

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESS MEETING**

January 24, 2024  
10:00 AM



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



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## **MINUTES**

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

**Ratification Date: February 21, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:04 a.m.**

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

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**24-0022 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 Recess Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to adopt as amended by removing item #24-0029 for separate consideration. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0023 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing “Robert Barnett, Jr. Remembrance Day.” **(Arrington)**  
January 16, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Sonja Ricks Mason Remembrance Day.” **(Hall)**  
January 17, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Mack Wilbourn Appreciation Day.” **(Hall/Arrington)**  
January 17, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Lawrence C. McDaniel Sr. Remembrance Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
January 17, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “TV One Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
January 19, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Diane Powell Larché Remembrance Day.”  
**(Arrington/Hall)**  
January 19, 2024

**Commissioners' District Board Appointments**

**24-0024 Board of Commissioners**

**ANIMAL WELFARE HEARING BOARD (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Animal Welfare Hearing Board shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Each Commissioner shall appoint one (1) member to serve for two (2) years. Thereafter, all members may be appointed for an additional term of three (3) years and until their successors are appointed.

Term = 2 Years/3 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2023

Katie Factor (**Barrett**)

**Commissioner Barrett nominated Katie Factor for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.**

**24-0025 Board of Commissioners**

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Nine (9) members serve on this authority. Seven (7) regular members (each Commissioner appoints one (1) person to serve) and two (2) housing resident members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The enabling statute calls the Housing Authority Board members "Commissioners."

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

Term below expires: 7/13/2027

Vacant (**Abdur-Rahman**)

**Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Earnestine Pittman for a District appointment to an unexpired term ending July 13, 2027.**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**24-0026 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Task Order No. 2 for the Fulton County Government Behavioral Health Crisis Center, at no additional cost for extension of "time only" with Sizemore Group, LLC (Atlanta, GA), the Architect for Record, to continue without disruption providing architectural, engineering and construction administration services for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center currently under construction. Effective upon BOC approval through the completion of the project as determined by the County. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0027 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a revenue generating contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138788C-JNJ, Electronic Equipment Recycling Services with Vantage Point ITAD, Inc. (Oklahoma City, OK), to provide electronic equipment recycling services for the County. This is a revenue generating contract and the anticipated revenue is \$23,000.00 annually. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0028 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to close out a contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 19ITB120358C-GS, Fire Sprinkler Protection System Maintenance Service with Central Fire Protection, Inc. (Conyers, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$9,500.00 for final payment of services rendered through October 2023 to remove and replace existing fire pumps and controllers at the Fulton County Government Center Assembly Building and Fulton County Justice Center Tower. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0029 Finance**

Ratification of December 2023 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Health and Human Services****24-0030 Senior Services**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Fulton County, through its Department of Senior Services, and the Jewish Family & Career Services, Inc. (JFCS) to guide and direct their affiliation and working relationship to provide referrals and access to quality mobility services offered through Senior Services' Alternative Senior Transportation Services for eligible seniors at JFCS. Effective upon Board approval through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Infrastructure and Economic Development****24-0031 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Milton Land Invest, Inc. for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow flat work and landscaping within the County's existing water line easement area at 1240 Mayfield Road, Milton, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0032 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Milton Land Invest, Inc., for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 1240 Mayfield Road, Milton, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0033 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 87,578 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from JBGL Atlanta Development 2014, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Knollwood Project at 5560 Abbotts Bridge Road, 5545 Abbotts Bridge Road and 11245 Parsons Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0034 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 25,389 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from JBGL Atlanta Development 2014, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Knollwood Project at 5560 Abbotts Bridge Road and 5545 Abbotts Bridge Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0035 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Fulton HCB, LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow storm sewer pipe and related facilities, a private water service line and related facilities, sidewalk, benches and public art within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer and water line easements at 2600 and 2616 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0036 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and EV Townhome Land, LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow storm water piping and related facilities, a private water service line and related facilities, sidewalk, benches and public art within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer and water line easements at 2614 and 2618 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0037 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of Sanitary Sewer System Ownership, Operation, Maintenance and Repair Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia, and EV Townhome Land, LLC (Owner), for the purpose of granting Fulton County all the Owner's legal interests in and to the sanitary sewer system within the Development at 2614 and 2618 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell, Georgia 30022 as an extension of the County's sanitary sewer system, and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0038 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of Sanitary Sewer System Ownership, Operation, Maintenance and Repair Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia, and Fulton HCB, LLC (Owner), for the purpose of granting Fulton County all the Owner's legal interest in and to the sanitary sewer system within the Development at 2616 and 2600 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell, Georgia 30022 as an extension of the County's sanitary sewer system, and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0039 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 6,200 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from the Development Authority of Fulton County (Owner) and Majestic Airport Center IV, LLC (Lessee), for the purpose of constructing the Pullman Project at 4505 Derrick Industrial Parkway, Union City, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Justice and Safety****24-0040 Emergency Management**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services between Fulton County, Georgia and City of Hapeville for a period of time that shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028. The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide vital and necessary animal control services for the County's homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0041 Emergency Management**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services between Fulton County, Georgia, and City of Milton for a period of time that shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028. The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide vital and necessary animal control services for the County's homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0042 Emergency Management**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services between Fulton County, Georgia and City of Chattahoochee Hills for a period of time that shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028. The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide vital and necessary animal control services for the County's homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0043 Emergency Management**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services between Fulton County, Georgia and City of Roswell for a period of time that shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028. The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide vital and necessary animal control services for the County's homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0044 Emergency Management**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services between Fulton County, Georgia and City of Fairburn for a period of time that shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028. The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide vital and necessary animal control services for the County's homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0045 Emergency Management**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services between Fulton County, Georgia and City of Sandy Springs for a period of time that shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028. The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide vital and necessary animal control services for the County's homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0046 Emergency Management**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services between Fulton County, Georgia and City of Johns Creek for a period of time that shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028. The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide vital and necessary animal control services for the County's homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**



**RECESS MEETING AGENDA**

**24-0047 Board of Commissioners**

Adoption of the Recess Meeting Agenda. **(ADOPTED)**

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

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

**24-0048 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, December 20, 2023

Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, January 10, 2024

Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, January 16, 2024

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

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

**24-0049 Board of Commissioners**

Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. **(NONE)**



**PUBLIC HEARINGS****24-0050 Board of Commissioners**

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

**22 Speakers: Judge Cassandra Kirk (Item #23-0967); Christopher Bruce (Item #23-0967); Michael Heekin (Item #24-0071); Paul Hershey (Elections/Funding); Melissa Fiorillo (Item #24-0071); Kevin Muldowney (Item #24-0071); Terry Ross (NPU-T/Item #24-0071); Lucia Frazier (District Attorney Office); Christine Propst (Board of Elections); Jimmy Gough (Arts Funding); Peter Hardy (Arts Funding); Chris Hayden (Democracy); Matt Rowenczak (Item #24-0051); Ginger Bradshaw (Item #24-0071/24-0051); Maria Gaudio (Item #24-0051); Julie Allen (Item #24-0071); Sara Toering (PAD); Clinton Deveaux (PAD); Derrick D. Blassingame (Elections); Lisa Adler (Arts Funding); Drew Umberger (PAD) and Quincy Shoulders (PAD)**

**2 Zoom Speakers: Ben Howard (Senior Housing) and Opal Baker (Arts Funding)**

**20 Emailed Comments: Jane Zoellick (Arts Funding); Acree Macam (Board of Elections); Michele Sarkisian (Item #24-0051); Cassandra DeMarco (Board of Elections); Angela Murcia (Board of Elections); Janet Hogan (Board of Elections); Jennifer Maley (Board of Elections); Lynn C. Koehnemann (Board of Elections); Virginia Kriho (Board of Elections); Gary Uitvlugt (Board of Elections); Nancy Pierson (Board of Elections); Brittany Eames (Board of Elections); Helen Butler (Item #23-0967); Kina Hudson (Item #23-0967); Katie Benson (Board of Elections); Paula Barnes (Board of Elections); Bonnie Lamberth (Board of Elections); Stephanie Mills (Board of Elections); Lisa Norris (Board of Elections) and Patti Nathan (Board of Elections)**

## COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

### Open & Responsible Government

#### **24-0051 Finance**

Review and request approval of the FY2024 Final Adopted Budget and FY2024 Budget Resolution. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

a. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to accept the revised budget, not to exceed 8.87 mills, with the following amendments:

\*Allocate \$2.25 million to Arts & Culture; \$250,000 to Fulton Films; \$2 million to CSF; and \$300,000.00 earmarked for Taste of Sofu.

\*Allocate \$200,000.00 to the Marshal's Office.

\*Allocate \$100,000.00 to Destination Tomorrow, a grassroots organization that provides vital services and resources to the members of the LGBTQ+ communities, including but not limited to Transitional Housing, Educational Enrichment Services, HIV Counseling and Testing, and a free Food Pantry.

\*Allocate \$75,000.00 to Iman Atlanta, a community-based organization that provides reentry housing assistance, behavioral health, and community resources, such as coat distribution and food ecosystem campaigns.

\*Allocate \$100,000.00 to Senior Services for Senior Advocacy Outreach Initiative.

\*Extend ORCA positions to the end of 2024; subject to the discretion of the County Manager, with the County manager reporting the details of distribution.

\*Reduce the enhancement of \$4.5 million to \$2.5 million, currently proposed for double overtime, from the Sheriff's budget.

Commissioner Ellis offered a friendly amendment to reduce the Arts and Culture \$300,000.00 earmark to \$75,000.00, allocating the differential to the Marshal's Office to assist with supplemental staffing.

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Thorne accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Barrett, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

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

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

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

c. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve as amended including the following allocations:

\*\$5 million to the Healthcare Reserve

\*\$750,000.00 to the Marshal's Office

\*\$500,000.00 to summer youth program

\*Between \$5 and \$8 million to the Criminal Justice Fund

\*\$96,088.00 to State Court

\*\$90,000.00 match to the Federal Grant for the Sheriff

The motion failed by the following vote:

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

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

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

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

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

**24-0052 Human Resources Management**

Request approval of a Resolution allowing for implementation of a 5% COLA for employees in 2024, establishment of a new minimum wage of \$38,000.00 or \$18.27 per hour for employees, and implementation of an updated pay plan based on the second phase of the Segal Company market compensation survey.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0053 County Manager**

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

**24-0054 Finance**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Finance Department, 23RFP100423C-MH with PJC Group, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$295,000.00 with PJC Group, LLC (Atlanta, Ga) to provide Annual Audit Services including OMB Uniform Guidance (Single Audit), T-SPLOST annual audit, and defined benefit pension plan audit, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 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, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0055 Information Technology**

Request approval to award a contract without competition - Department of Information Technology, 19RFP3152019K-DJ, Agenda Management System with Carahsoft Technology Corporation (Reston, VA) in an amount not to exceed \$267,200.35 to provide licenses and professional services required to upgrade the existing agenda management system. Effective upon BOC approval until final acceptance of project deliverables and milestones. **(HELD)**

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

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

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

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

**24-0056** Registration & Elections

Request approval of qualifying fees - Registration & Elections - to approve qualifying fees for Fulton County offices to be filled in the 2024 primary or nonpartisan election. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0057** Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138782C-JNJ, Glass and Plexiglas Repair and Replacement in the total amount not to exceed \$105,000.00 with (A) Brad Construction Company II, LLC (Fayetteville, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$65,000.00; and (B) P & E Mirror and Glass, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$40,000.00, to provide glass and plexiglas repair and replacement on an as needed for the County. Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0058** Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of statewide contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC99999-001-SPD0000203-0003, and SWC 99999-001-SPD0000203-0004, New Tires and Retread Tires in the total amount not to exceed \$110,000.00 with (A) The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company through Authorized Dealer NexTire Commercial, Inc. (Decatur, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00; and (B) Continental Tire the Americas through Authorized Dealer Javelin Southeast, Inc. dba Gordy Tire Company (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00, to provide tires, tubes, accessories and repair services for County fleet vehicles. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0059 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of statewide contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC 99999SPD-ES40199373-007; SWC 99999-001-SPD0000177-0009, and SWC 99999-001-SPD0000177-00022, in an total amount not to exceed \$800,310.00 with (A) Griffin Chevrolet (Sylvester, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$210,861.00 for the purchase of four (4) Class 1 trucks; (B) Environmental Products Group, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$343,469.00 for the purchase of one (1) Vactor Sewer Cleaner; and (C) G, J & L, Inc. (Augusta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$245,980.00 for the purchase of one (1) Excavator for the Department of Public Works. This is a one-time procurement. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0060 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC 99999-001-SPD0000183-0006, Police Pursuit and Special Services Vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$611,020.00 with Wade Ford, Inc. (Smyrna, GA), to purchase and deliver sixteen (16) law enforcement/administrative vehicles for the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office. This is a one-time procurement. **(HELD)**

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

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

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

**24-0061 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval for use of Beltline TAD Funds - Fulton County Library System, Library Capital Improvement Program Phase II (FCLS-CIP), Design/Build services in the amount of \$2,797,780.00, to facilitate completion of additional construction projects for Phase I and Phase II library construction/renovation projects. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0062 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134949C-GS, Tree Removal Services Countywide in the amount of \$260,000.00 with ArborServ, Inc. (Lithonia, GA), to provide additional tree removal services at the Fulton County Executive Airport-Charlie Brown Field by removing and clearing approximately 14-acres of obstructions in the runway environment located close to Fulton Industrial Boulevard and Sandy Creek Road. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Justice and Safety****24-0063 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request approval to amend an existing contract, Sheriff Office, 22RFP0405B-PS, Delinquent Tax Sales Preparation Services to revise certain provisions of the contract agreement regarding compensation. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****23-0964 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing an external review of the Board of Ethics; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 12/20/23 AND 1/10/24) (FAILED)**

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

**Yea:** Hall, and Arrington

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



**23-0965 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to revoke every action taken by the Fulton County Board of Ethics from January 1, 2014, through December 20, 2023; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD ON 12/20/23) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 1/10/24) (FAILED)**

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

**Yea:** Hall, and Arrington

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

**23-0966 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Officers and Employees), Division 2 (Code of Ethics) of the Fulton County Code to disband the Board of Ethics and to replace it with a slate of Ethics Hearing Officers; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 12/20/23 AND 1/10/24) (FAILED)**

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

**Yea:** Hall, and Arrington

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

**24-0064 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing an external review of the actions and procedures of the Board of Ethics over the past 5 years; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

**Yea:** Hall, and Arrington

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

**24-0065 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Officers and Employees), Division 2 (Code of Ethics) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to create a new Code Section 2-80.1 requiring the appointment of an Interim Ethics Hearing Officer where there exists a conflict of interest between the Board of Ethics and any party filing a complaint or any party accused of violating the Code of Ethics; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

**Yea:** Hall, and Arrington

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

**24-0066 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to allow for waiver of the signature requirement, if any, for traffic citations issued by the Fulton County Police Department for violations that occur within Unincorporated Fulton County if a motorist refuses to sign the citation; and for other purposes. **(Arrington)(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve with a friendly amendment from Commissioner Thorne to encourage other cities to adopt similar legislation. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**24-0067 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board Of Commissioners to acknowledge the importance of digital equity; to urge Congress to renew or extend the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) through 2024 so that all qualifying households in Fulton County will have access to affordable high-speed internet service; and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (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, Barrett, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**

**24-0068 Board of Commissioners  
BOARD OF ETHICS (APPROVED)**

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

Term = 3 years

Term below expires: 2/12/2024

**Chris Miller (Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce)**

**The Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce recommended Chris Miller for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending February 12, 2027.**

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

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

**24-0071 Board of Commissioners**

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

The board shall be composed of five (5) members, each of whom shall be an elector and resident of Fulton County, who shall be appointed in the following manner:

- 1) Two (2) 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 (2) 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 one (1) of this section received the second largest number of such votes; and
- 3) One (1) member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the Fulton County legislative delegation in the General Assembly, which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the board. The Fulton County legislative delegation shall be composed of all senators and representatives in the General Assembly whose districts are wholly or partially in Fulton County.

Term = 2 Years

Term below expires: 6/30/2025

**Vacant (Fulton County Republican Party/BOC)**

**The Fulton County Republican Party nominated Julie Adams for a Full Board appointment to an unexpired term ending June 30, 2025.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

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

**Open & Responsible Government**

**24-0069 External Affairs**

Presentation of the 2024 State Legislative Session Update. **(PRESENTED)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**24-0070 Board of Commissioners**

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

**PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, Arrington, and; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; Public Works Director David Clark and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.**

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

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

b. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for representation in item #1 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to authorize the County Attorney to forego appeal in the matter of Calvin Brock v. Fulton County EEOC charge 410-2021-02604 and to initiate satisfaction of the judgment in the approximate amount of \$902,487.00 along with other non-monetary relief as ordered. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
RECESS MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

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

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the January 24th meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. It is 10:04 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0022**, 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 recess meeting agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item to be removed from -- for separate consideration on page 4, 24-0029, Finance, ratification of the December 2023 Grants Activity Report. This item has been revised to include a January 2024 grant award for



\$5.6 million from Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the operation of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This removed or revised?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Removed to be revised for separate consideration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Anything else? Commissioners, anything else on the consent agenda? All right, entertain a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. A motion to approve to adopt by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, Recess Meeting Agenda, **24-0047**, Adoption of the Recess Meeting Agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0048**, Ratification of minutes, Recess Meeting Minutes, December 20th, 2023, Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, January 10th, Special Call Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, January 16th, 2024."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam Clerk, with respect to the Special Call Meeting, Work Session Special Call Meeting on January 16th, would you review the actions that the Board took for -- so the public will be aware. And all of this is effective beginning February 1st of this year."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, Mr. Chairman. A motion was passed to approve each Commissioner presenting only one proclamation per regular or recess meeting. A motion was passed to eliminate the reading of email public comments during regular and recess Board of Commissioner meetings. Accepting emailed public comments by

close of business on the Monday before each meeting, and to provide the emailed public comments to the Board of Commissioners the following Tuesday. A motion was passed to amend public comment policy to extend public comment from 30 minutes to not to exceed 60 minutes, and to require a two-thirds vote of the Board of Commissioners who are present to extend public comment beyond 60 minutes. And a motion was passed to amend the unlimited speaking time of elected officials to two minutes during public comment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's it? Okay. And Ms. Corbitt, we need to make sure that that's publicized on our webpage or however you do it, so the public will know what the new rules are that are -- that will become effective in our first meeting in February. All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0049**, Presentation of Proclamation and Certificates. We do not have any today. The next item is Public Hearings, Public Comment. **24-0050**, Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom video conferencing or by submitting their comments and writing by registering on the county website. [www.FultonCountyGA.gov](http://www.FultonCountyGA.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have received 22 speaker's cards here in Assembly Hall. Will the first five speakers please come forward. Judge Cassandra Kirk, Chris Bruce, Michael Heekin, Paul Hershey, and Melissa Fiorillo."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Again, as always, when you have two minutes remaining -- strike that. When you have 15 seconds, rather, remaining in your remarks, I'll simply say 15 seconds, and that'll be your clue to begin to terminate your remarks. However, that does not apply to elected officials."

**JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Mr. Chairman and honorable members of the Board of Commission. My name is Cassandra Kirk. I serve as the elected Chief Magistrate Judge of Fulton County. I appreciate this opportunity to speak on a matter of great significance to the Magistrate Court of Fulton County in our community. As the first Chief Magistrate Judge elected by the people of Fulton County,

I represent not just the court, but the community's trust in our judicial system. People across this county believe that I have strife with some or all of you. I do not. As a fellow elected representative of Fulton County, like you, I am united in our deep affection for this community and this county. And bound by our solemn oaths, I am dedicated to work tirelessly with you all for the betterment of our beloved county. This morning, I am here to address the continuation of any discussion as it relates to BOC resolution 23-0967. Since its partial passage on December 20th, 2023 and reassertion on the BOC agenda as of January 12th 2024. Following December 20th, \$780,000 was transferred from the Magistrate Court budget and placed in the Superior Court budget. The Board held on its vote to seek legislation to remove the Chief Magistrate position from an elected to an appointed one. I want to first acknowledge and thank the many individuals, groups and organizations, those that are here today and those who have sent comments and statements and made calls for their support and engagement regarding the proposed changes. The independence of the judiciary is a cornerstone of a free and democratic society. It ensures that Judges can make decisions based on law and justice, free from political influence or public pressure. This independence is crucial for maintaining the balance of power among the branches of government and for protecting the rights of individuals. When judges are elected by the people, it reinforces this independence by ensuring that they are accountable to the public, not a select few in power. This direct accountability fosters transparency and bolsters public confidence and the fairness and impartiality of the justice system. Under my elected leadership, the Magistrate Court has seen transformative changes. From January 1, 2015, to December 25th, 2023, out of 634,000 cases that have been filed, we have closed 593,000 of those cases. In the past year, we have heard 13,000 landlord-tenant cases. We have reviewed over 15,000 writs for eviction. These numbers are in addition to the other cases we heard under our jurisdiction. We have a robust closure rate from 2015 until 2023. This will continue. These figures are a testament to our commitment to efficiency and effective justice. I urge this Board to reconsider the allocation of the \$780 -- \$780,000 from the Magistrate Court to the Superior Court. You all received yesterday, the signed memorandum of understanding from both Superior Court and I, as it relates to judicial resources. Superior Court is assured of adequate judicial support. Additionally, I am requesting you support the Magistrate Court's initial budget proposal, which included the addition of two full-time Judges, which also aligns with our current needs. I will assure this Board and Members of this Board that going forward in my term, this court will not seek additional judicial resources for the next two years. More importantly, I strongly advocate for the retention of the Chief Magistrate Judge's position as an elected role. Reverting to an appointed position undermines the hard-earned public trust and the principle of judicial economy and judicial independence. Our community deserves a judiciary that is not only efficient, but just, and also

independently accountable to the people we serve. Thank you for considering these points and for your ongoing support of a judiciary that upholds the principles of justice and independence for all of us in Fulton County. Thank you."

**CHRISTOPHER BRUCE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Chairman Pitts, Honorable Members of the Commission, good morning. My name is Christopher Bruce. I'm the Policy and Advocacy Director for the ACLU of Georgia, an organization dedicated to protecting your civil rights and civil liberties, which is why I'm here today. And let me be clear, this, what Judge Kirk did is part of accountability of an elected official. Now, I'm not here to save Judge Kirk's job. I'm here to talk about the attacks on democracy, direct democracy that we've seen lately. The cornerstone of a democratic system is direct elected representation. And that's what we have here for the people to pick who should represent them in certain areas. You erode that trust when you make it about an appointed position, something that lacks transparency, lack of diversity and selection process, and other values that the community values more than anybody else. An appointed position can also introduce bias and conflicts of interest. But again, I want to be perfectly clear, if the Fulton County residents, which I am one of, decide on replacing their Chief Magistrate Court, that is within their will. And that should be done at the ballot box. The resolution that put forth today can be changed. If you want to have a referendum by the people of Fulton County to say, we want to change this position from the elected position to an appointed position, then let that be. But let that be done by the people of Fulton County, not by this Board and not by the State Legislature. I yield for any questions. If not, thank you for your time."

**MICHAEL HEEKIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Chairman Pitts and Commissioners. My name is Michael Heekin. Last June, I was honored to have been confirmed to be a member of the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections. I'm here today to speak to the candidacy of Julie Adams as a member of the Board. Since I was appointed to the Board, we have worked diligently under Chairman Perkins-Hooker, and productively, I would say, in a bipartisan way to assist Nadine, Ms. Williams and her team to prepare for the Presidential Election season. There's a lot to do, and we need another Board member as soon as possible to share the load. I've had the opportunity to work with Julie Adams and admire her intellect, work ethic, courtesy, and sense of humor. And by the way, that's a really important aspect -- qualification to work in the Elections Department. Julie will be a terrific Board Member of the Board of Elections, and I asked you to confirm her today. Thank you."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, my name is Paul Hershey, Milton. I'll be very quick today. Commissioner Arrington has pointed out about three times that the Board has no influence into the constitutional employees of the County."

In consulting with two constitutional attorneys and looking at the statutes, if the -- the DA is opcon/adcon, meaning you control the money. So you do have influence there by checking the money. Number two, you need to start controlling the grant money. There's three audits that basically said, there's no internal controls in Fulton County. And here's a prime example, the DA received a DOG grant for \$575,000 and I've got the file. And she only reported in her financial that she only received 500, where's the other 75,000? The other side is, is Commissioner Barrett talked about how bad the protocol and procedure was for the budget, and now we want to add \$50 million to the budget. And now what we're doing is, we're taking up where Commissioner Arrington left off last year, where he wanted the millage rate to go to 10 percent. Are we back to that again? My question is, is Commissioner Hall going to -- going to produce any restitution on the -- on the court case that just came out with the money that's going to be paid by Fulton County."

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

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I think that what you need to do is we need a complete audit of every department inside of Fulton County, independent audit. And the budget ought to be started out with a zero-based budget."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come forward, Kevin Muldowney, Terry Ross, Lucia Frazier, Christine Propst, and Jimmy Gough."

**MELISSA FIORILLO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, name is Melissa Fiorillo, and I'm a Fulton County resident. I'm here to ask you to vote to affirm Julie Adams to the Fulton County Board of Elections. She more than meets the requirements mandated by law. Four of the appointments are political in nature, and the Democrats have their two appointees and the Republicans by statute, should have theirs too. Frankly, the Republicans may not approve of the Democratic appointees to the Election Board, but they voted to seat them anyway. Now, you may not approve of the Republican choices, but the right of the Republican Party -- but it is the right of the Republican Party to choose. You talk about equity and justice a lot. But it seems you are not only about -- you or not -- you're only about equity and justice when it serves you, not necessarily when it concerns something you don't like. The ordinance states equal representation, and I'm asking you to follow the law. Equity and justice should dominate in everything that you do. And speaking of equity and justice, our taxpayers should be managed -- our taxpayer dollars should be managed and overseen to make sure that they are spent lawfully, ethically, and wisely. The DA's office has been given \$5 million to clear a backlog of cases. We see in the news, after court revelations now, how it is being spent. I come here today to ask you to do a complete audit on the DA's budget that you

fund. Commissioner Ellis, I commend you for making inquiries about Ms. Willis' dealings. And I thank you for that, and I'm asking for a complete audit to is necessary to restore faith in Fulton County. Thank you."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners, Kevin Muldowney, Fulton County, Milton. I fully encourage the Board to approve Julie Adams' nomination to the vacant position on the Fulton BRE. The ordinance calls for equal representation. Julie fits all the legal criteria. She's had a 30-year career starting in Human Resources and culminating as a Vice President of Executive Recruiting. She has trained volunteers in both poll watching and poll working. She understands our voting process, and will work tirelessly to keep the right -- that right transparent, open, and available to all. She is a deserving candidate. On another subject, the Fulton DA's office under Fani Willis, hired a Special Prosecutor, Nathan Wade, who had never prosecuted a felony case. Fulton County has apparently paid this Special Prosecutor over \$600,000. It's now been exposed through divorce proceedings that DA Willis and Special Prosecutor Wade took romantic trips together. It has also come to light that Special Prosecutor Wade billed the county for 24 hours in a single day. I guess his outstanding stamina was a prerequisite for his position. Fulton County Commissioners never did approve the hiring, but paid him anyway. His billable hours also exposed several eight hours meet -- eight-hour meetings with the White House Special Counsel. Seems to me that the actual collusion is between Fani Willis -- is between the Fulton DA and the White House Counsel. Is this County business? I am requesting that this Board perform a -- perform a full audit --"

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

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- of Fani's entire budget. Our tremendous backlog of cases, county cases still exists. It seems that she has wasted a ton of taxpayer dollars on non-county business, not to mention the taxpayer dollars spent on Fani's funny business. She's --"

**TERRY ROSS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Chair Pitts, Commissioners, my name is Terry Ross. I'm a representative of Neighborhood Planning Unit T, here in the southwest side of Atlanta, as well as Deacon for Center Street Baptist Church, and just former member of the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board. I'm here today in regards to the proposed legislation to modify the position of the Chief Magistrate's position from elected and to appointed, state appointed at that. The Magistrate Court impacts Fulton County residents, both civilly and criminally. And this legislation will circumvent the will of the people. This state appointed versus, I mean, resident elected, there's your answer right there. Such a move would strip our community of the power to choose



who presides over these criminal and civil matters. And the solution, what is the solution? Well, I'm glad you asked. Separate the Clerk's offices for the Magistrate and a Superior Courts, upgrade and increase technology within the courts. I personally have tried to engage with the Magistrate Court online, and it's a literal nightmare. There's some serious upgrading that needs to happen there. And I -- I beg the Commissioners to spend the money to get that court the support that they need in terms of assistance, Judges, support systems, and assistance -- and assistance as well, and staffing for those Judges. Finally, we urge the lawmakers and the citizens of Fulton County to reflect on the gravity of proposed resolution and to stand --"

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

**TERRY ROSS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to preserve the democratic process in the elections of our Chief Magistrate. Thank you."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Lucia Frazier, Fulton County. I'm asking all of you to initiate and fully support a financial audit of our DA office. I do not support what Fani Willis is doing with my tax money. The general public doesn't support what she's doing with our tax money. She's wasting all our money on a case that holds no water against President Trump and other Republicans. The DA office should be focused on our county. Don't we have a jail falling apart? Don't we have people backlogged in our courts? This is abuse of taxpayer money. And then I hear recently that you want to add more money to her department. I haven't heard any public comment of people coming and saying that she needs to get more money to keep going on this case that she's going on. Like, nobody is coming in here and saying that. Everybody is coming and talking about other things, like, anything but that. We're not all perfect. And you can do what you do on your own time and money. But we have to be perfect when we're using other people's money. And our government is designed for all of us to hold each other accountable. And if Fani is your friend, then as a friend, you need to help her see what's ethical and what isn't. She's going down a dark path, and I don't know how it's going to end. And if you are her friend, then you need to talk about that. Thank you."

**CHRISTINE PROPST, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, good morning, Board, Christine Propst, Sandy Springs. I'm a constituent of Ms. Barrett, who I'm disappointed to see is not sitting through public comments. I'm here to ask you to please appoint Julie Adams to the Fulton Board of Registration and Elections. I've known Julie for years, and over the last, I'd say four years, she has been absolutely devoted to elections. She wants to improve elections in Georgia and Fulton County. And she's devoted the last four years to that. What's fantastic about Julie is, she knows the law. She knows the processes,



she's been in there working with poll watchers and poll workers. She knows her stuff, so she can bring that knowledge. She's even gone to other counties, so she might be able to bring some experience from other counties to Fulton County to sort of up our game and leverage some best practices she's learned elsewhere. In all that time that I've known Julie, and of course, we all know things can get heated in the election cycle, I've never heard Julie say a negative word about anyone. I've never heard her complain. She's got an amazing work ethic. She is a kind, generous, hard-working person. And she will be a great asset to the Board. You heard Mike Heekin say she has a sense of humor. She has a wonderful, calm demeanor, which we need in times of stress. And I think she'll be a great asset to the Board. So she's always been very good at working collaboratively and building consensus in, you know, differing, diverse viewpoints. I think she can help bring that to the Board as well. And she's just a great person, a very likable person. So I think she's going to be a great asset to the Board. And I ask you to --"

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

**CHRISTINE PROPST, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- please, please approve Julie Adams to the Board of Registration Elections. Thank you so much."

**JIMMY GOUGH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Commissioners, thanks for being here. My name is Jimmy Gough, I'm on the Board of the Academy Theater in Hapeville, Georgia. I was here on the 10th, I'm here today, I'll be here anytime where arts funding is in jeopardy. It was interesting you talked about Health and Human Services, I think that arts could fall under that. Clearly, the arts are an antidote to mental illness, human services, older people that are shut in can -- we can use the arts to help them. The arts are just indispensable to a way of life, and you know, the whole country, I -- you know, we talk about financial mismanagement. I've been watching this since the birth of this country, right. What's troubling this country, as far as I can tell, is lack of education of every kind. Kids aren't learning civics, kids aren't learning how the Constitution, what it means. These are important things that we've let slide. You know, I thought we were ramping up in the 60s, things are looking good, people. MLK's on the job, what? Now, we've been backsliding ever since. Voting rights, education, equal rights, it's disappearing in front of my very eyes. Arts is the -- is, it's my experience that arts is the quickest, simplest, most direct way to continue people's education, open their minds, and to help communities become more united around things that we can agree on, which are paintings and music and reading and the things that the arts are indispensable for providing. These women, support these women, they're in Fulton County."

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

**JIMMY GOUGH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- in the schools, and they'll teach kids how to count. They'll teach kids how to play music. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next six speakers, please come forward. Chris Hayden, Matt Rowenczak, Ginger Bradshaw, Christopher Bruce, Maria Gaudio, and Julie Allen."

**PETER HARDY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, my name is Peter Hardy. I'm the Artistic Director of the Essential Theater Company that has been operating within Fulton County for over 20 years. We're devoted to producing, supporting new work by Georgia writers. I would like to encourage the Board to continue their always generous funding of the arts. Fulton County is an oasis of arts funding within the state of Georgia. And I think that the -- both the cultural and economic value of support of the arts has been proven over and over again. It enriches the state and brings a considerable economic stipulation to the community. Finally, as a private citizen, I would like to state that I am fully in support of the investigation of the former President. And everybody that I know personally is also in support of that. Thank you."

**CHRIS HAYDEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Chris Hayden, I'm a Fulton County resident. Commissioner Barrett, in one of your recent podcasts: To Elect or to Appoint, That is the Question, it was stated we pick the people who pick the people. That is the principle of our form of government, a representative republic. Many people think we, the United States of America, are a democracy, we are not. As a representative republic, we elect representatives and they make decision, pass laws, et cetera on our behalf. I think your next podcast needs to include a correction of this point. Also, in your meetings, please refrain from calling it a democracy. I implore you to lead the way of setting this straight with the rest of your Commissioners. Thank you."

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Matt Rowenczak, Fulton County. We are at a time in this country in this county, where financially families and senior citizens have severe hardship. They're having to make decisions between food and medicine. Yet, we have some Commissioners on this Board, that want to add to the budget and make it from 8.87 mils to 10. Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Arrington, I've met so many senior citizens, we'd like to talk about affordable housing. You want to know one of the primary drivers of senior citizens losing their homes, is because they can't afford the taxes in this county. There are seniors that are weeping because they are going to have to leave in the next year or two, to sell their home, and their homes are paid off. It is solely because of the taxes. So I think we need a course correction on this budget and what is really the primary

fiduciary duty that is the taxpayer, not -- not your dream budget. This isn't your own money. Secondly, I fully support an investigation into the DA's office, whether it's the County Auditor, whatever means is best appropriate, it is clear we have abuse in the DA's office. And also on the budget, I find it ironic, Commissioner Hall, that we're probably going to find out today or soon how much money that the taxpayers are going to have to foot the bill for you firing your Chief of Staff after your affair with him. Yet, you have the nerve to propose an additional \$53 million on the taxpayer's back. I think most of us would appreciate that the County take your boot off our necks. Thank you."

**GINGER BRADSHAW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, Commissioners. My name is Ginger Bradshaw, and I live in Fulton County. Initially, I had planned to come down to support the appointment of Julie Adams and encourage the Board to audit the DA's office. I'm still here for that purpose, but when I saw that Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Arrington were asking to increase the DA's budget without an audit of what had been spent, I was livid. You men and women have a fiduciary responsibility to us, the taxpayers. And I'm going a little bit off script here, because my blood is boiling. You always talk about equity and justice and how important that is. Well, you seem to think about that when it's on your side of the equation. But what about equity and justice for everybody? As Matt just said, there -- I'm a senior citizen and my house is paid off. My taxes go up every year. And I may be a little bit more fortunate than the other people because we put some money away, and things aren't so bad for us. We're not wealthy, but we can pay our tax bill. But who my heart breaks for is some of those people that came down here when y'all were talking about raising the taxes. One lady that's -- and I imagine she lives in a modest home. Her taxes went from almost nothing to \$1200 a year, and she said, I can't pay that. That's who my heart bleeds for. And as a fiduciary, it is your responsibility to oversee how this money is spent, and to not --"

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

**GINGER BRADSHAW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to not do that, is, I think, an abdication of your responsibilities. And I have to say, I used to didn't know what y'all did. But I have learned, and I am ready to go to the streets. Thank you very much."

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Fat Ass Sass and Crass, No Class, Fulton County. I'm incognito today, y'all, because the white folks is after me. I got a little bit of a PR problem. Natalie, you might be able to help me with. I could use the name of your PR firm, you know the one that got you on the top 100 list. That's the kind of PR I'm looking for. No, I know you'll understand that nothing and nobody comes between me and my Nathan's hot dog. Yeah, come on up in here now, my dark and lovely lunch. Oh, yeah, there you, come on. Yes, my PR firm, all they tell me to do is

take me to church. Yeah. Take me to church. I worship you, dog, you're the light of my life. Please forgive me, my sins, but I will fall on in now. You are my destiny, baby. Good, God, just get rid of your wife. Take me to church. I go to work. I get my freak on. Take me to church. I write check. They let me say a few words. Take me to church. I eat some crow, eh, and humble pie. Take me to church. I write a contract. We're set for life. Take me to church. First Baptist, here I come. Take me to church. Do we go to see the Catholics too? Are they on the schedule. Do I got to do everything? Take me to church."

