

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



December 03, 2025
10:00 AM



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

MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: January 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:03 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

PRESENT

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

PRESENT

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

PRESENT

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

PRESENT

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

PRESENT

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

PRESENT

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

PRESENT

PRESENT

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA**25-0899 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 First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0900 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing “Steve and Marjorie Harvey Foundation Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

November 19, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Student Leadership North Appreciation Day.” **(Thorne)**

November 20, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “National Adoption Day.” **(Ivory)**

November 22, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Atlanta Turkey Classic Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

November 23, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “PAYUSA Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

November 23, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Dotty Lee Miller McCarthy Appreciation Day.” **(Ellis)**

November 24, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “James Kenneth Bates, Jr. Remembrance Day.”

(Abdur-Rahman)

November 29, 2025

Open & Responsible Government**25-0901 Finance**

Request approval of a Participant Agreement for Merchant Processing Services with Truist Bank pursuant to the newly updated statewide Master Merchant Agreement for the provision of bankcard, charge card and debit card acceptance, processing, settlement, and other support services. This Participation Agreement will be effective upon approval through December 31, 2025, and shall automatically renew annually for terms beginning January 1 and ending December 31 provided each renewal period is exercised by the State of Georgia, Office of State Treasurer Merchant Program, with a final termination date of July 23, 2029. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0902 Finance

Request approval of a Participant Agreement for Merchant Processing Services with Truist Bank pursuant to the newly updated statewide Master Merchant Agreement for the provision of bankcard, charge card and debit card acceptance, processing, settlement, and support services. This Participation Agreement will be effective upon approval through December 31, 2025, and shall automatically renew annually from January 1 through December 31 through December 31, 2028, with a final term of January 1 through July 23, 2029, provided each renewal period is exercised by the State of Georgia, Office of State Treasurer Merchant Program, through July 23, 2029. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0903 Finance

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Finance Department, 16RFP102009C-CL, 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Administrative Services with Great-Westlife & Annuity Insurance Company ("Great-West") which operates primarily as Empower Retirement, LLC ("Empower") to provide plan administrative services for an additional 12-month period. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0904 Finance

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Finance Department, 19RFP524216C-BKJ, 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Administrator with Great-Westlife & Annuity Insurance Company ("Great-West") which operates primarily as Empower Retirement, LLC ("Empower") to provide plan administrative services for the 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. Contributions are 100% employee paid - no cost to the County. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0905 External Affairs

Request approval to renew an existing contract - External Affairs, 24RFP1320756A-BKJ, State Intergovernmental & Interagency Affairs Services, in the amount of \$144,000.00 with Georgia Public Affairs, LLC, (Atlanta, GA) to provide State Intergovernmental & Interagency Affairs Services. The action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0906 External Affairs

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of External Affairs, 23RFP081423A-KM, External Grant Writing and Support Services in the amount of \$20,000.00 with Think and Ink Grant Consulting (Atlanta, GA) to provide external grant writing and support services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0907 External Affairs

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of External Affairs, 24RFP1323200A-BKJ, Federal Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs Services in an amount not to exceed \$132,000.00 with McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC to provide federal intergovernmental affairs services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0908 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 220 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmeyer, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, and His Appointed Successors and/or Administrators In Office, owner, for the purpose of constructing the St. Brigid Catholic Church Expansion Project at 3380 Old Alabama Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0909 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 300 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Market District Crabapple Condominium Association, Inc. for the purpose of constructing the Reliant at Market District Project at 12655 Birmingham Highway, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0910 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 121,824 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Rivertown ONO Investment, LLC, for the purpose of constructing The Brooke at Rivertown Project at Ono Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30268. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0911 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 52,704.58 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Toll Southeast LP Company, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Embery Subdivision Project at 1000 Lexington Farm Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0912 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 1,597 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from MHR Land, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Parks at Pine Valley Phase 2A Project at 6000 Jones Road, Union City, Georgia 30213. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0913 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 Medley Johns Creek Phase 1 Owner, LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing water line easement area at 11660 Johns Creek Pkwy, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries**25-0914 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Library System, 24ITB1288009B-PS, Newspapers, Magazine and Serial Subscriptions in the amount not to exceed, \$75,000.00 with EBSCO Information Services, LLC. (Birmingham, AL) to provide Newspapers, Magazine and Serial Subscriptions. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**25-0915 Community Development**

Request approval of Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership's request to forgive the remaining balance of an existing HOME Investment Partnership program loan for the Delowe Village Apartments now versus the scheduled loan forgiveness date. Delowe Village is an affordable 64-unit apartment complex located at in East Point, Georgia. Forgiveness of the HOME loan is needed to support the redevelopment of Delowe Village which will create 96 new affordable housing units. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**25-0916 State Court**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - State Court, 23RFP138566A-CJC, Misdemeanor Probation Services, this is a revenue-generating contract with Judicial Correction Services, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide supervision and case management services for misdemeanor offenders sentenced by Judicial Order in the State, Superior, and Magistrate Courts of Fulton County. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0917 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to adopt the First Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

25-0918 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Minutes, November 5, 2025

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 19, 2025

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0919 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Jessica McNair Appreciation Day." **(Pitts/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "Human Rights Day." **(Barrett/BOC)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0920 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 Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed sixty (60) minutes at the First Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed sixty (60) minutes at the Second Regular Meeting. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

13 Speakers: Sharletta Hurst (Fulton County Jail); LA Pink (Sheriff); Eugene Walls (PAD funding); Erice Montinero (PAD funding); Desirrae Thomas (Support Women's Health); Joseph Foster (PAD funding); Muhammad Hafeez (PAD funding); Deshaneir King (PAD/Diversion Center); Kayla Smith (PAD funding); Janet Hill (Deed Fraud); Robby Caban (Deed Fraud/Animal Services); Miranda Estes (Support Women's Health); Nikky Buggs (Predatory Property Investors)

5 Zoom Speakers: Dr. Tara Overzat (Support Women's Health); Michelle Wilson (Support Women's Health); Kevin Muldowney (Oppose Women's Health); Roula AbiSamra (Support Women's Health); Kirt Beasley (Support Women's Health)

25-0921 Finance

Public Hearing for the FY2026 Proposed Operating Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED

6 SPEAKERS: Sharletta Hurst (Fulton County Jail); LA Pink; Janet Hill; Miranda Estes; Robby Caban; Josh Milton

1 ZOOM SPEAKER: Seema Rathi (Diwali)

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority****25-0922 Board of Commissioners**

MARTA Quarterly Update (**PRESENTED**)

COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****25-0923 Registration & Elections**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Registration & Elections, 25ITB1393668C-MH, Ballot Printing in the amount of \$260,460.00 with Tattnall Journal, Inc. dba Tattnall Ballot Solutions (Reidsville, GA) to provide ballot printing services for the 2026 General / Primary and runoff elections: General Primary Election/Nonpartisan Election & Runoff Elections; and the General Election/Special Election & Runoff Elections. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, thru December 31, 2026. (**APPROVED**)

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

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

25-0924 Information Technology

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Information Technology (FCIT), 25RFP1351128B-RT, Countywide Audio-Visual Services and Systems in a total amount not to exceed \$1,606,890.48 with (A) AVI Systems, (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$803,445.24; and (B) Summit Solutionz, Inc. (Norcross, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$803,445.24, to provide Countywide audio-visual systems, equipment, support, and services. This action exercises renewal one of three renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. (**APPROVED**)

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

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

25-0925 External Affairs

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of External Affairs, 23RFP139170A-CJC, Communication and Engagement Services, in the amount of \$407,875.00 with AVA TopRight, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide communication and engagement services. This action exercises the second of three renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Nay: Barrett

Health and Human Services**25-0926 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, 22RFP038A-CJC, Fulton County Behavioral Health Network in the total amount not to exceed \$15,861,360.42 with (A) River Edge Behavioral Health Community Service Board (Macon, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$4,208,688.44, to provide Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI), Core Adult Outpatient - Center for Health & Rehabilitation, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), DUI - North Fulton Service Center, Center for Health & Rehabilitation & South Fulton Service Center, Misdemeanor Mental Health Court (MMC); (B) Chris 180, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$3,855,412.74, to provide School Based Mental Health - 38 Fulton Schools, Text 4 Help, Core Child & Adolescent Outpatient - Adamsville & North Fulton, Clubhouse for Youth, Re-Entry - Fulton County Jail; (C) The Summit Counseling Center, Inc. (Johns Creek, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,422,666.35, to provide School Based Mental Health - 29 Fulton Schools; (D) Grady Memorial Hospital d/b/a Grady Health System (Grady) (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$3,177,290.10, to provide Core Adult Outpatient - North Fulton Service Center & South Fulton Service Center, Re-Entry (Women on the Rise), SRU - Fulton County Jail; (E) Health Connect America (HCA) d/b/a Georgia Hope (Woodstock, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00, to provide Core Child & Adolescent Outpatient - Oak Hill; and (F) Step Up on Second Street, Inc. (Decatur, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$2,329,196.14, to provide Permanent Supportive Housing (250 units). This action exercises the third of nine renewal options. Six renewal options remain. Effective dates for contracts A, B, C, D, F: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Effective dates for contract E: January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

(APPROVED)

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

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

Justice and Safety**25-0927 Sheriff**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Sheriff's Office, 17RFP07012016B-BR, Inmate Medical Services with NaphCare of Fulton County, LLC (Birmingham, AL) in an amount not to exceed \$38,521,149.72 to provide physical and mental health services to inmates at the Fulton County Jail and other locations and an estimated not to exceed amount of \$6,600,000.00 for annual medication pass through costs for a total not to exceed amount of \$45,121,149.72. This action exercises the eighth of nine renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

(APPROVED)

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

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****25-0928 Finance**

Discussion: FY2026 Proposed Operating Budget. **(DISCUSSED)**

25-0929 Registration & Elections

Request approval to increase spending authority - Registration & Elections, SWC# 99999-001-SPD0000136, Temporary Staffing Services - Clerical & Light in the amount of \$352,000.00 with Abacus Corporation (Morrow, GA) to cover the cost of additional work hours and staffing to conduct the Senate District 35 election, which was not included in the original 2025 election calendar, additional spending authority is requested in the event expenses exceed the original allocation. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Thorne, and Ellis

25-0930 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solution in the amount not to exceed \$467,108.33 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services for the Fulton County Animal Services facility located at 1251 Fulton Industrial Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA 30336. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through July 14, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0931 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solution in the amount not to exceed \$428,860.50 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services for the Fulton County South Annex Jail located at 6500 Watson Street, Union City, GA 30291. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through July 14, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts

Arts and Libraries**25-0932 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Arts & Culture Department, SWC# 99999-SPD-0000136-0008, Professional Temporary Staffing in an amount not to exceed \$105,000.00 with Corporate Temps Inc. (Norcross, Georgia) to provide temporary staffing services for the Arts & Culture Department. Effective January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Ellis

Health and Human Services

25-0841 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Fulton County, the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) and the Atlanta/Fulton County Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative, Inc. (PAD) to resume financial support for delivery of pre-arrest diversion services in the amount of \$400,000.00 for the period January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. **(HELD ON 11/19/25) (APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0933 Public Works

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Public Works, 25RFP147291K-CRB, Asset Management Modeling and Data Analysis in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 with Hazen and Sawyer (Atlanta, GA) to provide engineering services for the development of an asset management program for the Capital Improvement Program effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0934 Senior Services

Request approval of recommended proposals for Department of Senior Services RFP 25RFP1338515A-BKJ for Senior In-Home Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,837,166.32. in the total amount of Contracts with (A) Southern Homecare Services dba Always Caring Home Care (Roswell, GA) in the amount of \$719,742.91 (B) Help At Home LLC (Newnan, GA) in the amount of \$295,090.92; (C) At Home Atlanta (Stone Mountain, GA) in the amount of \$372,688.76; (D) Trusted Hands Senior Care (Roswell, GA) in the amount of \$313,643.73; (E) Quality Personal Care (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$136,00.000, to provide In-Home Services to eligible Fulton County seniors aged 60 and above. Effective January 1, 2026 thru December 31, 2026 with three renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**25-0842 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics regarding a preliminary process for Commissioners who seek to file ethics complaints against other Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD ON 11/5/25) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 11/19/25) (APPROVED)**

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

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

Nay: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

25-0844 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to create a Commercial Property Assessment Task Force to provide input to the members of the Board of Commissioners in collaboration with the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors and its staff on the valuation of commercial properties; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (HELD ON 11/5/25) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 11/19/25) (DENIED)**

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to call the question. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Barrett, and Ivory

Nay: Thorne, Ellis, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

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

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

Nay: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

25-0892 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution directing the County Manager to include on an annual basis funding in an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for the Fulton County Veterans' Community Services Grant Program to support services and programs for veterans residing in Fulton County, Georgia; and for other purposes. **(Arrington/Barrett/Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED FAILED ON 11/19/25) (FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, and Ellis

Abstain: Thorne, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0893 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article 2 (County Governing Authority), Division 2 (Rules of Order and Procedure), Section 101-63 (Presiding Officer and Rules for Debate) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances; to clarify procedures for designation of a presiding officer in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 11/19/25) (DENIED)**

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

b. A substitute motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to deny. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

25-0895 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amending policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes.

(Ellis/Thorne) (HELD ON 11/19/25) (HELD)

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to overrule the Chairman's ruling to accept Commissioner Abdur-Rahman's point of order. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

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

c. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to hold. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

WITHOUT OBJECTION THE ITEM WAS HELD

25-0897 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to work with Select Fulton and the Fulton County Development Authority to develop a Senior Property Tax Relief Program; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 11/19/25) (DENIED)**

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

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

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

Nay: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

25-0935 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to affirm that reproductive rights are human rights; to condemn the criminalization of abortion and related services; to urge the Georgia State Legislature to repeal the six-week abortion ban that endangers lives, and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, Thorne, and Ellis

Abstain: Abdur-Rahman

25-0936 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to establish a Fulton County Women's Commission to advise the Board of Commissioners on policies, strategies, and community partnerships that advance gender equity and address the systemic barriers impacting women; and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Abstain: Pitts, Thorne, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

25-0937 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to establish a "Healthy Women, Healthy Families" grant program in Fulton County; to provide \$1M in annual funding for the grant program to fund organizations focused on improving women's health outcomes and ensuring access to quality care; and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, Thorne, and Ellis

Abstain: Abdur-Rahman

25-0938 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners establishing a program to provide funding to non-profit and other community services organizations to carry out programs and services for individuals who come into contact with the Fulton County Justice System; directing the County Manager to establish necessary policies and procedures for the program; directing the County Manager and Director of Finance to designate no less than \$3,000,000.00 for the program for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (DENIED)**

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

b. A substitute motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to deny. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Barrett, and Ivory

Abstain: Arrington

25-0939 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supporting its ability to govern local affairs and urging the Georgia General Assembly to preserve the Board of Commissioners' involvement in matters affecting Fulton County residents. **(Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, and Thorne

Abstain: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

25-0940 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners approving the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDS) for use by the Fulton County Police Department and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED)**

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION**25-0941 Board of Commissioners**

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

PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE, AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice-Chairman Ellis, Commissioners: Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; Deputy County Attorney Shalanda Miller; Chief Human Resources Officer Kenneth Hermon; Chief Financial Officer Sharon Whitmore; Assistant Chief Strategy Officer Steve Nawrocki; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

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

Did Not Vote: Thorne

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to decline the settlement offer in item #4 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
FIRST REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC
“A Court Reporting Firm”

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone and welcome to the First Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025. It is 10:03 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: "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Mo Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Present."

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **25-0899**, 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 First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Nothing? All right, Commissioners, I'll entertain a motion to adopt. Motion to do so by Commissioner Barrett; second by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 5, First Regular Meeting Agenda, **25-0917**, Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything, Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "I don't have anything."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0918**, Ratification of Minutes; First Regular Meeting Minutes, November 5th; Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 19, 2025."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, **25-0919**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Jessica McNair Appreciation Day' sponsored by Chairman Pitts with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can we get Jessica and all of our law-enforcement? You all come in. We'd like we like each other to tighten up. It is with great honor and pleasure that I bring forth this proclamation and this is Full Board. WHEREAS, on November 7th, 2025, Allied security officer, Jessica McNair, assigned to the East Atlanta library under contract with the Fulton County Police Department, demonstrated extraordinary courage and decisive action while performing her duties; and WHEREAS, Officer McNair, discovered a library patron who was unconscious and not breathing from an apparent drug overdose in a public restaurant; and WHEREAS,

Officer McNair medially responded by pulling the individual to safety and performing CPR without hesitation; and WHEREAS, as an automated external defibrillator was being prepared for use, the individual regained consciousness due to Officer McNair's effective and timely CPR efforts; and WHEREAS, because of Officer McNair's training, professionalism, and composure under pressure, the individual made a full recovery, exemplifying the highest standards of public service and dedication to the safety and well-being of others; and WHEREAS, her swift actions not only saved a life, but also brought great credit to herself, Allied Universal Security Services, and the Fulton County Police Department. So it is with great pride that NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes and commends Officer Jessica McNair for her lifesaving measures, courage, and outstanding commitment to protecting the citizens and visitors of Fulton County; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025 as 'Jessica McNair Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please put your hands together? And we're going to get the Fulton County Chief of Police to come and say some words."

CHIEF WADE YATES, FULTON COUNTY PD: "Good morning, everybody. We have a relationship with Allied Security, that expand, over five years with 125 employees. And every day those employees come to work hoping to help somebody, and on this day, Officer McNair came to work and save somebody's life, which is a huge deal, number one; number two, she did CPR for ten minutes on this person. And I don't know if anyone has actually ever done CPR outside of CPR training, but after about three minutes you're done and ready to stop. She went for ten full minutes. She could barely stand after she saved this person's life. We're so proud of her and so happy to work with her every day."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Officer, can we get few words?"

JESSICA MCNAIR, RECIPIENT: "I'm a little short y'all. I want to start off firstly by thanking Allied and Don and all of my superiors that are beneath him for being able to equip me with everything that I needed to be able to act and respond quickly and adequately considering the situation. I would like to thank my family for being here today in recognition of me, my loved ones. I really don't have much to say, but there's nothing to it but to do it, honestly. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Human Rights Day' sponsored by Commissioner Barrett with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "All right. While we have the Fulton County Office of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance coming down to join us for this proclamation and it's -- you know, we're doing this today honoring human rights because coming up on December 10th, it's International Human Rights Day. So I would just get straight to the proclamation. It reads: WHEREAS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on December 10, 1948, affirm the inherent dignity and equal rights of all people and continue to guide efforts worldwide to protect freedom, justice, and equality for every individual; and WHEREAS, the declaration establishes multiple rights such as freedom, equal dignity, freedom of movement, peace in the overall work of every human

being; and WHEREAS, human rights are universal, transcending national and local boundaries and rely on governments at every level to ensure that these rights are upheld in law, policy and practice; WHEREAS, Fulton County recognizes its role in the protection of human rights and ensures that the principles of dignity, equity, and justice are reflected in its public policies, service, delivery, and community engagement; and WHEREAS, Fulton County advances human rights through its law and policies such as equal employment opportunity and prejudicial acts policy with program access in ADA's self-evaluation plan, and the County's language access plan, as well as through the work of the Fulton County of Diversity and Civil Rights compliance; and WHEREAS, December 10th each year is celebrated around the world as Human Rights Day. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its long-standing steadfast commitment to human rights; and does hereby proclaim December 10th, 2025 as 'Human Rights Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

MELISSA CUTRELL, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. I want to first thank Commissioner Barrett and the Board of Commissioners here for the work that you are doing to support our office and to support this proclamation. Human Rights Day is a reminder to each of us to focus on our commonalities and not our differences. What I enjoy about it is that it reminds us to adapt and to incorporate everyone's diverse qualities into how we appreciate one another, and so I stand with you with my staff who worked so very hard to ensure protection against extreme discrimination within Fulton County and the work that we do. But it's a reminder also individuals and the public also responsible for ensuring that we, as the people, recognize how valuable we are. How valuable it is to appreciate the differences that we have. So I look here and I say to you thank you for doing your job and remember to always appreciate all around us and show respect and ensure dignity of each other."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 6, Public Hearings **25-0920**, Public Comment. Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or registering on the county's website www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 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 14 speaker cards here in Assembly Hall. Will the first five speakers, please come forward: LA Pink, Charlette Hearst, Eugene Walls, FC Montenegro, Desiree Thomas."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, speakers, when you have 15 seconds remaining of your two minutes, I'll say 15 seconds, which will be your clue to begin to conclude your remarks. First speaker."

CHARLETTE HEARST, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. While I was an inmate in the Fulton County Jail, I was attacked by two 17-year-olds who were housed in the facility where I was at. I was in the mental health and medical health department. I feel like those 17-year-olds should have not been in that department. I am a 52-year-old woman and I was attacked by two 17-year-olds being housed at Rice Street. I have received an eye injury. When I was able to get out to go to my doctor, she referred me to a specialist because I can't see out of the peripheral -- my peripheral vision. The Officer Williams who was there, I guess, to try to, you know, break up the fight, he was just pretending like it was something they do every day. It was not professional at all, and like I said, I'm injured because of that. And then when I went to file a warrant against these children, they told me if I did not have -- I had their names -- they told me if I did not have their addresses and their phone -- that addresses on their date of births, I could not file a warrant against these individuals. These are children. I wasn't in jail for a major crime, but I just feel like those officers, they're not doing their job."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Fifteen seconds, ma'am."

PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So we give human rights proclamations, yet but we're not a body the rights of humans. How is that? Eighth amendment, fourth amendment, 14th amendment have been violated for our inmates, and nothing has been done. Pitts, Dana, and Ike Arrington, y'all running the Chairman. I challenge y'all today. Today is a call to action since Barrett wants to put out stuff on others Commissioners. Why don't you put out an investigation or ask for call of action to the sheriff? I know you all know -- Barrett -- I mean, what's her name? The other sheriff that was taken down -- Jackie Barrett. That's her name. Y'all know her, right? Everybody wants Jackie Barrett to be removed, so why haven't the sheriff been removed? He has way more on him that she could ever even imagine. Why haven't you all called for his removal? That's the question that I'm trying to better understand. Pitts, you most definitely need to call for it. You're in charge right now. You call for Barrets; I need his to be called for. Y'all want to continue to play games, you know, with these lives of inmates? We're challenging you today. You three most definitely, since y'all are on the running board for something. So you guys can look up the act of Section 15-16-26 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- absolutely that is a law that you have to abide by since you want to give out proclamations for human rights, let's get some rights taken care of because you're violating every right of inmates."

EUGENE WALLS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Eugene Walls. I'm the housing director at PAD. I wanted to express to you all how vital this program

has become to our process of servicing those on housing in the community. We utilize emergency housing and short-term shelter -- temporary shelter. It's become a triage, right, for our participants. We're able to immediately access our participants, right, in a safe environment; and identify barriers, right? They work attentively to connect them with the resources in the community from mental health, medical, substance use, and in some cases reunification, right? We've assisted countless families to go home with their loved ones leaving Atlanta to other cities. Most recently, we had a diversion of a 74-year-old Air Force veteran in the early stages of dementia. Okay? We were able to place him in emergency housing. Okay. When we got him in housing, it was observed that he had an open wound on his leg, uncontrolled diabetes. We were able to connect this man with a veteran hospital and the services; and today, he has been successfully placed in a personal care home. You know, even though he doesn't face the usual challenges that most of our participants face, he's 74 years old --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds, sir."

EUGENE WALLKS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and serving his country, you know, is a vital piece to the process that we use in our community, and we would love for you all to vote to keep it. Thank you."

ERICE MONTINERO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Erice, and I'm a legal navigation manager with PAD; and in this role, through our close (inaudible) process, many individuals who find themselves in custody, not because they are a threat to our community, but because they lack access to disability resources and support. Many of the individuals referred are unhoused and are living with untreated mental health and substance abuse challenges, and almost all of them have underlying needs that incarceration cannot meet. Our post booking process was created to identify individuals who qualify for prearrest diversion and offer an opportunity for diversion after arrest. Some of the individuals we've encountered were arrested for shoplifting food because they were hungry, entering vacant buildings because they were cold and wanted a warm place to sleep, or simply sleeping outside. Some were arrested for missed court dates, not out of disregard for the system, but because they are unhoused and never received a court notice. I've also had the privilege of witnessing what can happen when those same individuals receive support instead of punishment. We've had people released as directly from the jail with nothing but the clothes on their backs and nowhere to go. Through PAD's support, they were provided with the basic needs and placed in emergency shelters so they didn't have to sleep outside. We've also connected people directly from the jail to treatment programs, sometimes the first opportunity they've had to address the issues that brought them into custody in the first place. Because they were offered an opportunity for case management through PAD, we recently supported a youngster in sex trafficking (inaudible) united program out of state. Many who once had no housing options are living in a stable place of their own. We also have participants who celebrating months and even years of sobriety, and others who were now employed and finding a meaningful way to give back to the community. Their stories are all different and unique, but one thing that they've all shared with me is PAD was there when no one else was, and they wouldn't be where

they are now if it weren't for PAD. That is, we prevent incarceration to help meet the underlying needs of society."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ERICE MONTINERO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you."

