. And so I take her for her word, and I appreciate her are resigning because I still stand by my statement that I said that it was just not a good look. I'm going to support Cathy. Have I been, maybe, critical of some things in the past? Yes, I have. But in any kind of political process, you want to give people chances. I have met with her. Some of the things I think we were eye to eye on, some that we weren't. But I think as far as her leadership, and being able to effectively Chair the Board of Registration and Elections, I believe she could do it. I believe at this juncture, with an election on the way, this needs to be seamless. We need to have her as interim. I don't have a problem with that. I think sometimes, if we, as sitting Commissioners, don't understand what our duty or authority is, if you feel like it's something that needs to be done or put in place, you can always put forward a resolution. If it's something that I can support, I will support you. But I think we kind of get in the weeds on stuff when we start saying, well, this doesn't say that, that doesn't say this, this doesn't say that. So I would just -- I would just ask all of my colleagues if you feel that strongly, then put -- put it in, I'll support you. Put in the resolution for something that's missing, I'll be more than happy to support you. But I think at this juncture, we need seamless leadership. She's already resigned. Whether she's done it by paper or not, she's resigned and she did it openly. And that was enough for me. So I'm going to support this. And I'm going to ask my colleagues to please support it because one thing we don't need is to look like we are not -- we don't have anybody at the helm, and we've got an election coming. So I'm going to support it. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Other comments? All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Please vote."

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

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

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**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Point of order, Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "On the next item, I'll just pull that since it's a duplicate."

**CLERK GRIER:** "So, noted. Commissioners' Presentation and Discussion Items, bottom of page 9."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm going to go ahead and hold my item as well, hoping to meet with Cathy Woolard before our next meeting."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wait. I'm sorry, what did you say, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm going to hold the next item, the election discussion item --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- so that I had an opportunity to meet --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Understand."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- with Ms. Woolard."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Next --"

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0282**, Discussion, County Vehicles, sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you. Just to -- I just had -- I'll make this real brief. I know I had brought this up a few weeks back, we've had a lot of discussion about

vehicles. And I think, a need for some more -- there's obviously a substantive asset for us in terms of number of vehicles, right. And I had asked for some stuff, and I just wanted to check in with where we were with having that ready for a report back to the Board. It's my understanding that we will have some -- and some of the specific things I had, I wanted to look at an inventory of our fleet, where it is, what it is, when it was purchased, what it -- who is it assigned to, who's using it, and along with some purchasing activity for the past four years. I do have some concern about asset control in this area. And that we really maybe don't have our arms around this as well as what we should. As my understanding from Mr. Davis, that you're -- you would -- you were going to have this available to us within what kind of timeframe?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "We anticipate having our physical review of the county fleet completed within the next two weeks."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "As a part of that effort, it will also include many of the data analytics you refer -- you referenced."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And one of the things that you noted you were going to have, you're looking at your -- you're seeking to have visual verification of the fleet?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And that you -- your team has been able to put their eyes on about three quarters of that today?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Could you pull that -- pull this up on here real quick? And I wanted to ask if you had been able to put your eyes on -- on this particular vehicle or not, when it shows it up here?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "No, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. But that would be one you would look to try to identify and put your eyes on to see if this is part of our fleet?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, all right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I know where it is."



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "We had a lot of discussion about this particular vehicle. I don't know if this was sent to me by an employee. So I'd like to know if that ultimately is the vehicle when you're able to put visual verification on it. And you can flash forward through some of the other photos. And I'd be curious to see if this is what it looks like on the inside or if this is something else. Keep going. Yeah. Keep going. Keep going. I think that's it. And you can take it down. But if that -- if that indeed was the vehicle that was described to us to be a command center vehicle, then we're obviously not getting sort of clear information back to us, or you're not getting clear information back to you all when purchases are being made about what the specific uses of these vehicles are. So I mean -- yeah, I use that illustratively, because it's -- I mean, I would suspect that in terms of the cost, that's probably the most expensive four-wheel vehicle that we would have, probably about 220,000 of a four-wheel vehicle. I'm assuming that's four wheels on that thing, right? More than four wheels, probably some of those may cost a little bit more money. The other thing I want to raise and I want us to consider in terms of the policy, I do think it just sort of a good practice in terms of accounting, and I'll talk to our -- I'm not looking to bring something forward as a motion or anything like right now. But I'd like to look at in terms of resolution is in terms of standards around what goes on our vehicles, and what would go on those vehicles would only be things which are, you know, notations of Fulton County Government and the representative departments, and that there be no individual names of elected officials or other people on our vehicles. I think is a best practice that should occur. And I'm going to ask the County Attorney to draft up a resolution with some language around that. So just letting you know that will be forthcoming."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We just got an email at 12:38 today from Michael Shoates, the Chief of Staff for the Sheriff. And he -- in the letter he says: At the last Board meeting, there was discussion about our mobile executive command vehicle. Several of you reached out, and I would like to offer the opportunity for all of you to have accurate information and to view the vehicle under discussion. Please let me know if you or your Commissioner is interested. I just wanted to bring that forward. I appreciate his transparency in that. I would also like to see if we could get some type of detailed information with the gas card usage that's associated with these vehicles if possible. I know you provided some before."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, ma'am, we can do that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, that's it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. I'm a little confused because it says, at the last Board meeting there was a discussion about our mobile executive command vehicle. My understanding that is this was a command center? I'm going to need some