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

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Taxpayer-funded unlimited expense account, wee, oh, baby, that's what I like. Take me to church, even a light-skinned elitist like me knows the darker the berry, the sweeter the wine. Take me to church."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last six speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward. Sara Toering, Clinton Deveaux, Derrick Blassingame, Lisa Adler, Drew Umberger, and Quincey Shoulders."

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners, I'm Julie Allen. It's time to take the business of Fulton County seriously and approve the Fulton County Republican Party appointment to the Board of Registration Elections of Julie Adams. I'm here this morning to ask, are you aware of the 20 percent increase in mortality in Fulton County's population, aged 15 to 44, beginning in 2020? Some might say this is related to COVID, but the COVID vaccine was released in December 2020, and the numbers have remained alarmingly high. Who is accountable for this data? The Fulton County Board of Health transitioned to a fully-independent state entity in August 2020. Who advocates for an answer to this disturbing data on behalf of Fulton County residents? Who will ask Fulton County Legislators to draft and support legislation that enables Freedom of Information Access to de-identified public health data in order for answers to be discerned with scientific inquiry? What is informed consent and bodily autonomy if we lack access to data to find answers to troubling questions. Well, Dr. Lynn Paxton, who gives courtesy reports to this Board, addressed this with data. If it truly was a pandemic of the unvaccinated, then what explains excess mortality following December 2020 when the vaccine became available, and many employers mandated the vaccine for employees, and an age group for which group insurers typically show extremely low mortality. What is more important than understanding why Fulton County's young working-age population is dying in record numbers? Separately, the question of whether Fulton County funds have been misappropriated or misused by Fani Willis must be answered before increasing her \$37 million budget. Further, why

would taxpayers have to pay \$10,000 on a service to monitor Fani Willis' media coverage just days before announcing her probe into Donald Trump?"

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

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Please request an audit by the County Auditor of the District Attorney's office especially the funds used for her Special Prosecutor Grand Jury case. 2024 builds upon the scandals of 2023. It's disappointing to know that Commissioner Hall has been found guilty of --"

**SARA TOERING, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners, my name is Sara Toering. I'm a resident of Fulton County. And I'm here to speak in support of your continued ongoing investment in the Police Alternative Division. I have simply three things to offer for your consideration. One, I'd like to say thank you for your ongoing support of this incredibly special organization and its work in our community. Two, I wanted to share how I first learned of PAD, which was through Next Door, and the relief and pride that my Fulton County neighbors had in this incredible program that supports our neighbors who are struggling with direct services, with diversion from incarcerations, such that we can support them. I was then very proud and honored to join the board of this incredibly special organization, and have seen now firsthand the incredible work of its staff and of its leadership. Three, I simply offer that in my day job, I travel throughout Georgia and throughout the country working on affordable housing policy. In the last year, I've been in places like Albany-Dougherty, Thomasville-Thomas, Columbus-Muskogee, Macon-Bibb. I've been in places like the Mississippi Arkansas Delta, Newark, New Jersey, Washington, DC. All of those places have neighbors that are struggling like ours. None of those places have an organization like PAD. And I'm very proud as a resident of Fulton County, and appreciative of your investment in this program that truly is a national model. Thank you for your investment in healing in our community. And I urge you to continue increase that investment. Thank you."

**JUDGE CLINTON DEVEAUX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Clinton Deveaux, I'm a retired Municipal Court Judge. I served on the Atlanta Municipal Court for 30 years. And I've been retired now since 2011. And I've chaired the Board of PAD for almost three years. And I am grateful not just for your investment, but for your pioneering involvement as Fulton County's representative in the creation of this model, and the support of the model. It is the city of Atlanta and Fulton County who have brought this program to fruition. We were ready and available four years ago when the police misconduct issues drove the country to see the issues of injustice in the criminal justice system. And that readiness and that support of this model by Fulton County and the city of Atlanta, meant that we have set the standard for

the country in helping people who have needs based on lack of income, being unhoused, mental health issues, and substance use that brings them in contact with the police. I just want to say thank you, and encourage you to support the --"

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

**JUDGE CLINTON DEVEAUX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. And hope that you will continue to support PAD and the work that we are doing on behalf of the less fortunate citizens in our county. Thank you."

**DERRICK BLASSINGAME, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Derrick Blassingame, it is a pleasure and an honor to address you all today. Some of you have made the comment this morning on my way in that, he's done, he's through, it's over. Well, I want to let you know that Derrick Blassingame, I'm done with Fulton County fumbling our elections. I'm done with the gross mismanagement of our taxpayer dollars by the Fulton County Democrats on this Body. I'm disgusted at the information that is coming out of the District Attorney's office as a taxpayer. I am done with most of your silence at the DA's apparent love affair with the Special Prosecutor and gross mismanagement of taxpayers dollars to pursue what appears to be a frivolous lawsuit based off of partisan politics. Apparently, guys like me need to court Fulton County female executives if we want a free ride at all-paid expense. Apparently, we need to pursue Natalie Hall and Fani Willis, or maybe the executives in other departments if we want a full ride and full pay. The DA appears to be trying to protect past elections, but upon information and belief, she's trying to interfere with future elections by trying to convict a candidate before the General Election. I'm requesting a financial audit to be done by the County Auditor, of the District Attorney's office immediately. There is no way that you get more money when you're spending money, allegedly, for unnecessary and frivolous purposes. Also, these Judges need to hire a lobbyist, instead of grandstanding this Board with these mediocre public relations stunts. Magistrate Court still needs a systemic boost and an IT transformation that's been achieved by the Superior Court Clerk. It needs to be pulled together."

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

**DERRICK BLASSINGAME, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Finally, I'm urging you to appoint Julie Adams to the Board of Registration and Elections without delay. And we needed -- we need somebody over that's transparent, that's open and that can be open-minded to all concerns and can address people's needs. I'm also -- want that audit of the DA's office immediately."



**LISA ADLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, I'm Lisa Adler. I'm Co-Artistic Producing Director of Horizon Theatre Company, and a 42-year resident of Fulton County, and also a strong advocate for the arts. I've been here for the last few meetings, listening. And I just wanted to say that I stayed through the whole last budget hearing and discussion afterwards. And I was so impressed with what I heard happen in discussion among the Commissioners. I felt so heard as an arts community, but also everybody that came to speak that day, I've helped their issues discussed by the Commissioners that day. And I wanted to say how appreciative I was of that, seeing that political process in action and really work. In advance, I don't know what's in the budget, but I do know that I want to thank you for your consideration of the arts and for the 40-year-plus investment, which has made arts in Fulton County the leader in the state and contributing millions and millions of dollars, jobs, education to that community. I know you know much about what they give to us, and I want to thank you for your support and encourage you. As a citizen, I want to say that I totally hear people's concerns about property taxes. Everybody's concerned about that. But mostly it's about the increase from year to year of property taxes of large revaluations that make it impossible to stay in their homes. I know that there's a bill in the state right now about trying to cap that, and I don't know how that might apply to Fulton County. But it's certainly something to be considered if there's an opportunity for that, because it's that increase that is killing people, not just taxes. I believe in taxes. I believe we should pay our taxes, and I believe we get what we pay for. And I'm willing to pay taxes for things that are important to us --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Fifteen seconds, ma'am."

**LISA ADLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- arts, social services, education, and decent human -- anything that's decent for humans. Thanks so much, and thanks for your support."

**DREW UMBERGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, good morning, Commissioners. My name is Drew Umberger, and I am here today to talk to you about pre-accusation. I've worked at PAD for two years. Since October, I have had the first -- got to witness firsthand, the great impact that this Pre-Accusation Program is offering. This program with PAD was partnered with the Solicitor Gamage's office. And each day, the Solicitor compiles a small list of names. I'm given the names, these are usually crimes that have been identified as crimes of poverty. I'm given the names, I go to the jail, I interview them. If these individuals consent and agree, they come into our program. I then go to first appearance and on -- advocate for them on their behalf. If the Judge agrees, they're released to PAD the following day. That very next day, they're enrolled in services. As of today since October, we have had 44 participants who are successfully

enrolled in PAD services today. See, this program was actually designed to catch the individuals who could or should have been a police diversion. These individuals simply just have unmet needs. These are 44 people that had not this program existed or been available, they would likely still be sitting in the Fulton County Jail. I have had the pleasure and the honor to witness reunifications, people getting documents, working on employment and housing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Fifteen seconds, ma'am."

**DREW UMBERGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yeah, pre-accusation, please think about it."

**QUINCEY SHOULDERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, how y'all doing? I'm also a participant in PAD Program. My name is Mr. Quincey Shoulders. From the first moment I got introduced to the PAD program, staff and all of them have been very helpful. Currently, I'm in the fatherhood program, getting back in contact with my two daughters and my son. I just got my license, so I'm also getting a job at Amazon through them. I got my social -- well, I'm waiting on my social security card, and I have my birth certificate. They have helped me obtain all my legal documents. You know, I don't have a car right now, but for -- far as, like, the MARTA cards, it might not seem like much, but it means a lot to me. You know, they're very helpful. I'm attending by mental health classes, which they're helping me with. And I just wanted to say that I think the PAD program is wonderful for myself and others as well. I think it should keep going, and the staff is excellent. And that's all I have to say. Y'all have a blessed day."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have nine speakers on Zoom, 22 emailed-in comments that have been combined, and can be read in four."

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

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Greetings, Commissioners and staff and special greetings, fellow citizens. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. To the senior citizens of Fulton County, the Commission on Elder Affairs was beguiled into taking a hike in the month of December. During December budget hearings, Office of Aging Administrators were bombarded with closed words, such as sliding scale, not sustainable, tight budget and millage rate constrictions. Take heart, however, hope is on the way and hope is in the wings, as more advocates have joined. To the Housing Authority of Fulton County, you won a hollow victory in that four-to-one vote. Following Executive Session, the motion should have been a three-part motion



instead of a two-part motion. Part One, accept the recommendation of the Housing Authority of Fulton County. Part two, reject the recommendation of Ronnie Shakur and company. Only then, part three, remove money secured from the Board of the Housing Authority of Fulton County. To the news media focusing on Fulton County, stay tuned."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Opal Baker."

**OPAL BAKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Opal Baker, I'm a resident of East Point, Fulton County, Georgia. As a naturalized citizen who's been living in the United States for over 50 years, I treasure my right to vote. I have never missed an opportunity to vote since I have been able to. And I absolutely value my right to cast my ballot for whomever I choose. You must uphold that right, as you consider your nomination for this Body, and ensure that you install a person who respects every eligible person's right to vote for -- and for whomever they choose, and not dismiss their lawfully-cast vote. As you consider and -- or choose to do the right thing about this with our right to vote, you must also do the right thing on how we, as taxpayers, want to spend our money. I applaud you for being the only county in Georgia to still allocate funding to the arts, and you cannot stop now. Exposure to the arts is foundational, it's indispensable, it's critical to communities for so many reasons. But for me, it is a way to relieve the stresses of everyday life to keep me engaged in my community. And it's -- it's one way, one important way to help our children grow, thrive, and build their coveted and critical-thinking skills as adults so that they can make up their own minds about important issues in their lives, such as why it is necessary to vote, and to whom to vote and for whom to vote for. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Gita Prabhakar. Gita Prabhakar. The next person to speak is Mack Headrick. Mack Headrick. Okay, the next person to speak is a Paulette Haase. Paulette Haase. All right, the next person to speak is Rukuumba Nedd. Rukuumba Nedd. And the last person is Virginia Kriho. Virginia Kriho. Okay. Rukuumba Nedd. Okay. So with that being said, no one is answering that concludes our Zoom public comments."

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The first emailed comment is Jane Zoellick: Thank you for, Commissioners for a valuable past support of the arts in Fulton County. As you are making budget decisions today, I encourage you to at least maintain the 2023 funding level in order to continue to nurture a vibrant arts scene in the cultural heart of the South. Your funding is critically important to a Atlanta Metro's arts community. And to all-sized art organization abilities to fulfill their missions to the experiences available to Fulton County residents and visitors and to their areas reputation. Thank you, too for funding the Board of Elections so that they may continue

to carry out their demonstrated application of best practices. As the Carter Center report noted, their openness, transparency and learning is to be commended. As someone who served as a poll worker, it's essential to know that the BOC and BOE are supportive of free and fair elections, and that you stand with election workers in a hostile, political environment. Please help ensure that all who serve on the Board of Elections consistently work to place the voter over party politics and align with voters, not election deniers or conspiracy theorists. The following constituent provided a similar comment, Lynn Koehnemann. The next public comment is from Acree Macam: I want to thank the Board of Commissioners for their deliberative thought process in considering Board of Elections appointments. We, the voters of Fulton County, deserve a BOE who represents our values and our community. As the BOE works to prepare for the critical elections this year, we need BOE members who fight for a free and fair democracy of all voters and who support pro-voter policies. As the BOC continues the process of making the crucial decision to appoint the last BOE member through the current partisan nomination process, I implore you to remember that this decision will have far-reaching effects. The BOE needs to appoint a BOE member that understands that Fulton County voters value someone who believes in free and fair elections, emphasizing standing with election workers in a hostile environment, being a voice for voters. And they need to place the voter over party politics and align with voters. The Board of Commissioners should continue to be diligent in appointing BOE members who will lead us through effectively in the 2024 elections. The following constituents also had similar comments: Cassandra DeMarco, Angela Murcia, Janet Hogan, Jennifer Maley, Virginia Kriho, Gary Uitvlugt, Nancy Pierson, Brittany Eames, Opal Baker, Katie Benson, Paula Barnes, Bonnie Lamberth, Stephanie Mills, Lisa Norris, and Patty Nathan. The next email comment is from Michele Sarkisian: Fulton County taxpayers have been consistently abused with outrageous election expenses and costly errors throughout the government. But the latest escapade that taxpayers have funded with the irresponsible and self-deserving spending by Fani Willis is beyond anything the state or even the county or country have imagined. So what happens? Well, you double down to request spending more of our tax dollars, of course. How many taxpayer-funded lawsuits might be ahead? The arts, public safety are in desperate need of Fulton County funds. Please do your jobs. Please do the right thing and exercise fiscal and ethical responsibility for the taxpayers of Fulton County who put you in office with the faith that you would honor their trust and over influences. The last email comment is from Helen Butler: Commissioners, I have been following the leadership of our late founder Dr. Joseph E. Lowery and the mission of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda to improve the quality of governance by having an informed active electorate that holds its elected officials accountable. In doing this work throughout the state of Georgia, I found that the strongest form of democratic

government works best when the people and voters can decide who gets to represent them. This is done using the ballot vote to elect who will represent their interest, especially from a judicial perspective. That tends to be the last vestige of achieving justice for citizens. Political appointments do not allow the same type of accountability as elected officials. Therefore, we are again asking you to vote, no, on this resolution to change the position of Chief Magistrate Judge from an elected position to an appointed position. We are also asking that you fund this office adequately to ensure that citizens receive the best services in an expeditious matter. The following constituent provided a similar comment, Kina Hudson. This concludes the email comments."

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further speakers."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No further speakers. All right, Continue Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 8, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **24-0051**, Finance, review and request approval of the Fiscal Year 2024 Final Adopted Budget and Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Resolution."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, colleagues, Mr. Manager and team, it is 11:08 a.m. Let me just make a couple of quick comments here. We are required to approve the budget no later than the second meeting in January of each year, which is today. Just by way of background, last year 2023, this Board voted to approve the 2023 budget with an assumed millage rate of 9.3724 mils. However, when it came time to approve that millage rate on August 16th of 2023, we did not do so, and adopted an assumed millage rate of 8.87 mils. Because of that action, when our Finance team submitted a proposed budget for us for 2024 November 15th of last year 2023, it was explained to us that things are going to be tight. There were no additional resources to fund so-called program enhancements. And what program enhancements mean, are requests by Commissioners for projects that they have an interest in or departments who've come to Commissioners to ask, or from private citizens. These are enhancements. But again, the available money that we would have, would be based upon that 8.87 millage rate, which was approved by this Board. Since then we have received, and it has been discussed openly, publicly, we have received some \$60 million in so-called enhancements from Commissioners, 60 million. That 60 million equates to a 1.23 mil increase if we are to fund everything that has been requested by Commissioners. That would take the millage rate from 8.87 to an increase in the property taxes or the millage rate from 8.87 to 10.11 mils. That's just factual, not my -- it's just doing the math. For the record, I did not have any requests, do not have any today. It's my understanding that Commissioner Thorne does not have any, and Commissioner Ellis had some

adjustments, but his adjustments were budget neutral. But the others that are before us, total the 60, approximately 60 million in increases. And if we were to fund all of those, it would require a millage rate increase of 1.23 mils, which would take us, again, from the 8.87 to the 10.1 mils. So that's where we are today. I'd like for us to -- well, we have no choice. We need to approve a balanced budget today. And we may differ on what needs to be funded, what doesn't need to be funded. But I would ask that we be remindful and respectful of each other's positions as we go from through this exercise here today. The lineup is as follows: Commissioner Natalie Hall, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner Bridget Thorne, and Commissioner Bob Ellis. Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. To start off on the record, I received my information from the budgets that was submitted by the departments and agencies and offices within Fulton County, headed by either the department head or elected official, whose department officer agency it was that they were submitting for. And so to ensure that there is no ambiguity."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Excuse me, one second. I forgot, before we got to this, my mistake. Judge Kirk asked to speak again on a matter. She's already spoken. So is there any objection to hearing from her one more time before we get to the budget."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "None from me."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Judge Kirk, come on up. Briefly."

**JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, CHIEF MAGISTRATE:** "Briefly, yes, sir. And it was my intent -- thank you again for the ability to come back up. It was my intent to read the letter for Nancy Flake Johnson, who is in the audience and missed public comment, due to traffic. And so I will simply read her letter. Thank you all, again. Dear CEO and Commissioners, elections allow the voters to decide if an official is performing in a manner consistent with industry standards, and the ethos of the community. While I am aware of the arguments on both side of the question of whether Judges should be elected rather than appointed, I am also aware that studies have shown a majority of Americans prefer the right to elect the people who will sit on the bench. Judicial rulings have an outsized effect on our lives and in our democracy. We, the people, have a right and an obligation to have a say, just as we do in the selection of people who hold other seats of power. The Urban League of Greater Atlanta opposes the resolution to remove the Chief Magistrate Judge position from an elected one to an appointed one. Appointment places the power in the hands of other elected officials who may have a political agenda. That power should remain in the hands of voters. We have come to expect our right to elect the Magistrate Court of Fulton County. To take that right away

from us and switch to a system of appointing the Magistrate, flies in the face of expanding the role of citizens in democratic form of governance, one where the citizenry elects its leaders. Of immediate concern is whether the community will have right to elect Judge Cassandra Kirk again. Her accomplishments in the office are notable in spite of being underfunded --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. Does have anything to do with our budget discussion? Is this a repeat --"

**JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, CHIEF MAGISTRATE:** "It does."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, just a minute. Just a minute, everybody. I thought you had a statement to make, Judge Kirk. But you're reading a statement that's -- I'm sorry."

**JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, CHIEF MAGISTRATE:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We've been fair with you, thank you."

**JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, CHIEF MAGISTRATE:** "Yes, sir. It was my intent to read a statement from Ms. Flake-Johnson. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I was stating, as we all agreed upon during our Commissioners' Retreat, I submitted a budget enhancements request for the 2024 budget, as we all agreed upon. And I want to make sure that the record shows exactly what I submitted. Because I find it very interesting that things have been misconstrued to members of the public. And so let it be stated for the record that I've never asked for a millage rate increase. And as a matter of record, you can pull the votes and see that I voted for the millage rate to remain the same. And that was based on my constituents telling me that that's what they wanted. Now, my budget enhancement requests are based on the departments, agencies, and offices that are headed by those who submitted them to us as a need. And from what I was told, because the ARPA funding, the American Rescue Plan Act funding will be ending this year that to continue to decrease the caseloads, to continue to keep the jail overcrowding at zero, these departments, offices, and agencies, just, they need to continue to have the same number of employees and resources that they were provided through the ARPA funding, or else we will see a significant, negative impact on the positive things that have happened thus far. So to be clear, the District Attorney asked for funding. So let's address that because one of my colleagues took it upon herself to go on social media and take a picture of just a clip of information and make it appear as

though myself and two of my other colleagues were asking for funding, and had no justification whatsoever and that is not true. So I'm going to read to you exactly what I submitted. And I'm hoping that this information is also posted for the public in the manner in which -- by which it was submitted, so that people can see that funding was asked for based on exactly what the requester said they needed it for."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now, these are going to be amendments that you're making?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Mr. Chair, you're very aware of exactly what this is because we discussed this in our Commissioners' Retreat, which you were a part of, and we all agreed that budget enhancements would be provided by Commissioners, and so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. So your first one is?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So in explanation of the District Attorney's, I'll start right there."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The District Attorney submitted that she needed to continue to have seven Investigators. She needed continue to have the 30 law students and the 20 undergrads and the five high school students, operational funds, that is what I submitted on my budget enhancements list for the DA."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's the cost of that?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I don't have a total. I have a complete total, but so I'm going to run through every single item. For the Magistrate Court, the Magistrate Court Judge asked for two full-time Magistrate Judges, which it is my understanding she's been asking for even before we addressed the 2024 budget; 13 Judicial Assistants, five Administrative Assistants, Court Support Supervisor, three Administrative Coordinator, three part-time Magistrate Judges. And that is what I submitted based on her request for 2024. The Marshal's office, and the Marshal's office employees actually went to the news, and you can see a news story based on what they have been enduring because they don't have the funding to run their office efficiently and effectively. Operating costs for new positions, uniforms, equipment, vehicle maintenance, overtime budget request to manage the current high volume of writs, overtime will be utilized to reduce the writs to a management level. The overtime will be utilized one day per month, eight hours for 12 months. There will be two deputies per vehicle, executing an average of 240 writs per month for 12 months. It is expected to execute approximately 2,280 rates on this project during fiscal year 2024. And as it relates to the Sheriff, reconsideration of vacancy attrition reduction, personnel enhancements, unfunded positions restoration,



including benefits, officer safety equipment, federal grant match, equipment needs, investigative tools, software and assessments, new operational requests, oh, inmate -- for the inmate welfare fund, accreditation and compliance, IT equipment community diversion, and anti-recidivism. And for the Solicitor General, supplemental VOCA grant funding to cover personnel and operation -- operational expenses, retention of 41 ORCA employees through December 31st, 2024. This funding will cover personnel and operational expenses and behavioral health and mental health, prosecution program for active inmates in the Fulton County Jail. This funding will cover personnel expenses. And in addition to this, the Board of Health is trying to keep their doors open and serve the public for an overwhelming need that they have been become aware of. And so they were requesting five additional Environmental Health Specialists, additional staffing to offer services five days a week at all four clinics, four Dental Techs, one Dental Hygienist. And expansion of the Adult Dental Services Program. And so those are all of the departmental, agency, office budget requests that I pulled. And from what I see from this memo dated January 22nd from our CFO Sharon Whitmore, through Dick Anderson, our County Manager to the Board of Commissioners, subject, Consolidated Summary of Commissioners' Requests. I see in green that 4.5 million has already been included in the January 10th revised proposed budget for overtime reinvestment, double-overtime reinvestment for the Sheriff, thank you. For the officer's equipment, federal grant match, this match is required to be funded over three years. First year funding of 262,566 provided for 2023 underruns in the Sheriff's budget, thank you for that. And I see Solicitor General's 248,000 supplemental VOCA grant funding, it says \$187,525 provided in the January 10th revised proposed budget, thank you for that. In addition to those, I created a list of nonprofit organizations who have consistently contacted me and my team to inform us that they are small, they have never been able to adequately apply for funding. They need technical assistance, they need as much assistance as possible to continue the work that they're doing in the community. And those nonprofits were, Atlanta Technical College needs money for disadvantaged students. Atlanta Metropolitan College needs money for disadvantaged students. SCLC Women, Atlanta Business League, Georgia Stand Up, Making the Transition, Project You First, the Stewart Foundation, The People's Agenda, American King Foundation, Blackmail Initiative, Be Aware Foundation, and the Greater Vine City Opportunities Program, Incorporated. And so that list was made upon the request of those nonprofits. And then separate from that, as included in every budget for a number of years now, the two youth conferences that I offer every single year, which are \$75,000, each totaling \$150,000. CEOs of Tomorrow Youth Conference and Empowering Young Men to Excel Youth Conference, and that is for the record. Now, I want to also add from what we've just heard today, and what we continue to receive, I was looking at my county phone, because people continue send emails, even once we



start the BOC meeting. And there are a lot of request for Pre-Arrest Diversion to receive some funding. I hope that we will do that. Of course, we have heard from the Arts continuously, not just today's meeting, but meetings prior to this that we need to maintain the same funding for the Arts, which included, I believe it was, \$1.7 million to make that total, I believe it was, \$3.1 million last year. They want that same funding to be in the budget for 2024. And what else did I see here from them, and that is it. So if it is the will of this Body to raise the millage rate, that is on you. My constituents have told me that they simply want for the people who were hired to do the job of balancing the budget to do the job of balancing the budget. And they have a right to that, because they are the voters. As it was stated many times before, this is not our money. I, as a taxpayer living in the city of Atlanta, have a very small portion that I contribute to the tax dollars. But I have constituents who, by a whole, contribute a lot. And that is why I put on my list exactly what they asked for me to put on their list, whether it be through emails to my County email, social media, direct messages to Instagram, Facebook messages, and the like, and text messages to my personal phone and phone calls. So I capture all of this information from those conversations directly from the people that I serve. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Hall, what is the total for all of those enhancements?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I have no idea. I didn't total all the enhancements. But I did total all the departments' requests. And those department requests came up to 53 million. And then the nonprofit organization requests came up to 900,000. And my two normal, every annual conferences are \$150,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So that's 50 -- approximately \$54 million. That's an amendment that you want to make?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Is that an amendment that I want to make to the budget?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "We all sat in a -- let me pull the file. We all set in a Commissioners' Retreat, and all agreed. And let me read the summary. All enhancements requests made prior to or at January 10th -- let me, for the record, note what I'm reading. This is a summary of the Board of Commissioners' Retreat that took place at the Loudermilk Conference Center, where all Commissioners sitting here, except for Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, were present. And the summary notes say, 2024 Budget Enhancement Approval Process. All enhancement requests made prior to or at the January 10th BOC meeting to be collected and summarized by

County Manager and shared with Commissioners by 5:00 p.m. on January 17th. Commissioners to review list of enhancement request. Any additional requests from Commissioners should be sent to the County Clerk by 12:00 p.m. on January 19th. County Clerk will collect and summarize all requests including the name of the Commissioner who submitted it and shared with Commissioners by close of business on January 19th. Commissioners will have January 19th through the 23rd to confer among themselves and ask questions pertaining to enhancement requests prior to the January 24th BOC meeting. County Finance Department will publish final list enhancements requests on January 22nd. And so that is what I'm complying with. As far as one, two, three, four, five bullet point-5, which it says Commissioners will have January 19th through the 23rd to confer among themselves and ask questions pertaining to enhancement requests prior to the January 24th BOC meeting, none have been directed to me about my list. So I assume that no one had any questions and no one had any comments about my list. No one contacted me either via phone, text, or email concerning my list based on these summary notes. And this is what we all agreed on."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The total of that list and everything you read, and we're very familiar with that, that's approximately \$60 million, which will require a millage rate increase, a tax increase in layman terms of 1.23 mils. Are you recommending a millage increase of 1.23 mils to fund that?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "If I was, I would have written that down with my information. I am -- that's out of order. So, anyway, for the entire six years that I've been Commissioner, we have always allowed our County Executives, who are responsible for the budget to make that determination on how and where they can find the funding. And even prior to those years, my years as Chief of Staff to Commissioner Joan P. Garner, the late Commissioner, in her submissions of budget enhancements, it was always handled that way. I do not see why after 13 years, we would do it any other way than to allow the people who are hired to do that job to trust in them and allow them to do that job."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner Hall for your remarks. They will be reflected in the minutes. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor. There's no motion on the 60 million, and no motion for a millage rate increase."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, with all due respect, it's Vice Chair."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm sorry, Chairman, can you go back to what you just said? You said there's no motion on the floor?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "There's no motion, you didn't make a motion. No one else has made a motion --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I should not have had to make a motion. We agreed that we would submit these items for the budget --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- period. So the motion, it should already be a part of --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "You've recognized the Vice Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have the floor, Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you. I know that there's a concern about PAD funding. And I think there's some misinformation. And so if someone could speak to PAD funding quickly before I get into my comments, I would appreciate it."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. The budget includes the \$400,000 that we have funded PAD for, for the last couple of years. That funding is already included in the budget. As it relates to the diversion, we have also included in the budget, the 2.5 million to support the new Diversion Center."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Hmm, where do I begin? Let me say this to everyone that is listening or at home or texting or whatever, you cannot have a laundry list of wants and needs, and not have a millage rate increase. Let me say that first of all. There's a tightening of the belt, and I have been speaking about this before today, that this is where the rubber meets the road. The budget is a fundamental responsibility of the Board of Commissioners, and it plays a crucial role in the effective functioning of our community. As Commissioners elected to represent the citizens of Fulton County, we have a responsibility to assure you that the budget we pass is crafted with the utmost respect for citizens and taxpayers of Fulton County. From the very beginning of this process, we know that we do not have enough money to address all the wants. So I want to be crystal clear that my support and vote are based on the impact of the investment and the accountability of the offices, agencies,

departments, and organizations we fund. I trust the following amendments will show that we take seriously, our responsibility of being good stewards of your investment. So I therefore make the motion to accept the revised budget with an eight-point -- is it 87, County Manager?"

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Not to go over 8.87, with the following amendments made: I make the motion that \$2.25 million to be funded to Arts and Culture, with \$250,000 going to Fulton Films. Also of the \$2 million going to CSF with the \$300,000 earmarked for Taste of Sofu. I also asked that \$200,000 goes to the Marshal office. I also ask that \$100,000 goes to Destination Tomorrow, a grassroots organization that provides vital services and resources to the members of the LGBT+ communities, and more, including, but not limited to transitional housing, educational enrichment services, HIV counseling and testing. I also ask that \$75,000 goes to Iman Atlanta, a community-based organization that provides reentry housing assistance, behavioral health, and community resources for the entire Fulton County. I also ask that \$100,000 be earmarked to Senior Services for Senior Advocacy Outreach Initiative. Considering there are several agencies to include, the District Attorney that requested ORCA extensions, I'm asking that we extend ORCA positions to the end of the year 2024, subject to the discretion of the County Manager, with the County Manager reporting the details of the distribution. I also ask that we reduce the enhancement of the Sheriff from \$4.5 million by \$2 million, currently proposed for double overtime for the Sheriff's budget. So instead of it being 4.5 million, it'll be 2.5 million. Given what we have done, I make this motion with a clear mind that we have looked at and we have done what we could possibly do to maintain a budget of 8.87 with no millage increase. I ask that this is accepted, and I make the motion to the -- to my Body. And also, I ask that it be amended, therefore."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Waiting on a second."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Oh, I did it on the screen."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm sorry. Seconded by Commissioner Thorne. So Commissioner, would you repeat each of those. I was trying to follow what you were -- put the amount -- say the amount first, and then -- then --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. 2.25 million to Arts and Culture, with 250,000 going to Fulton Films."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "As I understood what you were saying, 2.25 for Arts and Culture, of that amount 250,000 would be an increase for Fulton Films; 2 million for the Contracts for Services Program, and of that 2 million, 300,000 would be earmarked for Taste of Sofu?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So the -- let me -- let me -- I'm clear on the Fulton Films, how much is that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It would bring the total for Fulton Films to 500,000. There's 250 and the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, all right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- existing budget --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's what --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- this would add an additional 250."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "\$200,000 to the Marshal's office; \$100,000 to Destination Tomorrow; 75,000 Iman Atlanta; \$100,000 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Slow down, slow down."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm sorry."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "100,000, you said 75,000 to Iman Atlanta --"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- and then 100,000 --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "To Senior Services for it to be earmarked for Senior Advocacy Outreach Initiative."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Once again, considering there are several agencies that need ORCA extensions, the extension of the ORCA positions to the end of the year 2024, subject to the discretion of the County Manager, with the County Manager

reporting the details of the distribution. And last, but definitely not least, there was a \$4.5 million enhancement currently proposed for double overtime for the Sheriff's budget. I'm asking for that to be reduced by \$2 million. And that concludes my motion with the following amendments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. So the motion -- the amendment on the floor is made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and seconded by Commissioner Thorne. What was it? What's the total?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "What's the total?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It's a net increase to the general fund budget of 725,000, Mr. Chairman, based on my following of the numbers. The adds are 2,725,000, the reduction is 2 million. So it's a net increase of 725,000."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Plus. Plus the required fund balance."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Plus, Hakeem is telling me, the required fund balance. And then on the ORCA positions, I guess I would ask for clarification on that. Your statement was for the County Manager to determine the distribution details. Is the extension of ORCA through the end of the year to be funded using our ARPA resources?"

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. Could she repeat -- I thought you said the add was 2.25, and the subtraction was 2, but then you said 750."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah, so --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I just want to make sure I didn't miss hear --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So the laundry list of items that the Vice Chair identified --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "List of items --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- total --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "The list of proposed amendments."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The lists of proposed items, yes, total 2,725,000."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. I thought you said 2.25, okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So 2.25 was specifically for Arts and Culture, so it was --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- 2,725,000."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And then the reduction, is that reflective of -- I thought the reduction of the Sheriff's budget was -- was it two and a half, or 3 million? I thought you gave a number. Was it 2 million."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I heard 2 million, yes, sir."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It's 2 million. It leaves the Sheriff 2.5."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Does the proposal meet our fund balance requirements? I'm in the queue later, y'all can --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Ellis, give me just one minute to -- okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let me get where we are now, so are you -- so the 725,000 --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, we would need to identify about 362,504."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How much?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "362,504 to balance that out. We would need to take a haircut somewhere else to be able to balance that out, or take it from the 4.5 million. I know the Vice Chair said she wanted to leave the Sheriff 2.5, we could take a -- take that 362 that we need to balance out from the rest of the double-overtime budget."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "One second. I'm going to request to take it out the 2.5."



