

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

March 06, 2024
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES

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

Ratification Date: April 10, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:01 a.m.**

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

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

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA**24-0138 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 Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by moving item #24-0147 to the March 20th Recess Meeting. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

24-0139 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Apostle Darryl Winston Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
February 24, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Judy Forte Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
February 24, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Worth R. Christler Remembrance Day." **(Hall)**
February 27, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Gregory Crayton Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
February 27, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Patricia Powell Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
February 27, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "National Association of Artists from Historically Black Colleges and Universities Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
March 1, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Donald George Webster Remembrance Day." **(Pitts)**
March 2, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Black Health Matters Winter Health Summit & Expo Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
March 2, 2024

Commissioners' District Board Appointments**24-0140 Board of Commissioners****FULTON COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Board shall consist of seven (7) members, each to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Initial appointments shall be staggered as follows: three (3) members will be appointed for two-year terms, and four (4) members will be appointed for four-year terms. Members of the board shall be residents of Fulton County. The Board of Commissioners shall make good faith efforts to appoint one or more individuals who have experience or expertise relevant to one or more of the county codes under the jurisdiction of the Board, such as property management, engineering (structural or civil), construction, and/or law experience. The absence of such individuals from the membership of the Board shall in no way limit the authority and jurisdiction of the board.

If a Board member fails to attend two of three successive meetings without cause or without the approval of the chairperson, the enforcement board shall declare the members' office vacant and ask the Board of Commissioners to promptly fill the vacancy.

Term = 3 years

Term below expired: 7/1/2023

Damita Chatman (**District 6**)

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated CaLise Williamson for a District appointment to a term ending July 1, 2026.

24-0141 Board of Commissioners**FULTON COUNTY HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, CARE, AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Advisory Committee shall have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint two members. Such appointees shall be residents of or work in Fulton County, and shall have experience or expertise in public health, HIV prevention and/or care, or be otherwise deemed qualified to serve as an advisory committee member. The Advisory Committee has the discretion to create subcommittees to assist it with the assigned tasks. The members of these subcommittees do not have to fulfill the residency restrictions imposed on the appointed members of the Advisory Committee. Appointees to the Advisory Committee shall serve three-year terms at the discretion of the appointing Commissioner, and members may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: June 7, 2023

Anne C. Spaulding (**District 6**)

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Anne C. Spaulding for a District reappointment to a term ending June 7, 2026.

24-0142 Board of Commissioners**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATION PROCESS CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The CDBG Allocation Process Citizen Review Panel shall consist of fourteen (14) citizens. Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members from his/her district for a two (2) year term, subject to ratification by the Board of Commissioners. Such term shall not extend beyond the term set for the Commissioner who made the appointment. Panel members may be reappointed to serve additional terms.

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2021

Keisha Kent Sawyer (**Abdur-Rahman**)

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Josette T. Bailey for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.

Open & Responsible Government

24-0143 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a change order less than 10% - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21RFP22421K-DB, Construction Management at Risk Services for the new Fulton County Animal Shelter Facility in an amount not to exceed \$186,996.00 with Winter Johnson Group (Atlanta, GA), a joint venture comprised of The Winter Construction Company and Johnson Construction Service) for additional funding to cover costs associated with the final close-out of the newly constructed Fulton County Animal Shelter Facility. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries

24-0144 Library

Request approval to increase the spending authority for an existing contract between Fulton County and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of Cooperative Extension in the amount of \$640.00 and to approve the execution of a revised contract, as may be amended as to form by the County Attorney, to provide increases in compensation to UGA staff resulting from the changes to the UGA Teachers Retirement System benefits. The original contract was approved by the BOC on 11/15/2023 (item # 23-0816) in the amount of \$203,450.00 and the revised contract will be in the amount \$204,090.00. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services

24-0145 Public Works

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Public Works, 23ITB137323A-KM, Laboratory Testing Services in the amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 with Analytical Environmental Services, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide laboratory testing services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: March 31, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0146 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22ITBC079A-KM, Colilert Reagent 24 and Colilert 18 Reagent Supplies, in an amount not to exceed \$90,669.40 with IDEXX Distribution Inc. (Westbrook, ME), chemicals for drinking water analysis for use with existing County-owned lab equipment. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0147 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Request approval to enter into a contractual agreement with PAD and ARS to fulfill COSSUP Grant between Fulton County, on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) with Sub-recipients for the new grant award in the amount of \$1,599,999.00 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The two MOUs are with (a) the Atlanta Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiatives (PAD) in the amount of \$564,093.00 to provide Diversion Services, and (b) Applied Research Services (ARS) in the amount of \$150,000.00 to provide data collection services for this grant. The County Attorney is authorized to approve the MOUs as to form and make necessary changes thereto prior to execution. The MOUs are effective upon BOC approval through September 2024. This item is 100% grant funded. **(REMOVED)**

ITEM MOVED TO THE MARCH 20TH RECESS MEETING**24-0148 Senior Services**

Request approval of a change order less than 10% - Senior Services 22RFP035A-CJC, Aging Services in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 with (A) Senior Services North, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in the amount of \$30,000.00; (B) South Fulton Senior Services (College Park, GA) in the amount of \$30,000.00; and (C) Visiting Nurses Health Systems (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$30,000.00 to provide Aging Services for Fulton County seniors aged 60 and above. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0149 Senior Services

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

Infrastructure and Economic Development**24-0150 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution approving an Underground Distribution Construction Agreement and Release for Construction Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia and the Georgia Power Company for the purpose of completing planned renovations and new construction at the Oak Hill Child, Adolescent and Family Center located at 2805 Metropolitan Parkway, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30315; to authorize the Chairman to execute the Underground Distribution Construction Agreement and Release for Construction Agreement and related documents; authorize the County Attorney to approve as to form the Underground Distribution Construction Agreement and Release for Construction Agreement and to make modifications as necessary to protect the County's interest prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0151 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 57,511 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from JEN Georgia 19, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Pinecone Project at 11190 Rock Mill Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0152 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 42,268 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from JEN Georgia 19, LLC for the purpose of constructing the Pinecone Project at 11190 Rock Mill Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0153 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution approving a Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Lessor) and Times Journal, Inc., a Georgia corporation (Lessee), for the purpose of leasing 743 square feet of office space in the basement of the Fulton County Courthouse at 136 Pryor Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Lease Agreement and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the lease agreement and related documents as to form and to make modifications thereof to protect the County's interest prior to execution by the Chairman; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**24-0154 Police**

Request approval of the 2024 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the U.S. Department of Justice for the Fulton County Police Department, establishing the requirements for participation in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program and the restrictions upon the use of federally forfeited cash, property, or proceeds. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0155 Emergency Management

Request authorization to execute the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS). Once executed the agreement will be effective through March 1, 2028. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**24-0156 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by moving up item #24-0173 as requested by Chairman Pitts; and with a super majority vote, adding item #24-0175. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

24-0157 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Regular Meeting Minutes, February 7, 2024

Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, February 21, 2024

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

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

Absent: Arrington

24-0158 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Soumaya Khalifa Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**

Proclamation recognizing "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month." **(Ellis)**

Presentation of Certificates: Youth Commission Induction Ceremony. **(BOC)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**24-0159 Board of Commissioners**

Public Comment - Citizens are allowed to voice County related opinions, concerns, requests, etc. during the Public Comment portion of the Commission meeting.

Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, whether such persons are commenting in-person, via emails or via Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed sixty (60) minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed sixty (60) minutes at the Recess 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)

5 Speakers: Senator Donzella James (Item #24-0093); Amanda Timpson (District Attorney Office); Mike Russell (Budget Responsibilities); L.A. Pink (County Funds) and Paul Hershey (District Attorney Office)

4 Zoom Comments: Kevin Muldowney (County Funds); Matt Rowenczak (County Funds); Katie Benson (County Funds) and Ben Howard (Senior Housing)

COUNTY MANAGER'S ACTION ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****24-0160 Finance**

Request approval of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County, Georgia Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Fulton County, Georgia General Fund Tax Anticipation Notes; Authorizing the Distribution and Use of a (a) Request for Bids and/or (b) Preliminary Official Statement and Notice of Sale, in each case relating to such Tax Anticipation Notes and the Solicitation of Offers for the purchase of the Notes and related matters. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0161 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB092023K-JA, Restroom Renovations for Fulton County Juvenile Justice Center, in an amount not to exceed \$1,498,000.00 with Brad Construction Company II, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to demolish and renovate sixteen (16) public restrooms (8 Men's and 8 Women's) in the Fulton County Juvenile Justice Center. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed for a period of 180 calendar days. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

24-0162 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB110923C-GS, HVAC On Call Maintenance Services Countywide in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00, with (A) Mechanical Services, Inc. (Marietta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00; (B) Trane U.S., Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.00; (C) 5 Seasons Mechanical LLC (Norcross, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00; and (D) JR Hobbs Co. - Atlanta, LLC (Lawrenceville, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, to provide standby on-site HVAC on call maintenance services of air conditioning systems on an "as needed" basis for all Fulton County facilities. Effective upon execution of contracts through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0163 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB121622K-DJ, Industrial Racking for the Fulton County Central Warehouse in an amount not to exceed \$11,831.00 with McGee Storage & Handling (Norcross, GA), requesting additional funding to cover the costs to purchase 15 bays of pallet racking, other related equipment components, and freight to complete installation at the Fulton County Central Warehouse located at 5600 Campbellton-Fairburn Road, Atlanta, GA 30213. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0164 Human Resources Management

Request approval of a Resolution renewing authorization for enhanced overtime compensation for designated Sheriff personnel until the allocated funds in the non-agency budget, specifically earmarked for this purpose, are depleted. **(HELD)**

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

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

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

Nay: Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

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

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts

24-0165 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

Request approval of funding for professional services contracts entered into by the Fulton County Sheriff's Office using funds from the former Inmate Welfare Fund, now under the control of Fulton County, in a total amount not to exceed amount of \$642,580.00 with various consultants identified in Exhibit 1. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024. **(DENIED)**

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

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

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

Nay: Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

24-0166 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

Request approval to rescind contract 23ITBC060923A-KM, Uniforms and Accessories awarded to Onyx, Ink, LLC, on September 6, 2023, BOC Item 23-0593. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Health and Human Services

24-0130 Public Works

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 23ITBC060923A-KM, Uniforms, and Accessories in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00 with Jonah's Enterprises Inc, (Brooklyn, NY) to provide uniforms and accessories. Effective upon execution of the contract through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0167 Senior Services

Request approval of a change order greater than 10% - Department of Senior Services, 21RFQ000007A-CJC, Senior In-Home Services in a total amount not to exceed \$227,000.00 with (A) Southern Homecare Services dba Always Caring Home Care (Roswell, GA) in amount not to exceed \$68,100.00; (B) Help At Home LLC (Newnan, GA) in amount not to exceed \$68,100.00; (C) At Home Atlanta, LLC (Roswell, GA) in amount not to exceed \$45,400.00; (D) Trusted Hands Senior Care (Stone Mountain, GA) in amount not to exceed \$45,400.00, to provide In-Home Services to eligible Fulton County seniors aged 60 and above. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Justice and Safety

24-0168 Medical Examiner

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Medical Examiner's Office, 21ITB131809C-MH, Forensic Postmortem Toxicology Testing in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 with Axis Forensic Toxicology, Inc. (Indianapolis, IN) for additional toxicology testing for decedents. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**24-0093 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urging the Georgia General Assembly to support legislation sponsored by the State Senator Donzella James to amend the Official Code of Georgia to lift the ban relating to restrictions on rent regulations by local governments and allow Counties and Municipalities the ability to regulate the rent to be charged for privately owned single-family or multiple-unit residential properties for those residing within the state of Georgia; and for other purposes. **(Hall) (HELD ON 2/7/24 ON 2/21/24) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

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

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**24-0169 Board of Commissioners**

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL **(APPROVED)**

Members of the Advisory Council shall be appointed for a period of three (3) years. A member may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms on the board.

Fulton County having a population of more than 50,000 according to the United States decennial census of 1990 or any future such census shall appoint one member for each population increment of 50,000 or any portion thereof.

Term = 3 years (No more than two consecutive terms)

Term below expired: 8/1/2018

Vacant **(Member 6)**

Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman nominated Tara Miller for a Full Board appointment to a term ending August 1, 2024.

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

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****24-0170 External Affairs**

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

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**24-0171 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Boards, Authorities, Committees, and Task Forces **(Arrington)**
(DISCUSSED)

24-0172 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Reconfiguration of office space **(Pitts)** **(DISCUSSED WITH ITEM #24-0173)**

24-0173 Board of Commissioners

Discussion and approval of back to work plan pre-covid **(Pitts)** **(DISCUSSED)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION**24-0174 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, CYBERSECURITY AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, Arrington, and; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve requests for representation in items #2, #3, #4, and #5 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve the increase in salary of the County Attorney to the amount of \$327,050.00 annually. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

ADDED TO THE MEETING**Items Added to the Agenda****24-0175 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Animal Control (**Barrett**) (**DISCUSSED**)

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve adding item #24-0175 to the Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis, and Arrington

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 6, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC
“A Court Reporting Firm”

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, good morning, everyone and welcome to the Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioner's. It is 10 o'clock a.m. Today is Wednesday, March 6th, 2024. Madam Clerk, please call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Present."

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Present."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, please rise for the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "As I've told y'all before and I'm going to say it again. No, I'm not going -- one more time: in the Pledge of Allegiance, there is no comma after. If you look

at it, you, I've said that a thousand times. I'm not going fast, there's just no comma. I'm going it right. Madam Clerk, continue, please."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- Youth Commission, check me out on that.

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0138**, 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 Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item to be removed and moved to the March 20th Recess Meeting; on page 6, 24-0147, Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities: Request approval to enter into a contractual agreement with PAD and ARS to fulfill a grant. This item has been moved to the Recess Meeting.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioners, anything on the Consent Agenda? All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an item requested to be an add-on item today by Commissioner Barrett, 24-0175, Discussion, Animal Control."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. That will require a supermajority vote; five votes. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It says passed, yeah."