-- I'm going to need -- and I don't know if you would do it, DREAM, or maybe the County Attorney. But my idea of what a command vehicle is -- I don't know if we're talking about the same thing. Because the pictures I just saw is not a command vehicle. So County Attorney, County Manager or DREAM if, in fact -- because when it -- the review that we had, show the 200-and-something-thousand dollar purchase that I asked about. When I asked about it, it was said that it was a command center. Now, if it's not a command center, I don't know what an executive mobile command vehicle is. So if we can get some kind of terminology for the sake of my understanding. I don't want to call something a command center if it's not, if it's an executive mobile command vehicle or whatever. I just want to make sure we're talking about the exact same thing. And so if somebody can provide some clarity, I would appreciate it. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Madam County Attorney, is the Sheriff a constitutional officer?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So wouldn't he determine which vehicle he uses as his command vehicle?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "In theory, yes."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 9, **24-0283**, Discussion, Follow up on -- follow up to Cherry Bekaert procurement review, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam Clerk. Last week, we heard, I thought a very professional review by the firm of Cherry Bekaert. And now that we have been notified of certain deficiencies, my question is what's our follow-up plan, if any? Do we put -- simply put the report on the shelf?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Are you asking staff that?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anyone. Anyone, yeah. You, the Manager, County Attorney."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The -- certainly, the items that were included in the report around improvements or items that we could consider from the Procurement Office's perspective, Felicia is reviewing those. And if there are any

changes that we believe we need to present to the Board, we'll work with the County Attorney's office to bring back whatever amendments to Purchasing -- to the Purchasing ordinance would be required to implement any of the changes that the consultants, or any of the recommendations, I should say, that the consultants identified. And Felicia has started her review of their recommendations, Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Ms. Strong-Whitaker."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC :** "Yes, Commissioner, I did start my review of the recommendation. If the Board recalls, there have been other recommendations that we brought before the Board. Some time ago, we had a purchasing reform task force that reviewed some purchasing issues. We bought them before the Board. Some of them are coming back on this -- in this -- in these recommendations. So I will remind everyone of the former recommendations we requested and the new recommendations. And so I will have response to their -- their recommendations and changes. I don't agree with all of them. I don't concur with all of them, let me say that. And so I will provide my response."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "What I would like to see is a list of all procurements that were done during COVID, that were done outside of the normal procurement process. Because what was presented last week, were one or two examples of procurements that were done outside of normal process, but they were done during COVID. And I will submit to you that over 90 percent of everything that we did during COVID was done outside of the procurement process, and that we had to come back and retroactively do things. And so I think it's very unfair to try to paint a picture that someone did something outside of the procedure, and not acknowledge the 10,000 other things that were done outside of the procedure during COVID. So when can we get a list of every procurement that was done during COVID that didn't follow the normal procedure?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC :** "So Commissioner, the emergency procurement provision, it is part of the purchasing code. And we followed the emergency procurement procedure. I have a list of all of that. Every one of them came back to the Board for ratification. I can give you a list for 2020, 2021, 2022."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Were those that were -- that we saw last week, did those come back and get ratified too?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Which ones that we saw last week were constitution authority ones, not the -- not by -- not pursuant to an emergency."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Did they come back -- did they get ratified?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Which ones are you speaking of?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The ones that they presented last week. The one he just put up on the screen."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "The ones that he presented -- the van? That wasn't done by emergency. That was done pursuant to the Sheriff's constitutional authority. We processed that PO because he submitted the invoice."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Was -- yes, ma'am, wasn't ratified by the Board?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "No, it was not. They don't require ratification."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, it doesn't require ratification?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "No. Constitutional authorities do not require ratification."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, awesome. So I guess we going to change the Constitution. That sounds like that's not only going to take next Session, but also a vote of the citizens of Georgia. Because that is what is required to change the Constitution of Georgia. A lot of stuff in that Constitution that I don't agree with, like people assigning jobs and duties to other people even jobs and duties that they don't even have, nor the authority to have. It's a lot of stuff in that Constitution I don't agree with. But it takes a lot to change it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I can only speak for myself. The review that the individuals gave on the last BOC was that they said it was recommendations. And so, like anything else with recommendations, I think the Sheriff should be allowed to make recommendations. I believe the DA should be allowed to make recommendations. And I think our executive team should be allowed to make recommendations, whether they -- what they think is best or not best. I didn't come away from that as though that they were attacking anyone. They -- I specifically asked the question, as far as guidelines. They said smaller governments or possibly rural areas, where everybody knows everybody, you don't need failsafe requirements in place. But as the governments get larger, you have larger areas, you may need a little bit more failsafe. You may need a few more requirements. But I did not walk away from that as though that was something to say negative. It was recommendations based on a review. And so I would ask, County Manager, as a sitting Commissioner, that we allow our constitutional officers to give what they consider to be their opinions with a review or something as far as guidelines, just like Ms. Strong-Whitaker just said, some

