

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

May 15, 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: June 26, 2024**

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

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

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**24-0323 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 Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**24-0324 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing “Nina R. Hickson Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**  
May 6, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Major Vivian Dixon Bradford Appreciation Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
May 7, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Ronald Diggs Remembrance Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
May 10, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Leon Mincey Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**  
May 10, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Representative Roger Bruce Appreciation Day.”  
**(Arrington)**  
May 11, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “R & B Soul Picnic Weekend.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
May 11-12, 2024

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**Commissioners' District Board Appointments****24-0325 Board of Commissioners  
FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE  
CONSENT AGENDA)**

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

Term = 2 years

Term below expires: 12/31/2024

Kenny Kurtz (Ellis)

**Commissioner Ellis nominated Catherine Fitch to replace Kenny Kurtz for a District appointment to an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024.**

**Open & Responsible Government****24-0326 Finance  
Ratification of April 2024 Grants Activity Report. (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION  
OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)****Health and Human Services****24-0327 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Request approval to enter into two contractual agreements between Fulton County, on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and (1) Atlanta/Fulton County Prearrest Diversion Initiative, Inc. (PAD) in the amount of \$267,082.00 to provide diversion services, and (2) Applied Research Services (ARS) in the amount of \$39,924.00 to provide research and data collection services as part of the COSSAP Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The BJA granted a no cost extension effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. This item is 100% grant funded. The MOUs are effective upon BOC approval through September 2024. (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Infrastructure and Economic Development****24-0328 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 92 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from AGANWKH, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Northwinds Summit Project at 0 Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0329 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 12,295 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Wills Overlook, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Wills Overlook Project at 531 State Highway 9, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0330 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 35,554 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Northwind Summit Development, L.P., for the purpose of constructing the Northwinds Summit Project at 0 Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0331 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 408 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from AGANWKH, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the A.C. Marriott Alpharetta Hotel within the Northwinds Summit Project at 0 Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0332 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sanitary Sewer System Ownership, Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Agreement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and 1858 Alpharetta Partners, LLC, for the purpose of granting Fulton County legal access to extend and maintain the sanitary sewer system at 101 Cumming Street, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009 (the Development). **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0333 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 13,927 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Wills Overlook, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Wills Overlook Project at 531 State Highway 9, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0334 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 15,597 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Fulton Science Academy Private School, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the 3035 Fanfare Way, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0335 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 22,307 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Northwind Summit Development, L.P., owner, for the purpose of constructing the Northwinds Summit, Private Road Project at 0 Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009.

**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0336 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Pulte Home Company, LLC for the purpose granting conditional approval to allow stormwater piping to remain within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 0 Lakefield Drive (a/k/a 11354 Technology Circle), Johns Creek, Georgia 30097.

**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0337 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Pulte Home Company, LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing water line easement area at 0 Lakefield Drive (a/k/a 11354 Technology Circle), Johns Creek, Georgia 30097.

**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Justice and Safety****24-0338 Superior Court Administration**

Request approval to accept a name change and authorize the Department of Purchasing & Contract Compliance to reflect the name change from The Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Inc., to Georgia Council for Recovery, Inc. Effective upon BOC approval.

**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****24-0339 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt as amended by amending item #24-0345 as requested by the County Manager; removing items #24-0352 and #24-0353 as requested by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**24-0340 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2024

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 1, 2024

Special Called Meeting/Work Session Post Agenda Minutes, May 1, 2024

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**24-0341 Board of Commissioners**

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

~~\*Proclamation recognizing “National Military Appreciation Month.”  
(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts)~~

Proclamation recognizing “Jewish American Heritage Appreciation Month.”  
**(Barrett/Pitts)**

Proclamation recognizing “Public Works Week.” **(Ellis/Thorne)**

Proclamation recognizing “Certified Public Manager’s Appreciation Day.”  
**(Hall/Arrington)**

*\*removed during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****24-0342 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)**

**13 Speakers: Sherrika Bellamy (Housing Authority of Fulton County); James H. Harper, Jr. (Housing Authority of Fulton County); L.A. Pink (Elections/Elected Officials); Mike Russell (Elected Officials); Scott Hughes (Homelessness/Human Services); Diane Usher (Veranda at Collegetown Senior Apartments); Shirley Pierce (Veranda at Collegetown Senior Apartments); Charlene Allen (Veranda at Collegetown Senior Apartments); Patricia Johnson (Veranda at Collegetown Senior Apartments); Charles Rambo (Fulton County Jail); Julie Allen (Elections); Paul Hershey (Audit for Justice Department) and Siegfried White (Homeless Assistance)**

**2 Zoom Speakers: Matt Rowenczak (Elections) and Ben Howard (Senior Services)**

**PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD****Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority****24-0343 Board of Commissioners**

Presentation: Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority **(PRESENTED)**

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**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****24-0344 County Manager**

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

**24-0345 Finance**

Presentation, review, and approval of May 15, 2024, Budget Soundings and Resolution. **(PRESENTED/APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve as amended including funding for Bear Creek Nature Center, Inc. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**24-0346 Human Resources Management**

Request approval to modify the classification section of the Classification and Compensation plan by adding the new titles of Strategy and Performance Management Officer (grade 30) and Justice Performance Management Officer (grade 30). **(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:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**24-0347 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Fulton County Code of Ordinances, Part I (Local Constitutional Amendments and Local Acts), Subpart B (Code of Resolutions), Chapter 102 (Administration), Article V (Purchases and Contracts), Division 8 (Nondiscrimination in Purchasing and Contracting), Section 102-441.2 (Sunset Provision), to extend the expiration date of said Nondiscrimination Program from June 30, 2024 to December 31, 2024 allow completion of the Disparity Study. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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



**Arts and Libraries**

**24-0348 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the Bear Creek Nature Center, Inc. for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the total amount of \$200,000.00 for environmental education programming. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve as amended correcting the funding line to 100-181-1821-1160. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**Health and Human Services**

**24-0312 Senior Services**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Senior Services, 21RFP000016A-CJC, Alternative Senior Transportation Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 with Common Courtesy (Atlanta, GA) to provide transportation services/ride sharing to eligible Fulton County residents aged 60 and above. This amount is based on the BOC approved FY24 enhancement for senior transportation. Effective upon BOC approval. **(HELD ON 5/1/24) (APPROVED)**

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, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**24-0349 Public Works**

Request approval to extend an existing Contract - Public Works Department, 21RFP131557K-DB, Design/Build Services for Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Standby Generator System Project with the Georgia Power Company (Atlanta, GA) for an extension of time to provide installation and testing for power generation facilities at the Big Creek WRF. This request is for an additional 89 days for the expansion and upgrade. Effective upon BOC approval. **(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, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0350 Community Development**

Request approval of the 2024 Consolidated Community Services Program (CCSP) Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$5,613,958.00 to the non-profits identified in Attachment "A". CCSP funding will support the delivery of essential community services to Fulton County residents in the areas of: Children and Youth Services; Disabilities; Economic Stability/Poverty; Health and Wellness; Homelessness; Senior Services; and Veterans Services. General funds in the amount of \$5,363,958.00 for the Community Services Program, and \$1,000,000.00 for the Veterans Services Program was approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners at the January 24, 2024, Second Regular Meeting (Agenda item #24-0051). The contract period runs from January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Hall 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

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Hall to approve as amended by directing staff to identify funding of the \$225,000.00 to fund the remaining eligible applicants.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

c. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to approve as amended directing staff to identify funding for the \$225,000.00, to rebid the RFP for Veteran Services and allowing eligible applicants to receive funding from both programs.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

d. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to approve as amended directing staff to identify funding for the \$225,000.00 to fund the remaining eligible applicants.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

e. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve as amended allocating the \$225,000.00 from the \$750,000.00 remaining from Veteran Services and to rebid the remaining \$525,000.00. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

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

**24-0351 Community Development**

Request approval of the 2024 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Summer Youth Job Training Program (SYJTP) Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$500,000.00 to the non-profits identified in Attachment "A". ARPA SYJTP funding to these non-profits will provide Fulton County teens with the opportunity to gain work experience, develop interpersonal skills, and learn and explore career interests while earning income during the summer. American Rescue Plan Act funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the ARPA Summer Youth Job Training Program was approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners at the January 24, 2024 Second Regular meeting (Agenda item #24-0051). The contract period runs from May 1, 2024 - August 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****24-0352 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to provide the salary savings in a department's budget shall not be frozen nor swept by unilateral action of the Finance Department prior to October 1 each year; to provide that the budget officer shall not withhold approval of a department's request to transfer salary savings to another lawful, non-recurring purpose; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN**

**24-0353 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to increase the budget of the District Attorney in the amount required to convert the current project "ORCA" Attorney positions in that department to permanent positions in the 2024 Fiscal Year Budget, funded at the current rate of pay for each position; to provide funding for such increase from the General Fund; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN**

**24-0354 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioner urging Municipalities located within Fulton County, Georgia to enhance safety at convenience stores by adopting Ordinances and laws mandating the use of video surveillance systems at these establishments; and for other purposes.

**(Abdur-Rahman) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Chairman Pitts, to approve. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

**Abstain:** Thorne

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

**24-0355 Board of Commissioners**

Request a Resolution directing the County Manager and the County Attorney to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to eliminate medical debt for qualifying Fulton County residents; to report back to the Board of Commissioners regarding the feasibility and implementation of such a medical debt relief program; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**24-0356 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Fulton County Jail Facilities - Senate Committee presentation, funding mechanisms, next steps regarding potential new/refurbished facilities **(Ellis) (APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to rescind the current RFP and directing the County Manager to provide a more specific RFP for the Board to review and approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Barrett, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**24-0357 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Automobile Fleet Review - Presentation from Staff and Discussion **(Ellis) (DISCUSSED)**

- 24-0358** **Board of Commissioners**  
Discussion: Elections - 2023 Municipal Election Final Costs, Activity Based Budgeting **(Ellis) (DISCUSSED)**
- 24-0359** **Board of Commissioners**  
Discussion: Election **(Thorne) (DISCUSSED)**
- 24-0360** **Board of Commissioners**  
Discussion: Outstanding water bill from City of Atlanta **(Pitts) (DISCUSSED)**
- 24-0361** **Board of Commissioners**  
Discussion: Follow-up to Cherry Bekaert procurement review **(Pitts) (DISCUSSED)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****24-0362 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; Chief Operating Officer Pamela Roshell; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.**

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

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

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve execution of a letter of intent as discussed in item #1 in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for representation in item #2 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for representation in item #3 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

f. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve settlement authority in item #9 as discussed in Executive Session. 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 5:54 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SECOND REGULAR MEETING  
May 15, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC  
*“A Court Reporting Firm”*



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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Good morning everyone and welcome to the Second Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is May 15<sup>th</sup> 2024. It is exactly 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

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

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, 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, **24-0323**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda: All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, any items on the Consent Agenda, Madam Clerk; none?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "I don't have any."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'll entertain a motion to adopt the consent agent as printed. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Cast your vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On the bottom of page 5, Second Regular Meeting Agenda, **24-0339**: Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have amendments to today's Regular Meeting Agenda." On page 7, item to be revised, 24-0345, Finance: Presentation, review, and approval of the May 15, 2024, Budget Soundings and Resolution. This item is revised to include funding for the Bear Creek Nature Center, and that's item 24-0348, on page 7. Also, Vice Chair has requested to remove her action items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What page?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page -- starting on the bottom of page 8, 24-0532: Request approval of Resolution of the Fulton Board of Commissioners to provide the salary savings in a department's budget shall not be frozen nor swept. Page 9 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- is that to remove?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Removed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And on page 9, 24-0353: Request approval of a Resolution to increase the budget of the District Attorney in an amount required to convert the current project ORCA attorney positions; and 24-0354: Request approval of a Resolution by

the Fulton Board of Commissioners urging municipalities located within Fulton County to enhance safety at convenience stores by adopting ordinances and laws mandating the use of a video surveillance system."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To remove that and also?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "To remove all three, yes, sir."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No, ma'am. That last one is not correct. Oh, excuse me, Chairman. That last one should stay in place."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The surveillance?"

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm sorry. It was a miscommunication."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "That's all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything -- any more? All right. The motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion to adopt as amended 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:** "**24-0340**, Ratification of Minutes: Second Regular Meeting Minutes, April 17<sup>th</sup>; First regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 1<sup>st</sup>; Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 1st, 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, any additions or corrections?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, none? Motion to ratify 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."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6, **24-0341**: Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'National Military Appreciation Month' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, it's 10:07."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay. That proclamation has been removed. The next proclamation is recognizing 'Jewish American Heritage Appreciation Month' sponsored by Commissioner Barrett and Chairman Pitts."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "All right. I'm going to get straight to it. I am honored to have Adele Roker [Phonetic.] from AJC here with me along with Rabbi Jason Holtz, and we're here to -- I'm about to spill my water. We are here to recognize Jewish American Heritage month. So let me just read the proclamation. And it says: WHEREAS, Jewish immigrants begin arriving in American in the 16th century; first settled in Georgia in 1733 and in Fulton County in 1845; and WHEREAS, Jewish immigrants played a key role in the creation, growth, freedom, prosperity, and strength of the United States of America; and WHEREAS, the long history of the Jewish people and the enduring values of the Jewish faith have been sources of inspiration for the abolitionist movement, the civil rights movement, America's global leadership in the cause of freedom, Americans commitment to social justice, and many of country's most central tenets; and WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have made significant contributions to the arts, entertainment, science, and technology, government, business, culinary traditions and other fields in Fulton County, in Georgia and across the country; and WHEREAS, for 43 years, the United States has celebrated the contributions of the Jewish community through presidential declaration; and WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage month has been celebrated every May nationwide for nearly 20 years; and WHEREAS, Fulton County has a long history of celebrating unique cultures and history of all of its citizens. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County recognizes the contribution of Jewish Americans and the importance of celebrating Jewish American Heritage; and does hereby proclaim the month of May 2024 as 'Jewish American Heritage Month' in Fulton County."

**DOV WILKER, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning, my name is Dov Wilker. I work for American Jewish Committee, and I could not be more grateful to the Fulton County Commission for issuing this proclamation declaring May Jewish American Heritage Month. You've heard about it since 1733 when Jews first landed in Savannah, Georgia; and in 1845, when we first settled in Fulton County, the Jewish community of Atlanta -- of Metro Atlanta has been integral to the continuing evolution of our beloved county. To recognize this month at this important time for the Jewish people, demonstrates the relationships that we have at all levels of the Atlanta community. So thank you very much to the Fulton County Commission, and especially to Commissioner Dana Barrett and Chairman Pitts for hosting and recognizing this important occasion for the entire Jewish community of Metro Atlanta, which numbers in about a 150,000. Thank you."

**RABBI JASON HOLTZ, RECIPIENT:** "I want to thank the Members of the Commission for the proclamation today. I Dov, I'm humbled to be here and to meet with all of you. Dov mentioned this is an especially difficult time for Jews in America. In 2022, the last year that the FBI has, for records, it's -- Jews have been the victims of more than half of all religious based hate crimes in America. That number more than doubled in 2023. My own synagogue received a bomb threat earlier in December, and we're thankful to the Roswell city government for their response to that. We're not unique in that. I know lots of our students in both public schools and college campuses regularly report being abused and harassed at a very difficult time for Jews. So it's nice to know that we have friends here in Fulton County, interfaith friends, members of the Commission, as well. It's humbling, like I said, and we're grateful to be here. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Public Works Week' sponsored by Commissioners Ellis and Thorne".

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'd be happy to read this. You know, really the key to like a winning football team; it's not really about the quarterback, right? It's about those folks who are down in the trenches. And so, as an old offensive lineman, I like the folks that are down in the trenches, and we got a lot of them that are coming up here to be with us this morning. We have a fantastic public works team. It's bigger than this. We don't have all of them, but we've got a good representation of them that are here with us today, and we want to say thank you and recognize them with this particular proclamation. So without further ado: WHEREAS, National Public Works Week is a reminder of the many ways that Fulton County Department of Public Works provides the basic foundation of our day-to-day comfort, including roadways, traffic controls, sidewalks, airport, water, sanitary/sewer, and storm water management; and WHEREAS, this year's theme, advancing quality of life for all, recognizes that there would be no community without the quality of life public works provides; and spotlights their responsiveness and key role all employees play in the planning, building and maintenance of infrastructure projects and services known as public works; and WHEREAS, Fulton County's Department of Public Works maintain sanitary/sewer and water distribution systems, provides water and pollution prevention education to residents, businesses, schools, and communities; maintains roads and traffic signals in the unincorporated area, and performs the maintenance of all access roads, runways, ramps, and parking lots at the Fulton County Executive Airport at Brownfield; and WHEREAS, public works provides critical response capabilities, experience, and support for 24 hours a day, truly 365 days a year, and is committed to delivering great services to our community; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County Department of Public Works is considered one of the most premier agencies in the state of Georgia and have dedicated staff and facilities that are consistently award-winning. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County recognizes and commends the Department of Public Works for their continued dedication and public service to the county; and hereby proclaims the week of May 19th through May 25 as

'Public Works Week' for Fulton County, Georgia. Let's give them a big hand. Mr. Barnes, do you want to say a few things? All right, you have the mic."

**ROY BARNES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FC PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you very much. Thank you very much. On behalf of the over 200 employees and Director Clark, we want to thank the Board of Commissioners for their public proclamation today and their continued support. Since 1853, over 170 years, the men and women of Fulton County Public Works Department have been serving the citizens of Fulton through wind and rain, heat and snow. We performed and we make small miracles every day. So when you wake up, there's fresh clean drinking water for you to drink, and we return it back to the environment cleaner than when we take it out. When you fly your plane into our airport, you're met with a staff that is professional and second to none. With me is a small representation of our team that gets this done 24/7, 365 days a year, with the highest level of professionalism and courtesy which is reflective in our over 90 percent approval rating from the public. We invite the public to participate in our activities next week. They are listed on the website where you can come and say thanks in person to our fantastic team. Thank you very much."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Certified Public Managers Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioners Hall and Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. Come on down, CPM graduates. Hey, how are you? Good to see you. Come on down. Look at this wonderful looking group of CPM graduates. Squeeze up. Hey, Commissioner, good morning. All right. There's so many of you. Just squeeze on in. Don't stand behind me cause I'm like a tree. All right. Commissioner, did you want to read? Okay. Well, it is truly an honor and a pleasure to present this proclamation. I was one of the first graduates of the Certified Public Management Program when it was just initiated -- inaugural ceremony graduation. Unfortunately, my late boss/mentor, neighbor and friend, Joan P. Garner, she recommended me for the CPM program when our wonderful County Manager and our Chief Human Resources Officer implemented this program. And unfortunately, she did not have an opportunity to see me graduate because she passed before I actually graduated. But I have to give thanks to our County Manager, Dick Anderson, and Chief Human Resource Officer, Kenneth Hermon, for working everything out to ensure that I graduated even though I was no longer in the office since she passed. So this is a great honor to me to present this proclamation to all of you. And it reads: WHEREAS, Fulton County Government entered into a memorandum of agreement with the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government to offer the certified public manager program to managers and supervisors within Fulton County; and WHEREAS, the University of Georgia is the only organization within the state of Georgia authorized by the national CPM Consortium to offer the CPM program at Fulton County CPM class of 2024 is the eighth class in Fulton County to receive the CPM certification; and WHEREAS, the CPM Class Cohort O, pinpointed a need in the Atlanta community to support people experiencing homelessness; and explored what resources would be valuable to those in need, and how to gather these resources, identified toiletries as a



valuable resource to offer the unhoused community in Woodruff Park, and the melody and the successfully planned and implemented the creation and donation of 100 toiletry bags; and WHEREAS, the CPM Class Cohort P sponsored a gift of love and joy donation drive for the Boys and Girls of Youth Villages, a residential treatment facility in Douglasville housing 128 boys and girls ages six to 17 with behavioral and mental health issues, collected 732 articles of clothing and art supplies for the facility, gave handwritten valentine cards to all 128 children and lead a vision board activity with 12 through 15 of their girls; and WHEREAS, the CPM class has completed 300 hours of coursework in nine months dedicating these three full consecutive days per month to attending classes, completing out-of-class homework and academic studies, and giving back to the community of their time, talents, and intellectual capital. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County congratulates the CPM Class of 2024 for successfully completing the requirements to receive their professional certifications as certified public managers; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 15th, 2024, as 'Fulton County Certified Public Managers Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations."

**ROSHONDRA DAVENPORT, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning. My name is Roshondra Davenport, and I am going to speak on behalf of Cohort O. First, we would like to thank Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Arrington, and the whole board for supporting this program. I would like to thank all elected who allowed us to participate in the program, and more specifically my boss, Madam DA, Fani T. Willis, for selecting me to be a part of the program. This experience has allowed Cohort O participants to improve their leadership skills while building relationships within the county. We enjoyed our time in the program, and we obtained knowledge that will help us improve as individuals and as leaders. It has also allowed each participant to build a village. That means we can rely on each other moving forward when performing the duties of our jobs. Again, I truly want to say I thank you all for the experience. I thank Fulton County, and I think this is a valuable program, and we all thank you for allowing us to participate."

**KELLY EDWARDS, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning, everyone. Excellent. My name is Kelly Edwards. I'm an environmental quality and education manager with the Fulton County Department of Public Works. And it gives me great pleasure to represent Cohort P. As a representative to have been able to complete the certified public managers program accredited through -- accredited, excuse me, through the UGA Carl Vincent Institute of Government. A special thank you goes to the Board of Commissioners, our respective leaders, and residents of Fulton County for trusting us as representatives of Fulton County. Again, a special token is extended to Commissioner Natalie Hall and Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., for our sponsorship. We recognize this privilege and look forward to applying the knowledge acquired from our course to our various leadership roles throughout Fulton. Fulton County's core values of integrity, efficiency, and trust are our guiding lights. As we move forward as leaders for Fulton County, we are hopeful that we embody these values as we work to support the communities we serve. Thank you."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 6, Public Hearings, **24-0342**, 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 by registering on the county's website [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60 minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comments will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 14 speaker cards. Will the first five speakers, please come forward: Sherrika Bellamy, James H. Harper, Jr., L.A. Pink, Mike Russell, and Scott Hughes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Come on down, speakers. And as always, when you have 15 seconds left, I'll simply say 15 seconds. That's your key to begin to conclude your remarks. I would also remind you and the Board to be respectful of the Board and the Board to be respectful of each other and the public. Proceed."

**SHERRIKA BELLAMY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay, good morning. My name is Sherrika Bellamy. Thank you for this opportunity, Commissioners. On February 20th, '24, was appointed to the Interim Deputy Executive Director for the Housing Authority of Fulton County. I am your whistleblower. I sent this certified letter to you all in February and contacted HUD regarding the harassment of Chairman Antavious Williams and unethical practices of the agency. During the last board meeting, the whole entire staff sat in my office and we watched Commissioner Pittman exposed the truth. When she was done, we clapped, we were very thankful; but I remember lifting my hands and say, God, I thank you for Commissioner Pittman and Khadijah for sending us to her -- her to us. In 2010, I was hired to work on the Dream Team for the Housing Authority of Fulton County. I worked there for four and a half years and I went to another housing authority for 8-1/2 years. So I know the culture of the Housing Authority Fulton County and what is needed to clean it up again. The Housing Authority needs a new board. There has been five EOC complaints, nine written complaints all against Antavious Williams; all are females. I am one of those five. I was placed on administrative leave last Wednesday and was escorted out by the police. The last day -- the same day, I received a letter from the attorney, which is the same attorney I sent this invoice to be investigated; and the letter stated I had not been accused of any wrongdoing. Now this action was not retaliation. This is clear an act of retaliation. You will find in the packet that I received that I gave to you that Attorney VS Williams told Ms. Garcia to terminate myself, Ms.



Brown, Ms. Sims, and a receptionist. I clearly -- I care deeply about the Housing Authority of Fulton County. This is home for me. The current staff --"

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

**SHERRIKA BELLAMY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- the current staff is not the problem. The problem is Antavious Williams involved in day-to-day operations. The solution to this problem is please select another board."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. What's going on? Thank you, ma'am. Do you have us a handout? All right, thank you."

**JESSICA CORBIT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Mr. Chairman, I apologize. We have a small technical issue with the Zoom and had to restart it. So I apologize for the disruption."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So is it fixed now?"

**JESSICA CORBIT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I believe so, yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next speaker."

**JAMES H. HARPER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is James H. Harper. I am a former Housing Authority of Fulton County Commissioner. I just wanted to agree with Ms. Bellamy and offer my support to her comments to you all. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We got to talk about that. This thing is --"

**L.A. PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- all righty, all righty, all righty. Let's get this party started. So we are dealing with the culture of corruption, okay, of Fulton County; this massacre of corruption and destruction. The first thing that I want to put on board is that I don't understand how Marvin Arrington and our Mayor Dre is endorsing on Fulton County dollars our supposed to be running for District Six, which is fine that you're running if that's what you want to do; but how do they endorse them on taxpayer dollars? Sitting -- Marvin Arrington did it right here in front of everybody, and then your mayor as well. However, the case may be on to Fani Willis on Grey Goose, getting loose. Anybody can get it. I'm coming down here wanting more money. She went online and said that it was cases is good. So why are we giving her more money? Why is she begging again for more money? Then we got your boy, Sheriff Labut, of course, we already know he's running a drug ring. Of course, he had a drug bust right inside of Fulton County. He did it, we didn't. He went -- he hasn't come forth to say that Travis Landris was murdered, but they had somebody that came in and said that he was -- he murdered him. He strangled him, and that hasn't come forward yet. We want to know when are you guys are going to do your job and ask for an investigation? When are you

going to do your job? You was on to something and now you dropped it again. We continue to come down here and we're going to continue to come down here. Get Commissioner Hall, chasing balls; whoever endorsed her is saying that it is, okay --"

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

**L.A. PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and her and Fani Willis to sleep around with married men or sleep around on the job or have an affair or stalk them on the job. It's sad. This is sad. Sad and sickening. And, Dana, we coming for your job, too."

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I want to start with something positive today and thank Vice Chair Rahman for coming out this Saturday and spending time in our community helping us with our fundraiser, which was to keep our elders in their home, our legacy residents in their homes. We really appreciate that, and I have to say I was pleasantly surprised at how many people warmly greeted you and how many of the elders already knew you. It was a great event, and I really appreciate you coming out for that. And now I want to turn to the cult of corruption in Fulton County, and I'm asking again this morning for four votes to start an investigation into the cult of corruption starting with the DA, Fani Willis. Why is she asking for more money, when she said before she had enough? Where did the money go? We need an audit to find it to find out. Why are there still people in our county jail up to five years without being brought to trial? Why has she not investigated the deaths in the jail from her friend, Sheriff Labat? He corrupted the last crime scene and now we have a 20-year-old man who has passed away and we had somebody come by -- and come forward and confessed to the murder, and there's been no investigation. I mean, this is as if the Klan was running Fulton County. You know black folks being pulled off the street, put incarceration in jail, no trial for years and then they wind up dead and nobody cares? Do those black lives not matter? And then you have Fani Willis who did not start an investigation on Natalie Hall; what she did by sleeping with her employee in this building and then firing him. But beyond that, she stalked him. She planted not one, not two, but three tracking devices in his vehicle. That's a felony in the state of Georgia. Fani Willis has not investigated that. We need to have answers --"

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

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- as to what is going on in Fulton County. We need this cult of corruption to go, and this is not a black-or-white thing, this is the do-the-right thing because everybody running against them is also black. We need folks to get out and vote them out."

**DR. SCOTT HUGHES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Dr. Scott Hughes. I just recently taken up residency as the Director of Trinity Community Ministries, a 36-bed homeless shelter in the Sweet Auburn district. I just have a question for you. There are 2,756 homeless shelter beds in the city of Atlanta. What would happen if we are not here? There are a ton of homeless people on the street

right now, and we do this work out of a passion for our heart. We definitely appreciate the donations that we get, the spaghetti and the clothes, and the toiletries, all of those different things, but there's a flip side to that coin. None of you would be paid in spaghetti, vision boards, toiletries. It takes cash. I think it would be a simple thing to have a repository or benevolent fund or some type of credit for organizations that do this work for the community because were not getting rich, so that we don't have to pay utilities, that we don't have to pay for water and electricity or run around and beg difference foundations for the money to pay our bills to keep these people off of this street. I want to thank Commissioner Hall. As soon as I reached out to her, her entire contingent showed up at our location. They pointed out a lot of resources, and I'm not talking about the COC and jumping through a bunch of hoops and bending like a pretzel in order to kiss a ring and get in a line behind 12,000 other people. I'm talking about actually making it happen. When all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done and, Commissioner Hall, I appreciate you, Charmaine, Anita, Paula Taylor, all of you all for showing up and pointing us in the right direction. This is my first time at this electorate and it will not be my last. We are going to establish a fund, a benevolent fund that keeps us from struggling to do the work we do. Thank you"

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come forward: Diane Usher, Shirley Pierce, Charlene Allen, Patricia Johnson, and Charles Rambo."

**DIANE USHER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Diane Usher and I'm a resident at Veranda Collegetown, and we're just begging for someone to please come and see what's going on with our building. We don't have no maintenance. The phone in the office is off. The building itself, it is so nasty, and they just not doing us right over there, and we don't know what's going on with the building. The homeless keep tearing up the back door; they keep breaking in people cars. So we just don't know who to ask for help. So we would like for someone to help us out, because they have a court date on the 21st to go from --"

**SHIRLEY PIERCE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. I'm Shirley Pierce. I'm from Veranda Collegetown in the West End, and we need help in that building. It is filthy. You cannot get nothing repaired, and we do not know the commission. So we just begging for help in there. Thank you."

