

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

May 21, 2025
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES

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 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts

10:02 a.m.

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

PRESENT

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

PRESENT

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

PRESENT

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

PRESENT

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

PRESENT

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

PRESENT

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

PRESENT

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA**25-0367 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. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by revising item #25-0370 as requested by Commissioner Ivory; and holding item #25-0384 as requested by Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

25-0368 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Akilan Ganesan Appreciation Day."
(Thorne)
April 26, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Rico Wade Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**
May 9, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Dhruv Rastogi Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**
May 10, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Jai Ram Mekala Appreciation Day."
(Thorne)
May 10, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Sweet Auburn Festival Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
May 10, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Tatenda Rameau Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**
May 14, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Savannah Bassett Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**
May 14, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Alyssa Fields Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**
May 14, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Velma Mae Rainey Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
May 15, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Chatelah Brown Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
May 17, 2025

Commissioners' District Board Appointments

25-0369

Board of Commissioners

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

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

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

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

Term = Staggered two (2) year terms

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Vacant **(Thorne)**

Commissioner Thorne nominated Jeannie Comlish for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

25-0370

Board of Commissioners

BELTLINE TAX ALLOCATION DISTRICT (TAD) ADVISORY COMMITTEE (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

Fulton County Board of Commissioners is responsible for appointing 10 members.

Term = 2 years, with such term commencing upon approval of the Atlanta City Council. No member shall serve more than 3 consecutive 2 year terms.

Term below expired: 12/31/2020

Vacant **(Ivory)**

Commissioner Ivory nominated ~~Rose Bullock~~ Reese McCranie for a District appointment to a two-year term, commencing upon approval of the Atlanta City Council.

[25-0371](#)**Board of Commissioners****FULTON COUNTY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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

Term = Two-year terms. The Reparations Task Force shall sunset on December 31, 2025 unless continued by action of the Board of Commissioners.

Term below expired: 12/31/2023

Ann Hill-Bond (**District 4**)

Commissioner Ivory nominated Ann Hill-Bond for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.

25-0372**Board of Commissioners****FULTON COUNTY CITIZENS COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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

Term = 4 Years, staggered

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Lynn McIntyre (**Thorne**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Lynn McIntyre for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.

25-0373**Board of Commissioners****FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2021

Vacant **(Thorne)**

Commissioner Thorne nominated Susan Rumble for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.

25-0374 Board of Commissioners**FULTON COUNTY CITIZENS COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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

Term = 4 Years, staggered

Term below expires: 12/31/2026

Richard Johnson (**Pitts**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Bill Eisenhower to replace Richard Johnson for a District appointment to an unexpired term ending December 31, 2026.

Open & Responsible Government**25-0375 Finance**

Ratification of April 2025 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0376 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 1,388 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from D. R. Horton, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Sherwood Manor Project at 5435 Old National Highway, South Fulton, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0377 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 2787.84 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Arkan Echo, LLC, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the Echo at Crabapple Project at 12580 Crabapple Road, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0378 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 5314.3 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Arkan Echo, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Echo at Crabapple Project at 12580 Crabapple Road, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0379 Registration & Elections

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County Registration & Elections and City of Union City, Georgia to provide an additional advance voting location in Union City to conduct the Public Service Commission Primary / Municipal Primary on June 17, 2025, and the Public Service Commission Primary / Municipal Primary Runoff on July 15, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**25-0380 Medical Examiner**

Request approval to terminate an existing contract 22ITB135453C-MH, pickup and removal of deceased remains, with Thompson Mortuary Services LLC (Atlanta, GA). Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries**25-0381 Library**

Notice and Spreading on the Minutes of a County Manager executed contract for a license agreement with The Clubhouse Network for access to technology for teens in the Best Buy Teen Tech Center, effective February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026, with no cost to the County. This agreement is subject to renew annually if approved in the budget and unless otherwise terminated, and annual renewal documents are subject to review by the Office of the County Attorney. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**25-0382 Community Development**

Request approval to enter into subrecipient agreements with the non-profit agencies identified in Attachment "A" utilizing federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) initiative in the total amount of \$1,316,889.24. These grants will be utilized for services provided over a 30-month period beginning on October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2027. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0383 Senior Services

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Senior Services, 25ITB1357652A-KM, Indigent Burial Services with Mutual Meadows, Inc (Peachtree Corners, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$49,000.00 to amend the scope of work to provide burial for unclaimed cremations. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0384 Senior Services

Request approval to amend an existing contract, 21RFP000027A-CJC, Senior Transportation Services with Transdev Services, Inc., to initiate a six-month pilot program to allow its subcontractor, UZURV, to deploy three (3) vehicles with an appropriate fleet age to provide transportation services to seniors at no additional cost. Effective upon BOC approval. **(HELD)**

25-0385 Department for HIV Elimination

Request approval to extend an existing "Ryan White Part A" subrecipient service contracts for a two-month period from June 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025, and, subject to federal funding, amend the contracts to increase the spending authority of "Ryan White Part A" subrecipients in the amount of \$4,518,704.00 pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration "Ryan White Part A" award H89HA00007. Contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0386 Department for HIV Elimination

Request approval to extend existing “Ending the HIV Epidemic” subrecipient service contracts for a two-month period from June 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025, and, subject to federal funding, amend existing contracts to increase the spending authority of “Ending the HIV Epidemic” subrecipients in the amount of \$626,639.00 pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration “Ending the HIV Epidemic” award UT8HA3393. Contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with subrecipients. To protect the interests of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0387 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

25-0388 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, April 16, 2025

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 7, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to ratify the meeting minutes. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

25-0389 Board of Commissioners

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

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

Proclamation recognizing “Atlanta Public Schools Virtual Mental Health Fair Appreciation Day.” **(Ivory/Pitts)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0392 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)

37 Speakers: Kevin Muldowney (Support BRE Appointments); Judith Sullivan (Risk Management Incident); Dorothy Harpe (Support BRE Appointments); Candy Muldowney (Support BRE Appointments); Adaline Kumor (Support BRE Appointments); Julie Allen (Support BRE Appointments); Michael Gordon (Support BRE Appointments); Susanne Hubbard (Support BRE Appointments); Chris Hayden (Support BRE Appointments); Teresa Rhodes (Support BRE Appointments); Matt Rowenczak (Support BRE Appointments); Josh McKoon (Support BRE Appointments); Jim Walsh (Support BRE Appointments); Charles Krieger (Support BRE Appointments); Pamela Eckhardt (Support BRE Appointments); Maria Gaudio (Support BRE Appointments); L.A. Pink (Justice/Sheriff's Office); Cecilia Ugante Baldwin (Oppose BRE Appointments); Mary Jo Peed (Oppose BRE Appointments); Walter Reeves (Pension Security Bill); Rachel Lastinger (Oppose BRE Appointments); Mae Stradtham (GA Power Easement); Michael Dvorscak (Support BRE Appointments); Autumn Miller (Support BRE Appointments); Sarah Pedro (Support BRE Appointments); Steven J. Scibert (Support BRE Appointments); Caitlin Barringer (Oppose CSP Funding); Devin Franklin (Fulton County Jail); Devin Barrington-Ward (Fulton County Jail); Christine Propst (Support BRE Appointments); Brad Barnes (Support BRE Appointments); Sandra Burchardt (Support BRE Appointments); Marisa Pyle (Oppose BRE Appointments); Athena Shuffett (Support BRE Appointments); Kristin Nabers (Oppose BRE Appointments); Frank Schneider (Support BRE Appointments); Cathy Woolard (Oppose BRE Appointments)

8 Zoom Speakers: Sabrina Cown (GA Power Easement); Sarah Magow (GA Power Easement); Garland Favarito (Support BRE Appointments); Naomi Green (GA Power Easement); Jamie Tucker (Unintelligible); Matthew Harrison (GA Power Easement); Alma Lott (Vine City/Oppose BRE Appointments); Stephanie Endres (Support BRE Appointments)

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)

25-0390 Board of Commissioners
MARTA Quarterly Briefing **(PRESENTED)**

Atlanta Beltline, Inc.

25-0391 Board of Commissioners
Atlanta Beltline, Inc. Update **(PRESENTED)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

25-0393 County Manager
Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report. **(PRESENTED)**

25-0394 Finance
Presentation, review, and approval of May 21, 2025, Budget Soundings and Resolution. **(PRESENTED/APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

25-0395 Information Technology
Request approval to amend an existing enterprise license agreement #2011ELA2434, Department of Information Technology, at no additional cost with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc (ESRI), (Redlands, CA) to provide GIS Technology. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0396 Registration & Elections

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Registration & Elections, 25ITB1393668C-MH, Ballot Printing in the amount of \$260,460.00 with Tattnell Journal, Inc. dba Tattnell Ballot Solutions (Reidsville, GA) to provide ballot printing services for the 2025 Public Service Commission Primary / Municipal Primary and Runoff Elections and Public Service Commission General / Municipal General and Runoff Elections. Effective upon execution of contract through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Health and Human Services**25-0397 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1357598A-ST, Soft Dig Services in an amount not to exceed \$254,500.00 with (A) Southern Hydro Vac, LLC dba AIMS Companies (Powder Spring, GA), in the amount of \$127,250.00 and (B) Vacutek Integrated Services (Buford, GA), in the amount of \$127,250.00 to provide soft dig services. Effective dates: July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0398 Community Development

Request approval of the 2025 Community Services Program (CSP) Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$5,363,958.00 to the non-profits identified in Attachment "A". General funding in the amount of \$5,363,958.00 for Community Services Program was approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners at the January 29, 2025, Second Regular Meeting (Agenda Item# 25-0070). The contract period runs from January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0399 Senior Services

Request approval to close out an existing contract - Department of Senior Services, 21ITB000028A-CJC, Indigent Burial Services in the amount of \$61,226.25 with Mutual Meadows, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA) for the final payment covering services rendered April 2025 through May 2025. Effective upon Board approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**25-0269 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution approving an Agreement between Fulton County Georgia, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, and the City of Atlanta, Georgia to provide Judicial in Rem Tax Foreclosure Services concerning Municipal Code Enforcement Liens; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Agreement; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Agreement as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 4/2/25, 4/16/25 AND 5/7/25) (REMOVED)**

25-0359 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article II (County Governing Authority), Division 2 (Rules of Order and Procedure) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to modify Section 101-66 (b)(3) to discontinue e-mailed public comments; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 5/7/25) (APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, and Barrett

Nay: Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**25-0400****Board of Commissioners****BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (APPROVED)**

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

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

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

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

Term = 2 Years

Terms below expire: 6/30/2025

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

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

The Fulton County Democratic Party nominated Douglass Selby to replace Aaron Johnson for a Full Board appointment to a term ending June 30, 2027.

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

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

25-0401 Board of Commissioners
BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (APPROVED)

Term = 2 Years

Terms below expire: 6/30/2025

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

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

The Fulton County Democratic Party nominated Teresa K. Smith Crawford for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2027.

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

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

25-0402 Board of Commissioners
BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (FILED)

Term = 2 Years

Terms below expire: 6/30/2025

Julie Adams (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

Michael Heekin (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

The Fulton County Republican Party nominated Julie Adams for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2027.

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

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

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

Nay: Thorne, and Ellis

25-0403 Board of Commissioners
BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (FILED)

Term = 2 Years

Terms below expire: 6/30/2025

Julie Adams (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

Michael Heekin (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

The Fulton County Republican Party nominated Jason Frazier to replace Michael Heekins for a Full Board appointment to a term ending June 30, 2027.

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

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

Nay: Thorne, and Ellis

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

25-0404 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Georgia Power Easement (Pitts) (DISCUSSED)

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to remove future easements from the Consent Agenda, require community participation, and anyone wanting an easement be required to submit proof of that community participation prior to BOC approval, with a friendly amendment by Chairman Pitts for this to apply only to electric easements. **(NO ACTION TAKEN)**

25-0405 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Center for Diversion Services (Pitts/Ivory) (DISCUSSED)

25-0406 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Clerk of Court Passport Fees: Disclosure and Reporting Update on process and procedures (Ellis) (HELD)

EXECUTIVE SESSION**25-0407 Board of Commissioners**

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

PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE, AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice-Chairman Ellis, Commissioners: Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; Chief Deputy County Counsel Kaye Burwell; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve the requests for representation and the retention of outside counsel in items #1 and #2 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

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

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to deny the refund request regarding tax parcel id number 17-0049-LL-078-4. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis, and Barrett

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to deny the refund request regarding tax parcel id number 11-0650-0268-054-4. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Thorne, Ellis, and Barrett

f. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to deny the refund request regarding tax parcel id number 11-0963-0032-165-5. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis, and Barrett

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
SECOND REGULAR MEETING
MAY 21, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC
"A Court Reporting Firm"

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you and good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Second Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is March 21st, 2025. It is 10:02 a.m. Madam Clerk, please, call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Mo Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr. Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman. Mr. Chairman, you have a quorum."

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda: **25-0367**, 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. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one amendment to today's Consent Agenda on the bottom of page 3, 25-0370, Beltline Tax Allocation District Advisory Committee. Commissioner Ivory has requested to amend her nomination and change the name to Reese McCranie instead of Rose Bullock."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Anything else?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioners? All right, on page 9, item 25-0384, I'd like that removed for discussion. I'm going to move that that be held when it comes up, but take it off the consent agenda. All right. 25-0384, page 9. All right, motion to adopt as amended. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me, mine didn't record."

CLERK GRIER: "Six with Chairman Pitts."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, Second Regular Meeting Agenda, **25-0387**: Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. I don't have anything."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No changes, Commissioners? Nothing?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt by Vice Chair Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0388**, Ratification of Minutes. Second Regular Meeting Minutes, April 16th; First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 7th, 2025."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to adopt by Commissioner Ivory; seconded by Vice Chair Ellis."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0389 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- yeah, before we get to proclamation, let me make one public announcement. Hopefully, most of you've read that great recognition for two of our cities. Who represents Johns Creek? Is that you, Commissioner Thorne? And who represents Alpharetta? Both of you do? Well, believe it or not -- not believe it or not, we ought to be very proud. John's Creek, by U.S. News & World Report, was voted the number one city in the country in which to live. Alpharetta was No. 24, so that is great news for us. So congratulations to their mayors and their councils. All right, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0389**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Public Works Week' sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis with Full Board support."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. We want to get all our public works folks that are here to come down and join us, and then if you didn't pass through the atrium and look at some of the display, I would encourage you to do so. There's some important stuff out there. If you don't know what a backflow preventer is and why it's important, go out there and learn about it, right? That's right. It's a good-looking group. I'm glad it's not raining this morning. What's that? Not going to rain on your parade. Sun is shining on you guys today. Not last night, but it is today. All right. Well, it's my honor on behalf of the whole Board to read this proclamation and recognize our fine folks in public works: WHEREAS, national public works week is a reminder of the many ways that the Fulton County Department of Public Works provides a basic foundation of our day-to-day comfort including roadways, traffic control, sidewalks, airport, water, sanitary, sewer and stormwater management; and WHEREAS, this year's theme 'People, Purpose, Presence' highlights three cornerstone ideals that motivate public works professionals to serve in their communities every day; recognizes that there will be no community without the quality of life public works provide and spotlights the 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 maintains sanitary sewer and water distribution systems, provides water and pollution prevention education to residents, businesses, schools and communities, and maintains roads and traffic signals in the unincorporated area, and performs the maintenance of all 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 24 hours a day, 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 premier agencies in the state of Georgia, and has dedicated staff in facilities that win awards consistently. 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 does hereby proclaims the week of May 18 through May 24, 2025, as 'Public Works Week' in Fulton County, Georgia. I'd like to recognize our Director of Public Works, David Clark, to come up and say a few words. David."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, FC PUBLIC WORKS: "Thank you, Commissioner. Again, I'm David Clark. I'm the Director of Public Works. It's my great privilege to lead over 200 men and women in the public works department who served countless -- in countless ways in both North and South Fulton. We always like to say, if we're doing our job right, nobody out there knows what we're doing on a daily basis and, fortunately for us, we do do our jobs right; and so most of the things that you take for granted on a day-to-day basis, clean water, efficient airport out at the Fulton County executive airport, wastewater treatment facilities, all happens behind the scenes without most people having to think about it twice. So again, it gives us great honor to be recognized this week, this is a national week of recognition for all public works employees, and I'm certainly very proud of the work that our 200 men and women do every day."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Atlanta Public Schools Virtual Mental Health Fair Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Ivory and Chairman Pitts."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Who's here from APS? Okay. Hi, come here. How are you? Is it just you? Okay, good. Oh, good. Come on this side, also y'all. Okay. Awesome. All right. The Atlanta Public Schools Virtual Mental Health Month hosted by the APS social work department is a pivotal initiative aimed at enhancing mental health awareness and supporting -- and support among students, families, and educators within the district; and WHEREAS, the event aligns with May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month and serves as a platform to provide resources, education, and community engagement opportunities focused on mental well-being; and WHEREAS, in response to the escalating mental health challenges among our youth, APS has prioritized mental health services as a core component of its student support strategy. And this fair exemplifies this commitment by offering accessible informative sessions that address various aspects of mental health including stress management, coping strategies, and available support services; and WHEREAS, APS recognizes the importance of culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health resources especially for the Hispanic students population; and WHEREAS, the virtual fair contributes to a border cultural shift within APS and the Atlanta community by normalizing conversations around mental health, reducing associated stigmas and encouraging individuals to seek help and utilize available resources. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the APS Virtual Mental Health Fair for promoting mental wellness and enhancing accessibility to resources and addressing the specific needs of diverse populations; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 as 'Atlanta Public Schools Virtual Mental Health Fair Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

DR. ANTHONY, APS, RECIPIENT: "So we'd like to say thank you so much from Atlanta Public Schools Social Work Department for Fulton County government being collaborators in this work. We do so much to make sure that we are removing barriers that prevent students, not only from being successful in schools, but thriving throughout life. And so, we really appreciate you all acknowledging this work and continuing to support us. And I really want to give a shout out to Adilia who will come and say a few words because this was her brainchild."

ADILIA JOHNSON, APS, RECIPIENT: "Thank you. Thank you. I'm Adilia Johnson. I'm the coordinator of social work services at Atlanta Public Schools, and I just want to thank Dr. Anthony and my amazing team -- our amazing team and Leanne, who's our crisis social worker, our truancy social worker, Alicia, and just all the many social workers. We have over 70 plus social workers within our department that serve as a bridge and a liaison with our families that struggle with mental health or mental illness. And so, I'm just grateful that Dr. Anthony allowed me the opportunity just to create a space where families can -- we can meet families where they are. Sometimes, there's transportation issue, sometimes families can't make it, and so their virtual platform creates an opportunity to meet our families in an equitable way, so thank you all so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, continue, Madam Clerk. I'd like to recognize Representative Derrick Jackson's with us today. Thank you, Mr. Representative for being with us. Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, Public Hearings, **25-0392**, 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 website www.fultoncountygga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we'll start with speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 37 speaker cards."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thirty-seven?"

CLERK GRIER: "Thirty-seven."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And how many on Zoom?"

CLERK GRIER: "Twenty-two -- 22 on Zoom."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. That's 59. That will exceed the one hour that we have, so I'm going to plead with you to limit your remarks and if what you were going to say has already been said, don't feel obligated to repeat what's been said, because we have one hour for public comments. We have 59 total speakers. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Will the first six speakers, please come forward: Kevin Muldowney, Judith Sullivan, Dorothy Harpe, Candy Muldowney, Adaline Kumor, and Julie Allen."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And when you have 15 seconds, I'll say 15 seconds; that's your key to begin to conclude your remarks. And again, if you can say what you have to say in less than two minutes, it would be greatly appreciated. First speaker."

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Here we go. Hello. Kevin Muldowney here. The Board of Registration and Elections is an oversight board made up of two members from each major party with a nonpartisan chair. The nominees must be Fulton Electors and not running for or holding elected office. The very fact that the BRE is an oversight body, it is imperative that we have divergent views and opinions on the board to maintain healthy oversight. It is illegal for this body to turn down the party's nominations as long as they fit those criteria. Our municipal code 1433 reads: two members shall be appointed by the governing authority for nominations of each party. The law is so written to avoid a partisan vote by members more concerned with their reelection bid than actually following the law. Chairman Pitts, with all your vast experience, you should be able to successfully spin the fact that following the law will benefit your reelection. Commissioner Ivory, I'm sure you can appreciate the value of following the law. As you said during your proclamation to Mayor Shirley Franklin just last meeting, you have to know the law and follow the law. Today, you may hear some wild claims about our nominees; talking points of pride emotion, completely void of any facts. The fact of the matter is the legislature crafted a situation encouraging vigorous debate between members charged with proper oversight of a supremely important function. The free and fair election of our government, our laws were so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- it is through following these laws that we truly protect our constitutional republic. Thank you."

JUDITH SULLIVAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Judith Sullivan. I have provided a summary for each of you in green folders. The pictures and the two short summaries should tell the story in the first ten pages followed by documentation that I highlighted for a quick review. Also, a white binder that contains the complete details is provided. I'm not wanting to know a conclusion you arrive at,

rather handing over do you for follow-up so that others are protected. I've done my part by ensuring that the crosswalk was painted, where I tripped and fell by informing the head librarian of the unmarked crosswalk and liability that existed as per the senior analysts of the city of Atlanta. She issued a very general order to have the crosswalk marked. One of the librarians had contacted Fulton County to warn that the area was an optical illusion well before I had my fall. It was initially decided that I fell on the city of Atlanta property, which was incorrect due to the Occupational Health & Safety Area being contacted instead of obtaining an injury report. The Atlanta senior investigator provided his findings of the engineering reports he had ordered to ensure that a proper decision be reached even though this was not the usual procedure. He was extremely angry that I was not reimbursed and told me to go to Small Claims Court. This time it was decided that the area where I tripped was within building code. The policeman who patrolled the area told me that he tripped on that same area, but nothing was done, stating you have a claim, but you won't get anything, the voice of experience. He's good friends with the present Mayor of Atlanta. Sovereign immunity was the defense in Small Claims Court, no kidding. Surely, you want your constituents to be fairly treated and taken care of while injured. Last week, a verse came to me in scripture --"

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

JUDITH SULLIVAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- yes, 1st Timothy 6:10: for the love of money is the root of all kinds of evils; and I thank Dana Barrett for her special attention. She really tried her best. I appreciate her, she's wonderful. Thank you."

DOROTHY HARPE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. Okay, my name is Dorothy Harpe. And I'm a Fulton County resident voting in the Sixth District. I am here today, Commissioner Pitts, to ask you to appoint Jason Frazier and Julie Adams to the Board of Elections. And I also want to say that I'm an America First Patriot. I believe all elections should be free and fair in all 50 states. And legally, voters with proper ID. I am a true child of God, so to all the Board Members today, please appoint Jason and Julie. Thank you very much. Todah, that means, thank you in Hebrew, gracias in Spanish, and thank you in English."

CANDY MULDOWNNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. This is Candy Muldownney from Fulton County. This Board will be voting today on two lawful nominations from the Republican Party to perform oversight on the Board of Registrations and Elections. This is an oversight board, and by definition, must remain balanced between the two parties to successfully perform its functions. That is why the law is written as such. Municipal Code Section 14-33 says, two members shall be appointed. Nominees must be Fulton electors and not running for or holding elected office. It is actually very simple. We are a constitutional Republic, and as such, we are bound by the laws established by legislature protecting individual rights and liberties. Please follow the law and accept these two very qualified individuals to the Fulton BRE. Thank you."

ADALINE KUMOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioner Pitts and other Commissioners. My name is Adaline Kumor; I'm a Fulton County resident. So Fulton County is at a crossroads. As Georgia continues to be the national epicenter for critical elections, we have a choice to make. Stick with the status quo or boldly step into a future defined by transparency, accountability, and public trust. That's why Jason Frazier must be approved for the Fulton County Board of Elections and Julie Adams to be reelected. A call to the Board: be brave and confirm Frazier and Adams. Thank you for your time."

JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Julie Allen, District Three. Once again, Commissioner Barrett, I appreciate the work you do with representing our district. Commissioner Ivory, I want to let you know that I donated to your campaign because I believed from attending past meetings that it was clear District Four needed change. I was deeply offended that my tax dollars paid for Commissioner Hall's poor choices and subsequent litigation. Commissioner Khadijah and Chair Pitts, I appreciate that you've shown the ability to vote your conscience beyond partisan lines. I ask all of you to do that today. As you may know, I ran against Stacy Evans for state house in District 57, and yet at the capitol this session we stood together to fight SB 144, a liability shield for Bayer Monsanto and Cap China, the worse bill of our session, it's similar to the liability shield that Reagan gave to vaccine manufacturers in 1986. It's that bad. She even acknowledged our alliance in her minority report. Now, I urge you, don't vote for a party; vote for the future. We know that our parties are correct -- are corrupt, the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, problems with both. Jason Frazier is a data analyst. He doesn't play politics. He plays for the people. He asks hard questions, demands transparency, and brings real experience to a board that desperately needs it. Fulton County elections still suffer from a lack of trust and transparency. Two plus two equals four. We must be able to check our math. Please vote, yes, for Julie Adams and Jason Frazier. This is a vote for restoring public trust in our elections. Thank you so much."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Michael Gordon, Susanne Hubbard, Chris Hayden, Teresa Rhodes, Matt Rowenzcak, and Josh McKoon".

MICHAEL GORDON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Michael Gordon, Fulton County resident. Challenging registration records is allowed by law; it's not a crime and, with regard to that, there's always two goals with the registration records to make sure that every eligible voter can register and remain registered; that's important. But the other goal is to make sure that every invalid registration record is removed in a timely manner. The Democrats traditionally advocate for the first goal and the Republicans for the second. These goals are not in conflict. We need to do both. The Democrats stressed the importance of fair play and equal representation always is the biggest -- you know, one of the biggest things they concern themselves with. And the BRE is supposed to represent the two biggest parties equally. So in the name of fair play and equal representation, please give Jason and Julie the opportunity to serve as Republican members of the BRE. Thank you."