of the things, she agrees with, some she don't. And so I think for this Body to get to some type of a consensus to make sure that we have what we need in place, we need interaction from everybody. So I would ask, not only do we deal with the report from what I considered to be the subject matter experts, but we also need input from our constitutional officers. And we need input from County executive team as well. So I would ask that moving forward."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that was in that report was related to us maybe not getting as much grant money as we could be, that there may be some improvement on that front. Can we get a response from the Grants Department or Dr. Roshell, somewhere? I don't know, Mr. County Manager, who would respond to that."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "We have started looking at it, I mean, I did a cursory analysis of their analysis. And if you really looked at it, it's two years. It's a subset of municipalities or counties. Only two of which are substantially different than ours in terms of receipts. Both of which that are right on top of Washington DC. In other words, I'm kind of nonplussed by their analysis. But we're still going to engage with them, listen to what they had to say. I think the finding that they had, which I'm very leery of, is the application of indirect expenses as part of grants. Because that will be a gift that keeps on giving if we apply indirect expenses, and then they're challenged. And then we inappropriately have done so, and then we refund the money. So all of these -- and I don't understand, quite frankly, which I said at the time, how a process review of business controls ended up in pursuing grant revenue other than, having been a salesman, they're looking for the next revenue opportunity. So but nonetheless, we're going to consult with them, listen, see what we can find out from that, and then bring it back. It's probably good time. And I think I exchanged messages with Commissioner Thorne to just review with the Board what our grants process is. Because many years ago, we reformed it to ensure that we were not returning money because that was the problem at the time. And part in parcel to that was creating a Grant Administration Office, that's why there is a report on certain Board agenda for that. Secondly, was to hire a grant-writing team to help departments. And then the third component is to really push for our departments to identify grant opportunities. Because there's not really a central way of effectively doing that, you need the subject-matter expertise. I'll be glad to come back and review all of that. And then in that context, I'll also opine on, is there anything that we learned after we do a deeper dive with Cherry Bekaert on any best practices that we're not following."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. County Manager. Just a follow-up comment to what you said. I mean, if that is why that was in the report that it's a sales tactic, that's kind of disappointing. And maybe we need, you know, from the audit committee that requested this review, maybe a little bit better controls about what is to be reviewed, if we're going to ask. Because that seemed to be part of the issue that

everybody had last week as well, that there was a, you know, it was a cross-section. But was it directed? Was it not? I don't want to call it into question. I'm sure there's valid stuff in there, and -- and some that's not. And as I think Vice Chairs -- or sorry, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman -- Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman said -- God, it's late in the day, sorry. That, you know, we can all -- there's lots of, you know, opinions can go both ways. And certainly, any department that's being called into question has the right to respond. And we don't necessarily have to take everything they say as gospel. But it's certainly worth, to your point, looking into, Mr. County Manager, so thank you for that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I think that I'm glad that you all started to meet and think about, you know, kind of some package of things that, you know, that were some good takeaways that could help improve our purchasing procedures, and maybe streamline them. I think, maybe those are the ones in particular, you know, as it respects to the grants, one of the reasons why that the audit committee, you know, didn't really give a whole lot credence to that, and we encourage them not to make that any sort of strength that we didn't -- we didn't feel like it was particularly either. I think what they looked at -- and you'll find in terms of the comparable counties where they were getting a lot of grants money was in transportation. So as a relative percentage, it was a lot more than ours were, but those particular entities also weren't doing a lot of infrastructure-related stuff where they were getting, you know, significant amounts of grants for. And I think that was creating, probably what the distortion was. So I'm not sure how much you necessarily need to spend a whole lot of time on that. The -- there were a couple other good things within it, I thought, that were -- and I'm glad you've highlighted what took place and reiterated what took place and how we were transparent to -- to the public about how we handled emergency procurements during the whole time during COVID. Because we were very deliberate about it, we're very transparent about it. We didn't -- we didn't allow a mobile executive Sprinter Van for our County Manager and staff to be purchasing unbeknownst to us, and somehow just get procured, right. All this stuff was coming back before us was clear in transparency about what was done. And when there were some square things in there where, in retrospect, we, you know, had some questions around and, you know, we guided you and directed you in the future, if there were similar type things to maybe be a little bit more circumspect on some of those things as well, I remember as we were having those discussions. So but where I'm going with this is in -- Felicia, if there are, you know, these procurements that are happening outside of coming, flowing through you that, you know, are being made through constitutional officers or whatnot, I do think looking at a way where we can establish a practice to codify what those are and have those reported on in the framework of our meeting, you know, even if it's just sort of placing of these things on a consent agenda, have -- and showing what they are, what the amounts were, who the vendor was, was it from competitively procured, you know, yes or no, who's office procured it, you know, et cetera. And then having these things there so there is a visual transparency for us and the public as to what these items are or were. So I think that would be something that -- and I believe that's codified in --