**CHARLENE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Charlene Allen, and I'm also a resident of Veranda in Collegetown. This is my senior years. I did not expect to move into a senior apartment where on my floor, particularly, the elevator does not come up to the fourth floor. We have issues, we have wheelchairs. Someone has to walk down to the third floor to bring the elevator up, or we have to walk all the way down, and we've been complaining about this -- at least I have personally have been complaining about this over a month. It's been like that about six weeks. My other issue is it's 85 degrees in the hallway. Being that the fourth floor is the top floor. The

odor from the trash shoot just comes up. You're embarrassed to invite anybody into your home because of the smell as soon as you walk off the elevator. We cannot contact anybody about this situation. We have people living in our attic. We have vandalism of our cars. The other day I was told it was nine car windows that were broken out. We're supposed to have security parking gates, but anybody can get in the gate. They tear the doors down. Every time they're fixed, they tear the doors down. No one comes to clean our building. It's just ridiculous that after retirement that I cannot live in comfort. There's people living in the attic, which should not be. We need cameras. We have trees. We've been complaining the trees where we can't even see the sidewalk or the parking lot, because the trees are so thick. It's just awful. We need cameras or we need security. The doors and the gates are constantly broken. It's just so much until I would need ten minutes to complain about all --"

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

**CHARLENE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- but those are the most things. Please, please send someone out there. We're told they can't afford security, but at least they can afford cameras to find out who's vandalizing our cars, who's vandalizing our building, and we get no help. Thank you.

**PATRICIA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I, myself, again am a resident of Veranda at Collegetown. I personally have been vandalized."

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

**PATRICIA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** I'm a resident of Veranda at Collegetown as well. I have been vandalized twice, my vehicle. Steering column broken, windows broken. It doesn't make sense. When I first moved to that property I thought that that would be my last move, to enjoy my golden years, but it's been everything except that. It's been a total disaster; a nightmare. Why do we pay taxes when we can't get any assistance? Now, the two times that I've been vandalized, the city of Atlanta police have come out. They've taken information, but no one has gotten back with me. Fingerprints were taken; nobody has gotten back with me to say we've apprehended the culprit. When I first got to this building, to this property, it was so nice. It has totally went from a hundred to nine, if not lower than that. As Charlene said, our back door -- every time they repair that door, we have squatters on the fourth floor that tears the door up because they don't have a fob to get in. It's ridiculous. You can't sleep in peace. Your items from outside your door, your plants, your figurines and stuff like that comes up missing. Your packages that you get through the mail are coming up missing. What can we do? What can you help us with? This is at 372 --"

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

**PATRICIA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- 372 Legacy Drive, Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia, 30310. And again, we do have a court date on the 21st of this month because code enforcement came out. That's just how bad it is."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last four speakers, please come forward: Julie Allen, Paul Hershey, Sigfried White, and Dr. Arthur Ferdinand."

**CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, of the Board of Commissioners. My name is Charles Rambo. I am a resident of South Fulton County as well as a 34-year veteran, retired from the Fulton County Sheriff's office. I'm no stranger to this Board having provided timely and accurate insights for you to make conscious decisions about what to do over at the Fulton County Jail. We've dealt with that with the locks; we dealt with that in the consent decree. I'm coming to you today more the less to ask as you are considering this two billion-dollar jail project. Do we really need \$2 billion for the infrastructure, should we spread that money across the board to improve the criminal justice system? If the criminal justice partners are doing their parts and the judiciary as well as the prosecution, why are we considering 5,000 beds? That money needs to be spent across the board for more judges, more mental health facilities, as well as moving forward sometime in transitioning for our mentally ill persons. Commissioner Pitts, believe it or not, me and you will finally agree on something. We need the Atlanta city jail. We need that jail and we need it very badly. With that in mind, I'm hoping that you will follow the Senate recommendations for pushing the city of Atlanta with more some robust measures in terms of how to get that. And as I conclude, this is more or less towards our partners over at the Senate judiciary -- excuse me -- not the judiciary, the Senate Committee hearing, I introduced to them the Georgia Jail Violence Contraband Elimination Act. I want you guys to take this under consideration, some preemptive law that can help to divert as well as stop a lot of the deaths at the jail when we take some more proactive measures towards prosecuting --"

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

**CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- those persons that are committing crimes based upon the type of wheelbarrows of contraband that you've seen before you on a time-to-time basis. I will leave this for your consideration and I hope that you would take into consideration for legislation."

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Julie Allen. On Tuesday, May 7th, the Georgia State Election Board voted reprimand for Fulton County for numerous violations of state law during the 2020 Election and recount into establish a monitor for the November 2024 General Election, which if not completed by July would require referral to the Georgia Attorney General. With over a hundred violations of election laws and rules, the Georgia State Election Board decided that both the 2020 hand count audit and the certified machine recount in Fulton County violated Georgia election law. Georgia State Board of Elections admitted in writing that Fulton

County failed to upload and tabulate election results in their entirety in 2020. State officials reported that there were 3,075 duplicate ballot images, but they were unable to determine how many of those casts were tabulated in the recount. Fulton County failed to preserve hundreds of thousands ballot images from Election Day memory cards as required by Georgia law. Fulton County could not prove the authenticity of thousands of votes counted from Election Day. Further, Fulton County's machine recount initially resulted in a total that was almost 18,000 ballots short, according to former supervisor Richard Barron. The recount is missing 17,852 ballot images confirmed by Joe Rossi, Professor Philip Stark, and elections expert, Duncan Buell. Biden's margin of victory was 11,779 votes. Fulton County cannot provide sufficient evidence of votes that claimed it counted in 2020. The recount could not replicate those original results either. Calling the election conduct unacceptable, state election board member, Dr. Janice Jansen commented, if this is the way to conduct an election, then no election should be certified as true and accurate --"

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

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- Dr. Johnson added there's no way this election or recount should have been certified. Fulton County's corrupt officials have been caught certifying false election results. Fulton County taxpayers now have to pay the unbudgeted costs for monitor. Fulton County citizens deserve to have confidence in elections."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Paul Hershey, and I'm here to continue the dialogue on what you've just been hearing. And my question is when are you going to start cleaning up and when is the audit going to take place? Here are some things that I can prove that's on your record -- your Fulton County records, and there's things that I cannot prove. So let's get down to what I can prove: There was a grant for \$575,000 to Fani Willis' department. She reported -- the CFO reported that that grant was only 500,000. There's \$75,000 missing somewhere. The next thing you know, Wade's attorney was paid \$75,000. You go sell that somewhere else to the Air Force or somewhere, but I don't buy that one either. You've heard Amanda come in here and tell you about the grant for the gangs that was being misused for computers and everything else. You were going to open up gang center. Never opened up, and the land was donated and the building was donated. What have you done about that? Then you've got Atlanta giving her money for \$4,000 -- for the 4,000 rape kits that are still sitting somewhere because the GBI hasn't got them. So where did they go? And then we talk about Arrington, every time he talks about we don't have the authority to do this; well, I'm going to tell you right now, the ACCJ says that you have the responsibility for every dollar going to Fani Willis --"

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



**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and number two is that when he opened the bag of worms about Natalie Hall, that you couldn't take the \$200,000, that just opened up standing for every person voting in Fulton County to recall her. Good job."

**SIEGRIED WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatever a man sow, that shall he also reap. I want you to pray for me as I travel to Washington, DC on Thursday, and I'm returning back on the 19th, if it's the Lord's will. I will be going to the White House -- to the Capitol lawn on the White House to participate in the Day of Prayer at the White House. After receiving a Volunteer Lifetime Award from our President, Joseph V. Biden, we'll be going to Washington, DC to pray for our nation. Chairman Pitts, I remember you a long time ago when you came to our activities that we had called Healthy Fathers, Healthy Families. I heard a lot about how people are helping the homeless. Well, here I am -- thank you, sister -- Commissioner Khadijah, for your support. Here I am want to help the homeless. I heard the gentleman stand up and say something about Natalie Hall helping them. Well, I need help. I've been praying for help. I have been detained by the Atlanta Police Department because I was preaching the Gospel. Preaching the Gospel, I was stopped outside of Atlanta Medical Center going to take men and women to the Atlanta Medical Center. The police was called on me, I was set up, and my picture is on the door of the Atlanta Medical Center, which needs to be taken down."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Fifteen seconds."

**SIEGRIED WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Also in reference to the jail, it is a shame that this jail is a place where a lot of people are being killed. Commissioners, please do something about it. I thank God for --"

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

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

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. In the last meeting, I shared with you as a comparison, in terms of the elections budget, Cobb County. As an update, it was listed at nine million. About two million of those dollars were transferred out. So the true budget for Cobb this year is 6.88 million. If we transfer that, since Cobb is about 75 percent of the size of Fulton, we're talking about a little over \$9 million. So again, why is our budget \$40 million? We have people that come and give public comment every single meeting, and yet we have waste in many of our departments including the Elections Department. So I appreciate Commissioner Ellis on the agenda for today is the 2023 Municipal Election cost. I'm very concerned about the cost from last year. Last year was around what, \$15 to 20 million dollars for the year; in a low election activity year, in terms of scale? So we're saying that our budget last year in the municipal year was \$15 to 20 million. In Cobb in this year in a

major federal election is -- the equivalent is nine. We have a problem, and it needs to be addressed. I like the activity-based budgeting and, you know, it may be another phrase for that also zero-based budgeting. We need a line item budget from what the Elections Department is spending our dollars on. We already know about working in many of the polls and what not, there is a lot of waste and inefficiency, so please take a look. If we need a real full-on audit from the previous ones --"

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

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- as well. And just to support the comments made by a couple of others, the results from the State Election Board last week were damning. We all know that 2020 was not fine, and it never should have been certified. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Ben Howard. Ben Howard. Okay, Ben Howard?"

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "You got me? Okay, sorry about that. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate and Public Policy Analyst. You're complaining about senior activities throughout Older American's Month, one may call the Fulton County Star Line at 404-613-6000. To the Housing Authority of Fulton County triumvirate, when will you resume having hybrid meetings so members of the public again may look over your shoulders as you shuffle the millions of public dollars that are entrusted to you on our behalf? Where might one find the results of your last forensic audit? What is the link to those summary minutes of your meetings which are required to be posted by the Georgia Open Meetings Act, which is state law? When, if ever, will you come to the public microphone here at Assembly Hall and make some kind of report that substantiates and validates your continued existence as our so-called County Housing Authority? We'll stay tuned."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The last person to speak is Janet Hill. Janet Hill. And with that being said, that concludes the Zoom public comments."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 6, Presentations to the Board, **24-0343**: Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Good morning, Chairman Pitts distinguished Commissioners. My name is Jevon Gibson. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to present what's happening at the Fulton-DeKalb -- this is really intense -- sorry. The Fulton-DeKalb Board of Commissioners' meeting here. I'm happy to be here. I apologize. Give me two seconds. I'm listening to the public content -- comments and I'm listening to all that's going on, and I realize the importance of the work that we do."



And so, I just want to take a moment to say this is the work that we do at the Fulton DeKalb Hospital Board is extremely important. I want to tell you a little bit about what's been happening with us. Next slide, please. So our mission really is through collaboration with the Grady Health System and innovative strategies, we will improve the health outcomes in Fulton and DeKalb. Our vision is through using creative solutions in leveraging the resources that we have. We hope to have innovative healthcare and prevention services to ensure that there is health equity for all residence of Fulton and DeKalb residents. Next slide, please. This is our Board of Trustees. You'll notice that there are three Commissioners here from DeKalb, three trustees here from DeKalb; the rest of the trustees from Fulton County. Next slide, please. I want to talk really briefly about our four pillars. We have organizational capacity and accountability. Stakeholder engagement remains critical to us, innovative strategies and initiatives and asset management. These are our strategic builders; embedded in that are our core values: stewardship, transparency, accountability, and professionalism. Next slide, please. Now, when we think about our strategic priorities, they tend to fall into three focused areas. First, is access to care ensuring that all constituents have access to timely healthcare and related support services. I want to pause briefly there and mention this really quickly: when we talk about access to care, we're really talking about tertiary care, which is hospital care. But it's important to note that only 20 percent of health outcomes for all the residents of Fulton-DeKalb happen are based on what happens in a hospital. Eighty percent of health outcomes are determined by what happens outside of a hospital. What this means is that it's vitally important that we take a downward dive into what we call the social determinants of health. These social determinants of health are the drivers of health outcomes in Fulton-DeKalb County. So we work with our partners and stakeholders to address the economic and social conditions that drive health inequities in poor health outcomes. Lastly, but not least, we recognize that there is a significant need to destigmatize and raise awareness of mental health issues and/or to create spaces within community that are responsive to these issues. Next slide, please. What we have here is what we call our theory of change. We call this 'Beyond Our Walls'. We call it Beyond Our Walls primarily because we recognize again that this 20/80 rule means that with intentionality we must engage residents of Fulton and DeKalb, as well as the many stakeholders from the various sectors that do this work. So to that end, we leverage our partners -- partnerships to conduct targeted initiatives using access to care. We use social determinants, but we use our relationships with multiple partners to address social determinants of health and cooperative agreements, and then we're looking at mental health through the lens of community stakeholders. And what we mean by that is how do we raise awareness of mental health and normalize the conversation while being responsive? Last, but not least, it is the support that we provide to Grady and the advocacy for Grady's responsiveness to the healthcare needs of your constituents. I won't go through the entire theory of change, but I do want to go to ultimate goal and our impact. Our desire is through leveraging these partnerships across sectors, engaging our stakeholders and our community members, ensuring accountability and responsiveness through Grady that ultimately the work beyond our walls, as well as inside our walls, will result in decreased incidence of diseases, chronic and otherwise; and better health outcomes for

the residence of both Fulton and DeKalb. Next slide, please. So what have we done? We have a number of strategic initiatives. We leverage the resources that we have to interloop what we call cooperative agreements. These cooperative agreements are partnerships that we've established with a number of different organizations in the community that are credible, reputable, and have a history of going great work. Organizations like Mercy Care, Southeast Medical, including faith-basis institution like the Dream Church, organizations doing work in the HIV space like Sister Love. We've established cooperative agreements. Now the difference, we use the term cooperative agreements primarily because in these spaces, we work collaboratively. There's training, there's technical assistance, there's capacity building within and among agencies. They work collaboratively to ensure that their efforts are aligned and produce the greatest impact. We also have launched what we call our community health worker initiative. We've trained members of the community to be responsive to the needs of their constituents in their communities. We have been very deliberate about ensuring that we've taken the time to identify what the disease states are, what the issues are, in the various parts of the county, and we've also been deliberate about trying to be targeted in our engagement efforts. These targeting engagement efforts means raising awareness of chronic diseases, providing educational spaces, connecting people to resources, and ensuring that our outcomes are measured and marked across the board using our dashboard. Lastly, we have our Grady initiatives. And again, working directly with our partners at Grady, in a population health space and health equity space, identifying where there are opportunities for us to support their efforts and identify what we call levers in the health ecosystem. Just small spaces that if we make and insert -- make a response, we can then change the trajectory of health outcomes. Now, let's talk really quickly about our impact. Next slide, please. So we recognize in coming this space that it's vitally important for us to measure our impact. We have a saying in the organization it's important to know what we came from, but it's also vitally important to know where we're going. So through our community innovation projects, 7,648 individuals in Fulton and DeKalb are linked to healthy wellness resources; over 1,600 medical linkages are made, and what we're very proud of is that 978 or 61 percent were actually completed. We know the difference between referrals and linkages. Linkages are targeted connections. Over 3,557 individuals were connected to social determinants of health resources. When we talk about those resources, we're talking about food, we're talking about housing; we're talking access to jobs, any number of different measures. Lastly, the one that we're very proud of is that 1,550 linkages were made to housing resources. This is a 98 percent complete linkage rate for access to housing resource. Through our community health workers, 682 residents of Fulton-DeKalb received health and social service referrals from FDHA CHW's, 2,381 total referrals are made for health and social services, and 901 residents received direct health education services. For Grady, we gave \$90,000 for pulmonary equipment for Grady's pulmonary department. We awarded \$239,000 to Grady's nursing department, and over 102 Grady patients, these are patients that are in tertiary care, receive health access to social detriments of health resources and wellness resources. Now, this is what has come out of our efforts in line with our strategic plan. There are some additional things we want to share with you as well. Next slide, please. Next slide,

please. As you are well aware, Georgia is going through the process of Medicaid unwinding. The redetermination process is to make and determine who would stay on the rolls. Well, early on this process, we recognize that -- that this could conceivably be catastrophic for hundreds of thousands of residents. And so, we developed a comprehensive strategy to raise awareness in various sectors of the Medicaid unwinding. We connected with our partners, we connected with faith-based partners, and we took to the streets to share this message. We provided toolkits to various organizations, community-based orgs and the like. We provided fact sheets and we deployed community health workers in parts of the community so that they can then inform your constituents about how to stay engaged and enrolled in Medicaid. We are - - we are very proud of the outcomes. We have folks calling our office, connecting them to resources, and ensuring that they stay engaged. Next slide, please. I mentioned in our strategic plan that we were talking about the need to add diversity, equity, and inclusion in the healthcare workspace, and provide opportunity for folks to stay engaged. We launched a healthcare development strategy in partnership with Grady, Atlanta Technical College as well as Grady's training facility. We went out into the community to identify people who would conceivably be interested in careers in EMT. We recruited them, we did marketing videos, and we committed to ensure that they had support in these spaces. Next slide, please. I'm happy to report that as of last month, we've had five females graduate from our EMT program. These are folks who are now able to get on ambulances and provide services. This effort will continue. We'll continue to partnership with Grady as well as hopefully Atlanta Tech in the very near future. Distinguished, Commissioners, I know that for some reason every time I come here my first couple words are garbled, which is pretty uncharacteristic for me. With that being said, if you have any questions for me, I'll take them, but I thank you for the opportunity."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, thank you for the update and presentation. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman followed by Commissioner Thorne."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I want to thank you for your passion and work. I know when you first came we had a long conversation, and the work that you do is thankless because a lot of times you are under fire and you all cannot solve the world's problems; but you can make a difference and impact each community at a time. So you didn't start off with any googly gock or any of that. I saw it as somebody who is human and very candid, and I appreciate your passion and I appreciate the good work that you're doing."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Thank you so much. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, thank you for all the work you're doing in our community and much-needed work in our community, and I love how you're linking various partners throughout various nonprofits to be working with this as well. I just

have one quick question: You say you're training and deploying community health workers. What is the training or what is the qualifications to be a community health worker?"

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "So that's an excellent question, Commissioner Thorne. So the -- we are actually working very closely -- myself, my VP, Christine Wiggins of Community Innovation Projects. She was actually one of the people who started the statewide standardization of community health workers standards. And so, what we have been doing is we've been sort of mirroring the standards that Morehouse School of Medicine has for the CHWs as well as sort of adding some additional information based on what we've been seeing in the community and our needs assessments. And so, there are a series of core standards associated with it that are associated with communicating with diverse populations; but there also specific education modules around very specific disease states. For example, there are modules around chronic heart disease; there are modules around high blood pressure and the like. And so, there are very specific modules. What we've been finding is it takes anywhere from two to four months of every day training modules for our CHWs to get up to speed."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Can they come out of high school and do this program?"

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Absolutely, absolutely. And that is one area that we're actually looking into. We find it a valued proposition of CHW's happens when the folks who are doing this work have an authentic connection to the city that they targeted. And so, yes, if we can get our youth engaged, I think it would be -- I think it would be awesome."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And how many people do you train roughly a year in a program?"

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Well, we have trained in-house, probably, I would say anywhere between nine and 11. But what we recognize is -- I'll use this adage. One can chase a thousand to reach this 10,000. So the direction that we're going is we would like to use our trained CHWs to now become train the trainers. So we'll have to identify specific communities where we can find folks in the community who are willing to take on this mantle and serve as sort of a place-based resource for us. So we're open to training more."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Do you work at all with Atlanta Public Schools or Fulton County Schools to get people interested as a potential after graduation from high school."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Full disclosure: we do not, and I will tell you why. So, as with many of these things that we're doing in many of these initiatives, it's been sort of a measured implementation; and the reason being is because I don't want to tell

about it and don't have the capacity. And so, as we build capacity, the hope is that as we move forward that there will be opportunities for us to expand this work. Clearly, and I mean myself, I was surprised by the impact that we've had, the feedback has been absolutely phenomenal. And so we hope to continue this work in partnership with Grady and other community partners."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Great. I look forward to seeing it grow. Thank you."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Absolutely."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Good morning. How are you doing? Thank you for the presentation and the work that you're doing. I guess my question is in regards to the new emergency room in South Fulton and what role or contributions is FDHA or how is FDHA or are is FDHA involved in it?"

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "That's an excellent question, Commissioner Arrington. And so, it is my understanding that we have engaged, we have been told that they intend to -- they being Grady -- in partnership with Fulton County, will be deploying an emergency room down there. I've had a brief conversation with Grady leadership in passing. I understand that there'll be some more conversation, because in terms of how will funding for this initiative take place, but the high-level response is we have been engaged."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right, awesome. I'm hoping they're going to name that new emergency center after Tommy Dortch. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. You are doing an absolutely great job. It was a pleasure to meet you. When you initially came in, you spoke about your vision and mission for this organization, and you stuck with it. And this is an awesome presentation. There is one thing that I am concerned about because I've had several people stop me at events and asked about some grant opportunity that used to exist, and they're saying it does not exist anymore within FDHA. Could you explain that, because --"

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "-- I certainly can."

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

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "So with respect to the grants, my position is the resources that we have, if you look under our core value, stewardship is one of the core values. And stewardship means that anything that we fund must be in direct alignment



with strategic priorities that have been outlined by the Board of Trustees. Anything that's out of alignment with those strategic priorities then cannot be funded. And what that means is when we put out an opportunity for a cooperative agreement, any organization that's going to partner with the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority must have -- must write a proposal that is in direct alignment with our cooperative agreement -- with our strategic priorities and must be responsive. And so, it doesn't mean that they're not opportunities there, but we have greatly reduced that because our focus is really on measured impact. And so, what has happened in the past is that we've released funding opportunities to any number of different organizations and any number of different organizations that's been funded, but we never measured their impact. We're not sure exactly what they were doing or where they were doing it. I cannot go back to a specific document and say with any degree of certainty that, you know, the efforts albeit may have been good, they were not focused. They weren't targeted and they weren't measured. When I came onboard, my goal was to make sure that we could be accountable for every dollar that we have. And accountability means stewardship; it means integrity around resource allocation. It doesn't mean that it wasn't happening before. It just wasn't focused in a way that I could stand up here and speak to you about it. I couldn't three years ago come in front of you and give those measures because they didn't exist. And so, there are opportunities that will continue to be opportunities, but they are very focused; and they are focused solely on the strategic priorities outlined by Board of Trustees."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So do you see in the near future perhaps providing that opportunity again for grant funding, but more in line with what you see should be put in place for measuring them and having some type of reporting about what they're doing."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Well, absolutely. And again, we don't necessarily call them grants; they are more cooperative agreements because it's about relationship. So grants, you give the money, there's little less accountability, you send in report. Cooperative agreements, you come in, you have standardized meetings with us, so it's our expectation that you work in collaboration with the other organizations, and that you report out. So, yes, the answer is, yes. Now, it would be at the end of this strategic planning cycle which ends in the end of 2025. But we would absolutely revisit the opportunity, and we're open. I mean we would love to partner with other organizations, and we also tell them, you know, true partnership doesn't always include money, right? If you want to partner, there's ample opportunities to partner with us where we can leverage existing resources, and then we can find ways to work collaboratively to bring the resources in. We've written for the first time, the hospital authority has written a number of small grants, where we have gotten resources to support our Medicaid unwinding. That was not our money. Those are grants that I wrote because I saw a need and I wanted to address that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, I do want to quote one of our nonprofit organizations that deals with youth; and the founder of that nonprofit always says you can't have fun if you don't have funds. So funds are needed by these nonprofit organizations; and

Fulton County offers grants, and we do have a good oversight of our grants. So I don't want people to think that just because they're grants, there's no oversight."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "No. Absolutely, not. That's definitely not my intent."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes. All right. Well, thank you very much and great presentation."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "You're welcome. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. See you next quarter. Continue, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, County Manager's Items under Open and Responsible Government, **24-0344**: Presentation of the Fulton County Operational report."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. I know this hard to believe, but we have an operations report today after the disruption due to the cyber event. Now, we have access to most of our data. The only part of it that we don't have today is some of the financial data, but everything else is back online, so we're pleased to be here before you doing that. Mike Rowicki and Steve Nawrocki are going to lead the presentation on the administrative and justice areas respectively. We've restructured the strategy office, post Alton Adams' retirement, to have Mike focus on administrative performance issues and strategic initiatives; and Steve, likewise, focus on justice. So we'll be turning to both of them. Joe Davis will routinely report on the jail blitz plan, since that's critical to this overall effort relative to justice in the jail, so he'll be giving us that report. Sharon and Hakeem, of course, will do so on finance, and then Felicia, as always, has an involved or has included in this report, and we'll continue to anything as it relates emergency purchase orders. Before Mike gets started, I just want to say that the cyber response continues, but is largely complete. If you recall, we had over 375 services that were disrupted. Over 90 percent of those are now restored. We believe that we'll have all of them restored end of May, first of June. So it's a very good and soft landing to what was a hugely disruptive event. We continue in daily cadence of review on these with a project management office that it's been staffed by our folks and Ernst and Young. Again, Ernst and Young's involvement with us also ends at the end of May, so all of that is again coming to a close. You will hear in Mike's report there are a few items like call centers that still need to be scripted. We've done four of those, four of the biggest ones, for technical reasons, and those were successfully implemented. There's no technical

reason that we can't get the rest of those done. There's some digital signage in the courts and the libraries that we're working on; again, nothing that's insurmountable. They are bringing that online. Vendor self-service, which was essential and also including EFT in that new self-service approach, was vexing, but now that's been solved, and vendors are being brought on board with the communications plan. We still have some issues in our ERP system that, again, continues to prove to be challenging, but we believe that those will be again solved, as I've said, over the next couple weeks. You're also going to hear from Mike -- or excuse me, from Steve, Project ORCA updates. Again, good progress there and continues. We're 130,000 now cases resolved, about 17,000 left. We're still planning a wind down consistent with your direction from both the budget process as well as discussions of Project ORCA, so we've laid out for each of the departments what that ramp down would look like. It can run through the end of the year. I've had a discussion with several of you, if they ramp down accordingly; however, we're not trying to overly manage that, that's up to them. They can choose to, you know, to run hot between now and June or July, and then have that funding exhausted. We also presented, and I think on the agenda later, is a reprise of that presentation to the Senate on Fulton County Jail status and operations. I think we got our message across; all the actions that this Board has taken from the building blitz that you'll hear about subsequently in this presentation as well as staffing support and outsourcing of locations. All of that, I think, went very well and satisfied the questions. The Chairman, of course, led our effort that we supported that communications. So again, there's a lot of good information in today's presentation. We look forward to any feedback. Just a reminder, if you got very specific questions about the justice performance, we'd like to direct that to the responsible leader and have them come back. Our folks are in a position more to just report the results, now that we have access to the data. So Mike, I'll turn it over to you. We'll go through this along with Steve and then when we get to the jail blitz plan, we'll ask Joe to contribute to that."

**MIKE ROWICKI:** "Thank you, Mr. County Manager. Mike Rowicki, Strategy and Performance Management Office. Can we get the next slide, please? Next slide. Again, just some highlights that I want to mention to you. Again, I'm pleased to be back here in front of the Board of County Commissioners, and I look forward to future months where we will be presenting to you again the additional focus areas that remain, which will be open and responsible government. That will be infrastructure and economic development and, again, our justice and safety reports. So, a couple things that the County Manager did mention to you is that the program management office with EY has been working with us, they have been tracking 375 different services that are looking for restoration. Currently, we are at 90 percent plus of that restoration, and hope to have that remaining done by the end of May or as soon as possible. All of our major systems such as the justice, tax, ERP, and telephony have been moved to the cloud, so that has been a major improvement for us as we serve the citizens of Fulton County. Leadership continues to meet on a daily basis to track progress; and, again, provide any insights or information or direction that needs to make things move forward as we see things that arise. One of the big things that continues with the IT department and across the county is our cyber security training for all employees. Staff is currently going through



all of the training again with another update just to ensure that we are reinforcing that across all of our employees. Next slide, please. So this slide represents at a high-level, major service recovery areas across the county. These items will show you, as we get weekly on Mondays, this information. This information currently that you're seeing is a week-old, but we have made progress on these items. So you can see those areas and, off to the right-hand side, you'll see the progress that is being made if anything goes wrong, or is being cleared up. Those numbers will change up or down accordingly. Next slide, please. A couple of the items that we want to mention to you, those items that from the previous slide that are read are mentioned or kind of highlighted here for you. Those call centers are a feature that were not working as of last week, but we're proud to announce that as of Monday night, IT flipped the switch and, on Tuesday morning, those call centers started operating. They seem to be going well at this point in time. We will keep monitoring those to make sure that they continue and will move forward with the rest of the call centers across the county. Again, as the County Manager mentioned, digital signage for the courts and libraries is something that IT is currently working on resolving, and we hope to have that done in the next two weeks. Budget and reporting functionality: there have been ups and downs with the system that we use for reporting, but those things have been worked on and as of yesterday, the departments were given a new link for the financial reporting and that is being tested out at this point in time, so we're happy to announce that. Also vendor self-service: that has made progress and currently purchasing IT, and External Affairs is working on the plan that we are working on to reach out to all the vendors to make sure that they get their new passwords and get reset up with the county as soon as possible. We'd also like to mention to all the citizens out there and our customers that if they have any problems with any of the systems or getting access, that they can always contact our customer service at [customer.service@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:customer.service@fultoncountyga.gov) or call 404-612-4000. Next item -- next slide. The last item that I want to mention to you is early voting and election support. So again, we continue to meet with the election staff on every two weeks. Early voting did begin on April 29th. There are 36 locations out there for people to go and vote. Early voting will end on May 17th. Polls are fully staffed at this point in time, and we are prepared for the May 21st primary. We also wanted to note that for the municipalities, with the elections from last year, and what was billed to them, they were given notices about their refunds a short time ago, and we're happy to announce that those checks for the refunds to those cities was issued as of last Friday. Next slide, please. And we're here with the support of the IT department and the other departments to answer any questions that you have at this point in time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Question on this section? Commissioner Barrett followed by Commissioner Natalie Hall."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a couple of quick things. On the cybersecurity training that -- and I know I've brought this up in other meetings, but are we moving forward doing anything about the e-mails that we get sent for those cybersecurity trainings? I think I mentioned it in one of the emergency operations center meetings and that they -- they look like spam. And so, you know, the

whole point is to train us to not click on spam, and yet they sort of look that way, and I know there was some discussion about maybe trying to address that. Are we still -- is that something we have on the agenda to work on?"

