

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESS MEETING**

January 19, 2022  
10:00 AM



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



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## **MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: February 16, 2022**

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**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)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Liz Hausmann, Vice-Chairman (District 1)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Lee Morris, Commissioner (District 3)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)	<b>PRESENT</b>

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**22-0029 Board of Commissioners**

Adoption of the Consent Agenda - All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Recess Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED)**

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Hausmann and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Arrington

**22-0030 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing “Akram Siraj Al-Uqdah Remembrance Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
January 4, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Dr. Bobby G. Jordan Remembrance Day.” **(Pitts)**  
January 6, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “School Choice Week.” **(Pitts)**  
January 23-29, 2022

**Commissioners' District Board Appointments**

**22-0031 Board of Commissioners**

FULTON COUNTY VETERANS EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.  
**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 3 Years

Term below expires: 12/31/2024

Vacant **(Morris)**

**Commissioner Morris nominated Dr. Samantha K. Brown-Parks for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

**22-0032 Board of Commissioners**  
FULTON COUNTY VETERANS EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.  
**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 3 Years

Term below expires: 12/31/2024

Lou Coroso **(Resigned)** **(Hausmann)**

**Vice-Chairman Hausmann nominated Richard H. White for a District appointment to an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024.**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**22-0033 Finance**  
Ratification of December 2021 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0034 Information Technology**  
Request approval to accept a name change and authorizing the Department of Purchasing & Contract Compliance to reflect the name change of Audio Visual Innovations, Inc. to AVI-SPL LLC. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0035 Real Estate and Asset Management**  
Request approval of a Resolution to approve a Fourth Amendment to Master Lease Agreement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia (Tenant) and The Lansky Partnership, LLLP, a Georgia Limited Liability Limited Partnership (Landlord), for the purpose of providing additional office space for the operations of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office at 5615 Old National Highway; to authorize the Chairman to approve the lease extension agreement and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the lease extension agreement and related documents as to form and substance and to make any modifications thereto in order to protect the interests of Fulton County prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0036 Real Estate and Asset Management**  
Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 775 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia from Berkdale at Crabapple HOA, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Berkdale at Crabapple III Project at 0 Applegate Drive, Roswell, Georgia 30076. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0037 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 1,016 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Pulte Home Company, LLC for the purpose of constructing the Berkdale at Crabapple III Project at 12121 Houze Road, Roswell, Georgia 30076. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Arts and Libraries****22-0038 Library**

Request approval to enter into an MOU with the Fulton County Library System and Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) to memorialize their mutual understanding of their collaboration of the Class Pass Project. A Class Pass card allows the students at the Georgia Cyber Academy the ability to have their student ID aligned with a library card so they can check out items and use the Library's online services. This agreement is effective upon its execution date of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 with a 1-year renewal option. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Health and Human Services****22-0039 Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), 21RFP000026A-CJC, Advancing Health Literacy Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 with The Black Cross Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to implement health communication strategies in underserved communities and to form lead and facilitate a community coalition board (CCB) effective January 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022, with one renewal option. This project is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Justice and Safety****22-0040 District Attorney**

Request approval to award a contract without competition - Office of the District Attorney, 21SS09212021, FileOnQ in the amount of \$103,723.00 to provide centralized online inventory and tracking system for evidence for the Office of the District Attorney. Effective upon BOC approval. This project is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0041 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Fulton County and the City of Hapeville for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 with four (4) consecutive one (1) year automatic renewal options ending on December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**RECESS MEETING AGENDA****22-0042 Board of Commissioners**

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

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to adopt the Recess Meeting Agenda as amended by revising item #22-0069 as requested by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; and remove item #22-0071 as requested by Commissioner Ellis. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to reconsider the Recess Meeting Agenda moving up item #22-0050. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**22-0043 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, December 15, 2021

Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, January 5, 2022

Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, January 7, 2022

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Arrington

**22-0044 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Ms. Full Figured Georgia Plus Appreciation Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****22-0045 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.

**Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed thirty minutes at the Recess Meeting.** In the event the 30 minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Similarly, written comments (that were timely submitted) not previously read, may be read at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

**23 Speakers: Councilwoman Lee Hills, (Item #22-0055); Mayor Khalid Kamau (Greetings); Julie Adams (Item #22-0055); James Parrish (Rental Assistance/Homelessness); Marilyn Zeigler (Rental Assistance/COVID-19 Vaccine); Angie Allison (Item #22-0055); Sonya Russell-Ofchus (Item #22-0069); Sandra Burchardt (Item #22-0055); Maurice Mpayamaguru (Item #22-0055); Lucia Frazier (Item #22-0055); Aimee Uphues (Item #22-0055); Joyce Cross (Item #22-0055); Bridgette Thorne (Item #21-0055); Nia Colston (Item #21-0055); Matt Rowenzcak (Item #22-0055); Maggie Goldman (Item #22-0050/#22-0051); Candy Muldowney (Item #22-0055); Kevin Muldowney (Item #22-0055); Michele Sarkisian (Item #22-0055); Susan Ortiz-Villajos (Item #22-0055); Tamara Seymour (Item #22-0055); Kristie Lenz (Item #22-0051) and Savannah Potter (Transit Connectivity-Paratransit)**

**7 Zoom Speakers: Ben Howard (Senior Services); Ngina Jemmott (Elections); Opal Baker (Elections); Bernadette Naro (Funding); Michelle Millhof (Elections); Chrisseda Columbus (Elections) and Linda Downey (Elections)**

**14 E-mail Comments: Gwendolyn Davis (Item #22-0050); Joyce Armster (Item #22-0050); Barbara Mckee (Item #22-0050); Kaya Hedt (Item #22-0050); Marika Lamro (Item #22-0050); Mark Tanner (Item #22-0055); Arhanti Sadanand (Item #22-0055); Patty Nathan (Item #22-0055); Keaton Fletcher (Item #22-0055); Blanca Rohr (Item #22-0055); Melvern Williams (Voting Rights); Rodney Wolfe (Homelessness) and Jill Lindsey (District 6)**

**22-0046 Board of Commissioners**

Public Hearing for 2022 Redistricting. **(CONDUCTED)**

**1 Speaker: Bridgette Thorne**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****22-0047 County Manager**

Presentation of COVID-19 Operational Response Update. **(PRESENTED)**

**22-0048 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request ratification of emergency procurements - County Manager, Countywide Emergency Procurements. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**22-0049 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request approval of a Resolution to extend emergency purchasing authority of the Chairman and County Manager for COVID-19 related purchases; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**22-0050 Finance**

Review and request approval of the FY2022 Final Adopted Budget and FY2022 Budget Resolution. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis, to approve the FY2022 Budget as presented by the County Manager and Executive Staff.

Motion Failed for a Lack of a Second

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve the FY2022 Budget Resolution and the FY2022 Proposed Budget, including all amendments presented on January 5, 2022 and January 19, 2022, for all appropriated funds. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Nay:** Ellis, and Morris

**22-0051 External Affairs**

Request approval of the 2022 Redistricting Plan. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve option (A) map, with an amendment to include Precinct 12A in District 5, and the Resolution recommending the selected map to the Fulton County Delegation.

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**22-0052 Finance**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Finance Department, 21RFP102521C-MH Professional Property & Casualty Brokerage Services in the amount of \$94,500.00 with Edgewood Partners Insurance Center (EPIC), (Duluth, GA) to provide professional Property & Casualty brokerage services effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**22-0053 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance, 21ITB000001A-CJC, Countywide Armored Car Services in the amount of \$150,000.00 with Brink's, Corporate (Coppell, Texas) to provide countywide armored car services as needed for various County departments/agencies. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**22-0054 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Happy Faces Audit **(Pitts) (DISCUSSED)**



**22-0055 Registration & Elections**

Request approval to extend an existing contract, Registration and Elections, SWC99999-001-SPD0000136-0003, Temporary Staffing - Clerical & Light Industrial with Happy Faces Personnel Group, Inc. (Tucker, GA) for a time extension only to provide temporary staffing services for the Department of Registration and Elections for an additional five-month period effective February 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Nay:** Hausmann, Ellis, and Morris

**22-0056 Information Technology**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Fulton County Information Technology, Bid #19ITBC05212019K-DB, Fulton County Government Computer Hardware Equipment Refresh in the total amount not to exceed \$1,576,160.00 with (A) Dell Marketing, LP. (Round Rock, TX) in the amount of \$1,226,160.00 and (B) CDW Government (Vernon Hills, IL) in the amount of \$350,00.00 for specialty computing devices to include iPads, iMacs, MS Surface Pros and supporting peripherals. This action exercises two of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Arrington

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

**22-0057 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB131067C-GS, On-Site Door Repair and Overhead Door Preventive and Predictive Maintenance Countywide in the total amount of \$215,000.00 with (A) Overhead Door Company of Atlanta, dba D.H. Pace Company, Inc., (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$170,000.00; and (B) Piedmont Door Automation, dba Piedmont Door Solutions (Dawsonville, GA) in the amount of \$45,000.00, to provide on-site door repair and preventive and predictive maintenance services Countywide. Effective dates: January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Morris, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann, and Hall

**22-0058 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of lowest bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB128258C-CG, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups C, D & G) in the total amount of \$676,038.00 with (A) A-Action Janitorial Service, Inc. (Lithonia, GA) in the amount of \$408,431.00 for Group C (Central Libraries) and (C) American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in the amount of \$267,607.00 for Group D (North Fulton Libraries), to provide general cleaning for selected Fulton County facilities (Groups C and D). Effective dates: January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, with one renewal option. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Morris, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann, and Hall

**22-0059 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize Cooperative Purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, National Cooperative Contract #192163, a Master Agreement Contract for Maintenance, Repair, Operating (MRO) Supplies, Industrial Supplies and Related Products and Services in the amount of \$49,999.00 with WW Grainger (Norcross, GA), to purchase mission critical parts including pumps, valves, hydraulic and pneumatic cylinders and drives, hand tools, power tools, equipment and related items in support of DREAM Building Construction and Facilities Maintenance Divisions and other Countywide Departments. Effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Morris, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann, and Hall

**22-0060 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 19RFP120741C-GS, Janitorial Services for Fulton County's Government Center Complex (Group A) and Justice Center Facilities (Group B) in the amount of \$26,400.00 with American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA); to provide janitorial services for the Medical Examiner's Office, located at 430 Pryor Street, Atlanta, GA. 30303. This facility is being added to the existing Justice Center Facilities (Group B) janitorial services contract. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Arts and Libraries****22-0061 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Arts & Culture Department, SWC# 99999-SPD-0000136-0008, Professional Temporary Staffing in an amount of \$105,000.00 with Corporate Temps Inc. (Norcross, Georgia) to provide temporary staffing services for the Arts & Culture Department. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2022. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

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

**22-0062 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount of \$203,292.00 between the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to continue to provide research-based education in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth Development to Fulton County citizens. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

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

**Health and Human Services****22-0063 Public Works**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Public Works, 21RFP131557K- DB, Design/Build Service for Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Standby Generator System Project in the amount \$12,879,472.00 with Georgia Power Company (Atlanta, GA), to provide a standby generator system during the design and construction of the Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Standby Generator System Project. Standby generators are required as part of the on-going Big Creek WRF Expansion project to provide power to all components of the facility during loss of power events. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed for 431 consecutive calendar days. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

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

**22-0064 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department Public Work, 21ITB092021K-CRB, Jones Bridge Water Tanks Rehabilitation in an amount not to exceed \$1,259,958.00 with Classic City Protective Coatings, Inc. (Menomonie, WI) to provide construction and rehabilitation services for the Jones Bridge elevated water storage tanks. Effective upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed for 270 consecutive calendar days. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**22-0065** Public Works

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 21ITBC000021A-CJC - Water Meter Boxes and Valve Boxes in the amount of \$74,896.06 with Ferguson Waterworks (College Park, GA), to provide water meter boxes and valve boxes. Effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**22-0066** Public Works

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 21ITBC000029A-CJC - HDPE Fusible PVC Pipes in the amount of \$190,240.00 with Ferguson Waterworks (College Park, GA), to provide HDPE fusible PVC pipes. Effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**22-0067** Senior Services

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Senior Services, 18RFP115491A-CJC, Alternative Senior Transportation Services in the amount of \$150,000.00 with Common Courtesy (Atlanta, GA), to provide transportation services/ride sharing through Uber/Lyft for eligible seniors with no other means of transportation. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**Justice and Safety**

**22-0068 County Manager**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Office of the County Manager, 21RFP206340K-BKJ, Jail Feasibility Study in an amount not to exceed \$1,199,545.00 with a joint venture of STV Architects, Inc., and TreanorHL, Inc. (STV/TreanorHL) (Atlanta, GA), to provide a feasibility study to evaluate options for the Fulton County Jail as well as, on-site headquarters for the Sheriff’s Office Jail Administration operations. The term of the contract shall be for an 18 month period or until contract completion as determined by the County. The Final Report shall be completed and submitted to the County within nine to twelve months of the issuance of the Notice to Proceed. The contract will commence as of the date the Notice to Proceed (NTP) is issued. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts, Hausmann, and Morris

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**

**22-0069 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urging the support and passage in 2022, of State and Federal Laws that uphold and protect voters’ rights, and equal access to the ballot, ~~and stopping “Jim Crow” voter suppression,~~ **one man, one vote**; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann, and Morris

**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**

**22-0070**

**Board of Commissioners**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FULTON COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM **(APPROVED)**

Term = 1 Year

Term below expired: 12/31/2021

Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman **(Position #2/BOC)**

**Commissioner Ellis nominated Commissioner Abdur-Rahman (Position #2/BOC) for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2022.**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**22-0071**

**Board of Commissioners**

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN **(REMOVED)**

Term = 1 Year

Term below expired: 12/31/2021

Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman **(Position #3/BOC)**

**Commissioner Ellis has nominated Commissioner Abdur-Rahman (Position #3/BOC) for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2022.**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE RECESS MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ELLIS**

**22-0072 Board of Commissioners**  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DEFINED  
CONTRIBUTION PLAN (**APPROVED**)

Term = 4 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2021

Vacant (**Position 9/Resident**) (**BOC**)

**The Administrative Committee of the Fulton County Defined Contribution Plan recommends Gina Rude (Position 9/Resident) for a Full Board appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and  
Abdur-Rahman

**22-0073 Board of Commissioners**  
BOC appointment of a Citizen Member to the 2021 TSPLOST Citizen's Oversight  
Council. (**APPROVED**)

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Vice-Chairman Hausmann, to appoint Anna Roach to the 2021 TSPLOST Citizen's Oversight Council. (**NO VOTE TAKEN**)

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to appoint Alton Adams to the 2021 TSPLOST Citizen's Oversight Council. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and  
Abdur-Rahman

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

### **Open & Responsible Government**

**22-0074 External Affairs**  
Presentation of 2022 Legislative Agenda. (**PRESENTED**)

## **COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**22-0075 Board of Commissioners**  
Discussion: Invest Atlanta Board of Directors December 16, 2021 Meeting  
Summary (**Morris**) (**DISCUSSED**)

**22-0076 Board of Commissioners**  
Discussion: Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. January 12, 2022 CEO Report (**Morris**)  
(**DISCUSSED**)



**22-0077 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Reapportionment and redistricting of County Commission Districts per the 2020 Census **(Abdur-Rahman) (WITHDRAWN)**

**ITEM WITHDRAWN AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**22-0078 Board of Commissioners**

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

**PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice-Chairman Hausmann, Commissioners: Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; DREAM Deputy Director Tim Dimond; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve settlement authority in item #4 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Nay:** Ellis

f. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Hausmann and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to accept the resignation of Registration and Elections Director, Richard Barron effective April 1, 2022. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, and Hall

**Nay:** Pitts, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
RECESS MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 2022  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC

**(Whereupon the meeting was call to order at 10:01 a.m.)**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning and welcome to the Recess Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is January 19th, 2022; it is 10:01 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Vice Chairman Liz Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Lee Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Present."

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

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. You may be seated. Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **22-0029**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Recess Meeting for separate consideration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Do you have anything, Madam Clerk?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "I do not."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Nothing from the Clerk. Commissioners, any items on the Consent Agenda that need to be removed for further discussion? If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. A motion to approve by Vice Chair Hausmann. Is there a second? All right, I'll second. Let's vote, please."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--I'm sorry, my system did not log me in--"

**CLERK GRIER:** "--okay, [Inaudible.]"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--oh there we go, okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Six yeas."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Six yeas with Commissioner Hall."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4, Recess Meeting Agenda, **22-0042**, Adoption of the Recess Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two amendments to today Recess Meeting Agenda. On page 9, item to be revised, a resolution by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. 22-0069: Request approval of resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, urging the support and passage in 2022 of state and federal laws that uphold and protect voter's rights and equal access to the ballot, One Man/One Vote, and for other purposes. This item was revised to include a revised resolution. On page 10, 22-0071: Commissioner Ellis has requested to remove his appointment to the Administrative Committee of the Fulton County Defined Contribution Plan. That's all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else? All right. On the Agenda as amended, let's vote, please. There's a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0043**, Ratification of Minutes, Recess Meeting Minutes, December 15th, 2021; Regular Meeting Post-Agenda Minutes, January 5th; Special Call Meeting Post-Agenda Minutes, January 7th, 2022."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to ratify the Minutes, motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. Is there a second. All right, I'll second. Seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0044**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. Proclamation recognizing Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Plus Appreciation Day, sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**Proclamation Presentation**

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It's on? Okay. Thank you. Sorry about that technical difficulty. Thank you for that. This is a proclamation. WHEREAS, Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Beauty Pageant is a pageant for full-figured women in Georgia of all races and ethnicities. And WHEREAS, the Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Plus Pageant is a division of Ms. Full-Figured USA and was founded in 2018 by CEO Theresa Randolph and directed by Latoya François to focus on building self-confidence in all women. And WHEREAS, the mission of the pageant is to empower women through pageantry and inspire others while serving the community. And the creator's model is size has no barrier on beauty. And WHEREAS, Morgan J. Worrell is a native of Atlanta, Georgia and was crowned Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Plus in 2021. And is a student at the University of Phoenix majoring in applied psychology, with a concentration in media and technology. And WHEREAS, Morgan is the CEO and founder of Unveiled Princess, Incorporated, and has worked with the South Fulton area since 2014. Unveiled Princess, Inc. mentors young ladies between the ages of 12 to 25 years old and has helped more than 500 young girls find the princess within themselves. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends Morgan J. Worrell for her exceptional reign as Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Plus 2021, and for her tireless work as a mentor and a role model to young girls in the community. And on behalf of not only my colleagues, but having been the first full-figured model for Bronner Brothers here in Atlanta, to see you win the Ms. Full-Figure title, brings it home. So, on behalf of all my colleagues, I want to HEREBY PROCLAIM, Wednesday, January 19th, 2022, as Ms. Full-Figured Georgia Plus Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. Congratulations. Come on up and say a few words."

**MORGAN J. WORRELL, MS. FULL-FIGURED GEORGIA PLUS:** "Hello everyone. First of all, I would like to thank all of the Commissioners, but especially Ms. Khadijah, because she's in the throes of it, she's always in there. It's not been an event that I've been invited to that she hasn't been there. So, I definitely would like to thank you. I would love to thank the Mayor of South Fulton. He actually was at the pageant and actually saw me crowned. So, he's been there and been at Unveiled Princess events. I have to thank my family. I have to thank my Unveiled Princess staff, if you can just

wave your hand. My directors are here for Unveiled Princess. And I'm just super, super excited that Fulton County decided to give little, old me from College Park a proclamation and a day. And I'm super excited. And I plan to have this day filled next year for all of the girls all over Atlanta. Thank you."

**Picture taken.**

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, Public Hearings, **22-0045**, 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 may by -- or by submitting their comments in writing online by registering on the County website [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended, and the business portion of the BOC Meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 23 speaker cards."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How many?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Twenty-three."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So, 23 times two, that's 46 minutes. So, the rules are 30 minutes for public comment. We also have a Public Hearing for Redistricting. I'll make an assumption, just an assumption that some of the 23 are here for the public hearing on redistricting. That may be an incorrect assumption, but I'm going to make that assumption. So, if we -- if the 30 minutes expire, then those who have not spoken, will be heard at the end of the meeting; is that correct?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "That is correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Those are our rules. Okay. All right."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay. Will the first six speakers please --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--now, one more, one more thing--"

**CLERK GRIER:** "--okay--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--in light of that, since you have 46, if you could say what you want to say in less than two minutes, you would -- that would save time for others to speak. So, if possible, if you can limit your comments to about a minute that would be very beneficial to those who have also come to speak. And lastly, when you have 15

seconds, if you're using the two minutes, I'll say, 15 seconds. And that will be your signal to conclude your remarks. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Vice Chair Hausmann."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, thank you. In light of the fact that when we look out in the galley today, there are quite a few people here to speak, I would respectfully ask that since it looks like, based on two minutes a piece, you're talking about 40 minutes, we make 45 or 43. If we can go 15 minutes more, I think the issues today facing us are very important issues to the entire community. So, I would ask my colleagues, just in the sense of fairness, to extend the time today to make sure we hear from all of our citizens." (Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Hausmann. All right." (Gavel to order.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Well, I would agree that we want to hear from everyone that drove all the way to Downtown Atlanta to speak to us today. So, if there are folks that came to speak on redistricting, perhaps they could speak at that portion where there is no 30-minute limit, rather than taking up time in the public comment section, where we do have limitations. So, Madam Clerk, I don't know if you could work through or someone could help work through that. And that way, we could hear from everyone."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Mr. Chairman, thank you. I agree that we need to let everyone speak. And that additional 15 minutes wouldn't be cumbersome at all. I do agree that we need to allow the people who are here specifically to speak about redistricting, speak during that portion. And can I make a motion to maybe move that up, so they don't have to wait so long to speak? And possibly have that at the beginning, closer to the beginning of the Agenda. Okay, good, good. So, Mr. Chairman, we could do them all and maybe ask the people that are here for redistricting to not speak during the public comment, but wait for that portion—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--okay--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The only thing I'll say, that, that's fine. But we -- there was a committee that came up with these rules now, and in addition to the folk who are here, there will be written comments as well as people at the North Annex and the South Annex. So, you -- y'all saying, 45 minutes today, rather than 30 minutes, that's what we're saying?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chair -- I'm sorry, go ahead, Commissioner Natalie Hall."



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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, with all due respect, Commissioner Hall just said, you're talking about 15 minutes more. And we're spending time ourselves taking up extra time discussing on people that have come here to speak. (Applause.) So, let's be fair--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--thank you--"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--I understand the rules; and I'm one to support the rules. But sometimes in some places and spaces, we need to be a little lenient. And so, I'm just asking today, if we're talking about 15 minutes to allow people who have come down here during COVID to make sure that they stand in front of their legislators that they get a opportunity to speak. That's all I'm saying."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, 45 minutes to include those who are here, plus those who are at North Annex, South Annex, and written comments?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I, I, I would suggest, Chairman, for you to --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--the ones coming down [Inaudible.] or take care of everybody--"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--I don't, I don't, I don't think that we will be able to hear everybody. But I think at some point, at the Chairman's discretion, for -- when it comes to time, if we have to move people to either email format or to a -- to hold it to the end, I just think it's such a strong, pressing issue that 15 minutes more should be allowed. And I think that's not unfair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. 45 minutes for those who are here, and then we'll -- and I'll make a decision based upon those who are written -- sending written comments and at the North Annex. Call the speakers, please."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Will the first six speakers please come down. Roswell City Councilwoman Lee Hills; Mayor Khalid; Julie Adams, (Applause.) James Parrish. Marilyn Zeigler--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Now, listen. Just a minute, just a minute. Now, no outburst, please, during the meetings. Also, public officials, there's no time limit with respect to public officials. We have a Council Member from Sandy Springs, the Mayor from City of South Fulton, there's no time -- and there maybe others."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--it's Roswell, Chairman--"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--it's Roswell--"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--it's Roswell, Chairman--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--what, what did I say--"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--Sandy Springs--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--Roswell, sorry. Councilwoman, you have the floor."

**COUNCILWOMAN LEE HILLS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Chairman Pitts and esteemed Board Members, thank you so much for this opportunity to be here today. Lee Hills, Roswell City Council Member. I have just won this position. And being here today is part of the reason that pushed me into running for this position. Our elections are a sacred piece of this country. And I feel like we aren't being represented by Happy Faces. I feel they are incompetent. I represent a lot of people across the north end of Fulton County and certainly, across the entire county who feel the same way. We are not being represented. I ask you, I implore you today to take time and consider not renewing that contract with Happy Faces. I've been working with people across our Fulton County, and the north end particularly, for at least seven months. And we have compiled a pretty substantial roster of people that are willing to work. So, I put that out to you today. I also want to say that we are in the spotlight in this nation. Fulton County starts with two letters that, I'll point out to you, is how they feel, people feel about this county. And I would like for that to be, for us, those two letters, for us. That we are represented by a Body that can actually run these elections legally, clearly, transparently, in a way that we can respect that Body and respect what's going on. So, I implore you to revoke and let's work on our own people. Right now, the Mayor of Roswell is meeting with three other mayors across the north end to talk exactly about this. So, we're on board, we're working together. We want to work with the entire county and I hope that you hear me clearly today. I respect what you do. And I really need your support for all residents of Fulton County. Thank you." (Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Okay. I'm going to say it one more time. The rules do not permit outburst, clapping during public comments. If it continues, the rules allow for us clear the chamber. I don't want to do that. But please observe the rules. Mr. Mayor, you have the floor."

**MAYOR KHALID, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Good morning, everyone. I bring you greetings. My name is Mayor Khalid. I bring you greetings from the City of South Fulton, Atlanta's new twin city. I want to first just to extend a special thanks to Commissioner Pitts and County Manager Dick Anderson for meeting with me. And I'm excited that we will hopefully be able to finally get all of our intergovernmental agreements, after five years, signed and we'll be able to move forward. I do want to just take a moment to talk about redistricting. I won't be long. I know that there are lots of speakers. It can -- representation, I think as we've heard, is very important. It concerns me that at the current time, there are seven members of the County Commission. Five of them live in Atlanta, two of them live in North Fulton, and zero of them live in South Fulton. I have become aware of this 1932 merger agreement that when we were Campbell County and Milton County and Atlanta, there was a promise made that there would always be a representative on the County Commission that lived in the

boundaries of Old Campbell County. And that has not been upheld. So, I understand that there are these redistricting maps, and in some ways, option B or option C might resolve the lack of representation that we have in South Fulton County. However, it is coming at the expense of my own County Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, who was voted into office by the largest voting block of African-American women in the state. I do not want to see the will of those voters, who just sent her in 2020, be undermined. And I don't think that we have to pit residents of South Atlanta and South Fulton County against one another. To me, the most efficient way to resolve this issue would be to reinstate the old commission District 7 that was last held by Bill Edwards. We have a larger -- we have a larger population than we had ten years ago. So that would relieve the burden of representation on the current County Commissioners. I also think that it would be more demographically fair, politically to the political demographics of Fulton County. We have a state delegation who has shown no -- no fear in interfering or inserting themselves into local politics. So, I would ask them that this is a place where they are most needed to make sure that the residents throughout Fulton County have all of the representation that they deserve. I would urge you all to urge them to go to the State Legislature and reinstate that 7th Commission seat. They could do that through local legislation. It will probably pass on a consent agenda without a lot of debate. I think that is a way to make sure that not only the citizens of South Fulton County have the representation that they deserve, but that the entire south end of the county has a balance of representation on this County Commission. So, I urge you to consider that. And thank you all so much for your time. South Fulton forever."