somewhere in one of the recommendations. I think that that would be something to look at. The other thing that I think that would be useful too, to think about is in the context of the types of procurements that might be done outside of our system, which of the types of things that, you know, we look at organizationally, we say there's not -- there's not really the infrastructure to do given the size of the procurement or the infrastructure doesn't exist, the control structure doesn't exist to really do the procurement in a way that's acceptable in terms of the way that you expect government procurement to be done, right. Is there a size threshold with that, a million bucks, 500,000 bucks, 250, whatever it is. And identify what those particular contracts are so we know what they are. And I think we might want to have some discussion at a Board level around, hey, you know, these types of things we deem like that they should go through our procurement system, period, end of story. And whether we need to look at ways to restructure that and codify that within the confines of our budget to ensure that it occurs that way. Or whether we need to look at, you know, potential changes to county code or state legislation that -- I think can avoid that. I think we can probably get at it in other ways, is my point. I think with a combination of disclosure, and then identify, you know, kind of more significant sized procurements that really for the sake of everybody, should go through a centralized process. And I think that could be an opportunity for -- and it's going to require little bit of work and some back and forth, I think, with some of the other, some of the other offices. But I think that work could put us into a space where we all get a little bit more comfortable, and there's less friction in this particular -- in this particular quarter structure and area."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah. I was going to mention the disclosure, emergency procurements be put on our consent agenda to make us aware. I briefly talked with Felicia about maybe bringing back a purchasing committee like you had in the past. I'm going to get filled in on that, I guess. It's more detailed than I thought. As far as the grants go, I did talk to them after the meeting. And that wasn't their intention to sit here and compare grants. They just know in the procurement process that a lot of counties mess up the grant, getting paid back by the grants. And in that process of acknowledging, if we were following up the guidelines of grants in our purchasing departments, they just noticed that they had -- they didn't have the data that they thought they'd have in comparison to other counties. So it wasn't like they were, oh, look, we -- it was something they just kind of stumbled on while they were looking at the procedures. At least that's how they explained it to me. Another thing they explained to me was, they -- they weren't given direction on what departments to look at, who to examine. They were just given an open, here's, can you do a study of our procurement processes? So it was not biased research. It's just our constitutional officers purchasing floated to the top, everybody else, I think is going through the correct procurement process procedures. I do -- I am a little bit sensitive as a former consultant. You know, your name and your reputation when you work with the county is on the line. And you want to do good work, and you want to be respected. But if you're consistently told that your work is crap because it's biased or you're not qualified



because you don't have a CPA and stuff like that, that really dangers other companies from wanting to come and work with us. So I think we need to watch our tone in our meetings. I don't agree with the consultants on the jail. But I try to argue with them on a -- something that I don't agree -- I mean, I disagree with, but I don't label, blanked label, like, your research is crap, you're biased, and all that kind of stuff. I think we ran into this before I came into office, trying to hire consultants for the Elections Department. They didn't want to come near Fulton County at all, it was very difficult. So I'm hoping moving forward, that Cherry Bekaert is a very reputable company, and we will treat them with respect."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, other comments? So just an observation, the -- we seem to be dancing around though the three of four high-risk areas that they mentioned in that report, one being that vehicle. And I'm certain that the Sheriff will have a reasonable explanation for whatever he spent on that vehicle. And there was a food service contract, and there were two, one or two others that were labeled as -- as high risk. So my question now, Mr. Manager, Madam County Attorney, what is our role now that we are aware? Because they came very close to the line of impropriety, they didn't say that, they didn't use that word, but if you read the report. So that now that we are aware that there may have been some problems, what is our role? I mean, do you investigate? Is it the Solicitor, or is it the District Attorney? I know when I was across the street, you know, the City Attorney got involved, they would either send things over to the District Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So even though an officer may be a constitutional officer have discretion to spend their budget, make business decisions, and operational decisions in the way they see fit, their utilization of funds that derive from the county are still subject to the county's general audit provisions. They still are subject to cooperating with audits. So if the Board believes that there is a reason to look into whether there was impropriety in spending and investigate that, you would have several options. One of them is through our office, you could also do it through the County Auditor function or any number of other methodologies. But their actual propriety of spending is something that the Board of Commissioners and Fulton County does have purview over, although you wouldn't be able to manage their daily business decisions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington and Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I think we should be real careful talking about improprieties. The County Attorney said that they were constitutional officers, and that they had the discretion to do it. Alleging that something was done improperly or was inappropriate without an investigation is dangerous. And certainly, none of us would want that done to us. And so, I mean, these high-risk areas are a result of the Georgia Constitution. You're talking about high-risk areas from constitutional officers that had the constitutional discretion. We have a Clerk of Superior Court that gets over \$300,000. And I'm not targeting the current Clerk, because the previous Clerk got it and the Clerk before that got it, right. It's a function of that job and the way that the Georgia