**MIKE ROWICKI:** That is something and I'll let Kevin address that."

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT:** "Good morning, Commissioner Barrett. Yes, I remember that comment and I did meet with RC, and so we're looking at making sure those look more official and are coming from a trusted source. And so, there are some things we can do to improve that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. And I know that one of the things that I had mentioned at the time was maybe having it -- having not a link in the e-mail, but rather having the links available to us on the Intranet and maybe just having the e-mails be reminders to go to the Intranet to log in. That way we're not clicking on a link in an e-mail, which is a habit we need a break, I think, generally. So I look forward to getting updates on that moving forward. The other question I had was, I think you may have basically already answered this, but it was on page 185 or page 6 of the presentation, I guess, on the final outstanding items, and you had -- number three was the budget reporting functionality and preparation for 2025 budget development. And my question was just -- so I get that we think we're almost there and we're testing now, which is good news, but my question is really about the schedule and just wondering if there's any impact to -- I know we're not quite there yet to budgeting time, but we're getting awfully close. So I just wanted to know if there's any impact to the 2025 the budgeting schedule."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett. It will be very close. So I don't want to say that there isn't because there are things that we can do to mitigate that, if we need to. And I did actually have a conversation with Sabrina last night about Plan B. So if we are not able to get our budget development application, performance budgeting back online soon enough, what other methodology we might use. So I have had a conversation with her about that, so it will be -- it will be close right now. I don't think we will experience a delay because if the system isn't up, we will use another tool if we have, too."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I'll just say I think it would be beneficial for all of us to be kept updated about that. That was all I had. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. The page numbers are a little bit off, but I think this is page 4. The title says Cyber Response Updates, and the second bullet point says 90 percent of services have been restored and remaining projected by end of May. At first I was saying, okay, what is the 10 percent that are down -- still down? But I turned to page 6, and that one has a final outstanding items list, bullet

points; and just wondering what exactly is the system that is being referred to in the third bullet point that says budget reporting functionality in preparation of 2025 budget development is on that outstanding list."

**MIKE ROWICKI:** "I believe that is with our Info Advantage reporting some of that functionality was up and down and, again, I believe that was progress made this week on that reporting and a lot of these items this week have made significant progress since this report was drafted. So we're probably closer to about 95 percent fully restored at this point in time."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And, Commissioner Hall, if you could, Sharon, just add to that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "It's one of these ones where I don't know if we'll have to tell how to build a clock here necessarily versus what time; but I do think it's one of the complexities of moving all that we had homegrown into CGI's environment, but Sharon."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Commissioner Hall, specifically, and Mike was correct, specifically the issues there are our Info Advantage reporting tool, which we use for all of our -- on both the financial and the HR system, we used to extract and build out various financial reports or files that we use in our financial analysis or to help with the development of future budgets. The other item is the performance budgeting application, which we are still working to restore in the CGI cloud environment. So part of the issue is we were able to restore Info Advantage then we had a hiccup, and we had to work again to restore Info Advantage. And we are this week, now, I think, in a better position from a stability perspective, so it's been up and down and up and down. We're still working on getting the historical information so we can report on current, but we can't report on historical. So we're working on that piece of it now, so those are really the two major pieces left for the ERP system, is ensuring we have stability with our reporting tool and that we have current and historical data, and then bringing the budget development application online."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Is there another plan if you're not able to get all systems fully working?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "At this point, I haven't -- I am not aware of there being a concern about the performance budget application itself. We're in the process now testing all the functionality. The Info Advantage reporting, if we are not able to restore that as we would like to in the CGI environment, then I know Kevin mentioned yesterday we may have to look at connecting our data to a different reporting tool instead of the Info Advantage reporting tool, that diversion of the financial

system that CGI restored for us in their cloud has typically being connected with. So I think that there is potentially an alternative if we aren't able to restore all of the functionality of the Info Advantage tool. But I do know that our IT staff and CGI staff are working diligently to get that historical data over and get it connected so we have it there to report against. So there's been a lot of effort put in to getting it in this environment and getting it stabilized. So, you know, we're hoping that this week and next prove out and that we will be back to a solid position after that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. That's great news. And page 11, project overview case accumulation defined. I just want to say these numbers look great, seeing that we started at 148,209 open and active cases; and now we only have 17,298 pending open and active cases. Just wanted to say, great job. And then on page -- on page 13, project ORCA case reduction case disposition summary: I noticed the zeros for April 2024 target actual invariance under the district attorney and was just wondering why?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Sorry to interrupt. So, point of order. Could we wait until they do the presentation on this piece before you get to that?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, sure. Sure."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, no problem."

**MIKE ROWICKI:** "Okay. If that is all the questions, I'm going to turn this -- okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So under your election support: what does polls are fully staffed mean?"

**MIKE ROWICKI:** "That means the early voting is --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- early voting, early voting."

**MIKE ROWICKI:** "Early voting is fully staffed and according to the reports that we received on a biweekly basis from the elections, they have secured staff and they are being trained currently for Election Day."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. And then talk a little more about the refund notices to the cities for the checks that are issued. I don't think most people understand what that's all about."

**MIKE ROWICKI:** "So, with the refunds for the cities, what happens is --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- what does that mean? Refunds for what?"

**MIKE ROWICKI:** "So during 2023, we run the municipal elections for the cities. During that timeframe, the county is not allowed to cover any of those costs, and that is up to the cities to bear the cost to run those elections. So we bill the cities ahead of time based on the schedule that is given to us for a regular election's and any runoffs that are out there. During that point in time, there may be changes to the election's where not enough runoffs are needed for all of the cities, so that may reduce the costs. So what happens is, as we actually bill the cities for actual costs, any of those funds that they paid to us previously for the election to run them that is refunded back to the cities so they only pay for what is actually expended."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Chairman Pitts, you've brought up something about the polls being fully staffed. Do you ever look at the staffing; the amount of staffing? I went and visited the precinct that was in where my office is up north, and they had eight people come, and it was 3 o'clock in the afternoon and they were fully staffed, although they had their line monitor and somebody else not show up. Are we paying for line monitors for every day of early voting?"

**MIKE ROWICKI:** "According to the staffing currently, yes, but I will leave that up to -- I know that you guys have some agenda items later on of Elections, and I will leave that up to them to discuss specifically."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm waiting for -- to finish the presentation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sorry."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No, problem."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you, sir."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, you're going to finish?"

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Steve's going to handle the justice section."

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

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** “Yes, good morning, Commissioners. Steve Nawrocki, Strategy and Performance Management Office. Thank you, Commissioner Hall. We very much share in your excitement. We are very excited to be getting -- or resume presenting this information, which we've been on a bit of a hiatus since January. But now that we've now recovered our systems to a point that we can report out again, and we are happy to do so. Can we go to the next slide, please? Next slide. So there has been some significant progress since our January report. As of April 30th, April 30th, have disposed nearly 131,000 cases of our original 148,000, and this is tracking about an 88 percent complete, so great progress to date. Next slide, please. Here we're showing the breakdown of dispositions by department: the single biggest highlight and, again, thank you, Commissioner Hall, for teeing this up. We have achieved a very major milestone with the district attorney's office having achieved all their dispositions; meaning all of their cases have either been dismissed or indicted or now with the Court. So, a major congratulation's to her, her team, and her office. Also want to just point out here: we did provide a bit more of a historical view. Typically, we just see about a three-month average, but again, because we have not given you any updated numbers since January, I just want to show kind of month over month to current how we are tracking. Other highlights and probably the other thing to call out here for other prosecutor department, the solicitor general's office: his office has also continued to make good progress, and we expect them to hit zero dispositions and move those cases through accusations to state court. Next slide. Next, we're seeing the dispositions per month as well as program to date. Again, the zeros across the board for the DA represent her having completed earlier in this calendar year, so she will carry those zeros for the remainder of the program. Overall, we are continuing to be ahead of program -- excuse me, ahead of plan, program to date, if you see in the far right column variance, the 17,000 a head. Pace did slow a bit, but we are coming back in April now that we have recovered Odyssey for the most part. Our justice partners are getting back to working at full capacity, and so we are expecting to see a bit of an uptick in the throughput for May, which we will be reporting on next month. Next slide. This is our staffing ramp down plan. It will look familiar to a slightly use present, which was our hiring in progress. As we are now in the final year of the program, we've essentially inverted it to track against the ramp down plan. As the County Manager had mentioned, we have communicated to all justice partners in writing and through steering committee, a detailed individualized ramp-down plan for each of the departments. As the County Manager pointed out, we gave them a projected view, forecasted view of a ramp-down plan if they make incremental reductions to their staff over the final year; however, we are not managing that. If they choose to not reduce at that rate and keep staff members on, they will burn through their dollars at a quicker rate. And so we are -- now that we have -- despite the CFO saying there's still some machinations to go through recovering the financial systems, we have been able to, working with Sabrina, recover actuals for each of the departments. And so, beginning this month and actually last night, for the remainder of the program, we are sending detailed budget updates to each of the departments of that vacancy where their actual spend has been, and then reforecasting based on what their burn has been for the remainder of the program, so they have an understanding of what their expected completion will be. We're also asking them to



communicate back to us by next Friday confirming that they understand the ramp down and asking them to communicate back of what their ramp down plan is to exhaust all funding. Again, because we're not taking a position; we aren't managing resources for them. And then just the final thing I call out here: you can see in the far-right column, it's now a negative count across the board as opposed to positives. Significant ramp down in the solicitor's office and have confirmed what is our best case scenario where many of those resources have transferred over to permanent and full-time general fund positions as opposed to separation from the county which is something we're hoping can be replicated across the other departments. Next slide, please. And next slide, thank you. We're happy again to report on our justice scorecard. Average length of stay has had an eight-day decrease, which is good. We're still driving to that 30-day goal. Jail population unindicted without other charges, this is the one portion of the report we were little bit later in recovering. So any data around unindicted defendants is going to need to wait until the next report in June. This is also going to impact that unindicted inmate data that we usually reflect in a pie chart, as well as kind of the aging of the unindicted by day bar chart that we usually report examining the current jail population. So we will have this data available. We fully expect it to be ready in June, but we're unable to prepare it for this report. Moving on, the clearance rate for felony criminal cases: this is up to 97 percent with a target of a hundred, so fantastic increase there. Felony cases disposed within 180 days saw a three percent increase, which is better than the May 20, 2023 baseline, but still falling short of that goal. And then finally, the felony cases disposed within 365 days, unfortunately, saw a five percent increase. Next slide. And one more. Here we again can present our average monthly jail population snapshot. We again provided a few extra months because we have not provided this data to you since January. You will see for the months of February and March there was a slight uptick, most likely attributed to the sheriff's office as well as our other justice partners relying solely on manual workarounds to essentially move the entire justice system through. And again, an absolutely commendable job to them and fantastic partnership through all of this to get systems recovered or justice platform recovered and continuing the justice system to move forward. You will then see kind of the trend tipping down again for April and May; we're reporting 2,600 as of earlier this month. Again, we have, for the most part, recovered Odyssey, our other justice platforms, and I think we can reflect that here in the jail population trending down again. And another significant accomplishment and something we shouldn't take for granted. If you'll look at the percent on the floor, absolutely no one has been on the floor for the entire calendar year, January. So we'll look to continue that trend. Next slide, please. And this is just the chart representation of the data from the previous slide. Next slide. Here we are representing -- or excuse me, presenting again facility utilization. Just a snapshot of beds in use across Rice Street and the other facilities we're using, and this data is as of May 1st, just a snapshot here. Next slide, please. And to wrap it up, we continue with our priorities, especially that bottom bullet point -- or now that we are in our final year of the program, as mentioned before, we will continue to provide reporting now more of a focus on remaining funding and staff reductions. Again, wanting to keep that kind of monthly -- and we do meet more often than just monthly -- but at least at a minimum providing monthly reports to our justice partners again, kind of individualized



to help them track as we are in the final year. And another think we can resume now that Odyssey is back online and is running targeted queries. Again, for the solicitor's office as well as for the courts, so they have the full understanding of what ORCA cases they have for each of their respective departments and so that they can target those cases. Next slide. And this is -- this final slide here, we just want to capture kind of a public facing view of the justice dashboards that we're reporting on. With that, I'll take any questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Lineup is as follows: Commissioner Natalie Hall followed by Commissioner Ellis followed by Commissioner Dana Barrett. Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to go back to page 20 and just ask you about the six over in Marietta that shows that they're 50 beds, but 56 is the number, so they're six over. Does that mean that there are people sleeping on the floor, or how is that being addressed?"

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Yes, ma'am. See that delta six over; I don't want to make an assumption that there are folks on the bed. I know, just again, the sheriff's out there has been a greater number of beds than available beds, and that's something we can -- happy to reach out to them and get some clarity around why there's more folks than beds available."

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

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. You know while it's good that we've resolved 88 percent of the cases, I do think that there are a lot of numbers in here that are telling and concerning that we should be very cautious about patting ourselves on the back about declaring victory that we really kind of achieved success. And I want to look at page 12, I think it is. Yeah, right here. So and while the prosecutorial arms pieces, those pieces should move faster, you know, naturally in terms of the way that the court system flows; and then, you know, I guess, to the extent in point in time where they may have moved slow that can result in buildup in both state court and superior court. So I kind of look at the two in tandem more than I do, you know, kind of individually recognizing that there are some distinctions between where there is not a definite correlation, but they sort of work in tandem with each other. So -- but if you look at just the movement in the Superior Court, you know, there's probably have a pretty significant number of our cases still remain versus, you know, if you look at sort of if you add the DA and the Superior Court together starting point versus where an ending point, we've got 18 percent open cases. And if you look at the resolution rate from December to April, if you trended that out, I would say that we need another -- over another three

years to fully resolve these cases; that's a problem. Similar, if you look at the state court numbers, you trend those out, three plus years; that's a problem. So, I think it would probably behoove us to have -- and you're not here to answer those questions, you're just here to present the data -- I think it would behoove us to potentially have either state court and superior court come down at different times when we do these reports, maybe at the next one we tee-up -- it doesn't matter really which one it is, whether we want to start with state court or start with superior court and have them come down and talk to us about their plan to move these along at a more rapid pace. So that's one thing I just want to sort of put on the -- put on the radar for us, you know, that's a problem, right, because these are our most expensive cases, the most time-consuming cases, et cetera. And I would hope that we would be much further along than where we are in those two areas."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis, is that a request? I happen to agree with you."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, that's a request. I mean, we can start with either court and I'd leave that to --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- Mr. Manager? Can y'all facilitate that?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, we can."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I mean we have one -- one come one month and one come another month."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "When would you like to begin, sir?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'd say the next month. I mean the next reporting, so we could have -- we could start with, you know, either court and then follow with the -- with the next court."

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "We'll coordinate that, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. And then if you go to slide 18, and then slide 20. But, you know, I guess, in terms of the narrative that our main jail facility is overcrowded, I think we can generally dispense with that narrative. That number has been down for some period of time now at 1,793 beds -- or population of 1,793 at the main facility as of 05/06. And if you look at slide 20, also the fact that we have this persistent under utilization of the AC/DC facility with 323 beds that have not been utilized, while we are, you know shipping how many people out, out of -- out of the county?"

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "341."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So we're shipping people outside the county, but we got a significant number of beds available, we could house them inside the county. So this whole utilization number of our facilities still is less than optimal, you know. And this is something we've been talking about for well over a year now. So I think we need to kind of continue to look at that and seek to get some answers around that. And then the other thing that I would ask is that we could begin including in the report some data, and I realize you would not maybe have the chance to really kind of dig into this given that we've have some of the challenges we've had -- but if we could have a slide going forward that shows our percentage of our folks that we have on a monitor and some data points around that, I think, it would be good to start including that in these numbers since that decision to start paying out of that originated out of this Project ORCA to begin with. So I think I like to see that data tracked and shared with us."

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Yes, Commissioner, and that's something David Summerlin and I have discussed and targeting to have that data here in our June report for next month."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, it's good to have this report back, so thank you and great job presenting. I just have a couple of quick things. First of all, on the -- nobody's sleeping on the floor, I think that's great news; and I agree, it's not like we're really overcrowded at Rice Street at this point and haven't been for some time, which is wonderful, but I do have a question about just the presentation of -- and I think of the way the numbers are shown on slide 20, as it relates to Rice Street also, which is -- can you turn this off? That the 572 available beds at Rice Street, I think we're going to get to this when we get to the blitz, but some of those are not actually available, correct?"

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Correct. It's a total number and not an operational available. So some of those may be currently part of the blitz and being renovated, and so would not be -- would kind of misrepresent how many are actually available."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yes. So, I just think it would be helpful. I know we're towards the end of this whole reporting on ORCA any way with this being the last of it. I think when we're going to report on jail population as a broader topic that include like showing that also, because I think it's a little misleading to the public. You know, I think - you know, we're talking about not using all of the beds at AC/DC as an example, and saying why are we not filling those and you would look at us and say the same thing about Rice Street if we have 572 available beds, why are we outsourcing any of the rest? But there are reasons for that, so it might be nice to indicate that with a note or --"

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "-- some context."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- yes, some kind of text, I think. The only other question I had was a little bit sort of following ORCA question, which is we've talked about this a little bit outside of this arena, but you know, are we going to start measuring sort of the other backlog? And should we be looking at a follow on court backlog project outside of ORCA, or at least to get some measurements on that, because this is going to ramp down, but my understanding is we went into COVID with some backlog existing and that, you know, there's concern certainly, and we've heard a lot of this concern around the ORCA positions ending, that if we end all of these positions and we don't transfer them over to make them permanent that we're going to continue to build up a backlog. So it might be nice to start thinking about some reporting that so that we can get our heads around how much of that there is and how we're going to address it."

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Yes, ma'am. Anecdotally we are hearing from our justice partners that a backlog -- a post ORCA backlog is growing. Mike and I are working with a strategy team to actually pull data and so that to your point, Commissioner, to make some informed decisions about what additional resources we may need to put there, so something we are absolutely working on it now."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Awesome. That's all I have. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Project fishtail -- oh, and I think Commissioner Barrett's point is -- is well-made and I think it dovetails off of what Commissioner Ellis was saying, hey, it's being moved from the district attorney and solicitor's office to the courts, but then we're not necessarily seeing the movement, I guess that we would like to see from the court side. My question is on page 16, and so I'm looking at this felony cases disposed within 180 days, and I guess I'm questioning -- I see this goal of 90 percent. I guess one, when did we set that goal, and have we ever met it? Have we ever got close to it? Is that a one-year goal? Is that a -- is it six-month goal? Or is that a five-year goal? Because going from to 25 percent to 28 percent, we'll never get there. So is it a realistic goal?"

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Yes, Commissioner Arrington. So I believe the scorecard targets here were memorialized in the May -- one of the May Board meetings the prior year, setting standards for our justice partners. And so, that's why we are tracking it here. Your question in terms of how close have we gotten to the 90 percent, I would need to go back -- we've been reporting this month over month. No, we have not come close to the 90. I don't know -- I'm sure we've hit the 30 percent, but it has not been sustained. As you can see there, we're only three percent over the 2023 baseline."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So to the extent that we're updating the other numbers in this chart, it might make sense to update that goal, right, to make it more realistic. It seems a million miles away."

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Yes, sir. The goal is set forth in the Resolution passed by the Board. So that's what we're tracking towards."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And that 98 percent with a year is also set forth in that Resolution."

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Well, I would offer, colleagues, that we -- that may be an aspirational goal, but I think we're setting ourselves up for failure if we maintain that high level. And I think that again it goes back to what Commissioner Ellis and Commissioner Barrett were saying: what is the post ORCA plan, Project Fishtail? How do we deal with what's going to be left in getting there and then, you know, when I look at a goal, I mean, it may be achievable as a five-year or a 10-year goal, but it doesn't seem like we're going to meet it in the next two to three years. And so, colleagues, we may want to think about that obviously, it's good to have that aspirational goal, yes, and maybe we keep it there, but it just seems like we are setting ourselves up for failure."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I mean, I think we keep the goals up there as what we're moving towards and we're moving towards those targets which are national standards or we not, right? You know, at that clearance rate, one of the middle one, I mean that's telling us whether we got the backlog -- a new backlog that's going to build or not, right? I mean that's what that's designed to do. So the good news is that that's close to a hundred percent, you know, at this point in time, so that we're not hopefully building a new backlog. But, you know, the other thing with this too, I'll say is, you know, there was an ask of the General Assembly for, you know, additional judges and that sort of stuff from the superior court, and part of the feedback that came back from the many legislators was you have the worst performing system in the state. And, you know, when you look at your throughput, you know, per judge, it's significantly less. So, you know, we've got an ask -- we made an ask, you know, for more and, you know, the legislators are looking at it and saying you don't merit more because your throughputs are not what it should be based upon your existing judges, so we're not going to provide more. So, I mean, we've committed a lot of additional resources whether it's ORCA, whether it's otherwise, you know, but our throughput necessarily hasn't increased, right? So I mean, I think this whole discussion with the individual courts to talk about that and how do we increase it, right? And I can continue that. So I think we're going to have to continue to look hard at these numbers because, you know, we're not only questioning them, but we're getting questions from the state about why they're not better as well, so."

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

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "That's it for me, Chairman."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So, Mr. Chair, I think we're ready for the next session, which is jail blitz, and Mr. Davis we'll present that."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Joe Davis, Director of D.R.E.A.M. So as y'all know, we've embarked in the fall of last year on what we call the jail blitz. It was to rehab all the housing units of the jail where 11 of the housing units of the jail. Our overall progress to date, we have completed four units or 36 percent of the total out of the work to be done. That represents 408 cells out of the 1122 nonmedical cells that were identified. We are still averaging approximately six weeks to complete each housing unit. The fifth blitz unit, 2 North, where we are working now, is roughly to 48 to 58 percent complete. We began that on April the 16th. We are projecting the overall project to be completed between January and February of 2025 for the final blitz unit. Next slide, please. So just to, you know, bring your eyes to the pictures on the right-hand side of the screen, those are some of the types of repairs that are part of what we're doing in the jail blitz. We have damage done by inmates to doors and locks. This is a cell picture at the bottom where there had been a fire, as well as damage to the toilet which is why it was removed. But we are expecting to complete ten out of the 11 jail units this year. Separate from the blitz, we currently have nine zones and, if I'm not mistaken, that number has changed to eight as of yesterday. So the 255 beds are listed as that being not in use, a little lower as of today. But those are out of commission due to fire restoration and safety concerns. I believe it was mentioned during the previous segment regarding the number of available beds at the main jail, but these are the principal reasons other than the blitz unit that is vacant as to why we have beds unavailable for use. As a summary of the overall maintenance program for the month of April, our maintenance contractor completed 1417 work orders out of the 1762 or 80.4 percent of those that were submitted. On the preventive maintenance side, we had 298 scheduled work orders of which 288 or 96.6 percent were completed. Moving forward to the next slide. Here we'll see future bridging infrastructure needs. These are items that have been identified as critical to expanding the lifecycle of the existing jail. First, you'll see that the roof is beyond its current life span, and we'll be looking at pricing a full roof replacement over the housing areas of the jail. The elevators at Rice Street are an ongoing problem due to vandalism and extreme extensive use daily. They were last modernized as a part of the jail MEP back in 2007. The first step in this process will be to have a third-party or a third-party independent consultant to come in and evaluate the overall condition of the elevators and make recommendations on what needs to happen in a revised version of modernization in order to complete it. We're also going to be doing essentially a facility condition assessment where we're looking at heating, cooling, and plumbing systems to determine where we are in the overall life cycle, and put together a program of replacements, most importantly the capital replacement, and evaluating our preventative maintenance programs to determine whether or not we need to make adjustments to expand or extend the lifecycle of the jail. There are some additional safety on the -- next slide, please. There are some additional safety and security concerns that have been identified working with the



sheriff's office that, in most cases, are intended to eliminate or significantly reduce the introduction of contraband into the jail. The first thing additional perimeter cameras; combined with the additional perimeter cameras, the sheriff's office has expressed a desire to fortify the perimeter security of the jail, adding additional concertina or razor wire to the fence line, clearing brush and trees away from the fence line so as to improve the line of sight. There have also been two software defensive solutions to assist in contraband, curtailing the amount of contraband, those details may be shared with the Board during executive session, if necessary. And lastly, the South Annex located in Union City, we fully anticipate there being a long-term need for that facility, and we have identified various things that we want to do to that facility in order to extend its lifecycle, everything from supermax lighting to some upgrades to the cell doors, adding or converting current cells to padded cells, and some other things that we're looking at as we speak, and that ends the report, and I'm available for any questions you all may have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. There are questions. Commissioner Ellis followed by Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "The total cost of redo all the pods."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Thirteen million."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "To do the whole thing?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. And then how quickly do you think we will have -- I mean, I do think we need to aggressively look at the types of things that need to be done to extend the life cycle of the facility. I think that's a must and I think we need to aggressively look at that. How quickly do you think you will have some sort of a plan together about what that could look like, in the staging through these things?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Thirty to 45 days."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I know you're not going to have that elevator assessment done until the third quarter?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "That was our original plan on the elevator assessment. We pick the third quarter because we actually did quite a bit of capital investment in our elevators after the winter freeze where we suffered an extensive amount of water damage, and so we were trying to push it out, but here over the course of the last 30 days, we've experienced quite a few failures that's driving our maintenance costs up and so we may very well accelerate that."



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Do you think 45 days is realistic? I mean, do you have some sort of ideas about -- that's great if you have that, I just want to be realistic with this."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And, Joe, you've estimates now. I don't know if you have them with you."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I mean if you feel like -- I mean, and then, I think that that's a good idea, to kind of maybe at the next, whenever one of these operational reports to bring that forward to us."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Why don't we give at least high-level estimates that we have in the next meeting, and we'll stage what -- Joe, in your opinion, needs to happen first, second, third, and fourth."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Yes, sir. This is something that we continually look at, so we're already down the road. We're not starting from scratch."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And then can you explain to me what -- all right, I understand the heavy use of elevators. Can you explain to me vandalism within an elevator and sort of how that occurs?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Yes, sir. In the normal course of operation of the jail, there is the movement of many carts, everything from food carts to medical carts along with, of course, inmates."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "We routinely have to make repairs to the doors of the elevators because they're being struck by those various carts. Unfortunately, a lot of times some of those things are being, you know, moved by trustees, our inmate trustees, that don't necessarily have a desire to make sure that everything stays in good working order. So it leads to a lot of vandalism. We've had, you know, if you have an inmate inside the elevator that decides to, you know, they don't want to be there, they'll start kicking the walls, the control panels, things of that nature. So that's generally the vandalism that we see. There's been an overall rise of roughly 400 percent in overall vandalism at the jail over the last three years and so this is one of the --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- 400 percent?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So we've had ups and downs in population, but, you know, I mean, it's been a pretty sizable population. Not a 400 percent increase in population, but we've got a 400 percent increase in vandalism."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Sound like we've got a management issue. I'm not asking you to comment on that, but I mean that's -- I mean, I guess, sort of -- that's -- if we're seeing that extent of it, I guess it would be like some sort of understanding about what we're doing, you know, to bring that number down. So perhaps, it's another part of a follow-up discussion we could have with the chief jailer or somebody on what's being done to bring these incidences down. I mean it's -- I mean we've -- there's only so much you can plan for in terms of maintenance. In terms of, you know, you've got to have some sort of -- some sort of understanding about what's being done to prevent that type of stuff from occurring, right? I mean it's just like to me at some point in time, you know, I'm going to stop buying insurance for, you know, a child that, you know, or my insurance company's going to cut me off if I have a bunch of accidents, et cetera, right? So we got to have some sort of understanding on that. Four hundred percent increase in the past three years in term of vandalism related events. Okay. All right. Well, I look forward to seeing kind of what we've got in terms of the costs and estimates at the next session. Thanks."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you. Commissioner Ellis, basically asked a lot of the things that I wanted to ask, so I feel like I got most of my questions answered. I just wanted to reiterate and sort of say if we could get those estimates and, in particular, the elevator one moved up, I think, you know, I want to second that and make it clear that I want to see that happen because we've just been hearing so much about all of the elevator issues, and I certainly agree that a 400 percent increase in vandalism is troubling, so I'll just second that and that's all I've got."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just looking at the number of maintenance and repairs that are happening at the jail. Would this potentially have an impact on the number of beds that can be used within the jail? That was one of the questions or concerns that was raised a little earlier."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Yes, ma'am. So the jail blitz project, as you know, to rehab the housing units, the only effective way to complete the project was to move inmates out of the actual housing unit so that our various maintenance contractors, which we have five working in the facility, would be able to move freely without the need for security escorts because there's no inmates on the floor. And so, yes, it does impact the availability of beds in the jail. We've also had -- we've mentioned in our presentation that there are eight zones that are unoccupied due to various damages done either fire restoration, safety concerns; and most of those safety concerns are the result of vandalism, wires being pulled out the wall; things of that

nature. So it has a significant impact on the availability of bed space which is why we see the continued use of AC/DC and outsourcing because of those empty spaces. And in some cases, the damage is greater in one place more so than another, and so it stretches the time for restoration."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you so much for that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. I just wanted to address what was said previously. What was the jail population at its height; thirty-five hundred plus?"

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Yes, Commissioner Arrington, I believe back in August it was roughly 3,600, give or take."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It was even more than 3,500, up over 3,600."

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "I believe so, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And what is the capacity of the jail?"

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Of Rice Street?"

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

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "I don't know that I have the specific number in front of me, sir."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "2254."