CLERK GRIER: "Yes. Okay, supermajority."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, fails. All right."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. With Commissioner Hall, it passes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's add it to the agenda. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 7, Regular Meeting Agenda, Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one amendment on page 12. Chairman Pitts has requested to move his item, 24-0173, Discussion and approval of back-to-work plan pre-Covid to hear that before 24-0172."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, anything else? All right, Commissioners, any items on the Regular Agenda? All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve the regular agenda as amended. Commissioner Barrett has moved to approve, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0157**, Ratification of Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes, February 7th. Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, February 21st, 2024."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right, motion to approve the minutes. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Natalie Hall. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, **24-0158**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Soumaya Khalifa Appreciation Day' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It's 10:07."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can I get Soumaya Khalifa and all her family members and supporters to come down, please? Is everybody down here? Good morning everyone. With it being Women's History Month, I take a special, special pride in honoring this individual to the left of me. You know I'm just a southern girl; grew up on the dirt roads of Georgia, but as a little girl, I heard the saying that says, a little piece of leather but sure enough put together. This is Somalia Khalifa. Women's history Month highlights the contributions of women in history and contemporary society, and is celebrated during the month of March in the United States, Great Britain, Australia

which corresponds with International Women's Day on March 8th. And WHEREAS, Soumaya Khalifa is the founder and Executive Director of the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta, one of the most distinguished community building organizations in the Metro area that connects American Muslim communities with a wide range of civic and faith-based groups; bringing Muslim voices to places where they have not been before; and WHEREAS, Soumaya Khalifa is also President and CEO of Khalifa Consulting, where she provides corporate, nonprofit, and governmental institutions with wide ranging expertise and practical solutions to cross-cultural operations. She is also a highly regarded coach, trainer, and consultant specializing in intercultural communications, diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as leadership development; and WHEREAS, Soumaya sits on the boards of several organizations including the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, the Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center, the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival, the community foundation of greater Atlanta, and the Carter Centers Boards of Counselors; and WHEREAS, Soumaya has been an adjunct faculty member at Emory University Center for Continuing Education since 2009, and she has published numerous articles, reviews, blog posts, podcast, and online videos on managing cultural differences. I take an honor in opening up Women's History Month with such a stellar community member who transcends and believes in all faiths and all believes that all people have a seat at the table. I honor her today. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in commemoration of Women's History Month recognizes Soumaya Khalifa for her dedication to providing opportunities to learn about Islam and the Muslim community; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 6th, 2024, as 'Soumaya Khalifa Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Will you please put your hands together?"

SOU MAYA KHALIFA, RECIPIENT: "Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much. This is a huge honor. Could have done it without all my friends and family, especially my husband, who's here; and just the community and my team who works tirelessly to make our organization what it is. A huge honor and a thank you to our beloved Commissioner Khadijah, and to all Commissioners, and Mr. Chairman, Robb Pitts. Now thank you again to all of you."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month' sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'd like to invite some of our friends and clients to come on here and join us for this proclamation. Good morning, good morning. All right, you're going to be talking? All right, fantastic. Fantastic. How you doing, buddy? Great crowd. All right. We've got everybody down. So everybody thanks for joining us, coming down and visiting with us this morning, and sharing with us during this time of this proclamation. It's a very important proclamation I want to share. WHEREAS, in 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to increase public awareness of the needs and exceptional potential of Americans with intellectual development disabilities; and WHEREAS, intellectual development disabilities are a group of conditions due to an

impairment in physical learning, language, or behavioral areas that began during the developmental period and may impact day-to-day functioning that usually last throughout a person's lifetime; and WHEREAS, the goal in 2024 for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, is to identify and create new opportunities that will better enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to live, learn, work, experience, play, and thrive in their communities; and WHEREAS, orange -- I guess that's why you see it up here. And today for the day for this guy who likes red and black, orange will be a good color, right? At least around football season, so -- is the official color -- orange is the official color of DD Awareness Month because it symbolizes energy and positivity. One of the easiest ways to participate is to invite your team to wear orange; and WHEREAS, Fulton County's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities has served IDD individuals through its day services program for the past 48 years. The program is committed to bringing awareness and acceptance for people of every ability and provide an opportunity to become more independent, economically self-sufficient, and contributing members of their communities. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the entire Board of Commissioners of Fulton County, recognizes the intellectual and developmentally disabled as valuable members of the Fulton County community encourages their inclusion in every facet of life in Metro Atlanta; and does hereby proclaim March 2024 as 'Developmental Disability Awareness Month' in Fulton County, Georgia. And I think we've got somebody who wants to share a little bit with us here. Come right here. We've got a microphone here. The floor is yours."

RECIPIENT: "Thank you. Good morning. My name is (inaudible). Thank you for coming. We appreciate your continued support and I accept this proclamation on behalf of Fulton County Behavioral Health and Development Disability. We are looking forward to celebrating DD awareness month the entire month of March; our day for 2024 is a world of opportunities."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yes, there we go. Great job. Great job. Would anybody else like to say anything? All right. All right, said it all. Let's get a good picture."

CLERK GRIER: "Presentation of certificates: Youth Commission Induction Ceremony."

REGINALD CROSSLEY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: "Good day, everyone. My name is Reginald Crossley, and I represent the Department of Community Development and lead the Fulton County Youth Commission Program. At this time, we will start our induction ceremony for the 2023 through 2024 Youth Commission term. These young people serve as our eyes, ears, and voice for youth throughout Fulton County, so this is very special occasion to recognize them this morning. We would like for the Youth Commissioners to first and raise your right hand. We would like to ask our great Chairman, Robb Pitts, to read the Oath of Service."

(Whereupon, Chairman Pitts read the Oath of Service.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. State your name as I read the Oath here. I, and state your name; do affirm that I will and truly discharge the duties of Youth Commissioner for Fulton County in all matters that require me to the best of my knowledge and skill to advise the Fulton County Board of Commissioners about how Fulton County can best address youth concerns and issues; design techniques to prevent at-risk situations of teenagers in Fulton County; influence policies that impact children and youth. I do further solemnly affirm that I will endeavor to discharge my duties in the following manner: participate in monthly meetings and community projects, maintain contact with Commissioners on youth issues, attend Board of Commissioners Meetings, plan community service projects that will benefit youth and reflect favorably on Fulton County government and citizens; and share pertinent information with my peers on youth-related issues. I pledge that I will fulfill these duties, and I will act in my judgment which will be the most conducive to the welfare and best interest of the youth of the entire county. These affirmations I hereby make on this 6th day in March of 2024. All right, congratulations."

REGINALD CROSSLEY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: "Next, we will distribute our certificates of induction. I'll call students down per District. I'll ask our Board of Commissioners to stand on my left and you could pass the certificates to your respective Youth Commissioner Representative. Starting with Commissioner Thorne, District One: Maya Cunningham, David Alexander, Rachel Alexander, Prisha Shah, Ruhi Doddamani. Commissioner Thorne can you, please, meet the students by the flag for a picture? Starting with this -- our next District Two, Commissioner Ellis: Namiah Loussaint, Melanie Harper, Yash Varakala, Nathaniel D'Silva, Sara Lopez. Please, meet them by the flag. District Three, Commissioner Barrett: Darren Kellis, Corinne Evans, and Mya Hullum. Commissioner Barrett, please meet them by the flag. Next Commissioner Hall, District Four. Representing District Four: Sierra Pape, who serves as the Vice Chair, London Crystal White, Alonnah Copeland, Rashaun Regis, and Nasiir Simmons. Commissioner Arrington, District Five: Maia Henderson, Laylah Lopez -- excuse me -- Laylah Jones, Jada Hall, Prevailer Idowu, and MiCai Haywood. Commissioner Khadijah, District Six --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Vice Chair."

REGINALD CROSSLEY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: "Vice Chair, yes, ma'am: Fatimah Muhammed, and Mya Nelson. And last but not least, representing At-large, serving as a Youth Commission Chair, Adriana Claudio. Before we end, I would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for their continuous support, our county management staff and executive leadership, the external affairs team, the department of community development, and most importantly -- or not least, our parents and students for their time and contribution in making this day possible. We thank you all for your support, and I would like to yield just one minute our chair."

ADRIANA CLAUDIO, YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR, RECIPIENT: "Good morning, everyone. I would first like to thank the Board of Commissioners for recognizing us

today. I would also like to sincerely thank, Mr. Crossley for dedicating his effort in promoting youth leadership that has fostered this amazing program. On behalf of the Youth Commissioners, we thank you all for believing in our ability to be leaders of Fulton County. During my time as a Fulton County Youth Commissioner, I've had the pleasure to serve my community. Through committee-specific work, the Youth Commission has lobbied Bills for mental health initiatives, created environmental awareness campaigns, and the list goes on. The people I have met and the experience I have gained remind me every day of the good that comes when youth are given a platform to be the voice of change in their community. It's because of this that I am very excited for the future of the Youth Commission. Everyone in this group is beyond talented and deserving of their position. And I am honored that I get to help lead such an amazing program with such amazing people. As we settle deeper into 2024, please look forward to the initiatives you're launching and continuing. Youth Commission has worked very hard, and we are excited to move ahead in our commitment towards the betterment of youth in Fulton County. Thank you."

REGINALD CROSSLEY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: "Thank you all. That concludes our segment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 8, Public Hearings, **24-0159**, Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing by registering on the county website www.fultoncountygga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we'll start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received five speaker cards. Will all five speakers, please come forward: Senator Donzella James, Amanda Timpson, Mike Russell, LA Pink, and Paul Hershey."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, speakers, when you have 15 seconds left on your two minutes, I'll say 15 seconds, and that is your clue to conclude your remarks. And based upon the new rules of the Board, the elected officials only get two minutes as opposed to how it used to be, which was unlimited."

SENATOR DONZELLA JAMES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I've got two new knees. I can't walk up here quite yet. Next time. Good morning to our Honorable Chair and all the

distinguished Commissioners, and ladies and gentlemen. I am Donzella James, a lifelong Fulton County resident, born and raised, Grady baby, and I've had the honor to serve the 35th District of the State of Georgia as your Senator for many years now, for two tenures actually. And as I go -- I went around last year -- I got to talk fast. Because by the time I say my name, the two minutes up. But let me just say that I came to support a Resolution that would support Senate Bill 125. It's a bill that I saw a need for when I talked to students at our colleges around as well as the veterans. Veterans for Justice came to me and asked me to help them and then, of course, our seniors. But it is a Bill to repeal the Georgia Code to allow local governments to regulate their city rental costs in the state of Georgia. What happens is we're one of 13 states that have banned on -- on any county or municipality having control over rent. So this is a Bill that would only limit that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SENATOR DONZELLA JAMES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- so that the -- excuse me? Up already? I did -- Madam Clerk, did you --- were you able to give them the -- okay. So, in front of you, you have Senate Bill -- I'm trying to talk real fast, and it's hard to do. You have the legislation that passed."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Senator, go ahead."

SENATOR DONZELLA JAMES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- not only is it a problem with gouging -- rent gouging of young people paying \$1,000 one year and when it's time to renew their lease, they have to pay two and three and four. So it's doubling, tripling, and quadrupling right before us. We have to protect our students and our seniors and all our tenants from gouging. So this Bill only will stop gouging. It's right in front of you right now, and it is moving in the legislature. It did pass the Senate and it will -- it's on the Rules calendar to go to the House. So it is Senate Bill 125, and I ask you to, please consider it. If I can answer any questions about it, because without a cap placed on rent, costs will skyrocket, and it causes many social issues in our communities and around the state. So thank you for giving me this time, even though I had three -- ten more pages to say to you. But I'll be happy to answer any questions. And I'll give you more than two minutes if you come to the Senate Chambers, okay? Thank you.

(Speaker is no longer on the mic.)

Please vote favorably on Resolution 24-0159. Is that what that is, by Commissioner Hall. Thanks for your favorable consideration. Thank you very much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

AMANDA TIMPSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Amanda Timpson. I'm formally the director of juvenile diversion for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. On April 4th, 2022, just 90 days after I was fired for blowing the whistle on Fani Willis and her administration and walked out of this very building by seven armed investigators; my attorney sent each Commissioner a draft complaint with

18 exhibits totaling in over 200 pages. Attached was Exhibit 12, which is an audio recording that has now being heard by so many. Prior to my termination, I made 42 separate points of contacts with nearly every branch of Fulton County government seeking refuge from the relentless retaliation that I endured. On January 14th, 2022, I was fired just 20 minutes after making my third formal DC/RC complaint against Ms. Willis and her goons. Due to time restrictions, I'm unable to detail each of these actions, but again, you all have had two years to familiarize yourself with these details. I did everything that Fulton County Government prescribes a whistle-blower do to be protected, yet Ms. Willis and her administration were allowed to retaliate against me with absolute impunity. Ms. Willis continues to intimidate me; regularly lurking on my online profiles as recently as February 20th, 2024, when she, embroiled in scandal and corruption, had the time to stalk my LinkedIn page four separate times in a 24-hour span. In closing, my case is currently in active litigation as we speak. Every document that I have read regarding the Junior DA program specifically states, participants must be Fulton County residents exclusively. They are stating under oath, in depositions, that they can serve you from out of this county and state displacing Fulton County residents --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

AMANDA TIMPSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- from their own resources despite documentation proving otherwise. And you all are allowing them to do this. Shame on you. You all knew about this for two years and were silent, and willfully failed the youth of this county. Thank you."

MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. It wasn't long ago that I stood here when we were debating the budge, and some of you voted to raise our taxes. And at that time you promised to be good stewards of our tax dollars. But apparently that has not transpired. We've lost the taxpayers of Fulton County millions of dollars. First, with the actions of Ms. Hall that cost us over a million dollars, then you have the shenanigans of the DA's office that have cost us untold number of dollars, and now we have this report from the Sheriff's office, out-of-control spending. Nobody knows where the money is going. It's not being used for the purposes for which it was budgeted, and that needs to change. We need real rules in this county. We are the laughingstock of the nation, to make sure things are done right. There's accountability, there's transparency, and people are held responsible for their actions. You know, with these issues with hiring, why is there not a system where these things are made public, where there's a committee to select who's hired? Where there's a job description, where there's qualifications for office that everybody can see? That would put -- that would end some of these shenanigans. Could I go down and start -- if I was a Commissioner or the Sheriff or the DA, could I hire the cute guy at my gym to come work for me at the county for \$100,000? Could I hire the guy who hands me my food items at Chick-Fil-A window to come down here and work for \$60,000, because that's the way it's happening right now. We need transparency, we need accountability and responsibility. Every

dime that comes into this county, whether it's taxpayers or grants, need to go to the financial officer. And every dime that's spent --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- needs to be through the financial officer and it needs to be transparent, and it needs to be spent according to what it was budgeted for. We need those changes now, and we need an audit of those offices and an investigation immediately. You promised to do better, and now is the time."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "As he's talking, I have no introduction, because it's doesn't matter about who I am. It matters about what we got going on down here at Fulton County. I'm asking for an open investigation today on Labut. Like he said, we've got Commissioner Hall chasing balls, this has to stop. We got -- let's get back to Labut. He has been using the inmate welfare funding to pay a pastor for singing -- and I sent this information to a couple of different people, so they have the list of money he has spent recklessly -- but a pastor for \$6,000 a month? I mean, I need to become a pastor. He has on 08/25/22 -- on 2022, he paid for face painting, \$425 off of inmates' welfare funding; a DJ, two of them. One he paid \$675, the other one he paid \$1,300 all at that same event that he had, and there's several -- it keeps going on. He paid for an individual to go to college off of the inmate welfare funding, and that came out to be -- one of the sheriff deputies, look into that, that was on 08/29/22, for \$1,082.49. He paid \$40,000 in Chick-fil-A gift cards off of inmate funding -- welfare funding. \$40,000 -- what inmate is eating Chick-fil-A? Okay, so let's keep going, because this one right here by this -- this should interest you because Talitrix, on 12/16/21 and 02/03/22 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- a \$195,000 out of inmate welfare funding. Okay? And so, you guys gave \$5 million, didn't you? Okay. There is eight -- 28 pages of insufficient funding used --"

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Paul Hershey. Reasons why Fani must go: It has been clearly established that the Trump prosecution should be taken away from her due to the numerous ethical violations she has committed. She has obviously lied to the court and committed perjury on the witness stand. The evidence has established that she has tried to influence other potential witnesses to support her falsities. She has misappropriated funds provided to her by both the county and the feds. She is currently under federal investigation that's going to continue in more, and is going to look into the grant funds of Fulton County. That's coming. The State Ethics Commission is currently investigating her, and it's going to look at anybody that supports her. Evidence has been shared that she has created a hostile work environment within the Fulton County District Attorney's Office that promotes race, baiting, and favoritism that divides and awards due to race. That's a civil rights violation that you have not addressed. That's going to come from the Feds. She has confessed

to cooperating -- she has refused to cooperate with investigations and probes into her malfeasance within her office. She spends county tax dollar funds without regard to audit and accountability, and that's going to come. Her demeanor includes defiance, contempt, ridicule, and hostility. The bottom line is as Fulton County Commissioners, you should have been investigating all of these malfeasance and the ethical violation --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and the bottom line is, you're not doing your job. Every time that I come up here I say the same damn thing. Why? Why are you refusing to take action that your authority gives you? Why are you failing --"

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

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

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Well, there's currently a Georgia senate hearing taking place right now dealing with fiscal waist in the Fulton DA's office. Very timely. We have a Commissioner, Natalie Hall, whose wasted almost a million dollars in county resources because she couldn't keep her urges in check. Now that same Commissioner apparently wants to monopolize the proclamation process going forward for the next three or four meetings. It looks like a PR stunt to get her constituents focused on happy thoughts and away from the abuse of her office and county resources that she's perpetrated on the taxpayers of Fulton. Please don't let this happen."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Matt Rowenzcak."

MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. As they say, eternal vigilance is required of citizens in order to prevent your government from essentially operating inappropriately or overstepping its bounds. While I'll say we have an example of that today. When I look at the long list of proclamations, I see eight of them. So let's go down the list and see which Commissioner sponsored each one. The first one, Commissioner Hall; the second one, Commissioner Hall; the third one, Commissioner Hall; the fourth one, Commissioner Hall; the fifth one, Commissioner Hall; the sixth one, Commissioner Hall; the seventh one, Chairman Pitts; and the eighth one, Commissioner Hall. So we have almost 90 percent of the proclamations from one Commissioner. My question is: did these take up county resources? If so, can we have a Commissioner who continues to not only abuse county, a.k.a., taxpayer resources, but also potentially uses these proclamations as part of her reelection campaign. Board, we have a problem. Despite the already incurred almost a million dollars of expense from Commissioner Hall's poor behavior, there seems to be zero inward reflection on how she conducts herself with taxpayer resources. And I suppose I shouldn't be surprised

when you, Commissioner Hall, and Commissioner Barrett, align yourself with our corrupt DA. But for every day Fulton County residence that do the right thing and have to live within their means and often make difficult decision, it pisses them off --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- with this type of behavior. And I'd suggest putting some limitations on these proclamations if they, indeed, are excessively using county resources. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Katie Benson."

KATIE BENSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, Commissioners. I am a resident of Fulton County, and I'm curious as to why there are so many -- many proclamations being issued from Commissioner Hall this morning? Why is that allowed; to have so many proclamations from only one Commissioner, especially on an election year? Especially, when Commissioner Hall is under so much scrutiny and her actions should be scrutinized as she has dug herself into a very deep hole professionally and personally with her abhorrent scandals. Thank you for your time."

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

BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings, Commissioners and staff, and a special greeting fellow citizens; Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. In February of this year, the movers and shakers of the Housing Authority of Fulton County had on this website a meeting notice for March of last year. We can only hope the board officers are treating those millions of dollars entrusted to them with a greater degree of accuracy and transparency. Office of Aging Administrators have chosen to not delineate unfinished business on the agendas for the Commission on Elder Affairs. A member of the present Commission on Elder Affairs proposed the COEA have a presence at the various senior facilities. A look back at the dusty minutes of COEA during the days when the Council on Aging had active representation on that board, will show that the Commission on Elder Affairs' presence at senior multipurpose facilities as well as matters like accreditation of the county's four senior multipurpose facilities was unfinished business way back then. Stay tuned on this matter of the delineation of unfinished business."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "No, further speakers."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 8, under County Manager's Action Items, Open and Responsible Government, **24-0160**, Finance: Request approval of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County authorizing the issuance and sale of Fulton County general fund tax anticipation notes; authorizing and distribution of use of a request for bids and/or preliminary official statement and notice of sale, in each case related to such tax anticipation notes, and the solicitation of offers for the purchase of the notes and related matters."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam CFO, any comment? Quickly."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the initial step that's necessary for us to start the process this year. We'd look to bring back the bids to the Board at the second meeting in April and close in early May."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, **24-0161**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$1,498,000 to demolish and renovate 16 public restrooms in the Fulton County Juvenile Justice Center."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0162**: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 to provide standby on-site HVAC on-call maintenance services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; it's seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote. Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "What happened? One moment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, what's the problem? All right. All right, take a voice vote. All right, those in favor say, aye --"

CLERK GRIER: "-- and the vote is open on item 162."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0163**: Request approval to increase spending authority for industrial racking for the Fulton County Central Warehouse in an amount not to exceed \$11,831."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. Is there a second? Seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0164**, Human Resources Management: Request approval of a Resolution renewing authorization for enhanced overtime compensation for designated Sheriff Personnel."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Natalie Hall, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a few questions for -- just remarks on this. So, I'd asked Mr. Hermon to provide some data on this last year because, if you'll recall, the ask on this and the response on this was really about ensuring that we had adequate staffing and so forth at the jail. And it be focused around the detention officers and the folks that were working in doing the detention effort. So I think we spent about six and a half million last year; is that correct, Mr. Hermon?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Give me a minute, Commissioner. I'm pulling up the file right now."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. We'll pull it up and he can verify it, but basically to date, we've spent about six and half million last year. And just under two million of that was spent on civilian staff, and 3.6 million, it looks like -- it's hard to tell in this, but it looks like a lot of this was spent on nonjail staff, nonjail workers. And, you know, I know we've kind of deliberately have, you know, dialed this back a little bit this past -- this year, and I think this needs a lot of scrutiny going forward to make sure that this is going

for what its intended purposes were. You know, just last year, 22 people received a million dollars worth of overtime pay. And average salary of those folks was 65,000, and average overtime they got was 46,000. There were a couple of noted situations in here where we had people in administrative roles who were making close to the same amount -- like one at a salary of 46,000, made 42,000 in overtime, in an administrative role. So to me -- I mean, I got some concerns about what we are renewing; and I guess my main question to you, Mr. Hermon, is with what we are approving here, does this explicitly ensure that what we're allocating is going for enhanced overtime is going to folks working in the jail as opposed to, you know, everybody it seems across the Sheriff's office? I mean, even there -- it wasn't necessarily a significant amount of funds, but there was even overtime pay to their counsel. So, you know it clearly was not what was intended when we passed this last year, in terms of what's played out. So can you describe for us what's -- what we are -- what you're requesting approval to renew authorization of and is this different than what was approved last year?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Yes. Good morning, Commissioners and everyone. Kenneth L. Hermon, Junior, Chief HR Officer. So the Resolution in front of you today for your approval it is significantly different than what we approved last year."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. You said it is different?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "It is significantly different"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Significantly different?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Yes. And I say significant only because last year we didn't have many parameters for the Resolution. In this year's version, the Resolution is very specific. It limits the double overtime only to two units within the Sheriff's department, unit 3302 and 3308, which are the jail units. The primary jail unit and I think in our structure is the satellite office. So those are the only two units that can be eligible for double overtime. We further go down and say well, it's not receptionist in the jail unit, it's a detention officer or a Sheriff's deputy. So those are the only two positions in those only two units which makes it significantly different than where we were last year where it was any deputy or any detention officer regardless of the unit that you worked in and what you were doing at any particular time. And we also excluded the crime suppression unit in this iteration as well."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. Does it concern you or particularly raise red flags to you that we would have people receiving upwards of, you know, 50 thousand in overtime? And I guess underlying this question is how are we, you know, kind of auditing or verifying that these are -- that these are accurate, right? And not -- there wasn't potential, you know, abuse going on here."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Correct, Commissioner. So one of the primary -- I guess the comfort level that we try to gain in this process and any other

process relative to the county's time and attendance and compensation matters is to ensure that each employee is reporting the time accurately at the time clock. In this instance, the deputies and detention officers are nonexempt -- sorry, the lower-level deputies and detention officers are nonexempt, and we have spoken repeatedly with the Sheriff's department to ensure that those individuals are physically punching at the time clock to ensure that the time is accurate. I know that we had some problems last year that I believe we've resolved, and we will continue that conversation with the Sheriff's office to make sure that individuals are reporting their time accurately. Outside of that, if we don't have accurate reporting then, you know, the area of concern could become -- could grow because if we're not tracking the time accurately, not only is it a concern for us from a compensation perspective, but it can also open up a window for other potential federal violations if we're not accurately tracking the time of our nonexempt employees and our official time clock. And that's why we even have provisions in the Resolution that speak to that; it must be done in the timeclock. So again, putting a lot of onus on the employees, a lot of onus on the Sheriffs' supervisors to ensure that is occurring."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "All right. You say a lot of onus on the employee themselves. I don't know -- I don't know, like we do any sort of, you know, kind of spot audit review of this stuff to sort of test out, you know, when you were -- I mean if there's what would appear to be, you know, an aberration, you know, an abnormality in terms of this doesn't necessarily make sense that somebody worked, you know, X number of hours, you know, for several weeks on end kind of thing. Is there anything that would sort of trigger that as sort of a -- in our systems to say there's a flag here? Yeah, I guess -- if there's not, there's not, but I think that we need to -- we need to come up with some ways which better monitors this and, you know, trigger some sort of exception review to ensure that, what's bubbling up here is accurate, I mean because that -- to have that narrow of a group receive sort of that significant portion of the overtime funding and some of those have clearly been, you know, nonjail staff, it's just -- it's concerning. Any thoughts on that?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Commissioner, I'll have to double check. I know when we -- in the prior time and attendance system, we did have -- we did put in a flag that, for example, if I remember correctly, if there was more than 40 hours of overtime, it would trigger something for my team to bring to our attention -- bring to my attention so I could discuss to, with the respective department head. So let me take that back to see if that's something that we can do again within the new environment that we are in. But then also understand that, you know, by the time we get the information, it's probably a week after the activity has taken place. So it can only be an audit to try and clean up any potential errors in the time and attendance system, but my team does that working with the Sheriff's department on a biweekly basis to ensure that employees are paid accurately. But our process, you know if you see someone has earned \$6,000 in overtime for that week and it's signed off by their supervisor and signed off by payroll liaison within the Sheriff's office and comes to us, it's hard for me to refute the accuracy of that certification."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. Okay. Last question for you: do you have or in receipt of a, I don't know, an order chart or sort of a unit chart for the Sheriff's department that would show, you know, who kind of works in each particular unit?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "No. I made a request and have not received that as of yet from Mr. Shoates."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Would you make that request again on behalf of the Board that we would like to see that?"

KENNETH HERMON, JR., CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's the request, Commissioner?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "That we have a -- have a picture of where people work in the Sheriff's department and, you know, kind of notate these individuals work in this unit and these people work in the jail, these people, you know -- more of a specific sort of breakdown of where people are working within the Sheriff's department."

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. You know, I'm going to continue to ask this question. It falls on deaf ears. First of all, let me say this: any personnel that works overtime should be paid. Let me be crystal clear about that. However, I have asked over and over again -- there was a statement made by the Sheriff that money was accidentally spent on items from the inmate welfare fund -- they were accidentally -- they weren't meant to be spent on something, but they were. So if you accidentally spent money on something, that means you're going to put that money back, at least that's what I would think. However, just because you're not going to answer the question does not mean it is going to go away. And so, I have questions about this. I really would want to put this on hold and give the individual that need to answer that question an opportunity to answer that question and other questions that I have, because at the end of the day, Chairman, and my colleagues, we are stewards of taxpayers' dollars, and we cannot continue to sign off without accountability. Now, at the end of the day, law enforcement, when they work, and we know the jail is understaffed, they should be paid, so do not take this is an anti-law enforcement, as an anti- not allowing individuals to be paid for the time that they work. However, there's a responsibility with taxpayers' dollars to answer questions. So I have questions that I need answered before I can sign off on this. So I would ask my colleagues to hold this until the next Board meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a subsequent motion?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Subsequent motion to hold this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a second? All right, properly moved and seconded to hold. Commissioner Barrett. All right, Commissioner Natalie Hall. Motion before us is to hold -- substitute motion before us is hold."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "When is this overtime supposed to be started and paid to the people in the Sheriff's Department? Does anyone else -- Madam CFO, Mr. Hermon?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Excuse me. Good afternoon, Commissioner -- actually, good morning. If this -- if the Resolution as presented is approved by the Board of Commissioners today, we have built in a one-week time frame -- since we're off -- we're off pay week cycles right now, so it was slated to start the next -- the earliest available beginning of the pay cycle, which is next week, Wednesday, if it's adopted today. But just for clarification, I just want to make sure that it's clear that employees -- nonexempt employees in the Sheriff's office, if they work hours that qualify them for overtime, they are being paid overtime in accordance with the FLSA. This provision just goes to extend the Sheriff authority to pay twice their salary for working in excess of the FLSA guidelines. So I just want to make sure that's clear that they're, because I heard some comments that they're not getting the overtime, but they are, if they worked the proper time."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. So they're getting their overtime, and this is just to allow it to be two times which is from what -- from my years in working in corporate and government, that's not anything unusual; is that correct?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "No. It's something that we've seen, especially in the law enforcement world, as we try our best to keep all of our law enforcement employees engaged in our operations and include the other operations that have similar provisions with two times their overtime rate and so forth."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So, Mr. Hermon, just to be clear, if this does not pass today, the people who have put in double overtime -- or sorry, overtime hours will be getting one and a half times?"