Constitution is written. And so if we have a problem with the Georgia Constitution, then we need to change the Constitution. I've got some items I want to list to put on that list. If we have a problem with the Constitution, let's change the Constitution. But to -- to attempt to elude and insinuate that people are doing things right up against a line, and they didn't say it was improper, but it was almost improper, like, that -- that's completely inappropriate, completely inappropriate. That is within the discretion of those constitutional officers. And so if we want to change the Constitution, let's change the Constitution. It'll be -- probably be next year unless we get the Governor to do a Special-Called Session and get it added to the Presidential Election ballot, probably the best time to do it. Because it doesn't make any sense, it doesn't make any sense that someone -- that a Clerk of Superior Court in any county in Georgia could keep all of the money from passport fees and none of that money goes back to the county or the county employees. That doesn't make any sense. It doesn't make any sense. So if you're talking about you want to make changes to the Constitution to make sure to get rid of these high-risk areas with all constitutional officers, that makes sense. If you're trying to target two people because it's an election coming up in three weeks, that does not make sense."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes, Chairman, I don't want to belabor the issue. The issue for me is the infrastructure. What I got from the report is that we may not have the infrastructure in place that we need to have. I don't know how we went so far left, but for me, I just want to go on record saying, you don't know if you don't know. When you do know, you do better. And you can't legislate common sense and you can't codify it. We know that. But however, if the way we are operating, if we need to look at our processes, if we need to look at our infrastructure when it comes to those areas, I -- for me, I don't think that's an issue. And I don't think that's an accusation. And so for me, I can only speak for me, I'm not accusing anybody. But I am saying that based on a review, we have some work to do. It is what it is. And so for me, I would say for all parties interested, if we could do the work and if we could come up with some guidelines or some infrastructure, I'll be for that. But I'm not trying to accuse anybody, but I'm also not trying to put a blind eye to the fact that if there are certain processes that don't have the infrastructure to control that process, then maybe we need to review it. So I just wanted to just go on record saying for me, what I look from this and what I look forward to be it -- for it to be. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I do think Vice Chair sort of hit on a couple points. I think, and I said this multiple times during our conversation last week. I think if you really listen, what creates the high risk is the lack of internal control structure when those procurements were being done outside of our system. I mean, constitutional authority is one thing, but to say that the Constitution made me do it, Constitution allowed me to do it, and so therefore, I had the authority to do it so then it

makes it all fine for me to have done something that the average person would look at and say, that's either out of bounds or it wasn't done in a way there was a significant -- there was a substantive internal control process that was involved. That should exist within every element of our government that's doing purchasing and is controlling funds. There should be an internal control function that's there. What we heard from them in terms of the context of those procurements that were being done outside of our system, there was -- there was an absence of that. And that's the part of I think that we need to get addressed. And either that -- it either come through in a way where we've got assurances that there are, and we understand what those purchases -- purchase that were made outside of it, and how -- what sort of system of control was around it, or they come back through our system, and that's how they're done. I mean, I would remind a lot of folks up here is, this is a relatively new issue for us in terms of the history of Fulton County Government. We had not experienced this with our prior Sheriff, because those procurements were all coming through our Procurement Officer, the substance of -- the substantive procurements. And there wasn't -- we didn't have some of these scenarios that have played out, have played out. Those didn't exist, they're new. So we can easily get back to it, I think, and have the point that's acceptable for everyone and that provides some confidence to the taxpayers. That's ultimately, I think what this is all about."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The problem lies in the fact that the Sheriff is a constitutional officer. And he has the ability to do things that others do not. It's very clear, you can ask the ACCG lawyer about it, he'll explain it to you in detail, as I've said many times before. So we do need to tread very lightly on this particular issue and ensure that we are not doing anything against the law as it relates to the Sheriff being a constitutional officer. And the reason why we didn't see anything like this happening with the previous Sheriff is because he just simply went along with the regular procurement process as far as I can tell, and he didn't go outside of that. He did seem to utilize the Purchasing Department as much as possible. So that is the difference between this Sheriff and the other one. This one seems to know a lot more about what he has the capability and ability to do legally."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Commissioner Hall, I'm a County Commissioner as well. I've sat through multiple ACCG sessions, maybe not as many as you have. But never once have I heard them suggest that any county official should be doing purchasing in a way that's -- that lacks in absence of internal control, whether they have the authority to do it or not. We shouldn't be doing it. We don't set up our purchasing mechanisms that have an absence of control and a process which is transparent to the public. So the mere suggestion that because a person may have an authority to do something, I will say this again, does not give them the purview to do so in a way that is void of any financial control. And the fact that you could sit up here and suggest that

anybody in the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia is reporting that and pushing that, that message back to County Commissioners, I think they would be offended. And as I know they would. It's not what they say. So if somebody's going to do, again, if they're going to do individual procurements outside of our system, they need to be able to demonstrate that they have a system of financial control. And this procurement review suggested that there is an absence thereof."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. And Commissioner Ellis, since you directed your comments directly to me by calling my name, I'm going to direct my comments directly to you, Commissioner Ellis. Were you not here during the time when the previous Sheriff signed off on an unheard-of ten-year medical contract? And then it was switched three years in a row? Okay, thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "No, I have no idea what you're talking about in terms of that. I know we pulled out the medical contract, and we brought it in non-agency for procurement purposes during the time that I've been on this Board. And it was when this particular Sheriff came on board, that it was suggested we put it back, the largest contract I believe it comes from before to Procurement to us, or for Procurement decision to us. It was your recommendation that we place that back in the Sheriff's budget, and thus give him the autonomy for that when he didn't have a procurement structure that existed to be able to adequately procure it. So, yeah, that's what I recall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, you recall wrong."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I -- whatever, if you want to get the last word, you can. But you're dead wrong."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else, Commissioners? Madam Clerk, any other matters to come before us?"