**STEVE NAWROCKI:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "2254?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So it's up over 3,600? So, it might not be mismanagement. It might be size. I tell you what, if you had me sleeping on the floor I would be breaking some stuff, too."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah, the increase in vandalism, a 400 percent increase; what is the cause of the increase in vandalism, in your prospective?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "I think you have several factors that contribute to the increase in vandalism. You already heard today the length of stay in the jail has been stretched over the last few years, you know, post pandemic. You also have, at times, staffing has been a challenge as it relates to being able to observe all inmates all the time. We see vandalism, not only on the elevators, but I'm spending probably \$40,000 a month replacing windows as inmates either break or, in most case, burn, use some type of contraband to burn windows, things of that nature. We do have a solution for that. We found a new product, and our contractor who does the work as they are broken or replacing with a three-layered system as an FYI that we're hoping will curtail some of the damage to windows. We're actively pursuing solutions in many of the arenas where we see vandalism to try to improve what was originally a minimum to medium security jail. And, you know, from the inside out, turn it into a maximum -- or suitable for a maximum security, but there are many factors that go into that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And so, does that -- do you feel like it's just going to be a continual, always trying to update, repair, or can you foresee with our jail population decreasing that you kind of see that you're not having to redo and repair as much?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "I don't want to speak for the sheriff's office directly, but what I can say is, even though population may go down, the population of the jail has transformed over the last 20 or 30 years. It was built as a minimum to medium security facility, and so we're trying to make retrofits as we go, to account for the increase in the classification of violent and/or gang-related offenders. So, I'm a facility guy, so like I said, I can't speak for the sheriff, but I do know as I work with the sheriff's office, these are things that we look at that lead us to understand why we're seeing the things that we're seeing over time."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you for that. I know you are not -- you're just responding to a problem that we have. You're not the cause of the problem, have no control over the problem. When an inmate breaks or burns something, like we saw the sprinklers had broke last week and a tremendous amount of flooding; would you know, is there any kind of consequence for the inmates? Are they put in special kind of cells or -- to prevent further vandalism?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "So, the sheriff's office will charge the inmate generally depending upon the, you know, extensive -- you know, the extent of the damage with criminal damage to property, and potentially other charges. It just depends on from situation to situation. And then we submit risk reports and things of that nature. Ultimately, that's where our interaction in that process stops. Our job is to, you know, get the sprinkler's head to stop flowing and replaced. But ultimately the sheriff's office puts additional charges on the inmates that are responsible, if they're able to determine."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm just wondering, what percentage, if any -- because we know operationally that you have to do maintenance. But what percentage do you have or could you put a percentage that what would be -- what would be considered to be maintenance of the jail that size with the amount of inmates versus the amount of vandalism? Because I just want you to educate me. I don't know if the maintenance, how it's done, if it's done every day depending on, you know the seriousness of it. But I'm trying to see or get an understanding to wrap my head around, are you rushing to do quite a bit of vandalism dealing with vandalism issues and the maintenance, for the lack of a better word, and please educate me. Maybe being pushed to the side or maybe not a priority? Is it affecting it? That's the best -- basically, if you understand the question I'm trying to articulate to you, what amount of the vandalism is affecting, if any, of what you would cause to be the operational maintenance of a jail that size?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. Very good question, and what I would advise you is that vandalism makes up a significant percentage of the overall maintenance operation, and it depends on what was vandalized. If is something, for example, a video of the sprinkler head, that's a life safety issue. Resources, wherever they may be at the time, are then diverted to address that particular problem. Burnt or broken windows, they represent a life safety issue, particularly if they are to the exterior of the building. So we then divert resources to do that. The effort or the overall effort to rehab the housing areas of the jail also creates additional work orders that may otherwise not been done. And there is somewhat of a -- the nature of the contract is a fixed labor modified cost plus contract when it was rebid. And so, we went away from the previous model as a cost-saving measure in 2020. And so, now as we've seen post-pandemic, the rise in the population, the increase in the length of stay, and all of those things that impact the overall condition of the facility. What we found is we are somewhat mismatched in terms of our service delivery model, although even with that said, I'm still concerned because as I look at our peers, we're seeing at other Metro Atlanta jails, they're having very similar issues. We don't only have a staffing issue with say the sheriff's office; we have a staffing issue with our maintenance. And so, as a result, we divert when we need to, we do or can provide a percentage of the overall work being performed that is related to vandalism, that's something we track in our computerized maintenance management system maximum, so we could actually provide that information if you'd like to see the actual numbers. But, yes, ultimately resources are diverted in order to address vandalism particularly when it affects life, safety, and security in the building."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you for that answer. I'm glad that you saw where I was trying to go because we get a lot of calls --- well, in my office, we get a lot of calls that I think unfairly have you all as though you're not addressing those issues. And I don't think that you're not addressing them, I think that you just said if it's a life safety issue, it's all hands on deck, and if it's something operational that can wait. So I'm glad that you said that for our listening audience. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Mr. Manager."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. On this discussion and maybe the previous one as well, I think it would be helpful, and you'd be better served if we have justice partners here at the same time, because my concern is, are you getting a total picture of two or three instances when we talked about the jail inventory at Rice Street. Your point is well-made, Commissioner Barrett, that that number, which has been the traditional way of reporting it throughout this ORCA reporting, does not reflect though our beds out of service or is there staffing to support those beds? Those are, you know, data points. I think that we can certainly go and try to better the reporting, but then even on this discussion, I'm concerned that we're having our facility lead talk about things that really are within the jail's purview and the sheriff's office purview. They may not share the same perspective and, quite frankly, we all probably come at it from different points of view. So I don't want all of this just to be taken verbatim, I had not heard 400 hundred percent before, so I'm not sure of the source and what's that against. It could be a low data point where we weren't doing many activities and its 400 percent, against a well data point. That's different than saying it's a 400 percent increase. I don't think anybody would argue that detainee vandalism is not a problem, the sheriff or our administration. But I guess I just want to make sure that we have a total perspective; and the best way to have a total perspective is to have Colonel Clark here if we're in this discussion; maybe, David Summerlin or someone else if it's superior court or someone from the state court."

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

**DOUGH SCHUSTER, EMSI:** "Dick, may I add something?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Who was that?"

**DOUG SCHUSTER, EMSI:** "Mr. Anderson, it's Doug Schuster."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, go ahead, Doug."

**DOUG SCHUSTER, EMSI:** "Yeah, about the 400 percent, I may have -- I don't think I've misled Joe in a conversation. But since January 1st, when we report work order items at the jail, we add vandalism as a marker now, and it wasn't always tracked very well. So 400 percent, I think vandalism has definitely gone up, but we definitely reporting better now for the last four months, and vandalism exists in all jails. Some of those things that we talked about -- a lot of vandalism occur, and I think the stuff the sheriff is most concerned about is contraband intrusion. That's why they break windows and some of the things we talked about in fortifying the fence and software solutions that I know the sheriff's is going to talk with this group about. But I gave Joe that 400 percent number, and I think it's because we're tracking it better. But that vandalism is definitely on the rise, and the last thing I want to say is, part of the blitz project is to



fortify things so that vandalism is not as easy and at supermax light and some other things."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And of course that --"

**DOUG SCHUSTER, ESMI:** "-- I just wanted to add that."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** That was Doug Schuster from EMSI, who's been helping with the jail blitz plan. Thanks, Doug, for that information. Again, that's how a data point may not tell the entire story, but I don't want you to walk away with a misimpression."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I just did want to say, nobody is expecting you all have explanations on it. You're providing us data, and I think that's the main portion of the reason we're getting this report. I mean, we've asked for people to come in and report back to us and to provide us with, you know, some responses around stuff, and we haven't gotten answers for the better part of, you know, six, eight, nine months from some of these folks. So, you know, we're not expecting you to work magic on that, but I think you all -- I mean we need to have an understanding between, you know kind of us and you all that you're just reporting data, right? And there are some crossovers when you get into facilities with some of that stuff, but not where the stuff like Steve is reporting data, so."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So I'm trying to figure the workorder increase. Can you provide some information on the reason for the larger increase in work orders and is there more reporting of that and, I mean --"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "The principal reason for the significant increase in the numbers of work orders being submitted and completed: we are in conjunction with EMSI, who we've just heard from. We have committed to and are on our third round of inspecting the entire jail housing areas once a month. So now we're putting eyes in these areas on a much more consistent basis, and as a result, it generates additional work that's being identified."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great. And so, basically the work orders increase because of the blitz project, EMSI coming in and doing more oversight? Is that what --"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "-- I would tell you the part of the increase is the blitz, but keep in mind the blitz is confined to one housing unit. But the overall inspections that are being done on a monthly basis are the entirety of housing. And so,



each time those inspections occur, a list of work orders is generated and given to our contractor to enter into our tracking system."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great. Thank you so much."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Madam Vice Chair. I just wanted to say, thank you, Mr. County Manager, for pointing out, you know, that we do need to get the full perspective and also the bringing up that data plan, and thank Doug from EMSI for sharing some background on why that number looks the way it is. I think the fact that we are now tagging through EMSI vandalism as something that we are on the watch for is great, but sort of measuring that percentage to a time where we weren't doing that with the same consistency is not an accurate number, so I think it's important that the public understands that that number is probably not the number to go off on in terms of our judging what's actually happening there. So I think that was good information. And, you know, while I do certainly know that they're not always, all the justice partners are not always going to be available to come and give their, you know, perspective on all this, I do think, Steve, you're interacting with them on a more regular basis now, so you may be able to share some insight on that, you know, on their behalf sometimes if it's appropriate. So, I believe we can at least get that side as well. So was all I have."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett, because I was just about to get to the bottom of this 400 percent of when and where did it start and all that, but now we know it's fake news. It's a made-up number, and no shame to you, Joe, because apparently Doug said that he gave it to you, and you were relying on the information he gave to you. It's because if we started at zero and we have four incidents, there's going to be a 400 percent real quickly. So it's important that we get accurate information so that we don't miss convey anything and open up an opportunity for cause of mismanagement. So thank you, Doug, for mentioning that wherever you are. Thank you for divulging that that number is not accurate; and that that is a number that you relayed to Joe. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Call the next item, Clerk, please. I'm sorry, County Manager, are you --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- yes, ma'am. Unless you have any questions about the contracts below a hundred thousand that concludes our report."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Colleagues, any of you all have questions?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Clerk, please call the next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 7, **24-0345**, Finance: Presentation, review, and approval of May 15th, 2024 Budget Soundings and Resolution as amended."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioners, the item that is before you today did have a revision to it. We needed to add in to the budget soundings the funding source for the Bear Creek Nature Center annual support as a legacy partner for the Department of Arts and Culture. That is something that we missed during the budget development phase for 2024. Other than that, the only two items on the soundings are two changes to the annual hardware and software maintenance lists that are expenditure neutral."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Colleagues, any questions?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0346**, Human Resources Management: Request approval to modify the classification section of a classification and compensation plan."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I just had a quick question on this. I have no problem with it; I'm going to support it, of course. But I was just interested in -- it feels like the jobs of the two strategy folks that this is related to are more operations than finance. So I was just curious about your decision to put it under the CFO."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "When that office was first created, we had a chief strategy officer, that was Anna Roach, and then when Anna became chief operating officer, we decided to consolidate. That really and closely allotted with financial planning, because I do believe strategy and financial planning go together. So that's where it has existed for some period of time, and that's the rationale."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Got it. Thank you."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0347, Purchasing and Contract Compliance: Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Fulton County Code of Ordinances to extend the expiration date of the nondiscrimination program for June 30th, 2024 to December 31st, 2024, to allow completion of the Disparity Study."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Arts and Library, 24-0348, Arts and Culture: Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the Bear Creek Nature Center for the purpose of providing recurring funding in a total amount of \$200,000."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Madam Clerk, I need to, for the record, enter a correction to align with the budget soundings that the CFO referenced in her amendment. This item's funding line in the budget document needs to be corrected to 1-181-1821-1160. Again, this will align with the soundings."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, 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:** "Under Health and Human Services, 24-0312, senior services: Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to provide transportation services, ridesharing, to eligible Fulton County residents aged 60 and above."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Barrett, you do have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Madam Vice Chair. I have a question because this was held because we heard two items together last time. This one, 0312 along with 24-0311, and at the time when we discussed this last meeting, there were about maybe four statements in which I think three in which Ladisa and then one where you, Dr. Roshell, said things about providing more information, providing certain breakdowns, providing cost of things; but then we got a memo dated May 6th related to 24-0311 that says that the agenda item will be removed from future Board of

Commissioner's meetings; additional time required to research the Board discussion item determine how likely the program will reach its anticipated ridership rejections, and then it says the agenda item may be brought back at a later date. So my question as it relates to this item is, this is the 1.5 that we'd already approved, which I'm fine with, but if we don't bring back 311 or some version of it, we're going to run out of money before the year is over, correct?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Director for the Department of Senior Services. Our plan is to track and monitor spending. We will come back to the Board if we believe that our projections are holding true and we'll do that before time to give the Board enough time to discuss. So our intent is not to delay in informing the Board of ridership and the spend of that contract, and aligning that with item that was held in the memo that you just referenced. Our need is to go back and make sure we have enough time to investigate everything that the Board recommended. We've already reached out to IT to start those conversations regarding the system. Our team is looking into ways that we can survey seniors. So May was indicated there because I don't have an exact date to come back to the Board, but our intent is to make sure that we do present our findings and information and share with you how the transportation program is coming along this year."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Well, I appreciate that, but I think certainly the implication and the writing was we're not bringing it back. So I just want to be really, really clear, I would like this back into the front of the Board for discussion because we do need to get control of this program. I think we can all acknowledge that and we have a lot -- I think, of thoughts about what can and cannot be done in terms of putting those controls in place, and I know it's never a fun conversation, but it's one that we need to keep having, and I would love to get an ETA. Is that something we could do rather than just having, at some point, we'll get back to you?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Commissioner Barrett, we do hear you, and we will bring back an update regardless of what that update says, whether we concluded all of the analysis or not, we will provide an update by the second meeting in June."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you so much."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Because we don't have 311 before us, we don't have the presentation that went along with that agenda item number, but I do recall that in the presentation there was a page that spoke to this \$1.5 million and the need for it and how much it would increase the total once added to, I think it was four-point something million."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "The total contract right now is 3.1 million."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And, but I can't recall -- can you refresh my memory on how far that would take us? Did it say that on that slide?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We annualized the first quarter spend, and so there was about 45,000 to date. Ridership did increase in April; we just received that invoice, so the presentation before the Board May 1st reflected 2,875 riders. In April, there were 2,294 riders. And so, the total invoice increased from about 370 to 384,000. To answer your question, the last slide of the presentation projected about 4.8 million spend if we held the numbers in the March service invoice, and that projected up to about 4.8 million. The total program budget, once the Board -- if the Board approves today's 1.5 million spending authority, will be 4.6 million. So we were projecting to exceed the total program budget. Right now, we are looking at going beyond that 4.8 million by December. And so, we will -- I don't -- we didn't have an exact month. I'm thinking probably October -- mid-October, early part of November, we'll probably exhaust, to Commissioner Barrett's point; and then Dr. Roshell's affirming that we're going to present back to the Board the second meeting in June, we'll be able to give you a better timetable. And then we'll also have the May service invoice by the time that we present to you to give you some better numbers on our projections."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's good. And one of the things I did ask for during the last meeting was your sliding scale. I didn't see it as of last night. Can you provide that to me, please? You said you already had something worked up as it relates to a sliding scale."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am. We'll get that to you -- to the Board."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right, thank you. And I was just looking at all of these current contract history and all of the amendments. We have made a lot of amendments from 2021 until present day, and some were even more -- it looked like there's some that were even more than what we're approving today, so it will be good to get that presentation before us."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes, ma'am. We'll do that. We do have the presentation pulled up from the previous meeting, if there is a specific page you would like to reference now."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I was referencing that one right there."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, HHS:** "Yes, yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's it, yes."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "The other question or request that you made for the sliding scale information was from a previous presentation and, again, we'll get that to you --"

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

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** " -- and the entire board."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. So I want to make sure I'm clear: The 1.5 you think would get us through October and November?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "I believe so."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Potentially?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Potentially. However, based on the recent invoice that we just received, it is higher than the prior month. So we're going to continue to track."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So how much have we spent for this year? We allocated 3.1 thus far. How much of that 3.1 have we spent so far?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "About 1.7 million. So the invoices for services January through April, equate to about 1.4 million. We also paid the December services in January, which is standard, and that was about 311. So that gets us to 1.7 and without today's 1.5, we now have about 1.3 million remaining. So once the Board approves -- if the Board approves the 1.5 million today, and I know these are a lot of numbers, we're looking at about 2.8 million right now, Commissioner, on hand to cover services within the confines of the contract."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And when do we anticipate coming back for midyear budget review?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We typically do that in August. Once we have an idea of what our property tax -- what the full picture will look like, not just the expense side, but the revenue side as well. So we typically would do that in August, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So the 1.4 remaining from the 3.1 may or may not be enough to get us through August. So we need this additional 1.5, but if in

August, the mid-year budget review, it seems like the ideal time to -- if we don't do it sooner than that or get information back sooner than that, the ideal time to reevaluate is obviously if we can -- if we get the information back at the second meeting in June or even in July, make adjustments to that, because I think even minor adjustments a dollar more per ride or two dollars more per ride, could have a big effect on allowing us to extend it through the end-of-the-year. So, yes -- or I will anxiously await that information in June. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. It sounds like we don't have a choice here. I mean, as I said a couple of years ago, we say we love our seniors; this is where we prove it. That dollar per ride, what's coming back is, I guess, the proposal would be four dollars per ride, but this buys us a little more time for this year to keep our one-dollar promise, correct? Although, it may not be enough."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "This 1.5 was approved and the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- I understand that. We may need more. Let's show some love to our seniors that we say we do. I'll be supportive of this. All right, Commissioner Ellis or Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "No, we just -- just to really go -- we've already approved this in the budget. This is just for contractual purposes."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So, all right. This is not new ground, all right."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's vote, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. You know we have a work session after this meeting today, so let's kind of hurry up. Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, **24-0349**, Public Works: Request approval to extend an existing contract for an extension of time to provide installation and testing for power generation facilities at the Big Creek water reclamation facility."



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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0350**, Community Development: Request approval of the 2024 consolidated community services program, evaluation committee's recommendation in the amount of \$5,613,958."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Natalie Hall, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Hall followed by Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I'm going to -- it doesn't have a page number, but the title says 2024 CCSP eligible applicants unfunded, funding exhausted. And it says the total to fund these people -- these organizations that were eligible, but not funded because the funding was exhausted, is \$225,000; is that correct?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Yes, that's correct, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So it would only take \$225,000 to fund nine additional eligible applicants through this grant program?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "That's right. Let me back up. Stan Wilson, Department of Community Development. That's correct. And that's based on the scoring and what would be recommended if the funding were available."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Well, I see an item on the agenda where we're talking about using ARPA funding for something else. Do we have \$225,000, Mr. County Manager, Madam CFO? We have asked for much more than this before just to cover all of the eligible applicants. We've asked for I remember over a million dollars before."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "From our ARPA resources, currently all of our ARPA resources are allocated to other projects. We can certainly go back through the allocations and see if there's anything that could be moved around. But all of our ARPA resources are currently allocated."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So -- so that answers my question for an upcoming item that is referring to ARPA funding. So do we have \$225,000 within the budget that

we can allocate toward funding these eligible applicants who did not get funded because the funds were exhausted?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We still have funds remaining in our soundings contingency for emergency purposes. We don't yet know whether or not we'll need to rely on any of those items to cover any of the expenses associated with the cyber incident. But we do have money in our soundings contingency fund."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So when will we be seeing you come before us with this, the midyear review?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "August."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And that will include under runs, overruns, and all of those things?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. So I'd like to make a -- a amendment, friendly amendment, substitute motion to approve this but with you actually, Mr. County Manager, Madam CFO, looking at where we can find \$225,000 to complete -- to fund the rest of these eligible applicants who just did not get funded because of the \$225,000 shortage."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So would you repeat your motion, please?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, sir. I'm making a friendly amendment to my --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Substitute."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Substitute motion to my motion to approve, asking that the County Manager and Madam CFO look for where we can pull the \$225,000 so that we can fund the remainder of these eligible applicants. We have asked for much more in the past over the years."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Sure, go ahead."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is there a second? Well, either there is or there isn't. All right. It fails for lack of a second. Go ahead, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm on board with what you're getting at here, Commissioner Hall. And I was just going to try to add to it, which is why I wasn't ready to throw in --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- the second."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's fine."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But my proposal would be that we take the 225,000 out of the remaining 750 that was also set aside in CCSP, but earmarked for veteran's programs in particular. Because my reading of this is that we set aside a million for veteran's programs, but we didn't actually get applications for it. And so we had 750 excess in the veteran's pot, and we were short 225 in the all community services pot. So my logic would be, could we take the 225 from the veteran services pot and, you know, we would still have 525 unspent in the veteran's services pot of money that we could still go back out and RFP, or put that money back into the general fund? But just before we talk about that part, I think maybe, just this part needs to be talked about. Is that possible?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That motion failed, Commissioner. Just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I'm talking about the underlying --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute. I understand what you're getting at. Go on, continue."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, so I can make a substitute motion for that, but I just -- I'd love to have some conversation about it before we figure out what the best move here is --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'll second your substitute motion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote on the substitute motion by Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "She wanted her --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Just a minute.

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- question responded to."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So if I'm -- if it's going to be a substitute motion, then I -- I would -- I'm not sure what the right answer is for the remaining 500. What I'm saying -- or the remaining 525. I'm saying the two -- I think would behoove us to give the 225 to the nine, I believe it is, organizations that were eligible, but unfunded because we were out of money, correct, from that 750 that didn't get applied for, essentially, under the veteran's amount, which would leave us with 525; is that right, in the veterans --"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So my question, I guess, to the group is, is it -- is it the right move for us to have a second RFP for the veteran's services money when we didn't get applications in the program at the outset? And, you know, I'm not sure that it makes sense for our staff to spend time sort of going out looking for organizations to give money to when we put out an RFP initially and we didn't get a response. So, you know, I don't know if we need to advertise the veteran's services part better next year, or if it makes sense to go back out with the RFP. And I would like to have my colleagues' feedback before I finalize this substitute motion, which I hadn't actually made yet. But I would love to hear what other people's thoughts are, because I think this is worthy of group discussion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. We're complicating something that's really simple. Vice Chair, you have the floor. They've gone through a process, we know it was, and we ran out of money, that's it. Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah. In Military Appreciation Month, I'm not -- I'm sorry, I can't support pulling anything from the veterans. I can't do that. I -- but what I can do, I can support an additional ask if they can find the money, find it. If they can't, they can't. I think we do a disservice when we, for whatever reason, ask our county staff to do something. And then when they do it, we say, well, no, we don't want you to do it. So let's be fair. And this is my opinion, you know, you -- you can agree with it or not agree with it. But at the end of the day, we are steward of taxpayers' dollars. So to add money arbitrarily on the floor, knowing that the county staff has told us that that money is there, is not being a steward of the taxpayers' dollars. However, since we are talking about nine organizations, I will support an additional ask to ask to go and find the money. If the money is there, fine. If it's not, do not tie that to this, because you are doing a disservice to the Fulton County taxpayer when you say, well, we don't have it, then we do have it, then maybe the veterans have it, let's take it from the veterans. I can't support that. That's dysfunctionality in government. And so -- and here again, this is my opinion. Not to throw anybody under the bus, this is clearly Vice Chair Commissioner Khadijah's opinion. However, if we ask the county staff to do something and they come back with a recommendation, we should accept that recommendation. If we're not going to accept it, then we need to task them with a different task. So I'll support this in this form. But I also will support an additional ask of them going back to

look to see if they can find the additional 200 and plus the additional amount for the nine organizations."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. I guess this is really a point of order before I get to my subsequent comments. One, Commissioner Barrett said she didn't actually make a motion. Two, I actually seconded Commissioner Hall's original motion. So I don't know how that got removed from the system after I seconded. But nonetheless, I am supportive of giving the additional \$225,000 to -- for the nine organizations that were eligible. I certainly do not like, for lack of a better expression, robbing Peter to pay Paul. I don't like taking money from the veteran's program in order to fund this additional 225,000. Madam CFO, you know where the bodies are, because you hid them, you hid all the money. So you know where it is. So find that 225, and don't take it from veteran's services, please, ma'am."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I just want to be 1 million percent clear. I'm not asking to take money from veteran's services. There was a million dollars earmarked for veterans' services programs that were going to apply for it through the CCSP RFP that went out; is that accurate?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "That is correct. And what we did and it's called consolidated because we added veteran's services into one RFP. Some of the agencies that previously applied under veterans, applied in different categories. For example, an agency that serves seniors which included veterans, they applied for the seniors category under the CSP."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So I'm not saying we should take money away from any existing veteran's service group or any existing veteran's service program. What I'm saying is there was 750,000 that was not applied for and is sitting there unspent. That is where I was suggesting we take the money from, not from any existing veteran services group. That said, this is not a hill I'm going to die on. So if nobody wants to, you know, move that money around in that way, that's okay with me. I support the 225 to the nine organizations. So I don't know how you want to, Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Hall, go back to motions and whatnot, but I support it as well, so."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, Mr. Chair. I do tend to agree that we're over complicating this. And also, I agree with Commissioner Barrett, if we're going to look to fund these, it should have come through this, this other pot. We ran the RFP, we got the responses. We got an excess 225 that's eligible. We don't have any responses on the

other, you sort of commingled it, which was different than what we -- the way we ran it last year, correct?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "And that was part of the request, so --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So I think there was an opportunity, there was some confusion for that. So I think if we are to fund it, those additional nine entities with -- you know, they should come out of that, that \$750,000 that are remain or so --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "But I mean, I'll say this, so I mean, I either supportive of what's before us here, or a concept like that, but not to go add another, go find another 225 somewhere else, we went somewhere we didn't even budget for. It doesn't make any sense."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Substitute motion to -- for our CFO to find the \$225,000, and for us to re-put out the RFP for veteran services for the 700 or whatever is left, as we did last year. Because obviously that complicated people applying and being able to get both this year. So you know, obviously -- how much did we give out of the million that we had last year for veteran's services?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Last year, it was a million, and 15 agencies were funded. I do want to point out that we didn't get an opportunity to apply from both. We did one RFP to avoid that situation from happening."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "To avoid what situation from happening?"

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Where we had to go through and be concerned about did they apply for both. And then in some cases, they came back and they said, no, I don't want CSP, I want veterans, that kind of thing. So we put it all together in one, in one RFP to avoid that situation."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I attempt -- but if we funded a million dollars in veteran service last year to 15 organizations and we didn't fund it this year, I have to deduct that the reason that we didn't have the same number of applications or the same level funding this year is because we changed the application process. Now, maybe that's a fair deduction, maybe it's not. Maybe you could tell me something

different that would change my mind. But my motion, my substitute motion is for Ms. Whitmore and the County Manager to find the \$225,000 for these other nine organizations, and for us to put out a new RFP for the remaining 700-whatever thousand for veteran services. That's my substitute motion."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Mr. Chairman, can I ask a clarifying question and add a little more context? So one of the complications, Commissioners, last year and we -- the strong suggestion from the Board because of this, was for us to consolidate the application. What happened is, when we ran both applications processes, we had to then come back to the Board and resend the contracts because an organization that applied under CSP was then awarded a grant under the veterans. And they decided to go with the veterans instead of CSP. And so we had several organizations that we had to come back to the Board and resend the contracts. So what would be helpful if we're going to run the RFP process again, would the Board approve the department to allow an organization to be funded under both programs?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, moved. That's part of -- make that part of my substitute motion. Absolutely."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "And the reason why, as Mr. Wilson said, many of the organizations have multiple populations that they serve, and they just made a decision to apply for perhaps the population that they've may serve more than that of a larger percentage. But it did not mean that they did not have a need for veterans. And so I anticipate that many of the organizations that serve multiple populations, including veterans would be interested in applying for this re-advertisement. And so we just wanted some direction as to how to treat the current applicants that are going to be funded under CSP."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, it sounds, Dr. Roshell, like we made them make a choice --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "They had to choose between one or the other."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And that's the reason that we had to cancel the contracts. So I'm happy to include funding that these organizations can get funding from both programs as part of my substitute motion."

