

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

December 17, 2025
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: January 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:00 a.m.**

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

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

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA**25-0942 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt as amended by removing item #25-0944 as requested by Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0943 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Live Healthy and Thrive Youth Foundation Day."
(Barrett)
December 6, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Rice Memorial Presbyterian Church Appreciation Day."
(Ivory)
December 6, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Teenz On Point Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
December 6, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Councilman Donald Mitchell Appreciation Day." **(Ellis)**
December 8, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Ballethnic Dance Company Appreciation Day."
(Arrington)
December 10, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Georgia Business Council Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
December 11, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Sam Ansley Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**
December 13, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Vaideesh Kudumuri Appreciation Day."
(Thorne)
December 13, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Aryan Shetty Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**
December 13, 2025

Commissioners' District Board Appointments**25-0944****Board of Commissioners****FULTON COUNTY CITIZENS COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(REMOVED)**

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

Term = 4 Years, staggered

Term below expires: 12/31/2025

Danyell Little (Pitts)

Chairman Pitts has nominated Debra Shigley for a District appointment to a term beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2029.

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY
CHAIRMAN PITTS**

Open & Responsible Government**25-0945****Finance**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Finance, REQ1523146C-JNJ, Business Occupational Tax Certificate & Audit Services in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 with Avenu Insight Analytics, LLC (Birmingham, AL) to provide business license collection services for Fulton Industrial District for an additional one-year period effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

25-0946 Finance

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

25-0947 External Affairs

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of External Affairs 23RFP081423A-KM, External Grant Writing & Support Services in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 with Strategic Funding Group, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide External Grant Writing Services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0948 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 48,158.2 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Toll Southeast LP Company, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Emberly Subdivision Project at 1000 Lexington Farm Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0949 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of change order less than 10% - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23RFP120423K-JAJ, Design/Build Services for Developmental Disability Programming and Services in the total amount not to exceed \$330,367.00 with Hogan Construction Group, LLC/The Collaborative Firm, LLC JV (Norcross, GA), to modify the contract to allow for additional services (mold testing, abatement, redesign and rebuild of fire-line system) to complete the renovation of the South Training Center located at 475 Fairburn Road, SW Atlanta, GA 30331. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0950 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Sandy Springs Multifamily LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to be installed within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0951 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 34,307 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from JBGL Atlanta Development 2014, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Park Walke Phase II Project at 2260 Old Milton Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0952 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 34,307 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from JBGL Atlanta Development 2014, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Park Walke Phase II Project at 2260 Old Milton Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0953 Real Estate and Asset Management

Resolution approving a Ground Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia and the City of Roswell, Georgia to lease county-owned real property commonly known as Chattahoochee River Park, located at 575 Riverside Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075; authorizing the Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to execute the Ground Lease Agreement and any related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Ground Lease Agreement and any related documents as to form and make necessary modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0954 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Purchasing & Contract Compliance, 25RFP0107B-EC, Support Services for the Office of Contract Compliance in an amount not to exceed \$95,190.00 with Atlanta Business Consulting Group, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide contract compliance support services. This action exercises the first of two renewals. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**25-0955 Superior Court Administration**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Superior Court, 22RFP052A-CJC, Jury Management System, in an amount not to exceed \$24,000.00, with Jury Systems Incorporated (Simi Valley, CA), to modify the contract to include the costs associated with text messages to jurors resulting from new rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0956 Emergency Management

Request approval of a Resolution establishing the Fulton County Fire Department. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0957 Solicitor General

Request approval to increase spending authority - Fulton County Solicitor General, SWC 99999-SPD-ES40199376IS-01, In-State Car Rental vehicle in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 with The Hertz Corporation (Estero, FL), to cover annual expenses associated with an extended time frame for vehicle rentals required to support departmental operations. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0958 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the Second Regular Meeting as amended by removing items #25-0983 due to a protest received, #25-0992 as requested by Vice-Chairman Ellis; moving items #25-0962 down after the Operational Report, moving up item #25-0989; revising items #25-0985, #25-0935, #25-0993. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0959 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2025

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, December 3, 2025

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0960 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Shriyansh Nigam Appreciation Day." **(Thorne/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "PBS Aerospace Appreciation Day." **(Thorne/Pitts/Ellis)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0961 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