PUBLIC SPEAKER: So I'm a local campaign manager at the (inaudible). I'm here today to speak in support of three pieces of legislation 25-0935, 25-0936, and 25-0937. These pieces of legislation, if passed, would affirm Fulton County support of women's reproductive rights and maternal health. For those of you who don't know, I have a master degree in public health from Fulton's own GSU. And I'm proud to say that my education informs my work and advocacy. So when I come to speak to y'all, please know that I'm not only do so as a citizen and as an advocate for my organization, but also as a public health professional. I take that role very seriously. With that said, I want to talk specifically about why allocating a million dollars in plans for the healthy women, healthy family initiatives are so important. I live in South Fulton and as all of you know, the southern part of the county lacks the same healthcare infrastructure and resources as the rest of the county. The people that live in that part of the county are overwhelmingly black. When we think about social alternatives of health, we know the people's ZIP Code is an important indicator as to what their health outcomes will be. And by funding the healthy women/healthy families' initiative, you will empower organizations that are addressing things like maternal health, women's cancer, mental health, senior women's health, gender-based violence prevention, chronic disease management, and reproductive health to continue to do that work. I know that those that are on the Commission that want to paint this initiative and the formation of a women's commission in a negative light based on their own antiabortion stances (inaudible) with the vast majority of Fulton residents believing -- by using your own views to disallow half of the population of the county to have a body that represents their needs as a historically marginalized community because you assume and are afraid that they may possibly mention abortion, sometimes you are slapping the women of Fulton County in the face --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and solely that you don't take our needs seriously. I urge this commission to support all three of these resolutions today, and I hope that you will show Fulton residents, especially the women, that you are willing to stand up for them in a political climate that is growing increasingly harsh. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Next five speakers: Joseph Foster, Mohammed Hafeez, DeShawna King, Robby Coban, and Kayla Smith."

JOSEPH FOSTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commission. My name is Joseph Foster, and I stand before you as a participant of the program of PAD. I was like many in the community who are facing significant struggles with being involved with this vicious cycle of city ordinance violations until three years ago where I was asked would I

be interested in being a part of this organization called Policy Alternative Division, PAD. I struggled with homelessness, mental health, alcoholism after being -- after being lost, I accepted it. So instead of looking as a punishment, I was assigned as a care navigator with Ms. Aris, who was very compassionate and helpful, and I was assigned and also, I was compassioned as well. Now I got connected with greater housing, because I was homeless, mental health, and healthcare. So as explained, my root cause of issues through life-changing assistance, so today, I am now and have a place to live two and a half years ago. They're still help to come up with funding for my medical and mental health along with the program that I also completed two years ago. PAD has been a valuable resource that saved my life. It has taken the place from being a long-term --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds, sir."

JOSEPH FOSTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- state for the positive (inaudible) built for (inaudible) excuse me. A long-term investment of my future in public safety, lastly it can be urged to continue with the PAD."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

MOHAMMED HAFEEZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Good to see you guys today. My name is Mohammed Hafeez, and I stand before you as the director of community engagement with PAD. In my role, I get a chance to meet with a lot of community members, speak with a lot of residents, get to speak with a lot of small business owners, even to walk around the streets of Atlanta and see people who are struggling. The one thing that is clear, as I meet with people, is that they don't say they just want PAD, but they need what PAD provides. They want an alternative instead of punishing people who are suffering for being poor or in crises; they want something that actually helps. And just the other day I was in my neighborhood -- I live in English Avenue, and a man came up to me and saw my PAD sweater, and he looked at me and asked me are you still with PAD, and I said, yes. And he said PAD was there for me when I needed help the most. I want to get reconnected with PAD, and I hear stories like this all of the time. When people feel seen, they feel respected, they feel supported. They feel the need to come to me and say man, thank you for what PAD has done for me, and what it's doing for the community. And here's why your support matters. When someone is released to us with nowhere to go, housing matters. When someone is dealing with mental health issues, consistent support matters. When someone is trying to get stabilized and take the next step forward, having been a trusted care navigator matters, right? Funding allows us to keep people off the streets, out of jail, and connected to real resolutions like emergency housing, transportation, food, treatment, support, and help getting documentation so they can have permanent housing. That's what changes lives. PAD isn't a luxury for Fulton County, it's a necessity."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds.

MOHAMMED HAFEEZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and the community knows that. And I want you guys just to consider as you guys vote today, to support PAD. Support the needs that PAD has and the community has. Thank you."

DESHANTE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Deshante, and I'm a communications manager of Women on the Rise Georgia. I'm here because our communities deserve better than half measures dressed up as progress. There's seems to be this idea that now that we have the diversion center and PAD, that the city has somehow solved the problem, as the real solutions just brought up in the moment after a building or program launches. But anyone who has lived through the realities of incarceration, housing insecurity, or crisis knows that that isn't true. Creating these programs is only the first step. The real work, the work that determines whether people actually get free, get stable, get whole, happens in the implementation, and that's exactly where the city continues to fall short. Too often these decisions are made for optics, they're made to check a box or to fluff a press release, not to actually transform lives. Programs like PAD and the diversion center cannot thrive without a space of stretch growth and fully serve people, and that means investing in real housing, not just displacement disguised as development, not encampments to sanitize the city for the World Cup. We're sending people to the diversion center and then where they go, what support is waiting for them when they walk out the door? I watch people come home from incarceration and try to survive housing insecurity only to find that our shelters overrun, our system is completely unprepared. We're living on a tiny handful of overworked solutions to try to undo harm that's decades old. Harm rooted in Jim Crow rooted in child slavery, harm that has shaped the very institutions that we're talking about today. And the truth is communities that have been disproportionately harmed must be disproportionately helped. We cannot keep pouring money into so-called mental facilities or expansion on the daily job, and then pretend that we're investing in care. We know what works because we have the experience. PAD works and the diversion center can work --

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DESHANTE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- if only if we fund these programs like we actually believe in them. If we want a safer city, a healthier city, a city that actually honors the needs of the people, then we have to invest in solutions our communities have already built. Anything less isn't a real solution and we deserve so much more. Thanks."

KAYLA SMITH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Kayla Smith and I'm the campaign and community organizer for Women on the Rise. I'm here today to speak in strong support of the continued use and increase funding of policing alternatives and diversion initiatives better known as PAD. There's been confusion about the difference between PAD and the diversion center, which is strange to me because PAD has been established and known in the community for years. Yes, the diversion center is useful, but it's grossly underutilized by Fulton County officers, and PAD offers different benefits and services such as emergency shelter in connection with long-term care. This is only made possible through continued and strong funding. We've seen PAD work over the years, and people's lives turn around due to being diverted. There's no reason to cut

down the amount of alternate options for both officers and people facing quality-of-life charges. More than anything PAD needs increase funding to continue providing direct services and relief to our community. PAD has been around for years and is one of the most effective tools our County has to address concerns related to unmet mental health needs, substance use, poverty and survival behaviors. You guys may not know that, and that's due to, you know, the seats that you're sitting in right now. The people who are out here on the ground, we see how people's lives have been changed and continue to be changed by a program such as PAD. Instead of cycling people through our overpopulated and mismanaged criminal legal system for issues that are rooted in lack of care, PAD connects people with care, not handcuffs. They reduce the burdens on our officers and overpopulated jail and provide services that actually reduce harm and increase community safety. The results speak for themselves. PAD decreases unnecessary arrests and strengthens trust between residents and public systems. It's a community center strategy and it treats people with dignity while also saving taxpayer dollars in the long term. As a Fulton County taxpayer and just simply a human being with a heart and a conscience. PAD's presence in Atlanta and Fulton County matters to me, and for some people it's the difference between life of struggle and pain, and incarceration --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KAYLA SMITH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- versus a fresh start with support and resources. I strongly urge this board not only to maintain but increase support so PAD can continue to go on. Thank you."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I am Ms. Hill, a Fulton County resident and advocate. I will continue to advocate and respectfully demand immediate action to end the ongoing deed fraud crisis. The facts are clear and well documented in court and land records. First, I'll mention that the clerk of courts, Che Alexander, and the Commissioner, Mo Ivory, have both acknowledged Fulton County has no process or procedures internally for filing deeds, an administrative -- an admission that reflects incompetence, both violations and a serious failure of duty. Secondly, deed fraud activity and related offenses may be part of a publicly funded system. Residents who face these crimes also face stalking, intimidation, retaliation, threats and are dragged into vivacious litigation simply for trying to protect their homes. Thirdly, seniors, women, veterans, disabled residents, and black and brown legacy communities are being systemically targeted and displaced. Property taxes are inflated using fabricated sales of stolen properties, deed fraud crimes also fuels housing insecurity, homelessness, wrongful arrests, inflated jail population, and causes irreparable severe, emotional, and financial harm to vulnerable residents. It's important to note also that a third of this current commission -- this current Board of Commission, a third of you, are either personally involved and/or have personally experienced --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- a direct knowledge of this deed fraud activity. For these reasons and on behalf of public interest, I respectfully demand immediate actions to rescind stolen deeds and return properties referred to."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Thank you, ma'am."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Robby Caban. I'm a Fulton County resident taxpayer and a Georgia real estate broker. First I want to express my strong support for Ms. Hill who just spoke and was exposing deed fraud and predatory housing practices. As a broker, I have personally e-mailed and spoken with Atlanta City officials, the mayor's office, members of this board, in totality for the need of oversight and regulation. The combination of predatory investors in a broken, compromised, politically influence an abused system is harming residents to stabilizing communities hence the need for PAD, please fund them, and costing taxpayers. This board must address it. I also support ongoing calls for jail reform, street groomers, and LA Pink, conditions under Sheriff Patrick Labat remain inadequate, unsafe, and unacceptable. No resident (inaudible) regardless of circumstances should be subjected to abuse or inhumane conditions. That brings me to the animal control system operated under the sheriff, Patrick Labat, who deputizes officers within the county's contract. There's been a pattern of mismanagement especially under Lifeline, the county contractor. After serious attacks and even deaths brought to this Board, the county has only produced a 40-page incident report, and yet there's still been no independent audit of Lifeline, an audit that Commissioner Thorne discussed and never followed through on despite years of whistleblowers, photos, video evidence and testimony from employees, staff, and volunteers about being banned and the abuse. And you still are paying Lifeline allowing them to run our county shelters with no audit. Lifeline still controls the shelter, still influences enforcement, and the county recently hired a Lifeline employee. There's too much to go through in two minutes, but I did e-mail County Manager, Dick Anderson --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds.

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- it says right here at 10:23 a.m. today, you have a copy of an e-mail from a commissioner who solicited his private firm to someone who was reaching out about animal control, please confirm receipt of it. I will follow up with all of you to see what you're going to do about all of this."

CLERK GRIER: "Last four speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: Janet Hill, Miranda Estes, Nikkyi Buggs, and Josh Milton."

MIRANDA ESTES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Miranda Estes, and I live in District Three Midtown, represented proudly and loudly by Commissioner Dana Barrett. And also, I serve as a policy manager for Seeker Six; for social change. We're a national organization that focuses on advancing sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights through education and policy. I'm here today both as a constituent and as an advocate for the health, dignity, and well-being of women in Fulton County. I wanted to voice my strong support

for the commissioners -- for Commissioner Barrett's three pieces of proposed legislation, 25-0935, 36, and 37. From my work in policy, I see how deeply and adversely health outcomes are affected by lack of access to information, services, and supportive environments. I also see this in my community. I'm the girl in my building where my neighbors know that they can come to me for Plan B, condoms, dental dams and advice. But that's one building here in Fulton County, and in the more affluent part of the city, and that's not enough. People here are struggling to access even basic reproductive and sexual health care items, and it shows. Georgia is consistently ranked among the worst states for maternal mortality and has some of the most restrictive health policies in the country, and that is gained us national bad press. We are still reeling and mourning from the deaths of Amber Thurman, Candy Miller, and Adrianna Smith. In this community, the reality of harms that come from this state's restrictive policies --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MIRANDA ESTES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- are not abstract here in Fulton County, and we must do better. Based on the passage of Commissioner Ivory's dedication to black maternal health, it's now time that I urge this commission to do that: fund and vote, yes."

NIKKY BUGGS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Nikki Boggs. I'm a homeowner at the Landmark Condominiums. Our building is being taken over by predatory property investors. Predatory property investors we have seen using the building, and what's happening is that they're taking over the building and the building is operating as a hotel -- a motel, if you will. We have seniors in the building. We have people that are disabled in the building, and we have long-term homeowners that deserve to keep their homes. We have no freedom of right. They treat us less than human. Our assessments are up to \$13 a month for double billing of water, gas, electricity. Our common areas have been taken away. We have no security. We have no concierge. We have no one to contact if we are in trouble. We call the police, they'll ask if it's criminal, they'll show up. If they can't get in the building, they go away. Understood. The city and state are profiting off our suffering. We've been at this for four years, five months to the date. We do not deserve this. We are homeowners, we are taxpayers. If I've done a quarter of what these people have done to us, my outcome would be quite different. I would be in jail, most likely. We deserve to come home. Our peace has been robbed. And it's something that we've been fighting about for the last four years. So the human rights that we spoke of in the proclamation, and congratulations to the person, we don't have any. We're treated less than human. We've been to every governmental agency, we've sent e-mails, we've asked for help --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

NIKKY BUGGS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- thank you. We have our liens and foreclosures placed on people unjustifiably, exorbitant fines, huge capital assessments. We've asked for help. Please do the right thing and help. Look at the entire picture. Thank you."

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

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

DR. TARA OVERZAT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. I just want to make sure I was good to begin because I can't see a timer."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We can hear you."

DR. TARA OVERZAT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. Wonderful. Good morning, Commissioners, and thank you for allowing me to speak today. I'm Dr. Tara Overzat, and I'm a trauma therapist, educator and community advocate in Sandy Springs, Georgia. I'm here to talk about women's health. It's a vital part of our community's well-being. And this includes a wide spectrum of needs; physical health, mental health, and reproductive health. With the recent cuts in research in women's healthcare and increasing lack of accessibility and affordability of women's health services, the establishment of proposed grant programs like agenda item 25-0937, healthy women/healthy futures, and healthy families fulfills the critical need. With over one million residents living in Fulton County, it would cost less than 90 cents per resident to establish these grants and support nonprofits that promote women's health and well-being. I'm one of the many women in Fulton County who have recently experienced a remarkable spike in healthcare costs, and I know there's a need for nonprofits who can provide preventative screenings and examinations for women in our community. In addition to agenda item 25-0936, which would establish a Fulton County women's commission, it would highlight much-needed voices to combat discrimination in the workplace, fix women's pay inequity, and address the affordability crisis for childcare. Having a group focused on these concerns will help legislators and decision-makers to bring back policies and programs that help women to thrive and succeed. Ultimately, the health and well-being of women is deeply connected to the health of the entire community. When there are structures in place that thoughtfully examine local needs, gather reliable information, and elevate lived experiences of women --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DR. TARA OVERZAT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- communities are better equipped to make informed decisions that support long-term well-being for all of our residents. Thank you for your time today."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Michelle Wilson."

MICHELLE WILSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. My name is Michelle Wilson. I am the chief operation's officer with women engaged in human rights advocacy, nonprofit, that's been doing work in Fulton County for over 11 years. And through that work, we do voter activation and community engagement and leadership development, and that has called for us to survey residences in Fulton County for the

last 11 years asking them about the increased access to healthcare here in Georgia and, unfortunately, over the last 11 years what we have seen across the state is a continued restriction to access to services and which has resulted now in medical deserts that are definitely impacting those who are here in Fulton County. Prior to all of these things that were going on, Fulton County and surrounding areas serve as a hub for the rest of the state in order to actualize user services that were needed to improve the quality of their lives and seek those services. That's why today I'm asking the Board to consider the proposed legislation for the creation of women's health grant program, the women's commission, and making a bold statement, stand in solidarity for reproductive rights as human rights; and calling for the protection for those services for those in our community per person. When we serviced those in the community, originally 75 percent of people who reported back we need to increase access. What we've seen over the last three to four years now since it has increased to almost nearly 90 percent of respondents. And that particularly impacts those who are working class, black and brown people, young people, queer and trans folks, and every one up in the southwest area. So we're definitely urging for those considerations to be made, to continue to protect those rights and increase access and the vital healthcare that people need, especially as we continue to traverse unprecedented times here in this state along in this country. And so I thank you all so much for your time as you continue to listen to the residents here --"

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

MICHELLE WILSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that their voices are important and that we're understanding that regardless of our personal priorities or ideas, that people deserve a right to make decisions with their bodies how they see fit and get the care that they deserve. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Kevin Muldowney. Kevin Muldowney."

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners, and thank you, Rico. Commissioner Barrett, I take exception with your women's commission. It sounds like DEI to me. And your proposed resolutions, you're talking about reproductive rights for women. Reproductive rights are just that, rights to reproduce and not kill children. Black and brown women have the majority of abortions in this country. It doesn't sound like there's any shortage of their, what you call, reproductive health. And then grant funding to an NGO for women's health, why do we have a County Health Department? Sounds a little redundant to me. Finding NGOs continually invites waste, fraud, and abuse. Please do not vote for these resolutions. Thank you very much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Roula AbiSamra."

ROULA ABISAMRA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, can you hear me, okay?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

ROULA ABISAMRA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. Thank you. My name is Roula AbiSamra. I am a constituent in District Three. I'm also am part of a community club in District Six. I work with people and actually, you know, all over Fulton County, I am so happy to say that I appreciate the representation of all of the commissioners and the people that I work with and live with in our lives. And so, as your constituent and loved one of your constituents and as a health professional, I'm asking you to support the following resolutions -- the foregoing resolutions for the healthy women/healthy families grant program, for the women's commission to exist in Fulton County, and to oppose the criminalization of abortion care and affirm reproductive rights. These are relatively simple and straightforward, yet we'll make a difference in our lives. My district stands to benefit from them, and DeKalb County has passed similar legislation, and I've seen data -- health data for both counties, economic data for both counties suggesting that together these can reduce disparities in health access and mitigate harm to the most vulnerable if these are passed and implemented. And truly for me as a health professional, it's about health, and there are also so many other reasons that bodies like a women's commission can represent -- can pay attention to the representation of people across our county as well as our civic participation, our economic opportunities. From a health perspective, I just want to say these programs, especially this grant program, I'm heartened because people having true access to affordable quality care --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ROULA ABISAMRA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- in the full spectrum of our needs of reproductive needs is so essential to a community having healthy families and individuals, and I will say that decades of health and protection for only a privileged few have really hurt all of us, even though the damage hits hardest on women of color and those working to make ends meet. And some people might never walk in those shoes, but their community does get affected too, and Fulton should be governed with the conviction for more equitable future for all people in our health, so please do pass these three --"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Alicia Stallworth. Alicia Stallworth."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak -- excuse me. Next person to speak is Kirt Beasley. Kirt Beasley."

KIRT BEASLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners, and Chairman Pitts. My name is Kirt Beasley. I am calling in support of the creation of the \$1 million women's health grant program that will support women as a whole. I strongly support women should have the right to do with their bodies as they choose, meaning reproductive rights are human rights. Therefore, I am asking for the repeal and the renouncing of the state's six-week abortion ban. Additionally, all people have rights, of course, incarcerated or not, I support the continuation of the PAD program. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Seema Rathi. Seema Rathi. Next person to speak Serena Dasaro. Serena Dasaro. Next person to speak is Shelly Steele. Shelly Steele. Next person to speak is Tina Hasan. Tina Hasan. Next person to speak is Alicia Stallworth. Alicia Stallworth. And this concludes our Zoom public comments."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing under Public Hearings on page 6, **25-0921**, Finance. Public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Operating Budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "How many speakers?"

CLERK GRIER: "We have received five speaker cards."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "LA Pink, Sharletta Hurst, Robby Caban, Janet Hill, and Miranda Estes."

SHARLETTA HURST, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Charlette Hearst, and I was a resident at the Rice Street Jail on Tuesday, September 23rd, when the Ledbetter and Shania White situation occurred. I wanted to say that I feel that that incident could have been avoided because of negligence. They should not have put those two women in that room together. Sheriff -- I mean not Sheriff Strozier -- Officer Strozier, that morning did a shakedown. She shook down every other room, but the room that Ledbetter and Shania White were in. After they removed Shania White out of that room, no one checked to see if Ledbetter was in that room. Ledbetter did not get found in that room until 5:30 -- or 5:00. She had been in that room for over -- she had been in that room for like 10:00, when they did the shakedown. I'm sorry to her parents that they had to go through that. Also, the healthcare system in the jail is terrible. We had -- they have inmates in there who have sleep apnea. Their sleep apnea device has not worked since August, and here we are in almost November --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SHARLETTA HURST, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- another thing is they're not taking the injured people to their therapy sessions. There are several people in wheelchairs there that are not receiving therapy, and I just feel that it's really sad that these people have --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, thank you, ma'am. This is a public hearing on the proposed '26 operating budget.

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: Absolutely, but this is part of the budget. This is the reason why the budget is all screwed up -- screwed on. So we can talk about these type of things because this is the reason why y'all are discussing a budget, because we have situations that's taking place in people's lives that is messing up. I mean, Dana, from my understanding, you're funding abortions out of town, and you won't even help the folks -- the students here in Fulton County, but you're wanting to help other people from not even in this county, not even in this state with abortions. Y'all up here talking about (inaudible) you're making phases, and if it is the truth, it's a shame regardless of the situation. You guys are talking about human rights, but y'all are wanting to take a life, like make it make sense. At the end of the day regardless, you're right, whatever somebody want to do with their body, but for somebody to have to put it on a budget, for somebody to have to put it on anything that has to do with voting, that's a problem. Because everybody ain't with it, just like everybody ain't against it, but it shouldn't even be on a roster. Y'all need to start taking your time and using it towards the things that matter. Y'all got inmates up over here dying, and you ain't putting no money over there. You're not putting no investigation up over there. Some of these people won't even make it back to their families, but y'all are having turkey getaways; Thanksgiving, Christmas, and these families are suffering. You also got an inmate that came down here have to hear and witness Ledbetter being slaughtered and nothing had been done about it. This woman is on life support and y'all can argue about a budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Y'all can argue about who should be transgender and who should be this. Go transgender up over there at that jail. Change some of that."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I wanted to speak again specific to the issue of budgeting and finance in relationship to the deed fraud crises. It is not true, Mo Ivory, that there's no funding available for these crimes. That is not true. So you need to stop gas lighting citizens, you need to stop inciting hostility when we respectfully demand that you do your job. The last time I checked, it is free to report a crime, that has nothing absolutely to do with funding. I would propose that we find a way between the \$800 million that the state received to address these crimes be utilized and potentially portion of the \$14 billion surplus with the state to come up with a program to resolve these deed crime issues. Thank you again."

MIRANDA ESTES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello again -- hello again, Commissioners. I'm back up here to speak for the fiscal year 2026 proposed operating budget, and ask that you all do affirm the resolutions brought forth by Ms. Barrett, and also dedicate the money to the women's health grant program. This just isn't just an investment services, it's an investment in the stability of families, the resilience of our communities, and the well-being of future generations. Local organizations like Amplified Georgia and Feminist Center are often the first and sometimes the only points of access for many people, and that's not good enough. And to say that it is to fund one type of service is divisive and not true. These things cover a plethora of reproductive and sexual health care services that are necessary to strengthen vital public health infrastructure and are desperately needed here in Fulton County. In addition, the creation of a woman's

commission would ensure that the lived experiences of all people with uteruses in Fulton County are acknowledged, heard, and centered in policymaking. That makes for all of our communities to be stronger; black women, immigrant women, queer people, women with disabilities, young people, everyone; especially those who don't look like me, are often left to the cold. It would give our county structured consistent mechanisms to respond holistically to real community needs, and I ask that you all will pass these three proposed measures, and while counties can't change state law, they can lead, and I hope that Fulton County will set a bold precedent here today. Thank you."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I didn't intend on having another two minutes. I would encourage you all to increase the time for people, because otherwise we have to keep coming down here when you don't correct the problems. Regarding this budget, there's several things that I want to address. But as a taxpayer, I just have to say, and I'll speak off the cuff, I'm mortified. I'm mortified that you have failed to address so many things. I'm modified that our government is so sloppy that you run for-profit real estate tours through southside communities without even warning the public, predatory investment occurs. You have multiple people speaking about it, and you all are apparently involved in even some of, you know, the liens or foreclosures on these properties when our people are suffering. Then when they're put out of their homes and evicted, again, I'm stating this as a real estate broker who's witnessed directly who have e-mails about all of this information with our corrupt abuse system, and you criminalize people for being homeless, then you send them to the jail and they're abused in the jail by the very sheriff who was supposed to protect them. And you have witnesses coming here, you have staff coming here, you have employees coming here, you have whistleblowers coming here, and you don't correct it. So this is clearly a pattern. It's a pattern with all of you, it's a pattern of lack of oversight. It's a pattern of corruption, it's a pattern of waste. So what are you going to do? Expect us to just pay more and more? And yes, I'm going to bring up the animals again, because they don't deserve to suffer either. So why is it that a county contractor and NGO Lifeline who gives kickbacks to you, philanthropic dollars, has never been investigated when animals come back from there, they're dead. They don't release bites. They allow people to do drugs on site, they're whistleblowers, it's a toxic work environment. Literally, this is all over TikTok, and none of you will even respond. You won't even respond except to say you can hire my firm, you can hire my private firm when people contact you about animal control. Oh, yeah, I just sent an email to the County Manager and I'm going to forward it to you too. Can you fix this, please? Can you stop making us waste our money?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I work really hard. I do not cosign this. Not with my tax dollars. Stop criminalizing the homeless. Clean it up. Do an audit. What is wrong? You said you were going to bring anticorruption to Fulton County. Where's the audit, Bridget Thorne? Where is the audit?"