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



**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I feel like this has gotten even more complicated now. So if there were organizations that were applied under CCSP, the consolidated version, that could be either, can we not just move them over now to the 750,000 pot and fund them from the veteran's pot, and then use what they were getting to fund the other 225? I mean, like --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "I -- believe me, Commissioners, we thought about several scenarios. But what we were trying to do is keep the fidelity of the RFP process. And so I could see hear Ms. Strong-Whitaker in my ear, even though she wasn't literally in my ear --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Cringing."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- saying this was the RFP, this is how -- and so we were just trying to keep the fidelity of the process. Believe it or not, we also thought about, should we recommend to the Board that we use 225. But again, the fidelity of the process, we thought it best to re-advertise. We know that there are needs in the veteran community. And so we did not even bring that recommendation to the Board. To answer your question, I do think, again, the fidelity of the process, they did not apply for veterans. We don't know how much they would need, and so to make some judgment calls about how much those organizations need. So what we could do is perhaps, work with Purchasing to see if we can run a amended process with the organizations that already -- have been competitively bid, can we run some amendment to re-advertise among only the group of organizations that are already -- but we'll work it out. But the bottom line is, I don't believe that we would want to just award additional funds. I think we need some sort of process that we can defend with the Board."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So I was -- I'm on the fence about supporting the current substitute motion. And now that you've added more to it, I think I'm not supportive, because I would -- I would want more time to think through whether or not they should be able to get money from both. So I'll make another substitute motion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, come on. Let me -- let me try to make some --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold it, hold it, hold it. Let me try to make some sense out of this. Why don't we approve the recommended 5.6 CSP/CCSP funding and deal with this other matter? We're going to get involved in purchasing, and we're going to -- see, that's a big problem. And we can come -- but don't tie these together. And deal with -- I think we can accomplish what y'all want to accomplish. But let's not mess up the process in the meantime. So my recommendation would be that we deal with either vote this up or down. They've gone through a process, we ran out of money. But we --"

there's a motion and desire, it seems like, to fund some organizations with some excess money. There's a way to do it, but let's not tie it to -- to 0350. So if you would --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I want to take us back to the main motion to approve that, and then -- but you'd have to withdraw your second, and she would have to --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It's a whole bunch motions after mine."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I'm confused now, too."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No. Commissioners Arrington, he was going to make --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "He did."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I did make the motion, and it's recorded there, a motion to approve as amended by me, and it's seconded by Commissioner Hall. So I think that is on the floor, Mr. Chair. I --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I didn't second that motion because I was trying to -- (off-mic comments.)"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Y'all, this is not complicated."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We can get to where we want to get to, but let's disperse of --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So I'll amend my motion to just add an additional 225,000 to cover the nine organizations and ask the Manager and the CFO to come back with two or three recommendations from where that money can be taken from. What is she saying? Well, the RFP going back out, I believe, is in reference to the 700,000 that's left over for the veteran services program."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The -- right now, my motion is to approve the 560 -- \$5,613,958, and to add an additional 225,000 for the other nine organizations. And then we can deal with the veteran services separately, and ask the County Manager to bring that back later."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a second? Everybody understand that motion? It's the 5.6 million, and we're asking to increase that by the 250, wherever that 250 is coming from?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. Two -- I think it's 225."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "225 will be added to this, and we don't know where the 225 is coming from yet. Is there a second for that? Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I thought that hand raise was a second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is there a second? One more time, is there a second? All right. That fails for lack of a second. Yeah, all right. Now let's get back to the main motion, once again, let's approve that --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So I still have the floor, no?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead, Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So I would like to make a substitute motion to approve the 225 as Commissioner Ellis stated, from the five -- from the 750 remaining, and put the remaining 525 back out to bid."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, that doesn't have anything to do with this?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yes, it does. And to keep this exactly the same, that all the organizations funded here by recommendation, would continue to be funded as before. As listed here, the 5,613,958 would be funded --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, we got it."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- plus the 225 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is there a second? Is there a second for Barrett's motion to -- all right, properly moved and second. Let's vote on the Barrett amendment and second. And I hope you vote, no."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Back to the main motion, which is to approve 5.6 million as outlined in 0350. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote on that, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Now, Dr. Roshell, I think you've heard the sentiment to want to try to find -- fund the -- these programs, and also to not to -- not to on the veteran's money. So that's your charge."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, thank you."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "We'll move as directed."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0351**, Request approval of the 2024 ARPA Summer Youth Job Training Program Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$500,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' Action Items on page 9, **24-0354**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urging municipalities located within Fulton County to enhance safety at convenience stores by adopting ordinances and laws, mandating the use of video surveillance systems at these establishments and for other purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second? Is there a second? Well, I'll second it. All right. Commissioner, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes. I would ask, humbly ask the support of this. This is a resolution urging the municipalities -- we have seen, especially over the last, I would say 30 days, where actually, individuals have had shoot outs at parking lots, convenience stores, or what have you. And we have also seen that, in our sister counties, individuals have been able to be aided in the quick apprehension solely based on the video. And so even though we are not mandating this, we are just asking a urging to the -- all municipalities located in Fulton County, that if they can enhance their stores by making sure that they have video surveillance systems, that they're up and running, that they actually are videotaping, and if there is an actual incident, to preserve the video. I actually had some law enforcement to reach out to me and say, it's been

incidents where people have been shot, or cars have been shot, or attempted carjackings. And then when they go to retrieve the actual video, there is a looping of the covering of the video and it's erased. Or in some cases, in very small cases, for law enforcement has led me to believe that it's a -- it is dummy camera. And so I would ask all my colleagues that if we are about the business of attacking crime, which we know in a lot of our establishments that it happens in the moment, in the flick of an eye, someone will get shot, someone will attempt to shoot someone or either carjack. And that tool of having that video present, especially within those first 24 hours, is a needed tool for our law enforcement to be able to track and apprehend. So I would ask for a favorable support from all my colleagues."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. It's 1:24. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session, we'll take up issues of real estate, litigation, and personnel. What? Oh, I'll second, all right, seconded by Commissioner Hall."

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

**Recessed for Executive Session at 1:25 p.m.**

**Resumed Regular Session at 2:42 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good afternoon. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam County Attorney, items from Executive Session."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As to item number 1, is there a motion to approve the execution of the letter of intent?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Next item, is there a motion to approve the request for representation contained in item 2 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation contained in item 3 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Again, a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "A motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, again, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And finally, is there a motion to approve the request the settlement authority contained in item 5 of the Executive Session agenda? I'm sorry, excuse me, in item 9. Thank you."

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

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 9, Commissioner action items, **24-0355**, Request a resolution directing the County Manager and the County Attorney to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing ARPA funding to eliminate medical debt for qualifying Fulton County residents, to report back to the Board of Commissioners regarding the feasibility and implementation of such a medical debt relief program, and for other purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded Commissioner Barrett. Just quickly, this would -- I'm asking the Manager and Dr. Roshell to evaluate the feasibility of us establishing a medical debt program, retirement program for qualifying citizens that has been established in many other cities and counties including New Orleans, Toledo, Ohio, Wayne County, Detroit, and even locally. Y'all may know this, that one of our Hawks players, Trae Young, he put up

\$10,000, which was used to -- that it turned into \$1 million worth of debt relief for some citizens. And this medical debt relief has some negative implications for credit ratings, getting mortgages, loans, et cetera. So it's something that I'd like to -- for us to consider if we find out that it's feasible. It may not be, but hopefully, it will be. So that's what this is all about. Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, you know, thank you for bringing up the issue of medical debt. I, you know, feel like I need to, you know, sort of share that I personally have struggled with medical debt. I'm a cancer survivor, and when I experienced cancer, I was self-employed. And I had very bad insurance, and I accrued quite a bit of debt. And it was a big struggle to get through that. So I'm very supportive of us trying to work on this as an issue. That said, I do have a couple of questions. Madam CFO, you mentioned earlier, I propose another question, whether there was ARPA money available, that everything was allocated. Can you speak to that briefly?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am. We've allocated our ARPA resources at this point to all the various projects. As I said, we would need to go back through those to see if there are any funds that can, at this point, be swept up and repurposed."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And then, Mr. Chairman --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I would just add, ARPA or any other funding, including general fund."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "That's fair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So that's worth adding, I think to this as an amendment, I guess, or any other --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And I'll accept that as an amendment, ARPA and/or any other source of funding including general fund."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And what would be the -- Mr. Chairman, I guess this is a question for you. What would be the implementation of this? Is there a organization we would use to go --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "There are private, several private organizations that do this for these other localities that I mentioned."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So maybe, could we also add to that, that we could get some investigation -- I don't know, this may be falling under you, Dr. Roshell,



to -- about what organization we would want to use if we were able to do this. I think it would be also helpful -- and again, I don't know how quickly we could get this, but it would be helpful, I think to know kind of how many people in the county, give or take, are affected by this, and what kind of -- how big the size of the problem is. But I'm supportive."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And just for further information, there were -- and I didn't know this, but there's a story coming on, I think it's channel 5 this evening, just about this topic. I had no idea it was coming. But coincidental, it's today at 5:00. Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Arrington, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes. Thank you, Chairman, Mr. Chair. This is a good idea. It reminds me of not too long ago, one of our county employees who told me that she had to file bankruptcy because she didn't choose the HMO plan, she choose one of the other plans where you have to pay into your health insurance, you don't just pay a co-pay. And her and her son became very ill and incurred a lot of medical debt. So this is going to be interesting to see what the qualifications will be for this type of program. But it is -- it is much needed. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I'm happy to support the idea of this in theory. I do want dig a little deeper though, Madam CFO. How much ARPA funds do we have that are unspent? Because allocated doesn't -- it means a little, but it doesn't mean a lot, spent means a lot."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Arrington, I'm actually looking for the last update report that we provided to the Board, which was the one from January, to be able to give you the number as of that --"

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- as of that point in time."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'll keep talking while you look. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I'm happy to certainly look at this. I think it certainly makes sense. You know, the -- I think the flip side of the coin is that we give \$50 million a year to Grady for indigent healthcare. So to some extent, we're already paying for people's medical expenses, maybe not the medical debt, but you know we're doing at least \$50 million a year towards indigent medical care in Fulton County. And I guess this year, we had another 19 million for the new standalone emergency room in South Fulton, and we're up to about \$70 million for indigent healthcare. But again, I'm

fine with trying to help people out, particularly with -- with ARPA dollars if we have some left, rather than general fund dollars. I think that in an ideal world, would make the most sense for it to come from ARPA, from ARPA funds. What was that thing before ARPA, did we use all that money? CARES?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "CARES, yes, sir, we used --"

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- we fully expended our CARES obligation."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. We fully expended, spent, we spent all of the --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We did."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- CARES Act money?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We did."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, all right. How much -- did you -- were you able to --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So Hakeem has looked into the financial system. And it's about 100, and --"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "145."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- about 145 million in actual expenditures and funds that are encumbered. But I do need to say that the encumbered balance does not include two recent contracts that the Board has approved, that's the ERP system upgrade, and the facility improvements in -- in the Government Center. So when I say they're allocated, it means we've identified a purpose for them. And we, you know, been working our way towards obligating them or fully expending them. So we do have a plan for all of our resources. And to, you know, provide resources for other purposes, we would have to go in and modify -- modify the plan."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And then I guess, you know, I assume that you all will be looking. I think, maybe Commissioner Barrett said this, but -- and I assume that we can get this information, but what is the total amount of medical debt in Fulton County, right? Or for Fulton County residents, I don't even know, I guess maybe Grady could pull that and register that from their system as far as Fulton County residents that owe debt to them."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah. We probably could get the information from Grady, for sure. As for the totality of medical debt that any resident of Fulton County may owe, I'm not sure what the resource we will look to to provide that. There is probably an industry partner that has some -- some amount of debt that, you know, we could use as a benchmark."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, we could certainly contact hospitals in North Fulton. Unfortunately, we don't have any in South Fulton County to contact."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But we could certainly contact Emory and Saint Joe's and all those other ones that are in North Fulton. Maybe we can contact WellStar, they might have some medical debt left. All right, thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. This issue with the medical debt and -- nationally, is an issue. And the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau states that medical debt is the most abusive debt collection tactic. Now, we, and I say we, because I don't know anybody else's situation. But when I have calls to my office and people are looking for housing, when I have calls to my office, and people are looking for employment, and they have a credit check ran on them, and a \$500 medical debt, you can get a \$500 medical debt at a -- the local emergency room. But a \$500 medical debt keeps you from getting a job. A \$500 medical debt keeps you from getting an apartment. And so I just want to broaden our conversation on this as to why medical debt is burying so many of our constituents. Nationally, it is the most abused one, it's the one that people, awe, I don't really need a credit card right now, I don't really need that car right now, I don't really need all these other things, but I need medical services, which means a hospital bill, which means medical debt, which means being sold off, which means affecting my credit, which means affecting my housing, which means affecting my ability to have a decent life. We have Fulton County employees here, thank God that they've been here while, but they can't even get additional credit or even get refinanced because of medical debt. I have relatives who, two aunts passed during COVID, and because of the type of insurance they had, they weren't able to get any kind of relief from the state because of if it was a COVID death, but it ended up being medical debt because they passed away from COVID. And so I just want to -- I want my colleagues to understand that there are people every day that are trying to get a job, that are trying to get a loan, that are trying to better their circumstance, and the only thing in the way of that is medical debt. And medical debt is the most abused debt when it comes to collection purposes. And so I would just ask that we look at it a little bit differently than we look at everything else. And this is why different municipalities at the federal level, they looking at it. Because you have working-class people that really are trying to change their situation. You have a mother that's in an apartment that's

trying to get into a house. You have someone that's trying to go from a fast food job to a job at the bank, and the only thing between them having a decent wage of pay is medical debt. So I would ask that we really do investigation on this, and that we also support it because it is killing the economy, and it is killing a lot of the hopes and dreams of our constituents for a better way of life."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. Sort of two thoughts on this, number one, I do think we generally approved what our ARPA Plan funding is and what we committed to it, and I think we should stick to that. I think the concept is an interesting concept, and I don't necessarily agree with some of the intended rationale behind paying off medical debt. But I think you're really getting at addressing a symptom and not a cure. And I think somebody -- even with some of these organizations that have been heavily engaged in paying off medical debt, you know, when they go back and do the research about what the actual benefit to the beneficiaries of that have been, it's not been as strong as what, you know, one would think it would be. And the bigger issues are just inflationary costs around medical expenditures as a whole, some of which have been pushed up through government policy and other things that have left -- been left unchecked. I'd rather see more the beneficiaries of medical care, if there's -- it's just economically, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense that the significant blocks of these dollars can all of a sudden, you could just be resolved for pennies on the dollar. That tells me that there is way too much costs built into the system on the front end to begin with, right? So there's this whole transparency in the medical costs, et cetera. And those are really where more of the issues are, I think that government needs to work at addressing. And these are more kind of like, they're short-term fixes. And I think they're more suited, really probably, for a charitable organization's work, then they are necessarily local governments to be engaged in paying these off. I think government's role should be more policies to help drive down medical costs to prevent these things from ever occurring in the first place. But, I mean, I'm interested in seeing, you know, what you come back with. I'm not opposed to looking at it, but I think, generally speaking, we had a pretty sound plan for how we were committing the ARPA dollars. And I think we should stick to utilize the funding in that fashion. So that's my personal views."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you. I just had another quick thing. As you investigate, Dr. Roshell, what firms might potentially be the best to work with on this, you know, I think, to take into -- to take into consideration, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman's comments and my own experience as well, that we might look at not just paying off the debt. And I'm sure these firms do all kind of different things, but also reducing the debt, you know, negotiating on people's behalf. I think, one of the really hard things for people going through this is just knowing who to call, and having someone to sort of walk through the process with them, and then also credit repair and things of that nature. So if there's somebody that's providing a more comprehensive suite of services

around this, I think it be good to know if that's available or how we could encourage that."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I agree. I mean, we did set aside ARPA dollars for certain things. And it's kind of -- we agreed on that, now this comes down the pipe. I certainly would support it if we happened to have extra money lying around. But I believe we can't be everything to everybody, or also be canceling school debt, we'll be the catchall for everything. So we have ARPA dollars, I'm sure there's some college students that, you know, they are were affected during COVID, and they want us to pay their bills too. So we just can't be everything, unfortunately to everybody. I believe in empowering nonprofits to do the work. I wouldn't mind -- maybe there's a veteran's agency that's helping paying off debt for veterans. And we have \$750,000 that we could, you know, help them get started or -- I definitely don't think we should develop a program, because when we were talking about setting up a structure, based on income, we don't know the incomes. We don't know that -- for us to set it set something up that we're having to evaluate incomes and all of that and who would be eligible and who wouldn't be, it would just be a nightmare unless we can find a nonprofit that we can enable at some point. Just my 2 cents."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Just one other thing to add, and I do think that, maybe this is part of -- part of what Commissioner Barrett was suggesting. I do think some of the programs like, having navigators and folks that are there to assist negotiations in that sort of stuff. I mean like, we had this program where we're using the -- I want to say they were ARP -- AARP volunteers to help folks do their taxes and that kind of thing, right. You know, if there were, you know, systems like that we could set up to have, you know, folks that were there to assist in that kind of negotiation and discussion, I do think those would be beneficial things for us to look at and explore. And then while we're on the topic of healthcare, it just -- I think in terms of transparency, and I sent some of you all, included all of y'all on an email of this. While we've had this -- we had this public announcement that took place by Grady that, you know, self-pronounced that we were committing a certain amount of funding for a facility. That is not a discussion that has been had publicly at this Board level, nor has it been voted on. And I'm not saying that it shouldn't be approved or whatnot or casting any sort of aspersions on that. But that has not been a public decision that was made that we heard from, and that is something that we do need to hear for transparency purpose to understand it. And I think that this, you know, the listening public needs to know that and understand that because, you know, I'd received a number of questions about that from various constituents that say, you know, where did this come from, I never saw this on the agenda, heard, heard about. All of a sudden, I hear it pronounced that you all have committed X amount of dollars. That's not taken place yet. So, you know, I think anytime we have these discussion, healthcare, medical care is, you know, certainly, vitally important, and something that

has been something that Fulton County Government has been committed to, has provided, you know, some of the strongest support to, more so than any county in the state. But when we do it, we've got -- we need to do it in a way that's transparent, and that there is meaningful public discussion around it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you for bringing that up, Commissioner Ellis. But I attended that press conference with Grady. And I was crystal clear to them that that request for 19 million had not come before this Board and that this Board had not voted one penny for that freestanding emergency clinic in South Fulton County, although, I personally support the idea. But the issue of the 19 million, how we pay for it, has not been discussed by this Board. All right. I appreciate your favorable consideration of this matter. Please vote."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' Presentation and Discussion items, **24-0356**, Fulton County Jail Facilities Senate Committee Presentation funding mechanisms, next steps regarding potential new refurbished facilities, sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Madam Clerk. And I think, I had shared with you kind of like the Senate presentation. And I know, Mr. Manager, I think you had done like a two pager or something like that, too, right? So I don't know which one we're -- we're putting up. But there's sort of just two pieces to this. Number one, I thought there was some really good detail that was shared in that -- in that Senate Committee Hearing, that I think it's worth sort of sharing for public purposes, so, you know, people understand sort of the full picture of this. And then number two, you know, one of the major planks that we had in our Legislative proposal, or our Legislative package, was the concept of putting forth potential ask for a sales tax referendum to help support funding of new jail facilities. And it's clear from that discussion, that there is very, basically no Legislative support for a fractional sales tax. We also have had extensive discussions all throughout the course of last year, hearing back from this feasibility study, et cetera, about, you know, what we would do, what next steps were around the jail facility. And I think, you know, I suspect that we've all received a lot of public feedback on that, I know I have. And, you know -- but yet, we've not had any real material discussion about what our next steps are going to be this year, as a Board collectively. But then as I understand it, there has been an RFP release for a Program Manager for next steps or whatever this going to entail in terms of potential construction of a new facility. And I just feel like we have a total mismatch in terms of where we are right now. You know, I certainly do not support, you know, applying significance amounts of new general fund money that are going to result in raised millage rates for a new facility. We have no support for a sales tax, therefore, you know, I feel like, you



know, there's very little, you know, collective support overall for building a new jumbo-massive facility that's going to cost in the billions of dollars. And I think it's time for us to have a discussion that's -- really reframes this and get us realistic about what we can do, what can afford, and where we want to collectively move forward as a Board. So that's part of the reason why I wanted to have this discussion today. And, you know, see where -- see where we wanted to go. And I do feel like we need to have some discussion around, you know, do we want this RFP for Program Manager to move forward, or should that be put on hold or and/or rescinded until we've collectively, you know, reached what we feel is like a strong consensus about how we want to move forward with this. I just don't -- this is a real thing that we've got confront. But we shouldn't be continuing to go down a path where at the end of it, it's like building heavy rail, it's not going to happen. So I guess with that, you know, maybe if you could, Mr. Manager, if you could kind of just give us a little bit of context for what's shared. You don't have to go through this, but just, you know, give us some rough context and hit some of the highlights on that. And then I think it that would be, Mr. Chair, maybe you want to facilitate this discussion around, you know, how we should move forward relative to, you know, continuing to leave this RFP out there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you for bringing this up, Commissioner Ellis, because I'll be honest with you, I was somewhat taken aback when I saw the notice, received the notice that the RFP for a Program Manager was going to be released, that it has already been released. And I'm pretty sure is not required that you have Board approval to do that. But given the enormity of the -- this effort and the cost of it, it would have made sense, I thought, to have come before the Board to get -- to have gotten some direction. And I think this conversation is really overdue. Had I know that my good friend, Mr. Adams has been the driving force behind this. But the reality of it is, we can all want it, but at some points, you got to pay for it. And -- no, let me stop with that. Y'all want to hear the presentation, or want to speak before the presentation? Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm happy to hear the presentation. But I'm ready to speak, too. Go right ahead, Mr. County Manager."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "All right. Well, two things, I think first of all, I believe I was asked to just briefly reprise the presentation that we made to the Senate committee. And Mr. Chairman, I don't know if you want to make any comments about that before I step through these charts quickly in terms of what you had to say."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This is -- no, you're talking about the -- before Senator --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Robertson."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Robertson's committee, right. I didn't have that much to say other than the fact that we, in my opinion, have provided the Sheriff the resources that he has requested. And I talked briefly about his belief that, given the fact that he's a constitutional officer, he has certain liberties, which he takes quite frequently with funds that we appropriate him after we've appropriated those funds. And there seemed to be a little bit of pushback from that on the committee. And after that, I guess, the Manager, CFO and Mr. Adams, pretty much handled it. But you're correct, there is absolutely zero appetite at the state for a sales tax, which means that whatever happens, whether it's a \$2 million jail, and that's just capital. We haven't talked about operational costs, is going to be on the burden and the backs of the taxpayers. And I just don't see taxpayers wanting to spend that kind of money on a jail to house prisoners when we got a need for, in my judgment, a hospital in South Fulton County, not an emergency clinic, but a hospital."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So Madam Clerk, if you'll go to the next chart, which I think just summarizes what the Chairman -- Chairman said, this is how we started our presentation. And then if you'll go to the next one, where we teed up, fundamentally that the county had listened to all of the request, not just presented by the Sheriff's office, but also by our justice partners in general that we had focused our investment in these three fundamental areas. I think they make sense if you think about them, population reduction through the case backlog, initiative known as Project ORCA, ankle monitors, which removed 1200 people potentially or otherwise would have been in jail, as well as detainee outsourcing, which removed 525 people. Secondly, we focused on jail staffing itself. That was everything from resources provided with \$10,000 signing bonuses, increased base salaries of Detention Officers to 54,000. The overtime-first policy, rather than where we had been previously postured. And then two-times overtime, and the tower staffing initiative. And then last, where of course, we've already talked about significantly today was the resources allocated for facility maintenance, specifically the Jail Blitz Plan. And then we also discussed in this presentation, which is what's being referred to, some of the reaction, the replacement jail plan. Go to the next chart. Again, I don't need to go through this with you because you know it full well that for the purposes of the Senate, we grounded them in Project ORCA again, that did have impact on jail population as well as civil case resolution. And I think they were aware of it, but we sat that -- sat that in place. And if you'll go to the next chart, Madam. There you go, thank you. Then we really pulled all of funds attributed to the running of the Sheriff's office together. So these are directly in the Sheriff office budget. Anything such as the -- again, the initiative discussed by Joe Davis earlier today that's in facilities, but nonetheless, is attributed to -- or specifically attributed to the running of the -- and maintaining of the jail. And then one time -- one-time items, which are in other budgets that have to do with things like outsourcing jail facilities. So all of that put together creates a, I think, a very credible response to resource needs in the Fulton County Sheriff's office. And of course, over the course of time, we just look back five years or so, is a 60-plus percent increase represents \$80 million from where we were in 2019. And is the single largest increase of any functional area that we have. So I thought that was helpful, because you know, there was -- there's always some discussion about has

something been left out of the, you know, the need, and the -- and the response. And you can always argue that, but you look at the total picture, it's a pretty compelling one in terms of what this Board has done. Then we go to the next chart. Again, you've already seen this. We updated them on the Jail Blitz Plan. Some of them had visited Fulton County Jail at Rice Street. They of course, had seen personally what it looked like before. I'm not sure they had seen after we'd gone through a -- thorough a zone. So we showed them a before and after, and then indicated the resources and the expected completion date. We also emphasized to them that while the first zone had taken over 90 days, the last zone took around 36 days. So we have been improving in terms of speed of completion. Next chart. Same one that you've seen before, we showed them the trends in jail population. The big so-what, again, being the one that has already been discussed today, the 1000 or so person reduction from a 2022 total population over 3500, to now 2500. We also pointed out that this Board had funded the ankle monitoring program that you're very familiar with, which removes another 1200 or so -- so folks. The 1200 removed by ankle monitoring plus the 525, if you add up what's at ACDC, Cobb, Oconee, and Forsyth represent seven -- over 1700 folks, equal about to the number of people that are at Rice Street. Again, showing all of the efforts made to reduce the jail population, specifically at Rice Street. Next chart. We nonetheless said in that presentation, however, that we still believed or there still is consensus, maybe I should say it that way, in direction that we had been given to pursue the initiative around the replacement jail. We pointed out that it was an expensive proposition, 1.7 billion or so, also, the refurbishment of current facilities was even more expensive than that, and that we would be issuing a jail program management RFP. And by the way, we thought we got that direction back in August of 2023. So, you know, our normal course is not to bring RFPs back to the Board. It could be argued that it warrants discussion. But that not being said -- or that being said, it can be either rescinded or modified further. Next chart. We pointed out that the penultimate, if you will, determinate of jail population is the performance of our justice system. You've already had discussions about this. It was, I think, good for the -- for the Senate group to see this. There was some discussion about it, same ones that we've had: How are these goals set? Are you making progress? You know, specifically, what -- what does this mean in terms of jail population. But there's a great deal of interest in this. And some, as I think has also been referenced, perception that our justice system does not perform at the highest level. So we finished with the next chart, if you'll go to that. What could the state do to help us as opposed to us just reporting out? And this list was appreciated as we presented it, I think. We said first of all, you know, increase state funding for behavioral health beds. Many times our jail population is impacted by inability to transfer to Georgia Regional. And DBHDD itself has done a bed study whereby Fulton is in need of three Behavioral Health Crisis Centers -- Crisis Centers, we have one, obviously nearing completion that we contributed both capital and land to, meaning there are two more. So we asked for that. We teed up the potential of a sales tax, either pending or fractional. And as Commissioner Ellis indicated, we did not get any positive feedback in that room. The Chair said, I'm not going to go close to that, is basically what he said. So there was -- and there was no one that countered that argument. So we did not pick up any positive support for that. We talked about the

funding in additional Superior Court Judges. There was some concern there about, well, what's the basis for three, since three was the number that I think went across the state. And there is a state evaluation of where additional staffing is needed in Superior Court. And quite honestly, we didn't have a formula we just said, look, we know that additional staffing would help the throughput. Three has been the top end of this, so we're asking -- asking for that. Statewide case management standards, if you want to lift the performance, then we of course, have studied case management, I think five times over with different outside firms that looked at case management standards, looked at our performance, did training. But what's missing is what's the either law or mandate that would require accountability and performance against those standards. There was quite a bit of interest in that particular initiative, they are looking at that. I believe that potentially, there's one system that could be implemented, I think it's in Cobb County today. As they referenced it, they could track case management performance across the state. So that one was -- was again discussed, and I think very favorably received. And then explore the transfer of available jail facilities to the counties, given that we've got a five -- at least a five-year period of time, if we go from today to a replacement jail, or -- and we'll present this in just a moment, if there are factors that we should consider that potentially would obviate the need for a new jail facility, then the potential way of transferring facilities to us would be welcome. ACDC was discussed in that meeting by Senator Albers in particular, with an eye toward finding a collaboration for that would be brought from the city of Atlanta to Fulton County. So Mr. Chairman, anything else, or Sharon, you were you obviously there as well. Anything else that we've missed, or --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I don't think so."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- I guess I should say. Any questions about that? I think I --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Barrett, and Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. County Manager, but didn't we adopt the jail plan that was presented to us last year?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, on August the 3rd, I think it was."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And how much money did we allocate in this year's budget towards implementing the plan for the replacement jail that was adopted in August of 2023?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "10 million, Sharon; is that correct?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And you also brought up the South Fulton Municipal Authority as a potential way to fund the building of the jail or at least

partially fund. How much money were you anticipating, or would they just be financing -  
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**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I'll let Sharon explain that they would be a conduit --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- conduit."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- to issue bonds. But Sharon, go ahead."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That's correct, Mr. Manager. They would serve as the conduit issuer."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And so we would solicit or look to them as the conduit issuer for the entire amount?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Initially, we've discussed doing a smaller issue on the front end to help with the preliminary cost, design costs and such. And then the larger piece that would be for the construction proceeds. But yes, sir, the thought is that we would be the conduit issuer for the full need for the replacement facility."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I'm at a loss as to why people would be up here saying -- acting like they don't know we're moving forward on the jail when we got \$10 million in this year's budget. Can you help explain that?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "If I can use the next two charts, I could probably tee up what, not necessarily a confusion is, but maybe what the issues are, which is what has remained the same since August of last year, what has potentially changed. And then it's really a discussion for you to decide is -- does any of that create the impetus to relook at that decision."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, because we were -- weren't we talking about design-build? Is that what this program management RFP is for?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "It's a little bit more complicated than that, because I think it will be -- it may range from everything from a public-private partnership to all the legal financial and construction resources that we'll have to obtain. And the Program Manager, for lack of better term, is like the overseer of that entire process. Some of which we have no experience, the P3 would be the most ready example of something we don't have any relevant experience in."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Well, I'm confused how the people that voted for this budget don't know what was in that budget. Because I voted against the budget. But I hear two people up here saying -- that voted for this budget with this \$10

million in there for this new jail that we told y'all to go forward with in August. So I'm befuddled. So hopefully, these next two slides will help."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Is that a question?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You said you had two more slides. I was trying to --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, I didn't know if you wanted -- if there were more questions about what I've already presented, or Mr. Chairman, do you want me to move forward with, or Commissioner Ellis, move forward with these two additional slides?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "They going to have to wait their turn. It's my time right now."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Okay. Would you like for me to move forward with these two additional slides?"