**JULIE ADAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. My name is Julie Adams. The group that speaks to you regularly on election issues, we are experienced poll workers, poll watchers, and people that pay attention to how our elections are run. Fulton is the only known county who uses temporary staff -- staffing. We use them for our early voting, test our voting equipment, process our absentee ballots, courier our ballots, tabulate our ballots. Temporary staffing employees are running the most important part of our elections. We have been told by the SOS observer, Carter Jones, that we are too dependent on temporary staffing. The residents and mayors of our counties -- of our county, have spoken out against temporary staffing to run our elections. Does Fulton County listen to this advice, no. How did Happy Faces perform during our recent Municipal Elections? They didn't respond to many residents that applied to work. The majority did -- did work -- that did work, had to be completely persistent to do so. Then, in the confusion, they -- no one I know worked for -- worked as a temporary, was paid on regular pay dates. None received paycheck stubs to ensure they were paid correctly. One employee was paid more than once with a pay of another poll worker. Five that I know of are still trying to be paid the full amount that they are owed. I haven't spoken to one poll worker that feels like they were paid completely. Any staffing service would be challenged with a lack of clear instructions from Fulton County Elections Department. Mr. Pitts met with some of us yesterday --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**JULIE ADAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "—and said to find him 20 warehouse employees with no job descriptions, dates that they would work, pay rates. If we had a Director of Elections that was better with communications, concerned about transparency and standard operating procedures, and was fiscally responsible, maybe Fulton County would be run well. Thank you."

**JAMES PARRISH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, my name is James Parrish. And I'm speaking in reference of rental assistance for homeless. What must I do? Prior to having COVID-19, after being fully vaccinated, according to my living status? As a result, in being homeless, rental assistance was provided through Fulton County. And I was told by my case worker, Cynthia, while being sheltered at Zaban Paradise Center, after being housed for 90 days, I met all requirements of being placed in a home, but was told by Zaban Paradise Center that there was no more funds available in December of 2021. Within the next week or two, my wife and I was asked to sign a paper to be dismissed from the center for no apparent reason. And all I'm asking is what must I do to be a resident in Fulton County? Thank you."

**MARILYN ZEIGLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, my name is Marilyn Zeigler. And I was coming to speak out today about the rental assistance and the COVID-19 shots. So, let me start out by saying, far as, COVID-19 and being vaccinated and needing someone -- needing to work and no assistance or however, I was asking, what should I do or other people do, far as, work or assistance? With rental assistance, which is basically the same question, it's just a little different, far as, Fulton County sponsoring shelter or however for the system. And I thank you for that. But it's a lot of us not receiving the funds that you all are putting out. And what can you do to make sure that we get the assistance that is actually put out and needed for us? And I'm done."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next speakers: Angie Allison, Sonya Russell-Ofchus, Sandra Burchardt, Maurice Mpayamaguru, and Lucia Frazier."

**ANGIE ALLISON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Angie Allison. I'm here to let you know why I believe renewing the Happy Faces contract is a mistake. I was a poll tech for the company in Fulton County elections in October, November of 2021. In my offer letter, I was paid to be to an -- I was to be paid an overtime rate of 37.50 for every hour worked after 40 hours. I signed the offer letter and returned it as instructed. And then was told after the election that I was not going to be paid overtime. I went to my direct hire, and he said he would look into it for me. I never heard back from him after repeated efforts to reach him. I know of at least 12 or more poll techs that have not gotten paid the correct amount. They claim it is too confusing to figure out how much they are owed, or who were afraid they won't be eligible to work in future elections if they complained. Many of us had to beg for pay stubs that we weren't sure for what hours we were being paid. I was instructed to input my time into the Happy Faces

portal, which I did. But there were a few instances that my hours were changed by someone else after I entered them. I was also informed in the offer letter that I would be paid on the 1st and the 15th, which was not the case, as the payments were sporadic at best. After the elections were over, I requested paycheck stubs or reconciliations for weeks. And when I finally got something, it was vague and didn't match the amounts that were deposited in my account. Others that have the same experiences, and have tried to get resolution. One employee took it upon himself to go down to the office address in person. He found an empty address where the receptionist shared with multiple companies. Working for Happy Faces has been a nightmare. The whole organization seems disorganized. There were times that poll managers and their assistants didn't know what they were doing, and admitted that their training wasn't that great. It is my opinion that this company should not be running something --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**ANGIE ALLISON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- as sensitive as our election system. The fact that they don't pay their people and keep their word is bad enough. I hope that you will consider my situation, and possibly help me resolve the \$500 shortage that I am owed by this company. Thank you very much."

**SONYA RUSSEL-OFCHUS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. I am Sonya Russell-Ofchus, a retired federal agent and former Atlanta police officer. I'm a wife, mother, grandmother, and I own a small business. Today, I join millions of Americans and thousands of Fulton County citizens who are demanding their guaranteed right to vote. I support Commissioner Khadijah's resolution to end voter suppression and passage of voting rights legislation including the John Lewis Bill before Congress. The resolution before you will add Fulton County's powerful voice in getting these bills passed that are stalled in the U.S. Senate. What you do today will impact how we live well into the future. You know, it's hard to believe that we're fighting, more than 50 years later, the same battle during which so many bled and died, the fight for equal access to the ballot. Without the right to vote, nothing else matters. Voting rights is a moral issue. I will stand on the right side of history. Where will you stand? Stop this Jim Crow 2.0 now and urge our Congress to do the same. I'm Sonya Russell-Ofchus. Thank you and God bless you all."

**SANDRA BURCHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Sandra Burchardt. I live in Fulton County. I love truth, it gives me strength, it brings me joy. Why is Fulton County the only county that pays outside temporary staffing agencies to run their elections? You did it before and the plan is to do it again. Why pay Happy Face for over \$7 million? I have 15 postcards addressed to the mayors in the 15 cities located in Fulton County to ask them that same question. Why go outside for staffing? Do the mayors have any idea how much more you are planning to charge them to have the same outsiders run and control their elections? Please ask Forsyth County what they do. They encourage their local community citizens to take part in all levels of their election."

How many people are really needed to conduct their elections? Why pay -- not pay community citizens in our county to be more involved in all levels. When truth, like oxygen, fills a room, we are all better off. Thank you."

**MAURICE MPAYAMAGURU, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Commission, I appreciate the time to speak. I echo what Sonya said, that the right to vote is so important. But the right to vote is not enough. The process that allows individuals to vote is just as important. And the people that we hire to work that process, is so important. Last year, I worked early voting under Happy Faces. And I have to say that it is -- it was shocking for me. I've worked with many contract companies before and they were so ill-equipped to do the simple things that they're tasked to do. My experience, just because I don't have much time, very briefly, really from the onset, I never, as an example, never got the chance to do orientation when I was hired. I wasn't really fully an employee even on the day of the election beginning. So, all of this was just scrambling to get things done. Training, the way I got into training, was a text message the night before with no information about where to even go for the training. This is the kind of stuff that I had to deal with. And it wasn't me in isolation. I spoke with other employees that I worked with and we all had the same experience. Pay not be getting divvied out on time --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**MAURICE MPAYAMAGURU, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- time sheets, a record of what we were supposed to have been paid, as it was said other speakers, not being given. I really think you need to reconsider renewing the contract with Happy Faces because they really, truly are not equipped to be doing this job. Thank you."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Lucia Frazier. So, temp agency screams, hey, I need to push responsibility for screw ups to someone else, that's how people see this. So that's how the public is going to continue to see it if we keep using them. You can perform a lot of evasive maneuvers with temp agencies. The public knows that. Ideally, it might be a financial benefit in some cases, but not in this case. There's no financial benefit. You're miss -- the staff is misrepresenting the picture. It's not a community model. Only on Election Day do they reach out. Let's reach out for all the roles throughout the year. Forsyth County has 16 people, full and part time, working to serve 172,000 voters. We have about 500,000 in 2020. So that translates to 50 people. That's all we need Fulton -- full and part time, in Fulton County to do this. Call it a hundred if you want to. We don't need 800. You said you have 800 every six months that you have to renew. That doesn't make sense to me, okay. So, the people that work through Happy Faces, they can still work through Fulton County. I mean, same people can come through this process. And you're doing a disservice by cutting their pay, using layers and layers of energy -- of temp agencies. And what do they give us for what we pay them? Hiring? No, they don't hire because a lot of people reaching out, and they're not reaching back. There's no retention rate. They start with 10,000 and I hear it goes down to 2,000, okay. So, they don't reach out to the people sign who

up, who are actually interested. Pay workers? They don't do that either. A lot of people sitting here are not paid. Save the county money? No, they use five people for every one-person job. So, they're not using interested people who'll actually do the job, right--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--so, if you have any fears of state takeover, that's all state takeover material right there. So please consider not using them anymore. Thanks."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next speakers, please come down: Aimee Uphues, Joyce Cross, Bridget Thorne, Nia Corsten, and Matt Rowenzcak."

**AIMEE UPHUES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Aimee. We are not going away. In fact, the longer this goes on, the more evidence, investigations, and reports that come out indicating the numerous abnormalities and fraud that occurred in the 2020 election. We are a constitutional republic. And we hold elections to choose our trustees. You work for us, and it's time you start acting like it, instead of calling us names, and making divisive, derogatory statements about your constituents. Each one of you took an oath to uphold both the US and the state of Georgia Constitution. However, you continue to act with blatant disregard to that oath. The question today is, which of you will do what is right and honorable? Which ones of you will have a claim filed against your surety bond? You overturned the firing of Richard Barron, who continues not to be fit or qualified as Elections Director. You extended his contract into April. You hired Dominic Aloma, a former Dominion worker, who's a Nigerian national, not a US citizen, to run the Registrations and Elections IT Department. You couldn't find a qualified US citizen for this job? And once again, Happy Faces Temp Agency is up for renewal. Have you not heard us? Our election workers should be the local stakeholders in the community where the election is held, like it used to be, not a paid temp agency with ties to a candidate on the ballot. The proposed '22 budget for Registrations and Elections has a \$21 million increase. Passing the current elections budget is a dereliction of your fiduciary responsibility. Chairman Pitts has publicly stated, we will in all likelihood deliver Warnock in '22. Is that what the \$21 million increase is for --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**AIMEE UPHUES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to deliver Warnock, to deliver Stacey Abrams? Do not renew the contract with Happy Faces Temp Agency to run our elections. And find another Elections Director and IT Manager."

**JOYCE CROSS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Joyce Cross. The world is watching Fulton County. They're watching your vote, how you handle this, whether you are a person who handles it with power, like you have, or whether you really are going to handle it like leaders, leaders of the voters of Fulton County. I oppose the Happy Face contract

because a gubernatorial candidate has financial ties to Happy Faces. It's pretty clear that that is a conflict of interest. It's a rare time indeed, when you have so many people, more than 50 people, who came out on a cold January morning during a pandemic to oppose this contract. I want to see the county managed in a better way. This really is a kind of a disgusting display that we even have to come here for something that is so obvious and is being handled so poorly. Please do not renew the contract of Happy Faces. Why don't you, if you're a supporter of Stacey Abrams, why don't you do it for the perception that it shows for her? If she should win the gubernatorial election, what's it going to look like for her that the people that handled the votes were associated with her? It gives a taint to the very election that she is involved in. Please, please consider what this looks like to the world. Thank you."

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, I'm Bridget Thorne. The State Auditor, Carter Jones Report, recommended not using temp workers, but instead, using stakeholders from the community. Surprising, at the last BRE Meeting, one of the Board Members didn't even know what the Carter Jones Report was; shocking and unbelievable. That is justification in itself for the state to come and takeover and running of Fulton County elections. So why, why are you continuing to use temp workers? Richard Barron doesn't know who these temp agencies hire. It's an immensely important process. Shouldn't we know who Michael Harriston and Tony Dozier hire? They are handling our votes. Today, you will hear that 77 percent of the workers are from the community. These workers get to work one day, and one job, while temps get to do everything else, tabulate and process our votes. Let's be hypothetical. A temp worker in English Street Warehouse making \$15 an hour is approached by someone offering \$10 for every blank, absentee ballot he can get them. They see a package of 400 blank ballots that belonged to JC-13, ha, instant \$4,000--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--okay, fifteen seconds--"

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--the manager at JC-13 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--receives 400 photocopy, sample ballots with a cover sheet and a rubber band around them. She sends a clerk to the English Street Warehouse to find her missing ballots. The clerk's told, they don't have any absentee ballots here. The manager reports her missing ballots missing and she is fired. Months later, it's reported that the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--all right, thank you. Thank you."

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- Deputy Director, Dwight Brower--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--Ms. Thorne, thank you--"

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- ordered a million plus absentee ballots --"



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--thank you, thank you--"

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--I don't think I got my time--"

(Assembly disgruntled.)

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

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I did not get my time."

(Assembly disgruntled.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Thank you. What?"

(Assembly disgruntled.)

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, she didn't get her full time--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--how much time did she get--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--the clock was off, so she does get the rest of her time--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--she got, what, 30 seconds? 30 more seconds."

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Dwight Brower ordered a million plus absentee ballots, stub-less, for just in case they had to use the machines. After the election, they shredded these \$300,000 worth of blank ballots. Where are -- were these ballots on Election Day? Where were the 400 JC-13 ballots? Could this have happened? Absolutely. Under the current temp worker's system, our system is unsecure. We need a community worker system like every other county in Georgia. You see, your use of temp agency, allows anyone to slip in and out of our election process undetected. We want a system that is easy to cheat, easy to vote, and hard to cheat? We currently have a system that is easy to cheat and hard to detect. Thank you. Appreciate the time."

**NIA CORSTEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, I'm Nia Corsten. Does anyone else feel like it is Groundhog Day? Because once again, the contract extension for Happy Faces is on your Agenda, and once again, I am imploring this Commission to not renew their contract. Last year, Seven Hills Strategies conducted a nonpartisan, comprehensive audit of Fulton County's 2020 General and Runoff Election. For time constraint, the following is a summary of some of their factual findings. Fulton has learned heavily -- has relied heavily upon an army of temporary workers to fulfill the litany of task that must be completed from logistics to processing ballots, to scanning final results. It would perhaps be best to offset this number of workers with stakeholders from the community who would like to get involved in the electoral process. By conducting multiple interviews with temporary staff, it was made clear that some have actually no interest in participating in this immensely important process. I am one of those stakeholders that is interested in being more involved in the process."

As a poll worker and assistant manager in my own precinct, I am limited to only working the day of election. Why is that? Why does this out-of-county, out-of-precinct, and out-of-interest temp agency allowed to work all 19 days of early voting? Fulton County is the only county that hires a temp agency to man their election. Again, why is that? Why is every other county in the state of Georgia capable of running their own elections? Chairman Pitts has stated that the county doesn't have the manpower to run their elections. Why does Fulton County have more early voting combined locations than Cobb, Gwinnett, and DeKalb counties combined? Their total combined population is two and a half times that of Fulton County. Not only are we capable of manning our county elections, but we can take a cue and save the county millions of dollars. It is solely the responsibility of Fulton County --"

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

**NIA COLSTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to approve and deploy polling facilities. Why not create ad campaigns like, Get Out the Vote campaigns to effectively fill these positions with qualified and eager citizens who live in these districts. It is not that complicated. The current system discourages participation and it's merely an expensive program to fund Happy Faces. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results."

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

**NIA COLSTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And sometimes [moved away from mic/Inaudible.]--"

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners, my name is Matt Rowenczak. I remembered to say my name this time. I wanted to talk to you this morning about Happy Faces. I could share, just as others have of my personal experience for two minutes of how poor it was. Whether it was extreme lack of communication, pay issues, I could go on. But what I want to share with you today is that there is a solution. This isn't a difficult issue to solve. In your Agenda packet today, the staffing model that was presented to the Board of Elections last week, lists that there is 2795, so almost 2800 workers are -- work on Election Day that are hired by the county. That's 77 percent of the election staff, regardless of how they're hired. That's one day, 255 precincts. That's a lot. But for early voting, when there is 30 precincts, that's 12 percent of the number of precincts that are utilized on Election Day. You're telling me that you can't use the same model that you're using on Election Day for early voting? Very easy. But instead, we're paying almost \$8 million a year to staff, primarily just early voting for, you know, 12 percent of the precincts that are represented, as compared to Election Day. So -- and the last comment I want to make is, Mr. Arrington, who is not present, is my Commissioner. This isn't just North Fulton residents. These are people from all across the county. And the words that he used in the last Mayor's

Meeting, all these people that come down here that have real experience and have real concerns and issues, and he said it's irrelevant."

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

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "We're irrelevant. And he's not present right now. So, I can promise you, I won't forget next time he's up for election. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next speakers, please come down. Maggie Goldman, Candy Muldowney, Kevin Muldowney, Michelle Sarkisian and Susan Ortiz-Villajos."

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Maggie Goldman and I am John's Creek District 1. I forgot to fill out two different cards for the two hearings today. So unfortunately, I'm going to have to talk about redistricting now because I asked to fill out a second card and they did not let me. So anyway, I am in favor of Map A. I think Map C and B flip both 5 and 6 Commissioners. And I think, if you were going to do that, you would want to make sure that you have a buy in from both of those Commissioners. And so, I think it would be the most respectful thing to do to go with Map A. It does clean up the map. I mean, the map is a little funky, where people live. But we've lived like -- you see the state maps, we can have funky maps. We can have funky maps. So, I'm here in favor of Map A. I'd also like to see if we can start doing the 2023 budget process before we approve the millage rate this year. So last year, when I said that we didn't have a full budget when we approved the millage rate, and Commissioner Ellis said, well, we do have a budget; we have most of the budget. But you are approving today, the actual 2022 budget. And you approved the millage rate to fund that budget in August. So, I'd really like you to think about finalizing the 2023 budget before you set the millage rate. There was, what, \$71 million worth of requests from the departments that were unfunded. It doesn't seem like there was a lot of time spent to analyze if any of those things were worth spending. If you needed to increase the millage rate and you wanted to fund those things, you would not have been able to do it. So, I really would consider that you move the budget process up. Thank you."

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

**CANDY MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Candy Muldowney. I live in Fulton County District 2. My comment today is regarding Happy Faces. I urge you to not approve the contract extension of Happy Faces. There is a clear conflict of interest when a candidate running for Governor, i.e., Stacey Abrams, has financial ties to this agency. How does Happy Faces vet their people? Do they have background checks? Are they citizens? We need a community-based model, using citizens from our own county. Fulton County hired and trained 3000 plus civic-minded citizens for the last election. Extend to them the opportunity to work early voting and you'll be surprised at the seasonal workforce you already have available. I would like to add that the county training was felt to be superior to that of Happy Faces. The citizens of Fulton County's

trust for their elected officials, has been broken. After reading the Carter Jones Report, the state audit report, and numerous articles, the many inconsistencies and unexplained behaviors, still have not been answered. We simply want honest and fair American elections. If you hire Happy Faces again, our confidence in you will be broken. Thank you."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Kevin Muldowney from Milton, Georgia. There was a disingenuous argument made that Happy Faces temp workers make up only about 20 percent of election workers. This may be true as far as headcount is concerned. But those temporary employees work, by far, the vast majority of the hours in the election process. Over the 19 days of early voting, there are far more man hours worked by temp workers compared to the civic-minded citizens hired by Fulton to work on Election Day only. This is more than evident by the fact that Happy Faces was paid seven and a half -- seven -- over \$7 million for staffing versus the Election Day citizenry, who collected only \$600,000. The temp workers also perform all the important tasks. Some of the very procedural tasks that Carter Jones Report identified as real problem areas, warehouse procedures, logistics, poll tax, absentee ballot harvesting -- sorry, I mean, counting, compliance, voter roll verification, et cetera. While civic-minded citizenry are only eligible to work as Election Day poll workers. Another inaccurate claim, this one was made by Patrick Eskridge at the most recent BOE meeting is that it will cost an additional 4 million plus in HR cost to hire seasonal Fulton residents to fill the positions now performed by temp workers. Fulton currently hires and trains almost 3,000 workers for Election Day. It seems the hiring procedures, quality training, and available worker pool are already in place. We would also see savings in payroll by paying the seasonal workers directly --"

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

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and not having a temp agency bill up to 50 percent more as a middle man. Our overwhelming reliance on temp worker, exemplifies Richard Barron's failed management. We need to send both Director Barron and Happy Faces, or any temp staffing agency packing and tap the existing seasonal worker pool we already have and employ for Election Day. Thank you very much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. All right. Before the next speaker begins, I'm reminded that our rules require that if you're in this building, you must wear a mask. So, if you have your mask with you, please put your mask on, thank you."

**MICHELLE SARKISIAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, my name is Michelle Sarkisian, and I'm a Fulton County resident and voter. Two weeks ago, I asked you questions that many across Fulton County, north and south, are asking. When would the incompetence and negligence end? It may not have been willful bad actions on your part. You may have been misled by Barron and others you outsourced to. But the

audit report, as well as signed affidavits and testimonies you are now privy to, leave you no excuse any longer. You know there were extensive and egregious errors. You are in charge and are expected to lead and apply what you have learned and know. Repeating mistakes will not be tolerated. Up until now, you chose to outsource your role, your reputations, and your brains to Richard Barron, who lost public confidence and was gone, only to be renewed by you. You outsourced poll working to a poor-performing temp agency, Happy Faces. Why are we the only county to do such extensive outsourcing? You were misled that only Happy Faces could do the job, even though they were not even from Fulton County. They do not represent or reflect the county. In fact, your current Fulton County citizens were only allowed to work on Election Day, one day, that's it. But look around, how many in here would be willing to work the polls. Raise your hands or stand up. The Carter Jones Audit was full of examples of poor and sloppy Happy Faces and oversight performance, chain of custody violations, and worse. Yet, you are here today, actually considering outsourcing to them again. Commissioners, I suspect many of you have future career or political aspirations. You're not serving constituents when you outsource to an unqualified and very possibly tainted Happy Faces temp agency named in a current lawsuit and financially tied to current candidate, Stacey Abrams."

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

**MICHELLE SARKISIAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Do you want that impropriety tied to your reputation as a professional? I wouldn't take the risk, no matter how great the pressure was. We are noting how you vote, behave, speak up, and act. No Happy Faces. Mayors don't want them. We don't want them. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You've got three more, four more."

**SUSAN ORTIZ-VILLAJOS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Susan Ortiz-Villajos and I want to again, urge you to not renew the contract with Happy Faces. My experience as a poll worker was at the recent nonpartisan municipal elections. I'm not talking about 2020. I have several reasons not to renew. Number one, I applied as a poll tech, ballot counter, runner, and as an early voting clerk and never got called for any position. When I did finally get the job as an early voting clerk, I worked with people who said they didn't really want to work, but they were called because they worked in previous elections. And they were begged to come back by Happy Faces. It seems Happy Faces wants to keep their close circle of employees. One employee drove all the way from Athens, Georgia to Alpharetta daily for three weeks of early voting. Number two, there was poor training coordinated by Happy Faces with hours spent on the clock waiting to get login credentials. For Election Day, the county had an excellent trainer on the other hand, Brandy Neighbor. Number three, I got a one-day notice of where and when the training would take place, and no choices in locations or dates like I did for Election Day training. Is Happy Faces trying to make this job unattractive for us? Is this why you go from 10,000 applicants down to 2,000 as people drop out? Number four,

everyone's paycheck in my precinct was messed up. And when one of us got Happy Faces payroll department on the phone, all of us poll workers passed the phone around to straighten out our issues. We can also save money on elections by not buying unnecessary new equipment. In Alpharetta, we were in a room overcrowded with equipment."

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

**SUSAN ORTIZ-VILLAJOS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Redistribute the equipment where needed in the county. My fellow poll worker and I decided to share a poll pad during early voting, rather than each set up our own because there simply was no room on our tables. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last three speakers: Tamara Seymour, Kristie Lenz, Attorney Savannah Potter."

**TAMARA SEYMOUR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. I'm Tamara Seymour. And I join the many others here today to urge the Board not to renew the Happy Faces contract. And here are just some more reasons why they should not. The political candidate on the ballot, we've heard it, Stacey Abrams has financial ties to Happy Faces. That's a direct conflict of interest. Happy Faces is named as a defendant in the Chile Lawsuit. Their employees are named for illegally processing absentee ballots by rescanning them. We also know that two Fulton elections people who were fired for illegally shredding voter registration files, are former Happy Faces employees. To our knowledge, the Fulton County is the only county in the state using a temp agency rather than people in the community for our elections. Residents are only hired to be poll workers on Election Day. All other positions for Election Day and all positions for early voting are filled by temp agencies. The county already trains thousands of poll workers for Election Day. And these people should be the first ones given the opportunity to work in other areas of our election. I'm asking you today, to do the right thing. Terminate the Happy Faces contract. Don't hire any other temp agencies, but use the community and hire the residents directly for early voting, just like you do for Election Day. Thank you."

**KRISTIE LENZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, I'm Kristie Lenz and I'm the President of the Inman Park Neighborhood Association. City of Atlanta neighborhoods are stronger when we are together. Inman Park is a historical in-town neighborhood. We strongly believe, option A is the best for redistricting. Inman Park and other city of Atlanta neighborhoods share common issues with our city of Atlanta neighbors. We strongly believe, option A is the only option that cohesively puts city of Atlanta neighborhoods and communities together. Option A keeps us united and focused on areas where we can work together as members of District 4. So, Inman Park would like to encourage members to vote for option A. Keep Atlanta united. Thank you."

**SAVANNAH POTTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, I am Savannah Potter, past president of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers and former Administrative Law Judge. I rise today to salute former United States Senator Johnny Isakson of Georgia, whose memorial service was held on January the 6th, 2022, at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. I attended the service because Senator Isakson's office was constantly called upon me when I was representing disabled veterans before the United States Court of Appeals for veterans claims in Washington DC. Senator Isakson served as the long-term Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in Washington DC. And he held field hearings in Georgia to help veterans. As you know, Georgia has over 700,000 veterans including 95,000 women veterans. Fulton County, by the way, according to the Georgia Department of Veteran Services, has the largest population of veterans in any county in the state of Georgia. Senator Isakson's office worked constantly to assist veterans. And for that reason, I attended his service. In addition to the fact that I am the mother of a veteran of ten years of the United States Army Medical Command, as well as the daughter of a veteran of World War II. Ladies and gentlemen, Fulton County needs your continuous service, your continuous attention to the plight of veterans in the state of Georgia. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have 13 speakers on Zoom."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thirteen on Zoom. We've exhausted the 45 minutes. So, what's your pleasure? Hear them?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "At your discretion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. We need to revisit our rule. But let's hear them."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak will be Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Greetings, Commissioners and staff and greetings to you citizens of Fulton County. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. I continue the saga of the Commission on Elder Affairs, COEA. But my concern is more about the managerial puppeteers who influence the legality and effectiveness of the COE Board of Directors, seven of whom are appointed by Fulton County Commissioners. Why haven't COEA Board members been given a copy of the Georgia Open Meetings Act? So, they will know that state law requires the publishing of summary minutes and requires the recording of how each member votes on each key issue. Why wasn't the county budget on the COEA agenda for discussion at the COEA meeting last Friday, the second Friday of the month? Why weren't the 2022 officers of COEA given the oath of office and sworn in by a County Commissioner or any other person of import? Why has the Council on Aging north position been vacant for more than a year? And why has the Council on Aging east position been vacant for half a year? Come on, you senior services puppeteers. Get your act together."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next, let's go."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak will be Nigina Jemmott."

**NGINA JEMMOTT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Dr. Ngina Jemmott and I've been a resident of Fulton County for 10 years. I appreciate the members of the Board of Commissioners making time during this meeting for public comments. The Municipal Elections that took place in 2021 demonstrated the strong work of the Board of Elections. We need to make sure that the Board of Elections has the time to implement changes and the space to continue to do their job of improving access to the ballot box for all Fulton voters. I encourage the Board of Commissioners to support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources they need to adequately staff this year's elections. While the Board of Elections thoroughly searches for a new Elections Director, as they should, we can also be confident that we are ensuring a smooth transition that would allow the search to continue without any negative impact on access to voting. Thank you for your time."