SUZANNE HUBBARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Suzanne Hubbard, and I am a Fulton County resident. I am here today to show my complete support for Jason Frazier and Julie Adams for the BRE. As I understand it, two nominations for the BRE are made from each party, vetted and voted on, and each nominee has to meet certain requirements to be on -- to be part of the BRE, and both candidates qualify and were unanimously agreed upon. So I'm wondering why there is a vote by the BOC after each party has taken the time to vet their nominees. Shouldn't it just be a procedural confirmation of each party's wishes? It seems to me that the BRE is designed to be balanced with equal representation. We expect that you will confirm both Ms. Adams and Mr. Frazier as well as the other party's choices without bias and political opinions. Both of the Republican nominees are more than qualified and have shown that they are passionate about the right for every legal adult US citizen to have a voice and one vote; a cherished right for the US -- for citizens in the US. Please confirm the nominees. I thank you for your time and consideration."

CHRIS HAYDEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Chris Hayden a resident of Fulton County. The requirements to be a member of the registration and elections board are to be a registered voter and not in an elected office, nor a candidate. With that being said, using the law as my guide, I can state that there is no valid reason not to accept the recommendations of Julie Adams and Jason Frazier. These are the recommendations of the Fulton County Republican Party. Ms. Adams is currently serving her term and obviously has the requisite qualifications. She is not in an office nor a candidate for an office. Mr. Frazier is the subject matter expert on elections. He is knowledgeable about local, county, state, and federal elections. These Fulton County residents should be approved as members of the Fulton County Registration and Elections Board."

TERESA RHODES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Teresa Rhodes. And I'm here today in strong support of the appointments of Julie Adams and Jason Frazier to the Fulton County BRE. They have consistently shown a commitment to fair, lawful, and transparent elections. They are serious, solution-focused citizens who care deeply about the integrity of our electoral process. While some choose just to complain or politicize, Julie and Jason take action. That is the kind of representation I want on that board. I understand the pressures that come with making appointments, but I urge you, respect the selection of these nominees by those who know the best. Don't base your decision on a twisted interpretation of the statute, or on slanderous comments by politically motivated critics who've never worked alongside these nominees or witnessed their integrity first-hand. This board is meant to reflect balance. Partisan gamesmanship only further divides the public and undermines our faith in the process. Let's rise above that. Please confirm Julie Adams and Jason Frazier to the BRE. Thank you for your time."

MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Matt Rowenzcak, Fulton County. As it was said at your last meeting, Commissioners, Commissioner Ivory, you said that there was one thing that stuck with you when Mayor

Shirley Franklin spoke to your Georgia State class that when you are an elected official, you need to understand the law that you have to read it and understand it as it relates to your position. You said that not only as a lawyer, but you thought you would use it as a guiding principle as an elected official. This County has a reputation for not following the law. Your predecessor is a perfect example of that. My question to you and the rest of this Board is have you read the laws that pertains to the appointments to the Board of Elections? I'll cite it for you: 'Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County made by the chairperson of the County executive committee of the political party. The requirements further state that board members must be an elector and resident of Fulton County. They cannot be elected to public office or be a candidate for an elective public office. That's it. Let's also take into consideration the spirit of the law. The intent of the law and the creation of the board is to provide oversight of our elections. That's why representation from the two largest political parties is equal. It is not so that one party can override the other or choose their board members. That will be completely contrary to the board's existence and its composition. Yet some of you intend to do exactly that today. Quote, saving democracy by rebuking its laws that were put in place by the legislators who were elected by the people; how does that make sense? Turn off the hyper partisan rhetoric and focus on the law. Appoint all political party nominees --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- is the lawful thing to do. Thank you."

JASON MCKOON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chairman Pitts and Commissioners. My name is Josh McKoon. I'm a Fulton County resident. I'm Chairman of the Georgia Republican Party. I addressed you two years ago on this matter, and a lot of those things haven't really changed. I'm sad that I have to be here today. This should not be political consideration. This is simply about representation, equal representation for the parties on the Board of Registrations and Elections. In the case of Ms. Adams, this Commission confirmed her appointment after some litigation on what happened two years ago. She has distinguished herself. There's nothing she's done that would disqualify her for a full term, so I certainly hope that she'll be approved. Mr. Frazier is also well-qualified, not just under the statute, but by the work he's done. He's very well familiar with Georgia election law. So I hope that what will happen today is that you will confirm both of these appointments. They are qualified under the law. This should not be a political consideration and unlike two years ago, there's a statewide primary election on June 17th. There's a statewide primary runoff that will likely occur in July, and there are two statewide elections for constitutional offices in November. The Republican Party needs to be represented during that process. It would be a very dangerous precedent to set to have statewide elections occurring in Georgia and the Republican Party being unrepresented at the table at the agency that is supposed to guarantee fairness in those statewide elections. So I would simply ask that as you consider this today, consider the implications of denying the Republican Party

representation at this crucial time. Thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Jim Walsh, Charles Krieger, Pamela Eckhardt, Maria Gaudio, Shawntrell [Phonetic.] Buggs, and LA Pink."

JIM WALSH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you for hearing from your residents today. And thank you for accepting this responsibility. The appointment of Julie Adams and Jason Frazier to the board is to have the board, I believe, you've heard all the statements about the laws and the rules. I want to talk more about the human side. The human side is the voters. The voters in this County happened to have elected you to represent all the voters: Republicans and Democrats. And what we're asking for today is to have two Republicans be on this board to represent the Republican base equally and fairly. I ask you all to rise above the political allegiances that you have, and to do what is fair and responsible for the County, for the voters in this County to make them believe and to have them believe that this election process is fair, just, and equal to all people involved. Thank you."

CHARLES KRIEGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Charles Krieger. I'm a retired doctor of chiropractic. I'm not a lawyer. I'm not an elected official; having said that, it's my understanding that the two Republican nominees, Jason Frazier and Julie Adams, who are unanimously nominated by our Party, are to be granted appointment to the Fulton County BRE. I'd like to assume that it adherence to protocol will be followed and that Mr. Frazier and Ms. Adams will be nominated. Thank you."

PAMELA ECKHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Pamela Eckhardt and I'm here -- I'm a resident of Fulton County. I'm representing all of those in my district, which is 47, today and asking you to please confirm Jason Frazier and Julie Adams to this post that you've heard about for our Party. I do want to remind you that the way that you vote and act today will be remembered. It's your legacy the way you vote becomes your legacy and also, it's in history, and it will be remembered by all of us. So we're hoping that you will please make the right decision today. Thank you."

MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Maria Gaudio, Fulton County. Julie Adams and Jason Frazier are qualified exemplary citizens, talented, reliable, intelligent, and motivated to procure free and fair elections. The days of Fulton County having up to a 113 percent of electors having voted in any election must end. Even a hundred percent would be considered highly suspect. Some of you, Board Members have personally experienced some of the shenanigans in your own elections, where to win, you had to make it too big to rig. Please vote for Julie and Jason for their confirmation so that they can prevent shenanigans in our elections. Thank you."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "All right. So we already know that the County and the government have -- is full of shenanigans. My problem today is if Clayton County Board

of Commissioners can see the malfeasance in the incompetence of their sheriff, why can't you guys? Why can't you guys recognize all of the DOJ report that you've read you went through; all what is it, 96, or maybe a hundred pages? Why can't you guys recognize the issues and the problems that are going on in there? I got a whiff that they are over at the jail right now -- the federal people that are supposed to be babysitting him and watching what he's doing. And the problem that I'm having with this entire situation is that other sheriffs have been removed for the smallest thing, so why with all of the bodies that are on his belt, he cannot be removed? The problem that we have with our state representatives and the other people that are in the Democratic Party, they walked out for five transgenders, five, but won't walk out for the inmates over here being slaughtered and murdered. Why walk out for the children being killed by the officers that have been indicted; not walked out for none of them, but will walk out for five transgenders. You guys got to do something about the sheriff because these lives continue to be on your hand and babysitting him --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- ain't one of them. So I don't know what to tell you, but the babysitting days are over. You can either go with him or let him go."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers: Cecilia Baldwin, Mary Jo Peed, Walter Reeves, Rachel Lastinger, Mae Stradtham, and Michael Dvorscak."

CECILA UGANTE BALDWIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Cecilia Ugante Baldwin. I'm the voter protection director for the Democratic Party of Georgia. I'd like to start by thanking the Board for its service and for allowing testimony and appointments to the Fulton Board of Registration and Elections. Julie Adams is unfit to serve on the BRE. She is unwilling to compromise and operate in good faith in her role. She filed litigation against the BRE and the Election's director. She also violated law which she voted against certifying the election in March 2024. She was also represented by known elections denier entity, American First Policy Institute. Her reappointment should be rejected. Furthermore, Jason Fraizer is unfit to serve as a member of the Fulton Board of Registration and Elections because he refuses to follow federal law, governing list maintenance, including voter challenges. On August 4th, Fraizer filed a challenge to 2029 Fulton County voters. The challenge ask Fulton County to violate federal law in two regards. First, the challenge ask the BRE to remove voters on the basis that the voters had moved from their address. But the National Voter Registration Act, the NVRA, makes it clear that Fulton County's only option is to send those voters a confirmation notice; place them on the inactive list, and then wait two federal election cycles before removing them. Second, as challenges made on August 4th, just 93 days ahead of the November election. It would not have been possible for Fulton County to provide the voters notice, hold a hearing, and remove voters at least 90 days ahead of Election Day, which is what federal law requires. On March 12th of this year, Frazier testified at a House Governmental Affairs hearing where he propose that Georgia pass a law allowing counties to systematically remove challenged voters within 90 days of a federal election, which would violate the NVRA."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

CECILA UGANTE BALDWIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Frazier in the past has expressed frustration with the Fulton County over its list maintenance practices, going so far as to file a lawsuit last year to challenge them. But Fulton County has a vital interest in ensuring that voters are not wrongly and illegally disenfranchised."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

MAY JO PEED, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, my name is Mary Jo Peed. I'm a resident of Fulton County. I have a long and consistent experience as a poll watcher, vote review, and duplication panelists, and as an advocate for protecting the right of every qualified Fulton citizen to vote in an efficient and effective environment. I regularly attend the BRE meetings. I'm opposed to the appointment of Jason Frazier to the Fulton County Board of Registration. Nothing has changed in regard to Mr. Frazier's qualifications since this BOC voted against approving the Frazier nomination in June of 2023. The BRE has clearer obligations and duties as a Fulton County Board. Those obligations and duties are set forth in their bylaws which among them are duties to ensure that elections are administered by the department and that they comply with applicable federal and state laws, and are worthy of the public trust; and to articulate the department goals and accomplishments to the public and to elected bodies to which the department answers. I respectfully request that this Commission vote no on approving the nomination of Mr. Frazier and ask the Republican Party to nominate a candidate that can, from the words of the 2024 monitoring team, serve the Fulton County voters by a more collegial and cooperative approach. Thank you very much."

WALTER REEVES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Walter Reeves, worker's representative, Atlanta mayoral candidate. As many of you know, we are now into a great (inaudible) monetary crisis. It would be very prudent to type in bond market into a search engine and read the latest news every morning. If the US Treasury Market does melt down, as is anticipated, then all the Fulton County pensions will be insolvent; and apropos this public works week a solution would be the Reeves Pension Security County Bill. I've already discussed that in a previous meeting. And the way to finance this would be with the contract known as the Reeves Quantitative Ease, and you certainly know Mr. Raffaella Bostic at the Atlanta fed. You can meet with him. All of your debt, Grady Hospital, MARTA, Fulton County Jail, all of your public debt can go off to Mr. Raffaella Bostic, and that will give you the funds to face this economic crisis. It would also give you the funds to pay Fulton County -- the courthouse like Judge Cassandra Kirk and her staff, and it would also secure the pensions, and then you could be present there personally with Mr. Raffaella Bostic at the Jackson Hall economic forum this fall. Thank y'all very much and God bless y'all."

RACHEL LASTINGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Rachel Lastinger, and I serve as the Associate Director of the ACLU of

Georgia's Voters Access Project. I'm also a Fulton District Six resident. I'm here today on behalf of thousands of Georgia voters to urge you to vote no on the appointment of Jason Frazier to the Fulton County Board of Elections. Fulton County deserves Board of Election members who protect the sacred right to vote, not individuals who exploit the system to suppress it. Jason Frazier's record is not only disqualifying, it's dangerous. His appointment would send a message that voter suppression, disinformation, and harassment are accessible -- are acceptable in Georgia's most populace County. This cannot stand. His actions fall in to three deeply troubled categories: suppression of voters, Mr. Frazier has filed more than 25,000 voter challenges across Georgia. Thousands of them right here in Fulton County. These challenges are often baseless, filed without evidence, and serve only to intimidate voters and strain our election infrastructure. He's actively worked with individual statewide to spread these tactics overwhelming local election officials and creating confusion to the very system he now seeks to oversee. Promotion of disinformation: Mr. Frazier has repeatedly spread false claims about Georgia elections. He has questioned the legality of Dominion voting machines and aligned himself with (inaudible) election integrity network, an organization that continues to sow distress in our democracy. He even helped develop Eagle AI, a software tool that raises serious privacy concerns, and has been used to justify mass voter bridges. Fulton County needs election officials who strengthen public trust not dismantle it. Endangerment of election workers: Perhaps most alarmingly, Mr. Frazier has targeted election workers by name, sent documented threats, harassment and intimidation. No one who puts our public servants in danger should be given authority over --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds.

RACHEL LASTINGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- elections. Let me be clear, Jason Frazier doesn't just challenge names on a list; he challenges your neighbors who questions the credibility of Commissioners. We urge you to vote no on his appointment. Thank you."

MAE STRADTHAM, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Mae Stradtham. I'm here today regarding the Georgia Power easement that is at the Howell Station neighborhood. I'm a resident of Longley Avenue, lower Longley, which directly is impacted by this easement. I have two small children that play outside that will be under these high-energy lines. At a recent neighborhood meeting which you attended, Commissioner, we greatly appreciate that the Georgia Power representative mentioned multiple criteria that they had to consider in the placement of the lines. She mentioned federal guidelines, state guidelines, environmental factors, cost and safety to the community, but what they fail to consider was that the safety of the community and of its members must be rated higher than costs for other factors, and they have not done this. We have seen documents where Fulton County approved the sale of this land. It was described -- it was passed via a consent agenda. It was described in your e-mails as a sneaky way to push things through without public comment; that is a sneaky deal that you are all party to. I'm not sure you were aware of it, but you were. Also during the

negotiations, you proposed that Georgia Power compensate the neighbors directly affected by this. Our property values will go down. Georgia Power cross that line item out and you agreed to it. Why? How are you representing your constituents by allowing this to happen? I want you to know that our neighborhood is not backing down; we are going to fight this. We appreciate and we ask that you continue --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MAE STRADTHAM, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- to press Georgia Power to keep these negotiations open. We were deliberately silenced and we need you to do the right thing. Thank you."

MIKE DVORSCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Mike Dvorscak. I'm a Fulton County resident. I know several of the Commissioners personally, and Mr. Pitts, I served on your task force on the 2020 primary election. I've worked in the polls and I know that there are two main places where the integrity of the system is really at stake. One is where all the ballots come at the end of the day to be counted. The other, the voter rolls. It wasn't too long ago that there were so many registered people in Fulton County that it was demographically not possible to have that many people over 18, given the population of the county. Now, all I've heard from my friends on the other side is hyperbole and problems with someone contested someone's eligibility. But the only way to keep the rolls clean is to question when somebody moves or when someone registered to an invalid address. And that's the majority of what our representatives, Julie Adams and Jason Frazier have done. Now, they're not felons. And there are no other disqualifying characteristics that they have. So I, as a resident, would expect that my vote be protected from someone coming behind me who shows an ID, has their --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MIKE DVORSCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- excuse me, and gets to vote and shouldn't have. Thank you for your time this morning. Please approve these nominees."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Autumn Miller, Sarah Pedro, Steven Scibert, Caitlin Barringer, Devin Franklin, and Devin Barrington-Ward."

AUTUMN MILLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, good morning. My name is Autumn Miller and I'm a Fulton County citizen. I'm also a poll worker and a poll watcher; and I'm here to urge you to please vote, yes, for having Julie Adams and Jason Frazier be on the Board of Elections. I know them to be good and honorable people. I know that they are very knowledgeable about the best practices for election processes. And the Republican Party nominated them unanimously. And we deserve a voice on the Board, and I would really like for you to honor the law which actually is printed here on your agenda, on page 12. You can see that the Board shall appoint them, so please vote for Julie Adams and Jason Frazier. Thank you."

SARAH PEDRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you so much. So although I fully support the right of these Democrat operatives to voice their support for the Democratic appointments to the BRE, they do not have the right to select all appointments to the BRE. There's a process to allow both sides representation and allowing for balance and accountability. I'm a Fulton County resident and I've also been a poll worker and a poll watcher. I have known Jason Frazier for many years, he's actually a neighbor. He's a devoted father, husband, and Georgia citizen who has dedicated his time, personal resources, and his whole heart to ensuring the people of this state have transparency in our election process. He is not now nor has he ever been political or biased. He's just been relentless in the pursuit of truth and fairness. And just to be clear, a lot of those challenges to the voter rolls, I've saw many of them. Some of them were several addresses -- or several people register to an empty lot, so that's a valid challenge. So anyway, I just believe that he should be appointed. I hope that you will do the right thing. All the things that he's done have made him more than qualified for this position on the BRE, so thank you."

STEVEN SCIBERT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board. My name is Steven Scibert, and I'm an election's insurance agent and I'm here representing myself. And two businesses in Roswell, both an independent insurance agency and a trade association that provides services for franchises of -- franchise locations in the Fulton County area and across the state. And I'm here to ask that you -- you consider and confirm both Julie Adams and Jason Frazier; and then appoint them as it has been requested by the Republican Party. And I believe that, you know, what we've seen, I was a poll watcher during most of the elections at Peach Tree Polls. I've seen the inconsistencies and the things that have been happening at the polls, and I'm appalled. And, you know, the Democratic unsubstantiated accusations of the lady here before by Mr. Frazier, I ask you to disregard those and go ahead and appoint him for the two year period. Thank you."

CAITLIN BARRINGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. My name is Caitlin Barringer, I'm the community leader in District Four and I served -- and have the privilege of working at Open Hand and the Mighty 6. I'm here today regarding 2025 CSP award recommendations. As it stands currently, Open Hand is not set to receive a CSP award this year. We recognize funding is limited and understand not being able to receive the full 100,000-dollar award we applied for. However, even at the 25,000-dollar level that is listed as our funding recommendation, we would still be able to serve over 3,000 meals to 75 Fulton County seniors who are currently not receiving nutritious meals they deserve. With past support, we've delivered critical nutrition education and healthy food access to hundreds of Fulton County seniors, helping them manage chronic illness, stretched fixed incomes and stay independent longer. Without this funding, many older adults in this County will lose a vital source of support. There is currently a waitlist to provide meal services through the Department of Aging and there are seniors who are not physically capable of going to a food bank to pick up groceries, let alone prepare meals for themselves. During a similar program with CCSP funds last

year, 87 percent of surveyed participants reported increased self-sufficiency, 65 percent reported increased viability, 43 percent reported reduced number of poor mental health days, and 19 percent reported a doctor's reduction in their medication dosage. This food is medicine program makes an incredible impact on our community at a time when there have been threats to the federal senior nutrition programs. It is even more important that we lean in to find solutions for Fulton County seniors. Open Hand is grateful for our continued collaborations with Fulton County --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

CAITLIN BARRINGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- including our participation in next week's senior summit. Thank you for your time and continued leadership. Thank you."

DEVIN FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. To the public that is watching, my name is Devin Franklin. I am the Senior Policy Council at the Southern Center for Human Rights as well as a member of the community over cages coalition. I want to speak to you all a bit about the Fulton County Jail and the ongoing issues of overcrowding that are present there. I'd like to begin by referencing a quote, when all you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. That is a quote meant to evoke imagery reflecting how one's individual's bull-headedness and tunnel vision can blind that individual to a more effective solution of a problem. That quote also seems at times applicable to the broader context of Fulton County government and its several departments that overlap with this criminal legal system; particularly as it pertains to overcrowding at the Fulton County Jail. The solution of more cages seems to be the hammer that we're consistently fighting. For too long, county representatives including prosecutors, it's elected Sheriff, and even some Members of this Board have seemingly focused on expanding the County's carceral footprint. Whether it be through leasing of Atlanta City Detention Center; whether it be the pursuit of a \$2 billion jail or expansion of the existing jail. All of these options have been washed, rinsed, and repeated ad nauseam in lieu of the most basic foundational considerations of addressing the root cause of the mechanism that objectively is most responsible for creating overcrowding at the jail; that, of course, it is policing arrests. According to Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, more than 80 percent of the individuals in the Fulton County Jail are there as a result of arrests by Atlanta Police Department. We know that from police scorecard that more than 85 -- that Atlanta has a higher arrest rate for low-level offenses than 85 percent of police departments in the country. We know that you all have made significant investment --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DEVIN FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- in diversion services in Fulton -- from Fulton/Atlanta and proper use of diversion. Proper use of the incarceration tactics is the most effective solution to overcrowding at the Fulton County Jail. Thank you."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Devon Barrington, Board with the National Police Accountability Project. First, I want to thank you all for the mention and the congratulations that you sent to my family for the birth of my son, Salah Fa [Phonetic.]. Thank you. Today, I'm here also to echo the situation at the Fulton County Jail. It's unfortunate that this Board has invested millions of dollars into a diversion center that is meant to divert people from our jail; is meant to address the issue of overcrowding, yet many police leaders, particularly with the city of Atlanta Police Department, has refused to utilize those services in a way that reduces the stem of people going inside of the Fulton County Jail. That is unfortunate, because when we don't pay for what we've already -- when we don't utilize what we've already paid for on the front end, we pay more for it on the back end, and that is in the case of overcrowding. In addition, we continue to see presentations from leaders here in Fulton County about the numbers at the jail going in the wrong direction. The number of unindicted people in this Fulton County Jail continues to go in the wrong direction. The number of people who are staying there longer than 180 days continues to go in the wrong direction under the leadership of this district attorney and our elected Sheriff. It is ridiculous at this point. Why do we continue to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into a carceral system when we've invested millions of dollars into a diversion center that's meant to reduce the cost of how much it costs to incarcerate people inside of Fulton County? And so, I'm encouraged that Commissioners Ivory and Chairman Pitts are asking the questions of law enforcement leaders to find out why is it that the city of Atlanta --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- arresting people at a higher rate than most major departments in this country? Why is that the case? And when we can be diverting people from the Fulton County Jail, it comes at a savings to taxpayers and I don't know about you, but it's getting really high out there. So I hope that you all address this issue. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Last seven speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: Christine Propst, Brad Barnes, Sandra Burchardt, Marisa Pyle, Athena Shuffett, Kristin Nabers, and Frank Schneider."

CHRISTINE PROPST, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello Board, Christine Propst, Sandy Springs resident. I'm here to ask you to please approve the appointment of Mr. Jason Frazier and Ms. Julie Adams. I know both very well. They are extremely qualified candidates, and as you've heard already, they were unanimously approved by the Republican Party. Both candidates have extensive knowledge of election procedures and policies. They have extensive knowledge about election law, and they have extensive knowledge about our election systems and data. I also want to correct a couple of comments that were made and give you a couple of facts. When Jason Frazier submitted his challenges back in 2021 and '22, over 90 percent of those challenges were reviewed and approved by the previous registration manager. What

that means is she reviewed those submissions and she confirmed those submissions, so they were not false submissions. Number two, in mid '22, Mr. Frazier submitted -- or raised the flag about some data corruption that happened when we switched over to the Jarvis system. So that's where things got a little ugly. So he submitted that data back in, I want to say June, July of '22, to the Department of Elections and said we've got a real issue here. Thousands of records where the address had been corrupted, where there was missing date, where there was incorrect dates; he submitted that and said hey, guys, this is an issue you want to take -- you know, you want to take a look at. They basically ignored it; didn't do a thing. And over the course of seven months --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

CHRISTINE PROPST, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- they basically said the only way you're going to get this fixed is if you submit challenges. So that's where the issues came from. He tried to do the right thing. He tried to get Fulton County to fix the data rolls, and they refused. Thank you."

BRAD BARNES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioner Pitts and all the other Commissioners. My name is Brad Barnes, and I'm here to speak in favor of Mr. Frazier and Ms. Adams' appointment to the Election Board. I know many of you might have come here a little skeptical about approving those, but the purpose of having a strong set of people from both parties is maintaining confidence in the elections, right? We all want that, and they serve the same role that police accountability and oversight folks do within law enforcement. It's maintaining the public's confidence. The more confidence your public has in the legitimacy of your elections, the better off y'all are as elected officials. And as far as some of the folks complaining about so-called challenges, that's good. That's the process working its way out, we want that from both parties and the Republican areas and save our strong democratic advocates making sure the Democrats feel like their voice is being heard, and the Republican areas -- and the Democratic areas that stay the same. We want strong Republican advocates ensuring that the Republican voters there feel they're being heard. And so, those challenges a lot of times are, you know, where data has been corrupted or people's address was entered wrong as a clerical error. And so, when you guys are running for office, you're not going to be able to contact your voters if they're at the wrong addresses and things. So this is actually of benefit for you guys to have someone that's going through and checking the rolls and having someone that's a strong advocate there. So thank you so much for your time, and I do encourage you to put these great advocates on there --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

BRAD BARNES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- yes, sir. Thank you so much."

SANDRA BURCHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Sandra Burchardt. I lived in Fulton County for many years, over 40. And I understand the issues that have gone

and so troubling. And I admire the people that are willing to make a difference and improve the situation. I want to thank you, Commissioner -- Chairman Rob Pitts, for doing an excellent job in seeing that balance is, in fact, reflected. The new county I'm in has severe problems, and I really appreciate the courageous efforts of Julie Adams and Jason Frazier; and I pray that, in fact, they will be approved so that there can be a balance on fairness. Thank you."