16 Speakers: Esther Panitch (Women's Health); Judge Kenya Johnson (Court Weddings); Sarkis Agasarkisian (Court Weddings); Tierra Robinson (Court Weddings); Minister Mother Breedlove (Fulton County Jail); LA Pink (Fulton County Jail); S.O. Harper (BOE Stipends); Anne-Louise Hatfield (BOE Stipends); Cameron Hood-Cree (MARTA); Peter Munk (Wastewater Contract); Mae Whiteside Williams (Women's Commission); Janet Hill (Deed Fraud); Lauren Waits (Women's Health); Marshal McKee (IT position funding); Reed Stillson (Women's Health); Alicia Stallworth (Women's Health)

2 Zoom Speakers: Robby Caban (Deed Fraud/Animal Services); Nikky Buggs (Predatory Property Investors)

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

25-0962 Information Technology

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Information Technology, City of Jacksonville, ITQ 16332-25, Consulting Services for Telecom Billing, Error Detection and Correction Management with SK2 Consulting, Inc., (Winter Park, FL) to conduct an audit to review, analyze, and reduce telecommunications expenses, contracts, and usage to ensure cost efficiency, regulatory compliance, and operational effectiveness. Compensation in the amount of 38% of the identified telecommunications cost savings, based on Fulton County's total annual telecom expenses baseline of \$4,200,625.56 (AT&T - \$3,374,220.24; Comcast - \$826,405.32). Effective upon execution of contract for twelve months.

(APPROVED)

HEARD AFTER ITEM #25-0965

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

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

Nay: Ivory

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

25-0963 County Manager

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

25-0964 Finance

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

25-0965 Finance

Request approval of the FY2026 Water and Sewer Budget. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0966 Information Technology

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Information Technology, NASPO ValuePoint Contract 22PSX0086AD, IT Managed Service Providers in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 with uWork.com, Inc. d/b/a Covendis Technologies, Inc., (Atlanta, GA) to provide support for IT services and operation. Effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0967 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solution in the amount not to exceed \$926,782.76 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services and requested capital improvement projects (CIP) funded through the State of Georgia's capital reserve for three (3) GA DFCS facilities as follows: 1) 5710 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park, GA 30349; 2) 515 Fairburn Road SW, Atlanta, GA 30331; and 3) 1249 Donald Lee Hollowell Pkwy NW, Atlanta, GA 30318. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through July 14, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0968 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21RFP127274K-BKJ, Comprehensive Operation and Preventive and Predictive Maintenance Services for the Fulton County Jail, in an amount not to exceed \$1,020,923.21 with Johnson Controls, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to cover year-end maintenance costs associated with the maintenance operation and the Jail Blitz project at the Fulton County Jail, located at 901 Rice Street, Atlanta, GA 30318, for the remainder of FY2025. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0969 Human Resources Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Human Resources Management, 24RFP1325481B-PS, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Administration Services, in an amount not to exceed \$109,796.00 with Sedgwick Claims Management, Inc. (Memphis, TN) to provide comprehensive FMLA administration for the Fulton County workforce. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0970 County Manager

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Office of the County Manager, GSA Contract 47QRAA24D001W, in an amount not to exceed \$1,404,000.00 with The Whalls Group LLC, (Aliso Viejo, CA) to provide recruitment services for Detention Officers for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0971 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

Request approval to modify the 2025 Annual Hardware and Software Maintenance and Support List. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

Arts and Libraries

25-0972 Library

Request approval of an MOU in the amount of \$227,116.00 for fiscal year 2026 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; and to delineate the obligations and responsibilities of the parties with respect to the shared information technology and the UGA and Fulton County employees assigned as Extension personnel. This MOU will be in substantial form of the MOU effective from 2020 through 2025 and will be effective for an initial five-year term ending December 31, 2030, with options to renew for nine additional five-year terms, and Addendum E will be updated annually to reflect and obtain BOC approval on employee salaries and related obligations. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0973 Library

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Library, 25RFP1507250B-EC, Shelf-Ready Books for Adults, Teens and Children and Lease Books for Adults for Fulton County Library System in an amount not exceed \$800,000.00 with Ingram Library Services LLC, (La Vergne, TN) to provide adult, young adult, children’s books, and adult best-selling lease books. Effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Health and Human Services