JOSHUA MOHAMMED, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Joshua Mohammed, for those of you who don't know me, didn't get a chance to hear from me earlier. I'm here to speak for

the voiceless, for those who cannot speak for themselves. And they are the ones that are trafficked from Fulton County Jail often to the penal institution on indictments that are not necessarily true indictment. If we're going to give money to any of these divisions, any of these departments, we have to seriously take a look at what's being done in these departments and not wash our hands once the money leaves our hands, because as taxpayers we're all responsible for the dollars and cents that are spent. And we have to keep accountability on the money that's going out. Otherwise, take the name off these indictments; these criminal bills that said you're speaking for the people and the state of Georgia. It makes no sense. So not to get into how these indictments are being truly prosecuted, and I start from the top to the bottom. Judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and private attorneys are all involved. The question is not really to you guys --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JOSHUA MOHAMMED, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- the question is what are we going to do to make sure that the jobs that we pay you guys for is being done correctly. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and members of the board, we have six speakers on Zoom."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Hello, Commissioners. The first person to speak will be Seema Rathi."

SEEMA RATHI, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. District councilman, those and their guests, my name is Seema Rathi, a dutiful resident in the city of Atlanta. This taxpaying month from October to December is particularly meaningful for us Hindus around the world. We celebrated Diwali, and this week, the holy son (inaudible) 5,000 and the city has been celebrated, which is our autonomic. That is the dutiful -- duties prescribed for us as a person, how to live life in harmony. In our society, responsibilities are (inaudible) and promote peace. Stand up to the oppression in communities. Diwali has got the status and recognized a two states as a -- declared as a holiday. I am a volunteer of the (inaudible) organization that promote Hindu values and the spirit of that the world is one family. (inaudible) service is in the heart of our daily life. And this week, during Diwali, (inaudible) projects have been called particularly made a difference in Atlanta, served the North Fulton County with 1,800 pounds of food and supplies. Last year in 2024, in 28 states, over 170,000 pounds of food and supplies were made, and we still don't have the total count for this year --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SEEMA RATHI, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and it has been about 250 organization of the Hindu Jean (inaudible). We wish to share this night of hope in all residents of Fulton County and believe that every individual and regardless of faith, color, background needs to be uplifted and respected. We look forward to combined service in support of that."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Kevin Muldowney. The next person to speak is Kirt Beasley. The next person to speak is Shelly Steele. And this concludes our Zoom public comment hearing."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 6, Presentations to the Board: **25-0922**, MARTA Quarterly Update."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER, CEO, MARTA: "My name is Jonathan Hunt, I'm the interim general manager and CEO of your MARTA transit system. Thank you to the Fulton board members here. My Fulton board members is Freda Hardage, Board Member Pond, as well as Elizabeth Bolton Harris listening in online. It was great joining the greater North Fulton chamber's strategic leadership visit in Arizona engaging with the delegation on transit plans as well as partnership and pass forward to a better transit system in the future. Especially enjoy spending time with Commissioner Thorne on the trip, thank you. Now we're going to turn to our agenda. Next slide. Ridership capital programs, our partially funded projects as well as other news is what I plan on covering today. Next slide. First on ridership, looking at our ridership, there's a general reminder that our streetcar is closed at present due to the work that Georgia Power is conducting and making utility repairs belowground. Prior to the streetcar closures, we saw improved ridership to pre-pandemic levels and across all modes, we're seeing significant increases coming out of the summer months, and we expect those to increase and continue. We anticipate our ridership on bus and rail to increase by this time next year with the implementation of our Better Breeze system, improved MARTA app, as well as the implementation of our NexGen Bus Network, which I'm going to talk about later in my presentation. Next slide. We're going to turn to some of our capital program items: First, at airport station, we continue to see progression on the airport station with the installation of the second elevator, which has been completed, as well as near completion of our ride store at airport station. Next slide. I want to spend a little bit of time talking about our MARTA Rapid A Line, an updated milling and paving program design was approved by the city allowing construction to advance with fewer utility conflicts, as well as accelerating paving on the southern portion of the route. We continue to coordinate with GDOT on single timing adjustments and the installation of the remaining signaling equipment on the alignment. And all required drainage work in the Downtown Loop has been completed, which has allowed the pavement along the Downtown Loop to move forward rapidly toward completion. We're pleased to report that the pantographs, or the overhead chargers, for the route have all now been installed including the charger that you see in the image on the slide in front of you at Carver Station, which is the southern terminus of the route closest to the Beltline. Please note that our bus manufacturer, New Flyer, has had a recall on the -- nationwide recall of their bus batteries, which is impacting all of their orders. We are currently working with them on a workaround so that the impact does not impact our project, but at present, that is a risk item. Further on the rapid -- next

slide. Further on the rapid project, we've engaged in robust public engagement. Our rapid response for public engagement team has sent out construction updates via website, e-mail, social media and the like. We also engaged with constituents and patrons at the October 2025 Atlanta Streets Alive event. We are now shifting to a get-ready-to-ride phase, and we're going to begin preparing our customers for a new payment process. On the bus rapid transit, we have a proof of payment process for paying for fare and getting on the system. You paid for and validate your ticket before you get on the bus which allows multi-bus -- multi door bus boardings, which reduces the dwell time at each station which increases the amount of time you have on the -- reduces the amount of time that you have along the alignment. Excuse me. The picture on the right with the slide that you're looking at, is our rapid response team placing construction flyers out alerting drivers of upcoming construction and relocations. Next slide. We're now going to turn to our Five Points transformation project. As a reminder, the Five Points transformation project is two projects in one. The first that we're going to talk about is the Plaza street-level project or the transformation project. Interior overheat protections have been completed, and those are in place, waive fining and signage and the interior lighting has also been installed. We've also installed exterior lighting, of course, inside of our construction fencing, but we've also installed exterior lighting along the construction fence line along the entire route around Five Point Station to better illuminate the area. We are also salvaging as much of the materials as we can for the demo lights, benches, and other items that we can use at other stations. We relocated our MPD office as well as MARTA Hope and our lost and found to the Ashby station while construction persists. Next slide. Further on the five-point station rehabilitation, below the plaza level, on the platform levels, new reflective ceilings and wall tiles are in place. Much brighter lighting is in place. The first and second image, you can see a lot of the lighting on the floors and walls as well as the tiles on the ceiling. And on the third image, you can see the new fans that have been installed. I believe we all know the manufacturer of these fans which are very well received by our customers for moving air circulation. We no longer will need platform level fans. Next slide. I want to turn the commission's attention to the Cleveland Metropolitan ART project. Pictured on the left is the design of the typical ART bus stop being installed throughout the Cleveland Metropolitan ART project in the entire corridor. The project will span approximately 20 miles round-trip and within the corridor, there will be 40 signalized intersections with traffic signals that contain traffic signal priority installed by GDOT, which will help improve the headways by reducing them. Other benefits of the ART project include Q-truck line at the eastbound Cleveland Avenue and Springdale Road intersection and four new midblock crossings which have signalization at them along Cleveland Avenue. There will also be 53 new total shelters as pictured above, and 38 will be solar powered, and there will be 54 bike racks that will come in pairs of three, as pictured above, at select locations. All shelters and kiosks along this route will have real-time arrival information provided digitally, and if you're wondering why there are fewer solar panels than there are entire bus stop amenities, it's because certain locations are more shaded or there's already power available which is why there's a difference between the total shelters and the number of solar panels. I'm happy to report that BRTU Construction, a Georgia-based Forest Park Company, was awarded the project by the MARTA board, and we have signed that contract. We are targeting a February '26 groundbreaking to get construction underway. Next slide. The

MARTA rapid Campbellton project, we are 30 percent design on the corridor and 15 percent design stage for the fly-over bridge as well as for the transit hub at Greenbrier Mall. We currently have a fly over bridge in the alignment to minimize impacts on the right away to residences and businesses as well as to further the transit-only lane. The flyover bridge from Greenbrier Mall to Barge Road will have a parallel pedestrian access along the alignment, and the final design contractor for this has been awarded. We continue to engage with the public through bus ride alongs, neighborhood briefings, and we hosted a community leader roundtable event on November 18th, and we recently sent out postcards to all businesses and residents who are on alignment to advise them of how they can continue to participate and engage as we go to move to final design. All of this is good news, but more good news is a project officially receives a medium-high rating for the capital improvement grant funding from the FTA, which means it will be eligible for federal funding when we reach final design, and we do plan on applying for that. Just another sign that this is headed in the right direction. Next slide. We're going to turn to some of our partially funded projects, the first being the Georgia 400 bus rapid transit project. MARTA is continuing to advance the Georgia 400 BRT project by working towards 30 percent design on our proposed three new Blue Line station stops. As you'll see, on the picture on the right, there's four notes noted as the stop. The Old Milton Parkway stop is currently not within the agreement, but we're working to see if we can work that in, depending on budgetary costs. We've got the \$100 million state bond and the \$26 million allocation from the State Route 400 Peach Partners Group, which is the awardee from GDOT for the I-400 redevelopment project in total to help provide for transit station infrastructure, and we're going to continue to identify resources to plug the gap between what's been allocated and what is needed to complete all of the transit infrastructure for the project. We have worked with True North CID and updated the city, specifically Alpharetta and Roswell, on the project and discuss how the cities and MARTA can work together to deliver the best possible project and the best possible interface between where one might park to where one actually physically gets on the buses. We are waiting GDOT to mobilize with State Route 400 Peach Partners prior to full engagement, because we don't want to get ahead of GDOT on this project. Next slide. Our automated transit network or ATN pilot, for short. As a reminder, we're in partnership with the Atlanta Airport Community Improvement Districts, or the AACIDs, to study the deployment and pilot the deployment of an automatic transit network at GICC, down by the airport in the South Metro region. The study is going to evaluate the potential benefits of an automated transit network as well as how a pilot would operate if it were fully implemented in a broader scale. The first governance committee meeting was held on October 14th, and the next one will be in Q1, and we look forward to Fulton's partnership again and participation in these meetings. Next slide. The ATN feasibility study will be conducted by MARTA in conjunction with the pilot, but following this, we will progress to examining whether a broader buildout concept for an ATN alignment is possible, but that pilot and that feasibility will probably not be completed until late 2026, early 2027, because we need the pilot to actually be constructed and operating before we dive deeply into the feasibility portion. I'd like to turn to some other news. Next slide, thank you. And you all have probably heard me say that a Better Breeze is coming. By next spring, our Better Breeze fare -- easy for me to say -- fare payment system will allow riders to pay directly at our fair gates and our buses with credit cards, debit cards, virtual wallets, and just about any mode of payment that you

would like. Late next year, patrons will even be able to buy breeze cards from retailers. We will have new fare boxes and validators on our buses as well. We'll have new station gates arrays where you may pass through which are more esthetically pleasing, and harder to fare evade. The pilot fare gates have been installed at Lindbergh Station already, and I invite yourselves or the public who want to see what this might look like. We've kept the construction fencing at Lindbergh to see through, so you can see what is like, if you'd like to see. But those TBMs at Lindbergh were just a start. We are engaged in rigorous construction right now across our entire system, so you may go to your station and see construction fencing around one entrance and an entrance closed. That's the Better Breeze system being installed. We are going to be conducting extensive public outreach campaign that will begin in January and launch and go through next spring. We will be advising you all, because I know that sometimes constituents feel more comfortable coming to you versus directly to us, so we'll be engaging with each of the Commissioners to make sure that you have all of the information on our Better Breeze system. Additionally in the spring -- next slide -- is our NextGen bus network, which we're very excited to announce will be launched on April 18th of 2026. The new network will be smarter, faster and better. It's going to provide more than triple the number of corridors and access to a bus with 15-minute headways or better. The service is going to be more consistent by delivering the same consistent bus availability of frequency each day and seven days a week. We'll be adding 12 new MARTA reach zones or on-demand zones, wherein you'll get curb-to-curb service. If you were to have a trip that's within that zone, your point-to-point, or you can take that to one of our fast frequent bus networks with the rail system to get to a longer trip that may be outside of that zone. Two days ago, on December 1st, we started putting up signs alerting folks about changes to their bus routes on the bus stops in at the bus amenities themselves. You likely start to get questions about that, but they're over 6,000 stops, and in order to get all the notices out, we needed to start early. We do plan on engaging with your staff and providing information, but the best place to provide information is located on the slide. If you're watching online, for those here it's www.itsMARTA.com/NextGen which is where all the updates will be housed. Finally, if you have events or newsletters where you can communicate with your constituents about NexGen Network, please do. Please reach out to our external affairs team. We'll provide whatever information or support that you may need. In the longer term, we're going to provide toolkits with detailed information to your staff, so they'll have handy one or two pagers right there in your offices as well. Next slide. For a moment, I want to talk about public safety. And per the request of the Commissioners, you can see how MTD has been keeping our riders safe. As of December 1st, our numbers are noted on the slide above, but of note, and they're all of note, but overall crime is down 29 percent, which is an improvement upon what we reported with myself and Chief Kreher the last time we came before you, which we're very, very proud about. We are one of the safest transits authorities in the nation, but we are aware that not everybody feels totally safe on our system, so we are continuing to strive to improve that. We work with neighboring public safety and law enforcement agencies. We have crime reduction units that partner with Atlanta, East Point, College Park, South Fulton, Sandy Springs, Dunwoody just to name a few of the jurisdictions that we partner with, as well as Georgia State Patrol and, of course, Sheriff's department like Fulton County's. I want to thank Fulton County and the Commissioners as well as the Sheriff's Department for seats and

positions in the academy. We have MPD officers that are Go Future MPD officers that are going through the academy right now. I attended a graduation for two last night that I'm very proud of. We committed to this body the last time I was here, to have full allotment of sworn officers by the end of the year, which is 250. I'm pleased to report that we achieve that goal by the end of October, and further to that point, we committed to hiring an additional 30 sworn officers and ten field protective specialists, which are non-sworn officers who force multipliers for our sworn officers. They carry everything an officer carries except for a gun and a taser. And we've hired ten additional folks to go into academies for our sworn officers, so ten of the 40 additional positions have been hired. We're very excited about the excitement around joining MPD and law enforcement generally, and I want to thank you for the partnership to make that happen. Next slide. I'm going to turn to our community public engagement. We have done an absolute ton of public engagement under External Affairs group. They have really ramped it up at the direction of our chief of staff, myself, our deputy general manager, Rhonda Allen. So I'm going to highlight a few things here. Don't worry, I'm not going to go through everything day by day, but this is a strong sampling. During the month of October, we attended over nine housing events at senior centers to update them about the upcoming NexGen Bus Network, Better Breeze, as well as a variety of new items coming forward. In October, we hosted two senior staff one-on-one events, and we were happy to host Commissioners Ellis, Thorne, Ivory, and Arrington's staff, and we are able to -- we're going to have these throughout next year and an ongoing basis. So if you want your staff come back and do it again, those who couldn't have staff to attend at other times, there are other opportunities in 2026 coming soon, and we look forward to hosting your staff for our future one-on-ones. On September 16th, we partnered with local civic groups for National Voter Registrations Day where we had the folks register as well as disseminating nonpartisan civic engagement materials. Next slide. October 23rd, I attended the aerotropolis board meeting to talk about MARTA projects and initiatives happening throughout Fulton with a focus on South Fulton in the greater airport area. And on Thursday October 30th, in the middle picture, myself, Chief of Staff Parker as well as our external affairs team, celebrated Atlanta's own outcast by releasing a custom wrapped MARTA bus in honor of the 25th anniversary of their ground-breaking (inaudible) album, which was released on October 31, 2000, as well as their induction into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. The Breeze Cards that we've done up and around that event are wildly popular and they are limited. I can tell you that I have one for each of the commissioners, my external staff, external affairs staff, will be getting them to your staff outside of this meeting, but they are here in the building. In November, our external affairs research and analysis and MPD teams were also talking to riders in the Campbellton corridor about the Campbellton BRT project at length. And then my last slide, I have our legislative agenda -- next slide, I apologize. Thank you. Our legislative agenda, we have two core items that we're focusing on, which is the extension of our Core Penney funding as well as transit lane camera enforcement. Our staff was able to visit with Chair Pitts at length and thank you for your time. We are sending a deck that kind of summarizes everything to the balance of the commission, and will make my external affairs and myself available for any follow-up meetings regarding these two legislative items so we can talk and answer any questions. With that, I think, in terms of speaking, I think I've spoken enough, and I'll open it up to questions. Thank you all the time and the opportunity."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you for the presentation. Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Barrett, Vice Chair Ellis. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Hunt. I guess I'll get to the rest of my questions. You answered the most important question about the outcast breeze cards, so I'll skip the question. How long do we anticipate the streetcar being down, or when do you anticipate that coming back up?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Good question. We've been talking with Georgia Power. We have a January 12th -- I'm going off the top of my head -- January 12th date. We are disseminating that publicly through our website and other modes of social media, but it's really Georgia Power schedule. But right now, that's when we think it will be done and we'll be able to get that streetcar back up and running."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Awesome. And then with the Summer Hill BRT, what is the anticipated date that that will be open or available?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "So the Summer Hill rapid line is opening in phases. We're going to have the Downtown Loop done. We're projecting Gunnell having an alignment where we are servicing the downtown loop prior to through World Cup, as well as the transformation of Carver Station, and then we're coming back and finishing with installation of the other stops post World Cup."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And that is partially why I was asking about the timing because of World Cup, right. And then the Five Points transformation was in spring '26, and all of that is in advance of --"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Two dates on the transformation. The transformation project was the big one with the crane street level, that's a four-year project, 2029. The low grade, the rehabilitation project will be done in the spring, and if you go through the station you can already see it lighter and brighter as we get closer to completion of the construction."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. And then with the Campbellton/Greenbrier, when do you anticipate being a final design?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Final design in 2026, ideally, I'm pushing my team, we'd be able to go out to procurement in 2026, but I may be getting a little ahead of myself, but yeah, at least design in 2026."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Yeah, I definitely would like to follow up with someone in your office or your team about more on that Campbellton Road/Greenbrier project."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Certainly, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You covered a lot. I'm just trying to make sure I got everything. I think that's all have. Thank you so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Hunt, for the thorough presentation. It seems like there's a lot of good things coming, and I'm excited for that. I just have a quick question on public Safety in particular as it relates to the Five Points station. We're seeing, you know, obviously a lot of building happening downtown, a lot of revitalization, and retail restaurants and things like that coming in, and I've heard from a couple of developers just with some concerns, because it has been an area where the station itself has had some issues around crime, and I think they're looking for reassurance that MARTA's going to step up the patrols at the station itself."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Thank you for the question. We share the same concern as the residents down there and the business community. We've met with all the major stakeholders in and around as well as the city of Atlanta, and Georgia State. We've renewed the partnership on policing there between the three of us. Part of the lighting was we were directing light outward to brighten it up. We do patrol obviously our construction site. We have officers onsite almost 24 hours a day -- I don't want to give away too much of our policing, but I've instructed our chief to go ahead and have those folks patrol our fence line as well, and I know that all of our partners are also doing the same as well as South Downtown and the whole Broad Street Redevelopment. We've collaborated with them as well. So it is a huge focus for us, and we don't want the site, just because there's construction in the area, to deteriorate at all."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah and I also mean beyond that when it's back to not be in construction -- yes."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Yes, there is going to be robust, robust police presence."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Okay, awesome. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Hunt, for the update. Just one thing, I guess, for -- you know, we've talked about this a little bit I think at the prior update, but will there be a way to sort of translate this back as we look at -- as you're presenting kind of the projects that are in flight, one of the things I had asked at the prior meeting was did we have sort of specific -- did you all have sort of specific impacts this were going to have in terms of ridership and usage associated with each project? If that's something that could be added to these slides going forward, I think that would be --"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "-- absolutely. When we do, especially with the alignments, we have to do ridership analyses to apply for grant funding. That is no problem. I'll make sure that Adam is, when I come back for updates as well as provide it to your office."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. That would be great. And then as we get into, you noted kind of in the legislative agenda, the extension of the penny, the Core Penny. I do think it would be good for, you know, all of us to kind of get -- and this is an important decision. Obviously, I want a healthy transit system, but we also want to make sure we got something that's in place that fosters kind of the -- fosters that to occur, right? A lot of money, you know, involved in these decisions. I think it would be useful to get some, not only what of this presentation you're going to share with us, but may be some addendums with that, and I'll be glad to get this in specific writing to you, but I had sort of three or four core areas I think; number one, a list of the capital projects that were completed in the prior ten-year period, and you know, the capital costs associated with those; a list of them -- at least the top ten, maybe the top 20 capital projects that are in flight and the estimated cost on those and completion date, and then the impact on the ridership and uses like we've just talked about. A ten-year look back of the sales tax proceeds received by -- by the entity broken out by the different jurisdictions, right, signatories; and then cost incurred by MARTA for the past five years for administrative sort of nonoperational and then to the extent you can do it for planning. That might little more difficult than the last one, but we can have the conversation."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "We've got that and we will provide it and sit down and talk --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- and I'll send this list back to you, but I think, you know, certainly I think all of our Board Members should have that, you know, as we're sort of thinking about that and looking at that whole discussion around the Core Penny extension. I'll follow up in writing and send it to you. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hunt."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "One hundred percent. Thank you, Commissioner Ellis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hello, CEO Hunt. Thank you very much for the Outcast breeze. I'll be using it. I wanted to first say thank you for the advanced amount of work that's being done on the Summer Hill BRT. I come down Hank Aaron every day as I live in that area, and I have seen a major difference in the work. And I wondered if you had any information on what is going to be that sort of neighborhood store that was on the corner of Ormond and Hank Aaron that is at one of the stops, what is that new construction? Is that just a renovation of what was there before, or is that something new?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "So the prior owner, very vigorous and adept real estate negotiator; and subsequent to us getting construction entry and right-

of-way rights, believe that property's been sold to a new entity, so I don't know what's going on. I can have our real estate team do a reach out, try to figure out what' they're doing there, but I have noticed the construction as well."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah, I'm getting a lot of questions from constituents about what that -- you know, that was a corner grocery store that always had some problems, and so the community is just trying to figure out what is that replacement thing going to be right there, and that's a stop. So it's going to be used heavily whatever it is."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Our real estate team maintains close contact, so, I'll reach out and get back to you."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, great. And then just wanting a refresher on how the Summer Hill line is going to feed into the streetcar, or if it does at any point or where does it feed -- does it connect past each other, what does it do?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "It will touch on the southern -- starting from the south, the southern terminus at Carver, it will have a connection to the Beltline. It's there. They just need to do that physical vertical connection which isn't easy, but it'll have a direct connection to the Beltline. As you move north and you get into the Downtown Loop, we will touch the Beltline; we will touch a couple stations: Georgia State, Sloppy Floyd building right there."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So students on the Summer Hill, Hank Aaron BRT that go to Georgia State can pick it right there at the Olympic Rings and take it the rest of the way?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "All the way down to the brand new apartments at Carver Station. It will go straight to Georgia State and have their day and get back in 15 minutes or less."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Great. All right. Well, thank you so much. That's really all I had, thank you."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Thank you."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Hi, CEO Hunt. Thank you for this extensive report here. Could you give me just a little bit more detail on the transient lane camera enforcement that is on the agenda?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Absolutely. So what we're looking to do on the transit lane enforcement is we had it -- we introduced it to the legislative session last in 2024. In 2025, it made it out of the House and it kind of sits in Committee. There's been a little bit of push back at a version to camera lane enforcement, which really came out of the school bus, camera lane enforcement. So folks heard camera

enforcement, and there was a little bit of hesitancy at the legislature. They didn't kill it, so we plan on going back next year. And in short, it's to allow us to be able to enforce and make sure people aren't in the bus-only lane with their personal vehicles, so that we can maintain headways and allow the local jurisdiction to issue a ticket if necessary. There are warnings. It isn't an immediate ticket first time, so you'll get warnings before a ticket is issued, but that's it in a very, very brief format. Thank you, Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions? None?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you very much. We'll see you next quarter."

CLERK GRIER: Yes, sir.

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, County Manager's Renewal Items, **25-0923**, Registration and Elections: Request approval to renew existing contracts for ballot printing in the amount of \$260,460."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0924**, Information Technology: Request approval to renew an existing contract for countywide audiovisual services and systems in a total amount not to exceed \$1,606,890.48."