KENNETH HERMON, JR., CHIEF HR OFFICER: "That's correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And so, instead of the double time -- so they will be getting less money for their effort that they may have been promised."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "If there was a promise made then, yes, if there was a promise made."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, when they were expecting, I guess, maybe is a better way to say it -- they were promised."

KENNETH HERMON, JR., CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But, okay. So it is time sensitive in that regard then, if we do intend to pay double time?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "If you're looking at it from that perspective, that is -- it was a promise made to the employees by the Sheriff or someone of his team that was not done and is delayed three weeks then, yes, it could create some potential morale issues within the Sheriff's ranks."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I'm not going to belabor the point here. I empathize with the employees that making the one and a half as opposed to two percent -- two times; however, I empathize with the Fulton County taxpayer first. And the reason I say this is because leadership has a responsibility to answer questions. And as a sitting Commissioner that is a steward of all of Fulton County taxpayers, I have a duty to ask the question. Now, whether you want to answer the question as a constitutional officer, that's on you, but it's not going to stop me from asking the question. The question is, and I've asked this for quite a while, there was a mistake made in money being spent somewhere that shouldn't have been spent, not my words; those were the Sheriff's words. So if there was a mistake, were you planning on moving the money that you mistakenly spent to somewhere else? I need that question answered. This is not about the employees, this is about Fulton County taxpayers, the accountability and the fact that we're not going to continue to glaze over and not answer questions that need to be answered."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I empathize with the hard-working employees who have to go to work in the jail that we are currently trying to figure out what to do with because it has been underfunded and it is rotting literally from the inside out. And I empathize with those employees. Now, as Commissioner Barrett brought to light, they could have been promised and, of course, I'm sure they know that this on the agenda today, and they may be expecting this amount of overtime, and I want them to have that. That's the least that we could do for them. All of our employees deserve better. We receive the agenda on Friday. We have plenty of time to ask questions from that time until the day of the BOC meeting. People are running for reelection, people are running in their departments, there is a lot going on. We cannot take a no response

as being a negative. It's not always a negative. It is most likely that people are very busy. So reach out to them again and try to get what you need. We don't have to be at odds all the time. We are here for the people -- all of us are here for the people, but we're also here to try to make sure that the employees get what they need, and this is something that they need. Thank you very much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I understand the employees and the necessity to maintain our good -- the retention that the Sheriff has is not the best, and he's short-staffed, I totally understand that. But Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman has been asking these questions for months and months about it since, you know, the fall -- early fall of last year and hasn't gotten answers. And we are not denying them this pay; we're just asking to put it on hold. Some of the things that we're brought to light by Commissioner Ellis are concerning to me; 22 people getting over million dollars in overtime. People doubling their salaries in overtime. Just need further explanation from how the office is being ran itself, and some questions before we just blanket -- just approve it. That's not responsible spending, in my view. We need to have answers and we need to be held accountable for our decisions we make. And I think holding this is the wise thing to do, so we can get those answers. Kenneth Hermon, I would like to understand the check-in procedures better for hourly staff. I've had experience working in elections where people were docking hours and didn't even show up except for the meals, lunch and dinner. They'd come out of the woodwork, and there was no really checking in or following. Of course, that was one contract that went awry, and I think it's my responsibility to make sure there's proper procedures in place to safeguard the taxpayer's dollars."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Commissioner, we could get you a copy of our guidelines that we've issued to the department head and HR liaisons relative to nonexempt employees and their requirements to punch in and punch out, punch in and punch out."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, again, just to be clear. Commissioner Thorne just said we're not -- how did you phrase that, Commissioner? We're not taking the pay away from them, we're just holding it? So then let me just ask that question to you, Mr. Hermon. If we don't deal with this today and pass this today and people are paid at one and a half times, will they get the additional money after this does pass? Is that accurate what Commissioner Thorne is saying?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "If the language stays the same in the Resolution whenever you adopt it, it would be moving forward, not retroactive."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So they would not get the pay?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Retroactivity creates a significant concerns and manual calculations that my team would have to do, finance would have to do, to ensure that we pay that .5 difference in pay, and I would highly recommend against that, but it will be a moving forward adoption once approved by the Board of Commissioners."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So to just to be very clear, that if we do not move on this today, there are people who are going to work overtime likely in the jail who will be paid at one and a half times, not two times, and they will not get that money back, to be clear. So we are, in fact, taking money out of their pockets. I think it's -- with all due respect to Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, I one million percent appreciate your desire to get that questions answered that you've been asking, but I think it's not fair to put that on these individuals who are working in the jail. And I just have one other comment about the doubling of salaries with overtime and you can chime in her, Mr. Hermon, if it makes sense to you. But it seems to me that that's a pretty easy thing to do, if you're getting double, because working an additional 20 hours a week is not uncommon. I know certainly in the early part of my career I easily put in more than 60 hours a week at work. So putting in 60 hours, if somebody is dedicated and they're willing to work an extra 20 hours, they are going to double their salary that is the math, correct?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Correct, Commissioner. You know, the key thing is the accuracy of that, and that's why we have checks and balances in the process, the employees the first check, their immediate supervisors the second check. There's another manager and a payroll liaison. So there's four checks and balances in that process. So by the time it comes to us, you know, we assume that it's accurate -- as accurate as possible, and we have paid accurately based on the actual hours worked by that nonexempt employee."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right. And I think personally for the men and women in the Sheriff's Department who are willing to work that hard and put in an extra 20 hours a week, they absolutely deserve to get their pay. And to be clear, doubling your pay from, you know 40,000 a year to 80,000 a year, I mean 40,000 a year you can barely live on. Like, you certainly can't live in Fulton County for that. In any case, you know, I don't think the numbers are questionable in that count. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Sheriff's people are here who handle the payroll and HR; can you please come and answer some questions? Thank you so much."

MICHAEL, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "Good morning. Michael Shoates Chief of Staff of Sheriff's Office."

AMELIA JOYNER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF: "Amelia Joyner, Chief Counsel to Sheriff."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I believe there are some that have questions for you."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I don't know if she's in the queue."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'm sorry. I wasn't the one that called you. Natalie Hall called you all to the podium. So, Commissioner Hall, you have a question for them?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "No. I thought you had some questions that were not answered. That's what you said earlier."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yeah but, I asked the Sheriff to answer the questions. What's amazing to me is that a flurry of individuals came here today when I decided to use my position as an elected official to make a statement and ask a question. Now, I know some of you all are going to be offended by that, and I'm so sorry if you're offended. I want the question answered, so we can do one of two things: This can fail today or it can be held today. But I want the answer from the duly elected Sheriff of Fulton County that I've been asking for months."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to hold. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "This is such political drama that it is funny. You got someone whose chief of staff who's running the campaign of another candidate for Sheriff trying to call the Sheriff down here to ask him questions that they know the answer to. Y'all took the inmate welfare fund money away from the Sheriff. That's what happened to the money. That's where it went. Y'all took it away from him, and then you got somebody talking about somebody making \$80,000 a year on a full-time job, and they're paying the chief of staff \$186,000 part-time. Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? You're worried about somebody making \$80,000 who's working double time and you're paying your chief of staff \$186,000 part-time? Good Lord, have mercy. This is political drama. This is political drama when people trying to push their position. It is so crazy. What happened to the money? The money got spent. The man that did it got fired, he's gone, he's been held accountable, he no longer has a job. Y'all took the money away. The inmate welfare fund no longer exists. It no longer exists. The errors were admitted. The errors were admitted and the man was terminated. And so, that's where the money is. There is no money to pay back because all of the other money has been allocated in the budget. Did you allocate some money for payback in the budget? Of course not. So it's not going to get payback, but you know we want to put on a big

show. We gone call the Sheriff down here. He needs to come down here and answer these questions. Ridiculous. Absolute political drama."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "He's supposed to be accountable."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, the motion on the floor is to hold. All right, let's be -- just a minute, just a minute, just a minute. We don't ask questions of those in the audience, and I'd appreciate it if you would not respond to what you hear up here. Try to keep the meeting move forward. Vice Chair, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Call the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The question has been called. Let's vote on the call of the question. All right, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, the motion before us is to hold."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 9, **24-0165**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance: Request approval of funding for professional services contracts entered into by the Fulton County Sheriff's Office in a total amount not to exceed \$642,580."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington. Is there a second? Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ellis, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm going to offer a substitute motion to deny."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. There's a substitute motion to deny, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, and just for contexts on this, I mean I've reviewed this and I don't think this is a proper way of bringing these types of things forward. I think there are a lot of questionable items on here. You know, there are chaplains that need to be hired, a bank of employees hire them and justify them if they are consulting

contracts. Have them bid, show what they are, have them bid out, have meaningful kind of results behind them, et cetera. You know this is a lot of -- sort of -- much of this was some of the stuff that sort of called out when this one was called into question and we dissolved that. So, I can't support continuing it. That's the motion to deny."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0166**: Request approval to rescind a contract for uniforms and accessories awarded to Onyx Inc, LLC."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis. Is there a second? Is there a second? Seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, under Health and Human Services, **24-0130**, Public Works: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to provide uniform and accessories."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, a favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0167**, Senior Services: Request approval of a change order greater than 10 percent in an amount not to exceed \$227,000 to provide in-home services to eligible Fulton County seniors age 60 and above."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Justice and Safety, **24-0168**, Medical Examiner: Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for additional toxicology testing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there motion? All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Action Items, **24-0093**: Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urging the Georgia General Assembly to support legislation sponsored by the State Senator Donzella James to amend the Official Code of Georgia to lift the ban relating to restrictions on rent regulations by local governments and allow counties and municipalities the abilities to regulate the rent to be charged for privately owned single-family or multiple-unit residential properties for those residing within the state of Georgia; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Barrett. Did this make Crossover, Ms. -- it did not. So it's dead for the year then, right? All right. Commissioner Hall, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "As you all saw, Senator Donzella James came to speak and asked for your support to support her Bill, which she provided a copy of to everyone and she said it passed one level already. So regardless, she does want our support in showing that we, too want to do something about what's happening in Georgia, in Atlanta, in Fulton County as it relates to people not being able to afford their rent. Rent is skyrocketing, and people are being evicted. All you have to do is cross the street and go into the courts, and Eviction Court is packed. And so, this is a way to show our support toward the fact that we do not want people to be evicted because of high rent. We want affordable housing. And as Senator James said, she brought this forward because of talking to the youth and talking to the veterans and those who are in need of such a Bill. Thanks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Hall, I absolutely think this is a conversation we need to have and I, you know, very much believe in protections for tenants, but to just echo the Chairman's question, just to be

clear. This did not actually make it to Crossover Day and did not Crossover, correct, Jessica? Okay. So there's no option for this to get passed this year, essentially? Okay. So I do think it's an important conversation. I had some concerns when I was reading it, that it was just very broad because it took away, you know, what's existing, which I think is important; but there's really no protection in going in the other direction for small business landlords, the person who owns a, you know, one or two homes that they're renting out or something like that. And I just want to make sure that whenever this legislation comes up again, that there's some consideration made for, you know, landlords that might need that protection. So I do want to continue to have this conversation. I certainly support Senator James' efforts, but I think the timing on this is off."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I'm going to support this in theory for Senator James, because I understand what she was trying to do. But let me tell you the problem I have with this: If we are going to, in fact, put in a urging for something having to do with rent and not have the discussion about 19,000 homes being owned by three different companies, we just playing, and we need to stop playing. If you're going to put in legislation -- let's put in legislation that will make sure that first-time homebuyers can buy in Fulton County or other counties, because this has affected all counties. I believe in affordable housing, I believe in people being able to rent. But I also believe that these small homeowners and individuals who own less than ten houses who have been affected by COVID, who are not receiving rent for two or three years and some of their properties were foreclosed on, we should have something in place for them. But to have this type legislation at the state without having the conversation about the monopoly of three companies owning 19,000 houses in the state of Georgia and not having that conversation is a disservice, if we're talking about really trying to house individuals and put in affordable housing. So let's not just do stuff for election time, let's not just do stuff to appease what we consider the red meat of any party. Let's do what's right for all individuals of Fulton County, Gwinnett County, DeKalb County. This is a situation that is epidemic levels that individuals working in Fulton County cannot afford to live in Fulton County. You want to talk about how much they make? They don't make enough money to live in the county in which they work in. So let's have a more detailed conversation at the state and with our state lawmakers. But I will support this on the surface, but not without those comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I do appreciate Senator Donzella James coming down here today. I appreciate her compassion and, Commissioner Hall, I feel like you really have compassion to your constituents. And I'm the same way. When I saw that we were -- we had a government that was spending money, increasing the money supply into our economy. You knew that was a recipe for inflation combined with labor shortages and housing shortages and then, in turn, to offset this record forty-year