MARISA PYLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, Commissioners. My name is Marisa Pyle. I'm here with all voting and local action. I'm here urging you to uphold the stability of Fulton County's elections' infrastructure by rejecting Julie Adams' and Jason Frazier's appointment to the Fulton County Board of Elections and Voter Registration. Fulton knows better than most counties in Georgia about the wide range in consequences of conspiracy, disinformation, and anti-voting narratives. It is for this reason that rejecting this appointment is essential. Not only does it protect the County elections administration from bad actors, it also protects the individual risks against election workers and staff. Mr. Frazier, in his capacity as a mass challenger, has directly named election staff, questioning their citizenship status, and exposing them to harassment. While I will not name the worker in question, I will not name them to risk subjugating them to future harassment. He has relentlessly accused the board and county of malfeasance. He has volunteered to report county workers to federal law-enforcement for alleged and unspecified legal violations. In addition, he has engaged the board in serious litigation, that's thought to force them to violate federal law around those maintenance. Just last year, he filed a federal complaint against the board seeking them to force them to conduct systematic list maintenance in violation of the National Voter Registration Act. After a judge raised serious concerns about the factual and legal basis for this action, he withdrew it. These actions do not imply in appreciation for the seriousness of this role. Finally, Mr. Frazier is part of a coordinated network of mass challengers statewide whose actions sow doubt about elections and the accuracy and safety of our systems. Mr. Frazier has made media appearances, volunteering to research and compile lists of voters who are active statewide to challenge in any county of the state. Subverting and as we've repeatedly heard from Fulton and others inhibiting county list maintenance practices and procedures. His lists risks disqualifying --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MARISA PYLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- eligible voters and they have proven to be from unreliable influence sources. We must protect our elections and we must protect our voter. In sum these actions represent a clear risk of intimidation, and we ask you to support your county staff and voters by rejecting his nomination. Thank you."

ATHENA SHUFFETT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. My name is Athena Shuffett. I'm a Georgia resident. And I'm here to suggest your approval for Jason Frazier and for Julie Adams to be appointed to the BRE. For one thing, Fulton County is at a crossroads right now. As Georgia continues to be a national epicenter for critical elections, we have a choice to make. We stick to the status quo

our future continues to be compromised by critics in regards to how we're handling the election process. Jason Frazier isn't just another name on the list, he has relentlessly advocated for election integrity, and he has been a citizen who has put to action his values. He actually dedicated his personal time to look into what's been happening with our elections and also address a lot of the discrepancies in our voter rolls. Jason's built a reputation of his transparency over across political spectrum so it's not based on being a Democratic or Republican, it's been bipartisan, that he's been looking at the voter rolls and wants to -- has consideration that we have fair elections. Doing this also will save time in our election process, and it'll save money and make sure that the elections are handled in a fair and honest way. It takes backbone and challenge the institutions, and Jason never backs down. Jason is just an advocate --"

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

ATHENA SHUFFETT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- his data analysts and public record experts. He's an system thinker and he also has a lot of time that he put into investigating our elections, and I just ask that you take that into consideration."

KRISTIN NABERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Kristin Nabers. I'm the state director for All Voting is Local Action. We are nonpartisan and advocate for expanding voter access. I was here in front of you two years when Jason Frazier was first nominated for the Board. At that time, I argued that his history of bringing many thousands of voter challenges against his neighbors in Fulton County should disqualify him from holding that position. He even challenged a then seating Republican appointee to the board claiming that Dr. Kathleen Ruth and her family, had registered at a business address; when, in fact, they were registered at their Buckhead townhome. However, Mr. Frazier has not stopped there. He worked to help develop Eagle Eye, a software that makes mass voter challenges easier. Eagle Eye's founder gave Mr. Frazier credit for developing a number of algorithms used by the program. And, in fact, our own elections director, Blake Evans, has said that Eagle Eye seems to steer counties toward improper list maintenance activities. It draws inaccurate conclusion and then presents them as if they are evidence of wrongdoing. This program has led to glut of challenges in counties including Fulton, most of which have been dismissed, but large numbers of challenges still burden the County offices undermine voters faith in the system. Mr. Frazier has wasted a huge amount of time in taxpayer dollars on these frivolous challenges and will have even more power to do so if reporting to the board. Someone with a track record like his cannot be given more influence over elections in our state's largest county. You rejected his appointment two years ago and since then he has only continued to try and undermine elections in Georgia. If you appoint him today, you're letting him and his allies know that all he has to do is to keep pushing, keep asking, keep pestering until they get a yes. I urge you to reject his nomination once again. Additionally regarding Ms. Adams, since being added to the board early last year, she's voted against certifying election results despite Georgia law being very clear that certification is mandatory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds.

KRISTIN NABERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "She actually filed multiple suits against her own board, Fulton County, and Nadine Williams pushing for increased access to election documents. In every case, the judge ruled against her and even before her appointment, Ms. Adams was spreading conspiracy theories about falsifying tally sheets and drop boxes. Thank you."

FRANK SCHNEIDER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Frank Schneider and I'm a resident of Forsyth County. I've had the opportunity to work alongside Julie Adams and Jason Frazier for the last four years. I know of very few people with their level of character, integrity, and intelligence in humble pursuit of free and fair elections. I implore you all to certify these two for the board of elections and support the will of the people. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it for here? All right, Representative Jackson, do you want to speak. We allow our current and former city councilmember, City Council President of BRE, Cathy Woolard come on down. How many do we have on Zoom?"

CLERK GRIER: "We're down to 11."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Eleven. We have about ten minutes left. We can take 11. All right, without objection we'll hear those."

CATHY WOOLARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Cathy Woolard. I'm the former Board of Election Chair here in Fulton County. I've served -- actually, one long term and one short term as interim. I apologize I wasn't here to sign in. My mom is having a health crisis; I had to check on her this morning. People have made some really good comments, and I'm here to ask that you not certify either Jason Frazier, nor Julie Adams. I've had the opportunity to serve, as I said, for two-year term where we made many, many changes in response to criticisms of Fulton County elections from the 2020 elections, and then I came back for a brief interim term and was shocked at the difference, the lack of collaboration, the multiple lawsuits being filed. When I was there initially with Mark Wingate and Kathleen Ruiz, we worked collaboratively. We had a goal of having unanimous consent on virtually everything we did, and we set high standards. We had a flawless implementation with the help of Dick Anderson into our new facility right before an election. We did two national searches and came up with Nadine Williams as our new chair. We required our staff to have national certification which they have done, and that's a multi-year process. We replaced virtually all of the senior staff in that time as we went through diligently all of the complaints, the concerns, and did our own rightsizing. When I came back, I found the board that couldn't get focused because we were constantly being distracted by complaints to the SEB with lawsuits. Ms. Adams, in one of her early things, asked for a very long list of materials to which I spent time and effort with our attorney to provide; only at the end of the meeting, Mr. Heekin to come up to me and say, what just happened? You gave us everything I

asked for while Ms. Adams ran out the door and filed the lawsuit against us for not providing her with --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds.

CATHY WOOLARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- allegedly all those things. I could go on and on, but I hope you listen to these folks that have come before and think a lot about Fulton County taxpayers' money and the sheer amount of time and staff and legal counsel that we've had to endure and pay for while these folks have disrupted our Board of Elections. Thank you very much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "How many on Zoom? All right."

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

SABRINA COWN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Sabrina Cown and I'm here as a resident of Howell Station to voice opposition of the sale of the easement between our neighborhood and the Fulton County Jail to Georgia Power. Chairman Pitts, thank you for attending our town hall meeting with Georgia Power. I'm sure you took away from that meeting the outrage and helplessness that our community is feeling, and for good reason. Georgia Power has made it clear that they will not commit to any specific replacement for the barrier foliage prior to starting construction on the lines, and they are under no obligation, legal or otherwise, to do anything for our community. Georgia Power, a company that has posted \$4.4 billion of earnings in 2024 has also stated that their concern for the cost of the project outweighs environmental and community impact concerns. I am eager to hear the discussion on the easement, and I would like you to consider that the failure of Fulton County to engage the community has placed us in this position. I urge you to do anything within your power to help us achieve an outcome that will cause the least damage and provide a safe place for our families to thrive. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Sarah Mugout."

SARAH MAGOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. I am a resident Fulton Station, particularly Howell Station, and, you know, I want to thank the Chairman for attending on May 13th. In April, we became aware of a proposed high-power transmission line. The land transfer was approved as part of the consent agenda by the BOC in March for \$3.5 million, and this was part of a consent agenda and through an open records request, we seen that this was described as a sneaky way of getting this approved without community -- without any debate about this, and we also know that there was no community engagement here. This project threatens our safety, our property values, our environment, and our quality of life. And also through this open records request, we have learned that Fulton County knew this. That representatives from Fulton County and DREAM repeatedly asked Georgia Power to engage the neighborhood. They

asked for stakeholder letters to be created. They asked for engagement, but that failed to happen. And why did it fail to happen; because Georgia Power's stated procedure is to engage communities only after all land for an easement has been acquired. That's clearly at odds with the requests and the requirements from Fulton County. I ask that the Commissioners work with Georgia Power to reroute the lines to any of these six plus other routes considered, none of which impacted residences, but they were more expensive so Georgia Power did not pursue them. Please represent and protect us, your constituents, in Howell Station, and also know that this is going to continue to happen throughout the County to other residents. Because data centers continue to grow and proliferate throughout Georgia, and their resource needs are immense. So I ask you to represent us. I ask you to protect us and our families in Howell Station. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Garland Favorito. Garland Favarito."

GARLAND FAVARITO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I truly appreciate all you've done for our county during decades of your service. I'm the cofounder of Voters Organize for Trusted Election Results in Georgia. We support all election board nominees from both parties. I call your attention to Fulton County ordinance, part one, chapter 14, section 33, paragraphs one and two, which explain that the two political parties with the largest number of votes shall nominate two members each to the Fulton County Election Board. That is your law. It's not a choice of the Board, not a popularity contest nor a decision that could be overridden by political operatives. You have an attorney on the board who'll confirm that I'm telling you the truth, assuming she's honest. You have board nominees from both parties today. All should be approved by consent as they've been over the last few decades. Democrats don't get to pick Republican nominees or vice versa. Section 26-266, Code of Ethics binds you to be impartial in conducting your duties. It orders you not to impede those persons best qualified to serve from holding public office. Nominee Jason Frazier is highly qualified despite blatant lies and partisan attacks you just heard, only coming from political operatives who even legally misinterpreted the NVRA. He has provided subject matter expertise in voter registration for the general assembly, state election board, and judicial proceedings. He has successfully challenged invalid registrations, not voters. Should you violate your own law again, imagine what that would look like to the rest of America? It is likely you will waste thousands of dollars of our taxpayer money defending yourselves, that is on top of the millions you've already spent trying to keep the 2020 election --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

GARLAND FAVARITO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- secret in criminal cases and civil cases and state election boards inquiries despite Georgia open records request law and an active court order to unseal those ballots. So today you can show the entire country how to --"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak Stephanie Endres. Stephanie Endres. Okay. The next person to speak is Naomi Green."

NAOMI GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Naomi Green, and I live in historic Howell Station. I'm also here regarding our neighbors' concerns over the land sale agreement for the installation of two a hundred and fifteen kilowatts high-power transmission lines. After being intentionally excluded from preplanning meetings and thanks to some pressure from our neighborhood, Georgia Power finally agreed to meet with our neighborhood in town hall on May 13th. This critical meeting promised the first official details of the project. Chairman Commissioner Pitts and member his staff joined us and I had the distinct pleasure of introducing the Chairman to many of our neighbors. We thank you so much for being there. At that meeting, Commissioner Pitts heard Georgia Power representatives say that they had considered alternative routes and options that would not impact the residential neighborhood, but dismiss these as too costly. He heard them say that even though they had been directly -- directly told to engage the community by memos from D.R.E.A.M., and this BOC, they disregarded that directive because it isn't their operating procedure. He watched as neighbor shed tears for the fear of the safety of their children and the well-being of their most valuable asset, their homes. He heard Georgia Power say they might possibly maybe be willing to negotiate a committee benefits agreement to provide physical protections at a modest compensation for our neighborhoods, but if you grew up in a home like mine, a home right here in Atlanta, Georgia. You know that words like might and maybe and possibly rarely deliver real results. I ask this Commission to investigate why the sale agreement was presented to you that claimed that impacted neighbors have expressed no concerns when we were clearly never engaged. Ask Georgia Power why they feel justified to ignore clear --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

NAOMI GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- vital and appointed government officials to engage the community years before deals are finalized and demand transparency about who the primary power customers are and hold those customers financially responsible for the extra cost of rerouting the lines. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Alma Lott. Alma Lott. Next person to speak is David Hancock. David Hancock. Next person to speak is Jake Castleberry. Jake Castleberry. The next person to speak is Jami Tucker. Jami Tucker. We can barely hear you."

JAMI TUCKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I just wanted to express my support for both Jason and Julie's (inaudible) (inaudible) (inaudible) to make sure that we have clean (inaudible.) covered by the BRE."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Excuse me. Could you speak up, ma'am?"

JAMI TUCKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I can. (inaudible)."

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

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Matthew Harrison."

MATTHEW HARRISON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. Good morning. My name's Matthew Harrison. I'm a resident of Howell Station. A town hall meeting was held on May 13th with Georgia Power and members of this Board included. Residents of Howell Station expressed their concerns regarding the health and safety around the proposed power lines. Concerned citizens repeatedly presented factual data to support our concerns in opposition to the power lines. Georgia Power repeatedly dismissed our concerns without presenting any factual evidence to demonstrate the power lines do not present any health or safety concerns. There are several other routes for these power lines. Georgia Power was asked if these power lines were specifically for QTS. Georgia Power denied this fact. It was later presented that part of the land Georgia Power utilizing for these power lines are residential lots within Howell Station. The residential lots are owned by Black Stone. Black Stone owns QTS. (Inaudible) should not be able to purchase residential lots for commercial use. There are several other routes for these powerlines. The city of Atlanta and Fulton County exist because of the citizens that live in Atlanta. I urge his Commission to serve the citizens of Howell Station and push Georgia Power and QTS to find an alternative solution for these powerlines. We deserve a power grid that does not degrade our neighborhoods and quality of life. We deserve alternative energy options other than Georgia Power. And you know, we ask that you find an alternative solution for this, and we ask that you hold -- hold Georgia Power and QTS in both and to do what's right for the community and for the city of Atlanta, and for the citizens of Atlanta. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Tamara Favarito. Tamara Favarito. Next person to speak is Alma Lott. Alma Lott."

ALMA LOTT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm trying to see can y'all hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

ALMA LOTT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I am highly concerned about the power plant they're trying to put in Vine City towards English Avenue. They didn't get no community input. Nobody know about it until about two weeks ago, and I want to reject Jason serving on this board also. I mean to say, it's just too much. But I would like some of our Commissioners to come and explain to us why the residents of Vine City and English Avenue had no idea about the new power plant that Georgia Power is planning on putting up in our community when we're all suffering and going through a lot. We have one power plant, why we need a second one? Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The last person to speak is Stephanie Endras. Stephanie Endres."

STEPHANIE ENDRES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

STEPHANIE ENDRES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. Thank you. Good morning, Chairman Pitts and Commissioners. My name is Stephanie Endres, and I'm the chairman of the Fulton County Republican Party. I'm the one who submitted the nominations for Julie Adams and Jason Frazier. As you can tell, elections can become partisan, which is unfortunate. The reason that I nominated them was to ensure that I was making nominations of individuals that were qualified and dedicated and willing to volunteer their time and talent to service all residents of Fulton County. My guiding compass is my faith. As a believer in God, I strive daily to walk in Jesus's footsteps, seeing his presence in everyone I encounter. We're all children of God, brothers and sisters, not Republican and Democrats. To God, we're all nonpartisan. Today, I ask that you evaluate these nominees based on their resumes for qualifications and their willingness to serve with integrity. I hope you'll see that this is not about politics. It's about public service and a shared commitment to making Fulton County's election as a model for the state and the nation. We all want to avoid another 2020. Let's do that by walking together hand-in-hand in partnership with staff and one another. The Lord's Prayer recited across many faiths and traditions reminds us to forgive us our trespasses as we give those who trespass against us. Let us move forward with grace, humility, and the shared goal of building something better together. May God guide you today as you consider these nominations and support Julie Adams and Jason Frazier, and may we all be reminded the higher calling we serve. Thank you for your time and attention, and I appreciate the time to speak today."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We've got them all in. Okay, Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 10, Presentations to the Board, **25-0390**, MARTA Quarterly Briefing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Greenwood, good morning."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "So again, thank you, Chairman Pitts, and MARTA -- Commissioners, MARTA is very happy to be here with you. I just want to acknowledge that we are being supported by our board members, Elizabeth Bolton-Harris, Freda Hardage, and Al Pond who are watching remotely. And also with me here

in the audience are some MARTA staff, Stephanie Hardy, Greg Patterson, Andrew Pofahl, and Ajay Joshi. So together we would like to present what MARTA's been up to over the last quarter. And I just want to start by acknowledging this picture here that features the April 23rd World Cup City Leaders Breakfast and World Cup briefing that you hosted on West Paces Ferry Road. We'll talk more about that later in the presentation, but if could we go to the next slide, please. You will see the typical agenda, and the next slide will begin with a review of the ridership, on the next slide. Thank you. So here is a linear graph depicting ridership over the years. We can see here the one thing I really should point out is in January 2025, that significant dip across all modes just to remind everyone that was a severe weather event over a number of days where MARTA's service was -- you know, we had no service on the buses and very limited service on rail. The other point I want to point out here is we were concerned -- you can see where rail and bus, the blue and the orange have started to separate; and did we then determined in fact that it was an administrative more of a motherboard issue. We were delivering rides, we had the ridership, we were collecting the revenue, but the numbers, the NTD data numbers were not being reported because there was -- we have aging fare gate equipment, and the motherboard, if you will, was not reporting the information back. We've since recognized and resolved it, so we can see that those two modes are closing the gap again. Over to the next slide; and one more, please. So this is a snapshot of our '26 operating budget highlights. On Friday, May 9th, we submitted our '26 budget to the MARTA Board, and the priorities on the budget are really based on our North Star of being a safe, clean and reliable transit system. So this slide provides an overview of the proposed operating budget which is scheduled for adoption by our board on June 12th. We held a public hearing on the proposed operating and capital budgets. We held it on May 13th at MARTA headquarters in person and virtually, and we also held it on May 15th at the Riverdale Town Center. So the items to note here in these pie charts is that there's no expected reduction in planned service delivery. Also, there have been cuts in expenses in places that were less essential to our mantra of being safe, clean, and reliable. And that enabled us to increase expenditures on safety and cleanliness initiatives. Some of the cuts do result in reduction in planned staffing levels, many of which were vacant positions, and we're also conducting a selective and strategic hiring freeze which will not include much-needed operators, mechanics, and police. Next slide, please. So this is a table representation of the information you just saw. I will point out there is a typo in the upper right-hand corner when we talked about revenue miles, 29.8. revenue miles and 2.3 million revenue hours; those are total miles and total hours. The difference between revenue miles and total miles of course being the amount of time that the vehicles spends, what we call deadheading and driving, you know, not in service, but to the service point to and from the garage. If were to change those words to revenue -- if we were to keep those words as revenue miles it would be 26.3 million in revenue hours, it would be 2.1 million, so just an administrative error we're cleaning up this morning. Again, the 26 service levels are listed there in terms of what we're seeing, in terms of what's coming out in the FY 26 operating budget; and I mentioned earlier that we're talking about safety. So we've got budgeted police pay increase to our MARTA Police Department, and we're also compressing the escalations scale so that the

amount of time it takes to get to top rate is shorter. What that has done is it's enabled us to recruit more police officers, retain more police officers and, in fact, the vast number of police officers that left in the last year or two because of financial issues have asked to come back to MARTA, because we have fixed the pay scales; so that's big. It also includes the fact that we are doubling down on things like our real-time crime center, which is the opportunity to watch through enhanced video equipment, real-time criminal activity as it's happening. We had a case just over a week -- just about two weeks ago where the individual was actually apprehended before the crime was reported. It's that responsive. And we've got, you know, a drone program as well that's really enhancing the police's ability to monitor this space. In terms of cleanliness, we've got additional support for cleaning along the rail corridors and related facilities, and we're continuing the rehabilitation of all 38 stations for a cleaner look and feel in our stations. And when we talk about reliability, I mean, the chief among those efforts is the NextGen bus network -- our new bus network redesigned which is going to enable people about 240 percent more people to have access to a frequent service network. A number of other improvements come with that including seven-day, all-day consistency of our service, so no more do you have to wonder if the bus runs on this frequency on a Saturday versus a Sunday versus a Monday or what time of day, but it's all day everyday people being able to set their watches by the service. And we're also introducing, much to popular demand, those 12 on-demand zones that will be almost like an Uber-like addition to the fixed route bus system so that will take care of that first mile, last mile in many of the areas that might otherwise have been considered transit deserts. So a lot of that is happening in our operating budget and it's supporting all of that as well as the new contract with our improved performance expectations for mobility services. Over to the next slide, please. We can talk about the capital highlights. Here's a snapshot of the proposed budget for our FY 26 capital program. In the next fiscal year, we proposed a budget of \$561 million for capital projects under our state of good repair program. This includes the top-spent projects listed in the bottom right-hand corner there. The CQ400, that's a new railcar that comes up the end of this year or early next. We launched that on January 30th, we revealed that, so a lot of acclaimed. It includes the automated fare collection of 2.0 and AFC, I will say this. Not only is it going to improve the amount of revenue fare that we're collecting because it's a much more difficult system to beat, it will also contribute to our security posture because what we found in the research is that the vast majority of people that conduct themselves poorly in the system also failed to paid, so we believe that by hardening the perimeter this way we'll be able to better control of the kind of behavior that's happening in the stations. We go all the way down with rail station rehabilitation, bus procurement, and escalator -- right down to escalator rehabilitation and station phone upgrades. Over to the next slide, please, and one more. On the capital side, I also wanted to talk about some of the work that's happening right in front in our eyes. So this construction is underway for the MARTA Rapid A line, and engagement continues for a dedicated rapid response team. They make regular calls and remain actively engaged with key stakeholders and business and community groups throughout the corridor. You can see there, the 14 neighborhood associations meetings that have been held as well as 17 MPU and community events. As the work continues, you may have heard we've

discovered a number of conditions that were not anticipated. This includes extremely shallow utilities in the southern section of Hank Aaron, which need to be resolved. Some of these utility lines were discovered to be three inches below the road surface, and when you think about the fact that they need to be 48 inches below with a warning strip at the 36-inch mark, three inches was an unpleasant surprise. So that needs to be dealt with. We discovered a parking garage beneath the sidewalk that was not in any plans or drawings in the downtown loop, and some abandoned trolley tracks that also need to be addressed because they are historic artifacts. So when you find things like that, you do have to stop the work and figure out the workaround. But we are working with all the stake holders including the program governance group, Project Governance Group, to move forward with the change order and get that worked done. MARTA Board approval has already been received contingent on the PGC approval, and we expect to get their approval very, very shortly. Next slide, please. Yeah, just an up-close photo of some of the conditions that we're talking about. There's the underground parking deck, so you know, before you go paving over a road or addressing a sidewalk, you really need to address the cavern beneath. Vaults, underground vaults and old brick walls, the animal remains; we weren't sure when you first discovered them if they're animal or human, so you do need to stop and get all of that work assessed. So there are timing concerns here and, of course, there's a lot of work and a lot of expense to remedy these situations before we move forward. Next slide, please. So that means cost increase, and we did have a significant change. Number one, which showed \$91.3 million, and now we're projecting an estimate and significant change. Number two, which increases that by some \$30.3 million to address. Now that's not the anticipated cost of these changes, that's the ceiling of the negotiation room that we want to have to go back and talk to the contractors and the constructors and anyone we need to talk to, to get these conditions fixed. Next slide, please. As a result of that -- as a result of that, we've put this request into our board, and as I said, the board has approved in principle, as long as we get the approval from the PJC. Next slide, please. That just doesn't stop us though from meeting our obligations. Our target is to get this work done for the World Cup, and what we've done is we've phased the work. So on phase one you can see along there that we will provide service from Summerhill Station's northbound to the entire south downtown loop and we're targeting April 2026 to have that service start in time for the World Cup. Phase two, below the line, is Armand, People's Town, Carver Stations, and we target revenue service for September 2026. This is the segment where the shelling utilities most impact the schedule. Next slide, please. Jumping over to Airport Station, we're really happy that construction at the station has moved off the platform and into the airport proper with the installation of the new ride store and some identified things there in terms of the things that we're working on. Work continues on elevator number two. And I'm really happy to report that escalator number one last weekend was overhauled and fixed, so that work is completed. The escalator's working again. We're also installing wiring fixtures, components in the ride store, and all that work is on schedule. Next slide, please. To Five Points where the downstairs, our platform level work continues. Anyone traveling through Five Points now, some have said they barely recognize the place. It's a lot better, a lot cleaner, a lot more modern amenities, planning and the like, and that work continues. The high ceilings, the sound

panels, the concrete block installations, all of that is working; wiring, lighting, and painting again continues with that project. Next slide, please. And in terms of Five Points upstairs, I'm pleased to report that as of May 1st, we have all requested permits so that work can begin, so we're very, very happy with that. By the end of this week, you'll see those orange pylons come out in the area which means you're starting to take the space. We have restriped the bus parking -- bus boarding locations, so that's taken place. And by June 6th, you'll start to hear and see the noises as demolition will begin in some areas, and that work will continue on. That would not be ready for the World Cup, but we will have it to a point where it's esthetically operational, and not imposing, so that those folks here in Atlanta to enjoy the World Cup would not be bothered by any construction activity going on at Five Points at the time. With, you know, good timing and few unforeseeable circumstances, we may be in a position to try to target 2028, which of course is the Super Bowl coming to Atlanta, but that is to come. Next slide, please. I want to just talk a little bit about the Cleveland Metropolitan ART. Of course, that's our first arterial rapid transit project, and it's Cleveland Ave/Metropolitan. This project will bring fast, frequent, and reliable transit to Southwest Atlanta and it was, of course, originally put out to bid in late 2023. But we only -- we only attracted one proposal, and that one proposal far exceeded our expectations in terms of cost. In fact, it was three times the budget, so we decided not to proceed with that. We came back and worked with the city of Atlanta, packaged the work, added some flat work, and put it back out so our bid went out to bid last Wednesday, May 14th, and that is encouraging; we believe that a lot more folks will be bidding on that. And we're targeting to get under construction this fall, and be in revenue service by 2028. Next slide, please. I-285 express lane transit study, just an update here: The work continues. We're working with GDOT on the 285 top end express program. I want to thank Commissioner Ellis for having been there and attending the policy workgroup meeting on April 4th. After the PWG meeting, we took preliminary findings of the study public in several public meetings held in early May. So beyond sharing our findings, the purpose of the meetings were really to better understand the transportation patterns and desires of the surrounding community, so on the right, you can see a draft service plan of how we can utilize this express lane for transit once built out by GDOT. Our next step include coordinating with Cobb Link and Ride Gwinnett to assess service coordination and infrastructure needs; and, of course, we're going to have this ongoing effort to keep our website -- our project website updated and open for public feedback. Next slide, please. So community engagement, next slide, on April 23rd, we referenced this at the outset, but Fulton County hosted a multi-jurisdictional city leaders breakfast and briefing on the FIFA World Cup preparation. Our MARTA team was in attendance, and we were really happy to be a part of that. I can assure everyone in this room that MARTA will absolutely be ready for both the Club World Cup this year and the FIFA World Cup next year. We specialize, of course, in moving large crowds to significant events, lots of experience in this and, in fact, when it talks to ridership -- when it comes to ridership days, if you remember, 2018 Super Bowl, 2018? MARTA -- the Saturday before that Super Bowl Sunday, MARTA's ridership was, I don't remember the numbers, but it's more than doubled anything we expect at the FIFA World Cup. So in terms of capacity, the ability to move crowds we'll be more than ready to do that. We've been in