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask -- to better understand this AV services request because we go through a lot of IT requests in our meetings that we don't really have much discussion on, for very large amounts, and I continue to see them each week in the millions and millions of dollars. So I just wanted to ask, what exactly are these AV services that, you know, amount to \$1.6 million?"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT: "No problem. Good morning, CIO Kerrigan. Commissioner Ivory, we have numerous facilities that have AV equipment needs that tie in to capital improvement projects or just refresh projects for that equipment. So we

have a list of projects that we can share if you'd like to see the detail, but it's really just the care and feeding, support and upgrading of all those AV systems throughout the county; and so there's a lot of work that is done that equates to these dollar amounts, but happy to have further conversation if you want to see those details."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Yes, I would love to have that list. Thank you."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT: "No problem."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I think we may have -- I think, I spoke with the County Manager about the issue. For example, I was at Wolf Creek Library and all of the screens are down. The screen, or the board, was replaced because the technology was old, or there was a plan to replace those screens. Is this part of that?"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT: "I don't have that answer right now, but I can definitely look in to Wolf Creek and make sure that that's being addressed."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Yeah, because in the meeting rooms, there was, I guess, a visual board up, but I was in there for a meeting two weeks ago and there's no board and no way to do audiovisual, or at least not the visual."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT: "I will say, we're having discussions to look at a true refresh program for AV equipment needs. Right now, it's a lot of project-based work, and so I think, you know, we would have a proposal that will look at how can we have additional support, because we have limited staff that support the AV equipment today. With these vendors taking on more of that support and then doing more health checks and care and feeding of those systems, so that we have them on a routine replacement cycle. So I think there's things we could do to improve how we manage AV across the county, and we're taking steps to implement that as well. We can definitely look at the Wolf Creek item."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any questions or comments? If not, let's vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: **"25-0925,** External Affairs: Request approval to renew existing contracts for communication and engagement services in the amount of \$407,875."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Ms. Corbitt, I think it's -- come on up. I think we have some discussion about this. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "If you want to give us -- I was going to ask what this specifically is for. Is this the Experience Fulton thing?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, that is correct, Commissioner. So just to give you an update, this year our focus has been on two big parts. One is activating on the Experience Fulton brand. That has meant community outreach, so we've done a lot of outreach using that Experience Fulton updated collateral, some of which is completed, some of which is in the very final and it's staged to be completed by the end of the year. This is my working draft as one example. Fact sheets for your Districts as well. And then second -- or parallel to that work is public relations, media outreach. So they have complemented the work that our team does day-to-day with the media engagement and really with a focus on both regional and national as well as trade publications. So for example, work and -- there's a publication called Managed Health, which is a national industry publication, and Dr. Roshell and LaTrina where both featured talking about our work with Project Care and addressing health equity and access, especially with mental health. So those are some examples. We've done a lot of work about our airport preparations for the World Cup, so stories that may not be really the day-to-day bread-and-butter stories that we work on with general government operations, but more telling the story of some of our higher profile projects and work in those ways. Going into 2026, there's a couple of special buckets that we've really identified as priorities. One, of course, is our work in justice, so the work around the jail, making sure that the community is aware of that, working with us to make sure as projects come to light and construction begins, that we're able to really effectively communicate that and supplement the work that we have in our team, obviously collaborating with the Sheriff's office. Another part of that is our work around healthcare. This Board has had a lot of interest in that. So specifically, behavioral health, which is I think is your next agenda item. We've really identified marketing of those behavioral health services as a high-priority. So while our team has done a lot of work, we are not specialists in healthcare marketing, and that is a very specific discipline, so having some additional resources to support our work there. And then lastly, I know that you have a budget discussion today. We did make a request that is not currently one of the funded enhancements around marketing for the World Cup. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to really elevate Fulton County; it's sort of a brand awareness as well as engagement of the community around the events that are happening. So there are many convention and visitors bureaus and chambers of commerce across Fulton County. There is no single Fulton County Convention and Visitors Bureau or Chamber of Commerce. So if we want to elevate Fulton County as a participant and as a host community, then we are going to need to take some leadership with that. So those are some of the initiatives that are planned for the upcoming year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. You mentioned some of the things that you've been working on this year that are more national, like the health article that you mentioned. What is the goal of this kind of outreach?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's a great question. What we have found is that while people in Fulton County enjoy a very positive quality-

of-life that many people both locally and regionally and nationally are not aware of the services that Fulton County provides. This is a common issue I think, especially when you have a county government in a large city that there's sort of -- we've all experienced this in our day-to-day lives that sometimes residents are not clear about what services the county provides versus what services the cities provide. And so, really our goal with all of this is to raise awareness and understanding of what Fulton County government is responsible for both locally, and then again, we're very fortunate to have a county that is doing exceptional work in many areas. And so, we think it's appropriate to raise that awareness on a broader stage as well."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And is this -- I know this is just a contract renewal here, but is this part of your base budget for next year?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "This is included in the county's base budget, yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I think, I say this every year, but I just feel like, you know, if we're so, you know, beholden to tightening our belts, and we're talking about asking all the departments to cut one percent and all of that, that marketing just -- and I'm a comps person, you know this. And if we have -- you know, if we were agreeing on having the means to do everything we needed to do, I would be all for it. But I do have concerns that we're spending on this and not on other things. So, you know, and like I said, I think, I say it every year. But you know, it's nothing to do with the work's that's being done there, or what the work's effort's on, you know, your department part, I think. Some of what you're talking about I do think is really critical. I guess I also just have a question/concern about how effective we're being at getting some of that messaging out about what the county does in terms of services locally, because I still -- and for an anecdotal what I'm saying right now, but I anecdotally, I still find that most people don't know. So I don't know how effective we're being at messaging to our own citizens about our services. You know, we've done some work on saying Fulton is a great place to live, but are we really -- and with Citizens University, as an example, teaches people like how many people take advantage, that kind of thing. So I don't know if we do go through with this and it does pass and if you have it next year, is there a way to sort of reshape some of what we're doing so it is more home focused."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think that's really great feedback, Commissioner; and I certainly understand that compared to the many, many very important services that my colleagues provide, I understand that communication can seem like a bell and whistle. You know, I would be remiss if I didn't say I do think it is foundational and important, you know, that the work that our team does to really try to connect people with services. I think that's our ultimate goal. I hear you loud and clear, and I do agree that there's -- it is an infinite pool of opportunity to continue to make an impact and make sure people are more aware and have greater understanding. So I receive that and I think that's -- we're aligned in that -- the importance of that work."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Chairman, and thank you, Commissioner Barrett, for those comments; and thank you, Jessica, for all of your hard work. I watch it and I see it happen on a daily basis. And I just want to add that I share those concerns as well considering that we have crises happening in our county, and we're about to have a budget conversation and, you know, we already know that we are probably going to have to raise the millage rate. So when I think about these kind of expenses, I think about ways that we could, you know, more cheaply and more effectively reach more people, and I think that that is with our online presence. And I do think that we need -- I haven't seen from the top right folks a real change in digital, you know, sort of a digital push that goes to the places where people are and people are online on, you know, TikTok, and on Instagram. So while we might spend a lot of time printing things and giving them out to folks, I think that we need to think about using, you know, FGTV and the YouTube page, and TikTok, and Instagram a little bit more effectively and maybe with a little bit of a younger approach to it, to spread these messages because, just like Commissioner Barrett said, when I speak to constituents, and I'm very much in the streets a lot, they just still do not know what Fulton offers. So I would just offer that one more piece of social media that could be a cheap way to get a lot of exposure and might just take a really smart college graduate, you know, or high school intern, or one of our youth investors, to come in and do some work on that. Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Ms. Corbitt, first of all, I want to thank you because I remember in sitting down here five almost six years, we had a conversation that you all were not doing enough, and we said that as a Body, we will support the resources that you needed because at one point, the Chairman did say, and I remember very clearly, Atlanta is Atlanta, Fulton is Fulton, but Atlanta sits in Fulton. And so, a lot of times messaging when it went out, it would be Atlanta and not Fulton. And so, I want to thank you for the work that your department has done to make sure that our messaging has been better. And I also want to thank you in cooperation with the County Manager staff in making sure our seniors -- a lot of our seniors are not social media savvy, and we had a conversation of what efforts -- Dr. Roshell, you remember back in the day, what could we do to make sure our seniors were more engaged, had more information because everybody is not on TikTok; all of our seniors are not on Facebook. And so, what do we do to make sure that they are not left behind? So I want to go on record saying thank you for that conversation, County Manager, that we had previously that we know that we have to make sure that our least of these, which is our seniors, in our community that may not be on social media but needs to have access. And so, thank you for doing that. I will always support resources to make sure that we don't leave anybody behind. But I remember the conversation clearly, County Manager, and Dr. Roshell, that we had that we needed to do more from a county level, not only to message and brand Fulton County, we also needed to do what we needed to do in our capacity to make sure those that are not on social media

still had the very vital information of the services that are down here. So I just want to take this time to thank you for all you have done."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Commissioner. I appreciate that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Jessica. As always, you and your team do a great job. I'm just -- I do have some pause about this marketing effort given our current financial status. And then I wonder also about how many of these are we printing up, what is the shelf life of these? We got four elections next year, right? So you're talking about printing stuff by District and per Commissioner, and we might have four seats turn over next year, right? And so, what is the shelf life of this stuff?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think that's a great question. The majority of the materials are focused on the departments and the work that they do, but you're right, some of the pieces -- of course, we wanted to feature our leadership; and, of course, we understand that next year is an important year. So we're tapering that accordingly to make sure that we're not over printing, and we have -- I also want to say we have all of the native design files to allow us to make updates easily, so that was an important part of our negotiation that if we needed to update a sheet, that we wouldn't tie up more resources just on that, that we can focus on new projects, if that makes sense."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And then do you plan on making these items available digitally?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "A hundred percent, yes. I think that's a great point. And then one of the -- not to belabor this, but one of the important parts of the work of the fact sheets was that they -- by gathering and kind of curating that information, it allows us to use it not only in the fact sheet format, but also in video and social content. So there's sort of a building block that we can then use internal resources, partner with FGTV and our own staff and our design team to use that same content in other formats, if that makes sense."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And then finally, are we Experience Fulton -- I mean, I haven't really heard -- I haven't heard really or seen these advertisements. And I haven't heard anyone approach me or talk about them, so I'm also questioning, you know, whether they're really getting through. And then are we working or reaching out to the different convention and visitors bureaus in the cities because, you know, the way to experience Fulton is through the cities."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, sir. Just in the last three weeks, we have had a call specifically focused on the World Cup in working with our cities to curate -- wanting to make sure they're prepared for the guidelines for participating in FIFA events, that there aware of those; and as we go into that planning

process, the team draws this Friday is one example. So that's one element is how we've engaged. We've also, through our outreach strategies this year, been very intentional about participating in events that have been hosted by the cities, so we've participated in Atlanta Streets Alive and then Alive in Roswell and the Palmetto -- I think it's Fall Festival and Chattahoochee Hills Fall Festival and on and on across the county. And so, we absolutely think that really activating our partnerships with our cities is very, very important and agree that we want to see that continue to grow and be stronger. And I do want to clarify that we are not currently doing any paid advertisement. That is not -- that is what we've sought additional resources for. Excuse me, but we are not currently doing paid advertisement."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So this contract is just what, for the production and printing of the booklet?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Correct. And again, there's also PR and media outreach as well."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That's a lot of booklets, \$400,000. All right. Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "But this is more than just booklets. I mean, can you solidate that, I mean, it's -- we ask your particular area to do a lot of things, right?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I would agree."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And it's been a pretty constrained area. There was a bigger ask before us which we decided not to entertain because we're trying to do all this other stuff that we're trying to do, but we also recognize that we've got -- this is a necessary thing that we need to do, and we've been -- it's not been an area of strength for us to be able to do this stuff because it's been resource constrained. So this is, you know, taking a measured approach to it, so can you allude to some of the other things that this gets into?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, thank you, Commissioner. So one other area I'd like to highlight is that I didn't mention earlier, one of the ways -- you've all talked about this in different ways that one of the ways that Fulton County makes a tremendous impact is through partnerships; so with our arts and culture grants, for example, with our community services program. Another example is in the next meeting, I believe, you'll be, and this is one we're using as our launch for this program, is you're basically funding of nonprofits and partners. And so, a lot of times how that shows up in the community is very inconsistent. Some have our logo nice and big and proud and some we never know that any dollars went to that organization. So one of our projects has been to develop a framework and a tool kit so that every time

we are providing dollars to an agency, they get a set of graphics, they get a certificate or sign that goes -- hangs up in their physical location, that they have materials to put in their newsletter, that they have again graphics, sort of social media, and that that is handled consistently throughout for every program. So we've chose the opioid funding which is coming before you all very soon because it's a new program, and we wanted to really highlight that as a starting point and then implement that for all of our other programs. So that's something that you're going to see very shortly, but that's one example where we really took the time to do the analysis of like how are we not showing up. This is one the big places where we're investing a lot of money and not really getting visibility; the community isn't aware necessarily of how those dollars are being spent. And so, that's one example, Commissioner Ellis, of how that would show up differently than it has in the past. So I realize it's hard to explain and it's hard without seeing and touching all of it, but those are some of the examples of how we're trying to increase our impact and visibility in the community through communications."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I think, you know, almost any organization of any substance or size is using external resources to help them with communication, I mean, that's almost a given. We've not really done -- and up until this, we've not really done a lot of that."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's true."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And, you know, these folks are also, you know, serving as a resource to you, right, in terms of hey, when we get, you know, a complex message that we're trying to deal with and respond to, they're there to help support you is also in terms of how do we sort of tackle this thing in a way that, you know, we got limited resources to do, but to get out a response to, you know, focus on the certain message around, et cetera. So that's occurring also, right?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's absolutely true. And again, our portfolio of crisis response is very significant. You know, that's a discipline in communications into itself, and because we -- you know, that's just the nature of government sometimes, things happen, you must respond to them. So having professionals with different background and skill set to work with, to collaborate with as those issues come up; I mentioned the jail as construction -- as dirt begins to move for some of those projects, there will be a lot of visibility, a lot of community impact. And so, those are examples of that. We -- you know, again, healthcare is a very complex issue. Healthcare marketing for behavioral health where you're also dealing with the issues of stigma and access and trust that all can be barriers to people really participating in that. So having a marketing strategy that takes all of that into account; those are some other areas where having these resources has been very helpful."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, I remember meeting with AVA Top Right, having a Zoom meeting with them and you. It's been a couple years. But I remember the necessity of trying to implement a program to get brand recognition. I know -- I work with a lot of companies with web design and, you know, just developing a branding kit is a huge expense to most companies, and then enforcing those guidelines is another expense as well. So and I do remember that there was -- this wasn't the complete ask, it was just what we thought we could fund at the time."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's correct, Commissioner and this is -- we're in that similar position where we did make an additional enhancement ask that would have been for additional paid advertising and things of that nature, and that is not currently funded, but this is, you know, continuation of that brand building work, storytelling, trying to raise awareness in the community. I think the points about digital are very important. We've tried to internally reallocate resources to put more into our digital staffing. We've elevated a position in that area. We've hired -- transitioned one person in an additional position into digital, because we think that's important. So I think that's heard and received that really making that a big focus as we go into this."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And I appreciate that. I know your staff works extreme amount of hours, and weekends, and holidays. You guys are always there having to deal with the crisis and messaging and all of that. And so, I think the original ask is maybe like 1.2 million, but we didn't fund that full package."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's correct, Commissioner, yes."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Chairman. And I just wanted to tell you real quick. I was at one of the senior centers in my District, and it happened to be one of the days where they were doing the digital -- the contractor that comes in and works with the seniors doing digital, and they were having so much fun downloading apps on their phone and all of that. So if you have a digital toolkit that they can use to see these services, perhaps we can send that to the contractor as one of the lessons, because he did say to me, if you have things you want me to use in the center, send. So I think that would be a perfect partnership."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think that's a great idea, especially -- and one of the other topics I know that we're going to discuss later is about senior homestead exemptions. That is something where there are both a paper and digital forms available, so we want people to be able to access it however they're comfortable."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Great. Thank you."

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

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, **25-0926**: Request approval to renew existing contracts for Fulton County Behavioral Health Network in the total amount not to exceed \$15,861,360.42."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to adopt by Vice Chair Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Questions, comments? Nothing?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Dr. Roshell, this is -- all of this totals about 15 million, can you just comment on the effectiveness of -- I don't how to measure this."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Thank you, Chairman, for that question. The Department of Behavioral Health does conduct performance reviews and other reviews of those contracts and performance. And I will have LaTrina Foster provide more details about what the department undertakes to determine the effectiveness of those programs."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, BHDD: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. LaTrina Foster, Behavioral Health. Today before you, I'm requesting to renew existing contracts which creates the Fulton County Behavioral Health Network. As Jessica just spoke of, it was very important to us that we created our brand and not emphasize the brands of the contractors that were serving -- providing services on our behalf. So with that said, in 2023, we created the Fulton County Behavioral Health Network, and these are the contracts before you. Within these contracts, we have two contractors that provide child and adolescent services on our behalf, Chris 180 who provides services at our Adamsville Regional Health Center as well as our North Fulton Service Center. Their goal is to serve 1200 individuals each year. As of the end of Quarter 3 of 2025, they have exceeded that goal. With those 1200 plus individuals that they have been able to serve, they provide three or more services to over 665 individuals that they provide services to, which speaks to their ability to establish relationships with the individuals that they render services to, and that the individual's trust them and return back for services. Our other child and adolescent provider is Georgia Hope who continues to struggle in this space within this network; however, they're still a crucial component of

our behavioral health network. They render services at Oak Hill Child and Adolescent facility. They have been able to provide services to 400 plus individuals as of the end of Quarter 3 of 2025; however, they are not meeting their target goal, which is to serve 800 individuals. The reason why their number is less with the number of individuals they are slated to serve is because their contractual amount is less. If you look on the request for the approval, their award amount each year is \$800,000. What we're asking for in 2026, is to provide us with six months to renew their contract, so that we're able to implement an effective transition -- excuse me -- an effective transition plan and look at bringing on a new provider at Oak Hill Child and Adolescence Family Center. Our other two contractors for adult behavioral health is Grady. Grady provides services at our South Fulton Service Center. As of today -- when I say today, I mean the end of Quarter 3, which is October 31st, 2025. They have been able to provide over 1400 individuals services at the South Fulton Service Center. They provide a lower number of services at our North Fulton Service Center, where there are around 675 individuals where they have rendered services. However, based on their numbers, they have exceeded their KPI, which they are slated to serve 1800 unique individuals throughout the year of 2025. In addition to that, out of the individuals that they have served, they have been able to ensure that over 300 individuals have medication management, which is a very costly service. These are individuals that do not have insurance, but need access to medication. So through this contract they are able to obtain their medication as well as their therapeutic services, which is your individual therapy/group therapy sessions. Our other adult behavioral health provider is River Edge. River Edge provides services at the Center for Health and Rehabilitation. Their annual goal is to serve 1200 individuals. Every year they exceed their goal of the number of individuals that they serve. They are an excellent partner. They ensure that individuals have access to their medication as well as individual/group therapy as well. In addition to the contracts before you, the renewal also involves our partnership, our IGA with the city of Atlanta, which is inclusive of our support to permanent supportive housing units. At this point, we are able to provide support to 296 individuals in PSH units. Within those 298 units, we have two providers. We have River Edge provide services to 88 PSH units. In addition to that, they provide services to a little over 50 individuals in our Atlanta housing voucher, which was a spinoff from our COVID response when we were hoteling the homeless during COVID, and then those individuals transitioned in to permanent supportive housing units. And then we have Step Up On Second, who provides support services to 149 PSH units in Fulton County, and those are the contracts before you in the total amount of 15 plus million."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let me just ask one other question. So you use the term serve frequently with each one. Does service equate to success or just serves, meaning the number of people who walk through the door? That's what I'm getting at, how do we measure?"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, BHDD: "We capture both. So we captured the number of unique individuals served, so that means that each one of you walk through the door, we have provided services to seven individuals. That service is rendered --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- repeat that -- repeat that, please."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, BHDD: "So we capture the number of unique individuals served. So everyone is counted one time. So if all seven of you walk through the door, that means we've provided seven unique services to each one of you, so that's seven people."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. On that point, so seven of us walk through the day that means seven served; but how do we determine -- how do you determine or how is it determined whether or not the services that the seven of us receives is successful or not?"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, BHDD: "Absolutely. So we look at the return visits, so based on the seven of you, if four of you return for visits, we capture that number. So that is your ability to retain the individuals that you rendered your initial service to. If out of the four of you, all four of you come back for three or more services, that means you are truly engaged in the services that are being rendered to you at each respective site. So we capture four different sets of data, that will give us a holistic picture on, yes, we're seeing individuals, are they returning for our services, and if they're returning for our services, are we able to keep them engaged in services? And then we also have clinical assessments where we're able to determine where you were at the point that you entered our door and then we'll do another assessment in 90 days to see if there's a decrease in that number, and look at you again in six months and then look at you again in a year."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Do you know offhand how many individuals were served for this 15 million? I didn't add them up as you were talking; just curious."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, BHDD: "No, you're fine. So the total number of individuals served across all programs at this particular point, which is October 31st, of 2025, I believe, and I didn't write that number down, but I think it's over 7,000 individuals across all programs have been served for the \$15 million."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. And then if I heard you correctly, of the firms that are listed here, the only one that would be -- and this is my term now, on probation, would be Georgia Hope?"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, BHDD: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right. Commissioner Arrington, Vice Chair Ellis, Commissioner Ivory, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you for your comprehensive and thorough response about the services being provided. I guess I do have just a couple of follow-up questions because I thought originally Chris 80 was servicing the South Fulton Service Center, so when did Grady take that over? Because I remember there were not a lot of people being serviced at the South Fulton Service Center originally, so

when did Grady take that over? And it sounds like there are now a lot of people being served at all of the service centers."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, BHDD: "Yes. So originally, when we initially launched the contracted services in 2018, and we went through the renovation for the South Fulton Service Center, the very first contractor that rendered services out of that location was River Edge on our behalf because it was always an adult outpatient clinic, and Chris 180 is one of our child and adolescent providers. So the furthest south Chris 180 was originally they were at our Oak Hill Campus. And in 2023, when we released a new RP in 2022 and 2023, Grady was awarded the contract to render services at the South Fulton Service Center."

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

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "You're welcome."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. I guess I'm next in the queue, and then Commissioner Ivory and Commissioner Barrett. I just want to say, you know, just to reflect back on this, what a transformation this has been. And for those of you who don't kind of fully, kind of pay attention to the history of that, some of the folks that are here in the audience and so forth. If you go back to probably 2016, right, we had Behavioral Health and Public Health operating under the same umbrella. We were attempting to do all of these Behavioral Health services in house. We had vacancy rates in Behavioral Health that were about 60 percent, right? And with the providers like psychiatrists and so forth, we were like, we were farming that out to local tenants, person to personnel. We were servicing like an extremely low number of folks relative to kind of the population that we knew that was out there. And there's been a tremendous of -- I mean, we're not perfect, and we've got ways to go, and I think all of us acknowledge that. But this has been a tremendous transformation over that period of time. I think if you do the numbers right, I think our number of folks serving, we're up at least sevenfold since that point in time. And I think important too, you know, this concept of even when we started with this, we -- a few contract providers right? And it was still, you know, right -- we're getting there, but we were not operating with intentionality and as sort of a true network. And that's a focus that you've really brought in here in the past couple years. And you know, I hear it from the providers we're contracted with that that's there -- that's they say that we're part of the Fulton County Behavioral Health Network. And we're -- and they're collaborating with each other, right, and talking to each other. They're not competing with each other -- fragmenting out, even though, you know, some of them do their own thing outside of that, the work that they just do for us. So this has been, this has been a great success story. Obviously, we've got much more work to do. And you know, mental health is like physical health, and it's not something that's solved for when somebody goes and make a couple of visits if -- if that works out for that person, that that's -- that's great, right?"

But the chances are that's most likely not the case that, you know, mental health and many people who have more severe mental health conditions, they're -- they're needing to get served throughout the course of their life, just like we are with primary care and other forms of physical healthcare. And we -- we've now got a network in place that catches that from, you know, preventative, right, and some of the stuff that we're looking at with the great emphasis we've had on -- on the -- on the youth and the children's programs to ongoing care for adults and with people hitting themselves in times of crisis. So, you know, it's here, we're in this moment, you know, so let's talk about it, and let's celebrate a lot of that success and great work that's been done. So and thank you for all of your leadership in this."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Thank you, Commissioner Ellis. I did forget to mention school-based mental health. So we do have two contractors that deliver school-based mental health services for us, as well as a part of this \$15 million ask where we're present in 66 schools. We have Summit, who provides coverage at 28 schools, and in 2025, they picked up the K-5 LEAP program. And so that's an additional program that we're providing service and support to, as well as Chris 180 provides school-based mental health for us as well in 38 Fulton County schools. Sorry, I forgot that part."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Vice Chair. I just wanted to say, as the newest Commissioner, when I first came in and Oak Hill being in my district, I wanted to learn all about it, and went there several times to, you know, learn more and make sure I could explain what was being offered there. And at the same time learning how we are accountable to the people who are providing services for us, or how they are accountable to us. And knowing that that is a procurement process that we are not involved in, I wondered where that accountability was, and how do we measure many of the questions that the Chairman asked about, how do we measure, and how do we know? And so I just wanted to take this moment to say thank you for teaching me. You've been always available to meet with me and answer those questions for me, and especially in an area where I have a great, grave concern, because I know how much people need these services. So I just want to thank you for when I thought that there was a problem, and I just said, I'm just telling you, I think there's a problem, and I'm stepping away, please look into it, you did. And you're doing something about it. And I hardly ever see that complete follow-through. And so I just wanted to recognize that. A conversation we had nine months ago is coming and being taken care of now, which is exactly the kind of action that we need in the services that we provide, and especially at a place that's so important like Oak Hill. And I know everybody that sits on this Commission has these services in their districts, and deem it to be as equally as important as this crisis center is in my district. So I just wanted to say thank you for that.