**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So we'll increase the reduction to 2,362,504."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And that will be balanced, correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. I'm going to ask Sabrina and Hakeem to confirm, but it should be balanced."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, thank you. Properly made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Madam CFO, what is the cost of extending ORCA through the end of the year?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Arrington, if we make the assumption that everyone who's on payroll would stay on payroll and no one leaves and we don't hire anyone else, the full cost is about 14 million. The number we've been using has been 9 million, that assumes some ramp down in natural attrition of the positions. But our current estimate is that to fully continue everyone who's currently on payroll, assuming again, no attrition and that no new hires and no one leaves, it would be about 14 million."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So how is it possible then, there could only be a 700,000 or \$300,000 budget adjustment if ORCA was part of the proposal?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That was the clarification that I sought, Commissioner Arrington was if she was requesting that we extend the ORCA positions through the use of ARPA resources versus through the general fund."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. So the request that were made by, I guess, there -- the request that were made by certain Commissioners is a result of our Board Retreat were mostly requests or Commissioners repeating requests from department agencies heads. Most of these were not specific Commissioner-related request. Again, these are request of departments. Now, what we did last year -- see, we're not voting on -- let me make sure. Madam CFO, are we voting on the millage rate today, or are we voting on a budget? Which one of those two are we voting on today?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The action that's before you today is to approve the -- the budget."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The budget. So we're not approving the millage rate. We just recently approved the millage rate at the end of 2023. Now, what we did last year was we assumed a higher millage rate for purposes of our budget and -- but when it got time to adopt that higher millage rate, we didn't. We assumed a higher millage rate for purposes of our budget so that we could add more items in. However, when it got time to adopt that budget, that millage rate, we did not adopt that millage rate. You know why we didn't? Because there was enough money left over. We have anywhere from 25 to \$75 million left over every year. Additionally, there was additional revenue that came in. And so as a result, although I voted against it, the Board voted not to adopt the higher millage rate at the time when it was time to adopt the higher millage rate. But we did it for purposes of the budget so that we could make sure that our departments and agencies have the resources that they need. So it is a fallacy that we're talking about adopting a bigger millage rate. The agenda item is for budget, not for millage rate. And so it's inaccurate for someone to say that if we adopt this, we have to adopt a higher millage rate. We can assume a higher millage rate for purposes of our budget. But as proven last year in 2023, we assumed that higher millage rate, but we didn't adopt it. So for someone to say, oh, well this is going to make -- this is going to make the millage rate 10.2, this is going to make the millage rate go through the roof, it's simply not accurate. It's simply not accurate. All of these numbers are assumptions in a budget. Every number in a budget is an assumption. We make assumptions based off of what happened last year. What we do we expect to happen this year? We make assumptions. Now, let's get back to what happened at the Board Retreat, because what we were -- what happened at the Board Retreat was that we are told to submit our things, and that those things would be added to the budget. That's what we were told, Mr. County Manager. And you stated, Mr. County Manager, that in order to add those things, we have to have -- that you and your team would add those to the budget, and that you would have to propose an assumed higher millage rate in order to be able to add those things. Now, that is what transpired at that Board Retreat. We are told that, hey, submit these, they're going to add them in, and then we're going to add them to the budget. County Manager and his team were going to add them to the budget, and that there will be an assumed millage rate increase for purposes of the budget. That's what transpired at that meeting. So if that was not done, then I need to understand -- I need to know why, Mr. County Manager."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Now, I believe we have done that. In other words, we've cataloged all of the requests, both that had preceded the meeting and then subsequent to the meeting, and then we have provided a implied or assumed millage rate."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So -- and what is that millage rate, Mr. Manager?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "1.233 net, yes, in addition to -- that would be added to the 8.87 current millage rate."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Would it be an actual millage rate, or would it be assumed like last year?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "It would not be actual, not until the millage rate is set later in the year. But one thing I just want to mention, though, is, you know, when we prepared the budget this year, we assumed a 7 percent digest growth rate that could impact what the final millage rate might be down the road next year."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm sorry, I didn't understand what you said. You have to repeat it."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Okay. I'm talking about, you know, when the budget was prepared in 20 -- you know, for 2024, instead of us using the 3 percent digest growth rate that we were using in the past, the budget for 2024 was based on an assumed digest growth rate of 7 percent. So all I'm saying is, we have already accounted for some of the growth that in a way, it's better to have in our digest for 2024, in this budget that you all have before you for approval."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And then, Mr. Chairman, at the Board Retreat, you said you were going to ask for division. Do you still plan on doing that, or do I need to?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, we did when Commissioner Hall went through each of her items."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I -- so Commissioner Hall didn't make a motion, so I don't know how we could have done it when -- by Commissioner Hall going through her items. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman just went through her items, and made a motion. So I don't understand how -- how it could have been done with Commissioner Hall listing her items, because Commissioner Abdur-Rahman just listed her items and made a motion. Furthermore, that's not division. Division is voting on -- and what you stated at the Board Retreat was, division because you wanted to vote on each individual item. You wanted each of these items divided so that they could be voted on individually, each budget increase. So that, like, that's what was stated at the Board Retreat. So I'm just asking you, are you still going to do that, or do I need to make a call for division?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We've already done that, Commissioner Arrington. I asked Commissioner Hall did we want to take them individually. She said, no, we take them collectively. And I did not object to that. My statement at the Retreat was that that was my intention. Today, based upon what she said, after she read, in fact, she has some 45 items if my math is correct. But when she decided to read them collectively, and I asked her if there were -- was that a motion, she said, no. There was no other motion, and we've moved on."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So I'm going to make a motion to divide the items that were just listed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. We've had a motion that's been before us that is properly moved and seconded."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm making a substitute motion."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "For a division of the items, so that each of those items can be voted on individually."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Each of -- each of the items that Commissioner -- that Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman -- is that what you said Commissioner Arrington?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That's -- what is it, one, two, three, four, five, six. All right, we got a lot to accomplish today. It would take us about five minutes to do that. We vote on each one separately."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I -- we have a motion that's properly before us. It's been motioned and seconded. I think the time for any sort of call that, would have been -- would have -- would have preceded that. And I think the request is out of line. And if we were going to have a vote on something, it should be a vote on specifically whether or not we actually want to have a division of these items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, I'll --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "It should not be an automatic."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'll accept that. All right. Is there a motion, then, to vote on a division of the various seven or eight amendments that were put forth by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, is there such a motion?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, sir, I've already made it. And it's logged in the computer, and it was seconded by Commissioner Hall."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote on whether we're going to divide or not."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Back to the main motion. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I'm done."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly honor and respect the desire to pass a balanced budget and to be good stewards of the taxpayer's money. But I also agree with Commissioner Arrington in saying that what we're talking about with the millage rate today is not a vote on the millage rate, but rather an assumption in order to come to a balanced budget and make sure that all of the needs of the County are thoughtfully and, you know, are thoughtfully addressed. And I think, you know, to leave out any consideration for addressing health inequity in the County is -- does a disservice to everyone in the County. I think health equity is very important. I think we all have acknowledged over the course of many meetings since I've been here for just over a year, that there is a significant health inequity, in particular in the south part of the County. And following some conversations with the County Management Team yesterday and for the weeks leading up to this meeting, there have been several options on the table, and there will continue to be more options on the table to address - to continue to address health inequity. We've all sat through a presentation last year with Morehouse and the consulting firm, I forget which one now, but -- thank you, Ernst and Young. That talked about sort of a plan with the initial Buggy Works Clinic that we stood up that the plan if I -- and you can correct me here if I'm wrong, Dr. Roshell, but my recollection is that the plan was to get this first clinic up, and then to analyze the data in terms of who was coming into the clinic, what kinds of things they were coming in for and to take that analysis along with looking at the existing mapping that was done and sort of determine what kind of clinic would be next, where it would be, that kind of thing; is that correct?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Commissioner Barrett, that is correct. That plan included a seven-part solution set. The primary care access point is just one of the components of that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right, and so, correct me again if I'm wrong, Dr. Roshell, sorry, but that with the current budget as presented including what was asked for by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, there is no ability to continue that program. The budget only contains the ability to continue to fund the Buggy Works Clinic; is that correct?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So we would be sort of pumping the brakes, if you will, fully on proceeding down the line of addressing the health inequity in the south part of the County. So secondarily, Mr. County Manager, based on our conversation yesterday, it sounds like there's some additional conversations with Grady on some other options. Would you be willing to sort of just say a few words on what those options might be and some of the costs?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I don't know that they're fully developed. But I would just say that Grady is interested in expansion. I'm sure Morehouse and partners are interested in expansion."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Gotcha."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So your point's well made, that there wouldn't be incremental dollars available to help fund those."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Sorry, I didn't mean to put you on the spot there. And so I think -- and I think there's probably more, even other organizations that would like to have conversations with us and have already had some conversations with us. So, you know, one of the things I put forward in my document that was submitted, per the discussion had in the retreat meeting was to fund just as we did last year, a \$5 million healthcare reserve. And in some of the conversations that I had with my colleagues, leading up to today, I did say that I was willing to be negotiable on that number, that I was not stuck on 5 million. But I would love to see it be 5 million. And so I'm going to, you know, continue to advocate for that \$5 million healthcare reserve. I also requested a -- in my original written request, I asked for \$1.1 million to go to the Marshal's office, as she is extremely understaffed and has a very significant backlog that is impacting the community and small business owners in the community who are not able to get their landlord-tenant cases addressed in a timely manner. Through



some additional conversation, I know for some reason, and I'm confused a little bit Commissioner Abdur-Rahman on the 200,000 you proposed there. But I did just ask the County Manager quietly while some other things were going on this morning about what would actually be needed to address her staffing needs moving forward for 2024. And it does seem like that number is closer to 750,000, Mr. County Manager; is that right?"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So I would like to then add \$5 million healthcare reserve, a \$750,000 addition to the Marshal's budget so that she can begin to address her backlog. My -- my initial Arts and Culture request that I had written down included the 1.7 million that was asked for by The Arts and Culture Department along with the 137 some-odd million for Face. That said, I'm comfortable with, you know, joining Commissioner -- sorry, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman's number for Arts and Culture at 2.25 if that's something everybody else is wanting to address. At previous meetings, the January 10th meeting, Commissioner Arrington thoughtfully pointed out that we really need to fund the Summer Youth Program, which is a \$500,000 request, and I agree with that. So I would like to keep that on my list as well. I also think we need to go ahead and fund the ORCA positions through the year at the number that assumes some attrition that we had been talking about up until yesterday, when I heard this additional \$14 million number. So I'm talking about the \$9 million number that we were talking about in the previous meetings, and that was listed in the tranche that was presented to us in the first version of the budget. I have on my initial list a \$96,000 -- 96,088 for the State Court to address two particular situations there with his -- to bring his -- for some reason, I can't find my one sheet of paper that had all the -- that on it. But it was -- it was for two of the requests that he originally made -- anyway, that's the number, I'll find it here in a minute. But I'd like to keep that on the list. Part of it was about his salaries being competitive in one particular arena. Anyway --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Barrett, your documents said State Court. For State Court, Recovery Treatment Court, and to equalize pay for Court Reporters, \$96,088."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "See, I think it was really helpful that we submitted all of this ahead of time, because when I can't find my notes, everybody already has seen that, so thank you for that. I'd like to keep that on my list. And then there was a \$90,000 federal grant match that the Sheriff had requested that I think makes sense for us to go ahead and honor so that he can get the federal money. I think that's sort of a no-brainer in terms of matching that so that he can get the other 90,000 from the federal



side. So I took out some of my initial request, and with that list that I just read to you, totals 25,686,088. And so now, what I want to do is sort of talk through how -- how, where we can come up with the funds to cover that 25,686,088. And correct me if I got my math wrong, Madam CFO. We talked about -- and Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman implied that there was at least 9 million available in ARPA funds to cover ORCA positions through the end of the year. But, you know, I want to clarify that because when I was meeting with you all yesterday, I was led to believe that there was three -- oh, sorry, six, I believe it was 3 million that we could sort of definitely get now from ARPA as it existed, and another three point, was it four that we could get from one from FEMA?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am. We've gone through the exercise of looking at what we have in the ARPA budget that we could reallocate. And we had identified about \$3 million out of existing allocations that could be used to support the two items that we identified, the Summer Youth Program, and the extension of the ORCA positions. In addition to that, we have been holding, and had not yet appropriated a portion of the ARPA resources that we received, backstopping our FEMA applications, we are now down to, I think less than \$5 million in reimbursement due from FEMA. So as part of our overall planning process for the use of ARPA, we should consider putting the piece of the reserve that was AR -- specifically out of our ARPA funds, releasing it from the reserve, and backstopping FEMA and putting it into a use by the end of this year, because the resources, as you know, have to either be spent, or if they're related to a construction project, or IT related projects, they have to be encumbered and contracted about the end of this year. So a total, yes, ma'am, of about 6-point -- \$6.4 million, which is not enough to fund even at the \$9 million number, which is what we have been using to -- when we talk about the need to continue the ORCA positions through the end of the year. So at that -- at that funding level, we would definitely have to ramp down the program through the course of the year in order to stay within those resources available."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Can you -- we also discussed yesterday the additional ARPA money, I think the original line item had 24 million for the Behavioral Health Center that you talked about was sort of being held in terms of not having a final number on a construction cost for BHCC, correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It's actually for the Behavior Health Crisis Center, the construction for the South Training Center for our DD clients. We are in the middle of the construction process now for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center. We are still making changes to the -- the construction plan as you -- as you may. So we do not yet have a full and final cost on that. And we have not yet gotten

the design work completed, fully completed on the South Training Facility. We have an order of magnitude cost estimate for that. So out of that 24 million, we had designated 16.5 for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, 4.7 for the Developmental Disability Training Center, and we had 2.8 that was remaining in contingency for both of those projects. And as soon as we have those projects to a point that we are comfortable that we're locking in our projected costs, then if there were any resources available, we would release those as well."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Can you just review the last part of that again, the what the numbers were allocated to?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "16-point -- of the 24 million that we have in the health infrastructure line item --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- 16.5 was for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, 4.7 was for the South Training Center for our DD clients, and 2.8 is a contingency, construction contingency for those projects, because with, particularly with the DD center, we had -- we were working with our own, you know, you know, estimate for that particular cost. And then on the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, we are working hand-in-hand with the state as well as the operator, which is Grady, to finalize the construction plans for this facility so that it will meet the standards and pass the licensing requirements as well as the accreditation process. So there are still things that are being brought to our attention that we have to address in order to meet those requirements, which is why at this point we weren't prepared to release that 2.8 million that we have in contingency for those projects."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So that leaves us short of the 9.5 that we're talking about for Summer Youth Program and continuing ORCA, no?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No. So we've -- we identified \$3 million outside of funds that we have for the health infrastructure projects. So that \$3 million, we already know where it's coming from, which of our ARPA allocations that we can take those funds from, without it impacting any --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- continuing programming or anything like that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you. I just want to make sure we're talking about the same thing. So there's -- there's 6.4 million we've identified, 3 million from ARPA for sure, 3.4 from the FEMA reserve --"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- that we don't actually think we're going to need. But the additional two-point, whatever -- no, it's more than that -- the additional, what is it --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It's about 3 million."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- 2.9 million left to cover -- to cover 9.5?"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "We don't know where that is going to come from?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Not currently. Out of -- out of the ARPA resources."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So at a minimum, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman's budget or you know, her request would require you to wind down ORCA faster than it's not -- it wouldn't be funding ORCA through the rest of the year. We'd either have to wind it down faster or add 2.9 million. We have to find 2.9 million somewhere. Well, she didn't include Summer Youth Program, so 2.4 million, somewhere in order to make that, air quotes, budget neutral, correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "At the \$9 million level, yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So I think that needs to be -- if we're going to vote on this, we need to be acknowledging that there's 2.4 million requested that is not budget neutral. So where is that coming from? I mean, that's my first question on that. I do think, you know, so it sounds like though there's a very -- there's a likelihood that 2.8 million from the health benefit line that you're talking about, may be available to put towards this -- no. Dr. Roshell is shaking her head, no."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I think it's probably less likely that it will be available based on the kinds of things that we're encountering, going through this BHCC construction process, which is why again, we're hesitant to just go ahead and release the funds now. But, you know, we may end up finding out that all the bad stuff that we have to make changes for and incur cost on, they've already identified and the anything else that comes up, you know, will be less costly. But at this

point, we -- we would prefer to keep that in the bucket, at least until we get through the contracting phase on the DD facility and have a true construction cost estimate that we can then log in on."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So there may be some money there, but we're -- I feel -- it's feeling very much not like a sure thing, so."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "In other words, if we're going to make a decision today, based on what we know, there's only 6.64 million covered of that \$9 million request. Okay, moving on to other potential sources of funding here. I mean, the Chairman has said many times, if you're going to spend it, you got to tell us where it's coming from. And, you know, was sort of applauding Commissioner Ellis for being budget neutral. And so, you know, I just want to go through some of the other conversations we've had and where some additional funding can come from. I don't think I mentioned this when I was going through my list, but I will mention that in my initial request I had, and per the social media that Commissioner Hall referred to, I had put several line items in for both the DA's office and the Sheriff's office. And I want to say -- I want to say this, I think, you know, we all know that, that there's headlines right now, and there's all this salacious stuff going around. There's a lot of conversation about the DA, and over the past year, there's been various conversations about the jail and the Sheriff and what have you. But I think it would be -- we would be remiss if we used our budget as a means of, you know, punishment in any way. And I think we have to acknowledge that both the Sheriff's department and the District Attorney's department are very large departments with a lot of really great people doing really good work. And that what they're doing in both cases are, you know, not about one particular person or one particular case or any of that stuff. And I think we also may choose to acknowledge or not, I see that we have had not only a backlog in our justice system across all of the departments because of COVID, that we -- but that we entered into COVID, with a backlog in all of our justice departments. And so there's this sort of consistent bell ringing that goes on here about, we give them all this money, and they don't perform. But they've all -- they would all tell you that we don't -- we have never given them enough money. And they are struggling to perform, and they have struggled to perform all along. So while we had something -- like, I don't know if Commissioner Hall had the exact number, but we had a significant number of requests. I believe the Sheriff's requests were totaling something like 39 million or something like that, of the additional funding. And I don't know what the total for the DA's office was. At one point or another, it was probably closer to ten, I'm not quite sure. But I do think that -- and I know everybody on this Board cares about justice in this County and serving that need."

So I had put some detailed line item request, but after some discussions and thought and consideration, it made more sense in my mind to sort of do the same thing that I'm asking us to do around healthcare, which is to create some sort of criminal justice reserve and to put some funds toward that. And at a minimum, I feel like that can be done in a budget neutral way at the minimum with \$8 million, because there is \$8 million in the inmate welfare fund that there is no plan to spend. It is just sitting there in non-agency under inmate welfare fund. And from our conversation at the last meeting, Madam CFO, you mentioned that the expenses that we intend to spend are around 3 million. And so there's about 8 million left. And I feel like that money, because especially because the intention originally of the inmate welfare one -- fund was to serve the inmates, that the inmates are served if their cases move faster. They are served if, you know, there are more staff in the facility, et cetera. So I think if we were to create a criminal justice fund, and put a -- the budget neutral 8 million from inmate welfare line into that line, we could then look at each request from the various justice partners one by one as they come up over the course of the year, up to that 8 million, or we could set up a date, which in which they all have to have their additional requests in so that we can prioritize. You know, how we disperse that reserve, I think could be up for discussion. But I think it would make sense to acknowledge that there are needs on the criminal justice side that we should be addressing and that we have 8 million that we can put towards it. So that is, you know, basically a budget-neutral request that I would be making. The other areas where I saw some potential for additional funding was that there is a \$483,000 difference between the minimum reserve, the minimum fund balance reserve amount and what's actually going to be in the fund balance. If you look at the budget as presented on January 10th, there's a \$483,000 difference there. So that's 483,000 that we can put towards some of these other requests. And then Commissioner Arrington, you will be happy to know that I have spent a lot of time digging into non-agency. And in particular, non-agency/other. So I asked for a full accounting of non-agency/other, both last year -- budgeted last year actual, and this year budgeted. And from what -- the information I was given, and I'll be happy to share that with you all, I see some areas where we can potentially deal with the rest of these requests, and keep ourselves budget neutral. And when I say the rest of these requests, I mean, my list, sorry, Commissioner Hall, not your full thing. But there is 29 million listed in non-agency/other. And then the next level down is called contingency. And so there are -- first of all, I just want to say this, I think there's a lot of stuff that's kind of tucked away in non-agency, in particular non-agency/other. That is a little bit concerning to me from a just organizational perspective. For example, there are things in non-agency/other that relate to some inmate expenses, that I feel like should be lumped with the rest of the inmate expenses. And there are -- anyway, there are a variety of contingencies in there. And again, I'm going to try to find the right piece of

paper here, because I have a lot of printouts. But in looking at some of the information, the more detailed information about what was in -- to be clear, I asked Madam CFO yesterday to give me the details of what was in that particular \$29 million line item. And I do have some questions about some of the things that are in there. But -- and there's also a professional services line item under non-agency/other, I had some questions about that as well. But if we go to the contingency in particular, I'm curious about the 10 million that's set up for the debt service around the jail replacement. And I'm wondering, just out of curiosity, from an accounting perspective, why that's not sitting under leases and debts, which is under non-agency as well. Is there a reason for that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No reason other than when we were, you know, building this, we put it into just the regular contingency because we haven't yet issued the debt. So we set this up as a reserve in order to meet the debt service requirement if we move forward with a small issue this year at some point in time in order to fund the initial design costs and such associated with the plan for the replacement jail."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Gotcha. I don't really have a problem with that. Obviously, I think we need, as a project, we need to do. So I'm just wondering, really more why it's sort of there versus with the other debt. But that's just a curiosity question. On the senior transportation contingency, I do sort of have an issue with that, because we agreed on, I think, and -- and budgeted for an amount already that is to -- with some additional changes to the program that we made it the last several meetings where we talked about it. So I'm just sort of wondering why we have an additional 630,000 sitting in there over what was already budgeted."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Dr. Roshell and I had a discussion about that this morning. So I could be clear about this. And we both agree that this 630,000 is actually what was required for us to fully fund the Transdev, which is the fixed-base transportation. And the additional funds of the 1.5 that were in the tranche is the part that's associated with the Common Courtesy Uber/Lyft program. So this was to cover the costs that were presented in the prior year associated with an increase costs for Transdev, their base cost."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, now I'm really confused because it's -- so are you saying that the presentation that you gave us just didn't have \$630,000 in it that we needed? I mean, I don't understand that. We were given a presentation with a -- with totals for both Transdev and the Uber/Lyft program. And so I'm confused about why there's 630,000 that we didn't hear about, because it's tucked away here."