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, Mr. Chairman. On page 10, **24-0284**, Discussion, Decorum, sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Colleagues, I just felt like we should have a discussion about decorum following some of things that occurred at last week's meeting. I think everyone probably saw that some video from our meeting went viral, for lack of a better term. And probably had more views than anything else this Board has done, at least since I've been here, I know, and maybe longer. And, you know, I think we've sort of all allowed this to go for too long without addressing it. I think we all have some culpability

in terms of how we speak to each other and how we speak to the people that stand at the podium or that, you know, sit in the seats to our right and left. So what, you know, I would at least ask, first of all, we do have a retreat meeting that is, I believe now scheduled, correct? And I know we did talk about this a little bit at the first Rules -- Rules Retreat Meeting that we had several months ago. And I know that we will speak about again there, and I know -- or I believe, hopefully, that will tighten up the policies that we do have. But in the interim, I thought I would take a moment to read the policy that we currently have in place or I should say rule, I guess, but in our rules for how we conduct meetings, the rule on decorum states: All Commissioners are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner. Commissioners seeking information from staff should do so within the kind -- the confines, excuse me, of proper decorum. A Commissioner shall not speak until recognized by the Chair, and likewise, shall not interrupt another Commissioner's remarks. All comments made by a Commissioner shall directly address the motion or item being discussed. The Chair shall enforce the rules of decorum. And if a Commissioner believes that a particular rule is being broken, he slash she shall raise a point of order when recognized by the Chair. With a second, the Chair may either rule on the question or allow the Board to decide the issue by majority vote. Any Commissioner shall have the right to express dissent from or protest any resolution or action -- sorry -- of the Board and have the reason entered into the minutes. No Commissioner shall make or cause to be made any defamatory statement about another Commissioner. The phrase defamatory statement as used herein is defined by Georgia law and includes the statutory definitions outlined. The reason that I read it all is because I think we individually, have to take responsibility. And I hope everybody here will do that to follow the rules, in particular, the ones that say shall. And that I also think it's important to note that as long as I've been here, I've heard numerous Commissioners at various times sort of hold up a hand and call a point of order or say decorum, and then nothing happens. So it does sound like we should make a point of -- until we or if we change the policy, while this is still the policy that if someone calls that, that we should be asking for a second and waiting for the Chairman to either make a decision to rule on it or ask the Board to vote, and we haven't been doing that. So, you know, I would like us to follow the current rule as written until we change it. That's just my thoughts. And I also just want to make a comment that breaking decorum isn't just about who is -- is not just about the volume, it's not just about talking loudly. We have had Commissioners, in my opinion, who have, you know, demeaned people quietly. It's easy to talk down to someone and be disrespectful to a staff member, for example, without being loud, it's still breaking decorum. So I just want to be clear that it's not just about volume, it's also about word choice and tone, and everything else. And you know, I called out Commissioner Ellis earlier for saying something I thought was disrespectful to me, something I probably wouldn't have called out in the past. But as I was focusing on these decorum rules, it really just occurred to me that if we don't call out all of it, then, you know, it's not really fair. So, you know, if the attempt -- if we could all sort of reset and make an attempt to treat each other and everybody else who comes in here with more respect, and frankly, to treat this Body with more respect and this room with more respect, I think it would be great."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Commissioner Barrett, where is that attachment that you're reading from? I'm trying to find it. It's not even on this screen."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "It's from this one."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. It wasn't provided to us."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "No, I just pulled the book with me."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. That's the new -- oh, that's the new book. Okay. Okay, that was very good, what you read because as I was stating earlier that happened to me with Commissioner Khadijah talking over me, and the Chairman having to bang the gavel. And like I said -- excuse me, you're doing it again, Commissioner Khadijah?"