I noticed it. And you've always really helped to educate me on how this process works. And also that I was at a Chris 180 event, and people had great things to say about the way that you partner, and that you make -- the way you make yourself available. So I just really wanted to say thank you. This is money that when I start seeing these large figures, I get very nervous on these agendas. And my team and I, we get together and we start breaking it all apart, like, what is this money? What is it doing? This one of these multimillion dollar amounts that I feel 100 percent great about approving. Because I know that this money is being spent for the people, with the people, and in the hands of the right person who is making sure that we have the right contractors. So thank you very much."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll add my, my thanks. I think we all agree that you do a fantastic job, Ms. Foster. And you know, obviously, I wasn't here in 2016 when some of this got started. But I, you know, from the minute I got here, I've been very impressed with our Behavioral Health Services. I just had a couple of quick logistical questions in terms of the way this is presented. I very much understand from a, you know, from a public perception, that having a provider network is the way to go. And it sounds like that it's been very effective. But I'm just wondering why these are sort of presented for approval as one big lump as opposed to individual --"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Absolutely."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- contracts."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Great question. So when we release the RFP, we release the RFP as the Behavioral Health Network. And so when the contracts are renewed, it's renewed under that RFP number. And with that RFP number and the contract number, all of these contracts fall under that one RFP. Felicia, did I explain it correct?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "You did an excellent job."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Thank you."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I appreciate that. Okay, thank you. I just -- it does get a little hard to parse, who's doing what. And maybe that could be better explained on some of the, you know, sheets that are with it or something, because it does get hard to parse. And you did a great job of breaking it down and explaining, but there's a lot in there, as you even said, you know, you sort of forgot to mention the

schools program, and what have you. So I think there's the downside of it this way, from the Board -- not the Board perspective, but from -- from the discussion here is that we are doing some really incredible things, and we sort of brush over them because they're all sort of lumped together. That said, I did -- I did have two other questions on the permanent supportive housing, it sounded like we're doing that in a couple different ways, but it reads like we're actually providing the supportive housing. But that's not it, right? We're providing wraparound services at the supporting housing units?"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So the language might need to be -- because it literally reads, to provide permanent supportive housing. So that may be confusing to the public. I think we should probably get that adjusted for future times that it comes before us. And then I just wondered if you could share some history about the school-based program. When did that start? How much have we done there? And are we doing that in partnership with Fulton County Schools, or is that something -- I'm just wondering about the rest of the funding for it."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Sure. So we actually launched this program in response to COVID to ensure that the students had access to behavioral health services -- behavioral health services as they transitioned back into the school. So if I give you a little historical perspective, we originally -- we were originally receiving funding from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for what they call the Apex Project. With the Apex Project, agencies received funding to place therapists within schools. It had to be a Title I school. When we outsourced, we lost that contractual funding for the Apex Project. And at that time, we may have been in eight schools. It was not a lot of schools. So what Fulton County did in response to COVID and hearing from our various partners throughout the community that the need was there to expand school-based mental health, not just focusing on the Apex Project initiative, but making sure that all students had access to care. And so we pushed the needle to ensure that we were able to place therapists within schools in Fulton County that were not eligible for Apex Project funding. And so with that said, we did a heavy focus in North Fulton. We did a focus in kind of outside of -- everything we do is outside of APS Schools, it's all Fulton County Schools. So we're in the West Lake cluster in South Fulton, and then we have schools in North Fulton, to include Johns Creek, Roswell, Sandy Springs. So we're kind of spread throughout the county, excluding the city of Atlanta."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So and is it a partnership with the Fulton County Schools or like with the School Board?"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "It's a partnership, but not a funding collaboration."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So the funding is just all from us --"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "It's all from us, yes."

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

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "You're welcome."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I -- I'll be quick. Thank you for the work that you've done. I'm seeing the tremendous -- and we're not perfect. We don't say that we are. But I have individuals that call my office, you know, seeking help, and I direct them to the appropriate agency. Just for the listening public, if you were not in the schools, we know the schools have taken quite a hit in federal funding when it comes to behavioral health and resources. What is the alternative for some of our Fulton County residents if you were not in place, or if you did not have the paradigm that you have of trying to make sure that no one falls through the cracks? If we did not have that, do they have any other resource?"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "So I can make assumptions. I'm sure students would have attempted to connect with the school social worker, which I don't know if the capacity is there to invest the time into clinical interventions. We do more than just meeting with students. We engage the parents. We educate the parents on things to be aware of. We've incorporated a text-for-help program in the school. So it's not just a therapist present with the students, but also engaging the parents, also engaging the school personnel to make sure that they are aware of mental health. If you notice something, say something, refer, connect. So my assumption would be that they would attempt to filter all of this through our schools social worker, school counselors, which may not be impactful, or they may have to seek services outside of school hours or seek services during school hours, and now you're impacting their academic performance."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And one thing that I want the listening public to know, this does sound like a lot of money, but it's not enough. Just like when I talk about my advocacy for PAD. All of this interrelates into trying to keep people from being homeless, trying to keep people from being in the criminal justice system. We have individuals that are acting out that may not be diagnosed, that may not have the resources, that may struggle with housing, that may struggle with socioeconomic things that are going on. And so when we talk about behavioral health here and the amount of money that we're getting, we don't give enough, because government can't do everything. But I want people to know that Fulton County is one of the premier. Because when I look at other counties and what they're doing, they're doing the best that they can with the amount of dollars they have. But we are light years ahead. Are

there some things that we need to work on? Of course. But the way that we have came from what we were 2016 versus where we are now, is like difference in night and day. And so I thank you. I thank that we as a Board, understand the need for behavioral health to be taken seriously, and now we have a lot of focus on not only adolescents, we have focus on our seniors. And so here again, wanting to make sure that we understand the conversation of this looks like a lot of money, but it's still not enough, because we are moving ahead. But behavioral, mental health, the socioeconomic factors and all those things that are a derivative of it, even it being in the criminal justice corridors and being homeless all are tied in with a similar thread. So kudos to you and kudos to us understanding that this is a lot of money, but it's not enough. It's a need for more federally. We've seen a slash especially with our youth and the health of the money that was available to them for mental health services. So I just want to kind of give a different voice, so to speak, because we can't do it all as government. But it is our duty as the government to do something. And so here again, I just wanted to thank you for not only the transformative work that you've done, but also the visionary work that I've seen you do and continue to do, so thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you, Ms. Foster. I was just wondering if you could elaborate on a few things, what we do in the jail with mental health, the programs that we support."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Great question. Thank you. So with this funding, we also have a screening and reentry unit, which was in response to the recommendations from the Justice and Mental Health Task Force. And what this looks like is that every eligible booking in the jail, individuals are screened with the correctional mental health screening. And through the screening and reentry unit, anyone that's identified to have perhaps a mental health need based on the fact that they've scored five or more on the correctional mental health screening, our team meets with the individual to complete a gains assessment. And that's just determining what are the barriers in your life that perhaps contribute to your incarceration or contribute to unmet needs. And from there, every morning, the Accountability Court's Reentry Teams receive an email from our screening and reentry unit individual that sends out all the names of the individuals that are currently in the jail that scored five or more on the correctional mental health screening. That is also a part of this \$15 million ask. In addition to that, we provide reentry services. This service is contracted with Grady who subcontracts with Women on the Rise. This service provides reentry services to women who were incarcerated. They begin working with them while they're in the jail and help them transition back into the community with the necessary supports to be successful. Thank you for the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had -- you've already, like shared a ton of information."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "I should had a PowerPoint. I'm so sorry."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, it's sort of what I was going to ask. I think we don't normally get regular updates from you. And I think it might be worthwhile to include that in -- I don't know how regularly makes sense, if it's quarterly, so to -- so that we can hear some of these stories and see some of these numbers and showcase some of the great work that's happening in all these arenas. So if you can get that on list that would be great."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Well, the County Manager did request a PowerPoint, and I missed the deadline. So I will take ownership for that. He's the visionary, so he knew to have a PowerPoint, and I did not have it, so --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And you almost got all the way through without getting called out. So there you go."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I wonder -- we got a lot of our PAD people still here. I wonder how much coordination do we work or do we have with PAD and/or our Diversion Center to the extent that you have a center that has low numbers, and they may have people that might need some of these resources that are available. So I just wondered how much coordination do we have with PAD and/or our Diversion Center?"

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "So as a reminder, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is the department that oversees PAD's contract. And so we work hand in hand with PAD on a weekly, monthly basis, ensuring that we're coordinating services and ensuring that they have access to the Behavioral Health Network Outpatient Clinics as well. And we work hand in hand with Grady --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "-- who oversees the Diversion Center."

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

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "You're welcome."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Any other questions? So if my math is correct, that's about \$2100 per person that walks through the door, sounds like a good deal to me. So thank you."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item. I'm sorry. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: **"25-0927,** Sheriff request approval to renew an existing contract for inmate medical services, a total not-to-exceed amount of \$45,121,149.72."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So who's going to speak to this? Mr. Manager or who, Ms. Strong-Whitaker, someone?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Mr. Chairman, what's before you is the eighth renewal for the NaphCare inmate medical services contract. It does include the amount that the Board increased the contract by during 2025. The total amount for services will be 38,521,149, with medical pass-through costs, estimated medical pass-through costs of 6,600,000 for the total -- that's how you get to the total amount of 45,121,149."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So this is the last renewal?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "There will be one more renewal under the contract -- available under the contract."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "In '26? But I had heard that you're going to rebid it next year; is that accurate or not accurate?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Actually, Mr. Chairman, in order to start a new contract, this is a very, detailed complex project, and it will take some time. It's --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Right, I understand that."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm just -- I'm simply asking, are we going to rebid it in '26?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "We will rebid it in '27. We need to start working on developing the RFP in '26. But we would actually release the RFP and '27 for '28 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "-- to begin January 1 of 2028."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. And would you explain the need for a consultant that I heard to help with the RFP? I'm not -- I don't understand why we would need to consultant."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Maybe not a consultant, Commissioner. But we do need some assistance with -- I know there's some things in the consent decree around healthcare, medical healthcare. And our RFP has not really been updated or revised since I started in the county in 2004. And so we know that the contract needs to be updated, our requirements need to be updated. It has been reviewed, but it has not significantly changed. And we are not sure if the RFP meets the terms of the consent decree and some of those requirements, those have changed. So I think a review is necessary to make sure that a contract that is going to exceed \$45 million a year is up to date and can take us through the next ten years."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Any idea what the cost of the review, consultant, whatever you want to call that firm or individual will be?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Well, I'm not sure if we need to consult with that or if we need to go back to the monitor that is working with the county. I'm not sure which way we need to go with that. That's something I think we need to explore with senior management."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you for bringing up that up, Chairman. County Manager, that's a concern. And my concern is that we do need a consultant. Because not only do we need to upgrade, we have a consent decree in place. And we've already known that dealing with the jail, dealing with NaphCare, that is a issue that is going to be under a spotlight. And so I think it would behoove us to make sure that we have a subject matter expert, especially in that area to make sure that the vision that we have for ten years out, and when we're trying to rebid it that we cover areas of concern that ten years ago we may not necessarily have had. And so I would support that, County Manager. And I would look forward to making sure that we look at that. What is it? A pound of measures versus -- I mean, a penny for measure, a pound of cure, however they say it. I think we need to be on the right side. I know anytime we're talking about dollars, we must be fiscally responsible. But to me, part of being fiscally responsible is understanding that we -- we created a situation. And when I mean we, I mean at that particular time, we built a jail that when the doors opened, it was already overcrowded. And so we have an opportunity now dealing with the medical needs and the mental needs, to use the expertise of a consultant for a visionary idea of how the contract needs to be. And once it's rebid-ed, it will have an outlook of what it will look like ten years down the road. So I would support that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Do you have reporting mechanisms built in this contract where the vendors provide a data back to us in terms of what they've done?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "There is -- "

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Staff, et cetera?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "There is some performance metrics in the contract that we amended it over various time. There is some reporting data --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Does it get -- with what sort of pace is it reported? At the end of the year, throughout the year? And maybe I'll know the -- I just -- it's certainly, I think as we're going into looking at a new structure, I think having a greater insight into this, I mean, we've had very much fits and starts with this. I know we've -- there was a period of time where our management team was meeting directly with Sheriff's Department and the provider, you know, talking about the different issues at play. And seemed like there were a lot of improvements that got shut down. Away from that, not going to get into the history of that, whatever. But it does seem like sort of reporting mechanisms and all around that are very important given the, you know, given the size of this contract, and given the number of people that impacts. I mean, we just went through a discussion around very detailed sort of report back from different contract providers we have in the Behavioral Health area. We have very little insight into this one, so."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 8, **25-0928**, Finance discussion, Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Operating Budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. I'm going to defer to the CFO. But just suffice it to say, we've tried to simplify the presentation from the last meeting, making it as clear as possible what is being assumed. It also -- we've laid out, there are some next steps, and there are very significant next steps between now and the two meetings in January. So we want to cover those in the next two to three charts. And I'll defer to CFO Whitmore."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. If we could go to the next slide, please. Commissioners, because this is a -- on the agenda today, is a discussion item. The document that is before you is really just a recap of the '26 proposed budget. Next slide, please. As a reminder, the '26 general fund proposed budget is based upon a carry-forward fund balance of 232.7 million. The total revenue of 996 million, an expenditure budget of 1,053,000,000 and a projected ending fund balance of a 175.6 which does comply with the county's fund balance reserve resolution. On the, of note, on the revenue side, there is an additional 32 million of property tax which corresponds with the 32 million in incremental spend associated with the consent decree. Next slide, please. We also wanted to review the assumptions for property tax one more time, perhaps a little more clearly. We have built the property tax anticipation on the assumption that we will experience growth in the digest at the same rate as we experienced for the 2025 digest, which is 3.11 percent; and that our collection rate would be 95.2 percent, which is the collection rate that we've averaged for the last three years; and then lastly that the estimated millage rate would be sufficient to generate the appropriated property tax revenue. Based on those assumptions, that millage rate would currently be 9.26 mils. Next slide, please. From the next steps perspective, today, as well as the next meeting, we expected there will be additional consent order compliance recommendations presented to the Board on the meeting, January 7th, which is the first meeting in January. We will update and revise the proposed budget to include the actual 2025 results, revenue and expenditure results, actual fund balance carry forward. And then any adjustments that we may need to make to our revenue expectations in 2026 from a timing perspective, we may have collected more in '25 than we originally projected. So we may have to reduce then what we're projecting in '26 for prior-year property taxes, things like that. So we'll bring that forward. We would also include in that document any additional consent expenditure recommendations that may come from the Board through the end of this month. And then any other operational amendments, operational expenditure amendments as may be necessary. And then outline what the underlying millage rate assumption would be based on those days. With that, with the revision coming forward, then in January, at the first meeting in January, the Board would be able to adopt the budget in its final form in either of those two meetings January because we did hold the legally required public hearing earlier today. So that was the information that we just wanted to share in an attempt to help clarify what the proposed budget contemplated from a revenue perspective and a millage rate perspective. And then, Mr. Chairman, it's really a discussion after that. Those are just the few updates we had today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you, Madam CFO. Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Madam CFO, the County Manager and team for pulling this together. I think this is unfortunately a lot more realistic,

because there is no such thing as an overlay millage rate. I did think that we were also -- I thought that there was mentioned that there would be 30 to 60 million for the consent decree. And so to the extent that this only -- I think I heard you, Madam CFO, say that this only anticipates 30 million, and that there could be potentially 60 million. And I guess that's what you mean when you say we may come back and may have to add another 30 million. I wonder if you have thought about adding in 30, that additional 30 million or the full 60 million, and what millage rate assumption would be with another 30 million added?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we add in -- I mean, sorry, thank you, Commissioner Arrington. If we add in another 30 million, that would be about one -- maybe three-tenths, somewhere between three-tenths and four-tenths of a mil, so a little less than half a mil."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And so then that would be maybe 9.5 or 9.6 mils at .3; is that correct? Or .3 and .4?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "If we needed the whole half a mil, then it would take us up to about 9.7, so I would say, you know, probably somewhere between 9.5 to 9.7."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, all right, thank you. And all right, that's all that I have for now."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that you changed the presentation to just simplify the millage rate assumption. I'm just wondering, does this live online somewhere, this presentation?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Not yet, no, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But it will?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We can, we can put it out in the budget section where we the proposed budget as well, we can put the presentation."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, because, I mean, my concern is that while this has now -- now lays out clearly what the current proposed millage rate is without any additional consent decree money, the book does not say that at all. The book does not say 9.26 anywhere, I don't think. And so if people are looking at the budget and trying to understand the assumptions, they're still getting that same sort of confusing message that was in the original presentation last time. So I think anything we can do to make that clearer to the public would be helpful. I want to just express some concern about separating out on this page, and it was in this way in the other as well. That 32 million

is in some other category in the revenue on the revenue side. It is property tax. It should be, the entire amount for property tax should be 815 plus, 32, not two separate buckets. It doesn't come in as a separate bucket. It is not a separate bucket. It is property tax revenue. Trying to act like there's some consent decree revenue is just misleading. And I understand what your intention was in trying to show that there -- where you were going to pay for the consent decree expenses. But I think presenting it this way, again, is very confusing for the reading public. We -- if you look at this at a quick glance, you think we reduced the amount of property tax that we're bringing in down to 815. So it's just very confusing and I don't think it's necessary. And it doesn't actually change anything; it's just a picture that's trying to present something in a way that is cloudy. And I would also say the same is true on the expense side. Putting the consent decree 32 million in its own bucket feels misleading to me, because we're not spending money on a consent decree. We are under consent decree. And we are under consent decree, a legal mechanism because we have failed to put enough money towards staffing at the jail and a variety of other things, maintenance of the jail, and all those things. So the 32 million or maybe 60 million, in my opinion, that we're going to spend, should be in the departments where it will be spent. And in some of those cases, it will be recurring expenses. So to put it in a separate bucket like it's a \$32 million one-time thing that's going to be a check written to something called consent decree is misleading. These are either Sheriff's operational items or they're the county's maintenance items. They're not separate. And this is the same argument I've had year after year about this inmate services line item on the budget. I still have the same concern. If inmates services are to be performed, those are operational expenses of the Sheriff's, they should be his budget. So I'm just going to continue to express those concerns every time, and they'll continue to be ignored I'm sure. But this is not clear to the public what these things are, and I think it's very, very misleading. And we should have transparency as a focus here. This is not transparent. And to that end, I ask this every year too, but we have, you know, a massive amount of money sitting in non-agency. And I believe 80 million of it is non-agency/other, which is again, you know, just a mystery to anybody in the public who's looking at the budget. And so I think we need a full accounting of what is in non-agency, and what in particular is in non-agency/other. If we're looking at cutting every dollar and every penny everywhere we can, you know, how can we be asked to vote on a budget where \$80 million worth is just a mystery? I mean, this is like the thing we are elected to do. So once again, this feels very cloudy. So you know, I'd like to see more information on that if possible. You know, there's -- I wasn't here last time, so I didn't, you know, wasn't able to sort of -- I know a lot of work goes into this. I really do appreciate it. But I do think there's a lot of questions about how we're moving forward here, and I understand the goal that we're going to have to raise the millage rate pretty significantly to pay for these items that we're going to need to -- to do in order to be in compliance with the consent decree. But you know, we just approved a contract for -- I don't know, what was it \$2 million

altogether for AV equipment? And we, you know, approved a contract for 500,000 for, you know, PR and communications. And then -- but then we're telling all the departments they have to cut 1 percent. So I'm questioning that a little bit too. Now I understand that this is a tradeoff between the salary savings and the -- the attrition calculations versus doing the 1 percent. So I understand trying a different method to do this. But I do have concerns, and maybe you can speak this, whoever. There are some departments, and I saw this when I sat through the budget hearings, where they are using almost all of their budget. There are some that are not. There are some that have enough open positions that 1 percent is actually a better deal for them than the salary attrition savings that was being before. But for some, they are using almost all of their budgets. They're fully staffed, and they're pretty close. So what happens to those departments? My concern is, and I'll let you answer that, but my concern is that we're -- we're not really using a scalpel here in figuring out where to cut. And we're sort of asking everybody to tighten their belt, which is very different ask for a six-person department that's fully using its budget than it is for a several 100-person department that has lots of vacancies. So I don't know if you want to speak to that, Madam CFO or Mr. Manager."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett. Yes, it was a trade-off, if you will, from following what we have done with attrition, because there seemed to be a lot of concern raised over how to implement attrition. So because we -- we know that we don't spend 100 percent of what is placed in the budget, we went ahead took a haircut, 1 percent of that. And to your question about what will a small department have to do, we've asked them to work with their budget analysts to identify where they will be able to absorb those, those reductions. So we are looking at that with, you know, with each of the agencies. And they each will have the opportunity to develop their plan. In some cases, they may end up taking it as attrition and just deferring filling a position for some period of time during the year if they have a vacancy."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And if they don't have a vacancy?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Then we will have to look at other places within their operating budget where they may find the resources to cover their 1 percent."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So I guess what I'm getting at is -- and I don't -- I don't remember which departments were fully staffed like that. It strikes me that it might have been Diversity and Compliance, Civil Compliance. They might have been pretty full -- pretty close to full staff. There were a few of the smaller departments in particular, I think that we heard from. But again, you know, I have a concern about, you know, a haircut, as you described it, versus, you know, a scalpel, and making decisions about budget cuts. Because, you know, I don't want to pick on particular department. But if

there's a smaller department with a smaller a budget and they're having to cut then they are decreasing service. But we're spending, you know, \$450,000 on PR when we're saying we don't have money to spend. Or we're -- I think you still have the \$10 million in there, Madam CFO, under non-agency/other for the bond debt that we're probably not going to even have to issue those bonds this coming year. So look, why are we not being a little bit more precise in these cuts and cutting the things that are the least needed, versus just asking everybody to cut 1 percent?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We looked at the budget overall the last, at the last session, I used the term massage, and said I wouldn't use it again. But it is -- it is a process. We had already built in to the planning process, attrition. And after some heated discussion amongst ourselves, we came to the conclusion that attrition, although it sounds simple, seems to be difficult for many agencies to execute. So a 1 percent haircut did not seem insurmountable. We could go in with a scalpel, and make specific reductions. It would not be to the debt service number because we are at a point, a point where we will be bringing back to the Board in the very near future, some plans for moving forward with the design work that needs to be done for the Special Purpose building, as well as a accelerated plan to address the housing need that we will have when the current agreement that we have with the city of Atlanta for the use of the Detention Center expires. So there is a need now for that. And we will be bringing something forward to the Board very soon. So we could go in with the scalpel, but when we came to the Board and we shared and made suggestions and we talked about, you know, specific programmatic expenses, we did not get any specific direction back to reduce any one thing over the other. And again, we had some pretty heated discussion about what are the kinds of things that we would remove from the budget. And we would certainly look first to those things that are not mandated, that are not required services, programs or services. So those would be the ones that we would look to, you know, start making reductions on. And many of those are very popular services with constituents. So a shared -- a shared reduction to us seemed a little, a little better than going in and making those surgical -- those surgical cuts. But if you have a recommendation for something for us to consider completely, you know, taking out of the budget or eliminating, we'd certainly be happy to take that under consideration."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I appreciate that, but we're really only given the department level in terms of how much budget each one has. And then this year, we got on paper but not digitally, what the departments presented at their budget hearings. So asking us to come up with recommendations is sort of backwards. I feel like you all should be recommending to us where the best cuts would be. Where does it make sense to cut? I mean, I can't, you know, put my finger in the air and say this program versus that, but you all have much more knowledge and more direct contact with the departments and all those things to ask those kind of questions. And I hate to keep

picking on Ms. Corbitt and the \$450,000, but, you know, because she does great work. But you know, that's the kind of thing where, you know, it's not mandated and it's in the base budget. And it's not a service that the constituents care about. And you know, and again, I hate to just keep picking on that one chunk, but it happened to come before us today. So you know, I think it's a little backwards to say that we should come up with suggestions. I mean, you don't even let the departments talk to us without your participation. So I mean, how would I do that? When I was -- when I asked some of the departments to share their -- their budget documents with us, they -- I was told they were not allowed to. So you know, I think you guys have a pretty tight reign, and that's not really an opportunity for us to have that level of knowledge to even bring that forward. So that's concerning. And I had one other question on the 1 percent, and that is, I think there's a legal issue with the 1 percent cut, at least as it relates to the constituent -- sorry, constitutional officers, is there not? Well, there's a, to my knowledge, there's a court case. There was a court case. I don't know, Madam County Attorney, maybe you know about this. But not that long ago, I think it was Chatham County where the -- they did a 1 percent cut like that. I think it was 1 percent, I don't remember, but -- and the Sheriff's Office, I think in Chatham County, or it might have been one of the other constitutional officers, sued over it and won. And they were told that they could not apply a 1 percent across-the-board cut to the constitutional officer. So we should probably check that before we lock it in. Because we will end up in court if that happens. So just worth looking into. That's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. I don't even know where to begin. But as a law professor, the thing I try to do for my law students is always teach in the most simplistic way, speak plain English so that they can walk away from my law classes understanding what their role is as a new attorney and what we've just learned. So I often just try not to convolute what I'm saying so that they can do that. And I feel like that's just what we've done here. And it's so hard for us as Commissioners to understand this with the limited information we get, with the updates that are not really flushed out, never mind what the citizens are able to understand. And so I do concur with Commissioner Barrett about that. But we had a great meeting yesterday, almost two hours that we sat and we talked about my full concern, which was at the top of the list, can you present to me a budget that looks to what the needs of the county are, the costs of the consent decree, the assumptions that have been assigned already, which is the 30 million, and the ones we know are coming? Not that we think may be coming, that we know for sure are coming, which are 60 million or more, and given the enhancements that certain departments have been asking for, for year after year, after year, and I asked for that. Can I see what a budget would look like and what that number would be if those things were included? And I still don't have that. The idea that we are only going with one school of thought of how to approach this budget is