inflation, the Fed had to raise interest rates, so now the interest rates have more than doubled. So it makes it difficult for people to own homes; for landlords, their costs are going up. But I don't see where rent control has really worked where it's been successful in any city. I mean, you go to New York, they had multiple rent controls and, you know, single apartment without a doorman is \$3,500, and the average rent for one with a doorman is \$5,500. It doesn't fix the problem. It fixes a symptom of the problem, but it doesn't fix the problem. Fixed rent doesn't encourage new investors to say oh, geez, let me come in to Atlanta and build some apartment homes and then I might be told how much rent I can charge. When we have a housing shortage, you don't want to discourage investors from coming in and building more housing. Secondly, if I was a landlord and I was told that I had to keep my rent at a certain level, and my apartment needs upgrading or fixed, I'm not going to be eager to do that, because I'm capped on what I can make. So at least, deterioration of properties, at least an economic decline. And then there's the people, and I know some people in New York, that just take advantage. They know how to gain the system. They get the cheap apartments. And so, it's not really going to those people that really need it. It's not going to the students. It's not going to the seniors. It's not going to the veterans. It's the people that know how to gain the system. So I believe in common-sense compassion, and I agree with Governor Kemp and Mayor Andre Dickens that we need to address the housing shortage. And I believe that that's the best thing to do, so that's why I cannot support this urging Resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other comments? Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I'm going to vote to support this urging Resolution, but I do think there is a bigger conversation. And I wonder if allowing local control allows for more opportunities to discriminate against people, but certainly no one should be facing a 100 or 200 percent increase in rent. So I think we should really identify, you know, something, maybe -- I don't know if there's a floor or ceiling, but we should be talking about a floor or ceiling because certainly no one should -- no one's rent should double or triple overnight. And then, you know, to some extent, maybe it needs to be tied to the CPI, but people do need relief. It's certainly a worthwhile conversation to have. I just wonder if, you know, completely leaving it up to all local control, I don't know what that looks like in some places. And so, I'd rather have, you know, some type of limits that makes sense and will allow people to not be displaced. So, I'll support it in theory, I guess, if it's not going anywhere, it doesn't do any harm to support it. I support the idea, but I do think it there may needs -- it may need some more refining."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, other comments? All right, the motion on the floor is to approve. Please vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, Commissioner's Full Board Appointments, **24-0169**, Departmental of Behavioral Health and Disability Disabilities Regional Advisory Council. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman has nominated Tara Miller for a Full Board appointment to a term ending August 1st, 2024."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "County Manager's Presentation and Discussion Items, **24-0170**, External Affairs. Presentation of the 2024 State Legislative Session Update."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Jessica Corbitt, Director of External Affairs. I'd ask the team to please pull the slides up. I don't remember the last time I got to talk to y'all in the morning hours of the day. You have in front of you the printed copy of the deck we're going to go over, so I'll just go ahead and start, and then we'll catch up in just a moment. We have some really good news that I'll get to in just a moment, but we'll just start with the fact that the Governor has already signed the amended FY24 budget, and that passed out of both Houses. And yesterday, the Appropriations Committee passed the FY25 budget, and we were fortunate to see the additional 1.8 million that we were advocating for for the behavior health crisis center included in the budget that was adopted or passed by the Appropriations Committee. So we're very happy to see that development and the appropriations -- excuse me -- the full House is expected to vote tomorrow on the FY25 budget, and then it goes to the Senate. I just want to remind her to please pull up our slides. Thank you. This morning, the -- thank you. Next slide, please. As usual, these are our priorities for FY24 for this session. Next slide. So again, yesterday Appropriations passed the budget with those amendments for the behavior health crisis center. A number of other changes and the full House, we'll vote on the budget tomorrow, and then the Senate will consider it. We have reached out to some of our Senate members on Appropriations to let them know that we would appreciate their support with the funding for the behavior health crisis center. Next slide, please. The delegation will meet this Friday at noon, and they have asked for an update about the behavior health crisis center. Ms. Foster will be presenting to them. We also had a update to the delegation on the 22nd from our registration and elections team. If you're not able to join in person, there will be a Zoom link available, and we'll provide that when we have it. The last delegation meeting scheduled for this session is next -- excuse me, two weeks, on March 21st. Next slide. I just wanted to call out it was very exciting to see our young people here this morning and wanted to recognize

Nathaniel who advocated for some legislation. Unfortunately, it did not make Crossover, but he got some good experience advocating for a Bill. He's one of our Youth Commissioners who came out and spoke with Representative Hilton about social media legislation. Next slide. Again, we've already talked about the behavior health crisis center, but we are continuing to track that as it goes through the Senate and again, through tomorrow's House vote. Next slide. I wanted to just highlight Senate Bill 349. This is a Bill that we worked on with ACCG that would make a number of changes to the property evaluation process through the property assessment, and also addresses the millage rate setting process, and the process for addressing rollback rates. It also would implement some statewide floating Homestead exemptions similar to one that we already have here in Fulton County. So we're really happy to see this making its way through. It passed the Senate before Crossover and now has been assigned to House Ways and Means. So as soon as we see that have committee hearing, we'll make sure to let you all know in case you'd like to attend or monitor that. But we're just continuing to stay engaged with ACCG and appreciate their support. Next slide, please. I also just wanted to highlight a few Bills. Because there were so many, we sort of included today's presentation as an appendix, but we're just going to go through some of those that we have fully been working on. House Bill 643 is related -- one we've talked about before -- related to state court judges and their retirement. So that passed the House last week and has now gone to the Senate Retirement Committee. So we really appreciate State Court for working with us on that as well as the members who supported that. In December, the Board adopted part of a Resolution and sought support to allow Superior Court to assign judicial officers to handle cases other than family law cases to really increase their capacity. So that legislation is being worked on literally right now as local legislation with Legislative Council, so we will keep you all updated about that. And we'll circulate that draft when we have it. Georgia Squatters Reform Act, this has been something that has been in the media quite a bit, the issue of squatters taking on homes that may be unoccupied. And it's something that, unfortunately, the current law did not really allow for the existing dispossessory process to address that. So that Bill has already made its way through, and we're really excited to see that. Also, there is some legislation related to salary adjustment that is making its way through the process, so we'll keep you all updated about that one as well. Next slide, please. A couple of other priorities that we felt were really Bills that aligned with some of the things that this Board has addressed. House Bill 1339 is primarily addressing certificates of need, but it also creates a comprehensive health coverage commission. One of your priorities is related to healthcare access, and this particular commission would be evaluating the needs of uninsured Georgians and healthcare access. So we do think it is promising, and we'll continue to track that as that commission is established. I also have been in touch -- this is about really some of the challenges we faced in our jail and in our criminal justice system related to individuals who have been deemed not competent to stand trial. And so, Senate Bill 533 would authorize the Georgia DPHDD; give them additional responsibilities in evaluating treatment plans or developing treatment plans for those individuals. So that's something we've asked the Sheriff's office for feedback. They're supportive of that. We've also shared that with our colleagues in Superior Court who have been working with the

Familiar Faces initiative and other initiatives related to individuals who are coping with mental illness and who are facing charges in our justice system. Senate Bill 439 would create a new Homestead Exemption from Atlanta Public Schools which really has not traditionally had as many Homestead Exemptions for seniors compared to most of our other local governments. This would benefit any homeowner age 65 or over and people who earn less than a hundred thousand dollars a year. That would have to go before a referendum, so we'll keep you all posted about that; but would offer significant property tax relief for Atlanta seniors. Next slide, please. Just a couple of others, at the last meeting, you asked us some questions about sports betting, Mr. Chairman. So these are two of the Bills that did Crossover that are related to sports betting: Senate Bill 386, and Senate Resolution 579. That one -- the second of those would propose as a constitutional amendment and would assign dollars to the Hope Scholarship and Pre-k programs. So those were -- those have already crossed over and have been assigned to Committees, so we'll continue to track those. Those are the Bills that we wanted to highlight today, but we are glad to take questions. Again, we have sort of an addendum. Next slide, please. I just wanted to call out kind of the calendar that's ahead of us. We are just a couple of weeks from Sine Die on March 28th. And, again, we have a few upcoming delegation meetings that we will be working on. Tomorrow is ACCG's Legislative Breakfast; some of you may be planning to attend that. And, yes, we'll just again be glad to answer any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Ellis and then Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Just one quick question. On that, do you know how like that Senate 349, all the tax stuff? If that passes this year, does any of it impact the current tax year, or would it all be the following tax year?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I do not recall the effective date of it. Fran is telling us it's the following tax year. So we will be challenging to implement."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So that's what -- okay, none of this would be sought to be implemented. Okay, got it."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "It would be effective for next year. Thank you. That's a great question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So Superior Court judicial officers, I thought that they entered into an MOU with Magistrate Court and were no longer going to be requesting the judicial officers?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "It is correct that they have entered into an agreement; that's my understanding. I think -- Commissioner Arrington,

I think this goes beyond that situation. You are, I believe, aware of that for the last several years they have sought through the process of assigning an additional Superior Court Judge. They meet the qualifications, but have not had progress in getting an additional judgeship assigned to Fulton County. So the conversation really evolved to what other resources or channels do we have to seek state support? The state has designated this process for assigning judges. We have not been successful in advocating for an additional judgeship. What other resources are available? So this would be a bit different. I think that's the notion is how could there be additional resources to support them that would not necessarily negate the need for the support that they received from Magistrate Court. And once we have the Bill -- this is a local Bill, so it does not subject to the same crossover requirements. Once we have that, we'll be glad to circulate it and get your additional feedback."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Yeah, I don't know -- certainly, I'm in support of getting another judge. I don't know about additional judicial officers. They're just not held to the same standards and in my -- in my practice over the last 27 years in the court system, judicial officers are much more prone to make mistakes than judges. So I think we need to be careful about that."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "And I will say one part of the conversation has been that that there will be -- while they would be potentially able to handle other matters coming before Superior Court, would not have the same responsibility for serious, especially violent felonies, or some of those most serious cases. But again, I'll bring that before you. I understand all matters coming before the court are important."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I mean, you know, you got family law and custody issues, and you've got a judicial officer that runs rogue and just issues an order transferring custody, and you get it set aside the following day or two weeks or a month later. The damage has already been done. Criminal cases doesn't matter. We got to be real careful of these judicial officers; because they will run rogue and they would not comply with the law like judges. And I don't know about this Squatter's Act thing. Somebody can just give three days' notice and then eviction? I don't support that at all. No, ma'am. No. If you are a tenant, you have rights, right? Now, if you are squatter and you don't have a lease, then that is one thing, right? But if you have a lease, you have rights under that lease. And so, certainly, maybe we need to do more to get rid of people that are actually squatting, so I am fine with actual squatters; but amending the law to make tenants squatters and not giving them due process of law and proper notice and an opportunity to respond, there is no way in the world that I can't support that. Not in a hundred million years."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Commissioner. I think Fran can clarify it a bit about -- there are some protections for individuals who are proper tenants paying."

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's right. Good morning, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Good morning."

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "This Bill does not apply to persons who have a lease. This is referencing the 1,200 homes or properties that are currently being held by squatters in Fulton County; and those persons do not have a lawful lease and cannot present such. Unfortunately, because of some perceived loopholes in the law, if someone squats on your property today, you have to go through the landlord-tenant dispossession process. That is what is happening."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Unfortunately, that is not true. There is an ejectment procedure that you can go through for the Sheriff for ejectment of squatters. Which is -- and so, maybe the Bill doesn't do that, but this summary, maybe we need to tweak our summary of the Bill, because the summary states from having to seek a landlord-tenant form of dispossession court action for a legal position of their home, the Bill clarifies and treats the illegal possession of another's residential property as criminal trespass. And so, maybe, it's just our description in the document that is not completely accurate, right?"

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We'll go back and revisit the summary."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay."

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We are aware of the ejectment process that is not being followed in most cases, is what we are learning. And this is from cases that have come to both the court and those coming to the General Assembly to testify. And so, please note that this is not -- we'll provide the language of the Bill, but it is not intended to in any way hamper the legalities under a landlord-tenant agreement. Those are considered legal agreements, but if a property that is vacant at the time, we've had - - and there've been media stories if I can -- we'll share all of this offline."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Veterans coming home and someone living there, correct?"

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- that's exactly right, sir. And they were not allowed for some reason, you know -- and our law department, our county attorney' office has also looked into this, and they see where there is, of course, the ejectment procedure. We're not sure why it is the law enforcement has hedged on this and felt like they didn't have the ability, in fact, to move forward on it. So it was a lengthy discussion."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I know our Sheriff has conducted some ejectments pursuant to that statute. Again, that process might need to be reformed. I

don't know that it's perfect as it is written, right? I think there are still some loopholes in the way that it's written. So the process may need to be perfected, but what's important for me to know and understand is that this does not affect any existing landlord-tenant relationship. This is only for those people --"

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- that is correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- where there is no landlord-tenant relationship."

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That is correct. And I will add that we were grateful to have our Marshal's office to come and testify and to actually help clean up the legislation so as to address some of the loopholes, and we will share that with you as well, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, thank you. And then now I want to talk about House Bill 1339 and this revises certificate of need requirements. Tell me what that means, because we need a whole bunch of certificate of needs in Fulton County. So tell me exactly what that means and how it's relevant to the residents of Fulton County?"

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Forgive me, Commissioner Arrington, your question about the comprehensive -- the certification of need?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, certificates of need, House Bill 1339. It says it revises Certificate of Need requirements. And so, I want to know what -- how -- what are the revisions and how are those revisions beneficial to the residents of Fulton County?"

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "This would be in the rural areas of Fulton County. It really would not impact these larger areas, but we'll certainly provide a memorandum for you on that as well."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, yeah, because I got rural areas of Palmetto and Chattahoochee Hills, and the city of South Fulton, and Fairburn we need - - I mean we need certificate of needs. So, you know, I -- if there is an opportunity and people are talking about Certificate of Needs, and we don't need one, we need multiple. We need multiples."

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "And Commissioner, we'll just ease some of those requirements. So we'll provide a memorandum with all of the elements of that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "And Commissioner Arrington, I just wanted to mention that the reason that we highlighted this one was really about the commission that will be examining access to our uninsured, but I think it's bundling those two issues together, looking at needs for uninsured folks, as well as the Certificate of Need reform for changes depending on the perspectives and we'll bring back more information for you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And the reason the Certificate of Need is important, I know, as I know you all already know, we can't get another hospital without a Certificate of Need."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, sir. No, I understand for sure."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And we don't need one hospital; we need multiple, so we need many multiple Certificates of Needs. And so, if there is discussion going on, we want to be at the table letting them know that we need multiple Certificates of Need."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, sir, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Can I just get some clarification? Didn't we approve a Resolution requesting Superior Court judicial officers?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, ma'am, you did."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. So we're advocating for that?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's correct. That was based on the vote that the Board took on December 20th."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. I just need a little clarification. And you do so -- another topic, you didn't really go over all of the election bills that --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- you're right, Commissioner. We did not -- one of the Bills that we -- there are many of them and we can kind of take a look at that. It starts on page 20 of the presentation. But one of the ones -- one of the election issues that we had specifically supported was related to allowing superintendents to determine the number of voting booths. We hoped that this would allow us to address voter patterns where we've seen a high increase in participation in early voting. That Bill did not Crossover, but -- and I will kind of go through these just on their surface, and if there are many questions, we will follow up on these. But there are many specific processes, I guess, is the best way to say it, within

the election process that have been addressed by the legislature this year. So I'll start with the top here on the list that's before us. Many people don't know that at the end of the election process there are digital images created when we scan our ballots through our current voting system. And so, this would increase the resolution for the posting of those scanned paper ballots and would maintain a statewide program there. There is also a requirement related to the paper that is used for printing ballots on security paper that would include a visible watermark, so if there's questions about, I guess the veracity of the ballot that that specific watermark would be used and we would deem that as an official ballot. There is also, I guess, legislation about risk-limiting audits and kind of has -- I don't know that I could speak to this one in great detail, but would allow and provide some additional provisions there. And again, that is a process that we go through -- the Secretary of State Office calls -- would deem a risk-limiting audit after many elections. I mean, that is a very -- a process that we have gone through a number of times. House Bill 1207 is one that we've heard issues about before, and this would require election superintendents to send a ballot proof to the candidates and for those candidates to verify their information within hours of receipt. Next slide, please. Yeah -- go back one slide, please."