25-0974 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, 25RFP1349711A-BKJ, Qualified Block Grantee - Opioid Abatement Settlement in the total amount not to exceed \$644,002.00 with (A) Ascensa Health, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00; (B) Aniz, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$101,010.00; (C) Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00; (D) Empowerment Resource Center (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00; (E) Mary Hall Freedom Village, Inc. (Sandy Springs, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$142,992.00 to provide support a range of services related to Opioid Use Disorders (OUD), including Treatment and Recovery. This is a one-time procurement. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0975 Public Works

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1482633A-JWT, Sewer System Cleaning and Manhole Camera Inspection Services in an amount not to exceed \$550,000.00 with Video Industrial Services, Inc., (Atlanta, GA) to provide sewer system cleaning and manhole camera inspection services. January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0976 Public Works

Request approval of lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITBC1503615A-JWT, Colilert Reagent 24 and Colilert Reagent 18 Supplies, in an amount not to exceed \$245,000.00 with IDEXX Distribution Inc. (Westbrook, ME), to provide chemicals for drinking water and treated wastewater analysis for use with existing County-owned lab equipment. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0977 Public Works

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Public Works, 16RFP071816K-DJ, Operation & Maintenance Services for Camp Creek Managed Assets in an amount not to exceed \$3,677,254.20 with Veolia North America - South, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide operation and maintenance services for the Camp Creek water reclamation facility and associated pump stations in South Fulton County. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0978 Public Works

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Public Works, 25RFP021025K-CRB, Progressive Design/Build for Boat Rock Road Sanitary Sewer Extension, Phase 1 in an amount not to exceed \$637,000.00 with Garney + Gresham Smith (Atlanta, GA) to provide progressive design services necessary to deliver a 80% design drawing and a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) associated with completing the construction and design of the sanitary sewer facilities under this project. Effective upon execution of the contract for 180 days following the issuance of the Notice to Proceed. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0979 Public Works

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Public Works, RFP 24RFP0808K-DB, The Progressive Design/Build for Johns Creek Environmental Campus Membrane System Replacement in an amount not to exceed \$3,816,902.75 with The Ruby-Collins/Brown and Caldwell Joint Venture to provide 80% design and Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) formation for the Expansion and Membrane System Upgrade Project (Phase 1B) and for the design and installation of the replacement ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system (Phase 2A). Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0980 Public Works

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Public Works, 24RFP032724K-JA, 2024 Standby Engineering Services in the amount of \$2,000,000.00, with (A) Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, (B) Prime Engineering, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, (C) Benchmark Management, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, and (D) Gresham Smith (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 to provide to provide standby engineering services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Pitts

25-0981 Public Works

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 19RFP090419K-DB, Operation & Maintenance Service for Wastewater Facilities & Pump Stations in the North Fulton Service Area, in an amount not to exceed \$5,641,222.93, with Veolia Water North America-South, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide reliable, uninterrupted operation of the water and wastewater system operations and maintenance management systems in the North Fulton service area for an additional 90 day period, effective January 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0982 Public Works

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Public Works, 19RFP090419K-DB, Operation & Maintenance Services for Wastewater Facilities & Pump Stations in the North Fulton Service Area in an amount not to exceed \$1,995,238.07 with Veolia Water North America-South, LLC (Boston, MA), to provide operation and maintenance services at wastewater facilities and pump stations in North Fulton. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0983 Public Works

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Public Works, 25RFP06272025K-DB, Operation & Maintenance Services for Wastewater Facilities & Pump Stations in the North Fulton Service Area in an amount not to exceed \$28,084,782.00 for the entire calendar year of 2026, with The Inframark-Slater Joint Venture doing business as (DBA) Fulton County Wastewater Partners ("FCWWP") (Alpharetta, GA) to provide water and wastewater system operations and maintenance management systems in the North Fulton service area. The initial term of the contract is for a five (5) year period effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030, with one (1), five (5) year renewal option. **(REMOVED)**

ITEM REMOVED FROM THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER

25-0984 Senior Services

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Senior Services, 23RFP137326A-CJC, Food Services Management in an amount not to exceed \$202,874.77 with Piccadilly Holdings, LLC (Baton Rouge, LA) to continue to provide food service management and purchasing of perishable and nonperishable food items for the four senior multipurpose facilities and three training centers for an additional 60-day period. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Infrastructure and Economic Development