that, what can we do to keep the millage rate the closest to what it is right now; it blows my mind. At the same time that we are cramming in, not improving, not giving increased services, taking a 1 percent decrease, cutting in half the consent decree costs to preserve and be as conservative as a number as to not shock the conscience of certain Commissioners, is not what the public deserves. The public deserves a number that they can look at and compare to different scenarios. This is the scenario if we keep the millage rate flat. This is the scenario if we include all the cost of the consent decree. This is the scenario if we gave all the enhancements that are being recommended. That's a smart way to approach a budget, and I've asked for that. But I just can't seem to get it. There is a concept of trying to play down numbers all the time in finance. I know why. It's -- we shouldn't do it though, because the budget should not be political, but it is. In conversations we had before, we said that 30 million was about a .39 of a mil. When Commissioner Arrington just asked if we kept the 60 million in, what would that increase be, your response was about .5, a little less than .5. And that's just mathematically incorrect. If 30 million is .39, then 60 million is .74, which you all included in your ten-year forecast plan document that you presented to us, which took the millage rate to 10.1 in 2026. And I don't want to have to post that document. I don't want to -- it's not anywhere. I have it. Everybody else has -- in fact, I think Commissioner Arrington has posted it before. But it's like, let's just tell the scary truth. If the scary truth is that we have to raise more revenue to bring into this -- into this county in order to pay for the consent decree costs at what we know is at least \$60 million, could be more, because we know we have to staff -- we have a staffing plan coming up that's going to be expensive. So it might even be more than 10.1. But it's like we're trying so hard to stay away from telling the truth about these numbers. We had a ten-year forecast plan that looked at 2026, 2027, ten years down the line. And guess what, Fulton County, the number continues to go up. In 2026, it was 10.1. In 2027, it's higher. And it goes up and it goes up until certain dollars come back into the county and we can begin to bring it down. And the truth is, we should be telling you the truth about that. And so I'm going to do that. And I'm just going keep doing it. And I feel -- I feel just -- it is not about where you stand in any of your political views about raising taxes or not raising, it's where we are in Fulton County right now, the crisis we are in. There are, right now, 45 people sleeping on the floor of the jail today. Jail population, 2,904, Rice Street, 1,960; 45 people sleeping on the floor in a facility that the federal government has said is unconstitutionally uninhabitable. But we're playing games with the numbers that we need to make it constitutional. Tell the truth. A millage rate increase is going to happen. And so we can say 9.2, 9.1, 10.1, but it's happening. It's coming in January, we'll see different numbers. We're asking departments to do less with more, so we can cram money in. It just is not an effective way to run a government. It is not an effective way to not tell the people the truth about what has been done with their dollars and what we need to do with the dollars that are coming in, and that we need more of them, because we've been flat for over a decade. And I don't

know how many people in their house can use the same money for the last 12 to 15 years to pay the expenses of today and fund a crisis. That's not our only crisis. We have other crises too. We don't talk about those hospitals, more funding for our court system. I could go on and on. I would love to see a budget that funds all the things we need. Can I -- can I get that? Hello? Can I get that in a -- not in a three-page document, but more in a going to the system -- I -- you guys are so smart. I know you're so smart because I -- you've taught me so much. Go into the system and put the other numbers in. Because you can just take this number out and put -- take the 30 out, put the 60 in, take the 1 percent away, the reduction away, and let's see what those numbers look like. Just show me another budget. I want to share an alternate reality or an alternate option for my constituents. Can I please get that? Yes, yes?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I mean, I think it would be helpful to have a consensus of what -- either what detail, what kinds of scenarios as you raise, because, by the way, you know, winding clock back, we've provided scenarios before, and I'm talking about in years past. And that didn't exactly go well. Then the direction then was, bring us a spot, you know, proposal based on a discussion that we have in early December. So any of these things are possible."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I get it. And I understand that, County Manager, and thank you. And that -- those requests come from a four majority of the Board, not everyone on the Board. And so what I'm asking outside of that for is, can I -- for my -- whether it would pass or not, I'm not asking about whether it would pass. I just want to see what it would look like. And so I can, for sure, send you an email with that detail, I think I have before. And I can add more and make that request. But I would like to examine what that looks like. And you began to --"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Perfect. And you began to do that in the ten-year forecast, where you were setting out the assumptions that you know, which you know 60 million is coming or more, because you -- we talked about this. We talked about it yesterday. But we're still working off of the 30 million with, I think -- which, I think is just disingenuous. So I'm going to stop, because I know you know what I'm talking about, because we have conversed about it. I think you all know that you deserve a true -- the truth about what we need to run this county and to fix the jail. And I'm going to stop there."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Sounds real similar to my formal request."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Thorne. And I'm going to give you -- I can tell you how to solve this problem when we get finished. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So are you guys not telling the truth about numbers? Are -- I mean, it seems to be an accusation. I just wanted you to respond if you could. Are you not --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, I mean --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Are you playing down numbers?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All numbers are developed with whatever the assumptions are. We try to lay out what the assumptions are in every time that we present. So it's not a matter of, is it true or not true? It's if you don't agree with the assumptions, then you won't agree with the numbers. It's really that simple."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you. Thank you for laying that out. And it's really not political either. We have a lot of needs. I have a lot of needs in my house that I wish I could fund, but I just can't at this time. You know, everybody can come up with a ton of needs. And I looked at Gwinnett County, our neighboring county. They were able to identify -- they realize the cost of inflation is hurting everybody, it's hurting government, it's hurting individuals. And they were able to identify areas where they thought they could reduce spending but not reduce services. And they're reducing their budget by \$66 million. So kudos to them. You know, I do appreciate you guys putting out the cost of the consent decree. That's helpful for me to see. We're funding -- because it is such a huge expense that we're, the taxpayers are going to have to incur. And we didn't know exactly, and we still don't know exactly, how much we're going to pay. So for me to have that as a separate item that's causing our millage rate to go up or increase, it makes it easier, actually more transparent, not less transparent, that I can explain it to my constituents if we do have to raise or we approve a budget that is not flat. It makes it easier for me to explain to my constituents. It's laid out, it's there, it's visible. There's a graphic there. I do have a concern with a ruling that just came out last week with our District Attorney, that is likely going to cost the county millions of dollars. And I want to know if that's been addressed. I understand we have 45 days where the 19 defendants will turn in their legal costs that the Fulton County taxpayers will be on the hook for. So are we going to wait to just throw that in the budget, or we just going to ignore that, like that didn't happen? Or what is the situation there?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So let me the address that quickly. I think we need to -- Madam County Attorney, help me out, to discuss that special prosecutor's ruling in Executive Session, where we go from here."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So I'll wait for Executive Session. But obviously, we're not putting that in the budget. For me, I -- you know, I appreciate what you're doing. We can do the math. I know Hakeem, when he was here, he would sit down and he had a model where it was this scenario, he could plug it in the model. And I could see what would happen with the millage rate. I assume we still have that model if that's correct. So I imagine if Commissioners want to add 300 million to the budget, I think the Sheriff wants us to add 180 million to his budget. You could see how much the millage rate's going to increase with adding that into the budget. And I just want to thank you for all the work you're doing. I like the simplified presentation here. It's not overwhelming to look at. And I would love to see it if we could find areas to trim. And we could make the impact of a not having to raise the millage rate when we set the millage rate in August. Oh, I also wanted to point out, there's been a lot of talk about the \$68 million surplus, that we have a surplus. We have money to spend. That 68 million is put into our fund balance. It is located there in the 232.7 million fund balance that we're using towards this year's budget, and we're still going to come up short. So anybody who's out there saying we have a surplus, let's just spend the money, let's go, you're just asking to spend money that we're not going to have next year, and you're going to be raising the millage rate even more. Thank you. That's all I have to say."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I just wanted to add something to what I was saying earlier. And I appreciate your comments, Commissioner Ivory. And I think maybe Commissioner Ivory did a better job of getting at what I was trying to say about the 32 million separated out on the -- on the chart here as additional property tax and then consent decree. That separation, I think I just said, is confusing or isn't accurate or whatever. But the reality is, is that separation, that right there on page 2 of the document you -- this PowerPoint you have up is political, because there is no business case for drawing this this way. Writing this up as \$32 million additional property tax and \$32 million to be sent -- spent on a consent decree is purely political. So I just have to reiterate that and make that more clear, because I think I wasn't clear enough about that. That is not a business decision. Property tax is property tax. There's no such thing as a \$32 million additional property tax to pay a consent decree. And the other thing I want to say, and I think Commissioner Ivory alluded to this, you know, we're talking about cutting everything, and a 1 percent cut by keeping everybody at prior levels to cram everything into this, you know, lower amount. But the reality is, the consent decree is not a random thing that just happened to us because. It -- the consent decree is in place because we did not live up to our obligations. And that comes from under investing in justice for decades, as evidenced by the fact that we were under a consent decree before. We, I think for nine years or something, we finally got out of it. And we continued not to invest enough and found ourselves right back under consent decree again. So if we don't up the level of

investment that we're willing to make in the entire justice system, and we are doing the minimum to get through and get out of a consent decree, we're just going to find ourselves right back there again. So cutting funding to justice or continuing to deny funding for things that improve the justice system like PAD, who is still sitting here patiently waiting to see what we're going to do, we're going to end up in the same situation. So we can't just address only the concerns specifically that are listed in the consent decree or in the DOJ report, and ignore the throughput of the court system, ignore the diversion options, ignore all the things that the programs that are our various justice partners are trying to put in place to make everything better, because we're trying to hold -- we're not going to spend on any of that, and only invest in the exact same thing, exactly what is listed in the consent decree, and nothing more. It's just going to get us right back in the same position however many years from now, whether it's five years after we get out of this one, or ten, or whatever it is. So I think we just need to own the fact that our underinvestment for a long period of time is responsible for this. This is not -- a consent decree didn't float down from nowhere. It's on us for a reason, and we are responsible for that. So I just think, you know, we have to be really clear about what this is. It's not some mystery thing that came out of nowhere. It's a ruling, it's a decision about the status of where we are and requirements we need to not be under this, you know, Department of Justice ruling. And I'm probably using the wrong legal words, so forgive me for that, but you get my point. I think, whether or not you want to present, you know, options for different versions of the budget, as Commissioner Ivory suggested, or you don't feel that you got that direction from four members of the Board or what have you, I do think you have a responsibility to present a budget that is actually providing sufficient levels of service. This is a word that gets used every year in the budget book, sufficient levels of service. Is it sufficient if people are still dying in the jail? Like, is it sufficient? I mean, I just -- what is sufficient? If we have people sleeping on the floor, is it sufficient? If we have backlogs in the courts, is it sufficient? So you know, I do think you have a responsibility to tell us, whether we like it or not, the cost to truly be at a sufficient level of service that will not only get us out of this consent decree, but will put us on the right path to stay out of consent decrees long term. And I do, by the way, Mr. County Manager, very much respect that you did bring a lot of these numbers forward for us. And I think it was two or three years ago now, I don't remember now. And we chose to ignore you, and I understand the frustration of not wanting to continue to do that over and over again. I get it. I just, I would love for you to keep doing that, keep telling us those numbers, because they're true. So I think I've made my point."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It's 1:41. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "This budget has a 12 percent increase in expenditures, correct? So we're not cutting --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "12 percent, right? 12 percent, I don't think any of our households will see it jumps at 12 percent. And I know there are a lot of people that are -- a handful of people on this Board, not a lot, handful who are seem to be darned and determined that they're going to raise tax rates on people, you know, regardless. And I'm not one of those folks. I heard specifically, very loud and clear, I've heard it during my time on this Commission that property taxes are a significant burden on our citizens. And we've got an obligation to do everything possible to minimize that tax burden. And just layering on money on top of money is not the answer. Have we under invested in justice, have we -- in fact, we've invested more in justice than we have in many of the other areas. We were out of a consent decree, and we got back in one when there was a change in leadership. So sometimes -- and we also applied a lot of money into that particular office. Decisions were made, we can have a long discussion about the actions of that individual running that office in the -- in that department, and the impact that that caused us to be in this consent decree. Which maybe we would not have been had they chose to spend those dollars and run their operations differently. That's a subject for another debate. But it's not a given that because -- we're in the consent decree because of underinvestment. We've invested a significant amount in justice, and we continue to, and we continue, and we will continue to. But my only -- my only comment this sort of in terms of budget direction to you all, is that I do think we all need to recognize the voices we heard from our citizens, and it's overwhelming in this county and in the state that property tax burdens are too high. And the decisions we make need to be undergirded with keeping that millage rate as close as possible to where it is right now."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, anything else? Before we break and recess for lunch and Executive Session, it's been brought to my attention that there's about ten or 12 folk who are here. And I am glad. We thank you for not moving items up on the agenda today, because that's getting out of hand. However, there are -- these people have been waiting on this PAD. And where this notion came from that we were doing away with TAD, maybe some misinformation is being sent out. I don't know. But if we can dispose of the item on the bottom of page 9, 25-0841, any objections to that? We'll call that one up, then we'll recess for lunch. Madam Clerk, would you sound that one."

CLERK GRIER: **25-0841**, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities request approval of a memorandum of understanding between Fulton County and the Atlanta-Fulton PAD to resume financial support for delivery of pre-arrest diversion services in the amount of \$400,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote, please."

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

(Assembly Hall applause.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Entertain a motion to recess for lunch, and we may consider items in Executive Session of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Come on."

CLERK GRIER: "We need a second. We need a second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We got a second, Commissioner Ivory. Okay, here."

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

Recess for Executive Session at 1:45 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 3:15 p.m.

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Okay, got it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just have one action item from the Executive Session. Is there a motion to decline the settlement offer in item 4 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to do so by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote, please."

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, **25-0929**, Registration and Election request approval to increase spending authority for temporary staffing in the amount of \$352,000."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0930, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval of a statewide contract in the amount not to exceed \$467,108.33 to provide preventative and corrective maintenance services for Fulton County Animal Services Facility."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0931, Request approval of a statewide contract in the amount not to exceed \$428,860.50 to provide preventative and corrective maintenance services for the Fulton County South Annex Jail."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0932 Arts and Culture request approval of a statewide contract for professional temporary staffing in an amount not to exceed \$105,000."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, 25-0933 Public Works request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to provide engineering services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0934, Senior Services request approval of a recommended proposal for senior in-home services in an amount not to exceed \$1,837,166.032."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Action Items, **25-0842**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics regarding a preliminary process for Commissioners who seek to file ethics complaints against other Commissioners; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Questions, comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0844**, Request approval of a resolution to create a Commercial Property Assessment Task Force to provide input to the members of the Board of Commissioners in collaboration with the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors and its staff on the evaluation of commercial properties; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ivory, followed by Vice Chair Ellis."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'd like to call the question. A motion to call the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Question's been called."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Back to the motion that's on the floor. Commission -- Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'd like to offer a substitute motion to deny.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Substitute motion to -- substitute motion to deny by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Next item.

CLERK GRIER: "25-0892, Request approval of a resolution directing the County Manager include, on an annual basis, funding in an amount not to exceed \$1 million for the Fulton County Veterans Community Services Grant Program to support services and programs for veterans residing in Fulton County; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioners Arrington, Barrett, and Ivory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Any objection to taking this up in a -- at the budget time? It's probably a lot of support for it, but the budget time is three weeks away."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, I object."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Let's vote, motion to approve."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On Page 11, 25-0893, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 101, Article 2, Division 2, Section 101-63 of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to clarify procedures for designation of a Presiding Officer in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Given that we adopted a procedure for this at the last meeting, I'm going to offer a substitute motion to deny."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Substitute motion to deny by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote please, on the motion to deny."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0895, Request approval of a resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amending policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis and Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Vice Chair Ellis, Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Ivory, Commissioner Barrett."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. Commissioners, this is a fairly straightforward resolution that emphasizes that we as Commissioners, when we do events with our name attached to them, that we use our staff which we have plenty of staff, you know, all of us have our strong -- a strong cadre of individual staffs. We use our staff and the staff budgets to conduct them and promote them. You know, we have -- we're entering into campaign season. And a lot of folks are running for office. And it -- when events -- when events occur, there's a lot of instances where these events have been conducted and promoted by county staff. And sometimes there's a feeling that the lines are blurred between what's a Commissioner event and a campaign activity. And I think all of us want to avoid the appearance of that. This resolution doesn't even -- doesn't limit the amount of events or town halls or anything of that nature that an individual Commissioner could do. It just asks us all to put some constraint on terms of how we're utilizing and exercising our individual other departments outside of our county-paid staff. It does allow for four town halls to be supported by those, by External Affairs and DREAM. That's 28 collectively for all of us, which is -- it'll be a lot of time for that staff to spend outside of their day-to-day activities. Commissioners could continue to have as many town hall events as they wanted to, doesn't matter wherever, whenever and whatever time, they would just utilize that their -- their staff to conduct and promote those. Furthermore, this -- this resolution goes on to state that when we are doing countywide events that are put on by External Affairs and others, or -- that those are what they are, countywide events, and they're promoted and advertised as such, not under just the name of an individual Commissioner. So I would ask for your favorable support."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: So I got elected in 2015, and I have been in office for 11 years. For all 11 years, I have hosted a minimum of three to four town halls three to four times a year. Let's talk about those town halls. I typically host a tax exemption town hall, as well as a -- the tax exemption town hall is typically held in April or in March, before the April 1st deadline. And the reason that I host multiple ones is so that I can talk to different residents throughout my district. But more importantly, I invite the staff from the Assessors Office because neither me nor my staff have the expertise to answer the questions that constituents have about the exemptions. And the staff works with people on site at those town halls. The residents enjoy having qualified, competent staff at the town hall who can answer their questions. And so I guess I'm somewhat befuddled by the need for this. I've been doing this for 11 years. I've been inviting staff out to speak at my tax exemption town hall and the tax bill town hall that we typically do in August before they get their bills. And the residents want to hear from me, but more importantly, they want someone there who can answer their questions at the tax -- at the property tax town halls that we do in August before the tax bills are received. People bring their tax bills, and the staff works with them right there on site. And one of the reasons that was offered is because there are elections coming up. Well, I've been here 11 years. We've had -- I had election in 2018. It was an election in 2022. So the fact that there's an election coming up next year is irrelevant. I host three to four town halls three to four times a year, and have done so every year for the last 11 years. And it is important to have the staff there so that they can answer the questions that the residents have. They have the expertise, they have the knowledge, and they are happy and excited to do it. And so, you know, this is one of the reasons why I'm running for Chair, because of resolutions just like this.

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Commissioner Arrington, there's nothing in this resolution that restricts you for continuing to do what --

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point of order."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- you were doing."

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point of order."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. I'll just make a prediction that this item will pass four to three. Who's shocked? It will pass four to three from some of the very Commissioners that say transparency and being in the community is the most important thing --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point -- excuse me."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's your --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I was --"

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order. It's not speaking to the actual issue at hand."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "It is not speaking to the issue at hand."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I accept your point of order. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, thank you. That's an ignorant statement, but that's fine. And then Commissioners will say they are committed to community, which town halls are part of community. Many commissioners do town halls, but then there will be a four, three vote, I promise you. So this is absolutely a political move, because it is a campaign season coming up. But it's sad. Because the very reason we are elected is to give you the information that you wouldn't otherwise be able to get or be able to easily understand, which is the very nature of town halls. So this resolution is not a minor administrative change. While some language has been adjusted, it's still limits meaningful, public engagement. Community access to elected officials is essential, and this resolution continues to shrink that access. Transparency, accountability, and community engagement are at the heart of public service. Watch your public servants wiggling out of that. We have a responsibility to be present, accessible, and responsive to the people who elected us, not to create barriers between ourselves and our constituents. Town halls are the forms of democracy. They are where residents ask questions, they hold us accountable, and they engage beyond a brief moment in a meeting at public comment. This resolution restricts us to only four town halls per year, virtual or in person. Require -- requiring these events to take place in county facilities automatically, here's interesting language, automatically engages county staff outside of a particular Commissioner's office. If we're going to have an event at a county facility, we have to engage with people that are outside of our county office to do that. If it's at a library, if it's at another location that is county owned, we must call, we must ask them if the dates are open. We must do a walk through. We must do set up. So they're going to be engaged no matter what. Nobody just hands the keys over to a county facility and says, have your town hall, which is why this limit -- limit effect -- effectively caps anything that we want to do. It just doesn't make any sense. Some may argue

that Commissioner can hold events within their -- with their own staff. But that misses the point completely that we operate as a full Fulton County. When I first became a Commissioner, one of the very things that my constituents asked while I was running for office was to have a town hall about commercial property assessments, and it was the very first thing I did. And you know what the Tax Commissioner told me, and the Chief Assessor told me that they hadn't been in a town hall together for decades, together. And they were more than happy to do it. And then we did it, and it was great. So we want to do it again. And we did have to use county -- staff outside of my county to do that. And it was a wonderful town hall. Restricting town halls to weekdays, excluding working-class residents who cannot attend during business hours, that's what this does. Limiting events to county-owned facilities, shuts out local churches, schools, community theaters, and small neighborhood businesses, spaces where residents feel comfortable gathering and connecting, like the ones that I did at the Plaza Theater and on Ponce de Leon, and the one that I did at the Academy Theater in Hapeville, which the residents of Hapeville said had never happened before in Hapeville. This resolution still limits opportunities for residents to meet with their Commissioners by restricting timing, locations and the total number of events. It shrinks windows for public participation, and weakens the connection between government and community. What are you hiding? What information are you trying to hide by limiting the amount of contact that we can have with our constituents? Hiding from constituents allows you to hide behind what you're doing as a Commissioner. That could be the whole reason that this four vote is going to pass, just a prediction, but let's see it happen in ten minutes from now. If this passes, residents lose dialogue, access, and connection. They lose the chance to meet with their Commissioners, as in ways that foster understanding -- excuse me, trust and effective government. But this is a part of a national -- nationwide trend, limiting transparency, shrinking participation and making government less accountable. Supporting this resolution aligns with that pattern. I cannot and will not support a measure that tells Fulton County residents, your voices do not matter. They should not have a fight -- they should not have to fight for access to their government. I wanted ask the County Attorney, does hosting a town hall violate any sort of campaign compliance issues? I see she's not here right now, but can you answer that for me?"

DOMINIQUE MARTINEZ, DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "Hi, Commissioner. Not, per se, it does not assuming that you're not doing it specifically for your campaign."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you. And Jessica, I wanted to ask you, from an External Affairs standpoint, is supporting Commissioner events too much for your team to handle?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's your point of order, Commissioner?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "My point of order is that's out of line. She's a person that actually -- she is one of our reports. She reports to the Commission here, so to put her on the spot like that publicly, and ask that question is not in line of what this is talking about."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Chairman, Commissioner Ellis --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Would you -- did you --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- wrote her up in this report --"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- in his comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Rephrase it."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Yeah, she reports to the county. Jessica, is supporting Commissioner events for -- is too much for your team --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- to handle?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Go ahead."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, asking someone who reports to the County Attorney -- excuse me, to the County Manager, who ultimately reports to these Board of Commissioners, asking her that question is out of order."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It is not."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I'll --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Commissioner Ellis asked about --"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- and that's why I'm asking."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I have to agree with that. I have more background on this. But that's all right. Y'all can overrule my ruling on it. I'll accept her point of order. Is there a motion to overrule my --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "A motion to overrule."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Properly moved and seconded to overrule the Chair. Let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion is to overrule my ruling."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'd like to be -- have discussion on this motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah, I'm not actually finished with the floor yet after her point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right, we're going to vote on the --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- on the overrule. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, so a point of order under Robert's Rules of Order, is a way for a member to call attention to a violation of parliamentary procedure during a meeting. This is not a violation of parliamentary procedure. It is not a valid point of order. She doesn't like what she's saying, and she doesn't want it to be done. But there -- what is the violation, Mr. Chair, of parliamentary procedure?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The -- the -- your point about the reason for the point of order, I'll accept that. But what I'm concerned about here, and the reason I ruled of what I did, is because it's no secret that what the origin of this legislation is not from Commissioners. It has come from department heads. That's why I think this motion -- that's why I accepted. She might have used the wrong ruling, which I agree with your interpretation. That's correct. But my ruling was based upon something else. So I will enter -- again, the motion on the floor is to overrule my ruling."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, well, I mean, you just admitted that, that I was right."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So the ruling shouldn't stand."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You just admitted that I was right, and that there was no violation of parliamentary procedure."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I mean, we think that we have an answer --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- that she can handle the events for Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "We want to move on from silly questioning --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- because of intellectual battles that --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Commissioner Ivory, please.