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "No, no. We're fine right here; House Bill 1371. Thank you so much. Commissioner Thorne, I wanted to simply just add a footnote to what Jessica mentioned. This Bill did not crossover, but it is a challenge for many counties and not just Fulton County. And in consultation with ACCG, they are still advocating for this language to be added to Bills that have crossed over and have a likelihood of passage. This is a huge administrative burden for our elections department since about 70 percent of our residents vote early. And so, having this flexibility in the law means a great deal to our department as well as many others that also experience that same phenomenon. And so, I just wanted to put that footnote there to let you know we're still advocating for that."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So there's a potential to have an omnibus Bill that this will all kind of get rolled into it?"

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We suspect that we're going to see an omnibus Bill at the end anyway. And so, even if it does not, you know, appear where you've got so many different parts of the title included, this language, ACCG, is going to at least try to spearhead to get it on one that is tracking and likely to pass."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Because I'm greatly disappointed that it didn't Crossover, because I just look at it as a huge burden to staff every election as if it's a presidential election on Election Day; and to do the logic and accuracy testing too on all of the equipment from the BMTs to the poll pads to the scanners to the printers, everything, and then to staff it. And I've had an election one time it was a runoff for an Alpharetta City Councilman, and I had 30 people come and yet -- I had to staff it like it was a presidential election. So I'm glad. Keep pushing on it. I hope that does get through."

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Right. We understood that this was a huge priority for the Board. And so, they have agreed to continue working with us to push that forward. Thank you."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Fran. Thank you, Commissioner, for that question. So the other three on this list: one is related to Senate Bill 189, excuse me, it's the only one that crossed over. And this Bill would eliminate, through the use of QR codes on paper ballots, and would provide for the text of that ballot to be -- the official vote for purposes of tabulation. There has been one attempted omnibus election Bill that did not cross over, so we suspect we'll see some changes again. We've often seen that in the last several years related to election bills. And then Senate Bill 413 make some changes for dates for elections. So again, this one did not -- it also would affect sales tax referendum, but that one did not cross over. As Fran said, we may -- we may see a revisit of that at the end."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I understand in the Fulton County delegation meeting, there was some talk about one of the bills requiring all election workers to be US citizens. Did that go anywhere? Is that in a Bill somewhere?"

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think that was Senate Bill 221. That was a --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- an omnibus bill?"

FRAN CALHOUN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, yeah. It had numerous different -- which one now? Okay, HR780 is what Jasmine has mentioned and it also mentioned that language; you want to come up? It did not cross over."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "If there aren't any other questions, Chairman, we will see you in two weeks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Okay, just a minute. On page 18, under transportation, I'm surprised that the Bill to abolish the ATL did not cross over, but I mean with the Governor support and Representative Jones, I don't see -- are they're going to attach it to something else?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's a great question, Chairman. We were also surprised because we understood that the Governor supported it. So, you know, I'm sure there's some discussions ongoing about this and we'll keep an eye on that, but we were also surprised."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Mr. Chairman, I did reach out to the Executive Director, and she did not know of any plans to attach it to anything else, but they're still monitoring that Bill."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else? Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, **24-0171**, Discussion: Boards, authorities, committees, and task forces sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Colleagues, we need to look at, in particular, we still have a lot of boards and authorities, and we need to look at all our boards and authorities. We know that. We're already talking about that. But, in particular, we have some that haven't met in two or three years that we can't get rid of because they're only in the unincorporated area. And so, we need, either the city of South Fulton or the city of Atlanta -- I thought there would have been a deal worked out where the city of South Fulton was going to get up the I-20, and the city of Atlanta was going to get everything on the other side of I-20. But the city of Atlanta never got the other side of I-20. And so, we still have these other code enforcement boards, zoning boards, and there's really nothing going on because the only area is, you know, seven tenths of a mile on Fulton Industrial. And so, I don't know if something could be done about it this session or not. Apparently, it doesn't matter if it crossed over or not, it could just be added to another Bill."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Ms. Corbitt, come back up."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So Crossover don't mean nothing if it could just be added to something else. So we need the city of Atlanta or the city of South Fulton to get the remaining unincorporated land in Fulton County, because it makes no sense for us to still be providing services for that small of an area. City of South Fulton, I think got theirs two or three years ago up to I-20 and the city of Atlanta has not gotten the rest of the land. So, you know, we got to -- I think, we need to push for that. Again, there's no reason for us to be providing services out there."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "And thank you, Commissioner Arrington. I can give a little bit of history. I think it was two sessions ago we had discussion with our counterpart at the city of Atlanta to ask what the city's posture was, because we wanted to be able to prepare. In the past it's often been the

cities themselves who have advocated for those annexations by legislation. And in our conversations with the city, at that point, I believe on two different sessions, we were advised that they were undertaking some service delivery study and were not planning to move forward at that time. So we have not seen the city initiate that annexation by legislation. If the Board -- if this Board has a position on that, we are glad to work with our delegation."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I bet the city of South Fulton want that land. If the city of Atlanta doesn't want it, I guarantee you the city of South Fulton could use the extra commercial tax base. So the city of Atlanta doesn't want it, then we just need to encourage the city of South Fulton to try and get it, because, again, it makes no sense for us to provide -- continue to provide services, to have task forces and boards that are required by law to have out there that haven't met in two or three years, because there is no zoning going on. There are no codes to enforce, because there's little to no people there. So, I guess there probably are some codes to enforce, but -- so, I'll just leave it there. I've said my peace on it. And frankly, I don't care if it goes to Atlanta or to South Fulton, but it needs to go to one of them, and if Atlanta doesn't want it, it sounds like South Fulton is the obvious choice."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I would just say I would respectfully disagree. I do think that we got the capacity to do it. I think we've come up with a good plan to do it. It's not particularly a heavy load. As respect to these boards and task forces associated with it -- but I'm sure many task forces associated with it. But if there are any -- maybe that's something that we can have our county attorney look into. I mean there are plenty of small cities and small jurisdictions around. You know are there alternatives that we can consider as opposed to the way we have those -- those particular boards set up. Could we dissolve those and move to some alternative way to deal with the issues that they otherwise would have dealt with."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. You'll recall at the off-site retreat, Commissioner Barrett, the Clerk, and the County Attorney were tasked with dealing with this; and where are we?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So you're on that task force too, sir, with all due respect. I know. I'm teasing you. We've spoken -- our departments have spoken, and there's a couple of things. We did hear back from the county attorney's office, and there's a slight delay in getting their full analysis back. We were hoping to get it by the beginning of the month, but because of the -- some of the events we've been dealing with here in the county, it's been delayed a little bit, so I think the timing is now mid March?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "We expect to have it by March 18th."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And just to be clear, Madam County Attorney, that's a full sort of look at all --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Inventory of all our boards and authorities so that you can take a look at them."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "As well as all of the sort of the legislation so that we can look at where we can sort of make it more uniform, correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And as far as -- the Clerk and I have spoken at great length. This is why I had held up a couple of times that software, just to make sure that it was going to meet our needs for this specific issues, not the rest of what that software was for. We do think that it will, and I think the process once we have the status from the county attorney's office, and we start the process of implementing the new software, and again, I'm not sure and this is maybe a Kevin question as well. But where we are timeline on that because of everything else that's going on, I think we'll have a better handle on tracking all of that, who's meeting when, how, and why. So we're making progress is the long answer. But I think because of everything else that's been going on over the last several weeks, things are slightly delayed, but we're making progress. But that brings up another question, Mr. Chairman. We had talked about meeting again on the rules and such after this meeting today, but we didn't schedule it because of everything that's going on. Do we want to reschedule that for --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We can talk about that in (Inaudible.)"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Next meeting? Okay. Thank you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And I volunteered for that as well, because I've been the main one talking about boards, authorities, and task forces over the last five years."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So it would be the two of us, Commissioner Arrington, the Clerk, and the County Attorney. All right. Madam County Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Next item. Item that was moved up, **24-0173**, Discussion and approval of back-to-work plan preCovid, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Mr. Manager, you have a presentation on this -- I mean unlike -- not unlike, but like other governmental entities as well as private corporations, everybody's having a discussion about this policy, and we need to take a position, because we're all over the board here. Some departments never come to work. Others

are here all day everyday, and the result of all that is probably half of this building is vacant. So, Mr. County Attorney -- strike that, Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. When we talked, you asked for also consideration of a brief update on our cyber incident, would you like for me to do that?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Correct. Let's start with that."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. To date, we've had no release of sensitive data or any further threats to do so. It doesn't guarantee that it wouldn't happen in the future, but we have that to report. Telephony access has been established, and we'll continue to ensure that all the phones are configured now. At this time, all departments have phone access. We're prioritizing main phone lines to ensure public access. Our early remediation work is largely complete. Our forensic investigation continues, and we look forward to getting reports at the end of that work. Our water billing system is back online. In fact, I made my own payment, visa vis that system, so customers can simply make their payments now online as well as in person. We're continuing to make progress on what we've been talking about, as our big three systems: tax, court, and ERP. The tax system, I think, is the closest to being fully restored. It's in final testing and, again, great kudos to Dr. Ferdinand, Rodney, as well as their staffs in terms of the work that they've put in on this. I think the last piece is again on the electronic payment side, but the rest of that system looks fully functional. Again, a reminder, we have moved that to the vendors' environment, further hardening and protecting that system from future intrusions. The court system is also being worked now, so all the data has been uploaded, been tested by Tyler, and loaded into their environment. There's a punch list of essentially functionality, that's being worked on. That's been cut in half since the outset, so I think that is making progress. They do not have an estimated date, but again appreciate the work of all the court system partners on that. And then the ERP system is working. The long pole in the tent there is a VPN access that will allow us to fully scale up to the number of users that we previously had, which is excess of 300. We're in the single digits now, which is what has constrained many of the things that, of course, we've come to expect in terms of budgets and being able to hire and promote folks, so hopefully that will be in short order in place. We don't know of technical reasons why that -- why it won't be the case, but there could be some new issues identified as that scales. We want to note again the election's continues unabated. That process is not been affected from the onset. Voters may continue to participate in early voting, which they are doing, as well as Election Day voting as normal. We're also preparing case study that will highlight many of the lessons learned including close coordination with law enforcement, great counsel from our county attorney as well as cyber counsel; the communications effort that we put into this, the workarounds, and the technology resources that we've used from a caudry of external firms that had great expertise in this area. We hope to share those lessons with others, certainly with the public, but also with sister governments. I've reached out to Dave Wills at ACCG, and he welcomes that effort. I want to thank again

Kevin Kerrigan and Joe Barasoain from our IT and EMA organizations who have been daily leading this effort and nightly as well, as well as all the folks on their staff and frontline employees that stepped forward, and every department that has had to find ways to work around. Again, I want to say that again how much that's appreciated. Another couple of reminders that, from a public perspective, our webpage FultonCountyGA.gov/cyberresponse is the best place for updates for any and all these services; and then residents who have ongoing needs can either e-mail us at customerservice@fultoncountyGA.gov or call our main customer service line 404-612-4000. So much to say thanks over, Mr. Chairman. Again, we're a little over a month into this and now it's happened on January 28th. These sometimes last for months and months, as we all know, but I think we're closing in on a really forced march through the next month to come to full restoration. Madam Clerk, if you will --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Manager, any update on the coverage that we're supposed to be getting?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I don't have an update for exactly on the timing of this, but for the benefit of the Board and the public, we understand that there will be 60-Minutes segment done on cyber security in general interviewing an assistant director at the FBI. Fulton County will be mentioned based on what we know. We don't know everything that will be said. I hope it's certainly positive, and I think it will be, given our close coordination with law enforcement was instrumental to this response. So it could be this Sunday night, and I'll make the Board aware as soon as I'm advised as to when that date of airing will be."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall, you have a question for the manager on the cyber deal?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "No, I have a question on the document, on page 5."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Is that in the presentation, Commissioner Hall?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Okay. We're ready to start that, Mr. Chairman. So what we're going to do is really an integrated presentation. You'll see how these work together, just a reminder when we which certainly seems like eons ago, but when we were back in the days of COVID. And, in fact, I went and dusted off one of the presentations. It was April 21 of 2021. Again, it sounds like a long time ago, but that's when we shared with the Board our overall return to office and return to work strategy. As you remember, during that period of time, we took enormous leverage and we found enormous leverage in technology. So just to remind you of a few of the things that we did: we invested 17 million to scale up the ability for hybrid and remote work. We planned another 10 million in investment subsequent to that initial 17 million. We

expanded our network access for one gig to seven gig. We put in almost 4,500 new laptops and PCs, one of the reasons again, I think our recovery is shorter than normal was that investment, and new desktop devices. We enabled 58 digital courtrooms from zero, 700 Zoom accounts were put in place. Most importantly, to this discussion, we developed departmental plans for reentry to the office. We had HR review over 900 classifications, 515 were approved with work flexibility in terms of either remote or hybrid. We looked closely, of course, at the CDC guidelines. At the time, it was still emphasizing social distancing and masks at that point. We did decide to reopen this room, as you all remember. As we walked through again department by department with the Board of Commissioners, each department had a plan that designated how many people were planning to be in the office five days a week, how many would be on a hybrid basis, and how many would be remote. So in that, again, presentation, you saw all of that information presented. Since that time, one of the things that I guess become more and more obvious, is the hybrid work environment based on Gallup surveying 20 something thousand people and then 1,800 or so every two months, is very much here to stay. In fact, of remote capable, and that's a term of art now, workers mean that if you're able to work remotely. Obviously if you're a police officer, a detention officer in our jail, someone in Joe Davis' organization is doing building maintenance; you may not have that ability. But if you're an office worker doing that kind of work, generally speaking, now less than 20 percent of those folks work full-time in the office. And the projection is, based on the Gallup survey that over the next year or two, less than 10 percent will work full-time in the office; so just something to consider. We'll show you, as we get into this presentation, how it fits together in the sense of we were very deliberate in teeing up for the Board investments, both in the office space here at our downtown headquarters, and then also and the IT environment. You have approved both of those investments. If you recall, the office space in the last meeting and perhaps IT one in the meeting before that, but that will generally modernize our office space and our ERP systems. The one snag in this overall plan is the cost of construction has gone through the roof since these original investments. So what we thought was a reconfiguration of every space in this building to support again remote work, hybrid work, and with an overall goal that we established and the Board was very aware of it, no more than 50 percent returning any one day into this building. The complication is that was a 28 million-dollar project that when the bids were received it was over 75 million. So what we'll discuss today is how we have retooled that approach to give some of the biggest part of that benefit still, which was moving customer functions, customer facing functions to the first and second floor, securing the elevators going up beyond that, moving all of the folks from 137 Pryor to the library, which would give them back space for a hybrid approach, because today, they have been moved out remotely where we can house justice partners at 137 Pryor. 137 Pryor then would be available for either sale or use by our justice partners. And that all being said, the biggest benefit that we do not get by the investment required to resize all of the space and not have any more than 50 percent, is the ability to reduce leasehold space for the DA, the public defender, and the tax assessor. And, of course, many of you have asked about that. So that's still out there as a yet-to-do, and we'll have to discuss financially how best to approach that. Because I think there's still benefit; and, Mr. Chairman, you