25-0985 Public Works

Request approval of a ~~Resolution authorizing execution of an Amendment to an existing Memorandum of Understanding~~ **and Execution of a Second Memorandum of Understanding** between Fulton County, Georgia and the City of South Fulton, Georgia for the receipt and transfer of Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (“TSPLOST”) proceeds designated for the Fulton Industrial Boulevard at Cascade Road intersection improvement at a total cost of \$900,000.00 located within the City of South Fulton; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Justice and Safety

25-0986 Superior Court Administration

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Superior Court Administration, 23RFP1208B-RT, Electronic Pretrial Monitoring Services in an amount not to exceed \$2,200,000.00 with A 2nd Chance Monitoring (Marietta, GA), to provide electronic pretrial monitoring services for the County’s Electronic Monitoring Program by coordinating and providing electronic monitoring services for those participants the County has determined to be eligible for pretrial electronic monitoring awaiting trial by and under the jurisdiction of the County. This action exercises the second of four renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0987 Emergency Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Emergency Management, Fulton County Animal Services, 23RFP052223C-MH, Animal Services in an amount not to exceed \$7,440,000.00 with Lifeline Animal Project, Inc (Avondale Estates, GA) to provide animal control shelter operation services that will include all personnel, supplies, utilities, necessary insurances, and equipment for the unincorporated areas of Fulton County as well as the cities of Alpharetta, Atlanta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City. This action exercises the first of four renewal options. Three renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Nay: Ivory

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0988 Emergency Management

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of South Fulton, Georgia and Fulton County, Georgia, by which the City and the County would agree to fire protection, fire suppression, emergency medical response, community risk reduction, rescue, hazardous material response, technical rescue, ancillary fire services and support assistance, and first response non-transport emergency medical services within the specific boundaries of the unincorporated portion of Fulton County, Georgia. The IGA is effective January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2026. This Agreement may renew on January 1st of each successive year for up to three (3) years. This Agreement may not be renewed or enforced beyond December 31, 2029. Renewal of this Agreement shall require written notice by both the County and the City and shall not be automatic. The County’s funding obligation annually is the amount of Four Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand (\$456,250.00) Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents which shall be remitted to the City in monthly payments of Thirty-Eight Thousand and Twenty Dollars and Eighty-Four Cents (\$38,020.84). **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0989 Emergency Management

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Emergency Management, Fulton County Animal Services, 23RFP052223C-MH, Animal Services with Lifeline Animal Project, Inc (Avondale Estates, GA) to amend the existing contract to modify the scope of work; to clarify the role of the Animal Services Contract Administrator; and, to adjust compensation based on the revised scope of work; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Amendment and related documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution. Effective January 1, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

HEARD BEFORE ITEM #25-0987

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Pitts

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS

25-0892 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution directing the County Manager to include on an annual basis funding in an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for the Fulton County Veterans' Community Services Grant Program to support services and programs for veterans residing in Fulton County, Georgia; and for other purposes. **(Arrington/Barrett/Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED FAILED ON 11/19/25 AND 12/3/25) (FAILED)**

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

- Yea:** Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington
- Nay:** Ellis
- Absent:** Abdur-Rahman
- Abstain:** Pitts, and Thorne

25-0895 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amending policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Ellis/Thorne) (HELD ON 11/19/25 AND 12/3/25) (FAILED)**

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

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

25-0935 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to affirm that reproductive rights are human rights; to condemn the criminalization of abortion and related services; to urge the Georgia State Legislature to repeal the six-week abortion ban that endangers lives, and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 12/3/25) (FAILED)**

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

- Yea:** Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington
- Nay:** Thorne
- Absent:** Abdur-Rahman
- Abstain:** Pitts
- Did Not Vote:** Ellis

25-0936 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to establish a Fulton County Women's Commission to advise the Board of Commissioners on policies, strategies, and community partnerships that advance gender equity and address the systemic barriers impacting women; and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 12/3/25) (FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, and Ellis

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Abstain: Thorne

25-0937 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to establish a "Healthy Women, Healthy Families" grant program in Fulton County; to provide \$1M in annual funding for the grant program to fund organizations focused on improving women's health outcomes and ensuring access to quality care; and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 12/3/25) (FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, Thorne, and Ellis

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0939 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supporting its ability to govern local affairs and urging the Georgia General Assembly to preserve the Board of Commissioners' involvement in matters affecting Fulton County residents. **(Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 12/3/25) (FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, and Thorne