discussion with transit systems across the country, all of which are hosting World Cup. We're in regular weekly talks with the FIFA host committee, and all the issues that would come to bear in terms of how to move mass folks to and from these events are being discussed. So MARTA is in an excellent position to make sure that we continue to do that. And of course, those esthetic and operational improvements that we've always been making -- you always say you can't be ready for the World Cup with a year to go. It is just not enough time, but the good news is we've been working at some of these things for four or five years, so our track renovation program to make sure that the signals are going to work without fail. The elevator and escalator refurbishment program that's been five years in the making, and we are now -- we're 99 percent reliability on all of our elevators and escalators, and all of that work is continuing. So we're more than ready, not to mention, our, you know, a renewed Airport station, a revitalized Five Points downstairs, up to 12 brand-new trains coursing up and down the corridor when the World Cup comes to town, so Atlanta's is going to have a good look. Next slide, please. Community engagement, of course, that was the senior -- I'm sorry, on May 8th, the MARTA team participated in a community resource -- senior resource day that was in Fulton County. Our team shared information about the MARTA reduced fare program, the MARTA mobility services as well as rider guides and details on upcoming public hearings. We also look forward to partnering with you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, on next week's May 28th Fulton Senior Summit at the GICC. Next slide, please. I'll leave you with this: MARTA's really happy to have won the marketing team; won the 2025 American Marketing Association award for our MARTA celebrates Civil Rights bus route campaign. That was presented on March 27th at the Annual AAMA Awards and we couldn't be prouder. This was a true team effort. This campaign creatively honoring our Civil Rights leaders while reinforcing MARTA's connection to the communities we serve. And with that, Chairman Pitts, I'll return the floor to you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you for that presentation. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Mr. Greenwood, thank you for all you all are doing, of course the MARTA board. I wanted to apologize. I have not been able to get to the events. I've been very busy this year because I know that government cannot do everything. And so, a lot of my time is spent in the field trying to make those relationships that fall in the gap. So, you know, I support MARTA, one of the biggest supporters, you all have been very responsive. I wanted to personally go on record that I received a phone call from one of the people that were on the train when the situation with the shooter, and they commended the employee running towards the danger as opposed to running away from the danger. And I think that speaks to leadership. And so, whatever you all are doing, dealing with active shooter situations, we know that the community's safety is first. I just want y'all to keep doing it, but I just wanted to publicly say that I've received the actual call from someone who was on there, and they were very impressed how the MARTA employee ran towards the danger as opposed to running from it. So whatever we can do here at the County to support that, because we know our day-to-day citizens must be safe just like the ones internationally that are coming. So I just wanted to thank you for that and let you know

a lot of times I'm working. So if you don't see me at those things that you're having, the bus unveilings and stuff, know that I'm not in the community. We're working hard and we thank you for what you do."

'COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you for that presentation. It was a lot, but I do have just one question. You're phasing in-service rollouts, so I'm just particularly interested in the roll out here at Fulton Government Center. What is that going to entail?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Which slide are you referring to?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Fourteen."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Fourteen. Oh, okay. Yeah, so the Government Center, the downtown, if you will, the government, that's all part of phase one."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And that will be a MARTA stop here -- a MARTA train stop here?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Yes, the MARTA rapid -- Summerhill rapid program will have a -- when we call it a station, it's serviced by a bus, but it's a raised platform with all the types of monitors and off work payments and things like that, that you would expect at a rail station."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, great. Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, all right. Other questions? Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks, Mr. Greenwood for being here. A few questions: going back to the ridership slide, I think we may have talked about this a little bit, or I may have asked; I don't think you were here. Prior presentation, I think we had some other folks that represented you. But my question on the ridership stuff is, given the investments that have been made or will be made in both newer routes, that sort of stuff or changing routes, et cetera. What are MARTA's objectives and goals for ridership; one year out, two year out?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Yeah, great question. I'll start by saying, you know, we couldn't have scripted what happened to drop ridership. I'll finished by saying

I fully expect that our ridership will meet and exceed where it was in 2019. That's due to a number of different factors. But then I will concede to you that it may be premature for me to put an annual number or a time point on these things. I can tell you that you mentioned investments, so things like the bus network redesign -- specifically design to grow ridership. The bus rapid transit program specifically designed to attract more ridership to a high-frequency network; it's well-known that folks, if they think that the next bus is going to come 25-30 minutes later, they don't bother. But knowing that the next bus is within 15 minutes, it'll attract more people. Investments like putting transit and schedules and up-to-minute information on everyone's cell phone, which comes in at the end of this -- yeah, at the end of this year, with another mobile 2.0 program, that's going to help. The AFC 2.0, the brand-new trains, the increase in buses, so not to mention the fact that I think remote work is starting to fall out of favor in most cities, and I believe that Atlanta will see the same. So when the majority of your ridership occurs in taking people to and from work, and then Atlanta was voted or deemed to be the number one city in the country for remote work, so it seems to stick here, but we're starting to see that relieved, so those types of things. In addition to the fact that we are expecting two more million people coming in the next 25 years, the one thing that's working against us, Commissioners, of course, are our modal share. And so, in any transit progressive city, modal share, which is the percentage of trips that people take on transit to come in to and out of the city, progressive cities we'll see a modal share of about 25 percent, as high as 50 percent in New York City; Atlanta somewhere between seven and nine percent. That's been a generational issue. It may be -- it maybe the roads, it may be just the way, you know, we cling to automobiles. So I admit that that is stalling our rapid return. So again, I don't have time points, but I do have absolute faith that we will meet and exceed those 2019 numbers."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So the following question, do you or any of your senior management team have any of your compensation tied towards increases in ridership?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "No, sir, we do not."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. I believe I recently read that there was some issue with the fare boxes where there may be some period of time where you're not going to be able to receive revenue. Did I read that correctly?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "So with AFC 2.0 is we put in -- bring in the new fare equipment. We have included in our budget acknowledgment that there may be some -- what's the word I'm looking for? Anyway, operational limitations to actually having people tap. That said, although we've got a conservative budget, we are encouraged by some plans that we're generating now to make sure that there is no such overlap. So while we've budgeted for that, to be responsible, we have creative operational methods that we're progressing to offset that opportunity."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So your budget is -- the budget you shared is reflecting?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "The possibility that at each station there may be up to a week where --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- so that was a period of time -- was up to a week?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "I believe it was. I'm not sure if the team can nod -- was it a week? Yeah."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So not a long-term -- we're not talking about a long-term period, it was --"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "No, sir. No."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. All right. And then I guess sort of just -- in looking at the numbers to, like the numbers you said, I think 68.4 million passenger revenue estimated. Would that imply that in 2019 -- fiscal year 2019 that passenger revenue was more like doubled that -- double those numbers or?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "The numbers now I believe were somewhere between 65 and 70 percent of 2019. Thank you, Greg."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I think your walking calculator is coming down behind you."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Been called worse. Greg Patterson, Deputy CFO, from MARTA."

GREG PATTERSON, DEPUTY CFO, MARTA: Good morning. So the amount we had back in 2019 was around, I believe, \$130 million for revenue."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

GREG PATTERSON, DEPUTY CFO, MARTA: "Obviously, it's quite a bit than that now."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, so that was at -- and you remember like in that -- so is that sort of like fairly in that kind of range like a 100, 130 was more of a historical number like going back to 2015"

GREG PATTERSON, DEPUTY CFO, MARTA: "That's right and it paid for about 24, 25 percent fare box recovery percentage."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. And now that percentage is --"

GREG PATTERSON, DEPUTY CFO, MARTA: "-- it's around 12 percent right now."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "12 percent, okay. Twenty to 12 okay."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "And let me -- sir, let me just add that AFC 2.0 is not just in the rail stations, it's also on the buses; so new fare boxes on the buses to generate revenue recovery."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Do y'all have an estimate of what you think that gap is, in terms of just the ineffectiveness of current staff?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Yeah, my gut tells me it's about \$7 million a year."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Okay. And last question for you, a nonfinancial question: if I understood it correctly it also, in the new -- this is more of a security patrol thing. So did I read it correctly that the new rail car, currently you cannot move through --"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "-- correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. So when all the new railcars are deployed, you will be able to?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Yes, sir. The new railcar is an open gangway design, so currently, if you're in car one through six, that's the car you're in, you have to get off the train, go up the platform, and go back in to get into the next one. The new railcar, you can sit at the very front and look all the way through to the very back, so a police officer, which will be heavily patrolling these trains, but one officer at one of the of the train can see and be seen by everyone. The new train also has noise level monitors, so automatically if the noise level exceeds a set limit, whether that be a discharge or an argument or shouting, the cameras zone in; our control center is automatically notified, and the control center is observing and can make an announcement and can dispatch the authorities to deal with it, if it's something that needs to be dealt with. A number of safety improvements including cameras and call buttons, all on these trains."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. All right. Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions for Mr. Greenwood?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Nothing. Thank you, sir. See you next quarter, not before. Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: " **25-0391**: Atlanta Beltline."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Hello. Good afternoon. My name is Clyde Higgs; I'm the President and CEO for Atlanta Beltline. Chairman Pitts, the Commissioners, it's great to see you. My board member, Mo Ivory, good to see you as well. Please accept the next ten minutes as the formal update from the Atlanta Beltline. I think we have a lot of exciting information to share. And if you could go to the next slide, please. If you don't remember any of the other slides that I talk about later on in the discussion, this really is the money slide for the Atlanta Beltline at the end of the day. And so, very excited about the work that we do, but I will tell you weekend visits from various rails to trails projects across the country, and one of the things that they really tout is that we are a very comprehensive project. And so, you may remember an article, Dana, maybe four years ago in the New York Times where it was a front-page article, and they were doing an investigation on the Atlanta Beltline -- a beautiful article, and it said the Atlanta Beltline, a glorified sidewalk; a glorified sidewalk. Sounds like a pejorative headline, but if you actually read the article, I want you all to actually Google this; it was actually a very good article. But what it talked about is what you see in front of you, because they really talk, Marvin, about us being a comprehensive redevelopment project that focus beyond the Atlanta Beltline Trail but for affordable housing, but also for economic development, economic impact, and that's probably our superpower. So if you don't know this, we are almost and, Dana, during Invest Atlanta connections, we are almost at \$10 billion of economic development impact. So we spent roughly about \$800 million on the Atlanta Beltline to date, which is a big number, right? But when you start talking about return on investment, that's a 10 to 11 to 1 return on investment. You don't get those type of returns out there typically, and so, very excited about that. So that really is the money slide for us. We are more than a trail. I know the trail is the star of the show. You all like to get out on Saturday and Sunday and walk it, but we are much more than that; and specifically on the housing affordability side. And one of the things that you will see later on is that we are on task to actually exceed the 5,600 units of affordable housing that we're supposed to deliver by the end of 2030. If the numbers pan out, Chairman Pitts, we are going to do roughly about 7200 units of affordable housing, specifically in the Beltline TAD. But if you look at the planning area, you could probably add another 20 percent to that. So again, we're on task, we're doing what we're supposed to do; came out of the recession pretty strong, and so the project continues to move forward. Go to the next slide. And this is something that we are very excited about. You can see here this was the groundbreaking ceremony for a long time, Promise Park. I call it Noda Park. And so, we've been talking about this for the last ten years about getting this park done, and so I was happy to host this at this ribbon-cutting. Commissioner Ivory was there to participate in that, but this is going to be an eight-acre park right in the Westview

community, right off the Westside Trail of the Atlanta Beltline. Go to the next slide. And so, as we start thinking about delivering on this promise of finishing the entire 22-mile loop, full transparency, Dick, there is some uncertainty on the federal side for us; we get significant federal funds from the federal government; specifically US DOT, back into the Beltline project. There are a number of grants at risk right now for the Beltline. Unfortunately, we just got a note last night that one of our grants from a federal agency has been terminated, and this was going to be a grant where we were going to have Wi-Fi on the entire loop of the Atlanta Beltline. The title of that grant was Digital Equity Around the Atlanta Beltline. And so, we've got official word that that is not going to happen. That's a 12 million-dollar project that we were going to advance. We are also still waiting to see if we are going to get our \$25 million federal grant from US DOT to help support what we describe as the Northeast Trail; so Commissioner Ellis, you might know that the Beltline will ultimately connect into kind of the northern Fulton County area, and that is really the vision behind the Beltline is to be the hub and make sure that we have these various folks around the County that's going to connect into the Beltline. But those are some real issues that we're dealing with right now, and it's not small dollars: \$25 million at risk and hopefully we'll get to the position where we'll be successful in pulling those dollars down. So we're excited about the prospects, Chairman, of the Beltline, but there's still some significant risk there with regards to keeping the original capital stack in place so that we can finish the entire loop. Next slide, please. And one of the things that we're very excited about, is we're about to launch what we describe as the Beltline Ambassadors Force. And so, much like you see in downtown Atlanta CAP and what they've done, we're going to hire men and women to literally be out there on the trail directing people to resources know how information with regard to the Beltline. This will support what APD is doing, Atlanta Police Department is doing. And if you don't know, we actually have our own dedicated police force with APD called The Path Force. And so, these are the men and women that ride in their cool uniforms on bicycles, and they patrol the Atlanta Beltline to keep it safe and secure. And if you look at just the numbers, Beltline communities are some of the safest communities in the Atlanta area right now and so very excited about that. If you don't know, we have lights and cameras every 90 feet on the Atlanta Beltline, that is one of the characteristics when we deliver Beltline, you have cameras, you have lights there just to make sure that people feel safe. Go to the next slide. And again, you can see right here on the right, this is the dedicated police force that actually helps to patrol the Atlanta Beltline. This is going to be a conversation that we're going to have with APD, because we're in this posture of accelerating the construction of the Atlanta Beltline, so this time next year we will have almost 18 miles of continuous Beltline completed ahead of FIFA World Cup. So you'll literally be able to ride a bike north of Piedmont Park all the way to the Westside to Washington Park all the way into Mercedes-Benz, if you are that ambitious. And so, with added trail, obviously it's going to be added resources needed to make sure that it is safe and secure at the end of the day. Go to the next slide, please. This is a slide talking about density: so roughly about 20 percent of the city's population lives in a Beltline neighborhood. And we continue to see that type of increase on an annual basis. A number of the key job centers in the city located right off the Beltline, Eastside Trail, there's a number of Fortune 500 companies

that are based there. You have Piedmont Hospital that will be off the northwest trail of the Atlanta Beltline. So again, continues to be this economic development draw and also a place for people to live. Next slide. And just some before and after beauty shots for you all to see. You can see right here on the bottom left-hand square, you can see what it looked like in the background of Ponce City Market in 2008. And you can see on the bottom right tile what it looks like to date as well. So right now, we are tracking from a usage perspective about two and a half million users that walk the Beltline on an annual basis. Those are significant numbers and that again continues to feed all of those businesses that are flanking the Atlanta Beltline. Next slide. And then on the housing side, this is something that we continue to be proud of. We still have a lot of work to do, and so don't want to suggest that we're out of the woods, but when I was having this conversation with you five, six years ago when I was first appointed as CEO for Beltline, a lot of folks thought we could not do this. There was no way for you to reach 5,600 units of housing affordability by 2030. But I will tell to you today I'm happy to report again that we are over 70 percent to our goal. Over the last four years, we have outperformed on housing affordability along the Beltline in a significant way. And for over last year, we beat our housing affordability goal by over 70 percent; over 70 percent. So again, continue to focus around the affordability conversation and continue to achieve in that area. Next slide. And so, you can see some of the numbers that I just shared, you can go to the next slide as well. So it is not just about unit production, but how do you really take care of our citizens who actually own a home, and so one of the things that we have stood up through our foundation, our not-for-profit, is something called the legacy resident retention fund. And this is modeled after what the Westside Future Fund did with their organization. It's essentially that we have the ability to pay a legacy residents -- if their property tax goes up by a certain amount, we actually have a fund that will pay their property tax increase. And so, with the goal of making sure that again, people that have been in communities for a long time actually can thrive and stay in place whenever those new improvements come in. But as you all know, housing affordability is a complex challenge. And so, we have to come with a big multi-pronged solution to address housing affordability. Next slide. And then also, with regards to job creation: we expect by the end of 2030 that there's going to be more than 50,000 permanent jobs created along the Beltline. The original goal was 25,000, but just because we had exceeded that already, we had to adjust that number. And so, if it pencils out, we're going to look at again 50,000 permanent jobs along the Atlanta Beltline. We expect us to have about \$20 billion dollars of investment that follows us. Again, I would challenge you to find another project that has delivering that type of ROI based on public dollars. Next slide. Again, these are some of the numbers that I shared with regards to the job creation. One of our larger departments within the Atlanta Beltline is economic development that we want to see businesses created; we want to support the private sector in creating jobs along Atlanta Beltline. Next slide. So this is interesting. One of the things we do and Commissioner Barrett, you might recognize the person in that slide, but one of the things that we do along the Atlanta Beltline is we stand up what we describe as commercial affordability. There's a lot of conversation right now about residential affordability, but we have the ability to actually create space along the Beltline that is significantly reduced. And so if you're a mom-

and-pop business, and you can't pay the \$70 a square foot to take space in some the buildings along the Beltline, this program allows, you know, up and coming businesses to take advantage of what the Beltline has to offer. It's very attractive to be on the Beltline when you have 2.5 million visitors walking on these trails. Next slide, please. And this is exciting: so again, when I first joined the Beltline ten years ago as the chief operating officer, I've been in my role as CEO for almost seven years now. A lot of folks said that this couldn't be done, and that we wouldn't finish the entire 22-mile loop. But this time next year, all though what you see here in green will be completed. So 85 percent of the Beltline will be completed this time next year. Now we still have some challenges on the northwest trail which is one of most technically challenging segment of the Atlanta Beltline, but this is what you'll be able to do literally from Piedmont Park all the way to Washington Park, all the way up to Shirley Franklin Park, and diving right in to Mercedes-Benz. And so, right now we're in the throes of what we like to describe as the Southside trail segment. This is kind of a smiley face, so basically 4 o'clock to 7 o'clock on this dial they should be finished the first quarter of 2026. So a lot of effort being held on the construction side of the Beltline. Next slide. And this is something again that you can kind of see where we're at today. You can see what's in green is what is completed, and what you see in orange or yellow, depending on your perspective, that's what in the construction right now. We have eight active construction projects that are taking place on the Atlanta Beltline. And even next month, we are going to open the final segment of the Westside Trail. We'll do a ribbon cutting for that segment, so very excited about that. Go the next side. And again, these are some of the active projects. I won't go into all the dirty details there, but you can see what we do from an infrastructure perspective. And again, I'll take issue with that glorified sidewalk conversation, but you can see that what we do is definitely heavy infrastructure. Next slide. Now, one of the things that -- that we're trying to get focused on is on the park delivery side. And so we only have another five years with regards to Beltline TAD. And so we really want to get focused on delivering on the park side of this. And so again, Westside Park, or the Westside Trail with Anona Park, also the Shirley Franklin Park, and we're making some significant improvements there as well. Next slide. And then on the transit conversation, I am sure that you all have heard this debate here. But you may remember that we stood up two independent studies to really understand what we should be doing with regards to transit. And I hear two sides of the argument. There are folks that say, Clyde, transit was always a part of the original Beltline vision, let's move it forward. There's also a crew out there that would suggested that, hey, the Beltline is a wild economic success, you know, why create all the construction challenges and build transit next to the Beltline? I subscribe to the former, it is a part of who we are. We are going to deliver a transit solution. There is, in our studies in regards to mode, but from a transit perspective this is something that we have to do. You may remember what Collie just mentioned that we're going to add another 2 million people to Metro Atlanta in the next two decades. Gang, we -- we don't have a choice. This is not something that's nice to do. We have to figure out the transit piece. Go to the next slide. And then also on kind of what we describe as space making, place making, we definitely support the funds given from Fulton County to support our arts ambition. We have the largest temporary public arts exhibition in the southeastern

United States and, and that includes our exercise of what we describe as the Annual Lantern Parade. Unfortunately, we had to cancel that. But usually, in its heyday, we were getting 70,000 people that will come out for the Atlanta Parade. We'll figure out a plan B for that because of the rain, but very excited about what's happening from a -- from an art's perspective. And you can go to the final slide. But Chairman Pitts, that concludes my update. Happy to answer any questions that you or the Board may have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Higgs. I just have a couple of quick questions. On the loss of the Digital Equity Grant for Wi-Fi around the Beltline, are you -- I know it just happened, but are you talking about ways to potentially get that project to go without the federal grant?"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yes, we are. And so when looking at some private philanthropic opportunities. And there are all the usual suspects that you can imagine that we're going to have these conversations with. But we thought that was going to be a game-changing opportunity, not only for -- for just having Wi-Fi, but support a lot of the schools surrounding the Atlanta Beltline and also the businesses. And so -- so there's a real strong business proposition to it. We just have to make that case to some other organizations out there. But hopefully we'll get that off the ground."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm sure either you or Commissioner Ivory can keep us updated on progress on that front. On the other potential loss of federal funding, I mean, you know, fingers crossed, it doesn't happen. But you did mention, I think that that was related to the Northeast Trail."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "How does that change scheduling for the Northeast Trail if it goes away?"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah. It's a -- it's definitely a puzzle for us right now. Because again, if it was \$2 million, you know, you know, there's an easy plan B for that, that's \$25 million. Fortunately or unfortunately, how you describe it, it is kind of a multiyear project. And so we're having conversations with other funding sources that might allow us to pull some of those, their dollars forward so that we can keep construction moving. But it is a big risk. I don't want to discount that is a significant hit for us. Again, \$25 million even for a significant budget like the Beltline, hurts. And so don't want to say that it's not going to happen, but we're preparing for the worst, that if it doesn't come to fruition, we need a significant plan B. But probably, we are going to ask our other funders to allow us to pull those dollars up. And then at that

point, you know, maybe two or three years from -- at that time, the TAD will have grown, and we'll have some additional increment to support kind of the final years of that build out."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. The one last quick question. On the Legacy Resident Retention Program, I believe the slide said that it was to help pay the increase in tax through 2030, which shockingly is just around the corner --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: Yeah, yeah.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- I mean, hard to believe. But are there any conversations about extending it beyond that?"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "That's a great question. And so one of the reasons that we don't fund it within the TAD, because it is one of those TAD un-eligible. If it was Beltline specifically in our TAD, we could probably take it, you know, beyond that. But because it is not TAD eligible, we have to go out and fundraise for it privately. And so big shout out to Bank of America, Georgia Power, Woodruff Foundation, Google, for stepping up. But it is really a function of what funds we can raise at the end of the day. So we're looking for some alternative funds to support that program."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And are you -- do you have numbers on how many residents, maybe you said it and I missed it, how many residents that has helped or is going to help?"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah, so over 200 residents, community members that that has helped to date. And the interesting piece is, though, that it is not just a property tax conversation, but it's a wealth retention conversation. And so as people can stay in their home, and if you pencil that out into the future, you know, their values continue to grow. And so that's the exciting piece, not just keeping people in homes, but the value that they'll have in the future. And they can decide to pass that down to kids or whomever, and that's really the conversation that we should be having."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you, Chairman. I love that, the generational wealth --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Absolutely."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- something great to encourage, as I'm moving my parents out of their house right now."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "You get it. You get it."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So back to the grants, the Digital Equity Grant --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- is that correct?"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And after I listened to the presentation I got beforehand, before this on the Beltline, I reached out to some counterparts in DC. And they told me that a lot of these grants, the funding is there, it's just a matter of how to disperse the funding now. And so that they will basically be rewriting these grants to get rid of the --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Say it, let's be honest, let's --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- the DEI that's in there that gets wrapped into that. So will you continue to try to reapply? And also, I think Chairman Pitts and Mo and I will be going up to DC, and we would love to be able to advocate --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "That's awesome."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- to have these grants rewritten and get us eligible for this money."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Absolutely. So literally, last night we got the note that it was terminated. So we're not going to give up on it by, by any stretch, but I just wanted to illustrate, you know, some of the challenges that we're having. But we would definitely recast that because, from a community benefit's perspective, and that's what we are for the Beltline, is to make sure that we deliver benefits to the communities that we touch, that that \$12 million was going to be game changing in many ways. And so it's a lot of words to say, yes, we want to, to revisit that."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And as well as with the Raise Grant for the connection on the Northeast Trail, the \$25 million grant, if you could give me some specifics on the actual qualifications for the grant so that we can be better informed on how we can advocate for that grant, because like I said, this is for the entire community."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Absolutely."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And I think a lot of these things are just getting flagged. And so we want them to be re-envisioned. And then we want to advocate that we still need that money and how we're using that money."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah, I will tell you that, so I've been to DC three times in the last 45 days just to have some of these conversations. And the reception was -- was pretty warm, and because of the economic development numbers that we tout. And again, but those are words, we want to see some action and let those, those dollars fall down. But that is going to be such a significant commercial node, when you talk about the impact for community, that's a game-changing one, because we're talking over near Lindbergh, Buford Highway, ultimately to the Peachtree Creek Trail. So that is again, as we talk about big commercial nodes where jobs are going to be created, that's one of those sections we need to figure that one out. And very open to the ideas there. I don't want to claim that we have all the know-how, but any support that you can provide would be -- would be helpful."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, I'm very familiar with that area; it's close to Passion City Church --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- the church I serve --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- it's very, very diverse, neighborhood --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Absolutely."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- of all income levels --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "It is."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- and all types of people. So you did mention connecting to the north. I think you mentioned Bob Ellis' district. My district, we do have a significant trail as well. I was just interested in how you plan on trying to -- what the pathway is to connect to the north."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah. And so one of the things that we're finalizing right now is going to be a Trail's Master Plan. And so, so again, we look at the Beltline as kind of a hub, and that there are other organizations that actually support what we describe as regional trails. And one of those organizations is the PATH Foundation. And so we are literally finalizing how to connect to other communities outside of Atlanta, and it will be -- it's significant. We're talking about hundreds of miles