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

**OPAL BAKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yes. Good morning. My name is Opal Baker. I'm a resident of Fulton County and I won't belabor the issue. I just want to endorse what the previous speaker just spoke about. The Fulton County Board of Commissioners must provide adequate support and efficient staff to our County Board of Elections in their continuing effort to improve and provide access to fair and free elections for all qualified voters of Fulton County. Their amazing efforts to provide access to free and fair elections during a global pandemic over the past two years, have shown us what that it possible to make the ballot box accessible to all qualified Fulton County voters. The Board should build on this success. And to do so, the Board of Elections needs time, staff, resources, and support from their Body to accomplish all of this for all elections. As a citizen of the state of Georgia and a resident of Fulton County, I call on the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to throw your support behind County Elections Board and help make an already difficult job easier to accomplish. Help them make it easier for all qualified residents to vote in Fulton County. Provide the funds, the staff, the resources they need to do their jobs efficiently and effectively. Isn't that what we all want? Thank you for your time."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Sheila Hamilton. Sheila Hamilton? Okay. Sheila Hamilton? Okay. So, we'll do; we'll go to the next one. The next person to speak will be Bernette Narro."

**BERNADETTE NARRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, I'm here."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "You may speak."



**BERNETTE NARRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. I was actually attending today because I wanted to encourage you all to fund PAD. I've had really, really great experiences utilizing PAD. I saw a person on the side of the road who I noticed was laying with nothing on, on the bottom half, seemed to be in distress. I called PAD and they were so professional, they were so kind and efficient. They followed up with me the next day to say that they had provided that person with a number of resources, clothing, and offered to get them in treatment, offered to get them rehoused. And they were going to continue their relationship with that person, over time, to try to get them the help they need. And I just think that this is exactly what we need in Atlanta. And hopefully, it maybe even expanded throughout the county and beyond. So, I would just really urge you to fully fund PAD as much as you can so that they can do the good work for the human dignity of the people in our county. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak will be Michelle Millhoff. Michelle Millhoff? Okay. While we're waiting on her, the next person to speak will be Amanda Melvin."

**MICHELLE MILLHOF, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, this is Michelle Millhof, can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes we can."

**MICHELLE MILLHOF, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yes. I just want to support what other speakers have said today about not continuing the contract with Happy Faces. It, when you look at the unabridged Carter Report and what others have said, the people that have actually worked under them, it is -- it is totally unfair to me, the people of Fulton County to continue this contract to waste money, when there are people in the community who are more than willing to step up and do the job. We really need to take control of our elections for election integrity. And I support not continuing the Happy Faces contract. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "All right. Amanda Melvin? Okay. With that being said, the next person to speak is Chrisseda Columbus."

**CHRISSEDA COLUMBUS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, my name is Chrisseda Columbus and I'm a citizen of Fulton County. I want to first thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns related to the upcoming elections, as well as my appreciation for the hard work that was demonstrated by the Board of Elections and every person that participated in last year's Municipal Election. I voted by mail last year and it was very convenient and safe. My hopes for the upcoming election is that the Board of Elections has the time and space to continue to do their job, improving access to the ballot box, implementing changes, expand access as best they can for all Fulton County voters and receive the support for the Commission -- from the Commissioners

by giving them the resources they need to sufficiently staff this year's election. Finally, as the Board of Elections of -- finally, as the Board of Elections search for a new Election Director, it is very important that this transition is smooth, which will allow the continued search and eliminate any negative impact to voter's access. Once again, I want to thank everyone for your time as well as your consideration."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Clara Green. The next person to speak is Clara Green. Okay. We're going to move on. The next person to speak is - No Happy Faces. (Assembly laughing.) Okay. We're going to move on. The next person to speak is Stacy Piper. Okay. We're going to -- we'll move on. The next person to speak will be Veronica Roman. Okay. The last person to speak will be the guest at 0234. Okay. I've called everyone that needs to be called and that's what we have so far. That concludes my Zoom comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anyone at the --"

**LINDA DOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, can you hear me?"

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Pardon me. There is one that's coming on now as the last one that I mentioned. Go ahead, I'm sorry."

**LINDA DOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yes, that was me. Hi, good morning. My name is Linda Downey and I've been an Atlanta resident since 2009. And I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. The fact that I'm here today on a Wednesday morning, a work day for me, is a testament of how concerned I am for -- and I care about our democracy. And instead of some of the comments I heard earlier, I'd just like to share a little human element with you. I have a 28-year-old son who is on the autism spectrum. He lives with me and he doesn't drive. He works in food service and he relies on public transportation. On Election Day, which is always a Tuesday, he'll work a shift that begins at 6:30 in the morning. The length of his workday is unpredictable. So, making it to his designated polling location on Election Day can be challenging. That is why accessible early voting and absentee voting are so crucial for citizens like my son, Martin. He pays taxes and his voice deserves to be heard. The same goes for my niece, who is a registered nurse at one of our in-town hospitals. So, on a Tuesday, she works the 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. shift. So, you can see, her only option is to vote early or vote using absentee ballot. And I just wanted to close by saying, did you know that public schooling originated in this country in the mid-17th century? Leaders in Boston at that time, realized the benefit to society and ultimately, to our democracy, a free and compulsory public education. So, public education needed to be available to every child in this nation. So, there's a reason for these yellow school buses that we see on the road every day and for truancy officers. So, in this same line of thought, if we are not making every effort to make sure our citizens --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**LINDA DOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- can cast a vote, then we will have failed as a democracy. Thank you for letting me speak."

**RICO DOLLAR, MODERATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And that concludes the Zoom comments for Public Comments."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have 15 email comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Fifteen email comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**REGINA WALLER:** "The first email comment is by Gwendolyn Davis, on behalf of the—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—just a minute, just a minute—"

**REGINA WALLER:** "-- South Fulton Human Services Coalition. This statement is offered in support of District 6 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--excuse me, excuse me, excuse me--."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--Chairman Pitts, and here again and my earlier comment, I want to stand by it. In the essence of time and those are emailed, can those be sent to the Commissioners and read them at the end?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No objections? Any -- or any objections?" "All right. Hearing no objections, we'll follow that course, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. All right, next item, Madam Clerk."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of personal privilege."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I just wonder where were all these people in 2016 when Richard Barron and Happy Faces were used for the election of Donald Trump. It seems that the outcome is the reason that these people are here. They don't like the outcome. (Assembly disgruntled.) Richard Barron and Happy Faces -- Richard Barron and Happy Faces -- Richard Barron and Happy Faces were in place when Donald Trump was elected."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right." (Gavel to order.)

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "They were in place when Donald Trump was elected. So now -- so now you want to replace them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Just a minute. Just a minute, now. I said earlier --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I make a motion that we resend the 2016 Presidential Elections of Donald Trump because of Happy Faces and Richard Barron."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That's it, just a minute."

**ASSEMBLY PERSON:** "You walked out."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I walked out in protest of the big lie."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute." (Gavel to order.)

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I walked out in protest of the big lie."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I do not believe in the big lie. And I'm not going to support it in any way."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm not going to give it any oxygen."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Arrington, the Chair -- the Chairman has the floor."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute, all right. Captain Schierle, I've said, we will clear the chamber if we do not maintain order and decorum, and I'm not joking. Continue Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 5 under Public Hearings, **22-0046**, Public Hearing for the 2022 Redistricting."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. How many have signed up to speak on redistricting?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are there no cards for redistricting?"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "They've already spoken."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "They already spoke."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, is there anyone here who has -- who was here to speak on redistricting? Anyone here to speak on redistricting? Well, let me open the public

hearing. This is a public hearing on redistricting. We've allocated up to 15 or 20 minutes for this hearing. As background, redistricting is required every ten years after the completion of the Census. In a later agenda item, the Board of Commissioners will vote to choose one of the maps presented and recommend it to the General Assembly. Those maps were posted on the Fulton County website. And I'm told that there were three of them. Now at this time, I'll recognize any speakers who are here. And the speakers will have up to two minutes. Now, anyone here, Public Hearing on the redistricting is now open. Anyone here to speak on redistricting."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman Pitts, just as a reminder, we may have some that were -- may have been emailed in. So, Chairman, would you please double check to make sure that if we have any about redistricting that was emailed in that should be appropriate to be read at this time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Ms. Waller?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Do they have to sign up, or can they just come down and speak?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, they should have signed up, but no one signed up to speak on redistricting. But I asked, is there anyone present now whose here to speak on redistricting. And no one --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--I'm not sure if it was clear that there were two speaker cards based on what some of the comments were. So that's the reason for my question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So what are you saying?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "I just want to invite people to come and speak if they're here on this topic. If they did not sign up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I asked it three times. Is there anyone here who wants to speak on redistricting? Come on Ma'am, you have two minutes. And ask the -- ask if there are any speaker cards regarding redistricting. Yes, ma'am. Give us your name and --"

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, I'm Bridget Thorne. I'm from District 1. And just looking over the maps, it seems like Map A and Map C gerrymander to try to get just little sections and pockets within a district. And they just seem not continuous. And I think that it would be great if we could keep areas where your neighbors are all in the same district. We can all be represented by the same person. It seems unfair if one neighborhood, one part of the neighborhood is in District 1, and then the other part is in District 2. That's all I'd like say. Thank you."

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

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Appreciate the time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anyone else? Anyone else to speak on redistricting? Any speaker cards on redistricting?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Didn't have any."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Didn't have any. Well, that will conclude the Public Hearing on Redistricting."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, once again, can we please check to see if there was anyone -- speaker in the e-mailed--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--email, I'm sorry, emails. Any emails?"

**REGINA WALLKER:** "Sir, I have checked. There were none in the email comments that I have received."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. No one else here? No emails? Thank you. That will conclude the Public Hearing on Redistricting. Continue Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **22-0047**: Presentation of COVID-19 Operational Response update."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. Just -- I would like to put on the table, a motion to reconsider the Agenda. Because we know, many times our COVID updates have stretched a significant amount of time. And it is important that we address the budget today. And I would like to -- I would move to request to reconsider the agenda and move 22-005 -- 0050, Approval of the '22 Final Adopted Budget up to -- up to hear that right now, so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion on the floor is a proper motion to reconsider the Agenda to move up the budget discussion as the next item. Motion by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Any questions? All right. Let's vote, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. Let's take a couple minutes to -- Madam CFO, are you ready? All right. You have about two minutes to get ready. All right. Madam CFO, are you ready?"

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We're on item **22-0050**?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have a formal presentation --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Hold on, hold on. All right. The budget is before us. Go ahead, Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have a formal presentation for the Board today. We are at that point in the process where the Board is free to make any changes to what has been presented to you. On yesterday, we did provide a few minor modifications. We had a recommendation for an increase to the District 4 Commission budget to cover the costs associated with the additional compensation earned for completing the ACCG Professional Certification Program. That would include both back pay to the point that the certification was completed as well as the forward pay for the remainder of this year. We had one change to the new positions list, which was to provide a new classification for the Director of Economic Development. And we had one change to the AML list, which was to add the hardware extended warranty for the Dominion voting system to the AML list. There was no funding impact for that item. It was simply to get the spending authority for the warranty for all of the voting equipment on the AML list. So those were the changes that were presented to the Board yesterday."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So any impact with respect to -- well, with respect to the budget that's before us? Were you able to accomplish those items within --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The only impact would be the additional resources for the Commission District 4 salary budget, which we would pull from the reserve that we had set aside, the seven and a half million reserve."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So what's the dollar value of that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It was about \$8200."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So of the 7 million, so we're going to reduce that by, what, 8 point -- 80 -- what did you say?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "\$8,200."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "\$8,200, okay. Anything else? Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Oh, was that your -- District 4, are you 4? Okay, go ahead. Go ahead, Commissioner Hall, you still have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for that correction in the budget to add that \$8200. I also want to -- just looking at the last document that we received at the previous Board of Commissioners Meeting. I just want to go over that quickly because I noticed that we received a revised one dated January 19th, 2022. Oh, there it is, okay. And I see where, you know, all the question marks have amounts now and everything. And we even have the amount for the GRAMMY Museum. But I recall Commissioner Hausmann questioning Brad Olecki about the amount. And the fact that it initially started at \$5 million, and then went down to \$3 million. And so my question on that is, should we not just go ahead and put the \$5 million, because we now that that was the original amount. And his response to Commissioner Hausmann was that, 'Well, I brought it down to an amount that I thought would definitely get approved.' But as Commissioner Hausmann stated to him, we need to know the actual amount that you need to do whatever is need -- is necessary. And also, she asked for a breakdown of all what the money was being used for. And I haven't seen anything. So I'd like to know, has -- have you received anything, Mr. County Manager or Madam CFO or Commission Hausmann, even, because you actually made that request?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes. He sent an 85-page thumb drive to everyone's office, I believe."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "85 pages?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yeah. It's a thumb drive with 85 pages of information about the project and the study and the finances and everything."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. I didn't see the 85-page document. Mr. Chairman just said he didn't either. Commissioner Hausmann, what was the bottom-line figure, what did -- was it 5 million or 3 million?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "It's 3 million, is what he said."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It's still 3 million, okay. All right. And so the other thing is, I see the HBCU Museum one here. I would -- Mr. Chair, I'd like to also offer that \$150,000 go to the Black College Hall of Fame for students that are trying to go to college or are in college. This is something that we need for our youth in the community and especially with the challenges that they're facing with the pandemic and just the ability to even go to class."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** (Off of the mic.) "That's it?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, 150,000 for them. And it was brought to my attention at my planning meeting that the Library has the Best Buy Tech -- Team Tech Center."



However, Best Buy did not consider the fact that the Library likes to be mobile. And the equipment that was purchased cannot be removed whatsoever. So it was told to me that they need mobile equipment, a mobile music studio and podcast system. And that will cost about \$7500 to ensure that they have the proper equipment to actually take around. So I'd like to add that for the Central -- for all the libraries. The employee named, Kevin is actually the manager over the Best Buy Team Tech Center. And you can check with him on that, he has more details. So 7500 for the Central Library, and that's it. Everything else is on the list and I'm so proud of that. The only thing, Mr. Chair, I would say is, I don't see is some -- is money for homelessness. I know that with COVID-19, you heard two constituents come up here today speaking on the Rental Assistance Program that we had, we're administering from Fulton County and how their funding is not getting to them. And so -- and recently, I've been having my phone, from a few days ago, there was an article saying how the funding is not getting to people in time. And literally, we're creating a whole new population of homeless. And so, in order for our -- oh, thank you. In order for our constituents to be helped, there are many residents that are being evicted because the Rental Assistance Program is not releasing the funding fast enough to keep them off the street. So I think we need to put some money, extra money in the budget to address homelessness because there is a growing problem in Fulton County. And so, I would offer that we at least put about 500,000 toward our Community Development Department for the Homeless Division to address these new needs. And I also want to just ask for some input on how our Rental Assistance Program is going because of this funding issue that's happening. I mean, should I say, disbursement of funding, Dr. Roshell, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Address that, Dr. Roshell."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Good morning, Pamela Roshell, Chief Operating Officer for Health and Human Services and Public Works. Commissioner Hall, the Fulton County program has exhausted all of their ERAP 1 funding, \$16 million, and all of their ERAP 2 funding, approximately \$38 million. The Board of Commissioners generously approved an additional \$4 million from ARPA funding. That funding, as of today, has also been exhausted. We are hopeful that we will receive the \$25 million reallocation from the state of Georgia. We received notification from Treasury that the reallocation was approved. But as of today, we have not received that finding. So what you may be hearing from constituencies is the fact that Fulton County aggressively provided funding to thousands of constituents. And unfortunately, we -- and fortunately, we have done our job. And we are one of the best, if not the best in the country. We are the only jurisdiction in Georgia to have fully dispersed all of our ERAP 1 and all of our ERAP 2 dollars. We also were fortunate to have the Board approve a no-limit for our rental assistance. We started this journey with a cap on our rental assistance to mitigate some of the issues that we were hearing, that while we're providing up to \$9,000, it just simply wasn't enough. So in the last couple of months of our program, we removed all of the caps. And we paid the full arrears for any

constituent in Fulton County. Whether it was \$5,000 or \$23,000, we paid all of it. We also have worked very closely with the Magistrate Court. We have two staff that are stationed over in the court, everyday of court, to assist with any issues and to help with the -- the order that requires payment. And we've been paying those in full. So again, we've dispersed every dollar. We are in an anticipation of an additional 25 million."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you so much, Dr. Roshell. You know, I recently connected you with a resident that was facing those types of issues. And I want to commend you and the entire team, Mr. County Manager, Dr. Roshell, Madam CFO, and all the County executive's on doing your due diligence and hard work. Even the constituent I most recently connected you to said, Fulton County is doing a stellar job. And has -- they have been through so many different organizations and municipalities. And they said, Fulton County is the best. So thank you for that information."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "You're welcome."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And clarifying that, it's not us."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. And that's it, thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I do have a budget question. But before we get too far away, I was made aware by a constituent that they emailed the comment in. And also was made aware by our Fulton County Department that our email system went down. And so at some point, this one email that this person had sent receipt that they did send in, I think it would behoove us to hear it. Because it is a -- one dealing with redistricting. And now that we know that our system crashed, we need to make sure that email is read into record, please Chairman, when we come to that point. What I wanted to say was I commend the work that we are doing here in Fulton, dealing with the disbursement. I do have a concern, though. And if you all do -- if you can answer this, fine, if you can't, I want to try to see if I can get more information. But we had two individuals today to say that they were homeless. And they weren't able to get funding. Do you know anything about that issue that was brought up in public comments?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you for the question. I was trying to decipher of what their concern was. It sounded like one hand that they may have been funded earlier in the program. And what we are seeing is, constituents coming back for a reallocation of funding. And because we have exhausted our funding, we're unable to provide additional supply."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, okay."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So that's what I believe has happened --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, okay."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- that we provided support earlier in the program. Because they did say, thank you. But as of now, if they come back to ask for additional funding, as of today, we would not --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Exactly, okay."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- be able to --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. That's what I kind of thought, but I wasn't sure if they had reached out or that was the issue. Because any time you see -- you know, you'll see a woman cry and it'll touch our hearts. But when you see a man with tears, I just wanted the public to know that Fulton County is doing everything in our power to address this pandemic, this homelessness issue. And I know that we are not turning a blind eye or deaf ear."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And so, I was thinking that that may have been the issue. But I just wanted to make sure. Now my second question dealing with actual -- this may be to our CFO. How much funding do we have for PAD in the budget?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I'm going to have to look for that. Off the top of my head -- yeah, 400,000 is what I'm thinking."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Well, well, thank you. Because I was going to really ask for 400,000, so thank you for that. And I appreciate it. And those are my questions. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, I don't know what kind of process we're going to go through to go through this list that's got 14 million versus the seven and a half million that we identified that's available. So do you have any direction here? Are we just going to bring things forward, each of us, you know, in the order that we are lucky enough to get in the queue? Or what is your plan for moving forward with approving this today?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** (Off-mic response.)

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Correct. I would like to have that, obviously, included in the budget. There are other things on these lists though that, you know, we've talked about for years, the CSP funding enhancements, for example. I'm not sure if that really needs to come out of general fund or if that could come out of the American Rescue

Funds. You know, so I -- you know, if that is a possible suggestion of where that money would come from."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** (Off-mic response.) "To answer your question, I would hope that we would minimize any additions today and leave that 7 million, all of that for mid-year. I think the big outstanding issue is if.....I know you had been talking about this bridge for \$150,000."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Correct. So that's -- that was really what I asked you originally when I took the mic is, what you anticipate? If you -- if you think that it's a prudent for us to just move to put that into the Non-Agency and deal with those items separately after we approve the budget, then I can perhaps go along with that. But I am suggesting that some of these items might have funding outside of the general fund, is all I'm suggesting to you. And I also want to say for the record, as far as the GRAMMY Museum goes, you know, we might could reserve that money to be considered at a future date. I think it's important that we only support that if, in fact, the state and the city of Atlanta also agree to support it. And that, you know, we should make sure that things that the things that we've asked for, the educational things, the Fulton County recognized is as a leader in that. And perhaps even consider the \$3 million over a couple years instead of all at once. So I think there's some things that we -- some caveats we should put on that money if we, in fact, decide to move forward with that project."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I agree with that. But your 150, it's a bridge, right?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Correct. And that is very timely. That project needs to get going, so I would appreciate that being included now. And then I'm just going to say, you know, I'm looking at the total that's in the request for the Elections Department of over \$37 million. That is an amount that to me is staggering. We had in the Presidential Election that, you know, we had new equipment, and a whole host of reasons why we spent \$40 million last two years ago, or almost two years ago. I think there's things that have been requested this time there really are, want to haves, not need to haves. I don't think we really need new equipment. I think we've got plenty of equipment. I think we've got management issues with staffing that we still haven't worked through. So while this amount is probably going to get approved today because of the limited knowledge we have. I certainly hope that as we move forward that we're really careful with expenditures in the elections. And only use the resources on an as-needed basis, even though they're approved. Because I don't think we have a good plan with how we're going to conduct our upcoming elections. And people can yell all they want. I think this is serious. I think we have to make serious decisions going forward without emotion if possible. And I just really think that while we've got a number here that's a lot of money, way more than I think is necessary. I think we need to be really, really careful with how we actually allocate and spend that money going forward."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. So, 150,000 for the Bridge for Commission Hausmann. Commissioner Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "That's the Rogers Bridge, the second item on this list?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Correct. That's the steel from the last bridge going over the Chattahoochee River."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Yeah."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "That's still left."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Are you asking that it come out of this list of things to be funded with the 7.5, and put into the budget?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes, I am. I am."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. Well, I just wanted to clarify. I guess, you know, I'm -- I guess I'm slow. Because I'm really struggling with this concept of this appropriation, this seven and a half million dollars, with an aggregate of 11 million plus on this list to be maybe funded -- may be funded out of it. I -- is the concept that we are going to have these items as part of the budget, or just the seven and half million appropriation reserve in the budget? Because it seems to me that once it gets -- well, once it gets listed here, I guess there's going to be an awful lot of inertia to fund it at some point during the year. And I don't know how seven and a half million funds 11 million plus. So I guess I'm troubled with it. I want to understand it a little better. And in that connection, how are we going to decide as the year goes on, whether to fund some of these items out of this? Are we going to vote on them one at a time in the year at some point? Is that your concept?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's my concept, yes."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Well, that might make some sense as long as, I guess, it doesn't get more than seven and a half million dollars by the time we voted, yes, on all these items. Again, I guess I'm troubled by it. I'm struggling to decide whether to support the concept or not today. But a quick question --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But can she address -- she, meaning, CFO, on the 7.5, what is your --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, the seven and a half million is included in the budget as an appropriated reserve. So that it could be spent against these items that are listed. It's clearly not enough to cover everything that's on the list. So our -- I think when we presented it this way, our thought was that, it would be a reserve that we could tap into to fund these enhancements that did not make it into the proposed budget if we did not use it or need it for any other purpose. But more as we got to the midyear point that, that's when we would make the decision

on how the seven and a half million dollars would actually be utilized. Mr. Anderson, did you want to add anything?"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Alright. So with that understanding, your concept is that we would approve these, item by item, during the year against this reserve, or find other sources for them, maybe within department budgets, underruns, and so on? And I guess the question is, could the seven and a half million dollars be spent on things that aren't on this list? I assume that answer is, yes?"

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. All right."

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "All right. And then just a question, follow-up Commissioner Abdur-Rahman's question about PAD, you mentioned the 400,000. That is coincidentally, about the amount that's listed here on the PAD items. Are you saying, there's \$400,000 in the budget elsewhere for PAD?"

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. And these items are an additional, roughly --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** (Off-mic discussion.) "Okay. James is saying that we don't have the 400,000 for PAD in the general fund budget. I thought that it was funded as part of the grant budget, which is why I was saying, it was included in the budget elsewhere."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah, we need the conversations to be on the microphone, please. Thank you. I'm sorry, Chairman."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "So, yeah, it's -- there's not 400,000 for PAD in the general fund budget. You think it's in another fund, grant fund, or some other source? Is that what I'm hearing distantly through the --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. We'll confirm that now."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "But I think that the PAD funding is actually part of a grant budget --"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- versus the general fund budget."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. But that -- that's in the funding somewhere for the year?"

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. And this 400, roughly, would be additional money out of this seven and a half million if needed?"

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. That's helpful, thank you. And actually while I've got the floor, I hope we're going to recognize James at some point during the day. I understand he's leaving. And I think he's done a great job in the years I've been here. I appreciate all your work wherever you are. There you are, thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I said this at the previous two meetings, I believe. I'll reiterate it today. I think y'all done a very nice job of vetting through the different ask. And particularly, you know, I think this year, have really leaned in and focused on the things that we're supposed to do and that we're required to do. And really doing a good job of vetting what's needed and putting adequate funds in those particular areas. And I think that's evidenced by maybe sort of lack of comment we've had from various department heads and other elected officials. So I think we've done an excellent job that. I think the budget, as presented, is certainly well structured. There are certainly a number of items that were not line item within here. I think given the level of uncertainty that we face with things like COVID, unknowns related to whether or not we will have an additional runoff election and so forth. I think the structure of the seven and a half million dollar reserve also makes a great deal of sense. I also think that there are a number of items that are sort of annotated in this roll up of potential 11 million that may, you know, may on their surface, you know, you know, be something that's appropriate for us to do at some point in time. But, you know, at this point in time, have not gone through really, the full level of vetting to determine whether or not we really should be committing those funds specifically to those items. So I think the structure of identifying these things, and then having a process and rigor throughout the year to consider them, you know, subject to the seven and a half million and/or other budget underruns, is an appropriate, you know, way to structure the budget. And with that, I'm going to go ahead and move approval of the budget as presented by our management team."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a second at this time? Is there a second? All right. At this time, it fails for lack of a second at this time. Commissioner Arrington. Right now, what I have, we have \$8,200. And I'm assuming, Madam CFO, you and your staff, y'all are keeping track. \$8,200 for Commissioner Hall, for that certification; 150,000 for the HBCUs; 7,500 for the -- that Library request. That's it? And the 150 for

the Rogers Bridge. That totals about 315 to 16 thousand, so far. And I'm hoping that we will not dig into this 7.5 too deeply. We're probably at that point now, otherwise you're going to lose me --"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "The \$8,200 would need to be moved from that 7 million --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "We need to move the \$8,200 from the \$7.5 million into Commissioner Hall's budget."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I understand that. But I'm just -- I'm just getting at the request now. \$8,200 for Commission Hall, \$150,000 for the HBCUs for Commissioner Hall, 7,500 for Commissioner Hall for the Library, and 150,000 for the Rogers Bridge from Vice Chair Hausmann. Now, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe Commissioner Hall's request was for College Football Hall of Fame, Black College Alumni Hall of Fame, okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I got the amount right, though."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's the amount, okay. But it's Black, okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And then so, you know, I guess I'll start out with the, you know, I had made a request for 2 million for Veterans Commission to have something similar to our CSP and our Arts Program. I assume that that could come out of the seven and a half million. But then if there is -- it's in there already? Okay. Okay, so, then that -- that 2 million is in there -- is the 2.1 for the arts, is that for -- is that just for the Arts Council to give out, or is that also for Arts programming? So that's contract for services. So I guess -- so is that 2 million, is in there, then that doesn't have to come out of the seven and a half?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It would have to come out of the seven and a half."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And then -- okay. Now, there's a number I see on here for QLS at 350, but I understand that there was a request for 500; what do we have? Is it 350 or 500?"