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

25-0990 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the execution, delivery and performance of a Free-Standing Emergency Department contract between the Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority and Fulton County, Georgia, along with the execution of related documents pertaining to the Authority's bond issuance, regarding the acquisition, construction, equipping and development and provision of medical services and hospital facilities for the indigent sick in Fulton County. This authorizes the use of the General funds of Fulton County, Georgia in an amount sufficient to pay its obligations under the Free-Standing Emergency Department Contract and the levy of taxes pursuant to the Hospital Authorities Law only in the event of insufficient general funds; and for other purposes. **(BOC) (APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

25-0991 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution adding to the 2026 Legislative Agenda an urging of members of the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate to repeal the Living Infants and Fairness Equality (Life) Act (House Bill 481); and for other related purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Pitts, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Ellis

Absent: Thorne, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0992 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to abolish fund 419, Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Court Technology Fund and fund 439 Clerk of Court Technology Fund and requiring all funds within these funds and all future revenue previously associated with these funds to be deposited into the County General Fund; and for other purposes. **(Ellis) (REMOVED)**

25-0993 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to amend Resolution no. 22-0644 and Resolution no. 21-0282 that created and established the Fulton County Veterans' Empowerment Commission by revising its purpose and to establish funding for specific programming for veterans through existing Fulton County programs; and for other purposes. **(Ellis/Abdur-Rahman) (HELD FOR A LACK OF A QUORUM)**

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

5:14 p.m. a quorum was lost

25-0994 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to establish a Fulton County Tax Allocation District Advisory Committee to advise the Board of Commissioners on policies, strategies, and community partnerships that advance Fulton County's redevelopment plans pursuant to the Redevelopment Powers Law; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (HELD FOR A LACK OF A QUORUM)**

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**25-0995 Board of Commissioners**

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY **(HELD FOR A LACK OF A QUORUM)**

Development Authority of Fulton County, amended (#21-0337) by revising subsection 118-50, entitled "Board of Directors, Membership and Qualifications," to provide as follows: (a) The Board of Directors shall consist of a board of not less than seven and not more than nine directors to be appointed by resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Each Commissioner shall have one appointment which shall be submitted to the full Board of Commissioners for approval. Two additional members shall be "at large" members, with one member selected and nominated by the Fulton County Board of Education for final approval by the full Board of Commissioners, and the other representing member selected and nominated by the Atlanta Board of Education for final approval by the full Board of Commissioners; (b) The members of the Board of Directors shall be taxpayers residing in Fulton County; (c) The members of the Board of Directors shall not be officers or employees of Fulton County.

Term = 4 Years

Term below expired: 5/31/2025

Mike Looney **(Fulton County Board of Education)**

The Fulton County Board of Education has appointed Yngrid Huff for a Full Board appointment to a term ending May 31, 2029.

25-0996 Board of Commissioners

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY **(HELD FOR A LACK OF A QUORUM)**

Term = 4 Years

Term below expired: 5/31/2025

Erica M. Long **(Atlanta Board of Education)**

The Atlanta Board of Education has appointed Dr. Bryan Johnson for a Full Board appointment to a term ending May 31, 2029.

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

25-0997 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Senior Exemptions. Property Tax Relief for Seniors. **(Ellis)**
(DISCUSSED)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

25-0998 Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the Jail Consent Decree Monitoring Team’s 2026 annual budget in the amount of \$1,924,404.00. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Pitts

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to approve a contract with Vertosoft-UKG TeleStaff for a scheduling tool for the automation of jail staffing in the amount of \$414,898.00. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the requests for representation in items #3, #4, #5, and #6 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Abstain: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Ellis