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "All right. So Madam Clerk, if you can go -- hopefully, we've got these teed up. All right. So we decided -- or we -- let me rephrase that. We attempted to put two pages together to lay out what has changed and what's remained the same from last August. The first one is the population. So the population in August of 2023 was 3670, with 2576 at Rice Street. It's now 2647, with 1720. Of course, we've just discussed some of the initiatives that have been helpful to that. So jail population has come down substantially in the last almost 12 months or less than 12 months. Second thing that has changed, Senate Bill 63, it is a Senate Bill that's passed, signed by the Governor. It does reform the bail process, expanding a list of offenses where a cash bail is a required, such as trespassing. It could very easily end up impacting the jail population. So we don't have an estimate as to relate as -- and I'm not sure who could estimate what this impact would be. But it's a -- definitely a change from August of last year. Jail facility issues, I don't know that this is necessarily a significant change, but again, conversation earlier, the Blitz Plan now has been launched, it's about 35, 36 percent of the way done. It is showing progress, at the same time as we got into the discussion. The building itself, the -- whether that be building maintenance issues that are just occurring because of its overall age or because of vandalism or all of the above, you know, continued to present significant challenges. On the right-hand side, I've already discussed this, we presented to this Public Safety Committee meeting, the thing again that came out of that, again, was a good understanding, I believe, of where we are, as well as what investments this Board had -- this Board has already made. The Department of Justice investigation is ongoing. There's no specific findings necessarily. There is some preliminary, and Soo can speak to that. But no final findings that have come out of that at this point in time. And there's not a -- necessarily an end

date that -- that's been shared with us. And then, as has already been discussed, the sales tax for replacement jail, we have held preliminary discussions with some key State Legislators outside of this process. We did not get any favorable response from them as it relates to the sales tax initiative, nor did we get anything from this Senate committee. So I do think it's probably accurate to say that that does not look like it's a ready alternative. Go to the next chart. So that's what we -- our summary, if you will, put together in terms of puts and takes. On the replacement jail, this is somewhat reprising again, where we were. The findings recommendations were presented to the BOC, phase one on February the 1st, and phase two on December the 6th. The BOC directed us on August the 2nd of '23, to proceed with planning and seeking the financial -- financing of design construction, ongoing maintenance of a replacement jail, with a projected cost of 1.68. The next steps, the most immediate next step was to issue this procurement for a Program Manager. We did delay that or it was delayed, I should say, during the cyber attack and interruption while we took care of some of the basic procurement needs. And this was the first time the window was open to proceed with that. That RFP, which was issued just recently, the 13th, does include, as you see here, the following, but also includes and we ensure that it would include, verifying and updating key assumptions and forecasting the feasibility study. So if the Board wanted, and I think there was some sentiment of this over a year ago, wanted another look at the fundamental assumptions in terms of population and potential incarceration, whether or not the facility as constructed was needed and would meet the requirements or could be done in a different way a phased approach, or all of the above, this Program Manager could be another firm to take a fresh look. The consultants that helped us with the jail feasibility study are explicitly excluded from bidding on this, I've just confirmed with Felicia again this week. So it would be a second opinion, if you will, on something that's very, very significant. So that's the -- again, I think that's the best summary of what has changed, what remains the same, and then under what authority were we acting to continue to move down the path with the most significant thing that we've done since the last time you've seen us is issue an RFP, and ensure that the RFP has the flexibility. And then to do -- to do another look at the basic assumptions said."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I'm not crazy?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Your -- we did instruct you and your staff to move down this plan of the replacement jail?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And you didn't just run off an issue this RFP without Board authority, did you?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, sir."



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You're following our direct instructions to you, aren't you?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I generally try to."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I'm at a complete loss. I'd love to hear more of this discussion. Frankly, I'd love to hear how the two people that just said they don't know what we were doing and why we're doing this, after we already voted to do it, I -- I'm waiting to hear the rest of this discussion. So I will yield the floor at this time."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Mr. County Manager. I got to say, I agree with you, Commissioner Arrington, it's quite puzzling. We did, in fact, give you all the direction to move forward. I think -- I really appreciate going through both of these presentations because I've because I think it's really helpful to remind everybody of some key points. One, which I believe was in the first presentation, which highlighted the fact that the current estimate we had from the feasibility study was around 1.7 billion. But to renovate the current facility, would be 2.4 billion. So it is significantly more to renovate the current building, with what we knew at that time when we got those estimates. That doesn't necessarily include the things we've just heard about, like the new roof and elevators having to be potentially be replaced and all of those things. So, you know, I think that's an important thing to keep in mind as we debate, again, for some reason, even though we've already decided, but while we continue to debate this, is that renovating the current facility will cost more than building a new one. And it will still be too small. While we have seen a reduction in population, your second sort of large point, I believe, and you can correct me if I'm wrong here, Mr. County Manager. On the Senate Bill 63, the first point was jail population has reduced, that's great. I think something like 25 percent, maybe from when the feasibility study was done, which is fantastic. But Senate Bill 63 has a list of something like 30 new offenses that will require cash bail, which could cause the jail population to spike again. Also, although I don't think you mentioned it, the plan for a new facility is to last another 30 years. So we're also planning for population growth, and whatever is to come in the future. The current building, again, just to reiterate, was built to house 1100 people, we doubled it up, we took cells that were designed for -- with one bed, put two in there. And so yes, now it holds over 2200. But the current total population in the system is 2647; is that the number? So that's still over the size of the current -- of the current facility with no increase based on Senate Bill 63, and no increase based on population over the years to come. So what we have is still too small, although it's not as too small as it was when the numbers were higher. I also think it's very important to point out, and I'm appreciative that you brought this up in the RFP with -- for program management, including the fact that it is not to be the same organization that did feasibility study. It makes even more since, I think, to go forward with the program management RFP because that will be a second set of eyes on the feasibility study, taking into consideration these new numbers, the ankle monitoring



program, Senate Bill 63, the current reduction in population and all of that, and perhaps shift. This is why we agreed to do this project in phases, correct, so that we could continue to adjust the numbers and adjust our decision making as we go? Is that -- I'll ask that as a question; is that correct?"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So I think it makes a lot of sense to continue to move forward, to Commissioner Arrington's point, it was in the budget, it was approved last August that we were going to go forward with this. And I also don't really understand why we're -- I appreciate having continued conversation on it, but I -- the idea that we should change our minds at this point, on moving forward with this next step makes no sense to me."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So on August 2nd, 2023, my understanding was we were presented with, I think a 1.68 billion option and a \$2 billion option. We weren't -- we weren't presented with any other option. It was build a big jail or build a bigger jail. And so what are we going to approve? I, for me, I'm like, let's go with this 1.68 billion, let's explore the funding of it, which you were going to do with the sales tax and all of that. It was not approving, go ahead, let's move with the 1.68 billion. Since that time, being on the Public Safety, the National Public Safety Committee, I've been investigating jails, procedures, direct supervision, indirect supervision, jail management, all of that. And I no longer believe of building a big jail that just houses more people is only addressing a symptom of a much larger problem. And I feel like we need to address the problem. And the problem is that we have too many mental health and substance abuse people that are incarcerated. And we need to reduce our incarceration rate. And I don't think the study really took into -- too much into concern. I haven't studied the model -- the simulation modeling they use fully. But we have an inefficient court system. Are we just going to concede that we're going to have an inefficient court system from here to eternity, and we're just going to keep having an over jail pop -- over-incarcerated jail population. Right now, our only tightening of the belt that we can put on the court system is by only being able to house a certain number of inmates. We're not taking into effect that we're investing money in PAD. I'd much rather put more money in PAD, then to building a bigger jail to incarcerate more people. The mental health facility, once it comes on board, I'll hope it will help the community and prevent incarceration as well. The ankle monitoring program is another thing that we've invested in. So I no longer see the need for this big fancy jail. But I do see the need for a better intake process of our current jail, maybe building something in addition. The jail I visited in Orlando had direct supervision and indirect supervision. One, we can't hire enough people to staff our current jail, which is indirect supervision, which is -- takes the minimum amount of people to supervise our jail. And we move into this big jail with direct supervision, is our Sheriff going to be able to staff it? It's uncertain at this point. Secondly, I believe that we need to really work and dive in, and I'm, I'm glad maybe with this RFP, if it does

move forward, they could look at some other options, besides just building a bigger jail that can accommodate more people. And that's just kind of my 2 cents. My vision has changed a lot. We don't have the DOJ investigation yet. According to Alton, he said they may mandate us to build a certain size jail. I don't know if we're going to wait to take into factor what the DOJ demands of us, if that will have some bearing. But I'm not ready to burden the taxpayers, raising their millage rate a couple mills for the building of a jail. I did speak with some -- I went with the North Fulton Chamber to DC. And I went to the True North Fulton CID meeting the other day. And they mentioned that when Grady was having all the problems and really, really not doing well, that the Chamber stepped in to help right the ship back up. So I don't know if that's an option including the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It is."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- Metro Chamber, the Greater North Fulton Chamber, getting them involved in this discussion as well. Just my 2 cents."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Can I just respond to that? I think it's a great point. I was the Chair at the Atlanta Chamber when they stepped in, of course, Pete Corel led the effort. And we have the Chairman, I guess, I've forgotten the date now, Mr. Chairman, when we went to the Chamber meeting, but it was probably six to eight months ago, to explain this as a Grady-like challenge. And the we subsequently briefed the Metro Atlanta Chamber CEO pretty recently. What -- how can that materialize? But I think it's a terrific idea to ask the business community to think about public safety holistically, not just as the police force, and this being an enormous component of it. But you know, following up on that, and getting some traction will be the -- will be the key. But I think it's a great idea."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I don't know why anybody should be -- could be befuddled or confused about my position on this. Because I explicitly said when we were having these discussions, as we were talking about our millage rate and budget-setting stuff that, I was not going to be supportive of anything that was going to result in us having to raise millage rates to fund this thing. If we're going to do it, we need to find an alternative financing mechanism to do it. We asked you to explore that starting in August, we're here in May, that alternative financing is dead on arrival. We have no other -- we have no means to finance this other than either cutting back our expenditures elsewhere or raising our millage rates. And this Board definitely has no aptitude, I don't think, for the -- for cutting back our expenditures elsewhere to offset this stuff. And I don't have any, you know, desire to be raising millage rates. So I'm explicit where I'm at. You know, we have no -- we have no alternative financing mechanism. Without a financing mechanism, I don't know why we're continuing to move forward with looking at this plan at all. We need to take a step back, and fully revisit it. This too -- and I want to say one thing about this, where I feel like we were giving, largely given a

bill of goods on two thing -- one thing in particular. Somebody's going to really have to help me out to explain where weren't given a bill of goods. If we are hearing that we can redo, reset all of these pods for \$13 million, but yet it would take us \$2.4 billion to renovate this facility. That just doesn't square up to me. I mean, I felt like that number was largely pulled out of the air, and we were sold a bill of goods on that. So I do think much more meaningful work needs to be done around, you know, what types of renovations to the facility can be done to more significantly prolong its life. And have those numbers be well under what we're talking about, and there are things that are practical and well studied. And I think that needs to play up, and we need to that. I hear what people are saying about, we need to enlist the public, you know, and all that sort of stuff. But I personally, I don't -- I don't see how the business community and others are going to respond to this in the way they did with a Grady-like scenario. That's why when I originally brought up this concept of a fractional sales tax, I was focused on healthcare, not on this. So I'm not surprised that here we are that we have no support for fractional sales tax related to building a jail facility. So I mean, I think this is going to come back to us having to probably solve for it on our own. I don't think we're going to get necessarily a lot of help from the business community, maybe we can get some limited support from the state on some of these sort of sub components. But I think largely, it's going to come back to us, which means it's going to come back to Fulton County taxpayers. And I just feel like we really got to get practical with this. And I do, you know, feel like we just -- we have not. And I think right now, we should more pull back this RFP and really reconsider what our ask for with this RFP is, and have, you know, a much more robust discussion about this and this, as a Board as a whole."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. You know, there are studies that say, with the newer facility or new facility, you have more effective control and supervision. We need a new facility, because if we're going to have a conversation about the jail, we're going to have a conversation about the overcrowding. If we're going to have a conversation about diversion, we're going to have a conversation about ways of being more real -- rehabilitative. The model that we have now is no good. Must I remind us all about the number of deaths that we have had in that jail? Now, we can have a conversation another day as to who fault it was, and why it happened, and this that and the other. But the jail that we have right now in its state, is not conducive for anything but chaos. You have individuals that want to work in law enforcement, that need a job, but they will not apply at that jail for several different reasons. You have a building that's falling apart, you have operational issues, you have issues one way or another. But we can't kick the can down the road any further on this. We have to find common ground. If there's a replacement, a refurbishing, if it makes sense, let's do it. If it makes sense for it to be new, let's do it. But I think we do the taxpaying citizen of Fulton County a disservice when it sounds like we're going one direction, and then we come back. Now, I'm not saying that that conversation is going on today. What I'm saying is, we have a crisis at the jail. We have a crisis. We can all agree that it's a crisis. What caused the crisis? Whether it was kicking the can down road several

years, maybe there was not appetite for a new jail. We can -- we can sit all day long and have that discussion. But what we need to do as a Body is to figure out what are we going to do. Because to do nothing, is going to have more of effect with people dying in the jail. It's going to have more of effect with the lawsuits. It's going to have more effect with the contraband. We're going to have more of effect with not having staff. That's a reality for me. And so what I'm asking is, not necessarily go back to the drawing board, I think we're past that point. But we need to see, given the fact that the appetite has changed, you know, when we had this conversation before, people were like, well, we need a new jail, we need a new jail, we need a new jail. Well, that conversation, depending on who you talk to, somebody said, we don't need a new jail, we need a new Sheriff. Well, I don't -- believe it or not, I do not subscribe to that school of thought, because the jail, in our present condition, is not conducive for anything. And so I would ask if we're going to go in a different direction since we know the sales tax, we're not going to be able to do that. I don't know if the public or private is all the way off the table right now. I don't know that -- that to be for sure. But I know for me, we must do something. If it means refurbishing, and there's a good dollar-cents conversation about refurbishing, I'd be open to hearing it. But what I don't want us to do, and the message that I don't want us to send to the public, who has been crying out, we must do something, and so I would ask, County manager, I'm not sure -- I'm not sure which is the best direction now. And I'm being candid in saying that because things have changed. So given that things have changed, do we need to change the way we're looking at it? Maybe. I'm just asking as -- because I don't -- I'm crystal clear on what lane I want to stay in. And I want those that have been given the authority to give me the advice that I need. I want to make sure that I'm asking you for the correct advice, because in my mind, as I sit here and hear all the different conversations, some things have changed. So I would -- I would ask if we're going to go in a direction that's best for the Fulton County taxpaying citizen, it is a direction that 10 or 15 or 20 years from now, we will not have to -- or who's ever sitting here, will not have to have that same conversation. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You know, when I was a kid, I used to like that candy, it's called Now and Laters."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What was it?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Now and Laters, eat some now, save some later. Well, we're going to pay some now, or we're going to pay some later. You want to know what was going on in August of 2023? You want to know why we approved this? Because in May 2023, we found out Lashawn Thompson died. We found out a man climbed through a wall to attack another inmate. So y'all can pay some now, or y'all can pay some later. I think it's going to be better for us to pay some now for this jail, rather than keep paying these million-dollar settlements. Pay some now, or pay some later. And if you don't pay some now, you going to pay more later. Talking about mental

health, I agree, Commissioner Thorne. The Fulton County Jail is the number one mental health facility in the state. But you know who has the responsibility for providing for mental health in this state? It's not Fulton County, it's the state of Georgia. The reason the number -- Fulton County Jail is the number one facility is because the place that we're supposed to send the people to that have mental health issues is full. So Commissioner Thorne, if you're worried about the mental health people in the Fulton County Jail, let's work together to get the state to build more mental health facilities so we can get those people out of the Fulton County Jail. In fact, let's go send an invoice to the state for all of the people that are in there, and we can use that money to build a jail. For the last 30 years, we've had mental health people, because they haven't had no room. Let's send them a 30-year invoice. And use that money to build a new jail. See, we got to have real conversations up here. We can't just throw out stuff like, oh, it's too many mental health people in the jail. We got to really talk about -- we got to talk about why those people are in the jail. They're in the jail because we don't have anywhere to send them. And we shouldn't have to be paying for them. The residents of Fulton County should not have to pay for these people that should be in the custody of the state. And we should send them an invoice for the last 30 years, or 50 years if you like. I think what we need, Mr. County Manager, Madam CFO, I think we gave you instructions to go ahead according to this for slide, proceed with the planning and seeking financing for the design. So I think what we need to hear, at least what I heard from Commissioner Ellis is, he needs to hear about what are the financing options, how are we going to finance this. We've already heard that we have a tool or a vehicle, which is the South Fulton Municipal Authority to serve as a conduit for the bonds that are issued. So how much money are we going to need on an annual basis to pay to service the bond notes? How much are we going to need on an annual basis to pay that? What are the other financing options that we have available? If -- I heard someone say sales tax is dead, but the Session just ended. So there's a whole new Session next year. It's an election going on right now. I don't know what the hell is going to happen in next Session, or if it's going to get approved or not. If we didn't get it approved this time, did we try -- did we try to get that approved, Jessica, this time? In this Session?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner Arrington, we had discussion with a number Legislators. As the County Manager indicated, we did not receive a lot of indication of support. I do think there's some interest in seeing what the DOJ investigation brings to bear. But I can't -- I don't want to speculate too much. But we did not receive a lot of support from the discussions we had."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So thank you for your answer. But I was looking for a, yes or no, either we tried to -- either we tried to get it done this Session, or we didn't."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "There -- we had discussions, there was no legislation introduced for this subject."



**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "We -- I mean, said more plainly, we got no support from the couple of people that we talked -- that were leaders that would have to be on board."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So we attempted, but --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- we didn't get any support? All right. Well, what other financing options are there for financing this jail? And how much do we anticipate that we would have to pay on an annual basis to service the note?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So if you recall, when we did the long-term financial planning last year and we held the meetings up on the third floor, that's where those numbers were reviewed. And in broad gauge, and again, I'll turn to Sharon, but to finance the debt and just for the construction, postured at 1.7 million was about a 110 million annually a year. Complicating that further, though, was the increased staffing for a facility of this size and footprint. And that added another 80 to 90 million. I mean, it was -- there -- that number was a little more squishy because there wasn't, I don't think, good estimates. But you say round numbers, it could be anywhere from 110 to 200 million annually, incrementally to what we do today. What does that mean in the terms of the millage rate? Well, that's probably three or four, probably four, more likely, maybe a little bit less. That's what we showed. Now, we also talked about, of course, not lowering the millage rate, like the Board took action to do. But how could you smooth that over time. There's no way to keep it at today's level, or even before we reduced it, it would be back up in the tens, probably 10.5 to above that. So that's what we showed over a multiyear period. And regardless of how we might structure the financing, meaning, we just issue bonds or we have the P3 provider that then bills us affordability payments, which is done often in road projects as an example. And then we don't own the facility until 30 years down the road, the numbers on an annual basis still come out to be about the same. The sales tax or a fractional sales tax is the thing that materially changes that to outlook from a financial perspective. And if I were -- just while I'm sitting here and have the mic, if I were you, this is the kind of things I would -- first of all, I would look for no-regrets options. In other words, anytime facing a huge financial commitment you ask yourself, what can I do that is, regardless of the future outcome, is really no regrets. I would start with number one, which you're doing, and that's emphasizing justice system performance. That's both in the courts and as well as in the supervision at the jail. There's no downside to that. You're seeing improvements, they're material, I would continue to do that through the mechanisms that you have to do that. I would continue to the Blitz Program. And in fact, I think I already suggested we would do Blitz 2.0. In other words, it's all the capital projects that Joe talked about and relooking, you know, maybe perhaps, although that's implied in those capital projects, a broader jail maintenance program. I think, Commissioner Ellis, the 2.4 billion, I'm not saying that's not an overestimate. But I think it generally also was not just refurbishing, it was expanding as well. Because the notion was, this could house

2200 even if you refurbished it, and you went with the assumption that it needs to be 4400, then there was some add to of that, so that's number two. Number three, I would still move forward with selecting a Program Manager. Why? Because I don't think that commits you to anything substantially financially. It does give you a second set of eyes, and quite frankly, we don't have the expertise internally in any of our organizations to take an objective look at this. But I do think having that second set of eyes would be quite helpful. The fourth is, I would again, in a no-regrets mode, I would be seeking and I'm waiting on input from the oversight bodies that we know that we're dealing with. That includes the state of Georgia, because there is a Senate committee looking at this, they're going to have recommendations. We don't know what those recommendations will be as of yet. And then, you know, most importantly, of course, we have the Department of Justice. So there will be some recommendations. If I were, again, in your seat, I would be wanting to see what those are before I committed myself overly so. And then the last thing, which is a no-regrets is reprise this financial model outlook, which is, Commissioner Arrington, what you're asking for, where you're very well grounded, that if the sales tax is not an option, then what are the implications for a millage rate to increase and/or reallocation of resources that would be required to keep a millage rate at the current levels or with slight increases. Because that, you know, certainly, could be, again, brought back anew, discussed in more detail, and of course, would be the ultimate test in terms of what -- what you think you might want to do. But those would be the five things that if I were in your seat, I would be thinking of as no-regrets options before I launched off into a 1.6 to \$2 billion build."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Colleagues, I would submit to you that we cannot, we cannot kick this down the road any further. We cannot kick the building of a replacement jail down the road any further. We were looking at a jail prior to COVID, and it was going to cost about 600 million to 800 million. Prior to COVID, those were the projections. Now, it's up to 1.6 billion. The more we kick this down the road, the more it's going to cost. Pay some now, pay more later. We have inmates pulling steel out of concrete walls to attack other inmates and to fashion weapons. We have inmates crawling through brick-stone walls to attack other inmates, inmates dying. So I hope, colleagues, that we will continue to move forward. Commissioner Ellis, I respect your point as far as not wanting to increase of millage rate. I don't know that I agree with it. For me, this is a life-safety matter. I think we have -- the people that we house have to be treated fairly and reasonably. And housing someone in a facility where someone can take metal out of the wall and attack another person or crawl through a brick wall to attack another person. I mean, think about it, literally for the last 30, 40 years, however long the building's been there, we've had 2000-plus inmates, up to 3600, 3700 inmates in a facility for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They're all trying to break out, all day, every day. The facility has disintegrated. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to take steel out of -- out of brick walls. Please, Lord God, help us understand we need a replacement jail, and that we cannot continue to try to kick this can down the road?"

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



**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with you, Commissioner Arrington. Thank you for those five points, Mr. County Manager, the no-regrets list. I think that was very helpful. I wanted to just take a brief step back, because you know, we started this out by going through the presentation that you all did at the -- at the Senate hearing. And I'm just curious if they -- and I probably could have found this out by going back and looking at the videos, but if they stated their purpose and their reason for having the hearings in the first place to begin with. I'm just asking if the Senate committee gave a clear indication of why they were having the hearings and what their goal was."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I don't recall hearing an answer to your question."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yeah, I'm not -- I'm not sure that they articulated it in that meeting. I think they're reacting to what they saw as problems at the Fulton County Jail, and were chartered to see if they could find solutions. And again, that's why we tried to end with, how could you be helpful as opposed to just providing opinion."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I asked because I sort of, at least from my understanding from the bit that I did watch, which was not all of it, to be fair, that they sort of posed the question, how can we be helpful? And you responded with this list of five items. And I think, you know, I just wanted to get in the queue again and speak, because I think it's important to note that there is a lot that the state could and can do to be helpful. And so far, they have not chosen to do any of the things that would be helpful including the list here, increasing state funding for behavioral health beds. It's interesting to note that when people are arrested and delivered into our care, we don't have the ability to just turn them away. We have to find a way to house them. And so the fact that we're overcrowded, we don't get to say, no. But when we try to transfer somebody to a behavioral health bed, they just say, oh, sorry, we're full. I think that's unacceptable, and I think the state needs to step up and provide enough behavioral healthcare beds, so that they, to Commissioner Arrington's point, are upholding their responsibility to take care of behavioral health patients, and not leave it up to us to do it at our jail. The sales tax question would have been very much appreciated, and very much a help to the property tax owners in Fulton County who would prefer that we don't raise the millage rate. Certainly, Fulton County is a destination county, and there are a lot of people coming here to do business, to travel, and all those things. And so getting the money from a sales tax would have helped alleviate some of the burden in paying for this. They were not willing to do it. Giving us additional Judges to help move things through the jail and getting people out of there faster, therefore lowering -- lowering the population, also would have been super helpful, not willing to do it. So, you know, I think it's -- it's, we have to do what we have to do, because we have our own mandate, and that is to have a jail. But I think it is, you know, important to note that the state, who feels that they have a surplus of money and can give it back to taxpayers, is not doing their duty when it comes to behavioral health, and certainly could be helpful to us in

other ways. So, you know, I'm sort of saying this out loud to implore the state to step up and help."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just wanted to respond to how the jail has increased from 2019 to now, from 600 million. We didn't have a jail feasibility study completed. They didn't know, they were just throwing out estimates or guesstimates. So that's not a proper argument, not a proper comparison. And then, how long does -- I want to know, when an inmate goes through a concrete cinderblock wall, how long does it take? Does it take one night, they can just whittle away through it all night? Or is it because they don't have supervision, enough supervision that they're getting through walls, going into another -- one cell, then going through the wall of another cell to kill somebody in the next cell. So I don't know, no matter what we build, if the supervision is going to be still an issue. I looked at jails that were 100 years old, and they are immaculate. The one right down here, the Federal Penitentiary is over 100 years old. It's well kept, well managed. And the state, we're coming to the state asking for more funding for our initial Behavioral Health Center. Yes, there's still more work to do, but we can't sit there and say, give us, give us, give us more. Oh, you're not giving us enough. We just need to let them decide the need. And I asked on the federal level, I was up in DC last year, and I met with several departments, trying to see if we can get any kind of funding to help with the behavioral health of the jail. But nobody wants to go and fund incarceration. They want pre-arrest diversion programs or post-incarceration programs. It doesn't seem like there's an appetite inside once you're incarcerated. I do believe we need to build something. And I do believe it needs to be some type of behavior health intake center. I believe it would be a smaller, less expensive facility that -- but I don't know until we explore that option. And it would have direct supervision for the mentally ill, instead of the indirect supervision. My understanding is you do not want direct supervision for the most dangerous inmates that you have. But it's for the safety of your employees, it's better to have indirect supervision. And it's best to have a combination of both types of facilities. With that being said, I do not support, again, burdening the Fulton County taxpayers with a three-mil increase in their property taxes."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Not a whole lot more to add, Mr. Chair. But you know, I don't -- I'm going to come back to, I think this is a problem that largely we're going to need to solve on our own. You know, I think we can continue to make the ask from the state so -- but -- or federal partners and that sort of stuff or private partners. But realistically, I don't think that we could plan and rely upon that. You know, I think we need to think about what's a realistic financial footprint that we've got to manage within. And then put a prioritization effort around what are the things that we could do that would be no requests, and that would be most impactful, you know, in the short term, and then, you know, moving out into the future. And a lot of those things I do think we're focused on and we're doing right now, in terms of trying to improve, you know, the

throughput of the justice system, which I think, what we're hearing from the state, what we're hearing from our citizens that it is broken and it does need to move faster. And I think we all know that if that moves faster, then that will bring relief and see that. So I, you know, personally, I mean, I would rather see us pullback that RFP and restyle something with a specific purpose for which we're putting out there. I mean, that would be my preference. And then work with a partner that's going to -- and then us identify what is the financial footprint that we are sort of comfortable working within, and then have that group come back with some prioritization for us about how we might actualize that spend. And then also get from Joe and his team what, you know, some of these real dollars look like in terms of refurbishing and doing things to our existing facilities to prolong the life of them and to make them more secure and more conducive to house individuals as well as for our Detention Officers to work in."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm looking forward to the additional information that will be brought back to us about this. What I've heard so far is about sales tax, I don't think that we need to do another sales tax. I feel like every time I go to vote, we're voting on a -- on additional tax. And we need to definitely know the implications on the millage if we're looking at a billion or more dollars. We do not want to diminish the quality of life of many of our Fulton County residents. And a question that came up from all this discussion about the inmates using pieces of the building to create these weapons and everything has me thinking, are jails using a different material or designed nowadays to have a more improved structure that is more sound? And then the statement about the management of the jail and how long does it take for an inmate to dig through a wall and get to the other side. First, we need to look at the staffing issues, which are not just in the jail, there are plenty of the departments around the county that are having staffing issues as well. But there needs to be staffing, appropriate levels of staffing at the jail to be able to manage the jail, the inmates, and the cells. So I'd like to see more about that. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Other comments? So Mr. Manager, we're looking for -- well, someone was looking for, and it was timely, to ask for a -- to give you some direction."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And I'm not -- I'm not sure you got any direction today."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No. But I think the most clear direction could be, do you want us to rescind the RFP? Do you want us to ensure, which we have, that the RFP has an expectation in it as a -- for a second look at all assumptions, configurations, and potential phasing. So that's one of two choices. I think the other thing on direction that we always simply have to do is dust off what we did this time a year ago is bring back to the Board a clear financial look, absent a sales tax, at least for the configuration being considered. That can be done, and then I think the third thing