**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. We have the 150 already in the budget, so the 350 would take is to 500 would have to come out of the seven and a half. And again, remember it's seven and a half, but if you looked at this year's budget, we spent 91 percent of it. So, think about let's say 10 percent underrun with a 15 percent vacancy rate. So if you go into next year with a budget that is a hundred and 30 million more. Than what we spent this year there's going to be ample underruns, and the seven and a half million to fund, I think. Anything that you choose to do, plus, I believe, address any contingency that we may run in to. So, it's really not going to be an issue of resources as you go through the year I don't believe."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** That's why, Commissioner, I think that the recommendation of the midyear review we can capture a lot of what's being requested. And I would plead for us not to dig into that 7.5 too much today."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I think that with the underruns you say, it's going to be 40 -- approximately 40 million in underruns?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, I'm just doing, you know, back the envelope math. But if you thought of it as we normally do with a 5 percent underrun against an \$850 million general fund then it's over 40 million. If it were this year, which is almost a 9 percent underrun it would be double that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "How much did we you have in the underruns last year?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Almost 80."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "80 million?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, under -- you know, with a lower budget. The budget last year was about 800; this year's budget is 850."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I'm going to have to ask for then another million dollars for Arts programming. Well, No. 1, we've got an asset, Wolf Creek Amphitheater that we may or may not have to put some money into to provide money for programming. And there are other various arts program. Obviously, we've done money for CSP, but I'm talking about actual Fulton County programs that you know, I anticipate that we will need money for particularly given where we are with everything right now. So, and, you know, I guess, this 3 million, the Grammy thing; I need a few more details. I'm supportive of it in theory, but, you know, you know, we got this little note today and, you know, I've just got questions. I want to know about scholarships. They've got 250 down for education programs, but how much of that goes toward salaries? And how much of that actually goes toward the students? Community programs, 250; again, how much of that goes towards salaries and paying people versus actually out into the communities? Is there a scholarship program? Why is

there no money allocated toward scholarships? And if this is City of Atlanta, Fulton County, State of Georgia there might need to be a hundred or a thousand music scholarships. I mean, this is the Grammys, right? I mean, Atlanta is big enough by itself, let alone all of Fulton County; let alone all of the State of Georgia. We're going to need -- we're going to need a lot of scholarships. We got a lot of talented people in this state. And certainly, I know the Grammy's will do a good job at inspiring them, but, you know, you know, I just think we need to work on that. So I don't have a problem with that being in contingency, and I don't -- I like what you say Commissioner Hausmann as far as making it contingent upon the other governments contributing as well, you know, I think that completely makes sense. But I know we're going to need more money for Arts programming, and so that's my ask is another million for Arts programming -- internal Arts programming."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, Commissioner Arrington, I mean, if we were to take up the 2 million for Veterans, which I'm not opposed to that nor the one million for Arts; but to me it makes more sense to do it at midyear when we have a better feel for what our financial is going to be rather than taking it out of this 7.5 today. I'm just try to minimize what we take out of that 7.5 today."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, what I would then do is may be say a million for Veterans and a million for Arts, so then it's still at the same 2 million. Because what happens if you take it up in midyear, then by the time you put out a bid and try to get something done, you can't get it done in a year. If it's not -- if it's not in the budget now, and you wait to June or July to get something in the budget, and then it has to be an RFP that goes out and response time and then something has to get done, it want, it can't get done during this fiscal year. It winds up getting pushed to the next fiscal year."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I don't know if I agree with that, but I think if, you know, we can get it done I think -- there is sentiment for doing what you've proposed. It's just when, and the amount."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So then, since the 2 million is in there, we keep it at two million, but I would ask to rearrange it at a million for the Veterans and another million for Arts programming; and so then it doesn't change the amount at all."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I hear you, but you're still saying midyear review? That's what Ellis -- Commissioner Ellis just said."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I mean, I have no problem with it being subject to the midyear review."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's fine. We can leave it two; two or three for midyear because I think we will have enough at midyear. But the responsible thing today though is to again minimize the take on the 7.5."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Which is why I was trying to -- because if we do a subject to review, we leave the two and the one, now you're at three. So I was trying to get back with you and keep it at the two for now to make sure it stays at the level that you're comfortable with, Mr. Chair instead of making it three."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But at midyear?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I guess, I'm asking to include it now. I mean, it would be a midyear review -- I assume we're going to do a midyear review of everything, right?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But, I mean, either way I'm fine. I'm asking for an additional million we can either add the million or we can take it from the million that we're allocating for Veterans, so that the total amount remains the same and we don't dip another million dollars into the seven and a half is what I was trying to -- I thought I was trying to accommodate your request."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And I thought I heard what Commissioner Ellis said, midyear review, and you said, yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, he said -- I mean I think all of this is subject to midyear review."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, all of it. What I have so far, again, is about 316 now which is not a lot to come out of that 7.5. We go adding millions that dramatically reduces the 7.5."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Which is why I'm saying, let's reduce the Veterans by a million; add the million for Arts programming; and then that way it doesn't affect the level at all, it stays the same."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This list. All right. That's fine except -- okay. I got you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's way it doesn't go further into -- you say you don't want to affect the seven and go too much further into the seven and a half. And so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- other than the 316, 317 that already been identified."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. And so, in my attempt to accommodate that, I'm lowering my request for Veterans, and asking for another million for Arts programming which keeps it all at the same level."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, I got. Yeah. Okay, Commissioner Morris, he changing the list. I got it. I'm from [Inaudible.] Georgia. I'm a little slow. Jones County"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. No, I'm good. I just want to make sure we're on the same page because I was trying -- my attempt was to accommodate your request to not dig too much further into that seven and a half."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. We together. Commissioner Hall followed by Commissioner Hausmann followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So a couple of things: I heard questions about this list not being vetted or being vetted properly; and, you know, where did the PAD funding come from and all that. So I just want to clarify because this whole thing -- this whole list started because I requested a spreadsheet from our CFO and our Finance Director asking them to please provide a list of those things that were not funded, but presented by the departments during their budget presentation; and those things that were funded. And when I got the spreadsheet of funded and unfunded items, these items we're actually on the unfunded list. So even as it relates to the \$400,000 for PAD, this is actually through BHDD, Behavioral Health and Development Disability. And at my recent Town Hall, we had upwards of about 80 people get on the Zoom and they were all in support and requesting that we approve the \$400,000 for PAD which is on this list under BHDD. So this all came about because of the County Manager, and the County Executives did vet everything. Everything was presented to them. There were items that had been put on an unfunded list, but that didn't mean that they were not needed. It was simply the County executives doing their due diligence to really vet the funding, and that what was being requested. And this list that we have now is that vetting of these additional items that they have found that they could either fund through the other means, or the 2020 -- including the 2022 budget or through the 7.5 million. And also, I want to go back to the page 2 of -- what is this? The memo -- subject modification to the FY2022 proposed budget since January 5th, 2022 additional information about the Registration and Elections budget. And one of the questions that was raised during my Town Hall meeting by the constituents was: What was the Registration and Elections budget originally? What was that amount? And how much was actually added to the original budget amount for the department of Registration and Elections? And what is the total now for the department of Registration and Elections? And if you could, just respond to that because it appears that's still a question."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Commissioner Hall. For the department of Registration and Elections during 2020, we did increase the budget for Registration and Elections in the general fund; as well as receive funds from other sources including the CARES Act, and some separate grants that were received. So for the total election cycle costs that were incurred in 2020 and 2021, as well as some capital cost that were actually incurred. In the 2019 budget the 2020 and 2021 election cycle had a total cost of \$44.2 million. What was requested by the department of Registration and Elections in FY22 was around \$47 million, and that number included about 5 or almost \$6 million worth of some additional equipment needs. And what we

have funded in the proposed 2022 budget is 37.4 million. They're normal nonelection-year budget amount I believe -- James, correct me if I'm wrong -- I think it's closer to like 4 million -- \$4 million -- yeah, their base budget."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Their base budget is \$4 million?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "About four and a half."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Four and a half million dollars? So the base department of Registration and Elections budget is \$4.5 million about. And so, all the rest of the funding is what has been added in there. And just to be clear: Due to the impact of SB 202, they're no longer able to receive that grant funding. So all of the money that we see in this middle portion that would have been federal and, you know, CARES Act, grant funding is not listed in the spreadsheet below that says, FY2022 Registration and Elections budget because due to SB 202, they can no longer receive that grant funding; is that correct?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. So, how many millions of dollars are they -- did they receive? It looks like it says 2020 to 2021 in grant funding that helped the election?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "In grant funding they specifically received \$8.8 million in grants. And then we also added into it about \$5.8 million from our CARES Act funding."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So, \$8.8 million plus \$5.8 million was received due to grant funding. But now they're missing out on all that money because of SB 202? So, I think we need to really consider that fact that they will not be able to receive additional funding from elsewhere. And so, where do they get that funding from if it is necessary that they need it? Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Vice Chair Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "All right. So, just for clarity: I want to make sure that the million dollars that was to go to increase the books in the library system from the TAD is included in what we're considering today?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** Yes, ma'am. My recommendation is to fund that request through the Tax Allocation District proceeds."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "It's listed as being funded through other funds, but I just wanted to make sure."

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

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Okay. And then, I think, I'm little confused about the PAD money also. There's grant money in the budget, but there was a request for an additional 400,000; is that right?"

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

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "That is not included?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That's not included."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Have you all vetted that? Have you determined that that in fact is needed at this point or do you have any recommendation on the need for that? I mean, we've gotten a lot of communication about this particular item."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** Commissioner Hausmann, thank you. The confusion was that \$343,853 is included in a 1.2 million three year grant. And so, we were reading the request and thinking it's funded through that grant. But we now understand that Commissioner Hall's request is above and beyond what was funded in the grant. And so, we will now take that into consideration. We do believe that based on the comments we've heard, we understand that the constituents that support PAD believed that that is needed in communication with LaTrina -- while she did not request that as a part of her enhancements because of the grant, we do see that now. And so, I hope that it's clear that, one, \$343,000 is PAD funding of a three year grant. Next year's funding for PAD will be \$346,000 of that \$1.2 million grant. And so now we will look at the 400,000 additional dollars that has been requested and determine how that will be funded. It appears that we would add it to the list for the 7 million that we've been talking about. But we apologize for the confusion that we interpreted funding for PAD as satisfied with the grant dollars."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Okay. I think I understand what you're saying. My real question is: Is the 343 that is currently in the budget for this year adequate for their needs?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So based on the additional requests, there are some needs above and beyond the 343,000."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "So, then this 400,000 is on the list of potential things that would be funded out of the seven and a half million; is that correct?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "And you will evaluate that particular line item and bring it back to us for consideration; is that what I'm hearing."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Is that going to happen sooner rather than later, or would that happen midyear, or what do you anticipate?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "We anticipate it being a part of the midyear discussion with the other items."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "So the current funding would be sufficient until the point that we look at it or they're going to operate thinking that their getting 343 for the entire year? I hope you understand what I'm asking."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am, I do. We will work with the LaTrina to determine if we need to bring this back earlier than the midyear."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. In respect of time, I'm going to try to be as brief as possible. Because my understanding that the grant funds that are already designated through a federal grant for substance use treatment coordinated is separate from the 400 K in operating dollars to PAD, which to my understanding, was included in the 2022 budget. So, I'm just trying to make sure of clarification from Commissioner Hall, and Vice Chair Hausmann -- and I don't know if we need LaTrina because even now I'm confused, and at first, I wasn't. And so, I know that there's grant money that was being used for substance abuse treatment; and then there was also a separate \$400,000 in operating dollars to PAD which to my understanding, based on what I thought, had been included in the 2022 budget. And so, I'm sorry if I'm having a blonde moment, but now I'm confused. So if I can just get some clarification on that for the sake of our listening audience."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am. So, the budget for PAD for 2022 is \$343,000 which is a part of a grant -- a \$1.2 million grant. We believe that -- believed that that funding would cover programs and operations for 2022. As constituents have spoken with Commissioner Hall, they have requested and advocated for an additional \$400,000 for additional services and operational dollars. When we saw the \$400,000 request, we felt that it was already satisfied, and did not recognize it as above and beyond --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- okay --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- the 343. So now, today, we're clear --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- okay --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- that the 400,000-dollar request is above and beyond what was already allocated through grant funding."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. So that \$400,000 is separate -"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes ma'am --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- from the 343 --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "That's why I want to make sure that the audience knows that."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Thank you. Also, in respect of Commissioner Arrington -- Commissioner Arrington, I think you may have had surgery or something at the last Board of Commissioners meeting, but the Grammy -- the people from the Grammy did make a presentation. And so, like Vice Chair Hall said, some of that money will be tied to additional money, and I want to support what you saying, but I also want to let you know that they did make a thing here. And you weren't here to hear some of this information, and I'm hearing today. So I just wanted to say I do support that additional funding especially for Arts because here in our district, the City of South Fulton, we are trying to work with that leadership there for some type of collaboration. And so, I'm hoping that what you're trying to do that we'll look at the importance of passing that today because if we pass it -- if we do it for midyear, technically, we will not be able to use Wolf Creek to what we're trying to do in collaboration with them until next year. And I think it's very important that -- I mean you stated it, but I just wanted to make sure that we understand that our constituency base that's over there, and wants to see the use of that they don't want to see it just sitting there. That maybe we can approve that million dollars for the Arts because it's very important. We've got a valuable piece of property there, and the Mayor, and the City Council -- we are -- the spirit is supportive. Some things have to be, you know, fine-tuned, but from a collaborative point of view, they're willing to possibly do a match or some other things. So we need to be making sure that we're ready for that when that happens. So I just wanted to make sure that people didn't think you we're just adding on something at the last minute. You know, you and I talk. So the fact that this impacts both of us, I just want to make sure my colleagues know that. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I've forgotten what my question was. I guess I need to write it down."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. We'll take it up midyear. All right. So, here's where we are and, please. Here's where we are: So far, I think the exact amount is \$315,700 that have programs, additions, or enhancements, or whatever you want to call them that have been suggested today and I can support that. So that would mean reducing that



7.5 by 315,700 and whatever that number is that would be the number that we would look at come midyear; and could look at it before midyear depending on the circumstances. So the only outstanding one that I think I hear that I'm concerned about, and I think that Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and Commissioner Hausmann, and may be even Commissioner Hall addressed it is; what do we do with the Grammy's? I think that we are -- I haven't heard anyone object to our participation with respect to the Grammy development in Fulton County. Happens to be -- it will be in downtown Atlanta. The outstanding question though is; how much? I know that they're asking for 5 million from the County, 5 million from the City, and 5 million -- that's what they want though. That's what they need. They say that's a need. Five million from the County, and 5 million from the City, and 5 million from the State. It's been reduced to 3 million from the County; don't know what from the City; don't know what from the State. But whatever we do it seems to me to make sense that ours has been stated earlier -- ours -- we can make the commitment, and I think there is a strong commitment; Manager on down that we participate, but it will be contingent upon the City participating, and the State of Georgia participating. And if we need to commit that in writing to them, I'm not sure what would be acceptable. We've heard from Mr. Olecki . I've not heard anything directly from the developer; I know what he stated. And so, I think that we need to hear from the developer -- even if that means through Mr. Olecki -- exactly what they're looking for. But I think that our commitment is strong to the project if we need to put that in writing. I mean, I'd be willing to sign it, and whether it's over a two year period, three year period; whatever is needed to bring the project to fruition. You know, I think that we're all in agreement that it will be a good thing for Fulton County condition upon, subject to the City of Atlanta, and the State of Georgia participation. So leaving it in as something to be considered one month from now, two months from now, midyear, I mean, that's fine. But I think that we're at a point now where I would hope that we would move forward with reducing the 7.5 by 315,700 and moving forward. And a letter of some support in whatever form it would take with respect to the Grammy's. So, Commissioner Hausmann -- Vice Chair Hausmann followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "I mean, I think it's a reasonable to enter into negotiations on the points that we raise with this particular museum. I think it is something worth continuing the conversation; holding some money in reserve for the potential of an agreement is reasonable. But as long as we're negotiating, it'll be nice if we can have some plans to have some big events in Atlanta associated with that facility; perhaps even the Grammy awards ceremony every five years or something in Atlanta. It would be something to, you know, put on the table as we're making negotiations. But I think it's a reasonable to agree to enter into negotiations from this point in the hopes that we can partner with the State and the City of Atlanta on this project with the organizers of it. But other than that, I don't think anybody's willing to move forward hundred percent without knowing exactly what sort of agreement we can actually get."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I just got some very vital information because here again, I'm going back to PAD. And Chairman Pitts, I do support the Grammy Museum, having raised two violin players; I'm very, very big on that. However, I think what we may be not be clear on -- at least I'm not clear on, and PAD isn't clear on the 400-dollar -- the 400,000-dollars pays for direct services for housing, food, transportation, and IDs for the homeless individuals. The grant money is reimbursable for substance abuse treatment only based on the number of people who accept it. By the way, it's also not all going to PAD. A substantial amount of it goes to treatment providers that we have subcontracted with on behalf of Fulton County. So, if we push it off to midyear for them, we're going to have a problem. And I think, Chairman Pitts, I just want to bring that to your attention because I don't think we realize that. And County Manager, if you can kind of weigh in because I want to make sure that -- I know we have the commitment. I'm not challenging the commitment. What I'm saying or bringing to my colleagues attention today is that moving that to a midyear as opposed to now; and that's why I was confused because based on what LaTrina Foster said, the 400 was now in the budget now. And so, Commissioner Hall, I don't know if you knew that I not that it was supposed to be in the budget now versus midyear because -- they're going to be operating in a deficit if we do it that way. And so, I didn't know if you knew that or not. So, I just wanted to really bring that to your attention. I also, County Manager, would like your comments on it after my colleague."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I think that -- from what I've been listening to in this budget conversation, it appears that what originally we thought was going to happen is that we would approve a budget with this additional \$7.5 million, plus whatever additional funds because the Grammy Museum was added on here; and that these things on this list would be part of what we will be approving out of that \$7.5 million. And that these things would some of them be addressed immediately, not all during the midyear. So can we get a clarification on that that some of these things like PAD that they need that money immediately are some of these things like PAD going to be addressed immediately and not wait until midyear?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I mean, I think, with the legitimate confusion that we've all fall into with us taken responsibility for that. PAD would be one that would seem like to me you would go ahead and act upon. Because if it's going to put them in a position where they can't operationally function; and I remember when we had this discussion a year ago, I think that three to 400,000 in that grant was what we did provide; is that not true? So, things have changed over the course of the last year, and I think we just assumed one thing, and in fact, there's two things. So, my suggestion would be to go ahead and deal with that today as a part of the 7.5."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. So how much is it?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "400,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's bring this to a head. What is it?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "400,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "400,000 plus the 315,700 would make -- what is that? 743; is that right? What? So, 715 minus 7.5 is what? I can do it in my head."

**JAMES HUSSERL, BUDGET MANAGER:** "So the total amount that we have currently earmarked for specific projects including PAD would be \$715,700. Then you have the remaining amount in the unallocated reserve will stay at 6 million \$873,000 from the \$7.5 million we originally had."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's do that."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And so, County Manager, my question for to you: Are you comfortable with that?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I am. Because when I answered the question originally --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- I just want to make sure that we're on the same page."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Hall. We almost there."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. So the question that I have is: I heard earlier a conversation where it was said, 'oh, well, we can get to midyear and spend this money on anything; it doesn't have to be specifically what's on this list. So, I want to make sure that we don't get to midyear and decide that we're not going to fund stuff like, the Senior services; and, I mean, there are things on here that are on here for a reason. And the constituents have been told that this is the additional -- these are the additional items that we are approving. So, I want to clarify this: Are there things on this list that midyear could possibly not be funded because I just had a Town Hall meeting with upwards of 80 people on there, and there were things that was said to the constituents that represented about -- I have 84 neighborhoods in my district. That's about 200,000 constituents. So, are there any items on this list that could possibly not be funded when we get to midyear?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I mean, I can answer that. There's no -- I mean -- well, all of them can be funded or some combination. There's no guarantee. It's whatever the four of us will decide. But I think if we follow what our priorities are which in most of our priorities most revolve around senior services, I think that we can be -- I feel comfortable that those will be. But there's -- certainly there's no guarantee with respect to the Grammy."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So, we have the Arts community, who are watching and listening those from NBAF, Hammonds House, all, you know, there's so many organizations that we fund that come before us, and they're watching and listening. And they're thinking that, okay, yeah, contract for services is on the list; and it's on here for 2.1 million additional dollars because they keep running out of funding every time, and they need more funding to fund the arts. The arts were crippled due to COVID -- due to the pandemic. And we know many art forms are meant to be in person -- presented in person and that hasn't been able to happen, so you have things like that. And the Veterans Commission is on here, and the HBCU items -- I mean, there's a lot on here that people are expecting that we would fund. And it's not our money; it's the taxpayer's money. So we should be approving a budget based on what the taxpayers want; not what we want. We were voted in by these people who expect for us to carry out their wishes. So, I'm concerned -- Commissioner Hausmann did like Vanna White."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "She was asking me to repeat this notion of the likelihood of underruns."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Which again, conservatively 5 percent of the underrun would be 40 million the entire -- my entire tenure here that's been the kind of the minimal. Last year it was a 9 percent underrun which would equate to almost 80 million on this budget. So, it's inconceivable that we would get to midyear and not be able to handle this list."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Let's do what needs to be done today. I will entertain a motion unless -- say where we are to approve the budget as amended with -- how much in this reserve? What are we calling it; 7.5?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "As amended it will leave 6,873,270 in the appropriated reserve."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion is to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote, please."

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

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

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Can we get a clarification on what the COLA percentage?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "The COLA."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "7 percent."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Okay, because I didn't hear the motion that's why --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "7 percent. 7 percent. COLA. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, 12:41 --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, can I also just asked for clarification."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "If the Board's action was to approve the Resolution that was included in the Board's package, which will encompass all of the various funds I just want to make sure that we're clear."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes. Unless we can take a vote on that with the adjustments. What item is it? That would be the --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- it's the Resolution that was attached with the Agenda Item 22-0050."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "22-0050. So that was this -- let's just -- well that was the formal vote on there."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, 12:42. What's your pleasure? You want to recess for lunch now, and come back and move quickly this afternoon? All right. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session in items of real estate, personnel, and litigation. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and seconded by Commissioner Morris."

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

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(Executive session begins at 12:42 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection, I'll entertain a motion to resume the regular order of business. Madam County Attorney, you ready for items from executive session? You need more time."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "No, Chairman Pitts. I'm ready."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “You ready?”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Yes, Sir. Is there a motion to approve the request for recommendation, excuse me, to approve the request for representation set forth in item one of the executive session Agenda?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “It’s been motioned to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Let’s vote, please.”

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

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**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Is there a motion to approve the request for representation set forth in item two of the executive session Agenda?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote.”

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

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**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** INAUDIBLE

**CLERK GRIER:** “—seven will be Vice Chair—”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Is there motion to approve the request for representation set forth in item number 3 of the executive session Agenda?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “There’s a motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote.”

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

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**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Is there a motion to approve the request to authorize settlement authority in the matter set forth in item number 4 of the executive session Agenda?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote.”

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

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**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Nothing further, Mr. Chair.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Mr. Chairman, there’s one more item. I move that we accept the resignation of Richard Barron effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Press the button and I second.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “The motion to approve by Commissioner Hausmann, seconded by Commissioner Hall. You recall this motion was before us at the last meeting - it fails back before us. Let's vote, please. “

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion passes. Continue.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “It did; four yeas, three nays.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 5, under County Manager's item, open and responsible government, **22-0047**, presentation of COVID-19 operational response update.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “You have ten minutes Mr. Manager. Let’s roll.”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Good. I'll return five. We appreciate very much being able to discuss with you, the improved trends since certainly during the Christmas break and New Year's they were worsening significantly. The average new daily cases you'll see in the material that you've been given are at 1,000; that means we're not headed to 3,000 which was a projection. Positivity rate is down to 20 percent. So, we believe that we have turned a corner. Now, we're going to go through some of these details: the hospital bed availability, those at 6 to 8% which is still a challenge; 1200 or so people still in hospital; a death rate of 2.9 represent plenty of challenges. We also had to increase the capacity at our morgue so we have taken that very seriously over the course of this entire pandemic. But it's an indicator of again how challenging this situation is. Relative to vaccines, we have 68% of the eligible population with one dose, and 66% with two; so, that's good news; but still represents plenty of work to do. We will begin using incentives at all locations. Now that we have an electronic version of that - to be able to do mobile as well as fixed sites. And by the way, the incentives, why we have not been - have had them have suppressed demand. We've expanded the testing capacity as we discussed with you. Mercedes-Benz Stadium is the mega testing site. We are very thankful to Arthur Blank and his entire team for enabling that site to be used. It can produce 2,000 test per day. We're seeing a steady increase there. We've also been able to open a site in Sandy Springs using another provider; so that's given us five now sites for testing. We've ordered 150,000 home kits. The unfortunate news is we have had supply chain problems there. So, the first order was disrupted. Now, we have received about 1100 or so of those – Matt can speak to that. We're having to disassemble some kits and then put them back together where we would be handing out two-per. So, it's definitely challenging right now but

hope to have that in a mode where we're beginning to distribute those and Dr. Roshell and Matt can talk about that distribution plan. As we've talked about before and unless there's questions, this will suffice for ERAP. But we do have the confirmation of course from DCA that we'll receive the 25 million. And I did get a text from the DCA Commissioner as we were in executive session that the mortgage assistance plan is now live. So, there is an ability to access that by residents. And again, that's a 350 million-dollar or so program run by the state of Georgia. We've made significant progress with project ORCA and Alton has included slides. I'm really pleased to see the fast start that we're off to in terms of case reduction, but remember it won't be a linear process in terms of cases going down at this rate each month; but I think getting off to a fast start is important to take note of. That all being said, we are more hopeful than we've been in the last couple meetings or sessions with you and the mayors. We would recommend that we remain status quo meaning that we keep the senior centers closed until the next meeting with wellness check-ins. What we are recommending though is that we begin to do some outreach to our developmental disability clients because they are experiencing, I think, some issues with being disconnected from us. The tax offices are now all open; so that's good news from the, from the last meeting. And then in the next meeting, we will be bringing forward some of the contracts and agreements that will begin to get us down the road of economic recovery specifically small business loans, job-training and the next round of the CSP program for Health and Human Services. So, with all of that, Matt if you can perhaps not go through every chart; but hit the highlights with the Board and let's see what questions they have."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Matthew Kallmyer from Emergency Management. Moderator, if you could go to slide three we'll do a quick cover of some things here and draw your attention to a couple of other slides. So, like the County Manager said, the seven-day averages for cases, hospitalizations, percent positives are now trending downward in the good fashion that's what we like to see. 99.7% of all of our cases are of the Omicron variant based upon the data that is being shared with us from the state Department of Public Health lab. And you'll see the - 61% of new cases are from unvaccinated; we have a really nice chart to show you the difference of between people that are unvaccinated, vaccinated, and vaccinated with a booster, and how they're responding to the current variant. The one thing of concern the County Manager touched on is that we've never been below 10 percent in hospital bed availability. We were watching that closely. We were dealing with Grady who is our regional D hospital coordinator to make sure we keep our finger on the pulse of that one. And to see if they need any assistance above and beyond what the state is providing to them. The County Manager did speak to the fact that we had to go ahead and source the second cold storage unit for the medical examiner's office. We actually are in a position right now where we have stabilized the situation. We will continue to monitor that as we move forward. If I could get the moderator to go ahead and switch to slide five, please. Just wanted to draw attention to the fact that we