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What did you say?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Commissioner Khadijah, you're doing it again?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have the floor, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Didn't you just read something about that?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you so much. As I was stating, that is what happened to me at the last meeting, which caused the -- the words that were passed back and forth between Commissioner Khadijah, I too, was triggered because it gave me flashbacks of when she tried to fight me in Executive Session, saying she was going to kick my ass. And the police had to come and get her out of there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Point of order is being -- just a moment. What's your point of order?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm sorry?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "My point of order is that she's doing the exact thing that Commissioner -- Commissioner Barrett is talking about the decorum, the policy and everything. You can -- she cannot take her time to personally beat me up because



that's what she wants to do. If we're going to have a conversation about decorum, let's have a conversation about decorum."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Is the point of order done? Is it my time to speak since I'm still in the queue?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, it is. Just on decorum, please."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, I am talking about decorum. May I see that, please?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm speaking specifically about what Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Number eight."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- Barrett. What did you say, number eight, okay. Thank you for giving me a quick reference. So I'm speaking directly about what Commissioner Dana Barrett just read, which says rule 8, decorum. It says, all Commissioners -- and I'm going to read again in case everybody did not hear what she read. All Commissioners are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner. Commissioners seeking information from staff should do so within the confines of proper decorum, and Commissioners shall not speak until recognized by the Chair, and likewise, shall not interrupt another Commissioner's remarks. All comments made by a Commissioner shall directly address the motion or item being discussed. The Chair shall enforce the rules of the decorum. And if a Commissioner believes that a particular rule is being broken, he/she shall raise a point of order when recognized. And I'll stop right there. Because the point that I'm making is the part that says a Commissioner shall not speak until recognized by the Chair, and likewise, shall not interrupt another Commissioner's remarks. And so what I'm speaking on is completely in line with the decorum policy. I'm simply giving you an example of what I endured at the last meeting, which most people did not see. Thank you very much."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes. I'm -- I travel with the rules of decorum now to every meeting. That's why I called a point of order rule decorum. And it does it not need a second. It says here, another Commissioner need not second that point of order before an issue can be considered. So you raise a point of order, and then you say it's a decorum violation, then you take a vote. Speaking of penalties or fines, they do have penalties and fines outlined here. The first violation is \$250, the second violation that occurs within 12 months is \$500, the third by the same violator in this section occurs within 12 months, it's \$1,000. And then it goes -- it has a structure here. Some of the --



receive a public -- the Board may publicly reprimand the violator for the offending conduct, which may be an official censure reprimand, expressing the Board's displeasure with the offending conduct. And some of the instances listed here: Contact that references sexual acts, bodily functions, or demeans groups of people due to their religious beliefs, or race, as I repeat, or race, that is inherently inappropriate for a formal proceeding before the Board, in that is a reasonable person would find is vulgar, profane, or obscene. I'd also like to mention, you're subject to public censure if you -- your conduct constitutes unlawful harassment or discrimination in violation of state or federal law on this code. And they have a whole list of things, but I just wanted to reiterate those points."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I'm willing to work with Commissioner Barrett on this decorum. I'm also going to ask that the County Attorney weigh in. Because I have a recording, a particular Commissioner, I won't call her name, called my phone, cursed me out. And so I don't know if legally that can be put in decorum. If the decorum was just going to be a situation that applies here, I would hope, and this is my personal opinion, because this morning I apologized and it looks like I'm going to have to apologize again because we cannot seem to move past personal dislike. I can -- I cannot care for a person's action and still respect them as a colleague. And if we are going to deal with decorum, decorum has to allow a person to make a point of order to the Chairman, and the Chairman respond without that person denigrating the person. The decorum has to be where a presenter can come here and present without being screamed at. The decorum has to be one where you don't come two weeks, three weeks later, and say something about something that somebody did then, when you could have called it out like Dana Barrett -- excuse me, Commissioner Barrett did it at the time that it happened. Either we're going to be a Legislative Body, or we're going to be reality TV show. We can't be both. We cannot be both. So Commissioners, I say again, I apologize. Let's move forward. Let's do better. And if we're going to have a decorum policy, let's meet in the confines of the time between that we're here, not on the day of, but the days that -- because we're a Commissioner 24/7. You ain't a Commissioner just the first and the third Wednesday. You're a Commissioner 24/7. So meet with your colleagues, make sure that we have the decorum policy in place. But more importantly, what we have not been doing it, is enforcing it. So it doesn't make any sense for us to have any policy in place if we're not going to enforce it. And so I would ask, County Attorney, please let me know if legally any disparaging voicemail messages or text threatening bodily harm to someone, if that would -- could be put in the decorum policy. And I remain who I am when I first started, someone who that wants to legislate with the rest of my colleagues. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I like that everybody is using my full name now, not just Commissioner Barrett, I'm Commissioner Dana Barrett. Look, I just want to reiterate