that we got, we've already received direction on, and that is to continue the Blitz Program, but then enhance it with the other capital projects that need to be added to that and get a timeline and cost estimate on that. So it's, do we stay the current course with the RFP that we have out, or rescind it? Do you want a reprised financial outlook where you can really get grounded in absent a sales tax, what is the financial footprint and affordability and impact on a property taxpayer? And then the third is, I think -- well, of course, the Blitz Program. And I think while all that's being done, we're still, outside of our control, waiting on Georgia Senate and DOJ feedback and direction."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I think probably a fourth one, we have never, ever documented a cost to renovate that current facility. I mean, that figure that we keep using that was something that Mr. Adams came up with, some magical figure. And we keep quoting that, and even my good friend here and colleague today quoted that figure, which is not based upon anything. Then of course, they got the city jail that's still hanging out there. There are some real unknowns that if I were in your shoes, I certainly wouldn't proceed down a two or \$3 billion path without some clear direction from this Board. And I mean, I guess, I've been -- my position has been sort of referenced today. But the record is pretty clear, I mean from day one, I have never, ever supported this new facility and still don't. And I -- but I can read the tea leaves, and you had -- and I think you summarized what -- some actions that -- that are before -- before you today. And I guess the one that we -- one, two, three -- well, one, we can talk about, but two, three, and four, we'll probably continue with those. But on the issue of the RFP, it's out there now. I have no idea what that's going to cost. And maybe we won't know until, you know, the bids are in. But to me, it's even foolish to do that without some -- without clearer direction. I've been in this business a long time, and things change, the positions change. And Commissioner Arrington made a good point. We -- a decision was made, over my objection, several months ago. But things have changed since then. But the Board may still feel that way, I don't sense that today. And it -- reading the tea leaves didn't mean anything, rather than a six to one, it's probably more like four to three. And that's not a lot of comfort if were in your shoes. I mean, it's great to have a new facility with your name on it and my name's on a lot of them. I never even look at them. It looks good when you have that first ground breaking and ribbon cutting, show it to your kids and grandkids. But other than that, you're in a difficult position. I think the Board's going to have to make a decision at some point. And the nearest thing now is the -- is the RFP for the Program Manager. And if you're asking for a vote on that today, we could do that."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, I think that would be helpful."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. The RFP has already been issued, we've already gave them the instructions back in August. Why would we be asking for anything on something that's already been gone?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To rescind."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I don't think that's the question that you just asked the County Manager, nor do I think that's the question he responded to. I think you just asked him, did he want us to vote on the RFP, which I interpreted as confirming that it was okay for him to go forward with the RFP. And then -- and I think that he responded, yes. I don't know if he was aware that you were -- that you intended to ask or were asking to rescind the RFP."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No. He -- I was using his words. He wanted a decision. He said we could make a decision today, give him specific direction on whether or not to proceed with the -- with the RFP that was released on Monday."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I don't -- so back to my point of order, I don't know that that's proper. I think someone that maybe voted for this on August 2nd, 2023rd would have to undo their vote there. I don't think it works like that. I don't think you can just do that. We already instructed them to go do this, now they have done it. And I don't think you can just undo a previous vote like that. And I mean, there is a process from doing it, but it takes someone who voted affirmatively for it to rescind that vote. And I don't think we're there. And I certainly don't think the County Manager was asking for a vote to rescind something he already did, pursuant to instructions we've already gave him."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, maybe I can clarify. I thought that's what you were asking, did I want a -- essentially a go forward with the RFP that we resist -- that released or rescinded. So I was answering his question, yes, I would prefer you tell me if there's some angst. And then secondly, Sharon just reminded me from talking to Felicia. This will not be your garden-variety RFP response. These firms if -- if they choose to respond, perform joint ventures, coalitions. It would be a very expensive undertaking. If we're not serious in terms of considering it, it would be better honestly, to rescind it then to -- to move forward. Again, the advantage in having it, and maybe it could be restyled into a second look, it would be a jail feasibility second look, if you preferred that, given all the things that have changed and your own viewpoints."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, we certainly couldn't -- I don't know that we would be harmed by getting responses to a RFP. Just because we get responses to a RFP doesn't mean that we have to engage any of those people."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, sir. We wouldn't be harmed. The question is, if we're -- if we have this much dissidence around, is this even a direction that we want to go, the question is, do we put this out to market and then have firms incur a lot of costs in something that may or may move forward?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I mean, I think it was a four-three vote when it passed. So when you say dissidence, I think all four-three votes have

dissidence. So, you know, it is what it is, it already passed, we already went -- you already acted upon our previous instructions. Or at least that's, you know, how it is for me."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, if I were contemplating responding to this RFP after listening to this today, I can assure you I wouldn't, but that's -- Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I don't know how we got into conversation about having a vote at the last second here. But it seems to me from the conversation you heard, there was no specific direction given to change anything. I would have taken that as direction and let it go, but you know, you do you. My personal feeling is that we should continue forward with the RFP. If you want to make sure that it includes that first step of verifying and validating the data, I would support that if it doesn't already. But other than that, I don't see any reason to change the plan."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'll offer a motion to rescind, and to instruct the Manager to bring back a more specific stylized RFP that we would review and then vote upon to be, then be submitted. That's my motion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne. All right. There's a motion on the floor to rescind, second -- made by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Discussion? Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Rescind, and then do what?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Have them restyle the RFP to be more specific about second look or prioritization, and I was to also say have some time around what a financial footprint we're comfortable committing to. And then present the RFP to us for approval to move forward."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Other discussion? All right. Let's vote. Motion on the floor is to rescind."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0357**, Presentation and Discussion, Automobile Fleet Review, sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I think you got some -- you provided us with a presentation and a packet. And I think, we put it up on the screen too."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. While the presentation is being put up on the screen, just as a kind of a background, there we have it. Several months ago in discussions with senior county leadership, we had already begun to undertake the process of how can we better -- more improve our overall fleet management. And we had to kind of drill down to understand exactly what it is that we needed to know, in order to move forward with some formal plans. And so it began with this overall fleet analysis. And at the last Board meeting, there were questions asked that we were already being, you know, preparing the data. So we want to today, present this presentation to you that shows you what we've discovered thus far, what it means for us, and then where we're headed next. So next slide, please. So as of purpose, I kind of slightly covered that, but number one, we wanted a physical verification of all county-owned vehicles. And what that means is we wanted to confirm the current vehicle status; who has it, where is it, how much mileage, what's been the usage pattern things of that nature. It's a major -- a very big undertaking. Then we wanted to once we get the data that we received from the physical verification, we want to be able to identify opportunities for vehicle reassignments. That is, reassigned underutilized vehicles in accordance with county policy. And what that allows us to do, it kind of leads into the third bullet, which is evaluating a line on a vehicle purchase strategy. Do we need to make some changes to our current fleet policies and protocols? Do we need to evaluate whether or not we need to change our surplus eligibility requirements, and that, in terms of age and mileage of vehicles? Do we need to expand the countywide motor pool? Do we need to redefine what our minimum usage criteria is? From an investment perspective, are we better off looking moving forward with leasing vehicles, or continuing in our current pattern of capital purchases each year or a combination of both? And then also evaluating, are we better off looking at doing more mileage reimbursement across the county, versus actually owning a relatively large fleet? Next slide, please. So here we have some raw data that we're going to look at. In subsequent slides, we're going to see this graphically depicted. But starting with the first bullet, we have 1097 vehicles in our county fleet. To date, we have verified 892 of those vehicles or 81.3 percent. Of those 892 vehicles, 452 are older than five years, or at this point, we're trending at 51 percent of the fleet. Of those 452 vehicles that are older than five years, 131 of them have more than 100,000 miles. That equates to roughly trending at 15 percent of the fleet. Now, the balance, the 321 of the 452, these are vehicles that have less than 100,000 miles, roughly 36 percent of the fleet. But in that number, 57 units with less than 100,000 miles, we don't have any fuel transactions in our fuel platform, fuel management platform, EJ Ward, for fuel being dispensed in 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What does that mean?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That means that these cars have not been fueled this year."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Not being used?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It means they -- it means we haven't paid for the fuel. It means the county hasn't paid for the fuel."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But -- yeah. We don't -- we don't know if they've been fueled or not. We just know the county hasn't paid for it."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That is correct. And that number would represent 6 percent of the fleet. Of those 57 units, 19 have been identified as possible low-use vehicles, which may be eligible for reassignment. And the reason why it's only 19, 38 units of those that have not been fueled this year, are what we consider to be ineligible for reassignment because those are specialty vehicles. And I can't take an underutilized bulldozer or a dump truck from Public Works and give it to DCRC as an administrative vehicle. So along with the vehicles that we've identified, some are ineligible for reassignment for that reason, others are ineligible eligible for reassignment because now we realize they need be surplusd."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Give me another example of a one that's not eligible for a reassignment besides a bulldozer."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "A vehicle that has been sitting for a long time that needs more repair than it's actually worth to actually fix to get it back roadworthy. Meaning, if we're paying \$30,000 -- typically, if our maintenance cost to any given year, reached 50 percent of the purchase price or replacement price of a vehicle, that's when we need to make a determination to go ahead and replace that vehicle. You're spending too much money to keep it on the road, versus getting a newer and more reliable vehicle. Okay. All right, so what we're saying here, important to understand in bullet number two, a typical administrative vehicle will not exceed a 100,000 miles within five years. The reason we're making this point is because that's what our current policy, 400-6 predicated upon, in terms of eligibility for replacement. But ultimately, our vehicle replacement is driven by high mileage, poor condition, excess maintenance, cost versus age of the vehicle alone. What we're seeing in the vehicle market is that vehicles are much more reliable these days than they were when 400-6 was first implemented. We're currently have a policy that says five years or 100,000 miles. Do we need to consider moving it to seven years, or 120,000 miles, for instance, as a potential policy change? Next slide. So what you see in front of you now is kind of a graphical depiction of the data that we presented on the last slide. And you'll see the first column being number of vehicles that was verified, which is against the entire fleet. This is the second column, the number of vehicles that are greater than five years of age. Next,

you have vehicles greater than 100,000 miles. Here, we are with vehicles less than 100,000 miles. And then finally, you have vehicles with no fuel transaction in '24. Next slide. We definitely wanted to at least show you where the vehicles are in the fleet in terms of what agencies or departments, what they have in terms of overall numbers of vehicles. We list the name of the department, the number of vehicles that that department has assigned to them that we have inspected thus far. And then how many remaining vehicles we have to inspect, and we just wanted to give you that sense there. Next slide. All right. So now, we're going to talk about vehicle usage by agency or department. And what we've done is, we've tried to categorize it, differentiate it between administrative vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, and service and/or utility vehicles. And I do want to make a quick -- I just happened to notice an error. In the middle, the second blue bar, that needs to be green, because that is -- represents service and utility vehicles for Public Works. But what you see here is, and we're using gallons of fuel dispensed as our measure for usage for one reason, one reason only, when we upgraded our fuel management system a couple of years ago, what we found is that oftentimes, there's user error when it comes to inputting information at the console at our fuel station. I'll use myself as a very real example. One day, I'm on a Zoom call on my phone in the car, I go to get fuel, so I'm still talking and listening to a call when I get out. And I mistakenly, when I am asked to put in my mileage, I'm already thinking about my user ID. So in fact, I got the two reversed. Now, it will be corrected once I come back the next time and subsequent fueling opportunities after that. But at that particular moment in time, my monitor -- my bill was misrepresented. And we have that occur more often times than not. So for us, the one way to most definitively determine how much a vehicle is being used, given that dynamic, is how many gallons are being dispensed for over a period of time. And what you see here is the breakdown by type of vehicle by what I call our big four departments. That is the four departments that have the most cars in the county fleet: The Sheriff's office, Public Works, the District Attorney, and DREAM. And so what you'll see here is the comparisons of the different types of vehicles in each department and their relative usage as it relates to fuel. One of the things that we've also decided to do, and I want to bring your attention to the second bullet point on the lower right. We have been working in conjunction with the strata -- County Manager's Office of Strategy and Performance to integrate two platforms that DREAM currently uses, that is our Maximo for transportation, which is our computerized maintenance management system where we track all vehicle repairs and maintenance, and our EJ Ward platform, which is our fuel management. They're two standalone systems. We're working with our third-party, Maximo consultant to integrate the two so that we can get all our data on an individual vehicle in one location. That makes it a much less of a task moving forward. If at any point in time, you want a snapshot of the status of the vehicle, how much it's being driven, how much is the maintenance costs, things of that nature. Next slide. Just to give you a snapshot of the 2023 fleet maintenance, in 2023, our fleet operation completed 297 preventative maintenance work requests. We completed 1454 responsive maintenance work requests. But as of note, it's important to understand that while it looks as though we only did 297 preventative maintenance work requests, every time the vehicle is brought in for

responsive maintenance, we go ahead and perform the preventive maintenance. So there's a little bit of embedded data there. Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's the different between the preventive maintenance and the responsive maintenance?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Preventive maintenance would be your oil changes, your tire rotations, things of that nature, things that the manufacturer of vehicles recommends to be done at certain mileage intervals to maximize the life expectancy of the vehicle. Responsive maintenance would be, I caught a nail in my tire, I bumped into --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Got it."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Got it, got it."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir. And just as another footnote, all responsive maintenance and preventive maintenance costs are charged back to each individual user agency and their annual budget. But you see this graphically depicted, again, the big four departments and what their contribution to -- or how much work was done on those four departments over the course of 2023. Next slide, please. So next steps, we have roughly 205 vehicles that we need to complete our verification. Then we're going to finalize, if you saw on the other slide, we're looking at it a June 3rd go-live date to complete the integration of our Maximo Transportation and EJ Ward Fleet software, again, allowing all data to be in one place. You saw us mention the number of vehicles that we saw for no fuel transactions, low utilization. Per county policy, we have the ability to notify the department head or agency head that, hey, because of low utilization, we are considering reassigning your vehicle as you appear to not have the need for it. So that would be our next step for the vehicles that we've already identified along with those that we will identify in the remaining 205."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's the timing on that?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "June 3rd. We're planning on having all of this done in the next two or three weeks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Then once we have identified and notified those agencies, our next step would be, let's complete a full-condition assessment of those vehicles that we're considering to be reassigned so that we can make sure that they are indeed roadworthy, or if there are certain minor repairs that need to take place that we can get that done. I mentioned that this overall process has been a major effort on our

part -- our teams part to physically see every vehicle in the fleet. We have had entire agencies pull up to our central maintenance, or our team has gone out to various locations across the county to visit, you know, to actually see the cars. But one of the things we want to do moving forward is implement a semiannual utilization review and evaluation for reassignment. The goal of that, it kind of leads it to that final bullet is helping us develop a long-term view of our overall maintenance costs of vehicles. Are we in a position where we need to, you know, buy 30 cars? Or can we reassign 15, and thereby mitigate our annual capital allocation for vehicles? And so that is what the ultimate goal of this entire exercise is to determine how we move forward and what's the best and most efficient, cost-effective manner to A, purchase new vehicles or retain the vehicles, make sure that our fleet is appropriately sized for the amount of work being done, and essentially saving the taxpayer's money. And that's the end of the presentation, and we'll be glad to take -- oh, I'm sorry, I did have one more slide. At the last meeting, Commissioner Thorne asked about WEX Cards as a part of this overall presentation. And I wanted to present what we've pulled together for you today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What is that, what is a WEX Card?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "WEX Card is a fleet fuel card that allows you, as a county employee that has an assigned card, to go to a retail gas station and purchase gas when you find yourself sufficiently far enough away from a county fueling site, or you're traveling out of town. So what you see on the left-hand side is the usage of all the WEX Cards thus far through the end of the first quarter of 2024. This is not a summation, this is the exact -- these are the only entities in the county that have used WEX Cards in the first quarter of the year."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So we currently have this thing called WEX Card?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Never heard of it."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "And so on the right-hand side, this is how many cards are allocated to departments. We have a grand total of 86 cards allocated across the department, across all departments --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's the WEX Cards?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir. So essentially, it's a credit card that allows you to go to a retail fuel station. WEX Fleet Services issues these cards, and you use it like a credit card with the exception that when you go to a retail pump that accepts them, which is most gas stations, you do have to input certain information that ties you to the vehicle and location and so forth. So we have 86 cards allocated across the county. And of course, like I said before, you see the usage for the first quarter of the year. Next slide."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So let me ask you a question."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "WEX Cards, so is a WEX Card only good for a county vehicle, or say I have a WEX card, and for the record, I do not, never heard of one. But if I had a county vehicle, could I use that WEX card on my personal vehicle?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes. So I'm sure you remember, we actually -- the WEX Program --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "The WEX Card Program actually underwent a audit by the County Auditor's office a little over a year ago. And one of the things that -- the results of that --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No. All I'm asking you is, if I -- can I use a WEX --"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- WEX Card on my personal vehicle?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, technically you can, which is why we have a monthly review protocol to do -- to look for ambiguities in the billings we receive from WEX. So essentially, you have to input your mileage. And what we have found is the detail recording from WEX allows us to see for -- I'll give you a perfect example. We found a Sheriff's office vehicle refueled at what was on the surface, seeming to be too frequently right. But what it actually was, was a box truck being used to haul evidence from the Old National Flea Market that was going back and forth and back and forth. We identified that in our monthly review. We reached out to the agency, who in turn -- that's what we realized that's what was happening. It wasn't that someone was trying to claim this box truck was the one getting fueled, it -- no, it really was because it was going back and forth between that location and the County Warehouse to store materials. So that's a perfect example of how we analyze these cards each month."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Questions? Commissioner Ellis, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Davis for this. And look forward to kind of keep the furtherance of this. So a couple of things just to request maybe if we could add to this and sort of maybe as we see sort of next iterations of this, and look back in terms of the purchasing history, maybe over the past four years and sort of what's been made and where it's been allocated to. I think that would be good to show that."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And then also, our, maybe a little bit of our accident history, like how many of these vehicles are -- how many -- how many vehicles are we seeing, like, totaled out every year, right? And where's that coming from, right? Which it may correlate with this responsive maintenance. I -- I'm guessing it might, you know, kind of closely correlate to that. And we see something there that sort of tells us that we need a little bit of different risk management, if you will, in terms of what's going on in terms of use of vehicles in certain areas and that sort of thing. So we're -- so roughly, half the vehicle -- how many -- how many employees we have overall, countywide? Do we know roughly? It's like -- it's under 5,000, right?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah. I was going to say roughly 4000 full time. And then when you add in part-time and temp, it's between four and five."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So we've got roughly a vehicle for every, probably 4.25 people, something like that. And I know that some of these are, you know, special-purpose vehicles, that sort of stuff. But I don't know -- just, I don't know what that's like relative, you know, to, you know, to our operation versus sort of a comparable operation. Is it high, or is low? Or is it, you know, kind of right in the range? I don't know what, if anything, we can learn from that. I do think this notion of looking at these vehicles that are underutilized definitely needs to be done. I know that there's a vehicle that's sitting in the North Annex that hasn't -- hasn't moved in multiple months, you know. So there is definitely that that exist, and we definitely need to figure out a way to not have to have that happen. That's definitely a bad look, right. And definitely, you know, screams for an alternative approach, whether it's mileage reimbursement or some other, you know, rental or whatever, whatever the case may be. The last couple of questions I had was, the vehicles that haven't been verified, I guess there was about -- what is it about 200?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Number didn't -- it look like it was about 200 on the thing, but then in your allocation by department, it looks like maybe it was 169. So none of those exactly matched up. But let's say -- but what are we doing -- what's going on with that group that we haven't actually verified?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "So we have reached out to the agencies that I believe are on the third or fourth slide that have vehicles remaining to be inspected. We worked with the departments to try to determine whether it's better for them to interrupt their day and come out to our location or for us to go out to theirs and do a physical verification on their side, whether it be North Annex or Fulton Customer Service Center, Maxwell Road, whatever the case may be. So for example, you see 17 of DREAM's vehicles have not been inspected --"



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, what's up with that? You can't inspect your own vehicles? What's up?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "So in talking to our Fleet Manager, we decided, look, just tell the guys, get it done, everybody mandatory, get over here and get your vehicle inspected. We did the same thing for Public Works, and so and we just have these few hanging chads, if you will, that we need to go out and take care of. The biggest one, of course, is the Sheriff's office due to the sheer size of their fleet. And so we do expect in talking to the Fleet Manager yesterday, he knows this has got to be done in the next two weeks."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So our goal is to get all that completed. And then you do not have -- Board of Health would be separate, right, they have their own fleet that's though the state --"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "You said Board of Health?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir. What -- so at the time that the intergovernmental agreements were established --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Fulton County transferred ownership --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "-- of all the vehicles --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So they're out --"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "-- yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "They're out of our mix, right?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Got it, got it, got it. Okay. And then my last comment, I guess, this just more, I guess, to the Manager for consideration and for you, Mr. Davis is do -- I mean, this is a big chunk of stuff to manage, right, you know, and do, you know, do we need -- I mean, we have sort of our own dedicated management. Or do we need to think about just sort of, do you need some more resources or specifically oriented around this, a little more specialized around fleet management, et cetera, that you



would dedicate to it? And I think that's something, I guess, as you kind of continue to go through the analysis that may be worth just -- just thinking about, you know, having some -- having some more people that could be sort of clearly just dedicated, focused on it, et cetera, would that help you on that long term. So I'm not asking you necessarily to answer on that, but just something for consideration."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Davis. I guess my question, I'm going to circle back to a question I think I ask earlier this year. And don't know -- I don't recall what the answer was, but I think you said you were going to look at it. How many electric vehicles do we have in our fleet?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Two."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Two?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "I believe the Sheriff's office purchased, or have a couple of electric vehicles. I know he's reached out to me about how he's going to get those charged. But in terms of our administrative fleet, we have two vehicles."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So my next question was going to be how many electric charging stations do we have?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Two."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And where are those two located?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Under us in the parking garage, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I know we allocated some money for electric charging stations throughout the county, I think --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We did."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- and pushed for that, that are at the libraries? Okay. So --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wait a minute, now. So we only got two. There are some at the library, that would be more than two."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "So I'm not familiar with a specific allocation for electric vehicle charging stations. What we have -- have done is come before you for things such as letters of support, so that we may participate with other entities such as the city of Atlanta for electric charging stations grants. But we have not received a

specific charging station allocation, which is actually what makes it somewhat difficult. Most portable platforms are roughly \$100,000."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The Chair did something about electric station charging --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- electric stations, electric vehicle charging stations. I don't remember what it was, but I remember we made some allocation, I thought, for the electric vehicle charging stations. Now, it may have been throughout the county, and not specifically for county vehicles, because if we didn't have any, it probably wouldn't make sense."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "You're referring to the resolution sponsored by the Chairman, where DREAM would install electric vehicle charging stations at any and all county facilities wherever feasible. So it was a resolution directing us to evaluate and determine where we can install charging stations. That resolution did not come with funding, so we've been forced to look at no-cost opportunities."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Okay, so is there a federal mandate to switch to electric vehicles by '25 or '26?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "There -- well, there's two things. There is a federal requirement to have a certain percentage of your vehicles being manufactured in United States be electric vehicles by 2030, which is the same regulatory oversight or compliance that is factored into the county's sustainability plan. If you all remember, that sustainability plan was updated a little over a year ago to revise our targets from 2025 to coincide with what you're mentioning, Commissioner Arrington, of 2030. And that is why we've been on a very hard push to participate wherever we can at no-cost, as there's no funding, to obtain electric charging stations, so that we can then convert 50 percent of our light-duty administrative fleet vehicles to either plug-in hybrids or full electric vehicles."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, we might have \$10 million. We just -- we just turned the chances on this \$10 million we had for this jail. So we might have \$10 million available for electric vehicles."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You know, on that point, Commissioner Arrington, there are firms, you know this, sir, that -- that will install these charging stations free."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. So I'm -- so what I want -- so initially, we had a target of 2025 for how many electric vehicles or for what percentage of electric vehicles?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "The goal was always to have 50 percent of our administrative fleet converted to either plug-in hybrid or full-electric vehicles by 2025."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And then at some point last year, we amended that from 2025 to 2030?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I would love to see the cost, Mr. Davis, of what it would cost for us to do that by 2025 or 2026. 2025 might be a little too aggressive. But if we have \$10 million, maybe not."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "We might be able to do it this year with \$10 million. All right, thank you. I think, you know, we just need to continue looking at that. And I think we also need to look at these people that'll come in and install the charging stations for free. And we also need to look at Clayton County, because I hear they got a whole bunch of electric vehicles that's sitting on the side of the road because they have nowhere to charge them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Don't we have an RFP out now dealing with electric vehicle's charging stations?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir. We actually are in, well, we'll call it contract negotiations. Our approach in -- with the lack of capital funding to apply to this was to do this as a revenue-generating contract, a revenue share. Meaning, get a company that will assume all the cost on the front end to do the installation. They're going to make money on those charging station, and they will give the county a certain percentage. We put an RFP out to that -- for that. Out of the three respondents, only one company came back with a proposal that was at no cost to the county. The others were all at some level of a monthly cost per charging station. So we naturally went with the entity that it was at fully no cost to the county. This is a company out of Florida. And we are now going back and forth, and it's been rather tedious. Because their cost projections were so specific that when we got ready to talk about our specifications that they may have overlooked, it changed their projections over time. Obviously, for a company that is installing something for free, return on investment is extremely important for them, which is why we went with a revenue share, because we could make it a five-year contract. We have narrowed it down to probably two or three different items that we need to come to terms on. But the company once we get there, we're assured that within 120 days from net notice to proceed, they can begin to have their first charging station, you know, on -- in place. Because that solicitation was for the North Service Center, the South Service Center, and the North Fulton Customer Service Center at Maxwell Road. That's where we intended to install the first app, first

round. But it does also give us the option to expand to other facilities as we see fit to keep in compliance with the resolution."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Is that where most of the administrative vehicles are at those three locations? I mean, if we're talking about getting 50 percent of electric vehicles of -- for administrative places, I would, in my mind, I assume that we would have the charging stations where those 50 percent of the vehicles would be."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Thank you for that question. So in terms of where the vehicles would be, it would literally be all over the county. But the reason we chose those locations, is because it was easier for us to meet the goal of the latest resolution of charging stations wherever feasible than it was to move forward with charging station installations to support a fleet we don't have yet."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to just go back a second, and then I do have some EV questions as well. But on the presentation, and somebody -- or if somebody already asked this, I apologize. But on the presentation on the page where you have -- I don't think they're numbered, but where you have the fleet analysis and you list the vehicle statistics, and you have a bunch of 892 of 190 -- 1,097 vehicles on that page. Under the list of vehicles that have less than 100,000 miles, you have 57 units that have no fuel transactions in 2024, meaning, they haven't been used?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "To Commissioner Arrington's point earlier, it means that they have not been fueled with gas purchased by the county. That does not necessarily preclude someone from putting their own money into a county vehicle."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm finding it hard to believe that 57 --"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "I do, too."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- generous county employees decided to use their own money to fuel fleet vehicles. I'm only asking because it seems like those should be, I would assume, also identified as possible, no or low-use vehicles and be repurposed?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "So the way we display the data, it was 57 units that have not been fueled in '24. We -- out of that 57, 19 have been identified for possible reassignment because 38 cannot be reassigned."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Because?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "They are utility vehicles, dump trucks, bulldozers --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But maybe we just don't need them. Do we sell them?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That's the other part. That's the other point. We repurpose the 19 --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "-- assuming we determine that they're roadworthy, and then we move forward with surplus. We still have equipment leftover that when there were incorporations, that those municipalities did not want, and we still have them in our inventory. That's what makes up those 38."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So this is a work in process?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, gotcha. On the EV side, I'm a little confused about the contract, the RFP with the no-cost vendor. So those are to be for public and our use? Is that the point of those?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "So, yes. What we talked about with the vendor was, we initially want to get charging stations out in our -- at our facilities. At some point, whether it be after the first year or second year of the contract term, we want to be able to, through the same vendor, utilize those same stations for our fleet. It's just that we're not there yet, the two that we have are getting charged downstairs. So we don't have vehicles. We have to have the infrastructure in place. And once we have the infrastructure in place, this contract allows us to expand upon it, you know, as time goes on. And the goal would be, vendor, now show me through your functionality, how we can differentiate between the public and the county fleet."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I understand your efforts to, you know, respond to the resolution that was put forth. But I do wonder, and maybe we need to look at this, have we done -- we done a full cost analysis of what converting our fleet to predominantly electric or hybrid or whatever would -- you know, the overall cost and savings? Because I think, you know, one of the whole points of EVs is that, you know, they're more expensive upfront, but they save money over the long haul, because there's basically no maintenance. And there's -- or, you know, tires and wipers, but basically no maintenance. And there's, you know, obviously, there's no fuel costs. So the charging cost is far, far less than the fuel cost. So I'm just wondering if we've done that full analysis. I know sometimes we get very stuck on the year-by-year thinking, as opposed to the long-term thinking. But I think it would be really good to see what the, you know, what the upfront costs would be and what the savings over time would be versus just sort of continuing along and trying to get free things and --"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, ma'am. So I would tell you that our Energy and Sustainability Team consists of one person right now, that's our Jessica Lavender, our Energy Sustainability Manager. But what Jessica has been really good about is being able to get some very high-ended interns, whether they be graduate program, interns, or undergrad. We started the very process that you're talking about, but then interns leave at the end of the summer. But we have, I believe, two or three more that will starting in the next week. And that is exactly what those interns will be working on amongst some other projects for us. So what we're hoping is that by the time we're able to install that first EV charging stations, we'll be able to also have the data to indicate the very questions you have now."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "It just seems to me, and I'll kind of look over at the County Management Team in this, Madam CFO and all of that. But this is beyond just a sustainability research project, but also a financial cost-benefit analysis. And so maybe, maybe y'all can get some help from the CFO's team somewhere in looking at those numbers. Just a thought."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anyone else? Thank you. Good report, good information. Oh, I know, one other question. Have you looked at -- you may have answered this already, how does -- we have approximately 1,000 vehicles in fleet, correct?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How do we compare to our sister counties?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "That was actually, Mr. Chairman, the question I was dreading to be asked, because one of the things I realized we need to do is a market survey of Metro Atlanta counties that are comparable in size, so that we can kind of get a sense of what, by best practice, if you will, the fleet needs to be. I know each entity is unique, but it would be nice to know what they're doing in that regard. So I intend to make that my personal mission and reaching out to my peers in other agencies to find out what size fleet they have, what their purchase mix is, if you will, and how much money they're spending on an annual basis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, I think that would be instructive for us to -- what's that organization y'all wrote to? Wouldn't they know?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The National Association of --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Isn't there one here in Georgia? No, what is that?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- County Commission of Georgia."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. Wouldn't they know?"