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the settlement agreement in item #7 of the Executive Session Agenda to resolve the case of Devin Gatison v. Fulton County, et al., in the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-01067, in the amount of \$75,000.00. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

f. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to approve the utilization of cooperative purchasing for an Information Technology Sourcewell Contract #010720 with Axon, in an amount not to exceed \$3.8M. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

g. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve an Information Technology change order with Carahsoft Technology Corporation to extend professional services in an amount not to exceed \$439,200.00. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

h. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the transfer of Trammel Crow Buffer parcels with properties located at (i) on or about Cascade Road, and (ii) 1210 Elva Drive, from the County to the City of South Fulton as contained in Executive Session Item #11a. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

i. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve the transfer of property located at 0 Union Road and 0 Wallace Road, from the County to the City of South Fulton as contained in Executive Session Item #11b. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

j. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the transfer of Wolf Creek Amphitheater and adjacent properties located at (i) 3025 Merk Road, (ii) 3034 Enon Rd, and (iii) 0 Vandiver Road S., from the County to the City of South Fulton as contained in Executive Session Item #11c. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

k. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to approve the transfer of two Fire Stations located at (i) 6720 Cedar Grove Road, and (ii) 4760 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, from the County to the City of South Fulton as contained in Executive Session Item #11d. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

l. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the contract renewal of Chief Appraiser Roderick Conley with an effective date of December 21, 2025, and for an annual rate of \$236,250.00. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

Commissioner Barrett called for a decorum violation against Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Chairman Pitts ruled there was no violation.

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Abstain: Thorne

Did Not Vote: Ellis

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'

SECOND REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC

“A Court Reporting Firm”

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Second Regular Meeting of the Year -- the last meeting of the year, as a matter of fact -- December 17, 2025. It is 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please, call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Mo Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Present."

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **25-0942**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda - All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item to be removed on page 3. Chairman Pitts has requested to remove 25-0944, Fulton County Citizens Commission on the Environment. This item is to be held."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

CLERK GRIER: "And that's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. All right, motion to do so by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. It is seconded by Commissioner Dana Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, Second Regular Meeting Agenda: **25-0958**, Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, there are amendments to today's meeting agenda. First item to be removed on page 11, 25-0983: Request approval of a recommended proposal for operation maintenance services for the wastewater facilities and pump stations in North Fulton service area. This item has been removed due to protest received."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Which one is that?"

CLERK GRIER: "25-0983, on page 11."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. What's going on?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "Good morning, Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This is the same contract that was on the agenda, what, four or five months ago it was removed, now what's going on?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "Correct, Commissioner. The request to remove this agenda item is due to a formal protest being filed regarding this project, and we would need to follow the established procedures pursuant to purchasing code Section 10249449.17, Right to Protest."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And how long will a protest take?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "So I have 15 business days to respond to the protests received, and then there's an administrative due process after that."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, with all due respect, I would humbly ask that even though you have 15 days, that we do this expeditiously as quickly as possible. I think we do a disservice to the community, Chairman. We've been talking about this. We know that today was coming, and I don't have a dog in the fight other than the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County; and I think the longer and longer we string this out, they're the ones that are going to suffer, County Manager. So anything within the legal bounds that we can expeditiously do, what we need to do on our end to get the ball rolling, I really would make that plea at this point, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, so the recommendation is to remove this from the agenda today because of the protest and we had a protest before?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "Yes, and we held it before. The last time we had a protest, we canceled the solicitation. This time we had a protest again. I need to have the opportunity to review the merits of the protest, to review the protest, and to respond to the protests."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. The distinction is, same company, we canceled the solicitation?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "Same project."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Same project. This time you're -- what's the difference?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "We received the proposals; I received a bid protest."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But you're not canceling it at this time?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "I am not canceling the project."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington followed by Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't want to speed up anything. I want to go through the formal process as it is outlined by our rules and regulations. Now, I'm sure there are some up here that have reasons that they won't disclose, that want to speed this up, and want to push through today, but there is a process. A protest has been filed and we need to go through that process. I don't know what the protest is, I don't know

why it was filed, or who it was filed by, but at the end of day, we need to follow our own rules. We need to provide due process to those parties that are involved. And so, it's just so funny. This is so funny. These people up here, and the show that they're putting on. This is ridiculous."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just got one item I want to remove, so there's some contents of the Resolution that aren't right. So I will save this for another meeting and bring it back, 25-0992."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What page?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "On page 14 of 16, 25-0992. So I'm just going to remove that. Remove that from the agenda altogether. I'll bring it back in another form."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any other items?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt the agenda --"

CLERK GRIER: "-- Mr. Chairman, I have some more amendments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm sorry."

CLERK GRIER: "We also have two items that need to be moved on today's agenda. First item on page 7 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- to be moved? What do you mean?"