**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Commissioner Barrett, the 630 -- let me back up. When we approved the contract for Transdev, it has an annual incremental increase in that contract already built in, unlike some of the other contracts. So when we presented the cost to the Board for Transdev, it did include the incremental increase for 2024. Where it shows up in the budget is what Sharon described. It was already set aside in this contingency line so that we could ensure that we accounted for it. What the bigger issue was in the presentation was on the trans- on the Uber/Lyft side. That is the uncontrolled cost. The cost for the bus is more controlled. We know every year, what that increase will be. And so we account for that ahead of time. The unknown is Uber/Lyft, we included 1.5 because that's what we came to the Board for. So we know we need at least that. But we anticipate we may be before the Board again a request for additional funds for Uber/Lyft, Transdev is all set."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Well, I'm not going to continue to go down that road. But I also have a question about the Diversion Center because you talked about 2.5 million was already funded. So what is the additional 1.7 million here?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The 1.7 million is the portion of the Diversion Center cost that we initially funded or had a plan to fund out of our ARPA resources. So in the general fund budget in Behavioral Health, we have had about 800,000 in their budget for a Diversion Center. And we needed the 1.7 to make the total 2.5. So we had been planning to cover that 1.7 whenever we finally needed to pay it out of ARPA. But we decided with the adoption of this budget, we needed to go ahead and build it in as a full-recurring cost in the general fund budget. So we put that 1.7 in as a contingency. And I'm pretty sure we actually did this as part of the multiyear planning process that we went through where we went ahead and we accounted for these things that we knew, and it was accounted for in non-agency. And it just hasn't been moved into Behavioral Health's budget because we have not yet actually incurred any of these costs for the Behavioral -- for the Center for Diversion at the Atlanta Detention Center. So once that center is up and running, we will have the resources to meet our annual contribution in the budget, and we will align it all into Behavioral Health's budget."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "And Commissioner Barrett, before your tenure, we as County, were already looking at a diversion option. We were studying, analyzing how the County may stand up a Diversion Center. So that's why the funding is split. Behavioral Health, as a part of that process, the Board had approved \$800,000 several years ago. Each year, we continue to analyze, could not come to a solution, so the \$800 has continued to be placed in Behavioral Health's



budget. When the solution came forward for a joint venture with the City, we simply are now adding the 1.7 million to the 800 that has been in the budget over several years."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I mean again, this just seems to me that these things should be in the various departments they belong in, not with the rest of the spending that's related to that thing. Because this is very disjointed way to get this information. And the only reason I happened to get it is because I was kind of going down this path of where can we find some additional money here to fund things. The word contingency means an unforeseen circumstance. So if you have a contingency account, and you know where all this money is supposed to go and what it's for, it doesn't belong in a contingency account, which is again, not really the point of what we're here for right now. But you got a BHC operating contingency in here. There's just a general contractual increases. There's a soundings contingency of \$1 million. I mean, I think certainly, we can take that million and put it towards some of these budget requests now. What's the difference between a budget request now and a budget request later? I mean --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That million in particular the soundings that is what we typically set aside as the emergency soundings when, you know, when something comes up during the course of the year. So when departments submit their budget soundings request, that is the pool of resources that we're looking at for those."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, well, I'm just going to go back to saying, at the minimum then, we have the 6.4 million you identified, the 483,000 that's at the additional in the fund balance over the reserve. And we have the 8 million that's in the inmate welfare fund. Oh, sorry, also on the non-agency/other waste disposal line item, we are budgeting 520,000 over, when the average for the last couple of years has been 315, and last year's actual was 170-something thousand. So 174, I believe, so there's a couple hundred thousand that we could squeeze out of there as well. There's no reason to budgeting 200,000 additional dollars that we're not seeming to spend. So I guess what I'm getting at here is, and you know, I understand that you all went through these exercises and what have you, but we're asked to look for where we can spend the money, and so that's what I'm doing. And I do believe -- and I also want to be really clear about something else. I asked numerous times for a more detailed-level budget, and I never got it. So, you know, you can -- you can say you're doing a budget neutral thing by just deciding to take money from Elections or Sheriff because you know those things are big pots of money. I was trying to be more thoughtful and actually look through some things, and I wasn't given the opportunity to do that, though I did ask for that documentation multiple times. In any case, I do believe that what's left in -- after

the 8 million, the 6.4, and those couple other little smaller amounts, the 483,170-ish thousand from the waste disposal line, that we're not talking about a lot of money in the grand scheme of the overall budget. I would have to do the calculations really quickly, but it would bring the assumed millage rate up by something like point-1-ish, point-15-ish. Which, to Commissioner Arrington's point, is an assumption. And like I said, I'm willing to be -- to move on the amount in a healthcare reserve or just shift the amount. Maybe it's not the full 8 million, from the inmate welfare fund that goes to a justice reserve, maybe it's five. But at the end of the day, I think that the request I've made can be done, which now, after -- again, after the adjustments I mentioned, was for a total of 25,686,088, could be done budget neutral. And so -- or pretty darn close to it. And so that's what I'm proposing. And it just to -- I know I went off on a lot of tangents here about where to find money. So I'm just going to review again, the things that I'm talking about. Healthcare reserve for 5 million. I'm willing to go down on a little bit on that if need be. Marshal's office at 750; Arts and Culture, accepting my colleagues request at 22.50 million; Summer Youth at 500,000; ORCA at 9 million; a justice reserve between five and 8 million; the 96,000 for State Court; and the federal grant match for the Sheriff of 90,000. So I mean, that's my list. It's 25,686,008, and I think it can be paid for pretty darn close to budget neutral. So you know, I'm happy to have conversations about where we can adjust on that, or if anybody has other ideas about where to find money, but that's where I'm at."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I've been pretty liberal with the time now, so we're -- budget time, I normally am, so everyone can get his or her say in for their constituents. So the motion on before -- on the floor is balanced at the 8.87. What Commissioner Barrett now is proposing is another 25 million that she believes can be paid for through various sources that she's mentioned. Are you making that as a motion?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, point of order. First of all, the current budget on the floor is not balanced, it's \$2 million off."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's not correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "It is correct. Correct -- tell me that that is not sure. The current budget, with the \$9 million ORCA, is not balanced, it's not balanced at 8.87. There's an additional 2 million, whatever it was, plus."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order, we're talking about the general fund budget."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Sorry, the additional request that's on the floor is not a balanced thing at 8.87 because --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order. We're talking about -- you ask a question as respect to the general fund budget."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I don't understand what he's saying right now."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The general fund --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And is going to take another 2.9 million to make up the difference between what's missing from ORCA. Commissioner Barrett is asking, is it going to take another 2 million-plus from general fund to make up the difference to get to the 9.5 million because of the, there's not enough ORCA funds."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, two things. One is the implied precision that 9 million is probably overly precise. In other words, no justice agency has a plan to ramp down to only spend 9 million. The signal that they got from the Board is that they didn't need to stop hiring when we suggested that you stopped hiring. That was somewhat predicate that was a precursor to a \$9 million ramp down. So I think what we would do now is go back and work with the justice agencies on a ramp-down plan, which could be 9 million, could be 7 million, could be seven and a half. And then I can make a commitment that we will find the resources in ARPA, because that's still fungible, too. In other words, we identified two. A third one is the renovations that we would do in this building and the movement of folks from 137 to the Library, we would just scale that back slightly to fit whatever plans. So I think we take the ORCA ramp down out of the equation. And it needs to comport with whatever, both what we will identify as a plan from the justice partners, and then what funding is available, if that makes sense."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Well, then yes, I'll --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Sharon just said there wasn't enough money in --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I know."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- ARPA money. She just said there wasn't enough ARPA money to make up the difference."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, and again, all I'm amended it, Commissioner Arrington, is to say that we can do another reduction in something else that we have allocated that's still outstanding. And the biggest one that we still have

outstanding is these improvements, again, in this building, and the movement of people from 137 to the Library. So that's a \$28 million, I think, allocation. So as an example, cut that by 10 percent, and you've just covered the gap on 9 million. And the 9 million is not even a precise number because there is no plan to ramp down to 9 million, as we sit here today. We'll need to develop that plan."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "In fact, she said it was 14 million."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, 14 million for what?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Needed to extend the ORCA through --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- the end of the year."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So the 9 million is off by 5 million."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, that's a -- that's a fundamentally good point. Because if there's no ramp down, it's 14 million."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Right. And the point that Commissioner Barrett was making was that there was 9 million, but she said there we're 2 million, almost 2.9 million short, because they didn't have enough. They would have to pull another 2.9 million from the general fund, and not to try to make up the difference to meet the 9.5 million."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And I'm suggesting that we shouldn't look to the general fund to do that. We should look, continue to look to ARPA resources to fund a program that clearly qualifies, and then was intended to end. Now, if you -- if the will of the Board was to not see that ramp down, in other words, to continue it kind of at current course and speed, it's 14 million. And that would be more difficult to find with inside the ARPA dollars."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I thought the motion was to fund the ORCA positions through the end of the year."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Just a minute, just a minute, just a minute. So you made -- you talked about your original list, you got -- you got all these lists, it's 25 million. Are you going to make a motion, or not make a motion?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Yeah, I'll make a substitute motion with the 25 million I listed, 9 million of ORCA out of the table having to be covered, 8 million coming from the inmate welfare fund, 480 some-odd million, whatever it was coming from that remaining reserve fund balance, which leaves 8.2-ish million that would need to be covered from other places within the budget, which I believe you what -- your from what you're saying, Mr. County Manager, could be done budget neutral. So that is my request."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Properly moved and second. Let's dispose of that. And I'd appreciate your, no vote, on this amendment and get back to the --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Because?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's a substitute motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And get back to the main motion."

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- on the substitute. And the motion fails; three yeas, four nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Now, back to the main motion, which was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Ellis, you still want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I'll try to be succinct. Sometimes I know that's difficult for me, Mr. Chair on the subject, but I will try to. You know, a good budget framework, definitely when it comes in the context of government, it definitely in the world we're operating in, we should definitely not pass anything that puts us in a position when we rolled around and have to pass a millage rate where we're looking at, potentially looking at a tax increase for our citizens. To me, that's a given. Another part of a good framework for a budget is, you don't adopt something that puts you in a spending position to where you're looking -- where you -- where you get in the following situation, like we are and we seen that we suffered with throughout the course of 2023, based upon the decisions that were made in approval of that budget with addition of funds that we didn't have, really the means to finance, and they really were not well vetted. Budget frameworks are not meant to solve for every type of issue that may exist in society or say, yes, to every ask that comes our way. We've got a duty to try to vet

through these things, and come up with a framework and a budget which we feel like meets, best meets the needs of the County and our priorities and what we're supposed to be doing. Our budget team -- I want to ask our CFO, how long have been engaged in developing governmental budgets? Without giving away anything, I know you started when you were about three."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir, I did. I think my first budget cycle would have been the budget cycle in the fall of 1996."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So, for a while."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "My point with that is, these people know what they're doing. We have entrusted a lot of power to them. We've got a process that's set up for them to kind of develop something that makes some sense, that takes in sort of all of these factors. They have the historical experience in working through why you set contingencies in certain places, why you set numbers in certain -- in a certain way. We've had access to debate and discuss this stuff going back to, when did we start our budget process? August, September-ish, right? So this Board has had ample opportunity to ask lots of questions, get information, so forth. So shame on you if you've just now discovered something you want to look at, looked into and do a deep dive yesterday at 5:00 o'clock, okay? And the onus is on you to do your homework as a Commissioner. This team is not a printing press, they don't have a magic eraser, that's not their role. It's to represent us with a good sound budget that reflects what we directed them to do. And I think they've got a nice job of that. I want to applaud the Vice Chair for putting together a recommended proposal that's here before us. You know, one thing I will say in terms of the framework of a budget, clearly, there are things in here that I do not 100 percent agree with. And there's going to be probably, that's the case for all of us. You're developing a framework, and you're passing something you feel like overall meets its best needs. There's going to be plenty of opportunities for us to come back and debate and discuss individual items within the scope of this budget, which we may disagree with, or we may want to see it done differently when it comes down to actually voting and approving those particular items. There's also going to be plenty of time for us to debate things that may arise in form of -- and we may look at them in the context of a midyear review like process. And there's also the ample opportunity to kind of take a relook at a lot of different things and that type of fashion. We do that every year. So that's going to be that opportunity. You know, to notion to try to paint this budget as something that there's scarcity with, or we're not addressing things like healthcare. I tallied up what we're doing for Grady, what we do through Behavioral



Health, what we do for the Board of Health, that alone is like 80 million bucks. We -- isn't Grady starting up a bunch of neighborhood health centers as well, right? Two, right? So that's going to be going on, right? Irrespective of what we're doing within the scope of what we funded within the scope of this budget. We got a Behavioral Health Center, Crisis Center that's starting up. We're looking, you know, this new Developmental Disability Center, two of them, right? Two Developmental Disability Centers that we're looking at."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "The new developmental will be in South Fulton --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- right."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- and the other developmental disabilities will be the relocation of the one at the North 247."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So my point being is like, if you want to say we're doing something scarcity in terms of, you know, trying to meet, you know, healthcare related needs, check the math. There's a significant investment that this county's made, in new investments that the county will be making next year. Doing something with the Inmate Welfare Fund, after we just went through kind of use and justification that this is the same -- that's the same fell logic that the Sheriff was using when he was spending money out of that. It's not the purpose of it. We brought it in here to make sure it's being used properly. I think that we -- I'm not going to belabor this ORCA thing because I think we got a mechanism with that and it's all spelled out for the County Manager to come back develop a plan around that that falls within the scope of that. You know, so, I think this thing is well put together. I have one ask of the -- one friendly amendment I'd like to ask of the Vice Chair to see if she'd be willing to accept: And that would be, I think, you had an item on there within the scope of the Arts, Vice Chair of around -- was it around 300,000 specific earmark?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Would you be open to a friendly amendment reducing that earmark down to 75 with a differential being moved to the Marshal's office to help supplemental staffing for that?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "That's fine."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Thank you. So that's a -- and I guess with the second or the motion need to accept that, Mr. Chair?"



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes. Commissioner Thorne, you accept that?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Are you done?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yes, sir, I'm done."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor it's; 12:49. We have a ways to go."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The question's being called. Is there a second?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman on the call of the question."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Call the order requires a -- more than a simple majority."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, that's not -- our practice, historically, has been here that we, on the call of the question, requires a simple majority."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Madam County Attorney, can you, please weigh in on that? We just went through this a couple weeks ago."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes, Fulton County's Board procedure do not address this. Robert's Rules call for two thirds of vote of the Commissioners who are present. However, as a small Body, you are authorized to deviate from those rules as is your practice."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Madam County Attorney, we just do five out of seven every time there's a call of the question. Last time there was one two weeks ago, you said it was, okay, because it was only six people here, and two thirds of six was four. So, I mean, either we have rules or we don't."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Our practice, historically, has been that simple majority --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- that's not true."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- on the call of the question."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's not true."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, that's true."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That is false."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On the main motion which is before us now. Let's vote, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item. Let's continue for another 30 minutes or so to see how far we can get."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on the bottom of page 8, **24-0052**, Human Resource Management: Request approval of a Resolution allowing for implementation of the 5 percent COLA for employees in 2024, establishment of a new minimum wage of 38,000 or \$18.27 per hour for employees, and implementation of an updated pay plan based on the second phase of the Segal Company market compensation survey."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0053**, County Manager: Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How much do you have, Mr. Manager?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I think 15 minutes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Mr. Chair, I -- I'm not trusting the County Manager to measure his judgment, but we fail to really do 15 minutes of these things. So I would

either move that we either take a few other items, and can bring the operational report back later, but I'll deflect."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No objections. Continue on. We'll come back to that if we have time on page 9."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 9, Finance, **24-0054**: Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$295,000 to provide annual audit 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; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0055**, Information Technology: Request approval to award a contract without competition in an amount not to exceed \$267,200.35 to provide licenses and professional services required to upgrade the existing agenda management system."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Barrett, question?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'd like to make a motion to hold this. I have some questions about the requirements and what this offer is going to provide; and I want to make sure that it addresses the issues we talked about at the retreat meeting for the boards, authorities, task forces, and commissions and the management of that. So I've spoken briefly to the CIO about it and the County Manager; and I'd just like to make a motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You want to make a substitute motion a hold?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yes please."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Is it time sensitive?"

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, FC CIO, IT:** "No, Commissioners, it's not time sensitive."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, substitute motion to hold. Let's vote, please."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0056**, Registration and Elections: Request approval of qualifying fees for Fulton County offices to be filled in 2024 primary or nonpartisan election."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0057**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders to the total amount not to exceed \$105,000 to provide glass and Plexiglas repair and replacement."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0058**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval of a statewide contract in a total amount not to exceed \$110,000 to provide tires, tubes, and accessories and repair services."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Clerk, let's go."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **24-0059**: Request approval of a statewide contracts in a total amount not to exceed \$800,310 for the purchase of four Class 1 trucks; Vactor Sewer Cleaner; and Excavator for the Department of Public Works."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0060**: Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$611,020 to purchase and deliver 16 law enforcement/administrative vehicles."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "No, no, no that's a previous item."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Clerk, what we doing?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "We doing stuff too fast."