that we are having our next Rules Retreat Session. I believe it's, you know, on the same day as the -- I think everyone was polled for dates, and I believe it's at the -- it's following the next Board meeting. So, you know, I'll be happy to continue this conversation there. And I appreciate people being willing to have the conversation. All due respect, Vice Chair, you interrupting Commissioner Hall while she was just speaking, is a decorum violation. So I appreciated that it's not yelling or whatever, but it -- technically, you were interrupting her while she was speaking. So again, I just want to reiterate that I think it's all the things. It's not just being loud or yelling or arguing, it's all of the courteousness and respect that we are due each other and those that we're talking to. And I also want to point out, again, with all due respect, Mr. Chairman, it says right in the rules -- and by the way, Commissioner Thorne, thank you for reading that full law. I wasn't implying that there wasn't more to it. I was just reading what is -- was excerpted in our rules book. And yes, I agree that you don't need a second, but he could call for a second. So if there was some confusion about whether or not we were all in agreement and he wanted a second opinion, he could call for a second. That said, he alone, can make the decisions. He can, the way the rules are written, the Chair shall enforce the rules of decorum. So he doesn't have to wait for somebody to make a point of order. If someone breaks decorum, the Chairman, by himself, can say this is a decorum violation. I'm giving you a warning, for example. And the next time, it's going to be fine. He absolutely is within his rights to do that. I would just ask respectfully, that you start doing that. Because I think it would help. And again, I hope we can continue the conversation. And I appreciate everybody being willing to try to get there."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The first thing that we need is to be educated on Robert's Rules of Order. Just because you say point of order, does not make it a point of order. If you say point of order, you have to be saying that the rules are being violated. You cannot say point of order, and then just give your opinion or just talk. You have to specify the specific rule that is being violated. That is what a point of order is. So you can't just say point of order, and then just go off on a tangent and start -- there has to be a violation of the rules in order for you to make a point of order. So we need to first be educated on what that is. What is a point of order? What are Robert's Rules of Order? Additionally, in order to -- giving and receiving are the same thing, same side of a different coin. If you want to receive respect, you have to give respect. And mumbling while people are talking and making important points and mumbling and snickering with your neighbor is a violation of decorum in and of itself. And when it proceeds on and on for eight hours in a day without being enforced, that is what leads to blowups because people are frustrated, frustrated that they're allowed to continue to violate decorum on and on and on. And so what came -- which comes first, the chicken or the egg? You can't get someone for responding to a decorum violation with the -- with a decorum violation if you haven't done anything about the first violation. So we, number one, we have to know what a point order is. And if you're not saying that there is a rule violation, then you have not brought up a proper point of order, you just need to get in the queue to express your opinion. That's not a point of order, that's an opinion."

A point of order is a rule that is being violated. And I talk loud, I'm loud, I got a deep voice, and it ain't nothing y'all can do about it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "You know, here again, this conversation is very interesting because the same person that -- that wants to say this is the same person that told me, well, I brought it to your attention because I expect better of you. Everybody on this Body should expect the best respect of everybody. It is never a reason, when somebody calls a point of order, even if they're incorrect, to be told to shut up. It is nothing that you can make that right. Secondly, to tell me, I expect better of you, Khadijah, Commissioner Khadijah, because you don't act like the other two, is a slap in my face to sit here and say something totally different. So what I'm going to say, here again, talking to the people that were listening to us, the people who voted for us to come here, we are a Legislative Body. We are a Legislative Body that should be able to get along. If your hatred for me is more important than your allegiance to your constituents, then no decorum is going to work, no respectful manner is going to work. So again, I apologize to the taxpaying citizens who sent us here to legislatively work together. I know tempers are going to flare. I know sometimes we are not going to agree. And I expect individuals who are just as passionate as I am to have their say. But you can't decide, well, I like this one, I don't like this one, well, I can scream at that one, but I'm not going to scream at the other one. That is reality show, that is immaturity, and there's no place on this Body for it. So I'm going to apologize one more time. I'm willing to work with anyone that's willing to work with me. Because at the end of the day, they're not going to call one Commissioner's name, they're going to the entire Body. And on that note, I apologize again. Have a good day."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Mr. Chair, I'm just hoping we can move on to the animal control item. I would just say this about all of this, and to both my gentle person and gentleman from -- to my left and gentlewoman from District 3, and all of you up here, I think some of the issues we're dealing with here are deep -- go deep, much deeper than a decorum policy. And I'm not sure trying to wrestle with it in the context of policy is going to solve some of the issues that we've seen sort of manifest themselves. So it's just my hope and prayer that we can just collectively be better. And I'll end on that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Madam Clerk, the last item. I think it's the last one."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes. Add-on item, **24-0286**, Request approval of an intergovernmental agreement for the provision of animal control services between Fulton County and the city of Atlanta, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Mr. Manager."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. Long awaited, with the approval of the City of Atlanta Council on April 15th, we did receive the signed IGA by the Mayor for services going forward through the remainder, not only of this year, but through 2028. We also expect City Council to approve on 5/6, the service retroactive back to January the 1st, giving us the original IGA and its term, as well as conditions. In the interim, we have, as I said earlier this morning, taken in close to 100 dogs. We've also worked closely with APD and citizens to minimize the impacts. I want to thank Joe Barasoain and his staff and LifeLine as our provider. We're prepared to resume full service immediately upon your approval. We've, again talked to everyone involved on our side. And we'll also reach out to APD to alert to them and remind citizens that they can call (404) 613-0358 for Animal Services and the dispatch of a Field Service Officer. So we're -- we'll be happy to see this resolve if that's your will, and look forward to informing, again, citizens as well as all of our folks internally."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. It's 3:59, let's vote favorably so we can resume service at 4:00 p.m."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "3:59, now let's resume service. Any other matters to come before us?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No further matters to come before us today so we are adjourned."

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**