of potential trails. We also helped to secure a grant for communities south and west of Atlanta. This was a \$55 million grant to help support connectivity from the Westside Trail on the Beltline, all the way to the Flint River area, going through Aerotropolis and Clayton County. And so there are big ambitions there. So I -- what I will ask you to do, or ask of you, is let me send you whenever that master plan is finalized, so you can see some of the specific connection points there."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, because I'm a longtime advocated for the pass and the connecting the communities."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I sat on a vision board in Alpharetta, Free the Alpha Loop Board. But the Silver Comet Trail was the only one in existence --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "At the time, yeah, yeah."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: -- at the time, yeah. Yeah. So I'm happy to advocate for that and -- but I'd like to look the impact on the regional, the whole region, on how that -- that the Beltline is going to have that halo effect and connect other cities and benefit the taxpayers from the entire County, from the north to the south."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Absolutely, absolutely. I will share that with you. And just a little bit of data for you, we looked at some of our trail numbers, the type of impact that you get from -- from outside of Atlanta is significant. And so we can actually track cellphone data, actually, who uses the trail, and you can see that a number of residents come from the north too to enjoy the Beltline. Also, believe it or not, there's a lot of folks that land at Hartsfield-Jackson, and they come straight to the Beltline. So we can't identify, like, unique individuals. So we can actually identify patterns, and it is significant from a -- from the north, and from -- from what we see from a data perspective."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "You're welcome."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of questions. I want to make sure I heard you right. Did you say kind of the sense is about 20 percent of Atlanta residents reside on the Beltline?"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So did you say estimated population is around --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah, 500,000, so --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So 20 percent of that --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, yeah. So if it's -- if it were its own city, it would be the fourth largest city in Fulton County, perspective."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "It's significant."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Within TAD. The -- on the 800 million that you referenced, is that just a roll up of TAD increment over time, or what is that 800 million reference --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Good, good question. And so that is a combination of mostly TAD dollars, but also the private and federal dollars that support the project as well."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "The TAD, as you know, Bob, is our main funding source. But we also get significant funds from the SSD that passed about four years ago, the Special Service District, also the philanthropic funds. Roughly about four years ago, the Woodruff Foundation gifted us \$80 million to the Beltline; Cox Foundation, \$30 million. So it's a hodgepodge of --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "-- multi-funding sources, including federal."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So it is -- includes the roll up of the federal funds --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "It does."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- too?"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "It does."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That was my main question."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And you said that was going from -- that's through 2024 number --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- that -- of that, that was what that is. Okay. But wouldn't include, like, you know, the operational costs to the city to provide their general services to the Beltline?"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "No. And it's interesting. So we cannot even use our TAD dollars for those, so that --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I know, right. But if the -- the general -- these services that the city does and so forth, that's, you know --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "That's even beyond that."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- separate, beyond that --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Absolutely. So if you're talking about maintenance, to your point, that would be a whole different number --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "-- that's coming from Parks and Rec."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Got it, yeah, got it. All right, thank you."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yep."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So let me -- Commissioner Thorne, the -- let me just talk about those two grants. When we met at our waterhole, we talked about --"

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Good time, yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And we are going there. And that's a -- I'm going to have a, for your information, I was going to brief you and Commissioner Ivory on specific grants that we need to talk to the administration about. And those are two that are at the top of -- top of our list. Because that one has already been approved, just waiting on it to come through. And I think we can, if we worth our salt, we ought to have more luck with that."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Indeed. That was 2023 when that one's approve --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "-- when that was approved, so yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But they're others that we need to coordinate on. And lastly, and I want to say this without really knowing what I'm talking about. But I have to think that

this is due to our new Board Member on the Beltline that in this document, for the first time, Fulton County is mentioned 14 times. That's a first."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So thank you."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Yeah. I have to give a shout out to Commissioner Ivory. And again, we really want to make sure that this feels inclusive, because it is really about all of the TAD partners. And we will continue to invite everyone out to groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings, and be as involved as you want to be. But the Beltline is decidedly in Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So you're on there to represent Fulton County, and you doing a good job. Thank you. Anything else? All right. I got two -- thank you. See you next quarter."

CLYDE HIGGS, CEO, ATLANTA BELTLINE: "Thank you, appreciate it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It's 12:44, and a couple are ready to have lunch. So I want to wait until after the -- continue after lunch and Executive Session before continuing. All right, that being the case, I'll entertain a motion that we recess for lunch in Executive Session where we may take up issues of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Motion to do so by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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

Recessed for Executive Session at 12:45 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 2:00 p.m.

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

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation and retention of outside counsel, as set forth in items 1 and 2 on the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Is there a motion to approve the request for settlement authority set forth in item 3 on the agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Is there a motion to deny the refund request with respect to tax parcel ID number 17-0049- LL-078-4?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to deny by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second? Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Is there a motion to deny the refund request with respect to tax parcel ID number 11-0650-0268-054-4?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to deny by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Is there a motion to deny the refund request with respect to tax parcel ID number 11-0963-0032-165-5?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to deny by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Nothing further."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On the bottom of page 10, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **25-0393**, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

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

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Steve gets ready to start, I just want to highlight, without a long preamble, a couple of things. One is, as he goes through his presentation on justice, you are going to see, I

think, a concerning trend, which is a rise in population at the jail. So we'll continue to monitor and look at that. You'll also when he gets to the end of his presentation, we'll be talking about the next steps in the process of looking at our current jail facilities and improvement plans. We have been very intensively working with our partners. We anticipate narrowing the options down for your consideration. Of course, we briefed you in the last week or so at a high level or your staff on where we were. But as we narrow those options down, another important part of this will be to ask Finance to look at the options to deal with the financial implications. So before we bring this back in August, we anticipate having those fleshed out and meeting with you individually or in small groups, to again, seek your input. The other thing after Steve finishes, we have, I think, an interesting presentation on our most popular service, which is the libraries. Now, you'll see a digital service having more -- well, not only having such popularity that creates financial issues, but you'll see that digital subscriptions are matching physical, which is something that we've been working to have complementary, and now it's coming to a -- to reality. And then last, I want to make sure that we ask Dr. Roshell to recount some of the insights, learnings, and next steps from a very important trip that she took last week with business, civic, and government leaders to three major metros looking at the issue of homelessness, of course, particularly with our role in Behavioral Health. So I think you'll find -- find that interesting. And then last, we do have the grants monitoring that we're doing at the federal level. We can also, when we get to that point, clear up any confusion as it relates to the Fulton County Board of Health actions that they were taking versus things that are in our wheelhouse, particularly with Ryan White, which, of course, you saw that grant extension on the consent agenda today. So that, Mr. Chairman, we're ready to have Steve walk through his justice piece."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Mr. Manager."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Steve Nawrocki, Strategy Office. If we could go to the next slide, we'll begin with our Justice System Update. We go one more slide, and go to the next, go the next slide. All right, perfect. We'll start with the Justice System Scorecard here. Our first measure, the average length of stay had a one-day improvement down to 46 days for the month of April. For our unindicted population, we had a 2 percent increase to 20 percent for the month. The clearance rate for felony criminal cases had an 8 percent decrease in April, down to 68 percent. And felony cases disposed within 180 and 365 days both stay consistent for the month, with figures at 25 percent and 54 percent respectively. Next slide. Next slide. We'll move to our jail population update. And as the County Manager just alluded to, looking at the average jail population, we do continue to see a month-over-month increase. For the month of April, we we're up to 2,615 inmates average for April. We also did a one-day snapshot on May 14th, where

we saw 2,705 inmates. Next slide. This is the table representation from the previous slide, we can go to the next. Here, we're continuing to report the length of stay for currently incarcerated inmates. For this one-day snapshot, there were 2,746 inmates, with around 55 percent having been in jail for 90 days or less, and about 17 percent have incarcerated for over a year. The average duration as of May 13th was 214 days, which saw an eight-day improvement down from the 222 days that was reported last month. Next slide. Next we have our facility utilization for the jail population. As of May 14, there were 1,765 beds in use at Rice Street, with 527 beds offline for either the Jail Blitz or for repairs. And I do want to stress that these counts are as of midpoint of last week. We have received some updated information on bed usage, which Mr. Davis will provide the Board an update on in the Jail Facility Update. Next slide. Here we have the aging of our unindicted population. Of the 540 unindicted individuals, about 82 percent or 445 individuals have been unindicted for 90 days or less. And these levels are consistent compared to last month's rates. Next slide. Here we have an update on our county-funded ankle monitoring program. We have 734 participants as of May 1st. If we move to the next slide, we do have a six-month historical view of the monitor usage, and go the next. Thank you. Looking at the total column on the right side, so that third from the right, you can see usage of devices has generally trended downward since November of '24. So starting with 835, we now find ourselves at 734 for the month of April. However, looking at the column immediately to the right of the total, the percent less than one year, you'll see that the percent of monitor usage under a year has actually improved since November, going up to March, where we saw 57 percent up to 69 percent. However, in April, we did backslide a bit down to 62 percent. Next slide. Next slide. And we'll, again, as the County Manager alluded to, we've got an update on our Capital -- Jail Capital Improvement Program, moving from left to right at the top the program management team has drafted the findings report with cost estimates and initial concepts for the project scope. We are now working through the project options and development and determining facility availability and costs for inmate outsourcing when the need arises, looking at the upcoming activities, refining the options and costs are targeted for the month of June, with a final report in July, and then a presentation to the Board in August. And overall, we are tracking on schedule and continue to make good progress here. Next slide. And finally, we have our priorities. We continue to report on the justice system metrics and performance. We're nearing automation of the Full Jail Population Analysis, which you'll recall is the pie chart breakdown of all individuals in the jail. Next, and this is building off of the planned Justice Policy Board presentation to the BOC at next month's June 4th meeting. We will begin reporting on Diversion Center data at a -- on a regular cadence, and we'll probably do that on a quarterly basis. And last, we're continuing to work with our courts on case reporting structures. And with that, I can take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you, sir. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. On the jail capital improvement, and we can go back to that slide, it's maybe two or three slides prior."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "It's the one before, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Maybe it's the one before 15. No."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "It's another one. It's the slide just before the priorities."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So 13, 14, somewhere in there?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, sir, I don't have the --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Packet page 249."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Thank you, Madam CFO."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I guess my question is, are there any plans to work with the monitor in regards to the jail capital improvement plans?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "We certainly want to seek feedback from monitor as we are developing the different scope options. As you know, Commissioner, this capital improvement program began before even the DOJ investigation began. So we are -- we're already down that path. But our -- that being said, having the monitor available and ensuring that we are achieving all the items compliance of those items that are on the consent decree related to -- sorry."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Page 249, whoever has got the deck."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Thank you. So sorry, summarize that, Commissioner, we do plan to engage the monitor. We do want to ensure that for all the facilities related items in the consent decree, we are achieving them through this capital improvement program or other means, through DREAM's capital budget."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. I would just suggest that we include the monitor in that plan that's up there --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- somewhere, right? Review and inclusion and feedback, whatever it is, it just -- it seems glaring not to see that as part of this."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, sir. We are still very preliminary in what the scope is going to look like, but understood as that gets developed, seeking their feedback."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I think that's all that I have for now. I had something else, but I lost it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So following up, are we getting ahead of the monitor, or to Commissioner Arrington's point, should we be -- I mean -- well."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "I'm very hesitant to comment on the monitor's progress. I know that's very sensitive and closely guarded given the work that they're doing right now. However, I think just broad strokes, we know the monitor is now engaged with the county. We will engage with them as we refine the scope to ensure that we are hitting compliance, these are meeting the humanitarian needs."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I guess what the question, though, is, is everything that we're doing consistent with what we think we should be doing based upon the report?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, sir. It'll either be covered within this capital improvement program or separate capital budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Thank you."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. All right, continue. I'm sorry, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I thought about my other question. Are these jail metrics going into a dashboard? Or, I think I saw something on here about finalizing a process for automating this. So --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- that made me believe, I guess, I thought that all of this was going into an existing dashboard. But now, when I saw that on the slide, it makes me think that there is no dashboard that contains all of this historical data."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "There is a dashboard. We do capture all the historical data. The point referred to on the priority side, if we can go to the next slide. If you'll recall Commissioner, and this was mostly during ORCA, we had that pie chart that had a breakdown of the entirety of the jail population, and that was a manual process where a team went through, identified every single individual in the jail, and then put them into the respective buckets they belonged in. What we're doing now

is creating the tags, filters, queries so that it's a, you know, one press of the button to repopulate that pie chart to show where every inmate belongs across each of those categories. And so we are -- we've developed the rough draft of that. We are now testing that with our justice partners. We've scheduled a series of meetings with the DA staff, with Superior Court, with the Solicitor's staff and State Court as well as the Sheriff. So we're hoping by next meeting to have that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So if a member of the public wanted to access these jail metrics that you have presented today, where would they go to do that?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "We do have on our -- and I'm forgetting the name of the site, but the Open Government site in Fulton County, we do report things like the jail scorecard, that's a public -- public-facing information. In terms of the other, the jail population data, I do believe, and Commissioner, I apologize, some things are public view, some are private view. We do have -- we are capturing all this in a dashboard. I don't know and I cannot recall which pages are public and which ones are not. I know the scorecard is public, though."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "On the electronic monitoring update page --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- I think if you go back a whole year, we were up at over 1500 people being on ankle monitors. So --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Originally, yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, so I just want to give kudos to whatever we're doing to keep that number low, you know, less than half of what it was over a year ago."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am."

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

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I have one thing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just one suggestion is not really a question for you, Mr. Nawrocki. But I think it might be a good idea to have some conversations with, potentially with, you know, a group of the Superior Court Judges or the Chief, or Chief Judge, about have them present to us, what are their strategies. We've got this, on the jail population piece, there's this group of 454 people that have been incarcerated for more than a year."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "It might be a good idea to ask them to come present to us strategies for how they are attempting to more aggressively deal with the cases that make up these 454 individuals. I don't know if that's something the Board would like to hear from. But I think it would be an interesting discussion for us to hear, sort of collectively, how they're seeking to address that."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, sir, happy to coordinate that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I was going to say, I think Commissioner Ellis, they asked the legislature for two more Judges. I think that was how they wanted to address it. But maybe they have a different plan now that they didn't give them, the additional Judges."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We all got to deal with the hand we're dealt."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: "Thank you, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Davis. See, Mr. Davis."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good afternoon, Commissioners, Joseph Davis, Real Estate, Asset Management. We can move forward a couple of slides. First, we will provide you with an overview of the progress of the Jail Maintenance Blitz. We've completed eight of the 11 housing units that comprise phase one of the Blitz, totaling a completion of 73 percent 7-North was completed on May 2nd. Inmates moved across the hall from 7-South. We are not currently on 7-South, but are addressing 7-South as time permits as our current Blitz focus is area 3-North. This is the housing area where residents have either physical and/or behavioral health needs. To assist the Sheriff's office and given the specialty needs of that particular community, we are performing a biweekly cleaning of both 3-North, 3-South, and the medical observation unit. What we found when we arrived in 3-North to assess the floor is that

this particular unit had significantly less damage than we've encountered in previous zones. And we are projecting a completion of June 6th for 3-North, at which point we'll be moving towards 3-South. We have projected now that our completion will be August of 2025. Next slide, please. Jail maintenance, bed availability, you heard Mr. Nawrocki reference the number of jail beds that are currently unavailable, whether they're due to being under current Blitz or other repair needs. And so you see a number here of 527, I do want to make a correction to this report. The current number is 667 that is the latest information that we have. And to give you an understanding of why there is a discrepancy, this report is prepared and reviewed on Thursdays prior to the Wednesday Board meeting. As of that Thursday of last week, the information that we had was 527. The difference between the 527 and the 667 is a function of beds that are in use on 1-North as well as we found that on Friday, close to noon, 13 work orders were submitted for 1-North in a few -- four of the zones related to some leaking toilets. We had a couple of showers that were, the drains were clogged. And so the Sheriff's office has indicated that they cannot utilize those zones, which we certainly understand. So I wanted to just make sure that there's some clarity here in terms of the discrepancy between what's available and what is not. And so this number should reflect 667, to give you the most up to date and accurate information in that regard. Next slide, please. Jail maintenance overview, we saw a 68 percent completion rate during the month of April, where 636 of 928 work orders were issued, were completed within the month, another 84 work orders were completed in the month of May that were tied to those that were submitted in April. 1139 total work orders completed from April 1st through May 14th. We saw a significant increase in our number of preventive maintenance, or completion percentage of 91 percent where 266 of 293 scheduled preventive maintenance work orders were completed. We have a current open work order log of 1167 work orders, which is an 8 percent reduction from last month's report. And we have 593 work orders outstanding in upcoming blitz areas. The information that you see below in the graph is simply a graphical depiction of the data above, as well as giving you a sense of how that information is trending over the course of three months. Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Have we forecasted out how long it would take for us to complete the existing open work orders compared with the, you know, I guess we still get new ones, you know? But if we were to forecast out today from six months or, you know, 12 months or 18-24 months, what type of timeframe would you think it would take for us to complete the 1167 open work orders?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So if we took the 1167 and said, we're going to sit those to the side. These are our open work orders. How long would it take us to focus just on these work orders? Certainly, we could do that in 30 days. We complete

that number of work orders on a base -- regular basis, and even more. The issue is that when you look at open work orders, you have to understand that they're open for multiple reasons. Number one, you have work orders that are in areas that require detainee movement or emptying of a housing floor. And so a strategic decision has to be made, do we ask the Sheriff's office to move inmates where there might not even be space to move them to, or do we wait to we get there for the upcoming Jail Blitz? And so that's what happens in some cases. In other cases, many of these work orders, and you'll see on the next slide, are actually less than 30 days old. So you have work orders that have recently been submitted. And then you have worker orders that are awaiting parts because we had -- experiencing extreme lead times on specialty parts, whether it be steel or electronic components and things of that nature. But if you were to just take those 1167 in isolation without interruption, could we get them done quickly? Absolutely, assuming we have free access, sure we could, but this number is going to always evolve."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And what's the average number of work orders that you -- average monthly number of work orders that you have at the jail?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "That we're --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "New work orders."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "New work orders, oh, it -- well, to be perfectly honest, I was actually shocked when I looked at the April number of 928 new work orders. That was a reduction, and pretty significant reduction from what we've seen over time. We have gone as high as 1700. So it's a -- it fluctuates, so many factors. But on average, let's say it's 13 to 1400."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Wow. All right. Somebody ought to be able to do some math with the average of the new monthly request and the average of the outstanding request and project out the time in which it could be done, but thank you very --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "And we can certainly take a look at that, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I don't know if I'm getting ahead of myself, and if I am, please forgive the question. The ability for vendors to access in a timely fashion, have we got that resolved? Are we better with that? Is that in any way affecting these numbers and how quick they can get done? I know at

one while we did have problems with vendors getting access, getting in and out in a timely fashion, having someone to let them out once the work was done. So I'm just curious as to one, have we started in some kind of way, form or fashion to attack that? And does that have any bearings on any of the numbers that we're looking at?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So please keep in mind, we have one vendor that's static, that's on site every day, 24 hours a day. And then we have multiple other vendors that are coming in for specialty work. They're here to work on a specific system for a specific time. For example, right now we're in the progress, and you'll see this on a subsequent slide, of the fire alarm upgrade. Vendor has been on site for two weeks. They have an escort every single day. We coordinated with the Sheriff's office to ensure that so that we wouldn't have any delay in the delivery of the project. Thus far, it has gone very well. I would tell you that when we do have those -- those individual vendors on site for a specific purpose, and we have the opportunity to coordinate with the Sheriff's office, it goes fairly well. However, on the other side of the coin, the vendor that's static is there 24 hours a day, you get a variance from shift to shift. You know, ticks might go up to a floor, and because of what's going on on the floor at that particular point in time, they're denied access. And because of that, we actually keep a denied access log that would reflect X number of the open, outstanding work orders. And I hope that answers your question."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "It does, thank you."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Next side, please. So this is a snapshot of the overall jail work order backlog. As I mentioned previously, we have 292 open work orders that are less than 30 days old that represents roughly a quarter of all open work orders, 487 work orders between 30 and 90 days, which represents 41 percent. And then 33 percent of our total open work orders are greater than 90 days. Just to give you an idea of some of the work that we've been doing in jail. The picture on the upper right is of a pipe chase where residents have, using whatever means, attempted to break into the pipe chase. Sometimes it's, as you see here, by going at the lock through the door. In other cases, it's through the door frame, between the frame and the concrete to get at the latch. What you see on the bottom left is a solution that we borrowed from Clayton County Jail, where you have a surface mounted lock that is welded. The frame of the lock is welded to the door, and the actual bolt is behind the lock. It gives the inmates absolutely nothing to access to actually, even if they were to go behind the door frame and try to get the lock bolt that it wouldn't be there, because the door is now being secured in a completely different fashion. This is just one example of the many things that we're trying to innovate -- innovatively put in place to help with the various issues that we see in the jail. And then on the bottom left-hand corner, you see the graphical

depiction of the information represented in the upper right -- upper left, excuse me. Next slide. As you're aware, the Board approved \$3.2 million in -- for several critical repairs and upgrades. As I previously mentioned, the fire alarm upgrade is currently in progress, and have to report they're actually proceeding ahead of schedule. Siemens is doing a wonderful job there. We still projected August to complete. Padded cells at the South completed; kitchen equipment, just as an FYI, the three gas kettles and the 2-Vat fryer are literally on site today, and will be installed tomorrow. That's why we had it scheduled for May 22nd. We're still in a holding pattern on the laundry equipment, primarily because the laundry equipment that we have now is fully operational. We're also finalizing the last few steps on our elevator modernization specifications. We realized that we're going to probably have to really take a hard look at overall of funding availability once we put this out for bid. But we have everything in place and are working with Purchasing in putting that in the BidNet system for advertising. And we're going to be targeting specific elevator modernization vendors that are in the market that we don't have the capacity to do the work. That's it. Next slide. Any questions, further questions?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Questions? Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "With the -- you may not be able to answer this, so don't worry if you can't. But it seems like a lot of our work is caused by the inmates themselves, a lot of vandalism. What is the consequence for vandalism inside our jail?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, a lot of damage is done by inmates. And the protocol is that based upon what was done, the anticipated value of the damage, the Sheriff's office puts additional charges on to that particular inmate for the value of those damages."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And then what happens if they can't pay for those damages? Is --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "I'm not a position to answer that, Commissioner Thorne --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- I'm sorry."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, other questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "No, sir, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right. Dr. Roshell."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Commissioners, we will now provide an update on a specific library service, seeking your guidance as it relates to how we may want to address sustainability for a -- an e-resource called Hoopla. You'll see some overall performance data. The County Manager already indicated that we are seeing tremendous popularity in our e-resources, which are now pacing in alignment with our in-person cardholder services. So Gayle Holloman and her team will provide the presentation. And then at the end, we will make a recommendation, and again, are seeking a Board guidance -- seeking Board guidance so that we know how to continue to make this service available."

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Thank you all so much for having us here today. I am here as Gayle Holloman, the Executive Director of the Fulton County Library System, and wanted to introduce you to our -- two of our employees, Brazos Price, who is the Administrator for Collection Management and Technical Services, and Jamar Parker, who is our Financial Systems Manager. He is -- they are going to do the presentation. But we are here this afternoon to tell you about one of our wonderful services called Hoopla. And it's an online resource that people love, and we're great -- grateful that they love it, but is at a cost. And so to that end, Jamar and Brazos will make the presentation."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Thank you. Thank you, Commissioners. Next slide. So what we have here in the beginning is our Q1 services overview and about our electronic resources, specifically on the right-hand side. So we did see just over half a million visits in Q1. And we had approximately one checkout per person when you combine physical and digital checkouts. And this is the first time, after decades, that physical and digital have become equivalent. For many, many years, it was physical far surpassing digital checkouts. We do have 83 electronic resources, 23 of those are locally funded, 60 of them are part of a state funding through, like, things like Galileo. And we have a \$2.55 million electronic resources budget in 2024. Next slide. So here is our service Hoopla that the Library Director, Mrs. Holloman, was talking about. For this product, we get, each person gets 10 downloads per card holder per month. It's books, it's audiobooks, it's movies, TV, music, and comic books. And there are over 1.8 million items that are available instantly to be downloaded. And there

has been a very large growth in the service since we offered it. We first started offering it in 2015 and since that time, it's been around \$2 per checkout, per -- per checkout, per person. And of all Hoopla customers in the world, we are the 17th largest. So we are a big deal, as the Chairman likes to say. Next slide. And you can see here our -- since the initiation of the service in 2015, so the first full year the service was offered was 2016. And in that time, we've had over a 780 percent increase in costs, 700-plus percent increase in checkouts and a 700 percent increase in patrons. So it's been a big growth area for us. But as you can see, we are -- we're close to a million dollars in spend last year in 2024. And that takes us to this year, 2025. So let's go to the next slide. So what we are estimating that this would cost us in FY2025 on different checkout scenarios. So we put together some estimates in late 2024. We blew through those in 2025 in January, February and March, so we had to re-estimate. And now we are estimating about \$1.3 million of current -- at current rates. But you can see, if we decrease the number of checkouts that each patron is allowed per month, we would expect to see decreased costs. Next slide. So that takes us to the scenarios. So we do have scenario one, status quo until the budget exhausts. So we would expect towards the end of July or the beginning of August that our budget would exhaust for this resource. That's keeping 10 checkouts per cardholder per month, and that's 25,000 cardholders. So that would -- so we would the service until 2026. Or scenario two, our recommendation, we reduce service to five checkouts per cardholder per month. We would do that on 6/1 to give adequate time to let people know. And we would expect the cost to drop significantly. As you can see in that previous slide, we went through that. We would still get about 25,000 cardholders. Or scenario three, we would maintain the status quo, but we receive additional funding. We would anticipate about needing approximately \$625,000 in additional funding to keep the service at its existing level. And we do expect growth to continue, because as you can see, there has been explosive growth over the years of this particular service. And with that, we move on to the next slide, which is just questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "One of the things that we did with the success and popularity of the ride share program with seniors was to -- or at least one of the first things we talked about was the ability to charge the end users for the excess. Is their ability for us to charge the end users for the 625,000 that you're requesting?"