just pointed out in your opening, that there is space available to do so. So the question is how do we financially prepare this building to be able to accommodate that? So what we're going to do is Joe and Tim have worked hugely on this. It's a very simple plan, but I just want to make sure that you see it, about the movement of the space, and then I'll pick back up and talk about again, the status of a hybrid remote work environment. So, Joe, let me turn it over to you."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good morning, Commissioners. Previous slides -- two slides back. There we go. So, Commissioners, we're pleased to provide you with this overview of the project that the county manager has just talked about. And as you are aware, the DREAM, department DREAM, brought to you at the last Board meeting a recommendation for approval of a proposal. That resulted from a designed bill RFP that was issued on August the 10th. We received two proposals on October the 11th. As Mr. Anderson has indicated, we established a project budget initially of \$28 million. Unfortunately, when we received the two bids, both bids were in excess of \$75 million which then forced us to work with the qualified bidder, or selective bidder, to value engineer the project in terms of scope so that we could adjust the projective cost to the actual \$28 million budget available. Next slide, please. So ultimately, the original scope of work intended to relocate Health and Human Services operations to the central Library from 137 Peach Street along with moving the Arts and Culture main office out of this building and that of Behavior Health over to the Central Library as well. It also included renovated all floors in the 141 Pryor Street building to meet a new set of space standards, as the county manager indicated, at a occupancy rate of no more than 50 percent of staff onsite any given day. The biggest outcome of this project originally was to consolidate all public-facing operations onto the first and second floor that is the Pryor and Peachtree levels of this building. As well as including renovations of all spaces with those new space standards. Due to the value engineering, we've had to refocus our efforts and look at the number one priority that we had, which is to move all customer-facing functions down to the first, second, and third floor of this building, and then also to move Health and Human Services to the Central Library. Next slide, please. So here you'll see just a couple of bullet points as it relates to the relocation priorities. You'll see that the 137 Peach Street building, which houses Senior Services, HIV Elimination, and Housing and Community Development, those will be moving to the Central Library along with the Behavior Health offices and Arts and Culture offices that are here in the Government Center, also moving to the Central Library. We consider this a critical relocation priority. Next slide, please. So we talked about one of our principal goals was moving public facing units down to lower floors so that we didn't have members of the public going in to higher staff-occupied levels. To that end, we looked at the principal forward-facing operations and then determined by mapping their space needs to our proposed plan, and came up these highlights here. The Board of Equalization will be moving from the fifth floor to the second floor, so 2085, which is currently occupied by the District Attorney's Office. We will be moving the finance water payment window from the seventh floor down to the second floor. The Police Department currently is residing on the fourth floor for their reporting and fingerprinting operations will be moved down to the second floor. The District Attorney Records office,

which is currently on the second floor, is going to move down to the first floor adjacent to the Vital Records office. The thinking is records retrieval by the public; they can all go into one location and do that. And we also are intending to create some hoteling, HR training, and procurement offices on to the second floor as well in the space that is currently the old cafeteria. Next slide, please. Other priorities that we decided we needed to focus on, as you all may remember, we did a massive restroom renovation and ADA renovation on multiple floors in this building as well as the justice center. The intent of this project is to also address the remaining restrooms that was not covered in that FCURA program project. We will also be renovating the elevator lobbies on all floors from three through ten. We're also exploring the possibility of securing the elevator lobbies to add an additional layer of security to the floors where only staff are actually going to be as a result of this project. We will be updating the tenth floor. As you know, we began with the Commissioners' conference room, and we'll be doing that throughout the rest of the floor. And ultimately, we're going to utilize any excess space so that we can eliminate the current lease space and cost. That would include the tax assessor's office, the public defender, and the district attorney. And then ultimately after all of those relocations are made, and we've evaluated excess space, hopefully we'll be able to position ourselves to use 137 Peach Street for justice agency expansion or as the county manager indicated previously, potential sale. Next slide. We'll pause here for any questions or if the county manager --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- no, that's what I going to -- thank you, Joe. So, any questions on these moves? And I don't know if Commissioner Hall, if this was where your question was. But are there any questions on this part of the presentation?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I'm actually going to go back to page 3, the revised scope of work to move Health and Human Services to the Central Library. And my only question here is did you work out the parking, because I remember previous conversations about moving them there; and there were some talks with the parking that's across the street from the library and trying to do some type of partnership to maybe get some additional parking through them. So have you worked that out, because I know that there is limited parking underneath the building."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "You are correct, Commissioner, very limited parking at the facility. So when we decided to make this move, we looked at two different things: well, maybe three. So number one is, across the street is the Peachtree Center MARTA station. So we know for those individuals that were interested in public transit, they would be put out right there at the building. The second thing that we thought about, there is adjacent parking, private parking around the building less than a block away. Our goal is to negotiate with those owners in the same fashion that we do with Lanier Parking for underground, to get a discounted rate for our county employees. So those are the principal two things that we looked at as it relates to parking for our staff."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. And I was glad to see the updating of the tenth floor. My mind immediately went to this one roach that lives in the lady's bathroom and it's -- I'm sorry, it bothers me. So I'm looking forward to an update that that roach comes out of that drain often. And then, just the residents in my District who utilize our services and come to this building always ask about parking and hours. Those are the two things that give them angst; or they try to park on the street and, you know, and they don't know how long it's going to take them when they come in the building to take care of their business, and the parking runs out. It's just that and then the hours. Many of them say, you know, why don't we have extended hours, because many people work 9 to 5 and they cannot come here during those hours. And a lot of our seniors say they don't do business online, so why do we not have extended hours? So just those two things to consider. Thank you. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "It looks like the agenda item says pre-COVID; I'm assuming its post-COVID?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I didn't do the agenda item."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, it's probably just a typo. Obviously, we're post-COVID."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right. Joe, just hang up. Hang up there, if you don't mind. All right, so we move to page 7. So, I'm going to give a brief update on the work environment itself. Some of these things I've already said, so I won't belabor that. But, you know, obviously --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Wait a minute, before you do that, how are you going to pay for all of this stuff up to one through six?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So that's what was approved in the last meeting. We designated 28 million in ARPA funding for this building reconfiguration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And that's going include the 10th floor and that escalator?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the timeline?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Joe."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So, as you know, they're going to be a lot of moving parts for this project, not only is it going to entail coordinating access for our vendors as well as ongoing moving in and out of the facility. We believe that this project will take approximately a year, probably a little bit more. But ultimately we are sticking to our guns with regards to expending the money by the deadline to expend ARPA funds, which is, I believe December 31st, of 2026 -- of 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All of this will be done by 2026?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, sir. No choice."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Just a quick question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm sorry. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "It's all right. Just a quick question. On the renovations within the building, in particular I hate to say it on the 10th floor, but is there anything being done just to check on air quality and the air quality systems, because I just have some concerns on that front."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So, we always have the capability to do indoor air quality checks. We have vendors on standby contracts for that. There's no aspect of HVAC as a part of this project; however, if you have a concern, I can certainly get with our team members to do what we call informally indoor air quality survey, just to get a sense."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "We will talk to you off-line. Thank you, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Just the -- not necessarily a question, but an observation. We have constituents on both sides of the county that would like accessibility for a certain amount of departments to be available in the annexes. And so, have we looked at that? Have we done any type of studies? Most of the constituents that I speak with and the seniors have no desire to come downtown. They will come downtown as needed, but they really would like to utilize the annexes to the best of their ability. So, county manager, do we have an idea of the workspaces, and if there may be is an opportunity to do any expansion on both sides or to add any needed departments in the annexes?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS: "Thank you, Vice Chair. Are you specifically referring to Health and Human Services or all services?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "All services. Not necessarily that all services need to be in an annex; but do we have an idea of any areas that may could be expanded on per the need as opposed to driving the individuals downtown? That's kind of the direction I'm coming from."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS: "So, yes, ma'am. So I can speak from the HHS perspective. We are moving forward with the 4700 footprint. As you know, that facility was purchased. We repurposed it for the COVID response. Post-COVID, we are moving forward with establishing that as an HHS north. And where we are with that is reworking the HVAC, and then we'll move forward with establishing that. We have also in the South -- we are moving forward with a project manager to complete the feasibility study for the south to determine what is the best location for an HHS South. And we will establish services so that we have a central location for HHS Services, a North location, and a South location."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you for that, because I think as we reimagine how the work environment will be, we probably need to look at reimagining how those services will either increase or decrease, depending upon the need. So, I'm glad to hear that, thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thank you. So, page 7 really is what I've already said, so I won't belabor this. But again we leaned into this in the pre-COVID or during the COVID period, and did develop these strategies. Again, no more than 50 percent the increase of VPN, updated teleworking policy, and then this allocation of 28 million to enable this facility. Page 8 is new information. This is where we have very recently looked at our workforce in office, hybrid, and remote. As you can see from this, 90 plus percent of our workforce is either in the office five days a week or in a hybrid format meaning they're in the office two to three days a week. There's about 2,850 employees, so 63 percent of the workforce that report to work every single day in an office or a facility. Again, some of these are the obvious ones that would come to mind like detention officers; but there are others as well across the spectrum where being in the office is very, very important and critical. There's 31 percent of our workforce, 1,449 that do work in a hybrid environment. And in those situations, we find that there is the ability for work to be done using the technology outside the office, but also there's an important component either for development, team building culture to have those folks in the office two to three days a week, and that we leave up to the department head to designate and manage. And then there's about five percent or 250 or so workers that are in a fully remote status, and they do range across all departments. So it's not in any one single department. And then the obvious statement, there are many that are high touch, direct citizen contact, like library, senior centers, courts, behavioral health, the jail where returning to the normal posture meant being in the office. The pie chart kind of captures that. Next chart, please. We did go out and look at two things, both large corporate employer status as well as government. This is what we found, again, best that we could. UPS is most notable one that is requiring folks to come back to the office that were remote capable, five days a week. Again, they are also, at the same time

reducing management 15 percent and under a lot of financial stress. Whether or not those two things go together, I don't know. But I do know there is somewhat of an outlier. Home Depot has, you know, stated that they have a hybrid approach, remote and in office. They also obviously have their store operations, which are very much verified, well seven days a week. Delta has both in office and remote. Of course all of their call center operations now are generally remote and from home. Coca-Cola, at least in terms of what we could pick up and understand, is more of a hybrid set up where they strive to be together three days a week, but that is not necessarily in the office; it can be in the field with their bottlers can be with customers. And, by the way, that's some of where our hybrid workers are also. For example, in Arts, they may very well be in the community, not necessarily the office, but they are clearly engaged in the work of Fulton County. So we did look at then government -- if you'll just go to the next chart, Madam Clerk. We had Ken Hermon reach out and ask each of the five primary Metro counties their status. These are the numbers that came back, again compared against the ones for us that I just shared with you. Atlanta 70/15 percent, 70 percent on-site, 15 percent remote, 15 present hybrid; DeKalb 75 percent on-site, 25 percent hybrid; Cobb 60/40 between on-site and hybrid; and Gwinnett 72/28. And again, hybrid ranging from one to three. The Gallup article that I sent you noted to 2.6 days as the average for a hybrid -- a hybrid worker. Next page, please. You know, from management's perspective, the benefits of the current model is we think it does allow for competitive recruitment and retention. In other words we would be a huge outlier if we were in the office five days a week. The hybrid model we think does work. We've seen no trade-offs in terms of productivity or development, but we do pay attention to, you know, the need to collaborate and have people in, and again interdepartmental -- or department head level. Those decisions are made and I think are working well. The hoteling does maximize the use of existing space. Again, that's where until we reorder every floor in this building, we find the capital money to do that, we don't have as much benefit from being able to eliminate the lease space that I referred to. For example, the Tax Assessor was one that we had planned all along as a first mover from Peachtree Center to here, which I think makes no sense for them to be there, talking about citizen complications with parking and the like. But nonetheless, years ago they were moved to that space, but until such time we figure out the financials of this, we have to keep them there. They would be the first to move. But I think the DA and public defender also would benefit from being here versus again in leased space. And then last on this Gallup survey, as I've mentioned, if you're in a remote capable work, only two of ten now are fully on site, and the survey said 85 percent of Fortune 500 have no plans to decrease that flexibility despite what UPS has done. And then we put a chart for your reference that shows that even out into the future. So, Mr. Chairman, I think that concludes our plan, how we got to this plan, and how we've implement it in terms of the remote worker/hybrid worker environment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So do you -- I mean, what's your recommendations or preference? Do you want some direction?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Our recommendation would be to stay the status quo. In other words, I think we have used the technology, we've adopted a more or less a remote worker hybrid environment where applicable and where it works. The majority of our employees are in the office five days a week where that again is most beneficial. We have very few people that are in remote settings. And in the last recommendation, I think would be to when the timing is appropriate financially, bring back a more comprehensive view of not only this side of the street, but also the justice side of the street, as it relates to how you would reconfigure those offices. And again, that would require, I think, another bond issue for us to successfully do. There's no way we could absorb it in the current financials, but for the long term, that would be the best approach to our office space utilization."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So does the -- on page 11, the third bullet point where you're talking about 50 percent of employees being, at any given point in time, the building would be half empty?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, the way that I would say this, any point in time, yes 50 percent of the employees are here. So technically, you can say it's been half empty. The problem -- yeah, the problem -- the only thing I would say the problem is, it's been years since we did any kind of reconfiguration and optimization of floor space. So I don't know if the floors as 50 percent empty might imply or quite that available, I'll say it that way."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This from personal observation it's probably 50 percent or more because I'm here every day. And you have some floors it's like -- I got in trouble with Dr. Paxton when I said you could shoot a cannon through -- what is that --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- you're talking about --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "She didn't like that. So I'm sure you observed the same thing. Oakhill"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Okay, yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So at any given point in time it would be half empty? All right, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. And thank you for your leadership on this as well as the county manager. Thank you and your department. I think, looking at surrounding governments, and that's what I've been looking at, and the model they have been moving to, has been this. I think in order for us to really look out I would say for the next five to ten years, the retention rate is higher for those that are willing to offer a certain amount of hybrid. That's reality. That is not going anywhere. We have data to back that up. And so, I just wanted to openly say that I commend you all for doing that because we already have several governments that have already