CLERK GRIER: "Moved up or down. So on page 7, 25-0962, Information Technology: Request approval to utilize corporative purchasing for consulting services. That item should be moved down after the Operational Report right above 25-0966, on page 7."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "And on page 13, 25-0989: Request approval to amend an existing contract for Fulton County Animal Services. That item needs to be moved up to be heard before item 25-0987, on page 12."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

CLERK GRIER: "And we just -- items to be revised on page 11, 25-0985, Public Works. This item is revised to amend the requested action. It should read: Request approval and execution of a second memorandum of understanding between Fulton County and the city of South Fulton. And then the last three items to be revised are Commissioner's

Action Items; and they were just revised to include an amended Resolution. First on page 13, 25-0935, Commissioner Barrett's item: To request approval of a Resolution to affirm that reproductive rights are human rights. On page 14, Vice Chair's item -- well, that one was removed, so the 25-0922 has been removed. And 25-0993 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- what page?"

CLERK GRIER: "-- page 24, sponsored by Vice Chair and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman: Request approval of Resolution to amend Resolution 22-0644 and 21-0282. That item was amended to include a Resolution -- revised to include an amended Resolution, and that's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioners, anything?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt the agenda as amended by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Bridget Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0959**, Ratification of Minutes, Second Regular Meeting Minutes, November 19th; First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, December 3rd, 2025."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0960 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- all right. Madam Clerk, we have a moment of silence, please. A man who was a friend of all of us, but more important, a friend of the people, Joe Beasley's died. His service will be on this Friday at Antioch Baptist Church North. And also, for the victims of the terrible incident that occurred in Australia, just a moment of silence, please. Thank you. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0960, Presentations of Proclamations and Certificates. First proclamation is recognizing "Shriyansh Nigam."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Can we get all the winners to come down? On behalf of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and the Department of Public Works, we extend our gratitude to all these fine young people up here that made the 2026 calendar contest a huge success. The annual calendar contests serves as an incredible tool to engage our youth and water resource stewardship. This year's theme, 'Water Pollution Solutions' encourage students to explore creative solutions for preventing and solving the problem of pollution in our watersheds. This year they had 142 submissions from students across 29 schools in Fulton County. Their dedication and their artwork, which you can all see that they have the artwork, they didn't bring it down here with them, but it's truly inspiring and amazing that we have such talented young people. Today, we proudly commend all the students for their outstanding artwork and valuable contributions to promoting environmental stewardship in raising awareness about pollution prevention. WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners find that the protection of the environment is vital to the health, welfare, and economic progress of the county and its citizens; and WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works seeks to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Fulton County citizens by providing high quality and cost efficient services related to the delivery of water, the collection of waste water, and the conveyance of stormwater, and by complying with federal, state, and county regulatory requirements; and WHEREAS, public works has successfully promoted environmental awareness and consciousness of water resources, water conservation, water quality, and pollution prevention through school presentations, media campaigns, educational seminars, workshops, festivals, and community outreach programs; and WHEREAS, public works sponsored the 2026 Art Calendar contest which was open to all students, grades K through 12 attending a public, private, charter, or homeschool within Fulton County. Students were asked to create artwork promoting better water quality and water conservation usage and practices; and from the submitted drawings, 22 were selected to be featured in the 2026 Water Art Calendar; and WHEREAS, in recognition of this exemplary artwork, Shriyansh Nigam, a seventh grade student at Webb Bridge Middle School was selected as the grand prize cover recipient of the 2026 Water Art Calendar contests. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the environmental contributions of Shriyansh Nigam and his contribution of promoting environmental stewardship of water resources; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 17, 2025, as 'Shriyansh Nigam Appreciation Day' in Fulton County."

SHRIYANSH NIGAM, RECIPIENT: "Hello, everyone. My name is Shriyansh Nigam, and I'm really excited to be here, and I feel really honored to be selected as the cover page winner. And thank you for all of you for giving me the support I need to showcase my artwork. And thanks to my parents' support and their support for this art. Thank you."