are still in a high transmission state based upon our cases per hundred thousand as well as our positivity rate. We have seen about a 10% reduction in our positivity rate. The last time we actually were here with you all, we were at 27.2%. We did peak at 37% positive and as you can see we're back down in about the 20 to 25% range at this time. It's actually closer to 20.5% for our percent positives. If we could move to slide eight, please. This is a new slide that our epidemiologist have shared with us from the Department of Public Health, Fulton County Department of Public Health, and I think it's important for y'all just to review this and share it with your constituents. It's a difference over time, from unvaccinated versus fully vaccinated with booster and without booster and it shows how those individuals are actually responding to the different variants that we have had over time. And I just think that's important to go ahead and drive home the message why it's so important to get one, vaccinated; two, and to go ahead and get your booster shot, when it comes to dealing with this pandemic. The other thing I'd like to draw your attention to – moderator, if you could take us to slide 15. I guess it has a Fulton County map on it, regarding mobile vaccination program. From June until now, we wanted to make sure everyone was aware we're still pushing out to individuals of color. Trying to make sure that we push our mobile units into those areas and we're going to continue to monitor to see what uptick is at our fixed sites and push more of our mobile trucks out there. But 78% of people of color is what we targeting so far. We'll continue to go ahead and report that to you all as we move along in trying to become more innovative in ways to ensure we do that. One thing is being able to take advantage of what the County Manager said and get the incentive program started back up. The last slide to share with y'all is page 17. Would love to have some assistance to make sure the people in the community are aware of two new sites that we have for testing: one is the Morgan Falls location, we opening in concert in the city of Sandy Springs that was due to the large demand that we had at 4700 and the difficulties of managing traffic on that site because we did testing as well and vaccinations at that site. So we're offering it as sort of a relief at that location; so please take advantage of that for your testing, for the citizens that are within that driving distance. As well as something that we're very proud to say, that the state Department of Public Health put in our – had trust in us for us to open this site at Mercedes-Benz Stadium and manage it. It's a mega testing site; 2,000 tests per day. We take care of walk-ups as well as drive-ups to that site. You'll see the times here as well. We ask individuals that need testing to consider that as another source to be able to go ahead and get a test. I did the test there after we opened just to go ahead and see and in 24-hourson the dot. By the time they took the swab out of my nose, I received my results 24-hours later. So, it was pretty impressive how quickly the time turnaround is for that location, as well as the other three sites that we are still operating. So, a total of five sites that the County Manager said and that information can be found on our website as to where those type of things are. And what other updates we'll have due to weather and other concerns. I'd like to turn it over to Dr. Roshell to go ahead and do a quick update around the home test kit program. Dr. Rochelle.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Thank you, Matt. As we have shared over the last few Board meetings, we have been waiting for the Board of Health to receive their test kits. The County Manager has already shared that they have experienced supply chain issues, so as of today, they have not received the 46,000 test kits that they’ve ordered. We will continue to keep you updated as those supplies come in and will provide details as to where those test kits will be made available. You may have read yesterday or saw in news reports that the federal government did open their COVID testing kit ordering system. Those test kits can be ordered at COVIDtest.gov. Each residential household is entitled to four test kits per household, and those can be ordered online. And those are direct shipped to consumer. Each person that has private insurance can also be reimbursed for up to eight test kits. The federal government has a phased delivery. They now have ramped up those test kits to 1 billion and this does include support for school systems. As for Fulton County, we have sourced test kits with three sources of funding. One: Fulton County government, we've ordered 53,000 test kits. Our Ryan White program has ordered another 48,000 test kits, and our ESG program has ordered 9700 test kits. The Ryan White test kits are going to be shared with our providers that provide HIV care and support, and our ESG program is going to provide those test kits to our homeless service providers. We are in anticipation of those test kits. We've only received a very small number as the County Manager said only 1100 to date. As we do receive those test kits over the next couple of days, I do want to share the plan to distribute those test kits at 15 library locations. In your packet you will see there is a library connected to each city, and each city - will each library will have a walk-up distribution opportunity. Those opportunities will be staffed and this is reserved of course for Fulton County residents and as soon as we get those test kits and assembled, we will share with the Board prior to any released to the public the dates and times for those distribution locations. But again, in the meantime, we do encourage constituents to order their home test kits at COVIDtest.gov. If you could advance the slide, please. You'll see for the public -- the libraries that are listed, this page includes Alpharetta to Fairburn, Atlanta, College Park, East Point. Next slide, please. We have Hapeville, John’s Creek, Milton, Palmetto, Chattahoochee Hills, Roswell, Mountain Park, Sandy Springs, South Fulton, and Union City. So again, there will be an access point throughout the County. Next slide, please—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Can I ask a question?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “—yes—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “—so, will people go into the libraries to pick these up? How will the distribution work?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “So, each library may be a little different because of the parking or the amount of space that’s available for pickup. We will also monitor weather, but each library will have either a walk-up or similar to the curbside that we did with the books. A consumer may just simply drive-up and we would just

either have them pop their trunk and supply the test kits that way. Some libraries are not set up for a drive-up option simply because of the space that's there, and those will be walk-up opportunities."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "And will we advertise the hours that's available and those types of particulars based on location; or how are we going to communicate?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Ma'am. Jessica Corbitt and her Team are already working on the communications plan and will provide again all of that information in advance to the Board first so that you know in advance when we will be releasing that information."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you very much."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "You're welcome. This is the final page here. What consumers will see when they go to the federal website is a page similar to this. We do want to remind our constituents that these are free. If you are approached to pay for shipping costs or any costs related to this federal program, that is not what you should do. These are absolutely free. There is no cost to you. That concludes the update on the home test kits."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Further questions?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Any questions these. So, I think, thank you Matt, I've already discussed I believe, the reopening status. I might call your attention just to the number of folks that did test positive, still very challenging in the most recent period it was 148 that's on page 24. On page 25, you can see that's just a slight tick down from the 153 that we had previously. So, we remain again focused on encouraging our employees to receive the vaccination. We have debated internally should we require the booster. I'm not ready to propose that yet; because I think the path forward is still a little bit murky and uncertain as to a booster, multiple boosters, boosters for variants. So, right now, I want to stay with what we have. I think that has a lot of credibility with employees. Service delivery I talked about on page 29. So, I think the only other thing is again on the emergency rental assistance and mortgage assistance, I do have the where you ask, Commissioner, the website or the link that citizens could access for mortgage assistance, and again this is effective today: it's [Georgiamortgageassistance.GA.gov](http://Georgiamortgageassistance.GA.gov). [Georgiamortgageassistance.GA.gov](http://Georgiamortgageassistance.GA.gov). So, it's launched and open today. I think what I'd like to do now if no questions on that, is pass to Alton Adams for an update on project ORCA."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I'll ask, can we go to page 39, please. Great thank you. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I want to spend a few minutes giving you a quick update on where we are with project ORCA. For today's update, I'm really going to focus on the progress that we've made in terms of case reduction since the formal launch which was on December 6 of 2021. So, if we can go to the next page. As you

may remember, our formal start date was December 6th of last year. The total number of cases that we identified that fit into project ORCA was 149,000 cases. Since that time, so, in the last five and a half weeks, 8,425 of those cases have been resolved in some way, form, or fashion. And that leaves us an additional -- that leaves us 141,000 cases to go basically as part of this program. If you go to the next page, what we have done, among other things, is track these by court and so in Superior Court, we started with a total of 15,900 cases, 1382 were resolved; and in the last five weeks and then the remaining is showing on the right-hand side. Next slide talks to state court starting with 20,000 cases, 1296 haven't been resolved, and 19,300 remaining. And then finally, the last slide talks to magistrate court. They started with 39,400 cases on December 6. They have -- as you can see, resolved more than 5000 cases in the last -- in the last five weeks more than 10 percent so on a really good trajectory which we expected given the nature of the cases and magistrate court typically handles. And so, as the County Manager indicated, we feel like we're off to a good start particularly since for the month of January, the Chief Judge of Superior Court, judge Brasher put a hold on in-person jury trials, because of omicron. And so, we're actually - we started December 6th and then we kind of pulled back and stopped for the month of January because of the prevalence of cases. We're due to restart the first week in February but even with that, have made considerable progress in terms of getting after the numbers that's a part of this particular program. So let me stop there and see if there are any questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No questions."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Great. Thank you."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, Sir. And I think the financial section that we always submit does not have any substantive changes in it. I would remind you again that we have spent now 100 million of the slightly over 300 million allocated for four-year program. So, we're well down the path of getting the money into the community for their support. And that concludes our report."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Commissioner Hall has a comment."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to address the page that is COVID positive employee page number 25. At the previous BOC meeting, the number for the Board of Commissioners for positives was incorrect. And so, I just wanted to make sure that we have the correct grand total because I see this is from January first to the 14th. And I don't think that we captured all of the COVID positives in the Board of Commissioners area."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, Ma'am, and you did mention that to me this morning I and Ken the number that we came up with walking into another meeting was five; so, let me - I'll circle back with Ken and discuss that with him."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “All right. Thank you so much.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. Thank you, Mr. Manager. Madam Clerk.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Page 5, **22-0048**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance. Request ratification of countywide emergency procurements.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Morris. Is there a second? Is there a second? All right. Seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. And a question from Commissioner Hall.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just had a question about the line that says additional responsibilities for AFCEMA has taken on to cope with the COVID 19 pandemic and I just wanted to ask, what are the additional responsibilities that they've taken on? Emergency management.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Commissioner Hall, I believe that is defined as three additional contract staff that AFCEMA has had on board since sometime in mid-2020 to help manage all aspects of the/our pandemic response.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you so much. That's great.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “The vote is open. The motion passes; six yeas, zero nays.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CLERK GRIER:** “Seven with Commissioner Arrington.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0049**, request approval of a resolution to extend emergency purchasing authority of the Chairman and County Manager for COVID-19 related purchases and for other purposes.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right there's a motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Bottom of page 5, **22-0051**, External Affairs. Request approval of the 2022 redistricting plan.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Ms. Corbitt.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Thank you. We are here today to request two actions from the Board. Next slide, please. Three maps were provided to the Board for selection, and we are here today to request that the Board select a map and that you approve a resolution recommending your selected map and that resolution would be transmitted to the Fulton County delegation for introduction of the legislation to then move through the redistricting process. As a reminder, we are here today because during the 2020 census, and in every census, redistricting is often required to rebalance the commission Districts to ensure equitable population within Fulton County. We've had growth, considerable growth about 16% across the County compared to 2010. And based on that, a target population of approximately 177,000 residents per commission District is needed to ensure equitable distribution of the Districts across the County. Next slide, please. There are three maps that are - were presented to the Board. These were based on feedback that were provided over several months. As a result, there are, like I said, three maps for the Board to choose from. Each of these ensures that there is one sitting Commissioner in each District, they meet the population targets, and maintain the current number of commission Districts. Next slide, please. I want to mention that Staff does not have a recommendation or preference for any of the map selections. I also want to mention that I have heard some questions raised about commission District numbers; those could also be voted upon and changed if the Board had a preference. That is something that could be part of your motion today. I will continue onto the last – we'll just present these for the public. Next slide, please. Next slide, please. And next slide, please. The next steps after the Board - we held a public hearing this morning. After the Board selects a map and then adopts a resolution to recommend the map to the delegation, we will be providing your selected map and the required files both to our legislative delegation Chair who has agreed to sponsor this legislation on our behalf. We will also provide to the state redistricting office, or reapportionment office of their technical review which is also required. I also want to mention that part of the reason we're here today is because of a mandate from the Secretary of State for County elections offices to complete having all of the redistricting updated in time for qualifying for this years' primary election. So, their deadline is February 18th. The Governor has requested that all the bills be signed by early February, and that you know they really want to get these all passed by the 1st week in February. So, we do have a very tight timeline. If we are - once we receive that final approval and the bill can be introduced, we will bring the final-final back to the board for your approval in February. And I think those are kind of the key points. With that, we would ask that the Board, again, select the map of your preference and then there was a resolution in your packet that was prepared by the County Attorney's office.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. The lineup is as follows: Commissioner Arrington followed by Commissioner Morris followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman followed by Commissioner Natalie Hall. Commissioner Arrington.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to make a small minor change to the map for precinct 12A, which is currently in – well, which according to map ‘A’ would be in the new District Six. I’ve spoken with Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and she is fine with that area being part of Five. And so, I would just ask that they - we accept option ‘A’ with that minor change. It puts Capitol View neighborhood back in my District, which is currently in my District. And Commissioner Abdur-Rahman was gracious enough to say that she would be supportive of that. So, other than that, I’m, in support of option ‘A’ and look forward to getting it done.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Commissioner Morris.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “If that was a motion, I’ll second it. If not—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “--I can make it a motion, yes; thank you.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay, I’ll second.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “The motion to - is to adopt map ‘A’ with the change—”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “—with the change of precinct 12A, and if we can combine it with a request that we approve the resolution to send to the delegation with map ‘A’—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—yes—”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “--with the one changed to 12A, then I will second that motion.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Seconded by Commissioner Lee Morris. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I just wanted for the record, Jessica, for you to add -- answer two questions that I have—”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “—yes, Ma’am—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “—one: can you explain to our listening audience what home rule is? And secondly, we did have a technical issue this morning with public comments that were e-mailed in. And so, if you would just let the, you know, Chairman, you know, just make sure because he did ask during the Public Comment session, and we want to make sure that, you know, we're taking care of our constituency base.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I’m fine Chair.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Thank you very much, Commissioner. And I may defer to the County attorney's office as to the

technical def - the legal definition of home rule. But it essentially that the local government or governments have the opportunity to make laws that affect them. In the case of redistricting, while - well I want say fortunately or unfortunately, the maps are ultimately set by the general assembly for all local governments. They're going through this process for every county and city in the state of Georgia right now. So, this is a – it's technically a state matter, although you're absolutely right that this does affect local governments, boards of education, cities, et cetera. And I apologize for the issue with our Written Comments this morning. There were -- after we researched them, again, and as you mentioned, there was an e-mail issue we had; there were three comments and I did e-mail those to the Board of Commissioners and we will be glad to -- I believe we have to revisit written comments. I don't know if that will happen later this after this afternoon; but we have provided those to the Board of Commissioners for your review.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “So, just a minute. You, the – the three written comments - you, you sent them to us?”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Yes, I did.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “It was read into the record or just note that we received—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “—Chairman, at your discretion, if you like it'd be just notated if all of the Commissioners have the e-mails, and in lieu of time, they don't necessarily have to be read in the record; unless there is a law that states that we have to.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. We've received them. Everybody received the three comments?”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “I don't know that I've read them.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. Everybody has it. We'll make sure you get to look at it, Ms. Hausmann – Commissioner Hausmann – Vice Chair Hausmann.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “And we have also – I just want to note that we have provided those to the Clerk so they could be part of the meeting record as well.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, you still have the floor Commissioner.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Basically, I just wanted to follow up on what Commissioner Arrington said. I think it is best because I did receive phone calls from those in Capitol View. And so, I believe it's in the best interest that we do adopt 'A' based on - we did hear Iman Park would be affected as well. And so, to be fair across the board, I would just ask that my colleagues adopt map 'A'. Thank you.”



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Other comments? If not, the motion on the floor as amended is that we adopt map ‘A’. Any other questions or comments? If not, let’s vote. And that would include the resolution, Ms. Corbitt, or you want a separate resolution.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “That was my understanding of your motion—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--to include the resolution, yeah, let's vote.”

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

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Thank you, Commissioners.”

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Continue, Madam Clerk.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 6, **22-0052**, Finance. Request approval of a recommended proposal to provide professional property and casualty brokerage services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Please vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0053**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance. Request approval to renew existing contracts to provide countywide armored car services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0054**, Discussion. Happy Faces audit sponsored by Chairman Pitts.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Mr. Auditor.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, other distinguished Members of the Board, what is your pleasure, Sir, would you like for me to just go through it - through the entire audit?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yes, Sir.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Okay. The audit was requested by Madam Vice Chair. The objective of the audit was to determine compliance as it relates to the

contract deliverables. In addition, we evaluated the adequacy of controls over the contract management process to determine whether those controls are operating in an efficient and effective manner. The audit scope was January 1, 2020, through August 31st, 2021. The methodology; we conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions. To achieve those audit objectives, we reviewed the following documentation: departmental contracts in calendar year 2021, departmental organizational charts, copies of the 2020 through 2021 adopted budgets, copies of supporting documentation such as invoices and timesheets, copies of criminal background investigations completed by the personnel provided by Happy Faces and copies of emergency procurements. Additionally, the auditors interviewed key Staff within the department to determine the established processes and procedures related to contractual management and perform walk-throughs to observe key processes and procedures related to the day-to-day operations. We believe the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

Our findings and recommendations are as follows: **Number 1:** lack of approved contract. The Department of Purchasing standard operating procedures states that any procurement that requires the approval and execution of a written contract, regardless of the amount, must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. During our review of transactions within the Registration and Elections Department, we noted there were no approved contracts for invoices. We sampled for the months of January and April, 2021. However, the contractor was still providing services during this time. We were informed that the contract was presented to the Board of Commissioners, but was not approved until July of 2021. The absence of an approved contract negates any reliable record of the rights and responsibilities and obligations of the involved parties. Our recommendation is management needs to ensure compliance with departmental SOP's and ensure all vendors have complied with the procurement process prior to administering services.

**Finding number 2:** unauthorized position titles. And I should point out now that we actually for this particular contract, we looked at three departments specifically. There are – I want to think that there are 11 departments that use Happy Faces. And some of those departments are Community Development, Senior Services, Tax Assessors, Registration and Elections, Magistrate Courts, Superior Court. The departments we reviewed were Registration and Elections, Senior Services and Community Development. So this next finding actually has findings for all three of the departments we looked at. Again, the finding is unauthorized position titles. So, for Registration and Elections, upon our review of invoices, we discovered positions that were not reflected in the contract. Some of the positions were Registration and Elections security and executive assistants and Registration and Elections system manager. For the

Department of Senior Services: We noted there were two positions that were not approved in the Senior Services contract. Those positions were the land - line dance instructor and the program coordinator; and for the Community Development there was a position titled Senior Lead Project Coordinator that was compensated but was not listed in the contract. We recommend that the department adheres to the label distribution outlined in the contract. Additionally, if amendments are necessary, it should reflect in written form and approved by management.

**Finding number 3:** issuance of inaccurate and unauthorized wages. Again, this particular finding touched on two of the three departments we looked at. So, for Registration and Elections, we were unable to align some of the bill rates in the overtime bill rates reflected on the invoices to the bill rates outlined in the contract. For example: Registration and Elections voter education outreach, Registration and Elections instructor, the Registration and Elections coordinator, one overtime rates did not align with the contract rates. For Senior Services, we noted that there were five positions where the amounts that was approved in the contract were not the amounts that were actually paid. On the surface, these amounts do not look significant; however, they were not the amounts that were approved in the contract; so, we had to bring them forward. And we put a small chart in the report to indicate what those are and won't go through them unless you feel I need to. This happened because management did not comply with the label distributions reflected in the contract. In compliance with the contractors' label distributions may cause an overrun of budget funds. We recommend management provide proper oversight of compensation to ensure proper approval and payment of wages, budgetary oversight, and contract compliant.

**Finding number 4:** untimely payment of invoices. According to Fulton County's purchase agreement, invoices received for payment should be paid within 30 days after receipt of a proper invoice. For Registration and Elections, we noted of the 120 invoices we sampled, 53 of them were late. For Senior Services of the 55 invoices that we sampled, we noted that 20 of them were paid late. And for Community Development, of the 30 invoices we reviewed, we noted that ten of those were late. This is the result of the department failed to comply with the stipulations of the agreement. Failure to process timely payments may cause unnecessary late fees, hinder relationships with vendors, and create a County and reporting issues. We recommend all invoices are paid timely to comply with purchasing standards. Furthermore, the department should implement procedures that outline the timely receipt of goods and submission of invoices for payment.

**Finding number 5:** lack of supporting documentation. Supporting documentation provides a record of events and activities in evidence of what has transpired. Proper documentation also provides information for research in discrepancies. We sampled invoice files for transactions that occurred during the scope of our audit, and noted that Registration and Elections Department did not submit records for bill rate changes,

credits, or title changes that were reflected on the invoices. Additionally, the department was unable to provide documentation of the approval for the contractors to continue to provide service without an active contract. This is the result of inadequate management and oversight of the contract. Failure to maintain supporting documentation may cause over time -- overpayment of expenses, unauthorized charges, lack of county oversight, and incorrect financial reporting. We recommend that an effective record-keeping system be implemented. Additionally, supervisory reviews of these records should be performed on a consistent basis so any issue can be readily identified and remedied.

**Finding number 6:** Happy Faces pay period do not coincide with Fulton County pay periods. According to the contract between Happy Faces and the Senior Services department, the contractors pay period should coincide with the county's pay period. The county's pay period are on a biweekly basis. During our review, we determined that invoices submitted by Happy Faces did not coincide with the county's pay period. As such, there is noncompliance with the language reflected in the contract. Failure to comply with contract guidelines as it relates to coinciding pay periods may cause errors in payment and incorrect financial reporting. We recommend management consistently monitor the management of the contract to ensure proper execution.

**Finding number 7:** pursuant to our review of the contract between Happy Faces and the Senior Services department, the need for one fitness instructor was identified and agreed upon. However, Happy Faces employed five fitness instructors as well as one line dance instructor. The line dance instructor was not an approved position within the contract. According to the department, the line dance instructor was included in the broad category of fitness instructors. We were advised by management that the number of positions included in the contract was initially part of an analysis to calculate the original budget. Failure to properly staff positions as outlined in the contract may cause unauthorized budget increases and cause costs to exceed the contract amount. We recommend management amend the contract to provide a true and accurate reflection of the staffing needs within the department. Additionally, the contract should outline the specific needs of the department and include a clause that amounts to a will-not-exceed set dollar amount to allow for additional staffing needs as they arise, and to remain within the budget amount.

**Finding number 8:** unauthorized staffing hours. The contract between Happy Faces and the Community Development Department states that contractors will work 29.5 hours per week. During our review, we noted 17 of the 30 items we reviewed show contractors that were exceeding the 29.5 hours per week. We were informed that staff was allowed to work overtime due to the department not being fully staffed. We requested a copy of the official approval for the overtime; however, this information was not provided to our office. Failure to ensure hours worked by staff are in compliance with the agreed-upon contract, may potentially lead to unexpected increases within the budget. Furthermore, this presents a risk of exceeding the approved total contract

compensation amount. We recommend management provide proper monitoring and oversight to ensure hours worked by the staff were in compliance with the contract to ensure budgetary -- budgetary oversight and contract compliance.

**Finding number 9:** is the inability to verify compliance with the contract deliverables. The County standard operating procedures for the Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance states that administration of the process of managing, monitoring, and administering contracts to ensure the contract is performance meets the contract requirements. It further states the contract administrator's key responsibility are to review and monitor the contract expense - expenditures to ensure expenditures are eligible expenditures; and/or in compliance with approved contract budget as well as review to recommend approval of payment of results. Our office requested a copy of the executed contract between Happy Faces and the Community Development for 2020. This request was made to the Community Development Department as well as Purchasing, as well as Contract Compliance. Our office was never provided with a contract that outlines the contract deliverables, compensation, positions, maximum minimum hours allowed; we were advised that the copy of the contract could not be located. In lieu of this, we were provided with the statewide contract. However, the statewide contract does not include contract deliverables. Therefore, we were unable to verify compliance. The inability to verify compliance with the contract deliverables may lead to inconsistent and inadequate monitoring of the contract and contractor's performance. We recommend the department perform adequate and consistent performance monitoring measures to ensure the contractor performs duties in accordance with the contract. We further recommend the Department ensures an executed contract is obtained before services are rendered by any contractors. The audit report had one concern. This concern was brought to us by actually two of your colleagues who received information from a contractor who was concerned about their overtime pay. And we looked in to that issue also. The concern basically is a written contract ensures that all the terms of the agreement are documented. The main reason many verbal contracts fail is that parties change, memories fade, and one person's version of the event is often different from the others. During our review, we discovered that some contractors specifically polled technicians were not provided with overtime pay as outlined in their employment agreement. We were informed by Happy Faces that they verbally informed all personnel of this classification type and there would be no overtime pay. The dependence on the verbal agreements may lead contractors to begin performance under an agreement only to find that there are major areas of disagreement. We recommend the utilization of written agreements over verbal agreements. Written agreements provide the ultimate understanding of the agreement between parties involved. As it relates to that particular one, I will say that because of the level of concern that I received from two of your colleagues, I specifically reached out to Happy Faces to get to get a clear understanding of what happened with this overtime pay issue. Happy Faces did in fact admit that there was an error after I

reviewed the documentation, I saw the employment agreements; however, Happy Faces agreed to fix the overtime pay for these poll workers, but they also agreed to fix the overtime pay for everyone in that particular class. So, I just wanted to let you know that because I did make a commitment to one of your colleagues that I would look in to that. I'm happy to answer any questions that I might."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. The next piece of legislation is deals specifically with the extension of the existing contract with Happy Faces and the manager I believe or the Board of Registrations and Elections - they have, you have a report for us? So, colleagues you want to hear that report—"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "—yes, Sir—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—and combine it all, or you want to deal with the audit. Do you have questions on the audit? What's your pleasure?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "So, we're going to have Anthony wait through the entire report and then ask – we'll ask questions; is that what you want to do—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—no, I'm asking what's your pleasure--"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "—I mean, you haven't talked about the finding or the responses yet either, so--"

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "—Commissioner, I don't think it's my place to talk about their responses. If they are here, they probably should address the responses, themselves. I don't - because I can't justify whether or not their response is adequate. Their response is their response. My job is to do the audit, make recommendation; their job is to respond and put something in place to correct."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Are you willing to wait until we get the additional information?"

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "I'm more than happy to wait. But if I'm waiting to address their responses—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—yeah, he works for us—"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "—yeah—"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "—okay—"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "—no, and we got the responses, see, he provided them to us—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--just a minute, just a minute – Hausmann, you still have the floor."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “You know whatever makes more sense. I mean I think we're gonna confuse two things here if we don't finish talking to our Auditor before we hear a report, but that's up to the will of the Body. I, I'm just one Commissioner—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—okay; we can do questions, specific questions for the audit now that's fine. I do need to let you know though that the Chair of the Board of Registration and Elections is here or will be here momentarily—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—yeah—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--but she has a hard stop at 4:00; so, she wants to be here at four - she's already here; okay. So, let's get through the audit and get to the recommendations while she's still here.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay. Just in a nutshell, can I ask a few questions?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yeah, go ahead. You have the floor.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “First of all, thank you for providing this so timely. I was kind of surprised that we would have it today, and I appreciate all the work you did to make that happen. Has this been posted publicly yet?”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “No, it has not because we were -- the legislation requires that I get responses from each department. There's a ten-day window when they have to provide that response. I realized that there was no way I was going to get this audit report to you if I waited the ten-day period. So, I requested that they provide the responses by the end of last week and by the time we got them all in we -- you know I needed to get the report to you so that you can review it prior to me releasing it to the public. I plan to release the report either later today or first thing in the morning.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “So that will be posted on your website?”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Yes, Ma'am.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay. I mean, obviously, people are very interested in this; and so, I'm already getting requests to have it sent out. So, I don't want to do that. I don't want to get in front of you. You will do that today or tomorrow.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “I appreciate that so much, thank you.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay. All right. I know there was some confusion last time we had the AJC here and they jumped on it. So. All right. You know you've got some interesting findings here. Did you find any area where the management was following proper procedures with the contracts and everything? You've outlined a lot of problems. Did you uncover things that were being done properly?”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Well unfortunately, Commissioner, my job is to point out problems. And so, there probably are a lot of areas where they were doing well. But in an audit, we're looking for deficiency and that's what we put in our report. So, I don't want to give the impression that everything we found was wrong because that is not true.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay. All right, you know, again, the perception. You've indicated that there was a period where there was no contract because I guess we delayed it from April to July”.