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Not with this product. We do charge people for, cardholders if they're outside of our service area. So for people who do not live in Fulton County or the city of Atlanta and DeKalb, so those would be considered nonresident cards. We charge those people \$40 per year currently. That's a Board of

Trustees approved number. And of course, I think we book it as a revenue with the general fund."

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "We do."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So basically, the way it works is just, it's like a streaming service. So once you -- once someone is in, they've got access to the entire library?"

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Exactly. So every cardholder can see the entire library. And as soon as you checkout our download it, it's charged to the county. So we pay for the cost that the patron uses. Right now, we offer 10 per person per month."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Ten per person."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And -- yeah, I don't really get too far down in the weeds today. But typically, with software programs like this, you can turn off certain modules. So you might be able to turn off the movie module, or you might be able to turn off the whatever module, right? So that they might still could get 10 download -- are all the downloads cost the same, no matter what it is, whether it's a movie or --"

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "There are tiers. So it depends upon the tier of the product. I believe the most expensive tier is something like \$4 per checkout. But a lot of them are in the 99-cent range."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. I don't -- how sensitive is this? Because I don't know that I'm going to be able to vote on anything today because I need more information. I need to find out how this system works, how the back end of it works in order to be able to accept or reject one of the recommendations."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm just going to need more background information on the software and how it operates before I could really weigh in on your request."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, so -- so what is the deadline? I saw something -- can you go back a slide? Because they had some dates in there. Yeah, no that one -- no, go back one, the other way, 264, yes. Yeah, June 1st drop to five checkouts. Like, what is the cutoff date here, of when -- you know, because we're not going to have another meeting before June 1st?"

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "Right. Sir, they really should be 7/1."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay."

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "But the biggest concern about this is the demand. We can drop it to five, is what our recommendation is. But the problem that we would have would people would be upset because of the demand for this product. That's the thing that's driving it more than anything, which is why we've been increasing and sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul in order to keep track of it and to make the people happy. So that's going to be the gist of the matter, is that people are going to be complaining. And that is just the way it will be if that's the decision that's made."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "So Commissioner Arrington, we do have time to provide some additional information. As Ms. Holloman indicated, we anticipate the budget to exhaust the end of July, mid-August. We can certainly bring back any additional information that the Board would like to see at the first meeting in June."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Arrington asked one of the questions I have, but so -- I don't know if I heard the answer. But so we could, in theory, like, still offer books and audiobooks, but not movies? Is that an option? Do we have to offer all the different --"

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "So in general, you can cut off at a specific price points."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "And so there are some flexibility about what we would choose to offer. Our current approach is, we offer what the, you know, they can see everything, basically, with like, a couple minor exceptions."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So I think that, I think might be good to know what those different options are, because it might be the Board's will that it's better to have 10 checkouts, but not have movies or something like that, or not have something over \$3 or whatever the case. The other question I had was the, I think if I, if I'm remembering correctly, all of the slides sort of referred to the -- the max number of checkouts, do we have numbers on the average number, and like, how many people are checking out the full max, and how many people going to be that upset?"

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Yeah, I have that for April. So in April, we had 3500 people checkout one title; 20 -- 2,000, 2100 checkout two; 1429, three; and then if you go all the way up the max, it's gets -- it's basically goes down until you get to the max when it pops to the top of 1220 --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "-- for Fulton --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And I think that information would be good to see too."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Okay. And just in summary regarding what Mr. Price shared, when you look at the 25,000 active users, the majority either use one checkout or five, fewer use 10. And so that's why the team looked at five, because the average use is approximately five or one for some reason. It's almost equal, one or five."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right. So it sounds like your assessment is that eliminating those extra checkouts, even for that smaller number of people, will help enough --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- to get budget neutral?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "But we'll provide all of that data."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And we'll be upsetting the least number of people --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- possible? I see, okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, yeah, I -- I sort of agree with Commissioner Arrington. I'm -- I want to take the recommendation, but I'd like to have more data before, before I can do that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I was looking at the agenda material the other day, and I felt guilty about downloading another book last night, so I didn't."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Doing your part."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I got three -- I got four, I got four borrowed open ones right now, looking at my app, so. But I think -- I think this is a reasonable proposal. I mean, I

say that, you know, as a user myself, I mean, I think that's a reasonable thing for us to consider. I mean, I am interested in, you know, the, you know, the movies and TV stuff, you know, you get -- is that where it's, you know, these are folks using 10, are they going in there, and you know, you got some kid checking out, you know, 10 --

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Audiobooks."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- 10 big name comic books, or, you know, audio, you know? Is there some stuff to kind of pull some levers that way? But, I mean, it's a great product. I mean, the other thing I would ask too is like, are there some other digital tools that we're paying for that aren't really getting a whole lot of use that we should potentially consider discontinuing and having this be more focal product -- materially make a difference? I don't know --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yeah. We can bring back an analysis. They're 83 --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "-- so we'll look at maybe the top five --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "-- six."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I got this one other one by -- you know, I mean, I forget it's even over there. Then I go and I look at it when I can't find something over here. But so -- but I think this is -- actually, this is a -- this is a happiness problem to a certain extent. You know, as long as people aren't just looking big name comic books, this is a - - this is a good thing right here. So, you know, but it's a moderation of it, I'm in support of, and you know, whether that's five, six, seven, something like that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm also in support of at least trying dropping it down to five. I know as a mother of four, when I take my kids to the library, they always checked out the max, and sometimes it never even left their book bag, and we're having to return them. So I feel like people, it'll cause people to kind of ration their use a little bit and not cost the taxpayers as much money. But seeing that this is an ever-growing trend of people getting away from paper books, I still love paper books, but digital trend is here, and I think it's here to stay. In your budget for physical books, are you looking at maybe not purchasing as many or not putting as many in circulation? Can you draw from that side?"

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "I do see why you would have that correlation, Commissioner Thorne. The thing of it -- about it, though, is that still not everyone's digital. And a lot of people give us comments all the time about how they are tired of having to put items on hold, physical books on hold. They want to be able to walk into a library and pick up the bestseller that they want right then, instead of having to wait for it. So we're always constantly trying to fight that battle of print versus online. And so we're still looking at all of that. There are some decisions that we've made because of that trend, but still, we have to be mindful of those people who are just not digital, and just may never be."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, totally understand that. I'm kind of one of those people. With the five max checkout, there's always a way around it, like, can we offer a Hoopla paid service where people can go and go pay like maybe have some kind of low-cost service if they do need to exceed that five? Something that we don't manage, maybe it's a QR code, a link that they go to, and Hoopla will provide them, you know, the book at this cost."

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "Our biggest concern there is that public libraries are always faced with the idea of being free and open to the public. So it -- all of our materials are free based on taxpayer dollars. So if we do that, that becomes another matter, if we start charging individually."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Oh, I was just -- not that we run it, but we're able to direct them to a service if they want to exceed their five checkout book -- if we have a way of saying, look, you've met your checkout, but we recommend you go here, and you can get that book here. And maybe they have to set up a whole nother account with this outside -- but just a way of directing them in the -- in the case that they do get in that binge, that point where they've exceeded the limit."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Can we research that issue, Commissioner Thorne? Can you confirm, Hoopla is a library specific product?"

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Yes."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "So it wouldn't be Hoopla. But we certainly can look to see if there is a redirect to some other service. But it would not be Hoopla, because Hoopla is specific to libraries."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, even if we could redirect and give them a list of service --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Services, yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- that we can --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "We can look into that option."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "That'd be great."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Being -- and I know that this may be an offshoot. But being, at one point in my life, a single mother during summer months that we lived in the library. I want to know if, in fact, Dr. Roshell, if we have any information as the -- how fluid this will be during the warmer months? Do we have anything to look at to compare for one? For two, I, and here again, it may be a pet peeve, it may be a personal opinion. I always want to increase, especially when it comes to literacy, especially when we have documentation that our students, whether they're college students or high school or elementary school students, have retention issues. And they're encouraged to wear the libraries out during the winter months -- I mean, during the summer months. And so I'm wondering, are we really looking at this realistically as to the impact whether we do five, six or seven, whether we look at an amount during the summer months versus the winter months? Has anybody thought of -- thought about that? And so I just want us to kind of challenge ourselves individually, before you come back as to how this may have an unintended consequence to the literacy, or more importantly, the retention of not only our elementary, middle school and high school, but our individuals that are trying to go back to college, our individuals that are adult learners, our individuals that are trying to -- because I know some people are going to abuse the system, we know that, and I'm not talking about them. But I'm talking about the public that really does rely on our library system. And so I just wanted to kind of share that with you, because it is a passion of mine. And I know having had it in my household, I mean, during summer months, everyone, whether you were in high school, middle school or whatever, you had to read a certain number of books. You had to make sure there was some activity tied to the library during the summer months. And so I'm just wondering, have we really looked at that and how it may be an effect, or may not be at all."

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "That's a very valid point, Madam Commissioner, and we would definitely look into getting more details about that."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, back to Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just one other comment for us to explore, and maybe it's not this year, maybe it's next year, whatever. Is -- I'm just looking on Reddit to see what

they've said other people do and all that. Looks like some of the systems have a, like, a cap per year, as opposed to just, you know, which might be get at -- you get at a peak kind of thing. You got, you know, whatever, you have 50 books and so many flex books or something like that. I don't know if that's an alternative that y'all looked at or not, but."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "So for this particular one, it's structured monthly. We do have other services like Libby that is --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Hoopla is not set up --"

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Libby and the others are set up the other --"

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "Yeah, they --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "You get, with that one it's like, per check -- it's -- basically how many you have checked out at a given moment, rather than --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Got it. Got it."

BRAZOS PRICE, ADMINISTRATOR, LIBRARY: "-- like a monthly period."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, other comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right, nothing else? So what -- what are we -- what's our timing?

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "I believe the -- what we're hearing is that the decision to -- the direction will be held until we bring back some additional information. We've recorded in detail, the data that you would like to see to inform your decision. And we'll bring that back at the June meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "At the --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "June 4th meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "At June 4th meeting?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right, thank you very much. Good to see you. All right, Madam Clerk. I'm sorry."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Moving forward with the update on homelessness, I have received over the past several weeks, several questions about what the county is doing in the space of homelessness. As you know, the county is responsible for homeless services outside of the city of Atlanta. We are always looking for innovative ways to use the \$3 million that we receive from the federal government specifically aimed at street homelessness or encampments. And so the update that I'm providing today is a result of a trip that I took with public business leaders and others to three cities that have basically eradicated street homelessness using a variety of levers. We visited San Francisco, Dallas, and Denver. All used some sort of public-private partnerships, as well as different funding strategies. Next slide, please. Basically, what we learned is that there was some integration -- next slide -- integration among different sectors to address this problem. Again, public-private partnerships seem to be the best strategy. As you know, in thriving downtown communities, we certainly do not want to have the appearance of street homelessness, because it does impact business and overall feeling of safety and goodwill in a community. And so we want to make sure that we're not only kicking the can down the road, but actually creating strategies that have long-term impact for eradicating homelessness. We looked at different non-punitive closures of encampments, different enforcement mechanisms. We looked at site operations that included a very robust behavioral health component, as well as specific metrics that held these cities and counties accountable for eradicating homelessness on the streets, specifically. Next slide, please. What we were observed in Denver, and what we heard most is that in order to eradicate homelessness, not only did you need funding, but you needed funding that not only created some sort of shelter system, but created shelter that would provide long-term safety in a non-congregate setting. So meaning that individuals had an individual room to be offered and not a -- an open forum where you have 50, 60, 70, 100, people sleeping at one time. That seemed to be the one single element that allowed all of these communities to offer something that constituents who were experiencing homelessness felt would put them on a path to -- to safety and housing security. Next slide, please. Some of the funding strategies included sales tax, .25 percent sales tax increases, specifically dedicated to homelessness. There were also braided funding from city and county, not only federal, but other sources of general revenue. There was a very robust philanthropic inclusion in the funding structure, as well as, again, business partners. They also had a unique

feature in San Francisco, which included a gross tax receipts on all businesses that had revenues of \$50 million or more. So again, none of these cities only relied on the HUD funding. The next slide, please. So some of the next steps, of course, the group that completed the visit we, are planning to meet over the next week and months to think through how we can work collectively to eradicate encampments and street homelessness in Fulton County, and specifically in cities that have the highest incidence of street homelessness, namely Atlanta. And we are going to look at all systems from emergency response to nontraditional facilities. Many of the cities have purchased hotels with ARPA money that they've converted into homeless communities, as well as just a variety of different solutions. So I will continue to provide updates as we progress with a plan specifically for Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any questions, comments, reactions? Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The last comment about the hotels reminded me about the properties we bought on Fulton Industrial and our plan going forward there. I think we bought those properties with the idea of doing affordable housing, workforce housing, and so, you know, hopefully, we can get an update on where we are with Fulton Industrial, and what's going on with those properties there, and if we'll be able to repurpose those to help address the homelessness in Fulton County."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir, we'll provide an update."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Dr. Roshell, how big is the group you're working with again?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "The -- they're actually two groups. One is a homelessness task force that we are part of with the city of Atlanta that's ongoing. This group was a small group of eight. Eight."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, okay. And do you -- do we know, like, our -- to the average citizen, I think it's largely sort of under -- misunderstood about who has responsibility for homeless-related services within Fulton County."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We've got sort of a doughnut strategy where it's, you know, city of Atlanta is responsible for city of Atlanta, then we're outside of that. Do we know sort of the collective amount of funding that's coming in? I mean, ours is around three."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir. Atlanta's approximately 14."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "In all three cities that we saw, we have two collaborative applicants that receive -- we receive 3 million, they receive 14."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Dallas, San Francisco and Denver have one. The city and the county work together with one applicant, they don't have two --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Are they more successful as one applicant in terms of funding in, or is that just more of a collaboration piece?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "I think that certainly we saw the benefit in the impact of collaboration being improved because it was one applicant."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And it's been 15 years since we -- we've used -- I mean, we -- previously it was DeKalb, Fulton and city of Atlanta together, correct?"

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Which may or may not have been too big or whatever, but that was, how many years ago?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Do you have it -- it has been, I believe over ten years --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Predates everybody?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "The Chairman -- okay. And our CFO, okay. So is that the kind of the stuff y'all are -- I mean, we're talking about in terms of just how effective our own sort of systems of delivery right now? I mean, is that in your working group, or are you least --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Absolutely."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- having those conversations?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "All of that is on the table."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "We certainly want to -- that was a unifying theme --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "-- that there was one collaborative applicant. The coordination was improved. And they were able to leverage the funding differently. In many cases, they eliminated the need to compete because they were one."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, all right. Thank you. I look forward to hearing more as we move along."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "You said that this group is a small task force of eight people? Is there -- we all have appointees on the Continuum of Care Board. Will they be in the loop somehow or advised on what you guys are doing and what you're working on?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Absolutely. So the catalyst for the visit really was the city of Atlanta and the Chair of their Partners for Home. They have a contract door, Partners for Home that manages their COC. We manage our COC through our Department of Community Development. Their Chair is Chris Womack, the CEO of Southern Company. And he had a specific and unique interest in understanding how San Francisco was able to, on site when you go to San Francisco now, you do not see the street homelessness that you saw even a year ago. And so because he's frequently there, when he saw that change, he was intrigued and wanted to know how we could make those same types of changes here in this community."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. First of all, Dr. Rosshell, thank you for the work that you're doing in this area. I was so pleased when I got the information from the County Manager that you were part of this. I think personally, for myself, I think the collaboration is a big issue. And I think whatever takeaways that you all have, if we can increase our lobbying at the state level, because homelessness affect us all one way or another. Everybody can have a perspective of to why there's a homelessness issue, whether it is, you know, a veteran suffering, a person that's been displaced, or in some cases, I have had people say, well, I'm here in Atlanta because I can't get any help anywhere else, and we've heard that. But what I have not seen that I'm really happy about is you all are collaborating. Because I think it's a black eye on everybody when we have not only international visit -- visitors and national visitors, but we have business opportunities that we miss because they see the homelessness issue downtown. And until we look at it -- and I'm not saying to look at homelessness just as a business issue, what I'm saying, it affects everybody. And so what I would like to see

is, as you all progress, some lobbying, County Manager, some of your relationships that you have the state, maybe a replica of, look, this is what we're doing, it looks good. Maybe we can get some buy in at the state. Because I really do believe that the homelessness issue is here to stay. We cannot turn a blind eye to it. We can't one day see all the homeless people downtown, and then the next day, don't see anybody. But we know they're going somewhere. And we know that at some point they will be back until we have a concrete solution plan. And so here again, I want just want to commend you and the County Manager, the lead that you all are taking to make sure that this stays out front. But I really would like to see all of our partners, all of our cities and state partners, really understand it that this issue affects us all."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you, Commissioner."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I'm going to ask Jessica Corbitt to come up and give a brief overview of the tax assessment communications plan. And also, Jessica, if you'll go from that into the federal funding update."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Good afternoon, everyone. At the last couple of meetings, we've talked about the changes in state law that will yield some differences in the 2025 Property Assessment Notice. So I'm just going to talk briefly with you about some of the things that we are doing to prepare for that communication. Next slide, please. So notices will be issued sometime within the next month or so. And as we get closer -- as we get closer to that, we're preparing for how we communicate. The notices themselves will look a bit different. And we heard from Mr. Conley that there are potentially three different kinds of notices. However, because all of the taxing jurisdictions within Fulton County, there are 18 with our 15 cities, the county, and two school systems. All have provided a certified rollback rate. That means that we only have to have one kind of assessment notice. We do not have to have these variables that would have occurred had they not done that. So that was one, a very important change. We are preparing sort of a toolkit for the policymakers from those 18 taxing jurisdictions, all of which will be affected. For the Board of Assessors themselves, for property owners, of course, and for some of our community partners who are really engaged in property tax education initiatives, such as Georgia Legal Aid -- or Atlanta Legal Aid, excuse me, and some other organizations. The Beltline has a really good outreach program around property assessments, several others along those lines. Key messages, as you see here, the notices will look a bit

different. Their basic rights are the same that you will get an annual right, notice of assessment, and you still have that appeal window. One important change is about this new ability to apply for a homestead exemption if you did not have one. If you missed the deadline for the homestead exemption application, you now have that 45-day appeal window to file for that homestead. And it will apply for this tax year. As you know, in previous years, if you missed that deadline, it wouldn't go into effect until the next year. So that's a really important change. We are making a special effort to reach out to people who applied for homestead exemption starting April 2nd of this year, up until the date of notices are mailed so that those folks know, hey, you applied during this kind of weird gray period when you're not allowed to apply for this year; however, you know, resubmit basically in that 45-day window, and your notice can be applied. Next slide, please. So really, what we're doing is not reinventing the wheel, but preparing tools that can be used to existing communication channels. Those include things like our newsletters, your newsletters, as you get the toolkit, you will have things that you can plug in and again, those 18 taxing jurisdictions, our school systems, all of those will be affected. The -- also one very -- probably the most important piece of this is an insert that will go into the assessment notice itself, that is sort of an explainer that points out, hey, these are some things that are different about your notice of assessment, and on the back has questions and answers. So as that is finalized, we'll be glad to share that with you all. There will also be talking points, a website notice, both on our, the primary county website as well as the Board of Assessors site. And again, all 18 taxing jurisdictions will have that information that they can include, and then a short video explainer. The other thing I would just mention is that there are a few changes in terms of appeal rights -- or not appeal rights, excuse me, the frozen value. That is another piece that will change a bit. So that's -- those are the kinds of things that are addressed in this assessment notice mailer. The -- one of the reasons that the -- that the school boards, in particular, any city that opted out of the floating homestead exemption, that is one other piece that we're going to call out, because those will be -- they will have specific notices when tax bills go out at a later time. So I think that's just a very quick overview of the communication strategy. Again, we will be really hitting launch on these as we prepare for notices to go out. When notices are mailed, they are also posted online at the same time, so it's very easy for people to go and find their notice. So we will be making all of that clear in this messaging toolkit that you will receive."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, any questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "None? Continue, federal funding."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next slide, please. Next, please. Next, one more. Thank you. Again, this is a -- this is a short slide that -- and there's a lot of activity behind this. The most important thing that I think you already know is that there is no certainty right now around the federal budget. Last month, the President, the White House OMB issued what is called the skinny budget, which is really the President's topline recommendations for specific fund program, pluses and minuses along the list. In talking with a lot of people, they say, you know, that's a recommendation, and but it's really, as we know, once it goes through Congress, their recommendations are very different. And so you've heard, I'm sure, seen in the news, that the House has been considering their version of the budget. NACo and other partners have been very, very engaged, and we've been working with all of those folks. They have planned, or said that they plan to adopt the House Budget this week and then pass that on to the Senate. We have been looking very closely at every federally funded program at Fulton County. What we don't want to do is -- is, I guess, create any additional uncertainty by talking about one program or another when those things are very fluid right now. But what we have -- we are optimistic about our largest federal programs. But again, this is a very, very fluid situation that's changing day by day. We saw last week that one cohort decided, you know, to split a key interval to not vote, they came back and compromised. So there's a lot of negotiation happening in the House right now. We are in daily communication with our federal lobbyists. We have provided them with data about every program that we have so that they can track that. And so we are, you know, again, just going to continue to monitor. We are providing, as we get inquiries from our members about one program or another, we have provided those. So far, Fulton County grant programs have been minimally affected by any changes, so that's very positive. But of course, we're continuing to monitor that very, very carefully."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, questions?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Mr. Chairman, could we clear up some confusion. I'm going to ask Dr. Roshell just to address the kerfuffle around the Department of Public Health, Board of Health, and specifically our responsibilities in Ryan White."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. So the federal HIV funding is issued to communities in two ways. One is prevention and awareness. All of that funding comes to the state and then goes to the Public Health Department. So in the case of Georgia and Fulton County, specifically, the funding that we've heard about over the last day or so was not Fulton County Ryan White funding. It was funding that goes to the state and then is allocated to our Public Health Department. As of today that funding still intact. And there is no specificity around whether or not that funding has

been impacted in any way, so business will continue as usual. As it relates to Fulton County, we receive funding from the federal government for Ryan White in ending the HIV epidemic for care and treatment. That funding continues. What's different this year, and why you see it on the agenda more than once is, while we have received the full funding, it's come in tranches. So the Board approved the first tranche, today, you improve -- approve tranche number two, which takes us through July 31st. We expect in the next week or so to receive tranche number three, which will take these programs through February 2026. So the county funding is not at risk. We've received the funding, it's continuing -- continued to be managed. It's just come to the county differently than it has in the past."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Dr. Roshell and County Manager, thank you all for that explanation. You know, my -- not only my personal cellphone, but my cellphones of my staff and my office was blown up because of a miscommunication. And that's what I'm going to put it as, a miscommunication. But I appreciate how quick that you all responded, and it allowed me to respond. But I will tell you one of the unintended consequences of this. When I went on social media, I saw houses of worship that, because of the miscommunication they received, they said, hey, we're going to provide a task force and see internally how we can come together, and see if we can replace some of that funding. Now, one would say, why, why did they wait for that? They could have already been doing it. But it doesn't matter, it did light a fire. I don't think I'm most comfortable with the way it happened, but I just wanted to share that it was on social media. It was a -- I mean, my phone blew up. I think I had maybe 170 texts about it alone. And this went from the gamut of nonprofits, this went from some of the diversion stakeholders, this went with some of the advocates of the LGBT community. This was the worship leaders, because it was misinformation. And so thank you for clearing that up, and thank you for responding so quickly when I reached out. And I believe that the -- the good thing is out of what some may perceive as a bad thing, is that individuals began to rally and see what they could do. And that may be needed down the road. We just don't know. But I know that Fulton County would do everything in their power to make sure that we stay on the frontline when it comes to HIV. We know it's no secret that in the state of Georgia, Fulton County, Metropolitan Atlanta, our HIV rates have not went down. They have went up. And so I know everyone up here, in one way or another, is committed. And so I just wanted the general public, who reached out to me, to know that we here and Fulton County are committed to keeping them informed."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

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

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Mr. Chairman, unless there are any questions about the purchasing and financial data that we submitted, then this would conclude our report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Anything else, Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, sir. Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 10, **25-0394**, Finance presentation, review and approval of the May 21st, 2025 budge soundings and resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam CFO, anything?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The item that's before you today is a name change item only on the annual maintenance hardware and software maintenance list. It's a name change from Dell EMC, Inc. to the redesigned group."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All righty, okay. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne -- what's that -- Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Something's with the sound."

CLERK GRIER: "Yeah, that's what I was just --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Testing, testing. Testing. Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "There it is."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, **25-0395**, Information Technology request approval to admit an existing enterprise license agreement to provide GIS Technology at no additional cost."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Cast your vote please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0396**, Registration Elections request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$260,460 to provide ballot printing services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote -- strike that. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Nadine, Director Williams, I just wanted to know if you want to comment, if you're happy with the new vendor? And that's it, since you came all the way down here, or up here."

NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS: "Good afternoon. Yes. Well, we sent you all an informative memo. I'm not sure if you received that on Monday, to state, we wanted to select Tattnell. And we have information there, the reason why we select that vendor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I just wanted for the public to know that you're happy with this decision."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **25-0397**, Public Works request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed 254,500 to provide soft dig services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0398**, Community Development request approval of the 2025 Community Services Program Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$5,363,958."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I just would like to express my appreciation for Open Hands and the valuable assistance they provide to the residents of Fulton County who require nutritional support and prescription aid. You know, I believe and encourage my fellow colleagues and the executive team to collaborate and possibly explore additional funding. We know that government can't do it by itself. I know that potential funding opportunities may arise following our midyear evaluation. But I want to take this time to further more urge our corporate partners to consider, you know, contributing and taking up and standing in the gap, because we have so many organizations, and I appreciate Open Hands being here this morning, because they do have a service that's in my district that has been very, very monumental in our seniors and what our seniors need. And I just wanted to make sure I openly let them know that I saw them, but we really are to -- and I say that not only for myself, but all of us, explore how we can get more sponsorship, how we can get relationships, partnerships, and collaborations to make sure that none of our seniors, especially our seniors, fall through the cracks when it comes to food deserts, when it comes to prescription aids. And so I just wanted to make sure I go on record and asking for that plea. Thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Rahman, thank you. I want to support what you just said. And while I understand the amount of five, 5,363,958, is firm and can only support the 160 agencies and organization listed in this item, I want to emphasize my support for the eligible, unfunded agencies. In particular, I want to highlight the hard work and dedication that Open Hand Atlanta brings to Fulton County. The funding recommendation of 25,000 for Open Hand would serve over 3,000 meals to 75 Fulton County seniors who are currently not receiving nutritious meals that they deserve. As the Body that approves the use of our county's general fund, I want to emphasize the importance of our engagement in the decision process when it comes to selecting the agencies that receive our funding. I am proud that we are able to contribute this amount to so many wonderful agencies and organizations. And I am dedicated to ensuring that the 13 eligible unfunded agencies receive the support they also need. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "A motion to adopt by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0399**, Senior Services request approval to close out an existing contract for indigent burial services in the amount 61,226."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, Commissioners' Action Items, **25-0269**, Request approval of a resolution approving an agreement between Fulton County, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, and the city of Atlanta to provide Judicial in-Rem Tax Foreclosure Services concerning Municipal Code Enforcement Liens."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by -- is that the one with Ferdinand, Dr. Ferdinand? Wasn't that -- what happened at the last meeting?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "We did Union City and Palmetto. We approved the collection of taxes for Union City and Palmetto at the last meeting, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, this is the --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "This item was held."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "It was held."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, this is the one that was with Dr. Ferdinand and the city of Atlanta."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What -- wasn't the County Attorney's office doing some additional work, which is why it was held?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Correct."

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Yes, that's true."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's correct?"

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Um-hmm."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Okay. It's still -- y'all are still working on it, is what I understand?"

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Yes, that's true."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, all right. Continue to hold it. All right, continue."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Oh, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, I don't -- I don't know that we can hold it again. I think it would have to come back. I just want clarification on it, because -
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CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's true."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- I think that's with the --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We can reintroduce, but I since I was not here at the last meeting. But it's my understanding though that the Law Department was working on some -- the city's Law Department had some additional comments after we, our Law Department had some -- made some changes. And that's what the holdup is now."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And Chairman, with all due respect, I was the one that put forward for it to be help, because I thought we would have the information by now. And so it's not that I don't want to support it, but I think if we follow protocol and procedure, it would need to come back."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's correct."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "All right, thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0359, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 101, Article II, Division 2 of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to modify Section 101-66 to discontinue emailed public comments, and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? A motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. Email public comments were brought about August 4th, 2021 due to ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. The amount of regular emails that we got this past week, I would say, is overwhelming. And I enjoy getting to read those as they come in from the public. I believe this code section is no longer needed, because they have the option to email us all directly whenever they want, 24 hours, seven days a week. So basically, this is just a redoing the code for post COVID-19 meetings."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, other comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **25-0400**, Board of Registration and Elections. The Fulton County Democratic Party nominated Douglass Selby to replace Aaron Johnson for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending June 30th, 2027."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I am willing to and excited that we have a new board member coming on, Douglass Selby. He meets the criteria that he shall be an elector and a resident of Fulton County, and he was appointed by the Democrat Party. With that being said, I shouldn't be choosing who the Democrat Party wants to represent them on the board, and therefore I am going to vote for Mr. Selby to be on the board."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I want to say that I hope -- I know attorney Doug Selby from a professional interaction, and have been a witness to his dedication to the law as it is written, to his application of the law in a fair manner for all. And I wholeheartedly support his nomination, and feel confident that he's somebody that is interested in making sure that we have a fair process for all voters in Fulton County. And so I was proud to see that he was being nominated."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 13, **25-0401**, Board of Registration Elections, the Fulton County Democratic Party nominated Teresa K. Smith Crawford for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2027."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Once again, I am as a Commissioner, going to follow the law. Teresa Crawford has served and I'm not -- I don't always agree with her decisions on the board. But she is an elector, she is a resident of Fulton County, and the Democrat Party wishes to appoint her. She is in accordance with the law, should be appointed whether I agree with not, the word shall, means shall and should. So with that, I'm going approve her nomination."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0402**, Board of Registration and Elections, the Fulton County Republican Party nominated Julie Adams for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2027."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Repeat this one."

CLERK GRIER: "The Fulton County Republican Party nominated Julie Adams for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2027."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'm going to hope that we will not approve this one. But let's -- it's a motion on the floor to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by -- all right. All right, I hope that we will not approve this one. But there's a motion on the floor to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Let's vote, please. I'm sorry, Commissioner Arrington, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, Mr. Chair. I want to address all these miscellaneous statements about following the law. What happens is it's subject to the, law is subject to the interpretation of the person that's reading the law, as we've seen

recently in our national politics. The way I read this ordinance is it says two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County. Now, the governing authority Fulton County is this Board up here, the Board of Commissioners. Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County. That means the buck stops here. The buck stops with us, the Board of Commissioners. We get to confirm or deny the nominations from the parties. Now this is not about partisan politics for me, maybe it is for some. The problem we have in this country is the far right and the far left. The answers and the solutions are in the middle. And I want to applaud the Democratic Party for nominating people that are in the center, and not nominating people that are in the far left. And I think the Republican Party ought to take a look at their people and not nominate people that are far right and nominate people that are in the center. That's where all of our answers and our solutions are. There is no way in the world I can vote to support either of these people. But y'all present some people that are in the center, they can get approved. Doug Selby is as straight as an arrow. I've known him for 30-plus years. He used to work at Arrington Hollowell under my dad. He's an attorney, he was over at Hunton and Williams. And I think he's either there or at another firm now. He's as straight as an arrow, and he's in the center. He's not on the far left. Democratic Party is not going around nominating these people to the Elections Board that are on the far left, that are partisan. And if -- and if the Republican Party wants to get some people approved by this Board, they need to do the same."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Three more -- everybody wants to be heard? Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Barrett, followed by Commissioner Ivory. Motion on the floor is to approve."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, thank you. You know, I thought about whether I wanted to weigh in on this or not, and I think it's because of the position that I took with Cathy Woolard. When Cathy Woolard was first presented to us, I was not only quoted on the news, I was vilified because I said, even though I thought Cathy Woolard was an honorable, ethical person, I thought her recent resignation from an organization aligned with Stacey Abrams could be considered a conflict of interest. Now that was my position that I stood on with a fellow Democrat. The vote passed, and she was put on the board, and her and I had a conversation, and I've been knowing Cathy for years. But I felt like at that particular moment, anytime something could look like a conflict of interest that maybe that person may need to be the pass, pass on that person. I don't personally have anything with Julie. I think she's an ethical woman. I think she believes what she believes. And as a citizen, a taxpaying citizen of Fulton County, a navy mom, she has the right to believe what she believes. But when you align with an organization that is purging voters, when you are aligned with an organization nationally that in your duties, it could look like a conflict of interest, I can't

be vocal on Cathy Woolard and silent on Julie. And I think she's a wonderful person. And so I'm standing on the belief that my independence of voting on what I internally have to do and what I internally think is right has to be extended to every situation, not just arbitrarily of what is politically right. And so unfortunately, I will not be able to support this because of information I have verified. And it doesn't mean that she's a bad or good person. It gives, in my opinion, a conflict of interest. And anything that gives a conflict of interest, even the appearance of it, should be a pass. And so unfortunately, I will not be able to support her for reappointment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be brief, as my colleagues have already said, much of what I believe as it relates to this. So I want to thank Commissioner Arrington for his comments and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman for her comments as well. I want to also just say that several of the public commenters talked about us not being partisan. So I want to echo what Commissioner Arrington said and just say that for me, this is also not partisan. I fully believe in the idea of a Board of registration and Elections that has two appointed people from nominations from the Republican Party and two appointed people from nominations from the Democratic Party. However, we have a responsibility as Commissioners to do our part to ensure free and fair elections and to defend the right of all of our citizens in this county who are eligible to vote that they have the right to do so. And when we have a nominee before us who has disrupted the work of the Board of Registration and Elections on a regular basis, and who has cost the county both time and money as a part of that disruption, I just can't support that. So I will be voting no."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "As a law professor, when students apply for the bar exam and they have to fill out a fitness to serve application, and it comes to me to approve, and they have to tell everything that they've done, whether they have gotten a DUI, or if they shoplifted, or if something happened in their past, because we're looking to see if they have the fitness to serve. It doesn't matter how they vote or what they do, but will they come in and have the fitness to serve. So that is really all that I am looking for. And it is, of course, possible to work with the GOP, we do every day, and we do and all of the appointments that we make. It's not possible to work with folks that are trying to sow chaos. Here are just the facts about fitness to serve. Julie Adams is the Regional Director for former Trump lawyer Cleta Mitchell's Election Integrity Network, and is the Director of the Georgia Election Integrity Coalition, the Georgia Chapter of the Election Integrity Network, whose mission is to undermine and sow chaos in elections. Julie Adams has refused to certify elections twice while on the Board of Elections, and said it

was ridiculous that she had to after a Judge's order in November of 2024. Julie Adams sued the Board of Elections twice to have certification declared to be discretionary, mandatory and to have increased access to election documents. She filed three lawsuits against this very county, costing you, the taxpayers \$221,772.14. I could not, in my good conscious, appoint somebody that has done that to the county. I would also like to state that the COO and the CFO to the Secretary of State, Gabriel Sterling, upon that Judge -- that order by Justice -- by Judge McBurney that said certification must have happen, he on Twitter or X replied, great news, the Judge ruled that County Election Board Members in Georgia must certify elections, another step in keeping to guardrails in place to safeguard our elections. It was Raffensperger himself, our Secretary of State that after that, also said this was the most secure election in Georgia's history. The votes were counted accurate, accurately, securely and quickly. Both of those members being of the Republican Party. Oh, it is so possible to work with the GOP, because what the County Board of Elections is here to do is just to make sure that our elections are done fairly and open for all. So I want to support members of the board that want that too. So I will not be able to support this nomination."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I think a public commenter made a comment, know the law and follow the law. Is that just something we do from time to time, whenever it fits us? So what does the law say? And what's the intent of the law? I'm not a lawyer, I'm a software designer, so maybe my lawyers need to educate me a little bit more. But the law says in the first part that the members shall be composed of five members. So is it okay, should we just go ahead and take six, seven, because it's just a suggested idea? The next paragraph, they shall be an elector and a resident of Fulton County. So what does shall mean there? Can we just go ahead and get somebody from DeKalb County? Because it's close enough, because we really don't have to follow the law strictly. The next line is, it shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the Chair person -- person of the county and the executive committee of that political group. Does it say someone in here that they must appoint somebody that shall not look like a conflict of interest? Don't think so. Are we writing that into the law? Is that our perception? Should we put in there that shall not disturb the work, cost money or time for our Elections Department? That's a criteria we're putting in here. Shall have the fitness to serve. And that is whatever we think is the fitness to serve. It's whatever our will is. They must be not far right, not far left. They got to be in the moderate, in the middle. Now, the Republican Party went through great lengths to nominate people, to put people to vet them, and they wanted people that represent them. You may not be happy with that, but that was the will of the Republican

Party. So now does the Republican Party have to go to Fair Fight and ask Fair Fight, who in our party do you want us to choose? Do they have to go to the ACLU? We have like, four people down here that gave comments from activist groups. Do we have to ask those four activist groups and Cathy Woolard who do we think you should serve? Here's our entire Republican Party, who aligns with Gabe Sterling and Raffensperger, Secretary of State? That's what you want. You talk about Julie. You talk about her. She has to sign oaths, oaths. She's the one who has to put on the line her name on this that the election she's going to prevent any fraud, deceit or abuse in our elections. She's the one when it comes to certifying election, must say that she's looked at the true and correct count of the votes cast in this county for the candidates. She's the one who has to follow the law and rules. Rule 183-1-12.12 that after all absentee ballots received from the close of polls, including those cast by advanced voting and all ballots cast in person on Election Day and all provisional ballots have been tabulated, that the total number of ballots cast by each vote method shall be reported for each precinct. Didn't happen. For each precinct, the board members shall compare the total number of ballots cast to the total number of unique voter ID numbers. Now, it's common sense, if you're going to count votes, you want to make sure that enough people voted, that the number of people voted equals the number of ballots cast. They have been asking for this information. Oh, they'll tell you how many votes were cast, how many ballots were put in the bin. Mike Heekin got a call the other day saying, oh, you could come down and look at it now. They hand tie our board members. If you want to look at any election materials, election materials that an open records request, you should be able to get this material. If a board member wants to see it, Julie was told, file an open records request, pay \$75 for a single sheet of paper. Is that being transparent? We advocate for transparent elections. Most counties just email the people all the documents on their board. They email it to them on a Friday or Saturday, and then they certify on Monday. Not our board. They make you come in person on Friday, in the morning, at 8:00 a.m. They turn off the volume so you can't hear if they're talking about anything. But you can sit there watch them, and they give them stacks and mounds of paper. They're not allowed to use their phones. They disable the USB ports on the computer so they can't make any copies. You're not allowed to take pictures. You're not allowed to make copies. All you can do is sift through the mountains of material and take notes with a pen and paper. Is that being transparent? Is that giving someone that is supposed to oversee our elections the ability to oversee if our elections are true and correct and accurate and fulfill their oath? I'd say not. But that's what we do. We are not transparent one bit, and yet, people up here on this Board say we have free, transparent elections. No, we don't. And Julie, I admire her. When she told me she had sued our board to get those very election materials so that she could look at them, I was like, oh, dear, that's brave. That's brave for her to do. And Judge McBurney even

said she should have those materials to look at. So anyway, I'm one of them getting a four-minute mark. I am limited on how long I can talk. It doesn't seem like that happens to many other people up here on the Board. But I would like to read a letter from Dr. Jan Johnson, she's on the State Board of Elections. I recommend the approval of the BRE appointees of the Fulton County Republican Party. I know both appointees are upright, ethical and qualified Fulton citizens. I hope the Commissioners will fulfill their duties, put personal bias aside by approving proposed Republican BRE members. I would trust that the Democrat appointees are also qualified, upright and ethical Fulton citizens to be approved by the Commission for the BRE seats. Best regards, Dr. Janice W. Johnston, MD. Since I don't have all the time in the world for this, I would hope that there are changes moving forward. I would hope that our Board would let our board members be board members, instead of breaking rules and laws. To this day, when Mike Heekin went down there to look at the vote cast record, it didn't add up. It's November, it's six, more than six months after the election, and we cannot reconcile if the number of voters who voted equals the number of ballots cast. And that is no way to run an election. As members of this Board, you say we're not going to appear partisan, that's all you're doing, is appearing partisan because you're expressing the wishes of the Democrat Party. You're not following the law. In elections, this is one thing where it is so important that you must protect from being nonpartisan. If you want trust in our elections, we have to have a board that reflects the wishes of both parties or else we're in a tyranny. We need the wishes of the Republican Party, the two that they pick. You may not like them, and we need the wishes of the Democrat Party. And without that, we are just throwing our elections into chaos and mistrust. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Ma'am, I'm not sure if you've been paying attention to the national scene. We're already in a tyranny. Let me tell you something. The word shall has one meaning, it is compulsory. It doesn't mean one thing in one sentence or one thing in another. The word shall refers, in this instance, to the authority of this Board, the governing authority of Fulton County, to confirm or deny the nominations made by either party. The parties make nominations, and this Board shall confirm or deny those nominations. And with that, I'm going to make a substitute motion to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Substitute motion to file, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Questions, discussion? Commissioner Ivory? All right. The motion on the floor is to -- Vice Chair Ellis, sorry."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah. So when do we -- when does our next election cycle began?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "When does -- what's the question?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "When does our next election cycle start? When does early voting start? I know. When does the early voting start? May 27th. When do we next meet? Okay. I have a question for our County Attorney. If this motion is successful, does this individual continue to serve until she is replaced?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. I can answer that."

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Yeah, that is correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That is correct?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yep, that's correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion -- anything, anything else? Motion on the floor is to file. All right, let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "The vote is open on the motion to file. And the motion passes; five yeas, two nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item. And I hope that we would deny this nomination as well. Is there a motion?"

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0403**, Board of Registration Elections, the Fulton County Republican Party nominated Jason -- Jason Frazier to replace Michael Heekins for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending June 30th, 2027."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, my motion is to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Just -- hold on. Hold on. Commissioner Arrington's motion is to approve. That's not -- that's not correct."

CLERK GRIER: "Right. It's a motion to file. We don't have the file in this system."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So there's no -- that can't be displayed here, but the motion, Commissioner Arrington, is to file. Now, Commissioner Thorne, you seconded the motion, I'm sure that's not --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: (Off-mic remarks.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Right. Commissioner -- now, motion before us, even though it's not reflected, motion by Commissioner Arrington is to file. It is seconded by

Commissioner Ivory. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Thorne, followed by Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, point of order. I want to offer a substitute motion to file. If we're going to it correctly, my comment is to file."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order. It's not a substitute if it's the same motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Let me preside, y'all. The -- Commissioner Arrington's motion was to file. It's not displayed because the machine doesn't display that."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So that's why to approve is being shown --"

CLERK GRIER: "To approve to file, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion on the floor is by Arrington is to file, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, not Barrett."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Ivory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Ivory."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, I don't have a problem with that. I just think that we -- if we go to training and if we are certified Commissioners, then we should follow the protocol and procedure for what we're trying to do. I know it may not be a popular position right now for some people. I withdraw my motion to file, but if we're going to do it correctly, I am doing it the correct way."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion before us is to file. Commissioner Barrett, followed by Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we've all kind of said our piece on the first nominee, but I want to speak specifically about Mr. Frazier. I'll be brief. Two years ago, when the Fulton County Republican Party nominated Jason Frazier for this exact same seat, I said that Mr. Frazier was not a good-faith nominee on the part of the party because of his efforts, up to that point, to disenfranchise voters and to undermine elections in Fulton County. His efforts on that front have continued, and perhaps even gotten more aggressive since then. Two years ago, I pointed out that the bylaws of the Fulton County Board of Registrations and Elections states that one of the responsibilities of the board is to quote, articulate the department's goals and accomplishments to the public and to the elected bodies to which the department

answers, so that the public and elected officials maintain confidence in elections administered by the department, unquote. It was clear then, and even more clear today that Mr. Frazier is not interested in doing the job as described. Two years ago, I said that the nomination of Jason Frazier by the Fulton County Republican Party was not serious. Repeating the same nomination to two years later is laughable. When the party decides to get serious and send us a nominee who doesn't have an egregious record of voter suppression, I will be happy to vote yes, but today, I'm a no."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Once again, there's a NVRA, it's a federal law. And the federal law says that you -- counties must maintain their voter rolls. It is essential to the integrity of an election. Some people think that it's voter suppression if you clean your voter rolls. That it's not integrity, so that's the big odds here. You're considered far, far right if you want voter rolls clean. But it is a federal law, otherwise bad actors can come into your system. Jason Frazier has uncovered 10,000 duplicate registered voters in 2022 and 2023. We have 500 voters on our voter rolls that had no birth date. So how can you tell if John Smith, which one is Senior, which one is Junior, if you have no date of birth. Missing addresses, 2,000 were challenged. Missing names, we actually had people registered in our system with first name as no-name, last name as no-name. We have people simply blank, nothing in there at all. It is against the law to be registered at a business. We had 2,000 businesses challenged. Lee Street Southwest, one address had four -- 50, over 54 people register there. Imaginary houses, 4K were challenged. Dead people, they found a hundred plus. These people sort through and find obituaries and find that people died and should be removed for the voter rolls. It's just a matter of simple maintenance that our county should be doing. And I don't blame just our county. I blame the Secretary of State's office as well. They have a Jarvis system. It is the most inept software system that you could see. It should be able to compare databases. It should be able to flag all these duplicates and missing files, but it doesn't. I just attended a seminar on pensions. When you're on a Pension Board, they know the minute you die. I looked at the computer systems they have. And they had these intricate computer systems that compare databases, read obituaries, and they remove you from the pension immediately, because it's going to cost us money if we keep paying checks. But somehow, in our voter rolls, we can't do that. With all this advanced technology, without -- all this AI, we can't do that, but we should. We should be implementing systems on the state level that clean our voter rolls. Jason found 19 registered people at this abandoned house. As of 2/12/2025, these people were all registered at this abandoned house. It's okay? It's okay to have them on the system. It's okay that they can get absentee ballots sent to this address, this abandoned house, that 19 people are registered? I even confirmed it with our Director Nadine Williams

that there were 19 people registered at that house. Now, Jason has worked hard. He's retired, he does this not for money, he's doing the work that we need to be doing. And until we do it, we're going to continue to have people that are ticked off because it is the integrity of our election. We can't have people voting that do not live in Fulton County. We can't have people voting that just put their business address here because they want to vote in Fulton County, but they live in DeKalb County. We can't have people register to PO boxes. I am not a voter challenge person, but very early on, when I had Jason come and give me a presentation to look and I brought some people that weren't election people in. I brought people from this county that know how to look through data, know how to analyze and they didn't see any problem. It's a good thing. It's a good thing. For instance, we had some simple issues with addresses where NE or SW was not put on there, and Jason flagged it and told the county, hey, you just need to correct these addresses. It will help. We didn't correct them. We sent out voter challenges instead. It wasn't his intent. But it needs to be corrected because we had issues with GIS. And GIS needs proper addresses so it knows how to tell what precinct you are in, so you know that you're going to get the correct ballot. We had issues where people in past elections, where people did not get the correct ballot, but we seem to be okay with that. We have, according to the US Election Assistance Commission, which is a federal commission, it spans every single, whether it's Democrats, Republicans in office, the US EAC is there. Fulton County total number of registered voters is 113 percent, 113 percent registered. Oh, we spend over a million registering more people, it's in our budget. We have 113 percent, and that has been consistent in the 2018 report, in the 2020 report, in the 2022 report. We need to do something. We need to bring that number down. We need to develop systems. Jason hasn't challenged a voter in three years, since 2022. And he can't challenge in other counties because you have to be a resident of the county to challenge. So all this bogus complaint thing that he's still causing chaos here, that's all bogus, it's all a lie. And if he becomes a board member, he can no longer challenge. He will not be eligible to challenge a voter. All he could do is work on bettering our election process and bringing trust in our election process and bringing faith that your vote is only counted, one person equals one vote. Now, if you're okay, two people vote, two people get two votes, you only get one, then, hey, let's keep these sloppy voter rolls. They say it's voter suppression. It's not. It's your vote. If people are registered four or five times and they get to vote multiple times, it waters down your vote. It affects everybody. It affects the integrity of elections. But I know, I know the Democrat Party really came down, they had on their website, you know, vote no to Jason Frazier. Here's the links, here's how you send all the Commissioners emails. So we got flooded with emails, but not many people came down here at all to give public comment. So I ask everybody in this room, do you want clean voter rolls, or do you want 113 percent, the figure that the EAC gives us

registered? Do you want faith in your election? Do you want integrity elections? I would vote for Jason Frazier for that reason. But if you don't, just maintain the status quo, get some really nice people on there that don't really know much about elections, aren't experts in anything, then that's what you want. But as a board, both parties have the right to be represented on BRE by their chosen nominees. And as a BOC Board, we should afford in that right. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'd just like to repeat quoting our Secretary of State, Republican Brad Raffensperger, just from our past elections in November of 2024. The votes were counted accurately, securely and quickly. This was the most secure election in Georgia's history."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, you --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just want to clarify, Secretary of State Raffensperger's speech. The votes, the unique voters list sorted by precinct, ballots cast, whether it was early voting, Election Day or absentee by mail, was not given to our electors, our Board of Registration members to verify that it was a secure, accurate election. I want to go on record that Julie Adams has not seen that unique voter list yet. It has not been given to her. Maybe she can drive down an hour south of town and maybe go look at it with a pen and paper. I asked the Secretary of State's office for the list, and they said, oh, here's a whole list, a PDF file, not sorted, impossible to go through useless data of a list of voters. So I don't put blame strictly on Fulton County. I do put blame on the chaos in our elections, on our Secretary of State's office as well."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any other comments? I hope not."