**CLERK GRIER:** "0060."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, 0060."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Oh, it's up there."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm going to ask that we hold this item. I met with the district attorney's office in December; she said that she had requested 5 million in enhancements last year, but she only needed 4 million because she'd already purchased vehicles. So she was going to go down in her amount. So I don't know why she's requesting vehicles now. It could be possibly because she thought we were going to approve the new positions added to her budgets of seven investigators and ten attorneys. Also, in light of all the recent allegations of her department, I don't want to approve any money until those allegations have been addressed. She's been asked to comment on them; she has not. And it is a fiduciary responsibility to make sure that the taxpayers' dollars are spent wisely, therefore, I don't want to deny this request, so I'm making a motion to hold it until the audit is conducted."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Okay, is this time sensitive? Where's Mr. Davis?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "Unfortunately, I can't speak for Madam District Attorney. For DREAM, it's not a time sensitive item. She currently has a functioning fleet of 95 vehicles, so it really depends on the district attorney and her needs as to whether or not it's critical."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Ms. Strong-Whitaker have these vehicles been purchased or ordered or do you know?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "No, sir, they would not be ordered until the Board approves the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- do you have any knowledge as to whether they are time sensitive or not."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "I do not."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Does anybody? All right. Let's --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- Chair, I would say --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- I can't hear you."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, with all due respect, I would say, since -- I would make the assumption if they were time sensitive that we would know if somebody in this actual Assembly Hall would know if that's not a problem I would ask that we hold it till the next Board of Commissioner's meeting."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. It's properly moved and seconded that we hold. Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, do we know if this is replacement vehicles from the existing fleet or is this new? What -- can we get some more details?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "This would be 16 vehicles in addition to her existing fleet; not replacement vehicles."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm good."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion on the floor is to hold."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0061**: Request approval for the use of Beltline TAD Funds in the amount of \$2,797,780."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0062**: Request approval to increase spending authority in the amount of \$260,000 to provide additional tree removal services."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, **24-0063**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance: Request approval to amend an existing contract to provide certain provisions of the contract agreement regarding compensation."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 11, Commissioners Action Items, 23-0964 --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I know we're about bumping up against the lunch hour, I might suggest that we take up the two Board appointments and then bring the



Commissioner's Action Items and Operational Report after lunch because I think that might take a little bit more time for discussion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any objections?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hearing none. Okay."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 12, **24-0068**, Board of Ethics. The Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce has recommended Chris Miller for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending February 12, 2027."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "This person is one of the incompetent people that refuses to follow the rules of the Fulton County Code of Ethics. This person has violated the Georgia Open Meetings Act, the Georgia Open Records Act, as well as the Georgia Constitution, and the United States Constitution. I employ you not to reappoint him."

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0071**, Board of Registration and Elections. The Fulton County Republican Party has nominated Julie Adams for a Full Board Appointment to an unexpired term ending June 30, 2025."

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

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch, Executive Session, real estate, litigation, and -- what's the other? What's the other one? I can't --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- personnel. Personnel?"

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "I need a second, please."

(Executive Session began at 1:05 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection we will resume the regular order of business; items from Executive Session. Madam County Attorney, are you ready? I can't hear you."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Chairman, yes, I'm ready. Is there -- out of Executive Session, is there a motion to approve the request for a presentation contained in Item 1 of the Executive Session Agenda?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Second, is there a motion to authorize the County Attorney to forgo appeal in the matter of Calvin Brock versus Fulton County EEOC charge No. 410-2021-02604; and to initiate satisfaction of the judgment in the approximate amount of \$902,000 -- excuse me -- in the approximate amount of \$902,487 along with other nonmonetary relief as ordered."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. There's a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Cast your vote, please."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And finally, is there a motion to approve the consent order between the County and the Environmental Protection Department, state of Georgia including among other things; a payment in the amount of \$113,660."

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "No other further action items from Executive Session."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam County Attorney. Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 11, Commissioner's Action Item --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What? All right, we can do the operational report."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay. On page 8, **24-0053**, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "All right. I want to amend my opening comment. I have 15 minutes. I have no idea what you would have, but thank you, Commissioners for receiving this operations report. We're excited about this new format and the expectations. We'll take a deep dive in to one of the strategic areas each month. This one is Arts and Library, so fortunately Gayle and AI, if you guys will come on down -- will be here to answer any questions as Dr. Roshell leads that part. We'll also continue to provide an updates ORCA as well as justice scorecard reporting; but encourage you to reach out to responsible justice partner. If you a questions in detail or want them at the meeting. We will also keep the ARPA financial summary included, given the requirement to include that program for discussion that we had earlier today indicative of that. And we'll continue to include the summary on general fund financials vacancy rates and the like. One of things just highlights on the library section, I do want to underscore how popular this service is. Again, Dr. Roshell will talk about it. But with 2.2 million in physical circulation, and now 1.8 million in digital, it remains our most popular service. With AI here, we'll be able to speak to the last three major projects that we have at East Point, MLK, and Peachtree which will complete the extensive renovation program that we engaged in a number of years ago. These will be the Library Bond program. ORCA -- switching gears to that -- has disposed of a hundred and 26,000 cases now; has 21,600 to go, so we are closing in on that goal. We have hired eight additional people in December. But need to begin now the planning for a glide path down, and we will bring something back to you for your approval in terms of how that will be funded and staffed. The jail population was down to 2743; that's noteworthy. And that's a thousand less than the high watermark, so that is good news. And 1737 at the Rice Street jail. We do have 1310 folks on ankle monitors, and we do have an RFP on the street now for a provider going forward; and we have some dates in the document for your review. We continue to heavily focus on jail maintenance and Joe Davis can provide some highlights from the Blitz Program and daily activity. I do -- and just confirmed this in a meeting with the Sheriff yesterday and with EMSI helping to

keep close tabs on this program. We have repaired 1500 light or door issues since this began back in October, so I'm proud of that program and how it is picking up steam. So again hopefully this format you'll find to have a little bit more balance than we've had previously, and one that will be helpful to you and to the citizens. So, Dr. Roshell, I'm going to let you talk about our most popular program; and then Gayle and Al, if you'll come on up, we'll certainly give you an opportunity to chime in and answer any questions."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you, Dick. If we can have the presentation, please. So while the presentation is coming up today, we will highlight three of the improvement projects. Want to thank the Board for today's approval of the TAD Funds at 2.7 million to round out those renovations, and Al Collins will speak to that. Overall Fulton County does continue to be a leader in the Arts and Culture space; and we actually measured that performance. On the next page, page 6, is a screenshot of our performance dashboard; Mike Rowicki and his team do an outstanding job of capturing key performance indicators which are available for the public to review. The take away here is that both departments Arts and Culture as well as the Library continue to over perform against they're -- they're key indicators. They over perform in the number of people reached; they over perform in the number of productions that we project to host and the number of constituents that have access to our services; and they over perform in the library on satisfaction as well as circulation. Next page, please. This is a screenshot of these virtual and physical circulations. The graph shows a steady increase in our virtual circulations. The Board approved additional resources for the library to really lean into providing access to virtual resources, and we have had a tremendous connection with -- especially our school system -- through new programs that allow our students to use their library card as their -- their student ID as their library card and access to many others services. We're hearing from our teachers who also now have access to these virtual resources to supplement their class lesson in places that they previously were spending funds out of their own pockets to make these resources available. So, I want to just now turn it to Gayle Holloman to talk a bit about how these resources have impacted customer satisfaction which continues to trend above 90 percent."

**GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, FC LIBRARY:** "Good afternoon. Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Good afternoon Commissioners and everyone. We're just very excited in the library to know that our patrons are really, really finding the libraries to be a benefit to them and a part of their lives. So we're now at the point of having an average of 95 percent satisfaction rate with regard to programs for all ages, customer service, as well as our online resources usage. So it's been a phenomenal time period and it's just getting more and more apparent that what we do is really useful and really needed and

wanted in supported; and that's the thing that we like the most. Your support is always overwhelming and we thank you for it."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Next slide, please thank you, Gayle. Earlier today with agenda item 0061, you did approve the use of the Beltline TAD funds for not only library renovations in three libraries, but a host of other improvements including an upgrade to our self-checkout system. So now all of our libraries will have an improved self-checkout system that will allow our patrons to self-checkout on their own; and not only self-checkout books, but to pay any fines or fees right there at the self-checkout system. So, Al, I'll just turn it over to you to review the update on how these TAD funds are going to be used with these specific three libraries."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Now, Al you say -- you know, I said 15 minutes so."

**AL COLLINS, ADMINISTRATOR, FC LIBRARY:** "I'll respect that time limitation. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Before I get started to talk about these, I'd like to echo what Dr. Roshell said about the approval of the use of the TAD funds. We appreciate your support in all of this; we really do. And with that approval, we can now complete the projects that we have in front of us, which I think is going to add significantly to all of the libraries across the board as well as the three libraries that we have remaining. What you see in front of you right now is the East Point Library and its revised floor plan and modified elevation of that building that you're looking at. And we've added quite a number of, I think, important functions to that building including a new multipurpose room, a place for teens to come and gather; we added an additional study room. We've increased the staff area for more functionality for the staff, and we've added a story time room, a craft room, and a place for the branch manager to be housed as an addition to that building. And it's all done within the aesthetic of the existing building; so I think it's going to be a very handsome completion to this building, and I know complete one of the three remaining projects that we have at this point. Next slide, please. This is the MLK Library and again you're looking at the floor plan in a major view as you enter the library. The floor plan has been modified significantly in that we've removed the children's area from the main floor; we've put all the children's functions in the mezzanine. And that's enabled us to separate the children from the adults as far as we can get it within this building. We haven't grown this building at all; we've just rethought how it's being used. We've taken all of the staff functions; we've relocated them to the main floor and centralize them to the library. We've added a teen center; we've increase the number of adult computers for the space, and as well we've added two study rooms. So this library will now have the offerings that all of the other libraries

have at this point. To make it relevant to the community as well, we've added some artwork to that major elevation which reflects Dr. King; and it reflects the -- what the significant building and people within that community. Next slide. This is the Peachtree Library, and we've also made a number of adjustments to this floor plan including the addition of a small meeting room; the addition of a teens area. We centralized all of the children's functions and we put them behind a small wall so that we can contain the children in one zone and that's what you see in the blue in the picture above. As well, we've centralized all of the adult seating for reading in one area and that's the second picture that you're seeing above. This is a more simplified floor plan for this facility, and I think it's going to function very well as we move forward. All of these facilities will be done by the end of June of this year, and going into the fall of the year we'll be complete with Peachtree. So, at that point as Dick has said, we will have concluded a pretty major library renovation build program. Thank you very much."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you, Al. Now, we'll move on to Arts and Culture. That department as far as performance is continuing to over perform. We have an award-winning program fashions arts, cultural, and education led by David Manuel; and I will turn the conversation over to him to talk about the FACE program as well as our Future Labs Initiative."

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "Hello, Commissioner. David Manuel, Arts and Culture, Director. FACE which stands for fashion, arts, culture, and education just celebrated its second year. It's really made an impact in the county locally as well as nationally. We've invited people from all over the United States to be part of this program that really highlights fashion, art, and culture; and we're really excited about the partnerships that we've had. We partnered with Atlanta Public Schools -- high school students as well as Fulton County students who are really focusing on fashion, art, and culture. We were able to work with Clark Atlanta University. We actually sent to students to Paris to study fashion workshop as well as be part of Paris Fashion Week which was a tremendous program for them. This year, we're going to be partnering with SCAD; and SCAD is really big on fashion, so we're really branching off and we're really opening up our platform to really celebrate and highlight artists who live in Fulton County; and not only broadening platform locally, but also on a national level. We've been a part of New York Fashion Week as well as Miami Art Basel, and everywhere we go, we bring Fulton County artist with us."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Next slide, please."

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "Future Labs Initiative: We're located and we have a space in Underground Atlanta. Future Lab is where technology



and public art intersect. We're the only government in the United States that has a program like the Future Lab project. We host three resident artists, we provide them with the equipment; we also provide them with a stipend that is actually paid for by one of our partners, MARTA Artbound, and we put together programs that really highlight animation, scanning, projection, laser mapping, it's a really exciting programs. We have workshops and programs almost every weekend at the Underground Atlanta and we're really making an impact on the AI world as well as the digital format."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you, David. And finally Commissioners, we wanted to highlight community partnerships in the north and south. Many of the communities that we serve that previously had a physical building of an arts center, we are continuing to deliver service; and the service model is in collaboration with artists and organizations who are a part of those communities. And I just want David to highlight how we are continuing to deliver arts through the entire county."

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "Yeah, so our motto is 'We meet people where they are' which means we might take arts to the street. So we go in to the Senior Centers; we're going to Rec Centers and we provide several different types of program anywhere from ceramics to mapping to drawing. You might find us at the Chattahoochee Nature Center doing nature walks with drawing with adults as well as children. We do educational programs with our seniors and we're getting ready to introduce a new program for our senior citizens and it's called Dance. We're getting them to move. We're giving them the exercise and we're really getting them to have a hands-on experience with how we come to them to provide the best of the best."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you, David. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my section of the report."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. Any questions from the Board while we've got Dr. Roshell, Gayle, David, AI here?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Don't -- yes, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I just want to take this time to thank you all. You all do a lot of hard work, a lot of long hours. Sometimes you even get criticism I don't really think it's fair. And -- but you take it with a smile. And so, I just want to openly tell you thank you will and we appreciate the great work you're doing".



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any other questions or comments? All right. That's it, Mr. Manager?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Thank you, sir. I mentioned some of the highlights from project ORCA. You might, if you would Madam Clerk, perhaps go to -- go to page 21 -- no, excuse me, 20. Just give you a visual and for the public's benefit on the continued case reduction: As I mentioned a hundred and 26,000 plus cases is now resolved. If you'll go to the -- if you'll go to page 22, Madam Clerk -- it just shows the staffing which is where we'll be now starting the new year. And then page 24 is the justice system scorecard; again if you recall, we created a baseline performance in May of '23, so anything that's shone against that baseline is either an increase or decrease, so you can get a view of things like length of stay getting better, jail population, unindicted getting better. And then finally, the measure on page 26 -- if you'll go to that Madam Clerk -- shows the decline in jail population which was of course the penultimate measure. We're there any -- and then the last, I think, chart to just -- if someone is doing that -- page 31 is the dates for the ankle monitor RFP. Felicia just informed me that due to a number of 90 something questions, we had to extend the proposal due date. So, Felicia do we have a new dew date?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Yes, the new due date is February 1st. We received over 90 questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You said, due to a number of what?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, FC PCC:** "Questions. We've received over 90 questions that we had to respond to, so we had to extend the due date to February 1st."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "On the topic of the monitors, could we put together a slide, you know, for future reports that will show not just a number of people on the monitors, but the length and time in which people have been on monitor; and to the extent possible, also show any people in those categories that are not indicted. I think that will be helpful if we to see."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes. We'll do."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 28, jail population facility utilization: For the past six months, there has not been fully occupied. What is the status of that?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am, or you talking about AC --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- Marietta."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Marietta. I don't have -- it shows fully occupied. I don't have an answer. Are you saying why is it fully occupied?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Why has it not been fully occupied in six months."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, I think Marietta -- the way that one reads, there's no beds available, beds in use 50 unless I'm misreading it. I think it is fully occupied."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Page 28. You're saying that it's fully occupied at 50?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Fully. Okay, thank you. And hold on one second. Let me make sure. Oh, and do we have a status of the Department of Justice investigation yet?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I'll defer to the County Attorney on that."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "You're asking if there's a status report on --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- on the Justice Department Investigation."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It is ongoing and we haven't reached a milestone wherein they've made any recommendations -- excuse me. Made any findings as of yet."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "They haven't provided any input whatsoever?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "As they go, if they see anything that seems urgent, they have been pointing those things out to the county and to the Sheriff's office in order to give us the opportunity to address those urgent matters as we go, rather than waiting and incorporating them into a report which may take -- we don't know how long it's going to take; but for example, has taken a couple years in some instances in other

jurisdictions. And so, in the interest of promoting safety at the jail anything that they see of an urgent nature is brought our attention immediately, and then we provide a response as to how that's been address."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, so they have been consistently providing input just on a needed basis? Based on what they wanted to reveal to us that needs to be addressed."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "They have been communicating anything they observed that they think requires immediate attention."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "okay. And is that information confidential or is it available publicly? Does it get shared with the Board of Commissioners because I haven't seen anything?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "If you would like to be updated on a regular basis, we can provide that every time it is provided. Some of them are housekeeping matters. Anything that is systemic or significant -- significantly sophisticated in nature, would more likely be incorporated into their final report."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so, when was the last time they communicated anything to the county?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Not counting informal communications as their teams come through the jail in the process of conducting their investigation, there was a letter indicating things that they have observed in November of 2023."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so, the communications that have been provided to the county, I would definitely like to see those. There's been a lot of inquiries from my constituents about, you know, what's going on with the DOJ investigation, have they provided input, when has it been provided, to who has it been provided, and what's, you know, how are we responding? And so, since that information is not confidential --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- point of order, Mr. Chair. I think we're going in to issues which potentially get in to the arena of Executive Session."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm sorry. And how does that get in to Executive Session?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It is going on investigation. What I was going to offer is that I could discuss with you what regular matters would be reported to the