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Yes.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “But they were using Happy Faces during that time period anyway.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “That's correct.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay, and there's another part in here where you say there wasn't a contract, but there was a contract. I'm not sure I understand exactly what you're trying to convey to us.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Okay. Well, let me see if I can clear that up, and thank you for pointing that out, Commissioner. The - Finding number 1 is a problem because there was no approved contract in place. And if the Board remembers, I think this was the time period that elections was trying to get a contract approved, it was in front of the Board, it was not approved and for whatever reason, it went on and on. Unfortunately, for my purposes, and for general accepting auditing standards, a approved contract is necessary for us to say that things are working properly. There was not one. And for whatever reason there was not one, whether it was the Board's hesitancy to approve it, or whatever; it is a reportable condition that I would have to put in the report. Okay. That is that one. The other that you were mentioning is a finding where we actually asked for a copy of the contract, and we for whatever reason, could not find it. We asked everybody. We went on the Clerk's website; we never found a contract for that time period. Purchasing didn't have it. No one seemed - the vendor did not have it, and so my assumption is that we were functioning without one because it is you know, kind of unimaginable to me that we could misplace a contract with all of the things we have in place to make sure that we document everything. We never found a contract and to this day we still have not.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “So, did we ask Purchasing if they prepared a contract and just didn't get the signed copy back? I mean, can someone speak to that, please.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Please let--”

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** “Felicia Strong-Whitaker. Yes, this was one of those, Commissioners,



where it was on Purchasing. Purchasing did prepare the contract. This is when in 2020 I had a lot of transition, a lot of people were leaving. That contract never got executed. We did have a copy of the contract; but we did not have a copy of the signed contract. So, the person that left - we looked everywhere; we looked in their office, we went through their DocuSign; we could not locate it. We could locate the blank contract, but we could not locate the signed contract.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Well, one could take from that it doesn't matter if the Board of Commissioners approves using a vendor or not if they're going to do it anyway and have no contract to go rely on with that particular vendor. That's just my editorial comment. If I'm wrong, you can certainly correct me. But I'm sure it looks like that. That's obviously not the way we should be conducting business in Fulton County. So, that's kind of shocking. I also met with you on Friday—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—yes—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--and provided some additional information after you—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—yes—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--prepared this that looked like there was some differences in what people received in there for their work versus what was in the vendor system that they had been paid or had been allocated to particular employees. Have you had the chance to investigate that yet?”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Thank you for bringing that up, Commissioner, because I meant to bring that up before you did actually. I have reviewed the documentation. I have not had an opportunity to get with Happy Faces and the Department, but it is certainly my intention to dive into that issue to get some clarity of what the situation is there. The first thing I will need to do is after reviewing the documentation is to verify whether or not the information that was submitted is legitimate. So, we will go through that process and we will surely reach back out to you, and to let you know.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “So at this point, you cannot locate a contract, you have seen individual employment agreements with contractors that work for us; but you haven't seen a contract that oversees all of the agreements that we've made with Happy Faces; is that correct.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “Okay. I don't want to confuse this issue. The contract that we were unable to find is in Community Development. It is not in Elections. It is not in the other Departments that we reviewed--”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “—okay—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "--it is in one Department and it is one contract for one year. So, I don't want to give you the impression that this is some wholesale thing where contracts were missing or were not approved. That is not the case."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you for that clarification. So as far as the Senior Services contract and the Elections Department contract, those were readily available."

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "Yes, Ma'am."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "All right. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, thanks. Appreciate the report. I'll be brief on these comments and then I've got certainly some other stuff I want to talk about in the next part. You know this is sort of the second very not so good audit we've had related to financial expenditures within elections, but this one also extends beyond elections. Sort of two -- one purchasing question. I know typically when we approve things, if there were subcontractors involved, they are typically identified on the contract that we approve. Most of the time, we see that."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** "You see that when it is one of the county's contracts. We are utilizing statewide contracts and what the County does is do a cover contract between the contractor and the County."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So we could be in a statewide contract situation where that contractor is engaging other subcontractors who we have no idea who they are."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** "Yes, Sir. That will be one of those things in this instance moving forward that we will start to capture—"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "—okay—"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** "—in all the statewide contracts."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And you know that, that's something that I do think -- when it came to the light when we started to see some of the expenditures last year, and then, you know, it's not necessarily as evident in here, but I know one of the particular findings is noted in here deals with the folks that were, you know, employed this last cycle who some of them reached out to me and it's not as described in here that it was addressed immediately at a point of being raised. Those individuals, I believe, were working under a - the subcontractor had engaged them; sent the material out; there

were firm written agreements and they were seeking you know payment based upon what was represented to them. And they had already started the process of you know asking to be paid what they were rightfully owed. Many of these folks had previously worked the same election cycles, so they had no and were paid you know with the same kind of fashion that was described here. So, they had no reason to think they weren't going to be paid the same. And they weren't able to resolve this through the contractor and I know it took me a series of multiple e-mails back and forth, you know, for it to get addressed. And the first response was we verbally told them something else. Well, that's unacceptable under any stretch of the imagination that we're going to have a written agreement and then somebody's going to tell you something verbally separate. I mean, it smacks that either, you know, the subcontractor didn't do what they were told to do, or that they were shorting. I mean, that's what – that's the only two conclusions that you can come to. You know, so they, they paid the – they represented one thing - they didn't have the amount money coming in, so they, they tried to scramble and do something else, or they collected a certain sum, and they were only going to remit, you know, a certain sum less than and take some. So, you know it got addressed, but it didn't get addressed – I mean, it should never come to a Board of Commissioners and to a Commissioner level to have this addressed. And quite frankly, I didn't feel like when I even reached out to Elections, it was appropriately being addressed in terms of it seemed to be almost an acknowledgment of the response they got back from the vendor. So, I'm glad ultimately it was addressed, but that one in particular gives me - and we heard from some of those folks that came up here in Public Comment today. So, they're real people you know and with real frustrations who worked in our system before. So that particular finding just having sort of personally seeing it and witnessing it, gives me grave concern and you know it concerns me that we've got potentially subcontractors that are engaged in this process who we have no knowledge of who they are and any sort of oversight of them. So anyway, I'll stop on that. I've got some other stuff I want to talk about later, but I wanted to highlight that particular point of the findings here.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you, Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you, Chairman. I believe in being fair and also in believing being fair, I believe that where the responsibility lies, we have to actually step up to the plate and take responsibility for what we have not done correctly. This is why, you know, I lobbied for them to have more time this morning. Two things that come to mind, Commissioner Ellis, I -- people have reached out to me as well that didn't get paid. And so that's a grave concern to me that people are not getting paid and thank you for going the extra mile—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—would you send those to me please—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “—okay - to check on that. You know sometimes when you're pressed to say something, you may be shouldn't and when you aren't

pressed to say something, you should; but what I want to say - it is this – I've looked everywhere that I could possibly find – and maybe County Attorney, maybe you can -- can, can, can weigh-in on this. I don't see Stacey Abrams' name as being an owner of this; and I'm just asking if in fact that it's true, is that is a rumor. As legislators, I think it's incumbent on us to correct to the best of our ability because I've been critical of my own party, which is the Democratic Party and I've been critical of the Republican party because I think we should all operate in a sense of fairness, but however if there are actual owners of this company and they are not Stacey Abrams to my knowledge, then we need to say that. So, I don't know, Auditor, this is something for you to—"

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "—so, let me address that because I've had this conversation with Commissioner Hausmann too. In my mind, and in my opinion, and in my professional opinion, once a contract is brought forward by Purchasing, approved by Legal, and approved by this Body, I don't have anything to do with who owns what - that is not something that I would do. My responsibility to this Board is to ensure that whatever is approved in this building is actually functioning as intended. And so, the issue of ownership of this company is not something I—"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "—I don't think you would attempt to weigh-in on—"

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "—it's not something that I, you know—"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "—well, I only brought it up because when you continue to say something over and over again, and I - here again, don't have a dog in this fight, but I think when people have livelihoods and have a company, we have a duty to correct information or verify it. And so, I've done everything in my office, and my resources to find out if Ms. Abrams is an owner in this company. I have not found anything to show that she's the owner in this company and I just wanted to say that from what I see. Secondly, I'm going to ask you this question: Because we have not only Registration and Elections, but we have Senior Services, and also the Community Development. If there's an issue in, in with this audit, where there was not a contract in place at that time, is that really on the vendor or is that on Fulton County?"

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "That clearly is a contract management issue. It is our responsibility to ensure that our contracts are in place and enforced; and so, those are our contract administration issues. Vendors are going to do whatever you let them do. Our responsibility is to manage the contracts from our perspective for what is best for us and the citizens of Fulton County."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Well thank you -- thank you for saying that because here again, I try to be fair and it does disturb me. I know it was only for a year and it was – wasn't it pending or puzzle on something else. But as the legislative Body down here, I take that very seriously that there was not a contract that you could find and I know we have a lot going on. I think sometimes when we point you know a finger

– we’ve got four pointing back to us. And so, here again I’m going to say I don’t have a dog in this fight, but I think Fulton County we have to take a certain amount of responsibility ourselves with some of the problems that are in this audit. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Vice Chair, you want to be heard again?”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Yes, really real brief. I want to get back to this issue of community members that worked for us through Happy Faces that have had difficulty getting paid.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—okay—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--and I hear that there are others out there that are fearful about bringing it forward because they think that they will be taken off the list of being able to work again and they very much want to participate with our elections. So, you know we’ve invested and budgeted millions and millions of dollars through this agency. And so to hear that folks are not getting compensated based on the agreements that they made with that vendor to do the work that we need to perform our duties to the public is very concerning to me. I would hope that folks would not be fearful and that they would come forward and try to make sure that their work was compensated according to the agreements that they made. Do you have any comments on that? Did you see evidence of this when you were looking through? I know the few things that were brought to your attention, but in general—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “So, as I stated earlier Commissioner when that issue was presented, and I was actually on an e-mail chain, and I actually sat back and watched the chain flow for a couple of days, back and forth before I got involved. But as I pointed out to you the other day, the issue is of a great concern to me because there are a lot of things that could possibly happen out of that. I mean, and I don't want to say those things at the podium, but I do intend to look into those issues, and anyone who has received any information about someone who was not paid, I certainly would like to take that information to Elections and Happy Faces and see if I could work through those issues. I can't get into the issue of you know the fear and all of that. I will say that my office is always open. We have means that, you know, I can be contacted. I'm happy just to be speak with anyone who feels that they have an issue; that I will try to look into it.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “So then as you post this audit on your website—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—yes—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--can you provide a link for someone to reach out if they have a concern with what they experienced and try and get them paid as they should have been paid originally—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—well—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “—well, what should they do--”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—well, if they contact my office, I certainly will push the issue with Elections and Happy Faces to ensure that the information that I have been presented with is either correct or incorrect. I'm happy to do that. I don't know what else I could do other than that. And so, as it relates to providing a link, I'm not sure that I can do that—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “—a phone number or some—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—I certainly can provide a phone number—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--all right, please do. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Hall.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay. So, my first question is what is the standard procedure when a contractor is not doing a good job? You know we have the, the forms that are filled out where they're evaluated after the work they do, and now we have audits—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—yes—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—so, what is generally the standard procedure when you get all this bad feedback about a contractor?”

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** “Commissioner, the, the Department is required to do a contract-to-performance report regarding vendors and those contract reports are attached to each agenda item. A lot of what we're discussing today is on the contract management side. I don't know about the performance side. I could not – I can't speak to, that part, that side of it. The Departments would have to speak to that. The Departments are the ones completing the contract performance reports regarding a vendor's performance.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “So, these - I see where we have a memo from Richard Barron, we have a memo from I think Ladisa. I wish I could say her name as well as Dr. Roshell does, but we have a memo from both of them and they are the Department heads and their just acknowledging and confirming all of the negative things that are indicated in this audit. And I just want to remind my colleagues that I remember the termination of the CIO over stuff like this being found in an audit. One thing in particular that stood out to me was when Commissioner Ellis said, no knowledge of who the contractors are nor where they are, and I remember something like that happening in the IT Department at one point, and a few other things that were similar. And the Department head was basically reprimanded for that. We seem to be taking these things very lightly and they're not the type of things to take lightly. All I have to do is go to the last page of the audit, and read the conclusion, and you can see how bad it is. It

says, 'based on the audit performed, we identified the following nine findings that require the attention of management. Lack of an approved contract, unauthorized position titles, issuance of inaccurate and unauthorized wages, untimely payment of invoices, lack of supporting documentation, Happy Faces pay periods do not coincide with Fulton County pay periods, unauthorized use of staffing, unauthorized staffing hours, and inability to verify compliance with contract deliverables. And I think that says it all. So, what are the next steps in this process? You're waiting for the ten days to pass by for them to respond to all of these findings—"

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "--no, Commissioner. Those, those memos that you have from Richard Barron, Ladisa and Stanley Wilson is their response to the audit."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, but are you waiting for Happy Faces to respond to the audit?"

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "So, in our, our exit interview, we had the Departments and Happy Faces was in the interview. To the extent that Happy Faces felt that they needed to provide additional information in the responses, they certainly did. And we asked that they incorporate that the Department incorporates Happy Faces response in theirs because clearly our audit is on a contract that is administered by these Departments. We were looking for a response from the Department, not from Happy Faces."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So, what's the next step to rectifying this situation? And I would like to know if there's been some -- if there's been any performance reports completed by the Departments other than these responses to the audit."

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** "So, Commissioner let me address the next steps. It is up to the Departments to implement procedures that correct these deficiencies. That will be the next step. We would in fact go back and do a follow-up, say within six months to a year to see if these items have been corrected; and then report that back to the Board. As it relates to those evaluations for the Departments, that is something that Purchasing would need to respond to."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Ms. Strong-Whitaker—"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** "--we can provide you with copies of those contract - contract performance reports."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, just a couple thirty seconds. In one thing, in terms of people who feel like they have been shorted, I don’t want our auditor to be the repository for that stuff. It shouldn’t be his role and I hope everybody that says associated with Elections, whether it’s the board of elections heard those statements are figures out a way to reach out to these people. And if they have issues, that would promptly get those addressed as soon as possible particularly going into a next cycle where we're looking to recruit people. We certainly don't want to have a reputation that we’re recruiting people and we’re not paying them what they are due. Last question for you in terms of the scope of the audit, of your audit; you're not -- you didn't evaluate -- there's no evaluation of -- their screening procedures and how they chose to select certain people and assign them for certain roles, right? That was not in your scope.”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “No, that was not.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. I just wanted to have that go on record. Thanks.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. So that’s it for you for now; but do not leave—”

**ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR:** “—I won’t—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—Mr. Auditor. All right, next item, Madam Clerk.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “She’s still here.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Okay, on page 6, **22-0055**, Registration and Elections. Request approval to extend an existing contract with Happy Faces personnel group for a time extension only to provide temporary staffing services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, Mr. Manager, did you want to make some comments or have the Department and Ms. Woolard, or how do you want to proceed?”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Yes, Sir. I think Cathy Woolard is gonna actually make the opening and then introduce Patrick for the presentation, if she’s still here.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, Ms. Woolard, come on down, please.”

**CATHY WOOLARD, CHAIR, BRE:** “Good afternoon, everybody. Sorry that I’m a little pressed for time. Today is my mom's 91st birthday and I've got family coming for dinner so I really have to leave close to four. I’ve been trying to play catch up a little bit with this. I read the audit report shortly before coming down here. So, I’ve got a few thoughts about it; but I’ve got no more notice than y’all probably have about that. But I was privy to a briefing on the Happy Faces issue and our hope to try to be responsive to peoples’ encouragement that we try to find some additional opportunities for staffing.



And so, Mr. Eskridge will give that presentation, but I really appreciate Ms. Strong-Whitaker, and Mr. Anderson and his Team for the thoughtfulness that they've given to how we might pursue you know alternative ways to pursue staffing while still being responsive to a not amenable schedule for when elections occur. And for me, as Chair of the BOE, I'm trying to help us pretty much change all the tires on the car whether they need it or not, while the car is still moving toward a destination. And that is really our challenge you know and it goes with Mr. Barron's tenure. It goes with so many other things that we're doing in terms of trying to execute change with a primary election that's going to happen in May whether we like it or not. So, I can speak to those issues a little bit, but wanted to: A. appreciate having the opportunity to talk and address anything that I can do specifically for you; and I'll kind of hang out through the presentation and just please forgive me, I'm not running out because I don't want to answer questions; but, it's kind of a big deal to be 91 and I want to be there and have the dinner ready on time. So, without further ado, I'll let Mr. Eskridge do the presentation, and then I'll be back if I can."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Good afternoon, everyone. Happy new year. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director, Department of Registration and Elections. As I stand here before you, I would like to ask the Board to consider that our approach is from a strictly administrative standpoint to correlate with the request that we're making which is the need for staffing for the upcoming May election. If we go to slide 2, please, or the next slide. Thank you. If you'll go back up – If you'll see by the arrows, they have slide numbers that have been inserted, thank you. So, we have projected that it takes roughly 3700 needed workers to conduct a successful election cycle. Excuse me. With over – it's really - what we're standing to, this is our current staffing model with a little over 800 positions that are needed for the May elections that are actually sourced from the staffing agency. I'm sorry—"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "--it's okay. I'll continue. So again, what is needed, what's being requested is a little over 800 workers for the May election. The next number is just under 2800, which is what is needed for election day poll workers. If I can clarify for 1, I will ask the Board to consider: One, we are not the only county within the state of Georgia that uses staffing, temporary staffing. We've spoken to three metro counties, just this morning, to confirm that very fact. Also, we'd like to clarify that the election day poll workers are not staffed through the staffing agency. If you'll look at your presentation that consist of roughly over three quarters of the needed personnel to conduct the election and then the remaining one percent is the 45 staff that we've been able to increase with the help of this Board. Excuse me. So again, we provided the proportional breakdown there's 22 percent roughly that comes from the staffing agency. The 77% come from the community and Fulton County employees for again poll worker on election day not to be confused with advanced voting. And then

the remaining 1%, again is made up from our departmental staff. Next slide, please. So, in hearing the concerns of this Board and the public, we've explored three different alternatives that we have to staff for the May election. The first alternative is to remain with the current staffing agency and these are time sensitive. These are - these alternatives were arrived based upon the timeframe that we have to properly prepare for the May election. So, the second alternative is to bid out a new contract for a staffing vendor, and then the third option or alternative would be to work with - through the County's internal HR department. Next slide, please. If you go back up one slide, please. Now, what you'll see here is we provided the monthly breakdown for the needed staff leading up to the May election. The numbers that you see here are - will be based on an infusion, so we will look to bring back roughly 44 staff in the month of January and preceding forth, just to make note, the spike that you see in the month of March is due to advance voting beginning the training for that staff as well as the absentee process. We begin accepting absentee applications in the month of March. Next slide, please. Next, we've provided these - the listing of positions that are needed for that 800 that we would look to source through a staffing agency. We've provided the area within the department that they'll be working in the title of the position, the quantity needed, and then the projected starting and end dates for those assignments and then lastly the just a brief synopsis of what those positions are responsible for. Next slide, please. And so again going through these are the 800 -- over 800 positions that we are requesting. So, we've also done this same listing for the December - the November and December election, and so at this point if you'll skip down to slide 11. Thank you. So, as it pertains to getting the needed staff that we need for the upcoming May elections and assessing the time factor, the resources that it would require, we see that we have two options based - that are actually practical options. The first would be to -- excuse me, remain again with the current temporary staffing model. The second option would be to work through the internal HR department. Given the time sensitive nature of what it takes to prepare for the election, we believe that switching to a different model at this time would bring about certain risks -- excuse me. The - thank you, sorry - thank you. The time sensitive nature of what this would take for the internal HR department to take on is a huge risk. There is a cost increase or implication for the County in the area of roughly two and a half million dollars. And then, that is not to include the additional costs to the departmental resources that are needed for HR for Finance and Purchasing, as well. And again, the inability to recruit staff timely would be a major risk and also it would actually be detrimental. I know when we brought the item before you before the closeout -- excuse me -- the question was raised of how detrimental it would be when we're not able to get the staff needed, and at that time I was careful to concede that it would be detrimental, but again a month later -- a month closer to the May election, not having that staff in place at a specific time would be very detrimental to our Department and our capability to conduct and prepare for the election. Next slide, please. Excuse me. So, given the request that the item is an extension through June 30th, we felt that at least that would give us an extra added time to consider more

options. And so, for this slide we see an additional option of option 'B' which again would be to work through Purchasing for a new bidding to search out a new staffing vendor. Excuse me. Again, not to harp on it, but I need to emphasize the time factor in the nature of preparing, adequately preparing for the election. So, with this additional option brings about a risk of the time that it would take to follow that purchasing process from 4 to 6 months. Excuse me. Excuse me. That is again for the November elections, so just speaking or talking it out a six-month process from let's say from February 1st will put us into our August. And we've requested or we'll need to begin bringing back November staffing around July. So again, would put us as it pertains to time and another risky and possibly detrimental position. Next slide, please. And so again trying to adhere to the - this Boards' preferences on how we go about staffing, we try to provide a kind of pros and cons list of what this would mean for – the, well the comparison between options. So, there is a positive opposed to being able to outsource our staffing needs through a staffing vendor. They are cost implications, a cost savings for the County implications, but I think again from our standpoint more importantly the concerns are cons of switching to another model which we've discussed with the HR Department, and in discussion of trying to see about switching, it was I guess resolved that at this time the undertaking of staffing for elections they are simply can't - they do not have the capabilities to do. There is a major time factor. Again, as we are here in the middle of January going into February, which is also a short month, gives us about six weeks where we have to have at least anywhere from six to 700 people on board to be in a good position to prepare for the election; and speaking to HR, there was a major concern. And again, they identified that the task or undertaking that they were not prepared to do. Excuse me. Next slide, please. Excuse me. So again, based upon the assessing of where we are with time, the resources that are required, we've provided the following recommendations from our, again our administrative point of needing manpower to conduct the elections. So, our recommendation would be to remain again with the current staffing agency. We feel like this extension would allow us the -- give us even more time to explore further options for staffing vendors. Again, to closely or as close to operationally doable to align our practices with the preferences of this Board. That would also allow us the time to implement certain contract management improvement methodologies. Next slide, please. So, contingent upon our request being approved, again this would allow us time for improvement processes in our contract management which we would take the following steps to implement training to implement frequent checkpoints with Purchasing to make sure that we are constantly remaining in compliance. Next slide, please. And this last slide is again based upon the contingent approval. These would be the next steps that we would take moving forward which is to be in recruitment to then begin working with Purchasing for that process to explore other vending options and at this point I'll open up the floor for questions."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Oh, no, look - I'm so used to—"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “—well, I was just getting ready to call on you Commissioner Hall, please go ahead.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, Ma’am. So, oh boy, let me see where do I start. Well, for one, the BOC has consistently asked and requested that many of these positions be advertised in the communities that surround the polling places so that we can have people from the community who have interest in working the polling locations, actually fill some of these jobs. And so, I was listening and trying to figure out -- I mean it looks like there are a lot of things that need to be done that have been identified and listed on these slides, but what has been done to date to complete the request that has been asked repeatedly from this Body about getting people in the community employed in these positions and is that a question for HR?”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “I mean I can, I would like to respond in the manner that again I think it’s important to clarify that there’s a difference between the logistical and supply nature side that we rely on a staffing vendor to do. For the community involvement, that we use to for election day poll workers do come from and we have been proactively now leading up to the May election begin to seek out those people that are willing. We’ve sent out several surveys throughout the County through Fulton County as well as to the previous people that have shown interest to work to see if they’ll be willing to come back. We’ve also been in collaboration with many of the cities, and mayors to also get the word out and solicit more community involvement for poll, for poll workers.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “So to date, have you - do you have a number of people that you’ve identified that are from the community on your list from reaching out?”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “We do have a number. I do not have it in front of me. So, if you’ll allow me, I could—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—absolutely; send it to me after the meeting; and so, I’m looking at – and this got a little confusing because we have your document that came from -- looks like it came from the County Manager’s office, and it’s the presentation that you’re showing us. But then earlier, someone passed a similar document to our Clerks office, and it was handed out to us. It looks similar to your presentation, but what I realize is that someone took your presentation and highlighted specific areas of it, and basically, has some recommendations and some questions that and some pointing out some different things on your presentation, and but one good thing, you answered the question that’s on one of these pages that related to getting people from the community hired in these positions, but I would ask if have you seen this edited version of your presentation?”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “No, Ma’am.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “No? Okay. It was handed out by Olympia when one of the residents this morning was speaking, and I believe they handed some of these to Olympia and she passed them out to all of us.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Let me try to shed some light on that.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Three of the, the group that comes to our meetings and talks about Happy Faces, I’ve met with them for the third time yesterday, and they had that document which I hadn’t seen before. So, I had no idea where they got it from and they had – and they were showing me in it where they were making recommendations that they were going to bring it to the meeting today. So, they got it before I got it somehow.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay.”