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 14, Commissioners' Presentation and Discussion Items, **25-0404**, Georgia Power easement sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Very quickly, it's 4:11 now. By way of background, we all know that we routinely approve easements whenever they come before us. They

typically appear on the consent agenda. And I've had the staff go back and check with respect to how many in the last 10 years, how many easements have come before us. It's 550, last 10 years. And they fall into three categories, water sewer easements, electric easements, and there's a category called others, which typically involves right of way for roads that we are involved with for -- that we give to the Georgia Department of Transportation. But the overwhelming majority of those 550 are water and -- water and sewer. And I've been thinking and had to go in, I've checked with the CFO who's been here for a while as well. I can't recall ever having the kind of controversy and discussion that we've had about this one, about any easement that's come before us. The Howell Mill neighborhoods are rightfully upset about what's happening. I'm upset about it as well. But the problem is we can be upset, but what can we do about it at this point? And probably very little, because Georgia Power has powers that other corporations do not have, including the right of eminent domain, which they've -- they're exercising in that Vine City area as we speak, as I'm told. But at our March 19th meeting, we approved the sale of that easement to Georgia Power for more than \$3 million to allow them to install whatever they're installing there. And since then, the neighborhood have been, they've been up in arms. They've had meetings, continue to meet, and heard today that they plan to not to drop it, but to pursue it with everything that's before them. And what that means, I don't know. But my question for us, though, is, what can we do as a Board to give them some relief? Because I can't imagine any, none of us would want to live where those power lines are going to go. And also, they believe, and there's probably something to it that those power lines are there to benefit a private company, one of these data centers that are taking over the south side of our county, in particular. If you look at, we had a meeting about data centers at the last ARC meeting. And most of those that have been approved or are going to be approved, pending, are south of I-20. And I would dare to say to you that if a developer were to come before any northern city with a data center, they would get run out of town. But they're approximate 30 or 40 of them already approved or pending south of I-20. Now, it's very intoxicating for the elected officials to run away or to say no to the money that's involved. But this story about following the money, I think, is probably appropriate here. So there is some issue there with the, I think it's QTS, is the name of it, of the facility there. And someone described it as a something looks like it's something from outer space, these huge facilities that are -- that are being constructed, constructed, rather, in our communities. But I'm not sure what options we have as a Board now to give the residents of that area some relief, other than some property that we own, they're concerned about the jail, they're concerned about the trees that are going to be removed, and they're concerned about things of that nature. And they are -- there is some property that we own in close proximity where we can plant trees, we can put fences up, we can use that \$3 million that we received to give them some relief. And

Mr. Manager, I mean, I would urge us to consider that. But from a legal point of view, I'm not sure, and I've been thinking about what we can do at this point. And I don't think there's anything that we can do. It's unfortunate that we were not aware of what was going on at the time. It's unfortunate that the neighborhood was not notified before this happened. Now, maybe if we, going forward, if we put something in place, in the case of these easements going forward, we'd have to, at least the buyer would have to notify the affected community in the future. But that doesn't help the folk in Howell -- Howell Station right now. So other than providing some additional buffers, that's about the only thing that I can think of. Sir? Okay, is that -- so that's all I have. I just meant -- and Mr. Manager, you and I have talked about this, about what you think we could do to give them some relief."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. I think you, you said it well. I'm not sure how we do something better on the front end, to necessarily engage the public and that we're not the -- the entity, whether it's a city with a some type of road change or a public utility with, in this case, power lines. However, that being said, I think we could flag these and particularly if they look to be as significant as this is, then at least bring that to the attention to the Board during the process. Again, I'm not sure what intervention could be taken, but that is one thing that we'll look at as a staff. Secondly, I do think, and we have met again with Georgia Power representatives this week, at the first of the week, there's a neighborhood meeting planned for June the 3rd, as I understand it. Purpose of that meeting is to identify the types of solutions, or at least factors that would mitigate the view of the jail, the foliage that's being lost, and anything else that can be -- can be identified that would be beneficial to the neighborhood. I've also had contact with Trey Kilpatrick, who you may remember, was Governor Kemp's Chief of Staff. He is now Senior VP at Georgia Power for External Affairs. He also assured me that they're willing to and desiring to work with us to find some good alternatives. So I think the next step perhaps would be to have the meeting on June 3rd, participate in that meeting, and then quickly come back to this Body with some proposed solutions. I think you're absolutely right in that we have a funding source vis-à-vis the money that was paid to us for the easement right that could be contributed to those solutions. And also think Georgia Power will make a significant contribution to any solutions that are identified in that meeting and/or subsequently."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you Mr. Manager. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. You know, I was not going to take a public position on this, and the reason I wasn't, my character was called into question. This is in my district. I found out it -- about it the exact same time that all

of my colleagues did. There was no, in cahoots. There was no -- even though Joe Davis probably do like me, but seriously, though, because that would be construed the wrong way. I just want to do a quick education for those who are listening within my voice, to have a Council Member, Councilman Byron Amos, yes, I'm calling you out. For you to throw us, especially me, under the bus when you know good and well that at the city level, you can put in a moratorium. It may have slowed down Georgia Power, I don't know if it would have stopped them. But Atlanta City Council, like other City Councils statewide, they have put in moratoriums when it come to data centers, when it comes to what Georgia Power does, mean that Georgia Power have to go a certain route, means that the data centers have to go a certain route, Chairman. And so it's unfair to lay at this Board and Body that we're in cahoots, that we don't care about the community, because that is not true. But if you're going to do that, then I must call you out, where's your moratorium? And I will further say, I do stand with the people of Howell, but I also stand with the people in Southwest Atlanta. I also stand with the people on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive when it was taken from the amount of lanes for the traffic to just two lanes. And the outcry was saying, you're going to cause a problem from traffic backing up from Martin Luther King before you get to Northside. And the community over there raised you don't know what. Chairman, you remember. But nevertheless, those roads were put down to one going one way and one going another. And so when you have Public Service Commission with a actual election going on, because I would dare anybody -- you know, I heard somebody saying that I was in cahoots with Georgia Power. Pull my disclosures. I don't have a dime from Georgia Power, and I'm not trying to throw any of the PSC under the bus, but this is misinformation. If we're going to do it right, Chairman, if we're going to do it right, County Manager, let's call all entities to the table. City of Atlanta, what are you going to do to make sure that this doesn't happen again? And so Public Service Commission, we just saw on the news with the rate hike, that they said, no, some of that information -- I mean, some -- some of the information for the rate hike has to do with Plant Vogtle, whether you're pro or con, they were able to keep Georgia Power at bay. And let me also say this, I have talked to Georgia Power, but I'm going to openly ask esthetically, if there's anything that we can do, I'm in support of it. But at the end of the day, the jail's not going anywhere. The jail was there when they bought their property. And I'm not trying to demean or diminish anything that they're saying. But guess what, on Campbellton Road, it's a daycare center with a power plant right next to it. Environmental racism is real in communities of color and communities not of color. And so let's not act like one community deserves a platform and another one doesn't. And so don't paint a picture as though we as the Commissioners down here don't stand with the community. Don't paint a picture that we did something nefarious, which we didn't. County Manager, I learned the same time that everybody else did. But I also know that Georgia Power has a department that

should be doing what people are trying to charge us with, community outreach. And I'm not letting them off the hook for that. They should do the community outreach. They should find a -- after the scenario, a happy medium. But our elected officials that are going around throwing this Body under the bus when you can make a moratorium. End of discussion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. Mr. Chair, have you sign the paperwork for the easement? I mean, you're the Chief Executive Officer. So have you signed the paperwork granting the easement?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It was signed, yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. When was it signed?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't remember the date. I signed -- get stacks of it, and I've signed them after the County Attorney has reviewed them."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Because to answer your question, that would have been one thing we could do. I was getting ready to make a motion to ask that you not sign it until we have further discussions, right?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, let me double check. I'm pretty certain I already have, but we'll check that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And if I haven't, I won't."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Well, I -- well, I need to know that. Somebody needs to tell me, because if you haven't, then I'm about to make a motion to hold that easement until. So I need to know, somebody needs to tell me."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Arrington, the funds have been received. So I would assume that means the document has been signed."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, okay. That's fine, Madam CFO. But my question was not whether the funds had been received. My question was whether the easement has been signed."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam County Attorney."

KAYE BURWELL, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Yes, it has, it has been signed. It was signed by the County Attorney on April 7th and the Chairman on April 14th."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Was signed by the County Attorney on April 7th and by the Chairman on April 14th. So I'm going to make a motion that any future easements be removed from the consent agenda, and that there be community participation required, and that anyone that wants easement be required to submit proof of that community participation prior to this Board approving any such easement. That's my motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington, I think I know where you're going. But with that, most of them are water and sewer, which would developers come. But are you specifically talking about the power easements?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I could consider that a friendly if you want to make that a friendly amendment. But no, I was talking about all of them, because I don't -- until I get the information and until I know that the community is involved, I don't care whether it's a sewer or a power or whatever. What I care about is the effect on the community."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, if you -- I'll make that as a friendly amendment that it -- that it relate to these power, power easements that come before us."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, I -- how about we hold it and work it out, Mr. Chair, because I -- we need to get this right. We need to make sure that this never happens again to anyone. And you know, we need to find out exactly how much Georgia Power is going to put toward some type of community benefits agreement or, you know, putting in a burn, putting in shrubbage, anything to -- or a sound wall, a barrier, anything to help this community and those residents that live there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I agree with that. And I think that Georgia Power has indicated that that's exactly what they plan to do. When is that meeting, that next meeting?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir, June 3rd is what I understand it to be."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, okay."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "County Manager, I would ask also this of you, Chairman, but specifically to the County Manager. If, in fact, there are any things at the county level that we can do, which I know you're trying to explore that, I would ask earnestly that we do it, especially esthetically. Any relationships that you have at Georgia Power that you can ask them to make sure that their community engagement, but anything that they can do. We know that the deal has been done, we can't undo it. But I believe in this open forum, I can ask that the Chairman and the County Manager in your discussions moving forward, anything that we can do at the county level, esthetically that we do that, we explore that, and it be brought back, whether it's something jointly with Georgia Power, or if something that we can do in addition to what they do. But I trust your leadership, and I trust that you, once given the charge, will do your best to execute it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I agree with that, Commissioner."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm not familiar with the property, but the pictures, I do see how it would be horrible to lose that tree cover of our jail. But you mentioned that we have a neighboring property there. Perhaps we could give that to the HOA to maintain a park, a pocket park, or something of that sort, and could be one option to increase amenities to the neighborhood since we've taken so much away."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, thank you. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0405, Discussion, Center for Diversion Services sponsored by Chairman Pitts and Commissioner Ivory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Oh, so very quickly, most of you were here at the time and will remember. I had some reservations about that Diversion Center, although I supported it, and the records will reflect that. And I watched it, and took the time to go over and see. Now, I think it opened in January this year, to take a look at it, to see how things are going, and I must admit, I was impressed. I mean, it is a very clean operation. The 2.5 million that we contributed, it's been well spent. It's a first-class facility. The staff is very professional, they're very caring. I think Grady is involved in it, and we have some people there as well. Very impressed with it. The problem at this point in time, and it's my understanding, I've been told, probably by 20 people, that they -- they -- they, whoever they is, is going to make a full-blown presentation to us at -- at a future meeting. And so anticipating them coming here, but all that being said, I think the

concept is a good concept, if it can work. And but at this point, what was -- what concerned me at that time, and I've asked this question, when I asked the question, rather, how many people we see, or y'all see, rather, on a daily basis, and a weekly basis? And I think it was three or four. And I was -- that concerned me. But the answer to that is, it's only been open for two or three months. And there's a -- there's work in progress now to get the various Police Departments to take people to the Diversion Center as opposed to Rice Street. That's not happening. So what I've done is that, we have a -- and I think it's a luncheon with all of the 15 Police Chiefs next Wednesday or Thursday here at the Government Center with the Chiefs or their representatives to explain to them that this is an option and that it needs to be explored. Because if it's true that there are a number, a sizable number of people who -- who are being taken to Rice Street who could be taken to the Diversion Center, that needs to happen. But until the various departments buy into, it's not going to happen. And the truth of the matter, again, about 80 percent-plus of the people are residents of the city of Atlanta, so it really falls on the City of Atlanta Police Department to instruct their people. And what I was also told that the -- I found this interesting, is that the younger officers are more inclined to use the Diversion Center than the senior officers who've been there for a while. I guess they're sort of maybe, I don't know why, but we'll discuss all of this at this meeting next -- this luncheon meeting next week. So again, I had some reservations about this Diversion Center early on. I see what it looks like now, in fact, Ms. Ivory said it looks so good she could have a sorority pajama -- pajama party in there, and that -- that's how good it looks. So anyway, I'll look forward to hearing what the powers that be have to say at this future meeting whenever they come here. And then that meeting with the Sheriff -- strike that, not Sheriff's, but the Police Chiefs, is a luncheon meeting next Wednesday or Thursday. Thursday? Next Thursday."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you for that perspective, Mr. Chairman. Just to confirm, June 4th, the Justice Policy Board will be providing an update. As you may know, the IGA that was signed in November of 2023, specifically outlines the governing structure of the Diversion Center. And the Justice Policy Board is the governing structure of the Diversion Center. In that IGA, they are required to provide a quarterly report on the Diversion Center operations, as well as any other projects that the Justice Policy Board will be providing. And so they will be providing that quarterly update as the governing structure of the Diversion Center during that time. As you indicated, Grady was the selected operator, and they will also be providing information at that meeting. I did also just want to point out that we have also requested data from the -- the Jail Population Committee, they're working on data to answer many of the questions that you've posed about bookings and other data. And so we look forward to providing that information, or the Justice Policy Board will be providing that information at a future

meeting. In addition, our Office of Strategy is working on a performance dashboard to integrate the data that's available to provide a consistent look at the performance of the Diversion Center and to provide input to the Justice Policy Board regarding levers that may be able to be pulled to improve performance."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. And one other point I forgot to make, the -- and I mean, I found this to be very interesting as well. And that it only takes an officer, and they've timed it, they thought it would take maybe up to five or ten minutes. It takes 81 seconds for an officer to take someone to the Diversion Center and check them in, so they're back on the streets. So I think -- I think we need to support it and make sure that it works. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Whew, Lord. We got some revisionist history. Let me -- because I sit on that board that I made you aware of, and they are coming. And I want to thank Commissioner Barrett, in the past has come to the meetings. Commissioner, Vice Chair has had representation. That board has been in place for quite a while. The County Manager and his staff has been there, Behavioral Health. You've got somewhere to the likes of 20 to 30 stakeholders that comes to that Justice Policy Board Meeting quarterly. What you don't know, Chairman, and I'd be more than happy to share this with you offline. But since this is brought up, you said 81 seconds, it's not that cut and dry. County -- the County Solicitor Keith Gammage, because of certain changes in law, certain individuals cannot go to the Diversion Center. I even talked with our person at the State of Georgia Behavioral Health with the unintended consequences. And County Manager, you remember, we had a long conversation that we've got a County Solicitor that has to follow the law, and in following the law, some of those individuals that could be -- go to the Diversion Center, cannot if he follows the law. And our representative -- and County Manager, I can't think of his name, but our representative from the state said openly in the meeting, he did not know that. How do we look at trying to see what is at the state that is tying the hands of some of the individuals that need to be serviced at the Diversion Center. Another point of me wanting to correct things for the general public, certain manpower issues, certain issues in technology, and we learned this when we took the trips for the Gold Standard, the Bronze Standard and the Silver Standard, that if we have someone that could be diverted, and it's showing that they have a warrant, they can't take them. And the warrant is a dead-docket warrant. But because individuals don't know that, Commissioner Ivory, you got people that are going to the jail, did not necessarily have a live warrant, but the system is showing that. And these are some of the things that we're going to bring forward as to why some of those beds are not filled. Because between Women on the Rise, between the Solicitor's office, between Judge McBurney,

between the state of Georgia, we have opened up a Diversion Center that we have to work out the kinks, not only at the Diversion Center. But we got to make sure our state partners understand that. When they put certain legislation in place that ties the hands of our Solicitors, when they put certain legislation in place, when it comes to the familiar faces, when we have individuals that have behavioral health issues, when they have substance abuse issues, and they're released from Rice Street to be put in that same critical neighborhood that supports a drug habit, that supports criminal activity, diversion doesn't start when they're picked up. Diversion is started with those social parameters that are not in place. And so Chairman, with all due respect, I understand where you're going with this, but it's not as cut as dry, County Manager, as it may seem, because we've got a lot of stakeholders. We've got with the APD training, they have been training. They have been training APD. I commend the Chief over at APD. He made it an effort to train his officers as to who's divertible and who's not, and what are in place to impede that? And how can you get on the phone and maybe make sure that that warrant is not dead? And so what I'm -- I guess, what I'm saying is, let's not put the cart before the horse. The Justice Policy Board will be making an actual presentation and letting you know what are some of our successes, and what are some of our areas with challenges, and maybe how we can get some of the things at the state that right now, is really handicapping Solicitor Gammage's hands in what he can do. So I just ask, and I'm appealing, because I sit on the Justice Policy Board, that everybody here are invited to come to those meetings quarterly. County Manager, you and your staff, even times that you had to be somewhere else, you made sure that there was somebody from your office there. And I appreciate that. But I think because this is new, diversion is new here in Fulton County, the Sheriff has his diversion that he's trying to do. And so we're not trying to recreate the wheel. We're just trying to make sure that the wheel is an actual wheel and not a cinderblock. And so I'm open for any questions or concerns offline afterwards. But the Justice Policy Board will be here next month to give a report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing that report and getting and learning more information about it, as well as attending those meetings on a quarterly basis, which I surely will do, because I'm absolutely interested in the diversion services. And I think we all want any option to not sending somebody to jail. That's what I think we all want. And so I had the opportunity, the reason this is on here, is because I had the opportunity to go for a tour of the facility. And while I certainly would not have a sorority party at the Diversion Services Center, I did comment that it was so well done and of such a high quality that it would be welcoming for anybody to come into this facility, whether they were a

volunteer to help or they were needing the services. And the only thing that felt a little odd about that tour, that there were really no one -- there was really no one in there receiving services. And so this is the reason why I wanted to ask what the plan was and to learn more. So then Commissioner Abdur-Rahman called me and told me that information that we were going to be getting a report in June from the -- from the Justice Policy Board. And then Chairman Pitts said he was having a lunch and learn. And so I will make sure to have attendance in both of those places. And I look forward to learning more about it. But certainly our investment of \$2.5 million into the Center for Diversion Services needs to be utilized by our citizens as we continuously grapple with a overcrowding situation in the jail. And this seems to be one of the things that could help that. So that is why I'm so interested in it, and I'll stay interested. And if you will continue to share information and opportunities to learn more, I'd certainly appreciate that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to direct a question to you, Commissioner. And I want to say, first of all, I have the utmost respect for the Justice Policy Board. And from what I do know, it -- the efforts have been really wonderful, and the way it's been executed has been excellent. And I want to thank you for your service on that board. I just had a quick question, and it maybe it's something that we could answer at the -- at the presentation. But I recall hearing from PAD, I think, when they were talking about diversion, that one of the challenges is that it's voluntary. So the police are offering people the option to be diverted or to go to jail. And I -- and at that time, my recollection is that the folks at PAD were saying, often the citizens, or who are having those offers made to them are saying, no, they don't want to be diverted and they go to jail. And I think the reasoning is, if they don't really understand what it is, and they -- it's scary to them because they don't know that -- they sort of think they're going to be put in some -- I don't know, Diversion Center sounds a little scary, and they're going to be put in some unknown place where they won't be recorded in the system. And they just don't understand what it is. So I'm just wondering if you have seen or if, you know, if the JPB has seen evidence of that? If there's sort of -- sort of plans in place to try to have better communication around that? Or how do we solve that problem?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Great question, Commissioner Barrett. We actually discussed this with PAD at one of our Justice Policy Board meetings. You will have individuals that'll get there and want to be diverted, and then they get in, and they'll say, well, I don't -- I don't have a home anywhere. Are you all going to send me to jail anyway? Or I don't have my medication? It goes from the gamut of individuals be in

full-blown mental crisis. And so they're -- while they're simultaneously trying to calm them down, trying to get them in front of somebody, their mind is telling them, oh, these people going to lock me up. Oh, these people going to hurt me. Oh, these people going to do all these things that their mind is telling them, when it's actually help. And so you got to understand, even at the Diversion Center that they have challenges where they've had people to come in, you know, the sobering area, people get cleaned up. And then when they start questioning the people, you know, what kind of resources do you have? You know, do you have somewhere to live? You know, do you have access to your medication? It's triggering for some people, and they run from the door. And so it's a lot of things. And I'm not trying to get on a soap box here. But we did put the Diversion Center in our answer to the DOJ. And so we must do everything in our power for it to be successful, and some of that may be rethinking some of the processes. Because you're right, Commissioner Barrett, it is voluntary. But some of those that are coming in there, when it's voluntary, they're having some other issues. And they're trying to calm them down, and they're trying to get them cleaned up, and something in their mind is telling them, oh, these people going to lock you up, oh, these people -- you are in the war, and now you being triggered, you know? I mean, I'm not trying to be melodramatic. I'm telling you some of the things that have discussed that people have had full-blown meltdowns at the Diversion Center that you had to explain them what diversion meant. Some of them said, oh, y'all going to put me in a crazy house and lock me up. We said, we're not doing that. And so all I ask here again, with all my colleagues, with all of the stakeholders who have been at those meetings that we must not rush to judgment, that we've got to find a way for this Diversion Center to work. I understand the \$2.5 million commitment, and I actually want to go on record charging -- not charging, but thanking the County Manager and Ms. Whitmore because they have been on point when it comes to invoices, when it comes to what's submitted. They're making sure that the taxpaying dollars are spent the way that they're supposed to be spent. But we've got to look at this more than just a figure. We've got to look at this more than just a number. And so I'm just asking, please wait until the Justice Policy Board comes and make their presentation. And if you have some questions in the meantime, reach out to my office. I will send the contact for you to send your question so they can come here with the answer already in hand. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I would just say, Virginia, it's complicated. This thing is sort of, many of you sort of laid out. It's got multiple tentacles to it. And I think all of you made some really good points. But the main thing I would just hope that we would do, is sort of right -- focus on the things that are within our span of control right now. It is nascent. A lot of people didn't want to do this when we started out. And some of you

sort of went into this reluctantly. But I think Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and I were the two sponsors on this. So I do think it's something that it has a lot of promise to it in terms of benefit to the individuals who find themselves otherwise trapped into a justice system that they can never get out of, and to sort of lead to, you know, a life of basically no life. So there is some hope that's here, you know, with this. But there's a lot of education that needs to be done across law enforcement, because it's a shift in paradigm for all of our local law enforcement officials. So I think education with -- and this is a County Diversion Center, it's not a City Diversion Center, so that's why we are participating in this. Obviously, right now it has been almost exclusively, you know, I think 100 percent, diversion from the city of Atlanta. So I think we do need to -- we hear this frequently from -- and I've talked to some of our Police Chiefs, Mayors in the northern cities, you know, generally about this. I think there needs to be a lot more education there. They need to understand it. You know, hear complaints from some of them how difficult it is to bring an individual down to Rice Street, it takes them off the street, and then they have to wait and so forth. This may not be an 81-second thing, but it is a much more streamlined process versus bringing somebody into -- into Rice Street. So I would just encourage us definitely to exercise, you know, patience here. But ask questions and allow it to kind of work, you know, work its way through some of the kinks. But this educational effort throughout the county, I do think it's something that we do need to pay a lot of attention to. And as I understood, you were -- you're having this meeting with Police Chiefs. You've invited all Police Chiefs from the county, or --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All 58, plus MARTA, plus Georgia Tech, plus --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- there's four or five other Police Departments."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Because there's definitely a lot of problems here. I don't -- there was a -- there was a figure that was thrown out this morning, and a gentleman spoke in public comment. Have no idea -- idea of his -- of its accuracy or not, but I'll presume it to be accurate. So I think this individual, generally, is pretty thoughtful about the stuff that he presents. But if I heard him correctly, I wanted him to say that essentially, paraphrase, and Commissioner Ivory, maybe you can correct me if I'm wrong that in the city of Atlanta, we have -- this is the highest number of low-level arrest or misdemeanors in the country?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So from -- that was their statement. So you know, if that is indeed an accurate figure, clearly, there's probably a lot of people that sort of fall into that would otherwise be divertible, so to speak. And one other thing, and I'll close with

this, is, I think we -- and I think this would be a question and to receive some feedback from the group when they come and present to us. It -- we may need to -- and whether it comes out at 2.5 or somewhere else, we may need to dedicate a body or a person to help us do some analysis around more effective ways to utilize diversion. And maybe it's to look at -- or an analysis of people that are coming into our jail facilities and saying, all right, these are the types of people who could have been diverted. And then sort of do the backtrack education around that back to law enforcement to get an understanding of what's being missed, so to speak. What is that missed opportunity, because that's -- I don't think we're looking at that or evaluating that at all. And that's something I would encourage us to think about when we get the report in June. And ask some questions of Judge McBurney and others that come down here and present to us."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other comments or questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0406, Discussion, Clerk of Court passport fees, disclosure and reporting update on process and procedures sponsored by Vice Chairman Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman had asked for our Clerk to appear. And as I understand it, she was not able to come down and speak with us directly today. So I'm going to ask that this be held. I'll ask Commissioner Abdur-Rahman if she has further remarks."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes. I was the person, I was the Commissioner that asked Madam Ché Alexander to come down here just some that my colleague had. But in closing, because I did not hear until yesterday, even though the request was made several days ago. But I understand things do happen, so I won't throw her under the bus for that. But when I got the response, I got it at 10:00 a.m. this morning from the response from yesterday that she had things that she just could not absolutely get out of in order to be here. And so I want to say this publicly, not only for her ears, but for all of our department heads, all of our individuals. When a Commissioner asks you to come before us, it's not a bad thing. It really isn't. When my mentor and predecessor, Commissioner Darnell, it was a practice that they will pull the department heads off the floor, so to speak. They weren't even on the agenda, Chairman. And they were asked to come down here, and nobody had a problem with it. They showed up quick, answered the question, and went on about their business. So I say that to say this, a

request is a request, that's all. It's not an indictment. It's not saying that you aren't doing something correctly. And for me especially, it's to clear up information, give information, and make not only this Body more knowledgeable, but the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County more knowledgeable. And so with that being said, my hopes, based on the email that I received from her, she will be at the next meeting. Those of you that sit down here that's my colleague, and I understand, you know, I didn't CC everybody on the initial request, because everybody didn't make the request. I made it. And I know sometimes when you go to CC-ing five and six and seven and ten different people on something as simple as a request, people walls go up. They were like, why, why, why is this person on the CC? Why is this -- so what I try to do is give people the benefit of the doubt. And so I'm making this publicly because of what has been brought back to me. And I don't want any employee to feel -- because I don't -- I don't feel that from anybody here. Now, I know that sometimes, especially when it comes to elections, things get testy. But even in that, if a sitting Commissioner asks you to come, they wouldn't waste your time. They're asking you to come for a reason. Thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other comments? Any other matters that come before us today, Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "No, Mr. Chairman. We're holding the consent agenda item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No other matters to come before us today, we are adjourned. Thank you for your attendance."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.