Board along with an analysis of whether or not there is an exemption or reason for -- to maintain confidentiality during the pendency during the investigation."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's why I ask was there confidential information, so I appreciate that and thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I just have a [indiscernible.] I just had a question about the -- so at Rice Street at the moment there's 506 that are not occupied? Is that the number -- like, what is the number we would need to be doing the blitz stuff in terms of like, how many people have to be cleared out of an area so that it can be main -- is that later?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, we're coming right to it."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Then I will withhold -- I withdraw my questions."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Other questions, comments; if not."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "All right, great. So a follow-up to that question, if you'll -- Madam Clerk, if you'll go to page 36, and I'm going to Joe Davis, whose been doing a terrific job leading the jail blitz effort; and Joe, you can address that question, but then give an overview of this progress and the tremendous amount of work that has been done since this began."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** Good afternoon, Commissioners. To answer the question directly: any given housing zone that we occupy to do to complete the jail blitz affects roughly 224 inmates unless were on a higher floor where there is single inmate cells. And so, at which point that will go down to about a hundred and 12 inmates. But right now 224 roughly are being displaced. While we're doing the jail blitz; as you know, the jail blitz has been ongoing since its inception in the third quarter of last year. You'll see on slide 36 before and after pictures of a actual housing zone that has been completed. This is two south which was the second area that we completed. As you know an overall view of the blitz on slide number 37, you'll see that our first blitz unit one took us about three months to complete. We have roughly five plus contractors all working in the same space, so it's take a little bit of time for us to get up to speed and understand how they need to work. Their work needs to integrate with each other. By the time we got to the second blitz unit, two south, we completed that in roughly six weeks. As we progress to four north, we encountered a housing unit with extreme

damage, more so than what we encountered on one's north and two south. So we're projecting about six to eight weeks on that one. We're about 50 percent through the work. In addition to what we're doing with the jail blitz, there are also certain housing cells or zones that are unoccupied right now due to extensive repairs being needed in those areas that we're currently working on. And when I see extensive repairs primarily due to previous fire restoration and work that needs to be done that has some widespread impact throughout housing zones; as well as a high degree of vandalism that has occurred in the jail, to the extent that we're having to retrace a lot of wires and things of that nature. But we're projecting about another eight weeks for those to be completed as well. Just to speak to -- on slide number 38 -- some things that we're doing to try to improve the overall process: Number 1, the Sheriff's office has complete - - consented to conducting a full jail wide survey with their executive team or senior jail leadership team; and that was done on December the 18th. Once those inspections are done, they'll then forward it to our maintenance contractor to get or establish work orders. They're going to be doing that once a quarter. And so, that will make sure that we have eyes on all problems in the jail as much as humanly possible. To augment that effort, Johnson Controls, our maintenance vendor is also going to be conducting weekly inspections throughout the entire jail in partnership with the Sheriff's office as we will need escorts to inspect how occupied housing areas. But that will take place three housing units per week. That allows us to see all housing units throughout an entire 30 day period. The same result will incur which is work orders created for things identified -- those things identified vetted with the Sheriff's office, priority discussed, and then work crews to be dispatched to address. So right now, we're roughly completing 95 percent of all work orders; and when I say all work orders, meaning corrective maintenance work orders, i.e. something that is broken that needs to be fixed. We're doing that within about a 36 hour period of time. We're also in around about 84 percent; and as you see on slide 39 as our overall preventive maintenance work in the jail. Important to note that when this slide was prepared, preventive maintenance work is typically scheduled to occur at any time during the month, so as we still have another week left in the month, I expect that percentage of completion to move into the 90 percentile range. And that's all we have. Are there any questions?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Davis. Looks like you get your team -- you and your team are doing great work over there. I'm just wondering -- I see, you know, three months to get one thing done, six to eight weeks to get something else done; how long does it take for them to tear it up after y'all finish fixing?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "That varies, Commissioner Arrington. It could very well be the next day; it could be the next month. It just varies. We do have certain work orders that we are already addressing in the two areas that have already been completed."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "One of the things we asked for yesterday in a meeting with the Sheriff's office and EMSI is, for lack of a better term is, what's the shelf-life of a repaired unit? So they're developing that metric where we can really see to answer that, you know, objectively. And then also to answer the kind of follow-on question that is are we always staffed appropriately with our contractors as well as the escorts that are needed to make those repairs based on whatever that shelf-life is. So I think it's definitely a huge challenge. I want to get some numbers around it that we can attempt to manage, too."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, thank you. Looks like great work. You know we got to fill the gap until we can get the replacement jail, so thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I agree with, Commissioner Arrington. Great work. I appreciate the fact that we're now going to be doing weekly inspections of the cells. I think that will greatly reduce -- not the vandalism, but the degree of vandalism, and possibly the weapon making that's going on in the jail as well, so I applaud those efforts; and hope we see a difference here soon."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, just on this specifically, I mean to get a sense of sort of this -- the scope of this, I mean, the before and after, right? I mean, because the pictures look pretty, right? But I want to make sure this isn't, like, you know, pictures on the Internet or something where you got, you know, the guy over here that's 290 pounds and then he's like a hundred and 75 and you know, rip kind of thing. There's no distortion, but can you give us a sense of sort of behind, you know, the door what that looks like and just how extensive this is because on certain aspects, I mean, I look at these pictures and sort of -- well, gives me some questions about some other stuff, right, if we were to do this within the scope of the whole building. And what that might do to the extended useful life of the building. And I don't want to get too far ahead of myself, but I want to try to understand this a little bit better. That this is something a lot more than just, you know, repainting the walls and cleaning up some cracks in the floors."



**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "Yes, sir. Thank you for your question, Commissioner Ellis. So what you see here is a picture; photos from two south housing zone 300. There are proximally 112 beds in this particular housing unit. And the scope of work for the blitz is quite extensive. You heard me mention, previously, that we have five contractors working on top of each other trying to get the work done. The actual painting of the doors and the floors and the walls, that's literally the last step of the process after repairs or made. If you'll look at the door that's labeled 307 for example, you'll see -- 306, excuse me. You'll see a green light on the locking mechanism; that's what we call a door position switch. It tells me if the door is actually locked or not. One of the things that we experience when we go into a housing zone is inmates leaving doors open and not closing them fully; and as a result they try to stuff the lock, and they try to slam the door. Over time -- as you notice this is a 35 year old building -- the doorframes itself starts separating from the concrete wall. We have to spend quite a bit of money per door to restore the frame in place; do a lot of welding. Then we have to work on inside the cell where inmates have tried to use the lights, the electrical infrastructure for the lights to light cigarettes and things of that nature and other contraband. A lot of times we're having to rewire. We're also replacing all of the lights in the cells with super max high-security lighting that ultimately can't be broken with a sledgehammer. We are making repairs to the sinks and toilets where in some cases the water supply was interrupted; you know, the fixture maybe cracked and we have to replace it. It's their stainless steel, so in cases we were able to reweld those. We have to do a lot of work with the locking mechanism themselves making sure that they function and/or operable from the housing security tower remotely. We also have to make sure there is in each cell a duress button that notifies the housing tower that an inmate has duress; and it's a critical safety feature in the jail. A lot of times the vandalism that we see, inmates are picking at light switches; they get to the wires, they pull the wires completely out of the wall which requires us to retrace wires from each individual cell back to a common electrical room. Moving out into the day rooms outside of the individual cells, we make several repairs not only in the walls where we've had inmates digging through the concrete walls over time; we have to redo those walls. But probably one of the most significant and impactful repairs that we're making is a upgrade to the showers in the jail where we or replacing essentially a tile material that was designed to be pulverize if picked at by inmates, so they couldn't be used to fashion weapons, but it doesn't hold up over time and you have to make repeated repairs. And over time when not reported, those showers are in horrible conditions. So we're going back with a proprietary coating developed by one of our contractors, and that's like a three to four step process; it makes the shower walls and floors impervious to blunt objects being able to pick at it, go through it; and when we do that work, it entails us taking out the lights, the shower controls, the water and everything and they do their



coating, we have to come in and reinsert the shower controls and things of that nature. And then last but not least, we are when necessary replacing the ceiling tiles in the dayrooms that have been damaged either due to dust, or smoke, and things of that nature; as well as improving the lighting in the dayroom where we're taking out the old florescent light fixtures and replacing them again with a high lumen count, as well as super max wall lighting that cannot be destroyed. And so, that's pretty much the extent in each particular zone that we go into. There's a different level or magnitude of repairs that are necessary based on how that floor was operated; but generally speaking that is the scope of work that we find ourselves doing in each housing units."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "In terms of the work that is being down here, I mean, it's been some time since we've gone through and done this extensive of a, you know, renovation?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "Yes, at least 14, 15 years."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So in terms of useful life, I mean, you know, this type of overhaul should be providing a fairly significant future runway on usability of this if people are properly supervised."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And remind me again in terms of how many different units we have. This is one -- how many -- how many total do we have of these?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "There were 13 housing units total in the jail."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thirteen housing units. And we've done how many to date?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "We've done -- we're on our third."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Third?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And we've got -- we've completed three or we're working through three."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "We're 50 percent through the third."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "50 percent through the third. And then on deck we have -- what's our on deck plans?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M:** "Our next unit -- we're in four north now; we'll be going to five -- excuse me -- four south next which is down the hall. And then we'll be working our way up. We are having discussions about whether or not we might need to alter the order of operation due to the level of damage in other housing zones and whether or not that takes priority. But it's all based upon viable bed space for the Sheriff's office."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Thank you, Mr. Davis."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, I think that concludes our report. What's left are the ARPA financials and we'll be -- given today's direction, doing a reset of those, bringing back an ORCA plan as well as a recommendation about reallocation of those dollars, so we'll hold that until the next meeting."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 11, Commissioner's Action Item, **23-0964**: Requested approval of a Resolution directing an external review of the Board of Ethics; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Hall. Any discussion? Motion is to approve. Let's vote."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0965**: Request approval of Resolution to revoke every action taken by the Fulton County Board of Ethics from January 1st, 2014 through December 20th, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "23-0966: Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2 Division II of the Fulton County Code to disband the Board of Ethics and to replace it with a slate of ethics hearing officer."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall -- strike that. Commissioner Arrington; it's seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0064: Request approval of a Resolution directing an external review of the actions and procedures of the Board of Ethics over the past five years."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "This is for an audit? Oh, okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "This is an audit. Last time, it was, I think, some pause because it was 10 years, so I shortened it to five years."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0065: Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2 Division II of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to create a new code section 2-80.1 requiring the appointment of an interim ethics hearing officer where there exists a conflict of interest between the Board of Ethics and any party filing a complaint or any party accused of violating the Code of Ethics."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Natalie Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0066: Request approval of Resolution to allow for waiver of a signature requirement, if any, for traffic citations issued by the Fulton County Police

Department for violations that occur within unincorporated Fulton County if a motorist refuses to sign the citation."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I would like for the Chief of Fulton County Police to come forward. I want to ask him a few questions, please."

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "Good afternoon. Wade Yates, Chief of Police."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chief Yates. Quick question: Since -- to my understanding this is not been a problem with your department, what do you have in place or what is being done now to make sure that it's not a problem? Can you speak to that?"

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "Yes, ma'am. So, if someone refuses to sign a traffic citation, we simply right refused and hand them their copy. If they don't come to court, we serve them with a summons to appear in court or take care of the ticket over the phone or online. Then their license is automatically suspended and sometimes a bench warrant gets issued for them. So there's really no purpose for us to do anything other than right refused on the ticket and hand it to them."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So, I guess what I'm asking you -- let may be careful how I ask you this, okay. I want to be supportive of law enforcement, but I do not want to be or put you in a situation of over policing or taking it overboard. And so, the certain way that you all have been doing it -- and how long have you all been doing it that way?"

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "I've been with the department for 30 and a half years and it's been done that way for that period of time for sure."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And in that 30 and a half years that you've been doing it that way, have you all ever had a death, had a injury, had anything to the contrary that rose out of someone refusing to sign a ticket?"

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "No because we're trying to de-escalate the situation, not escalate it. And so, if there's a confrontation -- already a traffic stop is somewhat confrontational."

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

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "And the average person in the United States has one dealing with the police, and it is receiving a ticket. That's the most common way to encounter the police. And if we're trying to always de-escalate, why would we escalate the situation and say, well, now we're going to arrest you because you didn't sign this."

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

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "And you've already been lawfully serve and I just don't see the point in forcing someone to go post a bond because they won't sign a ticket, when if you don't handle the ticket, you're going to get your license suspended anyway. So there's just not a point that I'm aware of that would bring any advantage to forcing someone to sign a traffic ticket."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So, Chief Wade, based on what you're telling me, there's no need for this. You all are doing what you need to do and I commend you all for doing a great job. Thank you."

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Chief, so it sounds like you're not opposed to this because you're already implementing it?"

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "Correct. Regardless of what action the Board chooses to take, we're not going to arrest someone who refuses to sign a ticket."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That sounds great. I'm sure Deacon Johnny Holloman would have preferred to have been in Fulton County whether the city of Atlanta when he lost his life because an officer tried to make him sign a ticket. So, you know, the purpose behind me bringing this forward is just make sure that we don't have any incidents like the one that happened to Deacon Johnny Holloman in the city of Atlanta. Thank you for your professionalism; for you and your staff. You're already virtually implementing this policy anyway. So thank you again."

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "Yes, sir."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Chief, thank you for everything that you are doing and certainly for doing this the right way all along. Do you already have a written policy that says this or is this just the way it's been done?"

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "It's not written in our policy. I'm not opposed to putting it in our policy."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah. I agree with Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. It doesn't seem necessary in terms of what is actually happening; but then I will support this because I understand what Commissioner Arrington is trying to do here given what happened in city of Atlanta. And I do think us kind of standing up and saying, you know, this is now a written policy; we've been doing this all along. But I agree we need to make it clear that y'all have been above reproach on this all along, but I think having it as a written policy is not a bad idea in light of what happened in Atlanta."

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "Yes, ma'am."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'm good. My concerns have been addressed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Let's vote. Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Chief for the work that you're doing in this area. But I do think it helps to just cover you and your officers for us to pass this today because we don't want a repeat of what happened in Atlanta. And also I saw in a recent report where I believe it was the city of South Fulton who passed a similar resolution -- that is correct? Okay, but thank you, Chief."

**CHIEF WADE YATES, FC POLICE:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I would say maybe we encourage other cities as well."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I will accept that as a friendly amendment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anybody else; Madam County Attorney, Mr. Hermon? Let's vote, please favorably, I hope."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 11, **24-0067**: Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to acknowledge the importance of digital equity;

to urge Congress to renew or extend affordable connectivity program through 2024 so that all qualifying households in Fulton County will have access to affordable high-speed Internet service and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, colleagues. I'll be really brief. This is just an urging Resolution to our federal level folks to continue the ACP program through 2024. It's a bill that's already being considered at the federal level, but there are Republicans and Democrats all across the country that are sending urging letters in this regard and creating urging Resolutions. This is a program that currently serves 23 million people across the country; and it serves here in Fulton County 15 percent of our households. So there are 15 percent of households that may have to drop their Internet service if they're not able to have this ACP program continue which will affect everything from their ability to have their kids successfully do their schoolwork; to job applications, and telehealth, and all the other things that we know go along with having Internet access. All that to say, it's just an urging Resolution and I ask for your support."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anybody else? Let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 13, 24-0069, External Affairs: Presentation of the 2024 State Legislative Session Update."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today and I'll just as if someone can please pull up the slides --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- speak up, Ms. Corbitt."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just asking someone to, please pull up our slides. We are -- today is our first presentation of the 2024 Legislative Session, and we will give you just a quick update about some of the bills that we are tracking and hear any feedback that you may have. Next slide, please. This slide is just an overview of the priorities; with these top three being the priorities that we are giving the most attention during this session. Next slide, please. Quickly, the legislature convened on January 8, and we are now officially, I guess, in the third week of session; although last week were joint hearings on the



budget. Which brings us to our next slide, please -- one of the top highlights is really about the budget and about some of the items we're tracking. This year we just had an overview of some of the top line items in the Governor's budget. But the top one is about behavior health and developmental disabilities -- which I'm going to go ahead in to the next slide. The behavior health crisis center as you all recall was funded in the FY 24 budget; we received essentially the first half of that funding. After some modifications from the Governor's office, we ended up with about 5.6 million for the first six months of operation. Commissioner Tanner, who leads the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities asked for the second 5.6 million which gets us to 11.2 million. Unfortunately, the budget that was released does not include the full 11.2 million, and we're about 1.8 million short. So we're currently seeking support from our delegation to make up that gap. And the 11.2 million is the amount -- the annual amount of the contract with Grady to operate the Behavior Health Crisis Center. They have scheduled and really evaluated what it would take to operate that facility fully; so we have talked with members of our delegation and sort their support as the state considers the FY 25 budget to get the full 11.2 million as annual funding in that. So, we'll make sure that all of you have those additional details. Currently, the state is considering the appropriations subcommittees are considering modifications to the FY 24 budget and have not yet moved to the FY 25 budget in great detail. But expect to see some additional conversations in the next couple weeks about that. Next slide, please. Also, wanted to mention that we've had conversations with some of our members about jail funding and exploring the options around a potential sales tax, fees, and other sources of revenue. So those discussions are ongoing. We don't have additional information that we can share at this time, but we want you to know that we are engaging in that conversation. Also want to mention that, I believe, you're all aware that the Senate Public Safety committee has a subcommittee specifically looking at the Fulton County Jail. They met bright and early this morning at 7:00 a.m., and heard testimony from the District Attorney's Office. We expect that they would have additional hearings coming up in the next few weeks and want to hear from our judiciary partners as well as from administration on the Board of Commissioners. Next slide, please. On equitable property tax appeal: this is something that we've talked about for the last several years, and we've had a lot of conversation here with this group. Wanted to let you all know that ACCG has really taken up the mantle, and has been pushing this very hard. So Senate Bill 349 includes many of the provisions that we have been pursuing a part of our recommendations. They've been a great partner, so if this Bill continues to move, we will work with you all at an appropriate time; perhaps ask if you like to participate in testimony and committee. Next slide, please. I want to go over a few of our other priorities: looking at the judicial retirement plan that's one that we have worked on that is moving its way into committee. Senior Homestead

Exemption Simplification: the sponsor that we worked with last year responsible has indicated her support. The Homeowner Protections and Transparency: there's a committee meeting tomorrow. Actually, I believe, Commissioner Arrington may be planning to attend that committee meeting. We've also had ongoing discussion about the evictions process and the judicial officers in Superior Court, so more to come on all of those. Again, we're in the early stages of some of these, but wanted to let you all know some of things we've been working on. Next slide, please. Again, we have sort of an overview here of some of the Taxation related Bills that have come up. So we are continuing to track these. There is also one that we are looking at that allows school systems to collect some additional fees that we do not see listed here. Next slide, please. Courts and Public Safety: we wanted to mention that there will be a joint session on February 7, where the state of the judiciary is presented, so we will be monitoring that session. Also, wanted to mention that there is a Senate Resolution related to the district attorney that we are tracking that was passed earlier this week are is still in Rules Committee. Next slide, please. Again, I won't go over these in detail, but we'll take any questions along with Fran and Jasmine. Next slide, please. Several Bills here on state and local government matters; again, won't go over these in detail, but we can answer questions if you have them or add anything to our tracking list. Next slide. Did want to mention one update here on Elections that is related to Fulton County which is Senate Bill 358. Did pass out of Committee late yesterday. That Bill is looking at the role of Secretary of State, and Fulton County has been mentioned in the conversation about that Bill. Next slide, please. Just wanted to kind of share: this is a fast-track session because they are obviously this is an important Election year, and I think members have important work to do outside of the Capitol, so they do intend to Sine Die on March 28th; so Crossover Day is on February 29th, so it will be moving very quickly. So as these things get into Committee, we will be keeping you updated between Board meetings as well as at these meetings. With that we can take any questions. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, any questions for Ms. Corbitt and her staff? Sin preguntas? Gracias."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. All right, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item removed from the Consent Agenda on page 4, **24-0029**, Finance. Ratification of the December

2023 Grants Activity Report. This item was revised to include a grant award for \$5.6 million from Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, I'll entertain a motion. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any other matters today?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, no further items to come before us. Thank you for your participation today and we are adjourned. Thank you."

(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 3:13 p.m.)