**CATHY WOOLARD, CHAIR, BRE:** “Let me just address that—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—please—”

**CATHY WOOLARD, CHAIR, BRE:** “--so Mr. Eskridge, you made this presentation or an earlier version of this presentation to the BRE on Thursday. So, my guess is somehow, you know, they got a copy from wherever one stores those things for the public to access—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—okay—”

**CATHY WOOLARD, CHAIR, BRE:** “--so that will be where that came from.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay, well they took your presentation and they have highlighted various areas indicating areas of concern and areas of question. And I would just like to -- I mean even on the dates and everything, I would like for you to actually take a look at this and provide responses to this, because they're not – they're not just asking, you know, random questions. Some of these questions are really good. And because we serve the people of Fulton County, and this came from the people, the residents of Fulton County, I think you should read it and address it. I'd like to know the answer to some of these things myself 'cause there's some significant stuff in here. So, you can have my copy and take it with you.”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “Commissioner, if I can speak to—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—yes, Sir—”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “--you mentioned dates; so the dates that you see within the presentation were based upon the workflow and also budget compliance, so based upon the work come leading up to that time that we absolutely could either stand-off bringing staff back or absolutely needing to bring staff

on with those dates and then again leading through the election to make sure that we have proper coverage and also be aligned with our budget.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay. Well, I look forward to receiving your response to those questions because a lot of them spark my interest in knowing what the answer is. And my final question is, what would happen if this didn't get approved today? What would be the ramifications of this not getting approved?”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “So again, I think, given the time of where we are leading up to a time period where we have to have staff in place; it would be again detrimental and also put us at the risk of not being able to: one, properly prepare for the election and two, even worst case not being able to conduct the election. We kind of ran into the same scenario leading back this summer where we were unsure about having staff in place and again that lead to us reaching out to the municipalities to let them know that without staff in place we were kind of hand tied with being able to properly conduct the election.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “So, how long have we been talking about Happy Faces and the need to fill these positions? I mean, how long – this has been going on for a while. And so, I’m trying to understand how you’re standing here today and it feels like you're telling me you have done nothing in the way of trying to hire or get people hired. Is there a reason why you're saying right now that if this doesn't get approved, it will put the whole election process at stake in a negative way? Knowing that we've been going back and forth on this, what preparation has taken place to try to ensure that we would not be at this point where it's either Happy Faces or a mess?”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “So, if I could respond to the matter, the actions that we have taken have been in planning and discussion with the other departments that we would require to be able to switch from the current staffing model. Again, we’ve spoken with HR, we’ve worked collaboratively with the County management – County management executive team along with Purchasing to explore our options and again, given those times, it was not feasible. Leading into the last time that we again ran into this scenario, it was right - leading into the municipal election. So, at that time, our focus was to conduct the election also given with the sentiment that it was attached that would be a heavy lift for the other departments to take on that's where basically has brought us to here again before you.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “So, so, are you saying that you’ve made no headway in hiring to fill these positions up to this time and just in case this did not get passed?”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “No, Ma’am, I would not say that. I would say that in order to hire those positions, we would have to work through HR being that that is their function; and again, in discussion throughout this process, they have identified that that was something that they were not prepared to do. So—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “HR. Mr. Hermon, you all were not prepared to be able to help the Department of Registration and Elections to get some of these positions filled?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** “Good afternoon, Commissioner. Sorry about that. So, in the presentation we do help the Registration and Elections with the permanent positions as any other Department that supports Fulton County. But one thing in our conversation as Patrick was talking about in our collaborations, it was we quickly realize that when it came to the election day workers and the Team that he needed, HR was not best suited for that. So outside of all those conversations we had some internal conversations that if -- how we could do it and even in those conversations, we couldn't come up with a way to quickly hire and have on standby ready to be mobilized as election needs them 7-to-600 employees. Same thing when we hired - we hire 700 employees per year to now hire within a short period of time needed at these different individuals during the course of the year, we just couldn't figure that out from an HR perspective understanding the County rules and regulations that we would have to adhere to within the County.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “All right. Well, it appears that our hands are tied that if we don't approve this today, we have the potential to have – to be in the news because our election process will unfortunately be put in a bad situation. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “What's that song, how long has this been going on – man. I think it was originally written in 1928. Seems like this discussion has been going on since then too. First off, I just want to thank all of the folks that came down and spoke in public comments this morning. I certainly, you know, may not agree with everything you said, but everything was said but agree with many portions of things that was said. And also do want to say I was disappointed that there were remarks directed at them by from the dais. I think that was out of line and inappropriate for that to occur during public comment, period. I think public comment period is not a time for us to chastise or debate those that come up here and speak. It's the time for the folks to be able to speak and be heard and we listen. So, I was a little bit disappointed in that. You know I would say I'm very proud of the way this County has conducted itself and improved itself in many areas in things we've tackled head-on and addressed. Going back several years where we were with public health and where that is today, I'm extremely proud of that and that change. Where we are with behavioral health today, the rigmarole and the challenges we went through with tax assessment and how difficult that was and how we rolled up our sleeves and addressed it, I'm extremely proud of it. However, I'm not proud of the way we've gone about and try to address our challenges related to elections. You know when it comes to elections, I think it will always be the case, that when they're close elections people are going to raise allegations of fraud and shenanigans and that sort of stuff. Whether it's a Democrat that loses, who loses the governorship or whether it's a Democrat that doesn't win President, or a Republican that

doesn't win President. I think that's probably always going to be with us. And my comments you know I wanted to be very clear have nothing to do with those kinds of sentiment that would probably always be with us. They relate to the quality and effectiveness of Fulton County elections, and some of these have nothing to do with some of the folks that are standing right here before us. This is kind of all must have took place before you got here. But my view is related to how we've run our election, how we've monitored contracts; we heard a lot of that here today; we've heard some of that, you know, prior to and in our previous financial audit; how we've contingency planned, I mean and we've, you know, candidly, we've known this is an issue for some time you know and instead of really having an alternative plan to present to us, it's a plan to kick the can down the road, so we can come up with an alternative plan. You know that's how we've been engaged volunteers and staff. You know, we've heard from some of those folks today, how we've trained them, or failed to train them. You know, I've personally heard from folks that just, you know, very qualified folks, done this stuff before, who just walked away exasperated with kind of just the experience and the stress of working on election day. It's how we've responded to criticisms and failures or lack or how we haven't responded to them at times. And it's how we've expose ourselves to employment litigation, how we failed to have adequate procedures in place for election day setup, you know and how ultimately, you know, we've created a certain level of distrust that sits there with the public right now by failing to make the changes swiftly. And instead, we perpetuated ineffectiveness. You know and we sat here in June of 2020, I think it was one of the few meetings we had where we were in the chamber for the second half of the year and was right after you know those horrendous, you know, horrendous performance by us with elections and you know which can't certainly be denied. I mean, we looked like a third world country, and we're the worst of worst. And, you know, I remember at that time, you know I wrote a very lengthy letter to, you know, the Board of Registration and Elections and all the members, and I respect that it's been your role to make decisions related to staff. And you know and I clearly, you know, asked that changes to the staff be considered and made. And the individual conversations that I had with those members at the time was we can't do anything right now. We got an election coming up. We got to wait. Flash forward, here we are today. Can't do anything right now. We got challenges. We just need to kick the can down the road and wait. I'm tired of waiting. We've had consent decrees. We've had failed financial audits. We've had multiple times we've had to recertify elections. We've had a pattern of election day failures; and then, you know, we had the report today, on a pretty bad report; on a vendor and then we're sitting about in here having a gun to our head, saying we've got to extend the contract. There are times where you've just got to rip the Band-Aid off and get with the program and address the issues at hand. And I cannot vote to extend this contract. We've got to figure out a way to move on. It may take temporary staffing - I will acknowledge that I do think it's very important to raise this, Mr. Eskridge. To clarify this, there are other counties that use firms. Temporary staffing probably has to be a part of the solution. I will note that those three firms because I did



this research back some time ago, myself and my staff that the three major counties: Gwinnett, Dekalb, and Cobb use them. They use multiple agencies. None of them use Happy Faces. So, at least in terms of the research and the information that I got back. So, you know I'll just say you know I'm just not in favor of extending this. I think we've got to figure out a way in terms of the resources we have and can bring to bear and roll up our sleeves and address this now rather than later. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Good afternoon, and thank you for being here. I'm kind of surprised not to see the Elections Director, but thank you for standing in for him; and thank you for coming, Ms. Woolard. You know I would concur with what both of my colleagues have just said. We're all tired of this conversation. You know, it's just seems like someone said earlier, today is Groundhog Day. And honestly the excuse that, you know, we can't do anything as Commissioner Ellis just said because we have an election – we, we always have elections. Every year we have an election. We never didn't not have an election. And that's what we're supposed to be doing is conducting elections. So, it's pretty frustrating to sit here meeting, after meeting, after meeting, and have our citizens come down here and say the same things over and over. And in this case, this group has been coming down for a year -- 14 months, and, you know, I'm looking at this PowerPoint that they commented on with real suggestion that I would have hoped our management team would have come up with to focus on – focus on having community members do this work. And I, I don't understand, Mr. Hermon, why the obstacle is HR can't, can't figure this out. I mean, you've got folks here that would work every single election. They would at - once they're in the system, and that's what we would - I would think want is to have community members that are dedicated to serving at, at this time for an important function – elections, and utilize them again, and again, and again, and not have to find them every election cycle because they want to work. They want to help us. They wouldn't be coming down here every meeting and expressing their interest in what we're doing with elections if they weren't dedicated to making sure that we have elections that people can trust. Nobody's talking about changing any results. Every Commissioner up here at one point or another has indicated their frustration with how our elections are run. This is not a partisan perspective. We've all had issues and we've got community members that want to help us fix it and we're not asking them to help us. I, I, I, I just, I don't understand it. Now, we're at the point that we've got mayors that are meeting to try and figure out how to create an authority so that they don't have to use Fulton County to do their elections. Is that really what we want? Do we want, you know, it to be taken away from us or do we want to fix it ourselves? I mean, I think that's really the question here. You know, I too, listen to these audits. I mean I've asked for these audits. I don't like the results of these audits. That's not what I want to hear. I want to hear that Commissioner, everything is running smoothly; everybody is doing what they're supposed to do, you now and that's not what we hear. And so, I'm kind of flabbergasted that on the heels of hearing how

bad the situation is with this particular vendor that we should continue using them. It makes us look foolish. No wonder people are upset. I mean, common sense would say that we would take the information that we get from our auditors and make other arrangements. So, I can't support it either. I can't look at the mayors in my community and say you can trust our elections; we know what we're doing when we're continuing to operate in the same way that obviously has not been productive for us. So, you know, every time that they come down here, I learn something new. I mean I learned today that potentially we've got folks that are working our elections that aren't even US citizens. I thought you had to be a Fulton County resident to work in our elections. And so, I don't know if that's accurate or not, but I certainly hope you're looking into that; that the folks that are coming to work for us are legal citizens that are working in our elections. That seems like common sense to me. Bottom line this just looks like the easy way out you know to continue to use something that obviously is not met with approval of the citizens we serve. And I just don't understand how we could even remotely consider using this firm again. If you need supplemental services with a temp agency, great. Just not this one. This one is proven that they're not worthy of working for Fulton County."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I, I, I wasn't going to speak on this and, and I really thought about it, but as someone, here again I don't have a dog in this fight. But there was no fraud in our election. There was no fraud. The problem that I have is we get stuff convoluted. Processes that should be in place, things that we as a Body, we as the County Manager's office, we as Human Resources – you just heard Human Resources say that for whatever reason not prepared, can't do it, or whatever. And so, as a legislator, we already got SB 202 looking at us. Now, someone will look at this comment and say, well we got it, then we need to get rid of Happy Faces. But then, where is the contingency plan? And so, what I'm asking is for Fulton County -- I'm not asking Happy Faces to step to task. I'm asking Fulton County to step to task because the whole year that I've been down here, over a year, what responsibility have we taken? We're so quick to put a finger at Happy Faces, but what have we done or not done? So today if I decided, okay, I'm not going to vote for Happy Faces, what do we have in place? Is that Happy Faces fault? Or is that Fulton County's fault? So, all I'm saying again we have a tendency because everybody wants red meat. Democrats want red meat. Republicans want red meat to feed off of. But we are one Fulton. When is somebody going to stop this polarizing - going this direction, going this direction because it benefits them? When are we going to be one Fulton and step up to the plate and do what we need to do for this County? We're not perfect, but we're good at a lot of things. But I'm sitting here getting irritated cause I keep hearing Happy Faces as though Happy Faces is responsible for what we're not doing. And I'm not gonna do that. I'm not gonna lay that at that contractors' feet are no other

contractors' feet because Fulton County must do better. When you have a legislator that's sitting here torn and I know I'm gonna catch heat; but I'm used to catching heat. I'm torn because not what Happy Faces has done or not done, but what Fulton County hasn't done. We must do better if we're ever going to rise to what we expect of our employees. We get so caught up in the political game; we get so caught up -- you heard Commissioner Hall say, that's it - what other choice do we have? We should be ashamed to sit up here in front of the public and say what other choice do we have? So all I'm asking is my colleagues -- and let me, let me not - because this is not no beat up Fulton County problem. We have a great team here, but there are symptoms of some, some, some bigger issues that we have down here that we've got to correct before we start convoluting, before we start saying that there is illegal immigrants working you know handling our votes -- let's not do that. Let's not do that. Let's not do the disservice to the working people of Fulton County. Let's do what we need to do which is to look at ourselves and see what we are or not doing and let's move forward. That's all I'm asking. Where is the contingency plan? Mr. Hermon, I think you do a great job, but if we not equipped, how do we become equipped? Let's have the conversations. County Manager, what do we need to do?"

**UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--so if that's the case, let's move forward and not polarize this issue. Let's not polarize this issue. Let's grow out of what mistakes that are perceived that we made, what Happy Faces made, and, and I will be remiss if I didn't say, okay, we're talking about elections, but should Happy Faces leave for Senior Services? Should they leave for Community Development? Have we had that conversation? So, I'm just asking, let's stop polarizing. Let's stop making this political and let's do right by the Fulton County taxpayers. I'm apologizing to the mayors again. I apologized to the mayors at the mayors meeting and I will apologize again because it is our fault. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. A tale of two cities. A tale of two counties. Me, for one, I'm proud of Fulton County and our service during elections. I'm proud of the work that our employees have done. I'm proud of the elections that we've had in Fulton County. I was born in Fulton County in 1971. We've had numerous, numerous elections in Fulton County throughout my life. We've elected both Democrats and Republicans alike. We have not, and I'm trying to understand how we get to this point where people want to question the integrity of the system that has elected Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Blacks, Whites, Latinos, straight, LGBTQ -- whatever you want you can do it right here in Fulton County. There's no valid or solid reason to question the integrity of our elections. There is no valid or solid reason to question the integrity of the Fulton County employees who performed miraculously in the largest County in the state of Georgia over the last 50

years that I've been alive. It is preposterous; it is unthinkable; unimaginable that people who come in here and talk about questioning the integrity of the election process. There's nothing wrong with the integrity of the election process in Fulton County or the state of Georgia or in the United States of America. We have systems in place. The problem -- the problem is, is -- the problem is democracy. Democracy is a tool to make sure you get the government that you deserve. Fulton County government is run by people. I'm pretty good, but I'm not perfect. I don't know about you. I don't know about any of y'all. How many - raise your hand if you're perfect. Raise your hand if you never made a mistake. We have a government that's in place and the reason colleagues that we have problems with the policies and procedures are because of the bureaucracy and the red tape of the form of government that we have that brings people in every four years and sends people home every four years. You lose institutional knowledge when you send someone home and you bring someone new, you lose the knowledge that the person had when they were there. When you send Richard Barron home, you lose all the knowledge that he had. The problem is the -- and guess what? All of these problems -- all of these problems good people that people are talking about our elections department - we have the same damn problems in every Department down here in Fulton County. The same damn problems in every Department up and down the ladder. It's not elections. It's not the integrity of the elections. It's the damn form of government. It's the way people come in and go out. It's the way people get fired. It's the way people get hired. We're the number 1, the largest County in this state. Of course, we're going to have more problems. We got more people voting. Nobody else has a million plus people voting. And out of a million people voting, you're going to have more complaints. But I've never seen us so divided. In all my 50 years, I've never seen us so divided. Donald Trump gets elected. I don't question the integrity of the system. I don't question the votes. I voted for somebody else. I lost. I got to suck it up. And wait for the next time. But no, we want to change the rules. We want to question the integrity of the whole system. Well, let's just burn the whole damn system down. If we're going to question the integrity of the elections process in Fulton County, just let's not have no elections. Let's not have no elections because the people aren't perfect. The workers are not perfect. They're not going to ever do everything right. The contractors are not perfect. They're not going to ever do everything right. There are going to be mistakes, and so to sit here and to blame us - I'm proud of our employees. I'm proud of the work that we've done and if they don't want to use us to run their elections then they don't have to use us to run their elections. I don't care. This is all a part of a big lie. The big lie is that there is a problem with election integrity in Fulton County and the state of Georgia, and it is a lie. It is a lie. Stop giving it oxygen. The more oxygen you give to a fire the bigger the fire gets. Shut it down. Shut it down. Keep giving all this oxygen to this stuff. It doesn't - this is the system. This is America that we live in. It's not perfect, but it's all we got. It's not perfect, but it's all we got. We: Democrats, Republicans, get to go vote and elect new people every year and we're not gonna always like the person that gets elected. We're not going always like the

outcome of the election. But you don't just question the integrity of the election because you don't like the outcome. SB 202 is unconstitutional. We need to be doing everything we can right now. You cannot apply a law retroactively. It is unconstitutional. Where, where are the hands of my perfect people? I don't see any hands. Where are my people that are going to make sure that the election runs without a flaw? Let me see your perfect hand. Let me see if your perfect hand looks any different than my hand. We are not perfect, but our Fulton County workers do the best damn job that they can do every day and I'm proud of them.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair. I gotta say I think this might be the first time that I've had that we've had back-to-back an audit report on a contract that clearly spelled out all kind of deficiencies many of which we've heard through public comment through multiple times, and we heard them today. And then turn around to have a request to approve to extend it. You know I said earlier my remarks this contract that's before us is nothing to do with you know who won elections and that sort of stuff. This is about whether or not we should continue to be operating elections using this particular contract or utilize some different means. I think it's time for us to use a different means and with that I would move denial to extend this particular contract.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. There's a motion to deny. Is there a second?”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Second.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—Mr. Chair, I'm still – back to the discussion on—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—okay, the motion now is to deny the motion by Commissioner Ellis to deny, seconded by Vice Chair Hall. Strike that – that's a habit. Vice Chair, what's her name—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “—Hausmann—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—Hausmann. All right in the queue Commissioner Arrington followed by Commissioner Hall. And the motion before us is to deny.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Yeah, I'm not giving any oxygen to the big lie. Mr. Manager, don't you have some other options? Didn't you mention some other alternatives? Didn't you mention an opportunity for us to perhaps kill two birds with one stone? Don't you have some other opportunities or some other contractors that are available?”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** Yes, Sir. So, and I'm not sure how we have lost track of what was being recommended. If you'll look at the chart that's before you

now, it is the next steps along a path that would -- I'll say it in simple terms try to feather-in alternatives to our temporary staffing needs. Some of that would be attempting to hire fifty to a hundred folks, and there are steps on that chart as to what we would do to pursue that. There are approximately five firms, I think, on state contract, which we are temporary staffing firms that we could take advantage of. Some of which we have used before during this course of time when all of this discussion's been taking place. So, if we use two or three of those firms and let's say we get two to three hundred folks from those firms and if we're successful in getting fifty to a hundred folks hired, then we would be more than half, if you will, diversified from the single provider that we have today and we think that's the most logical path. I think the notion of what we would have called a telecom a forklift upgrade in other words getting rid of one firm holistically and trying to put another whole new firm in place is a high-risk proposition. It's a high-risk proposition in almost any scenario; not just this one. But it's doubly high-risk as it relates to elections and people for some of the points that you just made. And quite frankly, I struggle with what problem are we trying to solve? We're not trying to solve the fraud problem, because none's been proven. We're not trying to solve improper influence, because we have a statement from this firm that they have no outside investors, nor plan to, political or otherwise. I mean, I don't know what else needs to be said. Contract management is something that is basic blocking and tackling not just procured to this firm, but it's my responsibility, our responsibility to do better. And part of this presentation which we've glossed over now had a series of steps to improve contract management which we need to do whether its Happy Faces, corporate temps, or XYZ. So, the proposal is to move forward in a logical fashion recognizing the fact that Happy Faces -- we are who we wrote to I always said; so, Happy Faces gets us down the path particularly for the primaries, but then as we move into the general election by that point in time, we will have a - following this plan- have both alternatives staffing firms and hopefully and I say hopefully because I think the external hiring process as we all know is difficult. Take the Sheriff's department is one clear example. Where we started with 190 vacancies first of last year. We have 200 this year. So, it is difficult to hire and retain folks and it will be difficult in this area. And I think notionally as, well, you know, again responding to change for change sake, the folks that are coming each time with the assertions that they're making, just defy reality. I don't think there are volunteers. I just wrote down some myself. They're going to be data clerks for four months. I don't think there are volunteers that are going to be poll PAD technicians for five months. Volunteers are going to be call center reps for four months? I don't think that's reality. So I think some level of temporary staffing is always going to be a part of this equation. So again, the response directly to your question, and our best advice working with the BRE to satisfy both the notion to get away from a single provider, but do it in a logical fashion is what's outlined on this page and it's internal as well as two or three others off state contracts where we don't have to rebid the entire process. Because if we do that, that's months more added to this. And then, we can determine if we've got one of those firms that emerges as the best-performing

firm; there's two or three that gives us even more diversity. If we can hire more, we will. And we'll have in front of us during the course of this year, the best solution."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. So, what you're saying is it's just not practical to get rid of Happy Faces at this point. But that you have developed a plan which will diversify or add additional contractors over time."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So that we can perhaps wane off of one vendor and, and have three as you say. Maybe one of those vendors stands out, maybe we go with that vendor, right?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. So, you don't have a magic wand."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I don't."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You can't, you can't go back and change those 2016 election results for Trump, can you?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, Richard Barron and Happy Faces were in charge of elections. You can't, you can't, you can't do that—"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-no, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I'm going to make a substitute motion to approve."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, wait a minute now. I'm not sure that the – I'm not the parliamentarian; but a motion directly opposite of one that's on the floor, I don't think it's proper."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, that'd be the first time I heard somebody can't make a substitute motion—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—directly opposite, I may be – I may be a little rusty, but I don't think I am. Madam parliamentarian."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Let's find out."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "My suggestion would be to, if you want to fire—"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--Commissioner Hall seconded my motion—"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** MIC IS ON “—yes, it has been seconded. If it has been seconded, then it, that substitute motion can be made and voted upon.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “You're saying that it's a proper motion?”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Yes.”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Yes, Sir, it is.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. All right. I disagree with that but you're the parliamentarian. So, the motion before us now - the motion before us is to approve substitute motion. Now Commissioner Hall followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Again, the motion before us is to approve an extension of the Happy Faces contract.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington for reminding all of us that there is no integrity issues as it relates to the election and that has been proven that there are no integrity issues. And our Registration and Elections employees have been put through enough scrutiny and they're lives have been threatened and just treated so badly and they are some of the most hard-working employees that we have. All of our employees are outstanding. That is why this Board approved earlier in the budget to give our employees a cost-of-living adjustment to the tune of 7 percent, because we value our employees. Registration and Elections, as you said, Commissioner Arrington, has been doing years of outstanding elections. And that's just a fact. But today, we have a situation where we need to make a decision that is either going to help or hinder them from having a successful election. And it has already been stated that we will be putting them in a bad position if we do not approve this contract today. It is what it is. It is the situation that we're in. There's nothing you can do to change that. There is no other alternative that's going to help them have a successful election other than this right now. And so, I would take the County Manager's recommendation and move forward with a plan that's going to address it in the future. In the very near future. So, Mr. Eskridge, I just want to thank you for your hard work – I mean, you stepped in, you know, you're the Deputy; and you're standing before us even though we still have Mr. Barron on board as our Director, you've been before us on behalf of the Department of Registration and Elections and you have stood here as questions are being fired at you, and I see your, you know, your discomfort. I see it, but I want to just thank you because you're handling it to the best of your ability. And the registration and elections team, department they need to be commended because they have done as much as they could and we've lost a lot of people. This is not something that has just taken place, you know, in other Departments. The Department of Registration and Elections has lost some significant people. You're talking about historical knowledge walking right out of the door. And I'm, I'm sure that we'll see how that impacts the processes and things that need to take place for us to have a successful election as well. But we need to do something now. Thank you.”



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you, Chairman. I’m, I’m going to be quick with my comments. You know we as a Body, we, we need to be careful when we call certain things out and we don’t and if you would like for me to be more specific when I raised the issue of a convicted felon that had charges pending against them; that person was able to get a contract. Now, we want to go the other direction and say something different. So, we’re not consistent in what we need to do. And I feel we need to call that out. County Manager, I’m looking to your leadership and I’m asking you if we approve this today, are we going to move in the direction -- do you think this is best because I have stated and I know all my colleagues and I know that you know my feelings about this, I want to make sure that we’re doing the right thing. Doesn’t have anything to do with politics -- Democrat or Republican; but as the County Manager, I’m asking you, is this the best recommendation right now?”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** Yes, Ma’am. I think a logical move away from Happy Faces is our best recommendation, but it’s not a flipping the light switch approach. It needs to be hiring; it needs to be finding other providers and feathering all of that in during the course of this election.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Well, I’m going to take the advice of not one, not two, but three of my colleagues. They say, if the County Manager says it, follow it. So today, I’m taking their advice and I’m following your recommendation. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Other comments? If not, Commissioner Ellis.”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Chairman Pitts? Excuse me. I just wanted to clarify a point. The substitute motion should be done in two parts. Initially, a motion to substitute should be entertained, and then if that passes, and then the substitute motion may be considered.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yeah, I don’t agree with that either, but that - she’s the parliamentarian. Okay, go ahead—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—just to be brief—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--we’ll perfect that [Inaudible.]—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, I wanted to thank Mr. Eskridge for coming down here and speaking as well and I think it also highlights the fact that you know you’ve been stuck up here you know trying to respond to things that you probably shouldn’t be. And it highlights the fact that our Elections Department has been rudderless and lacked leadership for some time. And I really want to encourage our board of elections to get

more engaged and own this problem. I'm tired of talking about it. It should not be us that are owning it. I respect our manager a great deal, but this is not his role to manage elections. That's not his scope. And, and we - I don't disagree - I don't agree with all of his remarks that were made today about alternatives. But, some point in time the board of elections and the Elections Department have to manage elections and we got to get out of having our nose in to how elections are going to be managed. I'm done."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. On the motion that is on the floor, Madam County Attorney, would you repeat what you said and how Commissioner Arrington can accomplish what he wants to accomplish."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So, it should be a two-step process whereby initially a motion to allow a substitute motion would be voted upon and then if that is successful then a substitute motion may be made."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So, you need to withdraw your second—"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "—no—"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "—she said [Inaudible.]—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--but the motion on the floor now is to approve; go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "If I may, I'm happy to perhaps perfect the record the way the County Attorney, the new County attorney has set it up—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—parliamentarian in that role—"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "—okay, however, our practice has not been to do a vote on the substitute motion. We simply say substitute motion and then vote on it. So, I'm just, you know, I'm just here, you know, a few years, for seven years now. But we've never done it that way. And so, if we're going to do it that way this time, then we're going to have to start doing it that way every other time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I don't disagree with that, but what I said was that - and I won't, don't want to do this in this forum. But my experience, you cannot make a motion that is directly opposite of the motion that is before the Body. That's all I was saying. And now what the count in her this role as a parliamentarian she gave a way to perfect your motion, and I—"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "—well, I think that she ruled that I did not have to do that and then I'm fine with making a substitute motion. I think she might be right pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order, but she may want to amend her opinion after knowing our practice and procedure and how we normally do substitute motions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, the easiest way to do it is just to vote—"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Mr. Chair? Just so we could move on with our meeting, I think we understand how people are going to vote on this, I will withdraw my original motion.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Well, but you can't do that yet—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—can't do that--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—no—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—come on, let's just do something—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—no, no, no—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--to get this over with—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “—come on, come on—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--just a minute, just a minute, now—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—you're going to follow her—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—I'm waiting to see if she's going to lend her opinion based on our practice and procedure.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “He's asking me if I'm in—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Just follow what she says. We've got a lot more on the Agenda.”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “So, it is not specifically addressed in this Board's procedures and therefore we go to Robert's Rule as a guide. But if it is this Board's normal custom and procedure, we can defer to that if the Board so, so desires.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “What she say?”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “She said we need a vote on this, on my substitute motion. According to Robert Rules of Order, it should be a two-step process. However, according to our practice and procedures, here is just a substitute motion, and then a vote on that one time; so, we don't have to do it twice.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, again, I'm not the parliamentarian. I disagree with both of those, but in the interest of time, it wants to be challenged. Anyone can challenge it. So, the motion before us now is to approve the extension of the Happy Faces contract. That motion was made by Commissioner Arrington, it was seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Ellis you still want to be heard?”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “No.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Let's vote's.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** Motion to approve?