moved to that model, but we have corporations that have been doing it and have decided that in the long run, when it comes to efficiency, when it comes to retention, and when it comes to space utilization, it is the best model. And so, I appreciate what you all are showing here today and I thank you for that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I sort of -- I agree with Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. I think what we're doing is very important for us to be competitive and it's hard enough sometimes to get people to fill jobs in the various departments. And so, I think this is very much-needed. Just to make sure that everybody is clear on this idea, that the building -- I agree that the building does feel empty right now for sure, but correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. County Manager, if we had the money to do all the renovations we wanted, it's not that the building would be 50 percent empty, it's that we would have 50 percent of employees at their desks -- at their office on any given day, but the building will be full because of the hoteling and other departments moving in, that kind of thing, correct?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am. And of course, if we did everything we wanted, we would be moving big (Inaudible.) of people here that don't currently reside here, like the Tax Assessor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And so, really, if we were able to, you know, have those contracts come in at the 28 million we had hoped for versus over 75 million, we would be well on our way to making all these things happen. So it's really just a financial question, right now?"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I guess, the only question I have, which just comes from, you know, having to be scrappy sometimes on my own home renovation choices. Is there anything that we can do that isn't that, that will help us bring people back? Is there a way to just sort of rearrange some of the current office spaces without a lot of expense, at least short-term? Does move some folk's back that may be less than optimal, but good enough scenario?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "As we go into the planning process for the project that is actually going to be a part of the overall development of the final design that we get permitted and act upon in terms of construction. It will take into consideration opportunities to optimize space in the building."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do want to go back to revisit the conversation that we've had over the past couple of years about space utilization by our nonprofit partners. Since we're looking at the fact that there could be space -- but spaces that would be empty, we have so many nonprofit partners who have asked over the years -- well actually over the past 13 years that I've been here -- about working in our locations because it would help them be closer to the people that we all serve, Fulton County and those partners. And I brought this up some time ago about Adams County in Colorado and how they repurposed their government center, and they actually put their nonprofit partners in a space altogether which made the work for the people so much more fluid -- fluid. And also, they had some coworking space that was utilized as well in their government center. They also offered space for a dollar. They had, you know, that type of agreement. And if you look at Industrious which has open a lot of different coworking spaces across Atlanta and across Fulton County from Midtown to Buckhead, and all around, they have a very good model here. And they just opened up a new office in the space that's right by the Old Fourth Ward Historic Park. I want to -- I'm very happy about this hybrid current workforce survey, because in the late nineties I have to pay homage to the CIO back then, his name was Tom Cullen; he was very open to new technology and creating the division that I headed up with the late employee who was a telecommunications manager, Larry Lyle, and the late admin, Sharon Williams, and other outstanding IT employees, because back then, we started a teleworking pilot project, but it was to address the smog and air quality in the state of Georgia, and specifically in Atlanta and Fulton County. We worked very closely with the state office to address it. And our employees got all types of awards and rewards for not driving their cars. And so, if we can do that again, that would be helpful as well. Let's see. And that's it. Thank you. This is great work on everybody's part. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. You know, I would say I'm certainly in support of, you know, kind of a hybrid work model. But I just would caution and say, office trends do come and go. And, you know, we were at a pivot point, we are, much of our operations are about interaction with citizens. And there is, there's a balance to all of that, you know, that kind of -- that takes place. There's also, you know, I think, a balance -- and I say this from managing people and working in different -- working in these environments. There's also the balance in terms of your ability to onboard people in a hybrid work environment and build and create culture around that. And I just think, as we go through this, I think we need to be, you know, highly cautious of that and really, sort of, you know, look at this and monitor it. And if we're going to have hybrid models, make sure people are actually showing up so that you are, you know, you're adhering to that, there's conformity to it, that you're fostering those -- those times for people to be in, collaborate, et cetera. And that there should be no question about citizens being -- being shorted, you know, with us going into a model like this. So it's, you know, it's just, there's a balance, I think, associated with all of this, is what I'm saying. And, you know, I -- and I think we just really need to really think long and hard about that and how we're maximizing our space, you know, throughout the county, so."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "That concludes our presentation."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. 1:03, what else?"

CLERK GRIER: "We have the add-on item, Animal Control."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sound that, please. And just for the record, just for the official record, it sounds like there is unanimous support for some hybrid model, and that means having them here one day or two days or three days. Or I mean, away from here one day or two days or three days or four days or every day. I totally object to that. Just for the record."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Point of order, Mr. Chair. Are -- is the Manager seeking a, you know, direction or a specific vote on this? Or is he just more like, all right, hey, you know, you're -- you're looking just for our counsel to figure out how you were going to implement this throughout?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. This was an update."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Got it."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I wasn't asking for any direction."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Got it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0175**, Discussion, Animal Control, sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Colleagues, I just wanted to bring this up because it was brought to my attention that the city of Atlanta has not signed their intergovernmental agreement regarding our Animal Control Services. And to my knowledge, all of the other 14 cities have signed their intergovernmental agreements. And we're just seeming to make any progress with city of Atlanta. Mr. County Manager, would you mind reviewing sort of the timeline of what was presented to the city of Atlanta and when and kind of where we are right now?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am. And nothing like late-breaking news. I also have an email from the city of Atlanta."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Oh, well, that's convenient."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right. So just briefly, to set the stage for everyone as well for the public. As you know, Fulton County is not required to provide animal services except in the case of rabies. So on broadly-speaking basis, this is not our role. However, for decades we have done so. There was an assumed, I think, benefit of economies of scale of doing it one place versus in 15 places, so that has been done. However, we had a facility that was over 40 years old, was well documented to be overcrowded. And in fact, the Department of Agriculture had given us a couple of audit findings. And I personally had met with them and the patience was running thin there with our current setup. We committed through, through your guidance, to the building of a new facility. That new facility obviously is much larger, it's twice as large, requiring additional staff to properly staff. In addition to that, there are other services like veterinary services for spay and neutering. All of which would accrue to the long-term benefit of citizens and animals, per se. So all of that together, adds up to additional operating costs. Fulton County, again, through your direction, bore the cost for the construction of the new facility. So that \$40 million cost is not in the numbers that I'll share with you in a moment. That's, again, borne by our debt service and not -- not ask for city reimbursement. Because this has always been done under an IGA with the city and with a full reimbursement model, we went to them during 2023 with this now, fleshed out model with a new facility, enhanced levels of staffing, and a reminder that for the last six years, there's been no increase in cost passed on to them or to us through the contract with LifeLine. However, LifeLine to even make ends meet, had to find ways to raise philanthropic money. But in addition to that, Fulton County contributed 1.6 million in 2023, again, to deal with the cost. As we presented to each one of the cities, all of them experienced a fairly significant increase because the overall costs involved in this went from 6.4 million to 11.7 million on an annual basis. So almost double in terms of total. In the case of -- again, it depends on the utilization of these services, the charges that each city would experience. And the utilization is calculated based on dispatched calls for service. Again, that's a cost-allocation model that's been in place for years. Could it be refined, perhaps, and made more precise? If you've ever dealt with cost allocation, it's sometimes in the eye of the beholder. I'd say, yes, it could be. But it would then have a consequence of moving costs from one city to another. And as we sit here today, 14 cities out of the 15 have accepted the cost-allocation model, the increased costs, and approved and signed IGAs, 14 cities out of 15. The city of Atlanta was going from 2.6 million to 6.4. We have met with them, both midyear of 2023, and then hosted them at the new facility at the end of 2023. And then most recently, the Chairman and I and Alton Adams visited with the Mayor and his staff last week. There, we were still expecting agreement before today, we did not have that prior to -- prior to today. I do have an email as late as about 15 minutes ago, which seems to indicate that they are getting there. They would like to work with us on other areas, which I don't think would be a financial offset. There are more areas that we're already working in like, permanent supportive housing, pursuing the state jointly together, which I think would add a great deal of health to our Behavioral Health agenda in total. As you

recall, we just talked about the Behavioral Health Crisis Center being funded at 11-point -- is it 11.2? What's the number? 11.2 million, the full funding for that is 13.3. So even though we got back up to 11.2, we really need to be at 13.3 million to fully staff the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, which is going in the city of Atlanta on Metropolitan. But there are two others that are needed based on DBHDD's analysis. But as you know, the city of Atlanta is also struggling with, and we should be concerned about, the homelessness in general as well as migrant population potential increases here. So there's plenty of work to do jointly together. Right now, I don't have a signed agreement for the city of Atlanta. I think that's why this is on this agenda to both inform you as well as take any direction from you. Based on the email that I just received, I'd probably ask for a little bit more time to see if I can run all this to ground, we can run all this to ground, getting to an agreement where we're not in a -- not in a position where we -- we are either denying service, which I don't think would be anyone's best interest, or withholding payments. Because obviously, we make payments to the city of Atlanta just like they would be making payments to us. We can certainly do that if we chose to do so. But perhaps there's a -- there's a path forward."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I think my concern, Mr. County Manager, is that they've said -- you know, I was hoping the email was something more earth shattering than we're almost there. But, you know, they've said, we're almost there, they said, we're there, we're going to sign. We're there, we're not -- and they don't seem to be doing it. So I'm not quite sure what the holdup is at this point. And they're putting us in a very difficult position. We certainly do not want to hurt the citizens of Fulton County or Atlanta, who are the same people in that case, in the case of those boundaries, by not performing this service. On the other hand, they owe us money, and they -- we need to get this IGA in place. So I have concerns about what do we do? How do we move forward? I agree with you that we would not like to disrupt that service. But maybe we do need to look at withholding these other payments in order to sort of balance the books, if you will. And the only other thing I have to say is, I think you talked about them wanting some other things from us, which I certainly appreciate. And I think that there's nothing that they want that we're not already willing to do. I think we -- we're, you know, all concerned about the homelessness issue from the top of the county to the, you know, the very north to the very south, I think all of the Commissioners here have, you know, expressed an interest in working on that issue and trying to be a helpful in whatever way that we can with the various cities. Same thing with Behavioral Health, obviously we love their partnership, and we want to work on that as well. But these things, I think are very clearly unrelated to animal control. And to say that they're waiting to hear from us on a partnership or not on those things seems disingenuous to me. Either, you know, this is about animal control, it's not about add-on items or other things or other negotiations to me. We didn't do that with any of the other cities. We presented them IGAs, we talked through the terms, they understood the situation, and they signed their IGAs. They didn't ask for additional favors. So I think, you know, I think -- I don't want to speak for everybody else, but I know I'm certainly happy to have any conversations they want to have about working on homelessness and working on behavioral health issues. But we need to move forward on this IGA."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner. Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "County Manager, I'm going to respect the fact that you want a little bit more time to work with them. I think the amount of time and investment that Fulton County has made in Animal Services speaks to where we are in our dedication to our citizens. I'm a little thrown back, to me, and I could be wrong, not perfect, but it almost sounds like a, well, we're going to hold it in order to barter for something else. Now, I could be wrong. And if I am, so be it. But I think that is -- that puts a bad taste in my mouth, so to speak. I think if they're the only city holding out, maybe it's time for me to do a Town Hall, and let the citizens of the city of Atlanta know what's going on, because at the end of the day, we've got to be partners here. We have to work together. I am all for doing affordable housing. I am all for working with the homeless issue. But I tell you what I'm not for, I'm not for the nonprofits that I hear from daily that can't get their money from city of Atlanta in a timely fashion. And so we've got homelessness being added to because we have nonprofits operating in the city of Atlanta that can't get their money in order to help the homeless. And so while I am empathetic to what their issue is, at the end of the day, there was an understanding, there was an agreement. And I would like to move this forward and I will follow your lead at some point if you feel as though we're not going anywhere with it. Because this is very important, Fulton County and city of Atlanta must show the leadership. City of Atlanta should have been the first one to sign the IGA, okay. City of Atlanta has the most to benefit from the investment of the -- what Fulton County has done. And so I just want to go on record letting you know that I am a little bit upset behind this. But as opposed to going off on a tangent about it, which I can, but I won't, I will ask that you and Ernest, please keep me abreast if you get to what I call a point of no return, and it goes too far to the left and doesn't look like anything's going to happen. Because I'm a little -- I'll be honest with you, I'm just a little taken aback that of all the things that we work so hard for, and even though I wasn't sitting here when that plan went forward, the plan still manifested. And city of Atlanta has the lion's share of the benefit of it. And so that does bother me. And so if you just keep me abreast, I'd appreciate it."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Since we isolated the animal costs into its own separate account is there any negotiating and that type of thing? How would we reimburse that account, like, can we do that? We basically, need them to pay straight into that account, correct?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Sharon, do you want to address that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We do need to be able to bill them in order to receive payment into the Animal Services fund. Ultimately, if they

refuse to pay and we continue to provide the service and incur the costs, then Accounting would need to also be willing to cover those costs from our general fund budget. Because that's only place we would have to go to, which means we have to go find money from there to cover those costs that are being paid out of the separate Animal Services fund."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. And I just want to say, you know, the high costs of having so many animals is -- on their intake, I wish -- this is a plug for the city of Atlanta to adopt the Backyard Breeder Bill to hopefully -- it's not going to solve the crisis, but it'll alleviate the crisis. If they were to adopt it, it'll limit the amount intakes. I know on the Beltline, you can buy a puppy almost every day of the week on the Beltline. And those puppies are a lot of times, sick and end up in our shelters. And those puppies, they become an emotional purchase. Maybe someone had a few too many drinks, bought a puppy. And then the next day, oh crap, got a puppy, let's take it to the shelter. So I'm just hoping that we can really work on some solutions to limiting the intake of stray animals into our shelter. And I hope city of Atlanta will be welcoming that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah. I look forward to you reporting back -- us back a favorable agreement. If you still may have trouble, maybe you can take over -- when you go to collect, you can take over Joey, Brown Sugar, Lucid, Strength, Angelico, Bongo, Big Hug, Honeybun, Van Dam, Marco, Jacob, and Cheers on some leashes and stick them there in their lobby. And so we can kind of exhibit kind of like, what goes on here, right? Tasmania, too, he might be a good one."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, anything else? So, where are --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So Mr. Chairman --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any session with them yet? Or we're waiting to hear from them?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, we've -- well, heard from them via email, as I was getting ready speak. So I think it would be apropos, given this discussion, for you and I had to reinitiate contact with the Mayor and the Chief of Staff. De-link the issues, meaning, we have an Animal Shelter IGA, and I think that was our position a week ago that needs to be acted upon, posthaste. And then we're always willing to work with them on any variety of things, which of course would require this Board's approval to do so."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Anything else, Commissioners? All right. I'm going to entertain a motion to recess for lunch, Executive Session, issues of real estate, litigation, and personnel."

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

(Recessed for Executive Session at 1:19 p.m.)

(Resumed Regular Session at 2:53 p.m.)

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve a request for representation contained in items 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I have no further action items, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I took them all together."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right. Is there a motion to increase the salary of the County Attorney to 327,050 annually? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other items to come before us today?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "If not, we are adjourned. Thank you."

(There being no further matters, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.)