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- mean nothing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory. Commissioner Ivory, please."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, if there's no violation of parliamentary procedure --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam County Attorney."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Has there been a violation of parliamentary procedure?"

DOMINIQUE MARTINEZ, DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "I think based on what the Chairman just mentioned, his decision was not based on a violation of parliamentary procedure, but he is the Presiding Officer that makes the rulings."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

DOMINIQUE MARTINEZ, DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL: "So he's made that ruling, and then the Board is free to overrule him."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I withdraw the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Thank you."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Based on ignorance, I withdraw the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Vice Chair Ellis, you want to be heard?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "No, I was --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Just a minute --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "There's a motion pending --"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "There's a motion pending."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute, everybody."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "There's a motion pending."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute, please. Take five minutes, and breathe."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The motion on the floor is to overrule my ruling. Now, let's vote that up or down."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Now, back to the motion. Sound the main motion again, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "To approve?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sound it."

CLERK GRIER: "You want me to sound the item?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, the item has already been sounded --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sound it again."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- it's still people in the queue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sound it again, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: **"25-0895,** Request approval of a resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amending policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett, you still want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Vice Chair Ellis, you said in your remarks that this does not limit how many town halls can be done, or where they can be done, or any of those things. But that is actually not what's written here. In particular, on -- in Exhibit A, number 3, there is a sentence, the last sentence of number

3 says, town hall events shall take place on weekdays and at a Fulton County facility. That is very restrictive. And it does not clarify -- that only -- you're only talking about ones there that use county staff or whatever. The reality is, most of our citizens cannot be at the --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Point of order. You're -- you did not --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- read the entire -- you read it wrong."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I read the whole thing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Just a minute."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "No."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "He's not -- I have the floor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. What's your point of order, Mr -- not your -- what did you hear correctly --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "She misstated -- she didn't read it properly."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, would you read the whole thing, please?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "A Commissioner may only request county staff for up to four in-person or virtual town halls -- town hall events per year, period. A town hall is defined as an event that is open to the public and hosted by one or more Commissioners, where the Commissioner answers questions presented by members of the public as a significant portion of the event, period. Town hall events shall take place on weekdays and at a Fulton County facility, period. I have read it perfectly clearly."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "There --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I have the floor."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "No, it says, town hall events that you --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I have the floor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Commissioner Barrett --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'll read it when you --"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "With all due respect, Mr. Chairman --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- the interruptions are so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have -- you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- out of hand."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "It says very clearly here, town hall events shall take place on weekdays and at a Fulton County facility. You may have attended it differently, but that is what it says. First of all, I don't have any Fulton County facilities big enough to hold a town hall in my district. So if I want to have a town hall for my district, there's nowhere for me to do it. And most people cannot come to a Fulton County facility during the day on a weekday. That is why often the town halls are in the evening or on the weekends when people can come. So that is extremely restrictive, and I cannot support that. The definition of town hall presented here is arbitrary and that the wording of a significant portion of the event is question and answer. How much is a significant portion? If it's an hour-long event, is 15 minutes significant? Because I hosted an event that was a panel discussion, and most of the day -- most of the time was spent doing a panel discussion, not Q and A, but at the end, there was some Q and A. So I don't know what a significant portion means, and I don't know how county staff is supposed to interpret what significant portion means. So that's problematic in terms of how county management is going to even interpret this when the four of you vote to pass it. Exhibit A, number 4 changed the original from a 14-day notice to a 30-day notice. And even a 14-day notice can be problematic when one of the reasons that we may want to hold some kind of a town hall is if some kind of emergency situation comes up. Let's say, for example, SNAP funding is cut off, and we want to hold a town hall to talk about what we're going to do as Commissioners to address food insecurity. Well, now we have to get 30 days' notice to do a town hall to get a staff member to come? Problematic. It says here in Exhibit A-4 that External Affairs support for town halls will be limited to providing publicity and promotion. So are they not allowed to send a photographer, because that's something that they often do. Are we not allowed to borrow a table or a podium from External Affairs, because that is often something that has been done. And if the event itself does not have a significant portion of questions, a Q and A, does that mean they can come and do everything else? Is this only restricting town halls, but every other kind of meeting they can send a photographer or come or do whatever? It's not clear. Let's see, A-5: County staff selection, participation and scheduling for town halls is subject to the direction of the department head, scheduling

for town halls. So now the department head is going to schedule when we have a town hall? If my community is available on a Thursday night and that's when I want to hold a town hall, I can't do that if I want the Tax Assessor's Office to come, they then get to schedule it? Whether they come or not, should certainly be up to them. But they should not be responsible for scheduling the town hall. Let's see, Exhibit 7, yeah, so this one does say that if you have town halls or other outside of these limitations above that you should do them with your own staff. Fine. But again, number 3 has already restricted how many town halls I can have, where and when I can have them -- not how many, but where and when. So it also says, I believe it is in 7, county staff -- oh, I'm sorry, there's one here, and I've lost the number. I've lost the plot a little bit. But on one of these, it says -- oh, I think it's 6, says that there's only certain things that the staff can do in terms of providing supplies and materials and all of those things. And -- and there's also, I think that 7 or 8 says that we -- they should not be -- oh, hear it is. County staff shall not be used to boost coverage of a Commissioner's attendance at third-party events. So again, not clear what you really mean by third-party events. But External Affairs, one of their tasks is to promote what the county's doing. And so if a Commissioner is doing good work, and it happens to be recognized at a different event, do we not want them to promote that? I mean, you know, if the Chairman is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, do we not want to promote that because it didn't happen on county property? I mean, I think we would. So I think my point in going through all these one by one is that while the intention, I understand, to limit the use of county staff, or an overuse of county staff, or whatever that perception is. But the way this is worded is very confusing and restrictive. And I think gets in the way of the point of External Affairs, and gets in the way of our ability, as Commissioner Ivory said, to communicate easily and regularly with our constituents, and as Commissioner Arrington pointed out, to bring the experts to the table. And I think it's also worth noting that those experts and departments -- department heads often want us to do it. They want -- the Tax Assessor's Office wants us to get out and bring them out so that they can help explain this. It alleviates a ton of calls to their office if they can come out and meet with people in person and answer some of these questions. And that could be said for any of the other departments, whether it's information about Election and Registrations or information about taxes or tax bills, or tax assessments, whether it's whatever it is, any county service. They have said to us, Behavioral Health, they want to go out and talk to our constituents. So I think this is, you know, I think this is overzealous in what it's trying to do. And I think we should take a lot more thought and consideration before we vote yes on something like this. Now, I know you have your four votes, and you're going to get your way. But I think it's going to open up a lot of questions for staff and cause a lot of problems. And I think, you know, at the end of the day, I think we just need to be really clear that restricting town halls and communication to our constituents is a bad idea."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm all about town halls, all about communication, meeting with my people, meeting with my constituents. I've held four town halls this year, two were virtual, and two were live. I see the burden it places on staff. Yes, the Tax Assessors Office is so willing to say, yes, to us. But what are they going to do, say hey, no, we can't? Being Commissioners in our position, we put an unnecessary burden on them to say yes to agree to come to our town halls. I think it's considerate of us to ask them do these dates work on your calendar, instead of dictating, okay, we need you to show up here at this time, at this place, at a law office downtown, somewhere that they've never been to. That's the whole point of holding it in government buildings, is so that it's areas where they're familiar with and know with set up. I had to hold a town hall in Johns Creek, mainly because it was requested to me by the Mayor. And when I went to the -- use their City Hall, they were going to charge me, I think, \$150 or something like that. And I'm like, well, I'm going to use my government building. But the library wasn't big enough to hold my town hall. But the library was gracious enough to work with me and to clear out a section of the library that was large enough to hold my town hall. They made accommodations for me. I look at this as just be a consideration. We're not limiting your town halls. I'm glad you actually read the Exhibit A, Commissioner Barrett, because we're not limiting how many town hall events. You could have unlimited number of town hall events. I've asked my staff could you do a virtual town hall, and they agreed that they could. And I'm amazed that you got the Tax Commissioner to come, honestly, Commissioner Ivory. I asked him to come do a town hall, and said he couldn't come."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I know, relationships."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So and I think I did have a great relation with Ferdinand --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I think the answer shows --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, just a minute. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- what kind of relationship you have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory, please. Please."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And still with engagement, with photography, I mean, Commissioner Ivory, you hire a guy that follows you around, all he does is, you know, do your social media and tape you. So I think that that could be the same --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I know you love my social media, don't you?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Just a minute --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "That's why you have to bring it up."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I love it. You have great social media."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Restricting it to weekdays, I think is considerate of the External Affairs staff, their time and effort, because when they work on weekdays, then we have to give them that time back in the form of comp time. And we know how stressed and how busy our External Affairs department is. And to have them have to do 27 -- or whatever. If each of us had a town hall, 28 town halls a year, that would be almost needing to hire an extra person. You said it weakens government, hiding information, hiding from your constituents, limiting transparency. No. You can do -- you can do a town hall. You can go out there and you can do a town hall. You could do -- you guys went out there and got on the podium, and did, you know, your own little town hall and the courthouse steps. That's perfectly fine. You're not restricted on that."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point of order. What does that have to do it anything?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. All right. Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "The point -- the point is that we have --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "That we have --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- ability to reach our constituents."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "My point of order is she's referring to press conferences on issues --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I accept your point of order. All right."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Those aren't limited. And those are ways of engaging with your --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "This does not tackle press conferences -- another way of engaging and getting out your message to people. Believe me, by all means, you know, I do not want to limit anybody's ability to reach out to their constituents. I just want to be considerate of our staff. We sat here and nit picked over \$400,000 for Jessica's department, and they're doing all they can with the resources that we have -- she has."

And External Affairs doesn't need an added strain of multiple town halls back to back to back to back. And I know during the millage --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just -- what's your point of -- just a minute. Commissioner Thorne --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "If I am not -- If I am not allowed to refer to External Affairs and the amount of work --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I accept your point of order. Thank you."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah. So I know that during the millage rate we all held town halls. And I just can't imagine how taxing and that was on them. And I just believe it'd be considerate of us to work with our departments, invite them to our town hall, give them the option to decline if they can't staff our town hall, hold it in buildings that they're familiar with where they're not having to drive and find some location and parking and all that. I think that's considerate. And I think that we as Commissioners need to do need to realize that we need to be considerate of the staff that works for us. And we have our own staff that can step up and help us with that transparency issue and hosting our town halls. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington, followed by Vice Chair Ellis. And let's vote up or down after that, please. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I mean, this is, again, this is -- this is really ridiculous. I've got three town halls scheduled this month on the budget, because I want to hear from the residents on their budget, right? But this is -- I'm not doing this because I'm running for Chair next year. I'm doing it because I do it every year for the last 11 years. I don't host homestead exemption town halls because I'm running for Chair next year. I've hosted them every year for the last 11 years. So if I have a virtual town hall, I can't even invite the staff to my virtual town hall, because a virtual town hall isn't in a county facility. I mean, this is -- maybe there are some issues that need to be addressed. And I don't know what those issues are. And I heard the Chair say, we all know what this is about. I do not know what this is about. Because I have hosted a minimum of three to four town halls every year for the last 11 years, a minimum of three to four times a year. And it's always optional for the staff to come. We schedule them at the beginning of the year. I map out my whole year starting in January of every year for the last 11 years. They know six, eight, nine, 11 months in advance what my request is, where it is. And all of my -- my town halls have either been at county facilities or been virtual via Zoom. During COVID, we could only do them via Zoom. So there may be some good reasons, but this is just an example of how dysfunctional this Board of Commissioners is. I've been here for 11 years, 11 years, and I've never seen

this level of dysfunctionality on this Board. If there's an issue, we ought to be able to sit down and say, hey, here are the issues, how do we address them? I will be very surprised if someone has an issue with my town halls that I've been hosting for last 11 years, because we've never had one complaint, not one complaint. And if there is a complaint, I want to hear it. I want to invite them to the town hall so they can tell me what the complaint is, so I can hear the complaint, so I can respond to it, and adjust accordingly. If there are issues that need to be addressed, let's address those issues. Let's not do a wholesale change. I mean -- I mean, this is just, this is absolute insanity. And I hope that the Fulton County residents are watching and really paying attention, because we got to have people down here that are going to be functional and that are going to move this county forward. And right now, we have people that want to move this county backwards and that don't want to make anything happen. I have not violated parliamentary procedure, ma'am. We have people down here that don't even know what a damn point of order is. They don't know that it's a violation of a parliamentary procedure. They think they can say point of order if they disagree with you. They think they can say point of order if they disagree with you."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It sounds dumb."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Please send some -- please send some reasonable people down here. This is dysfunctionality at its best. Please send reasonable people down here so that this government can function. If you want to know why the government's not functioning, it's because of the representatives that you send down. They are dysfunctional and they're incompetent and unable to proceed with the business of the county."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I don't know who that was describing. The -- first off, you're right on your parliamentary piece. I'll just quote this. Using the floor to publicly pressure or intimidate a staff member into taking a particular position is inconsistent with standard parliamentary procedure and with modern codes of conduct for public bodies. So you're correct on that, Mr. Chair. I did want to cite that. Number two, I'm going to offer up just a couple of amendments to this resolution, which clarified what my intent was on this. You can have as many town halls as you want. And I think, Commissioner Barrett, what I was trying to say is, I believe you were reading from the prior version of things. And I'm going to read provision 3, with the modification. With the modification I'm going to make, and I'm going to ask Commissioner, Commissioner Thorne to accept this, since she was maker of motion, I was the second is that where it says, county staff in provision 3, well, it will make -- it'll be specific to External Affairs and DREAM staff. And this is the way it will read: A Commissioner may only request External Affairs and DREAM county staff participation for up to four in-person or virtual town hall events per year. A town hall is defined as an event that is open to the public and hosted by one or

more Commissioners, where the Commissioners answer questions presented by members of the public as a significant portion of the event. Town hall events that utilize External Affairs and DREAM county staff shall take place on weekdays, and I'll add weeknights, at a county -- and at a Fulton County facility. Note that this provision only places limitations on town hall events that utilize External Affairs and DREAM county staff. Commissioners may use their district staff to conduct as many town hall events as desired at any location and time of their choosing. And then in 4, I will make a modification to say External Affairs support of such town hall events will be limited to providing publicity and promotion and photography of the event. That is clarified in item 3, involving External Affairs and DREAM count -- DREAM participation. Welcome to you -- welcome to invite whoever you want in any other, you know, any event you want to have outside of that four."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's see --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'll accept."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "You accept that?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yes, sir, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Y'all let me preside. You are the maker of the motion. You accept it?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I accept."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Vice Chair Ellis, I appreciate the amendments. I was reading the attachment that is on this week's agenda. So I don't know if there's the wrong one, but I was reading straight out of this agenda. That said, Mr. Chairman, we have a tendency, on occasion, to do things like this, which is fine, where we make a friendly amendment and we pretty dramatically change the content of what is in something we're then voting on. And I think it would be wiser if we could actually have a written copy of something before we vote on it, to make sure that what was said is translated before we vote. So I mean, given that we're making a fairly substantial change to the language here, which I very much appreciate, I would make a motion that we hold until we can see the written version, and then we can vote on the official version."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We have a substitute motion by Commissioner Barrett to hold, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Vice Chair, any objections?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "It's fairly straight -- the modification is fairly straightforward. It's substituting county staff to say External Affairs and DREAM staff, which is, you know, which was what you've all vocalized as a complaint and what my intent was, candidly. So I mean, we have a lot of stuff take up and debate. My preference is that we would just address it now."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "But unless the Chair is open to holding it, I'm not going to object."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm not sure it's going to -- I mean, I don't have any objection to holding it to put it in writing, because I think you've addressed the concerns that have been raised. I'm not sure it's going to change any -- any votes, but I won't -- I'm okay with holding it until the next meeting, and have it reduced writing. Let's vote on the motion, substitute motion."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. I'm fine, just -- I'm not going to -- I'll hold it with that without any objection."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That's fine."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Without objection, then we will hold to the next meeting. It'll be reduced the writing. Because I think what he said captured the concerns that were raised."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Giving them a little bit of break, External Affairs and DREAM, that's all.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: We're going to hold without objection. Next item.

CLERK GRIER: **25-0897**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to work with Select Fulton and the Fulton County Development Authority to develop a Senior Property Tax Relief Program; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Commissioner Ivory, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As is this was brought over from the last meeting, this resolution is about protecting the seniors who have built and sustained our communities, those who've raised families, ran businesses, served in our schools and hospitals and help make Fulton County the thriving place it is today. It focuses on seniors who face immediate risk of displacement due to rising property taxes, ensuring they can remain in the homes they have called their own for decades. This resolution directs the County Manager, in consultation with the County Attorney, to design a fund in the most practical and effective way determine eligibility, structure and funding. Similar programs in Atlanta have demonstrated meaningful impact. And this the first initiative of its kind proposed in Fulton County. This measure failed last meeting. I urge my colleagues to support our residents who have given so much to this county, and take this important step to preserve housing stability, dignity and community for our seniors."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. I think I've demonstrated a long-term track record of property tax relief. And I think, as I said before in the last meeting, I think the way to do that, whether that's for seniors or any other -- other -- any other entity, but particularly for our seniors, is with the exemption tool. That's our power as a Legislator, and we've done that in Fulton County, and we should encourage other -- the other bodies in Fulton County that are taxing jurisdictions, to do so. The second thing that's within our power to control -- control the impact and property tax burden on citizens, on seniors and citizens, is keeping our millage rates constrained and our spending constrained. And being -- being thoughtful about the way that we go about spending taxpayer money. So raising millage rates and promoting increased spending, you know, are not the things that you're going to do to help provide seniors relief. And I do not think that the function of government is to create nonprofits to pay other people's taxes. That's not what our role is. If there are things that need to be considered, it needs to be exemptions and needs to be keeping our spending constrained so that millage rates, you know, are not going up and impacting and forcing gentrification and seniors out of their homes. And with that, I'm going to offer up a motion to deny."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Substitute -- you have substitute motion to -- well, the motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Can we finish the conversation?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Bob just went, Bridget is next."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice -- Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I fully agree that we don't create a problem by raising people's taxes so they can't afford to stay in their homes, and then create the solution to a symptom of a problem that we created by raising taxes. It just makes no sense whatsoever. I don't think this is a very -- as Commissioner Barrett always says, the way it's worded is not clear, and a lot more to consider. I mean, we're just directing the County Manager to come up with something. From my understanding, when I reached out to the Development Authority or Select Fulton, they were not even talked to. And yet this burden is going to put on them. So I feel like this is just something throwing out there to do. And then you also have to think about with the rising millage rates, rising taxes, you have to think about the seniors who rent, because their rents are going to go up. So what, do we have to create a nonprofit for the seniors that can't afford to pay their rents, because the cost is going to be handed down to them? And the list can go on and on and on to the people who can't afford -- young people who are trying to buy their first homes and stay in their homes and can't afford the taxes as they rise and forced to move out of county. So for me, this is just not a very well thought out. And it's addressing a symptom and not the real problem with our seniors."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory. Motion on the floor now is to deny."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever I'm sitting here, I always have well thought out what I have to say. So I just want to make sure you thoroughly understand that, because we read everything that comes our way. So we're not creating a new problem. We have historically underfunded this county, which is why we're going to have a millage rate increase this year. So we're not creating an increase to the millage rate because of something that we're -- has happened, and now we want to address it to fix it. It's already here because of the lack of underfunding in all of the years that you've been sitting here. So let's just talk facts. Facts actually do exist. And so that is just not -- that does not make any logical sense. For decades in Atlanta and thankfully, all across Georgia, nonprofits have stepped in, in amazing ways to help our citizens. I can think of billions of dollars that Arthur Blank, that Home Depot, that Coca-Cola have given to help communities. That is what makes our state and our city so wonderful that nonprofits are willing to step up. And in fact, in Atlanta, nonprofits have stepped up to offer seniors help when they can't pay their taxes. So I didn't just pull this out from somewhere that you might say, you know, I did. We actually researched it. We have evidentiary-based research that shows that nonprofits step in the gap for when people need extra help. And that's all that this is saying. So this is not creating a problem by taking any money from the general fund, because it isn't any money from the general fund. It is money from outside groups that the Development Authority and Select Fulton already have relationships with. So I did talk to folks at Select Fulton and the Development Authority about it, who suggested nonprofits could step in the gap. And that's where we started thinking about it in the first place. So like I

said, we always research and read everything, and then we come back with well-thought-out resolutions that have also gone through the County Attorney's Office before they're presented to you. So we're not dictating anything that we haven't already majorly discussed. And I'm glad that you know it's a good idea. Can I have a point of order for all this conversation going on down there while I have the floor?"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Thank you. It's just --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam -- continue."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Yes, Commissioner Arrington diluted to the lack of respect on this Commission many times, and you see it every time --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, continue."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- we meet. So the Development Authority and Select Fulton are included because they have existing mechanisms to implement community programs and to raise funds in support of initiatives like this. They bring expertise in economic development and community investment that can help ensure the program is structured effectively. However, the ultimate responsibility for how the program operates, including eligibility, structure and administration rest with the County Manager's Office. And that's why I included in my resolution that it would be the County Manager that would put this program together and direct how it would be operated. If the County Manager believes it's best to go in another direction, this resolution allows him that discretion. This resolution ensures that the fund is designated practically while leveraging the expertise of our established partners. And so it's a mechanism from the heart to help folks and not use our own money to do it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, you want to be heard again?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I appreciate not using our own money to do it. I just really appreciate that. I come from the nonprofit world. I've sat on many boards of nonprofits. I've worked with nonprofits across North Fulton and in Downtown Atlanta. And nonprofits are wonderful. I think they serve the community better because they're created by a heart and a passion for the people they serve and the work they do. They're not a government organized nonprofit, completely different. And I did reach out when this was first put on the agenda. Maybe you've talked with Select Fulton and the Development Authority since. But I'm like, how does that work? You're supposed to generate business. You're not in the nonprofit realm, which is completely contradictory to what the Development Authority and Select Fulton do. So with that being said, I love trying to help our seniors. St. Vincent de Paul, I love to support organizations. Drake House, places like that that do assist our seniors with rent payments, home placement if

they've been unhoused, helping them with home repairs and helping them pay their taxes. So Arthur Blank, all of them, I am glad Tyler Perry paid back taxes one year for seniors, those are great gestures to do. I encourage the community, and I encourage maybe working with a nonprofit and helping that nonprofit raise money by the connections that we have, instead of forming a government nonprofit that we have to manage. That's it, thanks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard again?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I just wanted to make one comment. I sit on the Invest Atlanta Board, as you all know, and that is the City of Atlanta's Development Authority. And for the record, they actually do have programs that, for example, help residents stay in their homes outside of the TADs, nothing to do with that, but they have, like, a Legacy Resident Program. So it's not unheard of for Development Authorities to engage in some of these community-minded practices. Just wanted to point that out."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Shocker."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes; four yeas, three nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let me make a general statement here. The next five items, and I think there is some merit and probably each of the five. But they all have budgetary implication. Most of them have some budgetary implications. I would -- the prudent thing to do would be to wait until we start with the budget in January or at it in January. But that's just a suggestion. What's your pleasure? Sound the next one. I just think it makes more sense because they all -- four of the five have budgetary, general fund budgetary implications."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, are you making a motion?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, I'm not making a motion."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Oh, okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just making a suggestion, because I'm not the author of either of -- either of the five."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0935, Request approval of a resolution to affirm the reproductive rights are that reproductive rights are human rights; to condemn the criminalization of abortion and related services; to urge the Georgia State Legislature to repeal the six-week abortion ban that engages lives; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. And Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To be clear, there is no budget or money associated with this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Four of the five."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm just saying. All right, well, folks, we all signed onto a proclamation today honoring human rights, Human Rights Day, excuse me, which of is on December 10th. And with that timing in mind, I thought it was important to bring this resolution forward to affirm that reproductive rights are human rights, and also to stand against the criminalization of women who seek care for miscarriages or the doctors who provide that often lifesaving treatment. A 2025 survey of voters living in metro areas across the state of Georgia found that 79 percent support abortion rights; 75 percent are concerned about criminalization of women having miscarriages; only 9 percent would support Georgia's current abortion laws if they understood that miscarriage could be investigated and prosecuted. And only 16 percent believe that law enforcement should spend any time or resources investigating pregnant people and providers. Additionally, 73 percent of the voters surveyed are concerned about women's health and lives being put at risk because doctors delay or deny care due to the fear that they will be prosecuted under Georgia's six-week abortion ban. In fact, we already have had multiple documented cases of this happening in metro Atlanta. Both Amber Thurman and Candi Miller lost their lives after miscarrying. You know, Mayor Dickens often talks about his group project and the goal of making Atlanta the best place to raise a child. And I think that's a goal that we share across all of Fulton County. But we cannot truly be the best place to raise a child if the decision to have a child is putting mother's lives at risk. And that is the current reality under Georgia's six-week abortion ban. Voting yes on this resolution today is a strong statement to the women and families of Fulton County that you care about their lives and their health. So I'm asking for your affirmative vote."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Barrett, thank you for bringing this forward. I stand in support of this resolution, affirming that