**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "I wouldn't know if they would know that information. They very well could have some information. I've just always found that it's easier to go directly to your counterparts in other agencies -- municipalities to get accurate information."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, can you contact this organization --"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir, I can, certainly."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's just a phone call."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. That would be instructive for us."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Understood."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Now, Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And then you're going to be doing some follow up once we kind of -- you complete this analysis, come back with other recommendations, right?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. And I concur too on this. I think, probably before we get down -- too far down the path of doing anything with EVs, which -- why we have two electric Mustangs in the Sheriff's fleet? I have no damn idea. But before we get too far down that -- in the rest of our fleet, we really need to kind of get our ducks in a row and understand our existing fleet. So, anyway, that's all."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0358**, Elections, 2023 Municipal Election final cost, activity-based budgeting, sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Ms. Williams, for joining us. And Commissioners, I also shared just sort of a brief deck with you. And I think Ms. Williams also has one, and wanted to kind of share just few things quick. And then we can share her piece too if you have that. Can you flash forward to that other first? And the we'll jump over here. And really, my purpose is in showing this, number one, we had a lot of conversation around the funding of municipal budgets, Municipal Election budgets, because there was a lot of pushback from the different entities about cost. We dialed those back somewhat before those were released, and then, you know, kind of -- then

we went through and I think we had, you know, all but one or two cities that participated. And so I thought it was good to kind of come back and look and say, okay, where did this wind up? So just want to pace through this real quick, because I know this is something that our cities were interested and also kind of where they - where this was going to wind up. And I think when I had asked this question, we had not issued the refund checks. So flash forward to the next, next slide."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are you on the first page, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. So this will show you kind of what we had originally budgeted by election and runoff per city. And then when they paid -- when they pay in on the front end, Ms. Williams, they pay for both, or just for one and then they pay for the runoff upfront if they have a runoff? How does that work?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "They only pay for the November Election, they do not pay --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "-- for the runoff."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And they only pay for runoff upfront once if there's runoff that's established. Got it."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And then on the refunds we're issue -- we issue the refunds after we tally up for all of it?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So these refund checks generally, with exception of Alpharetta, since they didn't have an election, these are generally issued within the past few weeks?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Yes. We had some delays due to the cyber attack, but they have been --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "-- processed."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So if you -- if you flash forward to the next page, this will kind of flip it around and just show you kind of the cost by general and the cost by runoff. And, you know, what we'll see is we're genuinely were -- we generally ran and

funded the General Elections at about 76 percent. It costs us 76 percent of what we actually budgeted. And then the runoffs were, you know, a little bit all over the map, some as low as 56, and some that were, I guess, as high as -- not one that was as high as 90. But in the aggregate, you know, maybe they were in the 68-70 percent range. But probably more accurate to look at the general ones than --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, let me ask you question."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are these your numbers or --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "These are her numbers."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Her numbers? Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yes."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Correction. Those are not our numbers --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "These are your numbers, turned around into percentages. These are your numbers right here with the actual budget costs, and then the actual as a percentage of the budget. These are your numbers from the first page."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You're saying they aren't."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "I'm saying, for example, the South Fulton line, we did not bill South Fulton that quantity for the runoff. They only got billed for the 20 -- for the -- for a lesser amount than that. So some of -- so like I said, we agreed with the action plan. But we were not given this presentation beforehand."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "So we do want to go through it to double check --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "-- check some of the numbers."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right. So the under run was more for South Fulton, I guess is what you're saying. I think I transposed those particular numbers. But they match up with what's on the previous page. But the bottom line is, with all of this, we're roughly underfunding what we spent on the budgets versus what we budgeted, roughly

25 percent, okay. So we've under run these -- these budgets. I mean, we've run -- under run the actual election costs versus what they budgeted. And this has been a pattern for both Municipal Elections, as well as the General Elections. And, you know, and I just -- the reason I'm raising this, I'm not raising this to be confrontational, but I'm raising this to the point of, we cannot continue to have a pattern where we are significantly under running election cost in the range of, you know, 30 percent. If you go to the next page, these are numbers that were shared from the Finance team, you'll see the same sort of thing going back '21, '22, '23, you know, we're significantly under running these versus where we had them budgeted at. Now, the implication to that, you know, I think that we all understand is number one, when we're providing the service to the cities, they're getting frustrated because they're getting what they appear to be as an artificially high number, and then trying to make some value decisions about whether or not they should be going off and doing this on their own. And then low and behold, it doesn't cost as much, so they've got this frustration about, hey, what's, what's going on here? We can't have this sort of yo-yo, back and forth, and the frustration around that. So we need to get better cost certainty for them, you know, so you know, so that they -- so that they're not, you know, feeling this sort of yo-yo effect, and a lack of certainty around it. And then for us, when -- particularly when we're running into a gubernatorial cycle, and then a presidential cycle, you know, so like, in 2022, we had, you know, an elections budget of 37.4 million, and we ran it 27.3. And so when we are up here making the decisions around in these, you know, gubernatorial and presidential years, around other value-related discussions and items around what we're trying to do from a budgetary standpoint, and we're making the decision to forego funding a particular item, and yet, we when it turns out in retrospect, we've overfunded elections by 10 to \$12 million, when we really needed to probably go do something else. And if we'd had better certainty around our elections budget, we would have done that, and we wouldn't have had a delayed spending on something, whether it was maintenance or some other investment that would have been particularly useful to do during that particular year. So I raise all this to say, this has also been done in the spectrum where, in many of these years, the ask that we ultimately agreed to in the budget was -- the ask was even higher than what we had agreed to within the budget. Same with this municipal cost, when we went to this, if you'll recall, your budgetary figure that you came to us with was more significant. I asked for it to be dialed back because I felt it was too high. It turns out it was. And it was even more high -- it was even higher than what we thought. So I raise all this to say, this delta needs to kind of -- it needs to come down. We've got to get better at know what our real cost are going to be and then provided a budget -- provided a proper budget for them. And then if you flow through to the next page, and I don't really want to necessarily -- these are supposedly coming from Cobb's line item budget. These are taken directly from their -- from their budgetary reports. But I want to focus less on this and more on the next slide if you go to the next slide. This is from Cobb Elections, this is their data. So they've obviously got built-out targets and activity-driven things that should ultimately work to drive their budgets, okay? I had asked you all for similar data points. And while we got some of these through some -- and they're listed on the next page, while we were able to get some of these through kind of digging around and that sort of stuff, they were not things that we had sort of readily available.

So my point in terms of going back -- go back to the Cobb slide. So my point in terms of sharing this is not say, Cobb's model is the best one and what we should adopt or whatnot. But I really feel like we need -- because we're -- we're clear -- clearly, what we are doing right now, is not leading us to a good budgetary process and a good -- good budgetary figure to work off of. It's seems to be more of a number that's sort of just picked out of the air, and that we've been trending excessively higher ever since 2020. So my point of bringing this forward is, I feel like between your board, your management team, and then possibly with support from our management team, really needs more of an activity-based driven budgetary process to work through, both for our Municipal Elections, but as well as for, you know, the own elections that -- that we pay for that the municipalities don't pay for work. And we should have enough data to work off of, to work towards that at this point. And we should have these data points, and we should be able to work towards something that's more effective -- more effective than what we're doing right now that narrows that delta that's something more in the range of five to 10 percent than 25 to 35 percent. So I'll stop at that, and that's the reason why I raised this and bring it up. And I know you had some stuff that you had and that you -- you'll want to share, and that's fine. But I mean, hopefully you understand my point is I want us to move towards activity-based budgeting that's going to close this gap, and allow us to operate within more of a confined real number."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So may I ask -- I'm sorry. What's the -- your reaction to this? Because I've been asking my staff, if every time I hear about Cobb County spending 10 million, and we spend 40-plus that just raises a -- just a big question mark. And I know - - whether we're comparing apples to apples, I don't know."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "All right. So we do agree with the activity-based budget. And we know that we do have to streamline our budget process. We were just like, I guess -- again, given this presentation. We will look through it, and provide feedback to the slides. In regards to comparing us to Cobb, we're a lot larger than Cobb, we have 300,000 more voters than Cobb. I --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now, I know, I mean the obvious stuff is --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- is it something else? Are we doing more than we should be doing in --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Well, I -- we -- in the presentation we have upcoming, we can explain a little --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "-- bit, how we get under runs."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'll be quiet, okay. Commissioner Thorne, you want to be heard now?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Do you have a presentation you want to give us?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Do you want to do that first, so then --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And then if I have any questions, you may answer them in your presentation."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Do we have a paper for view, or is it on the --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "It should be on the PowerPoint on the screen. Okay. So we made a presentation in regards to the 2023 budget under runs. You can -- next slide, please. In preparation for the election budgets, our department's main goal is to ensure all areas of Fulton County are evenly represented. Taken into account -- ensuring we have areas north, south, east, and west to have access to advanced voting locations. Each municipality has access to advanced voting locations and high turnout areas. Commissioner districts are equally represented. Election Day locations are evenly distributed per voter residences, and we also look at voter turnout predictions. Our department is currently reviewing expenditures to streamline election budgets. But in review of the municipal budget for 2023 under runs, we have realized that it's mainly impacted by timelines, polling site usage, and temporary staff shortages. Next slide, please. So the timeline impact -- the election budgets were prepared well in advance of election -- of the election date. Election cancellations, polling site cancellations, and runoff requirements impact the budget under runs. For the 2023 election, the budget was drafted in 2022. So by the time we go through all the processes and approvals, it was allocated for 14 -- it was budgeted for 14 municipalities, and only 11 required an election. For the runoff, there were -- it was drafted for nine municipalities, and only three and a half required a runoff. And I say three and a half, because that equals South Fulton and East Point, there was only portions of South Fulton and East Point that needed a runoff, based on their Council District races that were required. Next slide, please. So after the 2022 election, the department -- well, I'm sorry before -- I mean, after 2022 election, we had already started trying to do cost measure, saving -- cost-saving measures. We had decreased - our election precincts by 60 locations. But after the 2023 election was drafted, there were still some more reductions. And when we reduce polling sites that impacts all types of funding lines. So we went from 193 polling sites budgeted for November 2023 to 147. That impacts the poll workers that we need to recruit. There was a under run



there for not having to pay out \$21,000. We don't even have to get them T-shirts, that's another 30. We were not feeding them, that's another 10. We need less trucks -- and to afford delivery and pickup. That was a under run of 64,000. There's reduced rental rates for 33,000. Less supplies for polling sites, another 56. Less emergency ballots, less absentee stock paper. So those, that's just a brief example of how that one thing impacts different budget lines and causes under runs. Next slide, please. On one of the major impacts is temporary staff labor. The -- for the temporary staff labor, under runs are caused by some various reasons. One would be the temporary staffing agency did not fill the positions we requested; the late start date due to contractual procedures; and for like security, we were -- they -- the security company was unable to fill positions. This is our greatest impact, if we see the figures above, how those cause great under runs. Since divisions within our department were able to successfully execute the 2023 election, we are seeing if these staffing levels can be maintained. We're doing an internal review to see, are you able to keep your staff that low? Or did you have a hardship having burning out employees? So we're doing -- looking at that to be drafted into the next Municipal Election. Next slide, please. So compared to the 2021 election, where the county incurred costs, because it was based off a set rate outlined in the municipal cost resolution, the 2023 election was reimplemented, a percentage base municipal cost distribution. That way, the municipalities get refunds and the county did not incur costs. So again, they were initially given these totals in the first column where it says budgeted costs. That's what we advised the cities they would have to pay. They paid those amounts. And the second -- the next, the refund column, where we reimbursed the cities. If they did not have a runoff, they were not billed. And we did the calculations of what was needed. So for instance, like I said earlier, South Fulton was -- only part of South Fulton needed a runoff, so they were only billed for 46,000. East Point was initially 105, they were only billed for 85, and they got refunds for any under runs. Next slide, please. In conclusion, the under runs do offer oversights for informed budgeting. And again, we do agree with action-based budget planning, and we're going to sit down and go line by line through our 2023 budget to outline future budgets for Municipals. We have -- we're going to reduce that, we're able to reduce the overall requests out front. We will know that we do not need to ask for so much money upfront when we request our budget. And we're going to enhance this by doing that -- more turnout analysis and optimal resources, et cetera. For 2025, since the Governor has signed House Bill 1312, there is going to be a statewide Public Service Commission Election. We're researching this matter now to find out if -- we're waiting for this SOS calendar to see how that would impact municipalities. It could possibly be a county-funded election. But as has been an option since 1989, municipalities can still have the option to conduct their own election. And will still support them voter registration services, but they're -- they can be permitted to go all paper, have their own election, or lease our equipment. And will support them in either capacity. But again, we do agree with the activity base, and we are going to do a complete review of the budget before we the initial request. And that concludes our presentation."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you for that. Yes, I do remember back when we were looking at the MOUs and it was almost \$10 per voter, and we brought it down to six-something per voter. So the -- they would have been charged a much higher rate back in January. I think we held it couple weeks, and you brought it back again. And I had asked you back then, you know, what your fixed costs and your variable costs were, like, if the city decides to run their own election, does that increase it for everybody else. And you said, no. So you basically are saying that all your costs are a variable cost."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "It's percentage based, based on the number of registered voters involved in the election. So we do that -- incorporate that in the cost."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So the polling site change impact, you know, if you have less polling sites, you're having less expenses. But you're having less polling sites mainly because counties are either doing their own elections or they don't have an election like Alpharetta, correct? So that would bring your cost --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "That would bring our cost down. But again, like I said in the slide, if we incorporate -- if we predict that Alpharetta was having an election, their polling sites and their number of registered voters were incorporated into the budget. We will not know if they need to cancel their election until after they do qualifying. So the reason why Alpharetta had to cancel was because nobody had an opponent. That -- but it's already into the budget at that point. It's all -- their polling sites were already in the budget, their number of registered voters were all -- everything was in the budget. But they -- but we will not know that until qualifying. That doesn't happen until -- it was like, August of 2023."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And when did they get their refund check?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "When we were able to finish -- I think that we -- I think the cyber attack slowed us down, but I don't -- I don't recall the date that they got their refund. They might have got it before, I don't know. I can't answer that question."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Because we knew they weren't having an election, yet we -- they didn't get their money back until --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "I don't believe they notified us until September, when we got official, something in writing from them. But I don't know exactly when we issued their check. But I know we were not notified until September officially."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And you said that the temporary staffing agency wasn't able to fill some of the positions. Were we able to accommodate with less positions?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Yes. So in the slide, I noted that all -- even though we executed the election with less people, I -- we are going to do a review for the divisions that were impacted to see if they can maintain that low staff level, or were they overworked. I don't want people to get burned out. I didn't -- I don't know if it was a hardship. So we're going to look and see exactly what happened. And if they're able to maintain it, they will. If it was a hardship, they could possibly need more -- they will need more staff."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Do we pay overtime?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We do pay overtime. So our overtime costs probably go up if people are having to fill in because a staffing agency is unable to accommodate. Or does the staffing agency give us a break if they aren't able to accommodate and --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "No, we pay overtime."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We pay overtime, okay. I guess it'd be good to evaluate the contract with that staffing agency. If they're able to fulfill their requirements, and then they're charging us overtime when they're not able to fulfill it, and we're having to --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Yes, we're taking all of it into consideration."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And I do appreciate, you know, the turnout analysis. I also think equipment usage and supplies would probably be good to do the analysis at the same time while you're evaluating each precinct as well, possible cost savings there. I would also -- I was looking at your bylaws. And you're supposed to sit down with your board and go over two years' worth of -- and that's what's written in law, not that we abide the law. Do you do that with your board? Do you sit down and go over the budgeting with them?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "I don't -- I don't know if it's the bylaws, but will if we have to. We will review that and see if it's -- if it's a requirement, we'll take that to the Chair and Members of the Board."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Because -- but not that I think your board is as knowledgeable as you guys are or Sharon and her team are in helping you. But perhaps -- perhaps, it might even be good to have an outside consultant come in and

look and evaluate some of your data, because you guys have tons of data to go through. It'll be a rather taxing process. But once you get that first process down, I think maybe it'd be helpful for future years you wouldn't need that. That's all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's it? Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Last thing. I mean, I don't -- I don't care whether it's required or whatever, by a state law, I mean, I do think your board -- I mean, I sat on plenty of boards that are government related and all that sort of stuff. Budgets are reviewed and discussed with those boards, you know, and they have a chance to weigh in. And I think they need to be actively engaged. And so I'm going to be writing to them myself and ask them to be actively engaged. Because we -- we've also heard from two different Board Chair -- two or three different Board Chairs who've come down here and told us we needed more money in the budget, which implied that their -- that their board has been reviewing, and that there were actually merits for the reasons why the budgets need to go up. And then it played out throughout the course of the year that those costs weren't needed. So I think, you know, it's a collective effort, and I think they need to be part of that process and weigh in on it as well."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Yes. Let me make a correction. So we do provide our budget to the board. Do we sit down and do a deep dive with them? No, we do not, but we can incorporate that as a deeper dive. But they are provided that budget before we present it to the BOC."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. Well, I mean, they're, you know, they're on board, they can see these results. It's an opportunity for them to weigh in and help bring about better overall collective performance too. So they should share in that accountability."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And I just want to say quickly, I agree with that. The board needs to know. They could possibly give you ideas and places where we could cut back, we could trim. They could go look at best practices of other counties. When you got to your GAVREO Conference, they might see something that someone is doing. So I think it is important that your board is very knowledgeable in areas where you're spending, and give you suggestions of where you could maybe possibly cut back. Or if you need to increase, you may need increased spending."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Okay. Will, do. Our board gives us good insight. So yes, we will meet with them in a deeper dive regarding the budget."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, thank you. All right, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0359, Discussion, Election, sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. I got a lot of emails, tweets, texts, phone calls, whatever about the State Board of Elections. And I don't know if you'll be able to talk on that. I just wanted to give you an opportunity to give your point of view, the State Board of Elections Meeting. But you sent me an email saying that you can't talk because it's under litigation. So I was just going to leave it up to you, what you want to say."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Okay. So, thank you. So I'll make the same statement I made at our board meeting. We -- the SEB hearing, the SOS did a thorough investigation of this case. We were completely cooperative. The results stated that election outcome did not change. I know there's a lot of misinformation that's being spread around this case. It's inaccurate. All of this thing is on record that all the SOS investigation information is on record. The outcome did not change. We received a letter of reprimand or letter of instruction from the SOS. They plan to possibly give us a monitor, which will be actually very happy to receive. Because we feel for 2020, for -- I'm sorry, for 2024, it will stop misinformation. It also protects our poll workers and our staff to have another set of eyes and stop misinformation. But outside of that, we were complete cooperative, nothing was new in this investigation. And these things have been researched over and over and over again. There was no new discovery, and there no difference to the election outcome for 2020."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So I wasn't there, I was in DC that day. So I've heard a lot about it. And I went back and watched it online. And then as we all got this, the 55 million views of the meeting where it was mentioned that 380,761 ballot images from the machine count, that's all Election Day and early voting, were -- that we do not have those images. So that's mainly what my phone was blowing up over."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "Okay. So again, there is a lot of misinformation regarding this case. And because it's still under review, I will know -- won't -- I won't have anymore comments in regards to that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So that, I mean, it would be great if we could tell -- could tell people and give them a lot of trust. If we're having, retaining records that valid images is a huge, huge, huge part of validating the actual vote, and how people voted and -- and back then, we had to retain it, it was law on February 1 of 2020, that we retain those ballot images. Yes, it was. It was January, it was passed, and effective February 1 of 2020. What they mentioned was that we had storage issues and retaining records issues for on that Election Day. They said that ten early voting scanners that contained about 20,713 votes, there was barely any documentation to show that those scanners were actually used on Election Day. But the board chalked it up that we just kept poor records and record retention. On the second count, they said there was massive errors and fraudulent recounting, poor batch management. And from what I understand, you were in charge of the hand -- that's the hand recount. And there were 6,000-plus error note -- miscounts, or errors in the counting, and that 3500 -- you were 3500 short of the original count, and that 3,000 were double scanned, over 3,000 were double scanned. So they chalked it up to poor batch management, and

they don't even know if the double scans were actually counted or not. They just don't -- they simply just don't know. The third count initially came out at 511,000 instead of 528. So they were short, you know, about 17,000 ballots. And Ryan Macy is from the Elections Group was contacted. And he said it was some kind of scanner error, if I'm correct, and that he was able to add 16,000-plus Election Day to the tally to bring it in within the margin error. And so but you guys said you had to borrow scanners, there were technical issues, and you didn't have proper protocols into backing that data. Our new Attorney that we hired, Ann Bowman, pleaded with the board for a reprimand. Since we have a new board, we have new senior staff, we have a new -- a new location with the warehouse that we purchased and we have new SOPs in place. And that six elections have gone to great, but I kind of tend to disagree because we had issues in January 2021 where we had to recertify the election because we failed to upload votes. We had issues in that November election, Municipal Election, where we had to recertify because somehow they found some more votes. We had issues in the May 2022 election because we forgot to upload about 1600 votes, if I'm -- I can't remember the exact number. And you got a reprimand for that back in February. So I'm just hoping that we understand the gravity of what's going on with our elections. It seems to be -- I would like to hear more discussions about -- we're putting in this new standard operating procedure. We have this new batch management. We have this new process that we're going through to make sure this doesn't happen. Because now, you know, we have -- we pay the most, our Fulton County taxpayers pay the most to run our elections than anybody else in our entire state, yet we continually have issues, and we have problems. And now, the taxpayers are going to be asked to pay for not just one monitor, from what I hear, it's going to be multiple monitors, just due to the scope and the size of Fulton County. So I just wanted to bring that forward. I don't think we were ever made aware that you guys were reprimanded back in February. An article came out in April on it. It was never brought to our attention. I didn't hear you guys discuss it in your meetings as well. I just want us to be open, and we got to be open and transparent if we're going to have honest and trust -- have people trust our election process. So I hope we can work together on that. And I hope, you know, we can -- I tried to reach out to Cathy Woolard tried to meet with her before she's elected, tried to meet with her on Zoom, tried to meet with her, and she refuses to meet. So unless you guys can meet with people who might disagree with how some things run and come to a compromise, I'm willing to compromise on anything, but we have to have dialogue and we have to have discussion. So I hope you're not going to chalk everything up to misinformation or disinformation. And you can correct me on any of these facts, but these were the notes that were taken. They said that we were in violation, 140 violations of the law. And the reprimand was with basically law 183-15-03 for poor batch record management. And that's really all I have to say. Thanks."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS:** "I would just like to say that for the listening audience, if you want to get the facts in regards to what the SOS investigators, I'm sure it's an open record, they can go and get the SOS investigator report. And those will give them the correct numbers, and our response also to SEB. But, thank you."



**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And I've talked with the State Board as well. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0360, Outstanding Water Bill from the city of Atlanta, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam CFO, the water bill saga. Did y'all meet this week?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No, Mr. Chairman, we were --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Why not?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- originally scheduled to meet last Thursday. The city canceled --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Why?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- due to a unforeseen scheduling conflict. And we have rescheduled that meeting for later this month."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hadn't been rescheduled?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It has."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It has been rescheduled, yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "When, for when?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "May 28th."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. So there's no update. Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "24 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So you'll give us an update at next BOC meeting?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "If the meeting is held, yes, ma'am."

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I did also ask in my correspondence back to them when they canceled the meeting, because you all asked me this the last time, if they would, in the interim, be so kind as to provide us with the details that support the balances on the spreadsheet that they sent to us. I have not received any information on that as of yet."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And Madam County Attorney, to the question that Commissioner Arrington posed early on about the statute of limitations, have you addressed that?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Well, we've researched what the statute of limitations are for various things, like, on contracts on open accounts. But in order to do a full legal analysis as to when the statute would have begun running, or whether it is considered an open account, we would need the information from the city about when the -- when the alleged debts accrued. So until we have that base information from the city, we can't run the analysis on whether the statute has run. I would have -- I would guess that it has run because it's my understanding, these are very old debts that would have accrued decades ago. So my sense of it is that this -- all statutes have run. But we can't tell you that definitively until we have the city's basis that details when the charges accrued."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I would -- I think that makes sense. You got to have a starting date to know when the end date is. My understanding, again, O.C.G.A. 9325 is, four years on an open account. I did speak with someone in the city on another matter, and I think they were indicating seven years. So you know --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Either way --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- either way."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- it's 20 years old."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "They might be out of time, but again, we need their base information in order to fully analyze that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But there is a date somewhere in the past, right, whether it's five or seven, right?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "There -- once they describe the nature of the charges, and when, you know, when they accrued, we can decide which statute would apply, and then can advise as to whether we believe that the statute has run already."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Right, I understand that --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "My guess is that it would."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But isn't there a number someplace that after five years, you can no longer -- or four years, whatever --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It depends on what kind of debt it is."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's what?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It depends on what the nature of the debt is. And so the information we are waiting for from the city may also determine which category of debt it is."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I don't understand this, why this is so complicated."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "But --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The statute of limitations --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- all of the statutes that we have found would have run unless those are more recent debts."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Is a motion to file appropriate? Can I file this discussion away?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, but it keeps coming up, but we --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Oh, we are the only ones bringing it up. We're the only ones bringing it up. We don't have anything from the city. This is like an imaginary thing that we keep creating. I mean, I'm in jest about the motion to file, but --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to file is out of order."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Well, okay."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I mean -- I mean, I'm just -- we don't keep bringing it up, they keep bringing it up every seven to -- five to seven or nine years when they are mad at us for something, they bring it up. So what -- the reason I got in the queue is just to ask, like, is there anything we can do from a legal perspective to -- if they -- if they continue -- and listen, maybe they'll show up to the next meeting, and they'll bring all of the information we're asking for and we'll be able to proceed. If that does not happen for some reason, is there something else we can do to just put this to bed once and for all, because they keep bringing it up, and hanging it over our head every five to seven years, and, you know, storming around, saying we owe them all this money? So I'd love to get some kind of something, mediation, legal documents, something saying we're done with this."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Commissioner Barrett, I think the request for the supporting records, it will make it done with this, because I don't think there are any supporting records. But also, I don't know if it was a pipe that burst or something over at the jail, like you know, they give you credits when you have episodes like that. Any taxpayer, if there's a leak or a pipe that burst, you submit it, you submit the invoice to get it fixed, and they give you a reduction based on your normal usage. So to the extent that that pipe burst, and there was a whole bunch of water, and you know, this month's bill or last month's bill, whatever is higher than usual, we should certainly submit to the process to have it reduced."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Arrington, that point, that is another data point that Joe's team is working on is, they're reviewing the actual utilization information out of our energy cap system. So we are looking at that is well to see if there any anomalies within the timeframe that we should be concerned about, and whether we were billed correctly for those. But we still contend that what they billed, we paid. Since our records from the date that they've sent us, since 2007. So whatever this past due balance is, it's a balance that they said existed at the end of 2007."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I mean, it just doesn't make any sense to me because, I mean, unless they were sending that bill somewhere else. I mean, I assume they'll send all the bills to you. They don't send the bills to the Sheriff or to the individual departments, they all go to Finance, I assume."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "They come in to the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And Commissioner Barrett, to your point, we can begin to research whether there are any affirmative act -- steps that we can take to settle it once and for all, and come back to you with any potential options we were able to find."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0361, Follow up to the Cherry Bekaert procurement review, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, we're still reviewing the recommendations from the consultant's report. I believe that we're going to position our response centered around three things. One, those things that they recommended that we agree with that we could do without an additional action for the Board of Commissioners. Two, those items that they recommended that we agree with that would require Board of Commissioner actions. And then three, any of those items that they recommended around constitutional officers that would require some legislative action or clarification by the Legislature regarding the underlying statutes. So that is how we are planning to proceed, and Felicia believes that she will be prepared to present at the first meeting in June."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "First meeting in June?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That'll be our next meeting?"

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I had also raised that I'd like to see some sort of disclosure back to us on, you know, kind of the things that were purchased that didn't go through procurement or didn't come for us. I --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. I think when we talked about that we believe that the best approach to that will be to include those items in our operational report going forward. And we will try to identify any of those that were handled in the last three years that way, and kind of do a catch-up report on -- on those. But going forward, I believe Felicia is fashioning a way to visually see based on the construct of the purchase order number itself, those items that are issued under a

constitutional officer's authority, where they basically asked her to cut a purchase order because they have completed the procurement process, or they have entered into a contract independent of the Board of Commissioners."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And then I guess, one other thing just to note, Mr. Chairman, not necessarily directly related to the procurement review, but it's brought up sort of within the context of it, that this group, Cherry Bekaert is continuing to do a forensic, an actual forensic audit of that inmate welfare fund. So that will be due back to us separate from these folks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So that's another follow up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "One other thing."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I didn't turn to, I think it would be good to begin to identify is for the functional areas that would have the ability to potentially do their own procurement, regardless of how the procurement was done, to have an annotation of what those -- like, let's just say, let's take 2024, what the -- what the contracts -- what's a -- get a run of all the contracts that -- that we'd be in place for those particular institutions. You understand what I'm asking?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "You want us to identify any contracts that have been issued in 2024 by constitutional officers?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah -- no, no, not that have issued, that we've either gone through our procurement or that have been issued by them. And just a separate run of it."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Let me -- let me talk to Felicia, but I think we -- if we cannot generate a report out of the financial system, we may have to go back and review the individual procurements to --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Maybe I'll talk to you about that offline --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- in terms of what I'm getting at."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Okay."



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. I don't want to over complicate it."

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. There are no further items to come before us. At this time for this meeting, without objection, we are adjourned. However, it was advertised for a special meeting after this meeting for a work session. It is now almost 6:00, let's reconvene at 6:30."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, I thought that meeting was advertised from 5:00 to 6:00. And I'm thinking about the recent change that we just made to the -- away from recess agenda. And I just want to challenge us to think about maybe going back to the recess meeting, and making that kind of our work session, our ongoing monthly work session, and having really all action items at the -- at one meeting and have us having a second work session meeting. Just food for thought, I don't know, you know, if everyone or if anyone is ready to do that at this point. But, you know, having another meeting after being here since 10:00 a.m. and we ended this -- we're ending this meeting now at 6:00 is not desirable."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I mean, I'll second portions of that, but I don't think we need to use our second meeting as a work session just because I think we just -- this meeting alone demonstrates that we got too much to cover within two set meetings, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So we are adjourned here, and the advertised meeting for a meeting following this regular meeting is canceled for today. We are adjourned."

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.**