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yes.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the vote is open on the motion to approve--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—in other words, if you want to keep Happy Faces vote, yes, if you want to get rid of Happy Faces vote no.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—With the recommendation of the County Manager—”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the motion to approve passes; four yeas, three nays.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Next item.”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “Thank you.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Page 6, **22-0056**, Information Technology. Request approval to renew existing contract for specialty computing devices.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right motion to approve by Commissioner Hall seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Up, wait a minute. I was in the queue to speak. Go back. I was in the queue to speak. I have a couple of questions.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Hall has the floor.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay. So, I have a couple of questions, Glenn, because you know we had a conversation about the PC refresh and the actual computers that we are purchasing. And when I looked at this, I do see that you added the specialty computing devices that we spoke about because you know I ask you about standardizing equipment based on the employee base and what their needs are. And some people need Macs instead of, you know, Dells and other items. But what is -- what I'm questioning in this, are we still purchasing the same inadequate PCs that we were purchasing before? And what I mean by that is you know, I had a problem with the first computer that I had because the speakers are on the bottom of the computer, and now we're in a situation where we do everything virtual. So we're literally sitting at the computer zooming and doing Microsoft teams and other stream yard and other virtual apps. And so, having the speakers on the bottom doesn't allow the sound to come through on the media like it should. And then a lot of issues that have come about because of the type of equipment like the slowness just trying to do

any type of work on the computers. So, are we still purchasing those same type of PCs or have you selected an upgrade?”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CIO, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “Thank you Commissioner. Glenn Melendez, Chief Information Officer. Per our discussion, we went out and surveyed the organization. And in surveying the organization there we had the results back about 67% of the organization did not have a need for video or sound. They’re just not zooming all day. So, for those - that population of the organization, we did go with Dell as a recommendation that's what the competitive bid yielded. But for the remainder of the organization, the other 33 percent, we have the option of going to specialty devices and getting whatever it is that they need and works for them.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay. And in lieu of the fact that we have so many departments that have never worked from home and more than ever before we're still at only 33% of our - Mr. Hermon, we're still at only at 33% of our employee base that is working from home or virtual, or--”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CIO, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “—so, if I may clarify it—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—yes, I’m sorry—”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CIO, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “—so, it doesn't mean that they’re not working from home, it means that just based on their roles and responsibilities that there may not be using zoom and those kinds of features extensively. They may be in accounting and need to just work on spreadsheets during the course of the day. They may have various roles that just don't call for that functionality.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay. All right. Thank you for that. And so, when I look at this – what is this page called the contractor's performance report? In here you addressed the quality of the equipment provided by Dell and said it was satisfactory based on the specs identified in the solicitation in the contract. But every time I talk about these computers and how bad they are and how slow they are and everything, I always get employees who e-mail me or contact me after the Board Meeting and say thank you for bringing that to the attention of the IT Department because they're not really reaching out and finding out how bad these computers are. And so, this particular performance report you based it on your specs and your contract and I want to ask that you do more with contacting the users and getting the users input about we're actually providing them to do their work with. Because I have a whole list -- I've been keeping track of all the issues that we have been consistently addressing just in my office, and I know I've heard from other people. I heard Commissioner Hausmann say one day that she was experiencing slowness, and then some of the other Departments. So, I just want to make sure that we're not putting ourselves in a situation where we're continuing to purchase inadequate computers and we're really trying to be more advanced in our selection.”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CIO, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “Yes so, I’ll respond to that. So, I guess in terms of the options, they do have an option to go to another option if we so choose - if they so choose. We haven’t allocated extensive dollars for that because we do want to have some standards in place. The flip side of that - I’ll say this that we’ve been using those devices throughout the County. There are thousands of them deployed and while we have had some issues, overall, we’re providing services across the board successfully. I mean, we provide Senior Services support; we provide ERAP support, COVID relief – all of these services are provided to our citizens using these devices. So not to acknowledge that there aren’t any issues; but to say that overall, there are thousands of devices out there in the field that are being used successfully to support our citizens.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay. Well, I just want to make sure you understand this. A person can have a very significant role in the organization, and even if that’s one person out of 5,000, the importance of that person’s job could impact this entire County in a negative way, if their computer doesn’t work. So, we cannot look at it based on well, you know, it’s 67% are okay with their computer because it’s not based on that. It’s based on people who have a job that they need to get done and I just want to make sure that we have the right equipment for everyone so that they can adequately do their job.”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CIO, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “And there is an option that they can select a specialty device.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “All right. Thank you so much.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right, the motion on the floor is to approve. Let’s vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0057**, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders to provide on-site dual repair and preventive predictive maintenance service.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 7, **22-0058**, request approval of the lowest responsible bidders to provide general cleaning for selected Fulton County facilities.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0059**, request approval to utilize corporative purchasing to purchase mission-critical parts in support of DREAM building construction and facilities maintenance.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “The vote is open. The motion passes; five yeas, zero nays.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0060**, request approval to amend an existing contract to provide janitorial services for the Medical Examiner's Office.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Cast your vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Under Arts and Libraries, **22-0061**, Arts and Culture. Request approval of a statewide contract to provide temporary staffing services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0062**, Library. Request approval to renew an existing contract to continue to provide research-based education in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, family, and consumer services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion of the floor is to approve by Commissioner Ellis seconded by Commissioner Hall, I believe. Let's vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 8, under Health and Human Services, **22-0063**, Public Works. Request approval of a recommended proposal to provide a standby generator system during design and construction of the Big Creek water reclamation facility.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the vote is open—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—12 mil—”

**CLERK GRIER:** “--motion passes five yeas zero nays.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0064**, request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide construction and rehabilitation services for the Jones Bridge elevated water storage tank.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0065**, request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide water meter boxes and valve boxes.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0066**, request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide HDPE fusible PVC pipes.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Again, a motion to approve by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Commissioner Hall.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0067**, Senior Services. Request approval to increase spending authority to provide transportation services ride-sharing through Uber/Lyft.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner - Vice Chair Hausmann seconded by Commissioner Hall.”



**CLERK GRIER:** “The vote is open. Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 9, under Justice and Safety, **22-0068**, County Manager. Request approval of a recommended proposal to provide a feasibility study to evaluate operations at the Fulton County jail.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman seconded by Commissioner Hall.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Are we gonna have a presentation?”

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** “I believe there is a presentation. Mr. Chairman, if you’d like me to go through it briefly.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yes, Sir.”

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** “Okay. Can you bring up the presentation, please? Thank you. Next slide, please. What I’d like to do is very briefly take you through an update. We made a presentation a few months ago asking for your approval to move forward with an RFP for vendors to present to us and bid on a jail study. And so, we in fact have gone through that process. I want to take a couple of minutes just to refresh everyone's memory on the goal of the study. And then present our recommended vendor as we move forward. Very quickly, the goal of the study really is to take a look at eight potential new facility given the maintenance, security, and challenges that we've had with our existing facility, which is more than 40 years old. Over that period of time, also the science and the art as it pertains to pretrial incarceration has changed significantly. It’s not reflected in our current -- in our current structure. The next slide talks specifically to the goals, objectives of the study. It will in fact produce – they will go through and assess the space and service needs that are required in a modern jail. We expect innovative space design and programming options. It will determine the best location for a facility. We're expected to get costs and financing scenarios, and expect very much a best practices approach. In terms of the types of analysis and the recommendations that will be provided. Next page, please. In terms of the – if you could go back one - think we jumped one – there we go. In terms of what we're looking for is here again specifics around cost, staffing, timing of options. We, we in fact, when we sent out the RFP, one of the key criteria were firms that, in fact, have experience in the analysis of large jails in an urban environment with the level of complexity that you have in the Fulton County court and jail systems. And I targeted that point in time was to come back to you January of this year with a recommendation to move forward. The next page, please. In terms of the vendor recommendations, the RFP process resulted in three qualified proposals. The Team included representatives from the Sheriff's Department, and from County staff as core members and we also had technical advisors that included even though they weren't part of the presentation, but technical

advisory group that included the County Manager, the Sheriff, and our CFO amongst others. The recommended vendor was selected due to a combination of things but including what I'd call appropriate experience with jails and counties of the size of Fulton County. The quality of the Team that really is a combined Team that they're bringing to the table and very much a holistic approach of the project. The holistic approach meaning, they took into account and emphasized everything from community involvement to the need for example to incorporate things like diversion and reentry into the planning of our new facility. The use of technology and the ability to offset some of the challenges that we have in terms of staffing and not only us, but across the country in terms of staffing at correctional facilities. Amongst the key learnings that were consistent from each one of the three vendors were one: the diversion and reentry need to be core components of the facility that we build. That's something that was consistent across all of the jails that have been built in the last three or four years and one's that are currently on the drawing board. The second thing we heard was that community engagement is critical at every key stage of this process. And what we were, what we were in fact encouraged by was that community engagement produced a coalition of individuals who supported a new jail because of all the benefits that we're talking about in terms of diversion and reentry that we don't in fact have in our current facility. And finally, we need to make sure that that facility takes advantage of everything from technology, to pandemic proofing, to being able to allow for the appropriate scale when it comes to counseling and dealing with individuals who may have mental health issues at the jail as part of the overall design and execution. So, with that, if you could go to the next page, please? Our recommendation in terms of a vendor is STV-TreanorSL. They are a multidisciplinary planning, design, and engineering firm. Truly a combination of three or four companies that have come together for this specific proposal. They have scale more than 2000 staff across 40 offices and they've done business in I want to say 25 to 30 counties within the state of Georgia. Very much data-driven, evidence-based in terms of the work they do. And some of their recent experience includes working with Cook County which includes Chicago, Macomb in Michigan; the New York City corrections organization, and the state of Massachusetts in terms of overall plan for their corrections capabilities. The pricing is one point is just a little less than \$1.2 million. And the project duration is estimated to be somewhere between 9 and 12 months. Here again, that was consistent with all the vendors thinking that 9 months was probably on the low end, but they could certainly do it in 12 months. So, we're expecting that to be the duration for the engagement. So let me stop there. Happy to answer any questions, but what we are looking for your – for you today to do is approve our moving forward with this vendor so we can, so we can get started.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Alton, I just – we have a County Manager, executive staff, and Alton. Thank you. I'm familiar with the firm that you all - I've done

my due diligence, and I appreciate this and I am in fully support. And I'm happy to see it. Thank you. Great job."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Other comments? All right the motion on the floor is to approve. Cast your vote."

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

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissions action items, **22-0069**, as amended. Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urging the support and passage in 2022 of state and federal laws that uphold, protect voter's rights, and equal access to the ballot, and One Man/One Vote, and for other purposes."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm making the motion that we accept this – adopt this resolution."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Motion is to approve. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I seconded, I waiting when she pushed the button."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Seconded - motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I just want to basically say that given that we have had a lot of conversations today, and truly everybody looks through their own lens. I'll be the first to say that I did have Jim Crow in here and I did remove it. Had a conversation with one of my colleagues, I'm not going to say who it is; it's not that important. But they said they wanted to support this, but they felt like the Jim Crow was inflammatory. They thought I could get the point across better without it being there, and I removed it as such; because the goal of this is to make sure that Fulton County goes on record saying that we are going to make sure One Man/One Vote; make sure that there is no unfettered access; or there is no fraud and we're going

to make sure we do everything in our power to make sure that we uphold the voting rights. We all know what's happening at the federal level. We all know what has happened at the state level; and I think it's very important that Fulton County, in the midst of all the information, some of it being misinformation for whatever reason, that has gotten out to the community that we go on record as a legislative Body supporting the One Man/One Vote equal access, unfettered. Make sure that everybody has not only the right to vote, and the right to the ballot of their choice to vote, but we also understand that this is the largest County, and we must have integrity in what we do. We must move in a way to allow all of our constituents to know that when it comes to the right to vote that we support it. One man/one vote. And so, that is the spirit of this. I hope and pray that my colleagues will take it as just in the spirit that we are on record making sure that we support equal access to every -- for everyone to the right to vote for One Man/One Vote. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Haus – I mean Vice Chair Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes. Thank you. I, too, support the right of One Man/One Vote; and I am proud of the fact that we live in a state that has such a robust voting system where we have 19 days of early voting. We have in our County over 250 precincts open on election day. We offer no excuse absentee voting in the state and we require an ID to vote which I think is a reasonable thing to do and most American citizens agree with that. However, I do not agree with federalizing our elections and so I will not be able to support this resolution, but I certainly do support everyone's right to vote. It's precious, and you should exercise it at every chance you get."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I just want to read something that was spoken by a Republican by the name of Anna Navarro, who, she described herself as an emigrant, a political strategist, and commentator on CNN and The View. And she spoke at the 2022 Martin Luther King, Jr. Beloved Community Commemorative Service. And what she said was Dr. King belongs to those who love not those who hate. Dr. King belongs to those who build bridges, not those who build walls. He belongs to those who unite and not those who divide. He belongs to those who believe in truth and not those who spread a big lie. Dr. King belongs to those who believe in waging war against poverty and not those who manufacture culture wars. Dr. King belongs to those who judge people by the content of their character and not to those that judge by the color of their skin. Dr. King belongs to those who believe in equality and not to those who are racists or bigots. He belongs to those who learn from history and not to those who want to ban the teaching of history. Dr. King belongs to those who want to extend civil rights and voting rights and not to those who want to restrict and end them. And she quoted his 1957 words where he said 'give us the ballot, we will transform the salient misdeeds of a bloodthirsty mob into the calculated good deeds of orderly citizens. And I think that speaks volumes to what we're about to approve today.'"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Anyone else? All right. Motion on the floor is to approve. Cast your vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Commissioners full board appointments, **22-0070**. Board of Trustees of the Fulton County employees’ retirement system. Commissioner Ellis has nominated Commissioner Abdur-Rahman for a full board reappointment to a term ending December 31st, 2022.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris seconded by Commissioner Hall. Vote, please.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 10, **22-0072**. Administrative committee of the Fulton County defined contribution plan. Recommended Gina Rude for full a board appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman seconded by Commissioner Morris. Please vote.”

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CLERK GRIER:** “Unanimously with Commissioner Arrington—”

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—what is—”

**CLERK GRIER:** “—**22-0073**, Board of Commissioners appointment of a citizen member to the 2021 T-Splst citizens oversight Council.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “So, what are we approving? What? We’ll bring it back if they hold it. Just hold it. How did this get on the agenda without it? Okay. Continue to hold it—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—wait, no—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--don’t start; go ahead Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “All right. Do we have somebody here to speak to this whole T-Splst committee thing? I think it was raised during our mayors meeting and I mean, I thought the slate had to be done by the end of this month – “

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “—by January 31st—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—by January 31<sup>st</sup>. So, this is our—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--okay, what are we doing—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “----I don’t know who’s responsible for bringing forth a member if we have to have someone appointed - how does this – how’s this all going to work?”

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** “David Clark, Public Works Director from Fulton County. The IGA that Fulton County entered in with all of the cities has a rule/role for the citizens oversight and counsel. Each city nominates their own individual representatives to that plus there’s a spot for the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to appoint a citizen to. The IGA says that all of the cities and the County should appoint their members within 90 days of the vote which will put it January 31<sup>st</sup>-- February 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, which is why I believe it was put on the Agenda.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay,”.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “I wish we had known about this; so, Commissioner Ellis you still have the floor.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “So, is there a recommendation from the staff or who to continue a citizen, a previous citizen member?”

**DAVID CLARK, PUBLIC WORKS:** “Our previous citizen member was Anna Roach, who obviously is no longer with us.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “So, the citizen member can be -- what is the requirements of the citizen member?”

**DAVID CLARK, PUBLIC WORKS:** “As far as I understand, just be a resident of Fulton County.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay, so does the staff have a recommendation? I mean, y’all put this on the Agenda I thought—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—yeah—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--does the staff have a recommendation for a member that would fit that quality since that was the approach the we used the last time?”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Did Ms. Roach even be asked? She still lives in Fulton County.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Can she continue being a member?”

**DAVID CLARK, PUBLIC WORKS:** “She certainly can be a member. Obviously, I haven't spoken with her, but I can certainly reach out.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Can we technically, cause—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—well, let’s do this—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--is there any objection to appointing her right now? And she rejects the appointment, then we can come back within purview and replace—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--I second that—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “--yeah, yeah, I have an objection, because we don't know what -- her role is now with the ARC. That may be in conflict with her -- with her job, with her day job.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Oh.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “But if it is, we can, you know, I just – I think we need to meet. Sounds like we need to meet a deadline. Now, what I'm disappointed about is no one caught this and brought this to my attention that we needed to have someone, but I think—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—I know how to fix it—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—what—but I think that if there is a conflict with Ms. Roach then that will give us an opportunity to act accordingly at our next meeting. But we would meet the deadline today by since she was appointed before, and I'm comfortable with going with her and if there’s a problem, you know, correct it at the next meeting.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Well, I guess my question, I don’t know if you relinquished the floor Bob or not but, if it could be a citizen, it could just as easily be any one of us.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Does it say—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—or the manager—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—were not elected—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—or Dr. Roshell, or Alton Adams—”

**DAVID CLARK, PUBLIC WORKS:** “—not that I’m aware of, Sir—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Well, what is y’all’s recommendation?”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—[INAUDIBLE.] somewhere—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “I’d like to wait [INAUDIBLE.] —“

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—okay—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—I don’t know [INAUDIBLE.]—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—all right, there’s a motion on the floor by Ellis seconded by Hausmann to nominate—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** INAUDIBLE

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “does it have a description—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “—oh, I—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—to nominate—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--Chairman—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—what, to nominate—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--are you going to allow a conversation on this—  
”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--yes. What I’m just trying to describe where we are--”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “-okay.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion on the floor is to nominate Anna Roach seconded by Commissioner Hausmann. That’s what’s on the floor. Commissioner Arrington has spoken and now Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I would have to go against Anna Roach. As much as I can understand the logic, I was aware of this. I was aware of the timelessness of this. And so, I would ask Commissioner Arrington or Commissioner Ellis or may be even Commissioner Lee Morris or our County Manager. This should not be something big enough that we have to hold this. If we have someone that we think or maybe you, Sir, if we have someone that we can vote on today - here we go again - what we do as a Body, this should be done by the 31<sup>st</sup>. It fell through the cracks. I understand. We’re human. We make mistakes. However, I think we do this County a disservice to automatically put Anna Roach in that position when she’s at the ARC and the ARC is much more political than we are. And so, if one of our Commissioners, today has someone in mind; if the County Manager has someone in mind, I think we should just move on it and let it be a done deal. I mean everything doesn’t have to be drawn out and I think as a Body -- as a consensus for something - like I said, I was aware of this that we needed to do this by the 31<sup>st</sup>, and I was prepared to vote on whoever that we were gonna put today, but I think we do a disservice to Ms. Roach because she’s over at the ARC and here again it’s just me talking, but there’s the potential that it would be a big problem. And so, I would just ask, Chairman if we have someone today, let’s put them forward. If we have someone in mind, let’s put that person forward other than Ms. Roach. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Ellis.”



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “You got a request?”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “So, we received a text from Ms. Roach that she would like to not be considered—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—okay—”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “—so a suggestion would be the one that — you’re residents of Fulton County, right David?”

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** “No, no, no, Sir.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Don’t tell me that.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Alton Adams.”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Alton Adams. I recommend Alton Adams as our citizens [Inaudible.]—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I second.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Well, wait a minute, wait—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—and I raised my hand; if you don’t like Alton Adams, [Inaudible.]—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Alton Adams.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “T-Splost citizen oversight.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** OFF MIC “Do you have a description of this somewhere?”  
MIC ON “Do you have a description of this—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—is this—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—that you can share with us—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—is that what's on the floor, Mr. Chair—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Mr. Adams, there's a substitute motion to nominate Mr. Alton Adams—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—okay—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--for this position. Who made the motion to—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—I think I—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—I made the substitute; I think Bob made the original motion and--”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--I seconded it—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—Vice Chair Hausmann seconded it—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—on Alton Adams—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—no, I made the substitute motion for Alton Adams—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—okay, that's what I'm getting at, yeah—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—okay—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--who seconded it—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “—we need to withdraw her—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, she’s withdrawn naturally because she didn’t want to do it; but okay. So, we have the motion and a second. Can we just vote on that.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yeah. Mr. Adams is before us. All right, let's vote—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—I don’t know that there was a second. I didn’t hear the second.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—He got it—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I seconded it.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Oh, thank you. Awesome.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Now, he's gone from animals to TSPLOST--”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—to TSPLOST--”

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** “I’m a Renaissance guy, Mr. Chairman.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “This is Braves country.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right--”

**CLERK GRIER:** “—okay—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Continue, Madam Clerk.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Six yeas with Vice Chair—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—what—”

**CLERK GRIER:** “—six yeas with Vice Chair Hausmann—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CLERK GRIER:** "--unanimously."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Madam Clerk, come on."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0074**, External Affairs. Presentation of the 2022 Legislative Agenda."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. We're excited to be with you again this afternoon. We're gonna -- we have a very quick legislative update. Last week was the first week of the session and just as a reminder, our legislative priorities are up on the screen. Next slide, please. Last week was the session began. Governor Kemp addressed the General Assembly and provided his state-of-state, and he emphasized a number of priorities across the government. And this week, the members have been in budget hearings primarily hearing from agencies about their needs. Next slide, please. Next slide. There have been a number of bills introduced related to annexation and cityhood. You will recall that last year legislation was introduced that would give the so-called cheese slice of unincorporated Fulton County, annex that into the city of Atlanta. This is one of the last remaining parcels outside of the airport that is still in unincorporated Fulton County. And that passed through the house last year; because we're in the second year of a two-year session, and that is live legislation and can make its way to the Senate this year. There have also been a number of bills with the Buckhead cityhood. I know that's been in the news quite a bit though. We are providing -- we are preparing some analysis and also working with the County Attorney's office there is potential impact to Fulton County if the de-annexing -- if there's a gap between de-annexation and incorporation and that gap time the County would have responsibility for service delivery. And so, we are preparing some analysis so the Board will be better prepared to take a position unless you wish to do that now. Fran, do you have anything you want to add on that?"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "No, that's fine."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Next slide, please. There are, again SB 202 -- last year we had a lot of legislation related to elections and there's still more legislation related to elections. The elimination of drop boxes and non-citizens voting are two issues that have been introduced; the second is one that the Secretary of State has identified as one of his priorities, and that legislation has been introduced and on the slides. Next slide, please. These are some of the bills that have been introduced related to one in specifically related to COVID-19 disparities that a member of our delegation representative Schofield is the primary sponsor. And it's creating a committee. So, no - not an action item at this time, but one that we know the Board has been interested in. Next slide, please. Constitutional carry is another area that the Governor has talked about as one of his priorities and

legislation has been - this is his carryover legislation but the governor has also talked about on this issue. Next slide, please. Again, several bills related to taxation issues. I also on the topic of taxation, I've sent a – you all a note this afternoon about our homestead exemption issue that's been raised by actually from a reporter, We know that homestead exemptions is one of the issues that this Board has been very interested in. This is related to a provision in our very low-income homestead exemptions that requires it to be renewed. We would like to talk with members of our delegation about, about that issue; and are working with the board of assessors on that. Next slide, please. Upcoming calendar, we do have a meeting with our delegation this week. Of note on that Agenda for Friday, is of course this Board, the Board of Education, and the development authority - there have been some bills introduced by representative Oliver out of Dekalb that are related to development authorities. Development authority reform is something that a number of legislators have expressed an interest in this year and so we are looking at that. And we have reached out to the development authority to request whatever materials they plan to present. And Fran is there anything you'd like to add or highlight?"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "No, you did a good job."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's it. Any questions of Ms. Corbitt? Commissioner - Vice Chair Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes, thanks for hanging out all day. So, we just passed the maps and you'll send it on to the delegation. Did y'all do that today already?"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "We are - there are some -- there was the one precinct change and then there are some supporting files that they're preparing so those can be transmitted as quickly as possible. The adds for the legislation ran yesterday; so, the dead bills could be introduced as soon as they have that technical review, but that is the next steps. So, we're trying to get that expedited as quickly as possible. We will also provide them with a signed copy of the resolution that the Board passed today."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "So, I know we're meeting with the delegation Friday?"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Is that an in-person meeting?"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "It is a zoom meeting—"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "—okay—"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “—so we, I believe we’ve provided your office with a link already.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay, you probably did – I just haven’t seen it. But they’ll have the maps before that meeting correct.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Yes. We’ll make sure that we have the maps and can show those to them during the meeting and that is something that we recognize as one of the big priorities for the Board this year.

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Yes, it’s pretty timely. Will you provide us with a copy of whatever you’re going to present?”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Absolutely. Absolutely.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay, all right. Thank you.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Like I said, we are - the Strategy Office is making that one change today and we will drop that into our presentation and then there are, like I said, some small technical steps that they have to go through that we also have to transmit to the reapportionment office with the final map.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “All right, thank you.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Yes Ma’am, thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Hall.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, for the presentation. I was looking for what you was going to discuss concerning the Homestead exemption because of what has happened in my District with the senior who is facing a huge tax bill because she missed her application deadline for reapplying for that specific Homestead exemption that has to be reapplied for, I think it’s every two years. Can you address that? I thought you were going to have it in here.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Sure. Yes, so this was prepared in advance; but this has come up. We learned a lot of information today. So essentially what we’ve talked about previously with the board of assessor’s staff and the - Mr. Pinckney, who’s now the Interim Chief Appraiser, is that that is specifically the very low-income senior exemption. As you know, we have many, many different exemptions. This specific one is the only one that requires a renewal, and we would recommend from staff perspective simply removing that provision because once a person qualifies, the likelihood of their financial circumstances changing drastically is fairly low. And it’s not an exemption that is very widely applied. What we learned today

is that and this is something that we'd like to explore little bit more, but when the homestead - after the person does not respond to correspondence asking them to provide the documentation what has been the practice is that they have no Homestead exemption at all because there's a possibility that that person does not live in their home. They haven't responded to correspondence and therefore there's documentation suggesting they may not actually live there anymore which will be a cause to lose a Homestead exemption. You know there's some I guess some things to explore there; but I think at minimum removing that requirement of reapplication that does not apply to any other Homestead exemption, would be a fairly simple amendment."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I would like to ensure that that is added as an amendment because you don't know - first of all, you just described the type of senior that has that type of Homestead exemption, and they are a low-income owner, if at all, have any type of real earnings and situations like that you don't know the circumstances of their lifestyle. You don't know if in two years, they got sick and they didn't even have the ability to even know that you're trying to contact them to reapply. So, I think it would be beneficial for us to push to have that removed and especially sense it's the only Homestead exemption where they have to reapply every two years."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So, thank you for that. Can you speak to something that was just recently assigned to the Judiciary committee, it's HBO 894 as it relates to tenants and evictions during the COVID public health emergency?"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "Good afternoon, Commissioner Hall. This is Fran Calhoun, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager. Yes, that bill was introduced by Representative Boddie and it is a very short bill that says basically it provides that no applicant can be refused a rental agreement based on eviction that was due to nonpayment of rent that occurred during the pandemic. And I don't have specific dates here in terms of the pandemic dates. I guess we'd have to look at maybe the governors' emergency declaration, but it is in keeping what has been an interest of yours and many of this Board."

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

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, Ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great job."

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Commissioner Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "On the homestead exemption question, just to - a slight tweak perhaps, Commissioner Hall. I recall a couple years ago three years ago maybe

Dwight Robinson telling me about a very wealthy developer, who had a lot of taxable losses from depreciation and otherwise and had negative income that year -- millions the year before; probably millions the next year; so rather than just doing away with that requirement it might make more sense to say you do not have to renew it every two years, but if your income goes up in the subsequent year, you must report it. I think he was also suggesting something like that in that scenario so that people won't lose it if they don't renew, but if it's a situation where it's just an aberration year and somebody qualifies for it, they have an obligation to report a change of circumstances."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, and we will work with our Law Department and the delegation and try to export a solution. Thank you for that suggestion."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Any other questions? Thank you so much."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "See you Friday."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Next item, please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 10, **22-0075**, Invest Atlanta Board of Directors December 16th, 2021, meeting summary sponsored by Commissioner Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Just very quickly, if I may, Vice Chair. We do not have a meeting in January so this is the summary minutes of the December Invest Atlanta board meeting. I think there are only two items on it. One of which might be of interest to you. The parcel of land the city of Atlanta owns next to the parking deck on Trinity near the City Hall is the subject of one of those action items where they propose to put affordable housing and I think some mixed-use on it. So, it's an exciting project. My old firm designed the parking deck and we used to wonder what was going to happen to that adjacent lot and this is it. So that's of interest. If anyone wants any more information on that project, I'm happy to get the fact sheets for you."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "I believe I read about that. Is it eight stories or how many units do you know?"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "I don't recall."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you for that report. All right, next item, please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** “22-0076, Atlanta Beltline. January 12, 2022, CEO report.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Yeah, and this is again as usual the CEOs report to the Board. I think I reported last time and Commissioner Hausmann asked about the grant from the federal government that was 16.46 million of the Department of Transportation [Inaudible.] grant to finish the construction of 2 miles of the Southside trail. The CEOs report this time talks a little bit about the fact that we now have funding of about 300 million of the estimated 350 million it’s going to take to complete the trail circuit all way around. And part of that is the SSD that special services district around the beltline that the city Council passed which is going to be another issue. The city of Buckhead. It might have to deal with if that gets any traction. But it was exciting to get an \$80 million grant from the Woodruff Foundation to help with the trail construction which closed that gap significantly. That’s in the CEO’s report. Again, if you need any more information about anything in there, delighted to get that for you.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Thank you, Commissioner. Any questions, Commissioners? Next item.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 11, 22-0077, reappointment and redistricting of County commission districts per the 2020 census is sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Clerk, I withdrew that. I apologize that may have gotten miscommunicated to you. But I do want to take this time to offer condolences to the family of the Happy Preacher. He was an Atlanta Icon and I meant to bring that up at the beginning of the meeting and I really did forget and I apologize. But I think we would be remiss if we didn’t just recognize the Happy Preacher and that he did pass away. And we will not see that tambourine that will probably end up in the civil rights Museum at some point. But I did want to mention that. Thank you.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Any other items, Madam Clerk?”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Madam Vice Chair, we did have the e-mailed Public Comments, but we forwarded those to you. I don’t know if want to – okay - that’s good--”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CLERK GRIER:** “—you’ll have to do [Inaudible.]; I think we’re all agreed—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “—is that all the items--”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—yes—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “—meeting adjourned.”



(CONCLUDED AT 5:51 PM)