reproductive rights are human rights, protecting access to essential reproductive care as part of our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of Fulton County residents. Just last week, we passed a resolution addressing maternal and infant mortality, particularly the staggering rates among Black women in our county. The stories of Amber Thurman and Candi Miller are tragic examples of why this focus is so critical. As a Black woman, I understand the stakes personally. And I know how disproportionately restrictive policies harm Black women and women in marginalized communities. This resolution is an important reaffirmation of our commitment to health equity and human rights. I will support this measure so that we can send a clear message that Fulton County will continue to defend the health and rights of all women in our community. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman Pitts, unfortunately, for me, I won't be able to support this. And the reason why I will not be able to support this, one, this is -- this is, this is a feel-good. This is, I want to get my face out there with this. I am pro-choice. I was pro-choice when I walked the streets of Washington, DC for pro-choice. I was pro-choice when I had several people to call my office with no place to live, pregnant, and needed help. But I do not support this because I feel as though other ways we can not only support women's issues, but I take issue with individuals calling me dumb, calling me all these other names, and saying things, but then want me support women's, women's issues. If I disagree with you, we can agree to disagree and still have respect for each other. I personally don't feel that this resolution does anything to change what has happened at the state. But you know what could, going down there to testify. What could, is having conversations with individuals that made the decisions that they made. But to use a resolution to gaslight, to put out misinformation, to say that if you don't support this, you don't support women's right, you are not no different than the MAGA that is prevalent nowadays that says, if you don't see things my way, you're un-American. I'm a woman. I am pro-choice. But this does nothing other than a feel-good or want to be seen or want to use it as part of me campaigning, because I'm running for Chair. Now, I say that openly. I'm not going to say what's being said about me out in the street, because it doesn't matter. Anybody can look at my record and know that I have fought for women's issues. What I will not fight for is someone using this platform because they can to campaign, to put something feel-good forward, but it has no teeth in it. If you want to go down there to the State Legislatures, if you want to go testify, if you want me to share my own family stories, I don't have a problem doing that. But I am always going to agree to disagree, respectfully. Don't have to call anybody out their name. You don't have to say the -- I'm not even going to repeat the things that have been said about me when it comes to this. So no, I will not support it. It does nothing but make somebody feel good. It's not going

to move anything at the State Legislation on what they have made as a decision. So I would not, respectfully, I will not be supporting this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much. Records are records, and luckily, they are public. And that's something that is so great about being an elected official is that you can pull a record, and you should. All I -- I agree 100 percent with Commissioner Abdur-Rahman that you should pull people's records. And you should definitely look at the way they are voting. I think that is so important. Thank you for that. I think that's a great point that you made. And I remember when I was working for Stacey Abrams, and this was -- this six-week abortion ban happened. I was down at the Legislature. I -- yes, indeed, I was. And was supported all the women that are pro-choice. Democratic women that are pro-choice vote pro-choice, that's how you know that they're pro-choice. And that's how you know that they're real Democrats. So when something comes up that's a pro-choice issue, they vote pro-choice. So I'm glad to be a Black Democratic pro-choice woman that votes pro-choice. And I'm glad to support Commissioner Barrett in this pro-choice, even if ceremonial, so important for Fulton County to say that this is where we stand on that. And that's what I was taught by mentors is to do in your votes what you say you are about."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard again?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I just want to say that with all due respect, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman you, yourself, have put urging resolutions up before this Board. So to say that something is an urging resolution is just for show, then I guess that's a practice you too believe in. I believe that standing together as a Board and making a strong statement as a Board with our votes that we affirm reproductive rights are human rights, and that we -- we, you know, we condemn criminalization of women and doctors, and that, yes, we urge the Georgia State Legislature to repeal their devastating six-week abortion ban is a strong statement. If we all stand together. And you, yourself, have said many times that you vote policy and not, you know, petty nonsense or whatever else. This is the -- if you object to some of the wording in here, then please, by all means, bring it up. But to object on the basis that it's political is -- if you're going to apply that, you've got to apply it to everything we do. We are politicians. We sit here. Everything we do is politics. We do it whether we're running or we're not running. This is who we are. So every statement you make on the dais and I make on the dais and the Chairman makes on the dais is political at some level. So this one should not rise above or below any of that. It is a statement that women need us to make for them, because our rights are being stripped away day by day by day by day. In this moment, in this era, under this current federal administration, it is important that we stand up for women, and in particular, as we approach International Human Rights Day."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, thank you. So you want to talk about wording, you said, whereas at least two Metro Atlanta women, Amber Thurman and Candi Miller, have already died as a result of the Georgia six-week abortion ban, while others are being forced to carry nonviable pregnancies to term. Amber Thurman and Candi Miller both took the abortion pill. And they died from complications of the abortion pill. It is documented, it is factual. The state reviewed the death as preventable, therefore, the law did not block treatment. Poor clinical decisions and delay is what caused their death. I feel sorry for them. But Keisha Atkins, who is from New Mexico, New Mexico has the most permissive abortion laws in the United States, and she died similarly from taking the abortion pill. It's a side effect that sepsis can occur if you don't fully abort the baby. The pill causes you to expel the child --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point of order."

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "The abortion pill is not what we're talking about."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm talking about her statement here that the six-week ban --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- killed them."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Thorne, hold on, hold on."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "The subject -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. The subject of what we're talking about is whether or not we want to pass this legislation, not the effectiveness of the abortion pill."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I am talking about her wording --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I accept --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- because she said --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Excuse me, point of order."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- I am off --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point of order. Point --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- offering to correct her wording."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It's 4:33, we got five more pieces of legislation, and we have a meeting tonight with our Legislative Delegation. We have a captive audience."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you. And thank you. I prefer not to be interrupted when I'm trying to argue --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- her wording on this thing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne, please, please."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I will say this is divisive --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- and unnecessary. I ran on bringing this county together. I have Republican friends that are pro-choice."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "What is she talking about right now? Could you --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "This is just a divisive piece of legislation. And I would like to talk, because I do not want to be interrupted."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "No conversation down there. 429 babies out of 1,000 Black babies were aborted in the study in 2022, 40 percent --"

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- of Black babies."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, you got to at least rule."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute.

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You have to rule."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So it's no wonder that the --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You have to rule --"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You can't just keep banging the gavel."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You can't just keep banging the gavel, and not rule on the --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- on the point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Just a minute.

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "She said point of order ten times."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I didn't hear you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You have to rule on the point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I didn't hear --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You cannot keep banging the gavel. You heard me."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Decorum."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute. Calm down, everybody. Commissioner Thorne, stick to the legislation --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I am trying to stick to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Stick to --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- the wording of the legislation --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- to the legislation."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- and saying that it is poorly worded. It's not correct. It's fear mongering that this law is killing people. The one lady who she referred to a nonviable pregnancy to term was put on life support. And our Attorney General Carr came out and said, no, once she's on my support, the doctors have the right to do whatever they can. They don't have to keep the mother on life support to save the baby or the clump of cells, whatever you call it. So with that being said, I mean, this is just not a truthful statement. And it should be brought up at the time when we discuss our

legislative agenda. If you want it on then, that is when we should put it on, not now, not as a divisive, urging resolution. We put it on as part of our legislative agenda during the legislative season. This is improper, and I know the block of three, they got their block, the block of three. They'll vote yes."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: **"25-0936**, Request approval of a resolution to establish a Fulton County Women's Commission to advise the Board of Commissioners on policies, strategies, and community partnerships that advance gender -- gender equity and address the systemic barriers impacting women; and for other purposes --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to --"

CLERK GRIER: "-- sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, just for the record, this does not have any costs associated with it either. Women's Commissions are not a new idea. They began forming in the early 1960s after the President's Commission on Status of Women, chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt, issued the landmark American Women Report. The report identified systemic discrimination faced by women in employment, education, public life and access to services, and it recommended permanent commissions be established at all levels of government. Since then, approximately 160 Women's Commissions have been established, most at the county and city levels. Georgia established its statewide Commission on Women in 1992. Atlanta founded its Women's Commission in 2000. And DeKalb County started the process of forming theirs this year. Chairman, you always say that Fulton County is a big deal, and that we lead in so many areas. And so we should continue to demonstrate that leadership through a creation of a Women's Commission here in Fulton County. Women have come a long way since Eleanor Roosevelt's day. But we still have a long way to go. Today, women's rights are still not guaranteed by the US Constitution or the Georgia constitution. While women make up over 50 percent of the population, we are still vastly underrepresented in government and at the highest levels

in business. In Georgia, women still earn only 88 cents for every dollar a man makes even they're more highly educated, and that number is way worse for Black women, who only earn 62 cents for every dollar a man makes. Women also face disproportionate health risks -- health risks and inequities. As Commissioner Ivory already pointed out, and as we all voted on last week, Georgia's maternal mortality rate is among the highest in the nation, and three times worse for Black women. So what I'm asking for today is that we establish a Women's Commission for Fulton County that will advise us on policies, strategies, and community partnerships that best address gender inequity and the systemic barriers that impact women. I would very much appreciate your favorable vote."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the idea of establishing a Fulton County Women's Commission to address systemic barriers and advance gender equity. I think it's an important initiative. I'm looking forward to seeing how this will play itself out. I can't understand why anybody would not want to be in support of creating a Women's Commission. There is no money that is attached to this. It would seem odd that any woman on this Commission would vote against this, because this is one area where we should all be able to agree, because as far as I know, we are all women. And this doesn't have anything to do with anything politically, but that maybe we could actually get together, talk to each other, and do something great as the women of this Commission, because there's one, two, three, four of us. And I -- I, you know, just by that chuckle and that immaturity, I already know what the vote is going to be. But watch, everybody, you're watching this. You see this? How could there be anything wrong with a Woman's Commission that four women on this Commission could work on together? So thank you, Commissioner Barrett, for bringing this up. I think it's a great idea, and I look forward to being able to work with you on it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'll just say there is a cost. There is a cost of have -- setting up a task force that has to be monitored, that uses county staff that uses county time. We're assigning the County Manager here just to assign a department that will be under it and run it. So we're giving added responsibilities and jobs to our already busy county staff, as we're asking to reel back things as well. I really kind of feel like a Women's Commission would be great under our County Health Department, if it was to be formed under there. And ask them if they'd be willing to set up a Women's Commission. But here at the county level, I just don't think we need to put -- tell our county departments to trim their budgets, but here, we're going to give you one more added responsibility to do, manage this Women's Commission. And I'm sure this Woman's Commission will -- I don't know if the 1 million that they input on that, if that's

tied together as well if there's a reason that that's on the agenda afterwards. But perhaps, Commissioner Barrett, you can let me know."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Commissioner Thorne, first of all, just to make a correction, there's no department being set up. There's -- all that's asking the County Manager to do is to assign whoever he wants to assign to help with their meetings in the same way that we have a staff member help with the task force Reparations Task Force meetings, or any of the other boards, commissions, and authorities that we appoint people to. So it's not -- we're talking about a couple of hours of somebody's time, not full-time staffer, not any of that. This would be just like any of our other boards, commissions, et cetera. And while I appreciate your suggestion about the Board of Health, the goal of this is not -- health is one area. The whole point of this is that the Women's Commission, who will all -- who will have members appointed by each of us, will come together and decide what are the biggest issues that we should be working on, and they may have nothing to do with health at all. I mean, they may want to work solely on, you know, workplace discrimination or pay inequity. So, so really, it's not a health -- it's a broad Women's Commission to address all inequities for women, not just health inequities, of which there are many. And to -- what was the last question you asked about? Oh, the -- right, the next item on the agenda, which is the Healthy Women, Healthy Families Grant Program, if approved, then this Body would serve as the approval body. But that's in the same way that the Veterans Commission serves as the approval body if we approve the \$1 million veterans funding. So again, just following the model that we've already followed here, you know, for many other boards and commissions. And you know, if for some reason, this didn't pass, but the Healthy Women, Healthy Families Grant did pass, then I would leave it to the County Manager to figure out who the approval team should be for the -- for those grants. But if it is the Women's Commission, then we all essentially have, you know, through our proxies, votes on that."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. People can have a difference of opinion without calling people out of their name. And I would just ask this Board if they can just make sure that they don't call people at their name just because they can. We are all -- can agree to disagree, and you don't have to sink to the level of calling somebody out of their name because you disagree with them. Newsflash, I was a woman when I woke up this morning. I will be a woman when I go to bed tonight. So my femininity and me being a woman is not tied to this. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote, please. Just for the record, you referenced that city of Atlanta, that was my legislation, by the way."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I didn't know."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, I'm just -- for the information, and --"

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- I will also say this before we vote. The -- it's not necessarily, you can set up -- I have a Woman's Commission out of my office, it was not approved by the Board, that's advising me on women's issues. So is it -- really not necessary to come before the Board, but it's up to the Board. Let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0937**, Request approval of a resolution to establish a Healthy Women, Healthy Families grant program in Fulton County; to provide \$1 million in annual funding for the grant program to fund organizations focused on improving women's health outcomes and ensuring access to quality care sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, followed -- no, Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we all know, we're still facing an overall healthcare emergency in Fulton County following the closure of the two Wellstar hospitals. As you all know that those closures further exacerbated the health inequities we had all along in Fulton County, which include poor health outcomes for women, especially Black women, across a variety of health issues. That was all pointed out in the Project Care study that we had and has been talked about many times. So what I'm proposing today with this resolution is a \$1 million Healthy Women, Healthy Families grant program to fund nonprofit organizations that are focused on everything from women's cancers like breast cancer and ovarian cancer to heart disease, which is the leading cause of death for women in Georgia, to domestic violence, to reproductive and maternal health. Women, as you know, tend to be the primary caregivers, so healthier women translate into healthier children, more stable households, and better educational outcomes. While \$1 million won't magically address all of these issues, it

will make a difference to nonprofit organizations who may have already lost federal funding, and it will make a difference to the women those organizations serve. And while it sounds like a lot of money, with over 1.1 million residents, a \$1 million fund equates to 88 cents per resident. I think women and families are worth that. And here's the thing, according to the World Economic Forum, for every dollar invested in women's health, \$3 are generated in economic benefits and growth. So from where I sit, spending \$1 million on women's health -- \$1 million on women's health is a far better investment than giving a tax break to a data center. The women of Fulton County have the right to be healthy, and they are a great investment. So please remember that when you cast your vote."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. And Chairman, you may stop me, I hope that you won't, because I need to have a transparent moment with the listening audience. This Body appropriated and approved \$250,000 a while ago to the Safe Center in South Fulton. The Safe Center is an area that you can go in and anyone can use it at Banneker High School. They can go in and get food. They can go in and get deodorant, detergent, lotion, toothpaste, mouthwash. They can go in and get clothes. Now, the maker of this voted to defund that \$250,000, which I took issue with. This is no secret. She's well aware of it. I was called to the Principal's -- excuse me -- I was called to the Chairman's office to have a discussion about it, which I was crystal clear that how --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Point of order, Mr. Chairman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- how can I --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Just a minute, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. What's your point of order?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "This is not relevant to the motion on the floor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Continue with the -- keep your comments related to the - -"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Is it, Chairman, because I am giving a reason why I am not supporting this, because Commissioner Barrett knows we had a discussion that she would support reinstating that \$250,000 back to Banneker if she wanted my support for this. There was an understanding, and there was an agreement. I don't see anything on this agenda that speaks to putting that \$250,000 back to students, to grandparents, to foster children, or any of those that get served by that Safe Center. And so what I'm saying publicly for the listening audience, Chairman, I cannot support this until Commissioner Barrett does what she and I had a conversation in your

office about in reference to how do you under – un-fund students who are here? How do you un-fund young ladies who don't have the hygiene products? How do you un-fund grandparents at Banneker, and then you want support for this? I cannot support this in good conscience."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I must have a time machine, because I don't see how I could have possibly had a conversation with you to make some kind of a trade about legislation that I was going to write two years in the future from when that conversation occurred, which is, by the way, being completely mischaracterized. So this is new legislation. The idea for it came about this year in the last several months. It has nothing to do with anything that's happened before. And you, yourself, have said many times that you don't -- you don't vote about with people or pettiness, and you're about the policy only. So either you believe in the policy of creating \$1 million grant funds for women's health, or you don't. But to blame it on some conversation that we allegedly had two years ago and some, you know, me going back on my word, which is not my characterization of what happened at all, is ridiculous. Are we going to -- is that going to be the case for every single piece of legislation I bring up with the rest of my term? That because somehow we had a miscommunication about something two years ago, that everything I put up from now on, you will never agree to whether it's great policy or not?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It is 4:51. We have a meeting with our Legislative Delegation at 6:00 o'clock, and it's going to take about 20 minutes to get there. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just would go on record to say that I'm not in sup -- I am in support of women's health and healthy families, for darn sure. And -- but I don't think from a public policy standpoint, this is the best way to make use of taxpayer money to have an impact on those issues. I think we've demonstrated, and we've done a lot as a county when it comes to providing for those gaps that we've seen in healthcare. And I think that's the kind of process that we could -- should continue to follow in terms of identifying what they saw -- what those are, as well as determining how we will fund those in a way that are going to have their maximum impact. And I think that comes through things like we -- our work with Grady to work to establish a hospital in South Fulton, starting with the opening of this emergency department, followed by the desire to have a hospital built there. That comes from working with two entities that would provide funding -- funding to, the Board of Health, Grady, as well as, you know, some of the stuff that we do on the Behavioral Health side. And having those various entities and those, you know, collaborate with each other, identify situations where we can establish programs, fund them, and have a meaningful impact that we can measure. And I think that's the way we go about getting health outcomes. And I

just respectfully just not think that \$1 million grant program, and from a public policy standpoint, is the thing that's going to move the needle in when it comes to terms of changing health outcomes in our County. Thank you."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0938, Request approval of resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners establishing a program to provide funding to nonprofit and other community services organizations to carry out programs and services for individuals who come into contact with the Fulton County Justice System; directing the County Manager to establish necessary policies and procedures for the program; directing the County Manager and Director of Finance to designate no less than \$3 million for the program for fiscal year 2026 sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thanks, Mr. Chairman. And I want my colleagues to know that I'm bringing this forward in an effort to help with our justice partners with our jail population. So it is not just money, I'm thinking that wouldn't be used to further what we already need to do. So this program is modeled on the grant structure we use for Arts and Culture. It provides dedicated funding to nonprofit and community organizations that serve residents interacting with the Fulton County Justice System. These organizations help residents navigate the system, access services and resolve their issues efficiently. Groups like Atlanta Legal Aid, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, and the ACLU of Georgia are just examples of the many organizations doing critical work that relieves pressure on our overburdened courts. This funding allows them to continue providing these services, ensuring residents get timely support and access the justice. The way the program will work is that the justice partners, the departments and agencies within the Fulton County Justice System will jointly receive and evaluate proposals from eligible organizations. They will make recommendations to the Board, and the Board will make the final approval for funding awards. This ensures that organizations selected are truly meeting the needs of residents while aligning with the priorities of our Fulton County Justice System. This is a fiscally responsible and strategic investment, supporting these organizations now reduces court backlogs, expands access to services and saves the county money in the long run. Without this support, we would either have to cover these services ourselves at a higher cost or

leave gaps in support for residents navigating the justice system. \$3 million is a relatively modest investment, considering the scope and impact of the work these organizations provide. With federal grants shrinking for these providers, this program ensures we step in to maintain continuity of services, protect residents' access to justice and strengthen trust in our county system. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, thank you. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. Kind of like some of the same comments I just made that, you know, from a public policy standpoint, I don't think that this, this type of funding, is going to have that material of impact versus -- versus ordering ourselves and functioning and having our justice system function in certain ways. And I also will say this that we just heard and we went through a budgetary discussion, and where we know that we have had to put certain constraints on asks for funding of our core services. So knowing that, and then adding an additional \$3 million on top of that, which would -- which if you had it, you would apply it to the strengthen core services is contradictory. You know, we all have things which we could bring forward which look great on paper and sound great and they're all well-intentioned. But at the same time, we've got to run a government. We've got to function and provide core services. And to me, this does not get at those things. Instead, this vote -- bringing items like this forward and pushing them through, instead, being votes for increased property taxes, not strengthening our core services, more gentrification, make it harder to buy a home in our -- in Fulton County. And ultimately, knowing what we know, is fiscally irresponsible to bring forward. So I will not be supporting this, and will offer a substitute motion to deny."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Substitute motion to deny. Substitute motion by Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor on the motion, substitute motion to deny."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Ivory I certainly understand the reasoning behind trying to put this together. I would have preferred more time to have some discussion around it. You know, I think my only -- or I think there is money that we have in the budget that's without even increasing further to do some of these smaller things that are a million, 2 million, 3 million, while I again, realize that's a lot of money. It's like .00-something of our actual budget. But -- but I say all that because I think, you know, we have 35 million in enhancement request from justice partners that have not been addressed. And I think like the 140 million or something from the Sheriff. And so I guess my preference is, if we could carve 3 million out for justice, I would rather see it go to things like the Solicitor General's Victim Witness Association or Assistance Program. I'd love to see the Board of Equalization

get their pay raises, the seniors who work so hard doing that work. And you know, we -- we haven't agreed yet to increase their pay to \$150 a day. The \$2 million that's in the enhancement request from for the DA's Domestic Violence Family Justice Center, which I think is a very worthy investment. And there's a couple others, so I think, you know, while again, while I very much appreciate the intend, I feel like we should be looking at all of the request that the justice partners have already brought forward. But again, I appreciate it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else? The motion, substitute motion is to deny. Let's vote. And this one, just as the previous one, I think should be more appropriately taken up during the '26 budget. They both have merit from my perspective."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, **25-0939**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supporting its ability to govern local affairs and urging the Georgia General Assembly to preserve the Board of Commissioners' involvement in matters affecting Fulton County residents sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This resolution is just about preserving the authority of Fulton County to govern our local affairs, keeping decisions as close to our communities as possible. Local governance give us -- gives us the flexibility and insight to respond directly to the needs of our residents, ensuring accountability, transparency, and responsiveness. As the duly elected Board of Commissioners, the people accountable to our constituents, we are in the best position to make decisions that reflect our residents' values and concerns. If the state restricts or overrides our discretion over local matters, it risks imposing policies that may not reflect the needs or expectations of Fulton County's diverse communities. We are -- I'm asking my colleagues in the State Legislature to preserve the Board's rule on local governance, and to oppose efforts that would eliminate or significantly reduce our authority. This is about protecting local control over key issues such as county services, development decisions, public health and safety policies, election's spending decisions, and more. In short, this resolution affirms that Fulton County, through its elected board, should remain the decision maker for matters that most likely affect the lives of our residents, and urges the State Legislature to respect that responsibility. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So what's the -- can I ask you, Commissioner Ivory, what's the impetus for this legislation?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Local control."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "But is there a reason?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "That we keep the -- because of the state of our nation right now, there's many decisions that I mentioned, for example, in here I mentioned such as county services, development decisions, public health and safety, election's spending decisions, and more. And we hear more residents and more constituents these days asking to understand about our local control. And that's why I'm doing it."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Does it have to do with Elections, with appointment of board members?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It has to do with the county service, development decisions, public health and safety policies, election's spending decisions, and more as written in the resolution."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So it's just election spending decisions?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It has to do with such as county services, development decisions, public health and safety policies, election's spending decisions, and more."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So yes, I think the impetus is just to overrule the law that's going to come down that's going to standardize our elections across the state, which we all use the same voting equipment, the same voting methods. And it's up to the Secretary of State to make sure that our elections are performed uniformly across the state. So the state has all authority to pass laws that make our elections uniform across state. So I think that that is the true trigger for this resolution. And I just simply cannot vote for because I feel like there's nothing that's really come up that we don't have our local control over. We -- and I believe in giving the cities, you know, the local control. They're the ones who the most closest to the people except when it comes to elections. I believe that elections should be uniform across the state. And our cities should be run, our county should be run the same as Gwinnett County and counties of equal size, and that the law should be uniform and partisan officials like us and should not be in there to dictate and vote how our elections are done."

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 fails; three yeas, two nays, one abstention."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, it's 5:04. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0940, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners approving the purchase of automated external defibrillators for the use by the Fulton County Police Department sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. This would allow for the purchase of approximately 40 AEDs to be used, each one -- each of our police vehicles would have one, and they would be -- and the officer would be trained to help save lives. And the source funds here is up to \$250,000, not from the general fund, but from the Opioid Settlement Fund, which is a specific use of that money. So I would like to ask for your approval. There's motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm in support of it, but I did -- I just -- just so we're all on solid ground on this. I know that these settlement money has specific purposes for which it can be used. I'm sure you run this through, but I just want somebody go on staff on record that they've looked at this and vetted this, and this is a proper use for funds coming out of that settlement."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you for the question, Vice Chair. So under the Opioid Settlement eligible uses, AEDs are permissible as a harm reduction mechanism."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any other matters to come before us today?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Before we adjourn, reminder, we're meeting with our Legislative Delegation at 6:00 o'clock. Where is it? Open Hand. And hope to see everybody there, for a few minutes anyway. Without further objection, any objections, we're adjourned. Thank you."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.