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: "And our monthly winners stepping in for Bhargavi, we have Ashwa Ladekar, Zoya Noor Zakaria, Kabir Bhaci, Saanvi Bajaj, Imaan Rizvi, Lael Park -- excuse me, Selina Yang, Akshan Srivastava, Dorothy Zhang. I also have Aushe

Kamatoya, Sofia Yun Yu, Misha Mehra, Manya Mittal, Kaya Guingona, Divyanshi Dubey, and they're all from District -- with Commissioner Thorne. You all can come forward and receive your certificates. For all of our District winners, we thank you. For District 2, I have Aditi Pradah, Pratyusha Soni, and Aryash Awasthi. From District 5, we have Isaiah Hampton and Laila Allen. And for District 6, we have Jennelle Hodge."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Jennelle, come over here. I'm taking a point of personal privilege. Chairman, you'll like this when you hear this. Jennelle is the great-granddaughter of the Hollingsheads out of Southwest Atlanta. The engineer/architect of color was one of the first to get government contracts, and was very well-respected in Southwest Atlanta. So the Hollingshead family, the fruit doesn't fall from the tree, and we thank you and the service that Mr. and Mrs. Hollingshead gave to the community. Thank you."

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: "And we did have one additional winner from District 4, Adonis Maddox, but unfortunately, he was unable to make it for today, so thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing 'PBS Aerospace Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Thorne, Chairman Pitts, and Vice Chair Ellis."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm glad to join Chairman Pitts and Commissioner -- Vice Chair -- Commissioner Bob Ellis in honoring PBS Aerospace and their presence here in Fulton County. They could've chosen anywhere in the United States to plant their manufacturing company, yet they chose Georgia. They could've chosen any of the 159 counties in Georgia, yet they chose Fulton. And in Fulton, they chose Roswell, in Bob and I's districts. PBS, I'm proud to have them to be a member and to establish a strategic partnership with them to bring jobs, manufacturing jobs. I'm also proud that they employ veterans; they make it a priority to train and employ our veterans. I recently had the honor of being able to travel with the delegation from Fulton County to the Czech Republic to deepen our connections between Fulton County and business and civic leaders across central Europe. By deepening these ties, not only can we increase investment here in Fulton County, we can also open up opportunities for Fulton County businesses abroad. Thank you to PBS and your leadership, and thank you to Chairman Pitts for organizing today's reception. So it gives me great honor to read this proclamation: WHEREAS, PBS Aerospace has selected Fulton County Georgia as the home of his first United States headquarters and manufacturing operation, marking a major milestone in the company's expansion into the American defense market; and WHEREAS, PBS Aerospace is guided by core commitment to supporting American's veterans and proudly employing men and women who have served our nation with 75 percent of its engine technicians representing branches of the United States Armed Forces; and WHEREAS, these veterans bring a lived understanding of service, sacrifice, and responsibilities. They served to protect America, strengthening our nation's security through their work; and WHEREAS, PBS Aerospace has strengthened Fulton County's position as a leader in aerospace innovation, by deepening partnerships between private industry and the Georgia Institute of Technology with the majority of its engineering team educated at Georgia Tech, and actively engaged in advancing local academic and industry in collaboration; and WHEREAS, in an era when

drones pose increasing danger to American bases and service members, PBS Aerospace engines power systems that help keep troops safe and bring them home. And in doing so, strengthens Georgia position as a national leader in the defense and aerospace sectors; and WHEREAS, PBS Aerospace is strengthening ties between the state of Georgia and the Czech Republic through industrial corporation, educational engagement, and shared investment, and WHEREAS; Fulton County is grateful for the leadership and vision of board chairman Jakub Fischer, whose commitment to establishing and growing PBS Aerospace in Georgia represents a significant investment in the future of our county's economy, workforce, and contribution to national defense; and WHEREAS, Fulton County looks forward to supporting PBS Aerospace as it scales its operations, expands its manufacturing footprint, and continues building a world-class workforce. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of the Commissioners hereby honors and recognizes PBS Aerospace for its commitment to national security, in support for America's veterans, its investments in Georgia's engineering talent, and it's contributions to strengthening aerospace innovation, deterrence, and international partnership; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 as 'PBS Aerospace Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I just wanted to take this time to not only thank them, I was very fortunate to be at the ribbon-cutting. But I wanted to say I'm thankful to our Commissioner -- our Vice Chair and our Chair -- I was afforded the opportunity to go to Czech, and I was the first woman of color to lead a delegation over there from individuals from Georgia Tech and local government officials here. I wanted to say the diversity and the hospitality that was shown to me, I really do appreciate it. So thank you on behalf of Fulton County."

JAKUB FISCHER, RECIPIENT: "Good morning, Chairman Pitts, Commissioners, and Members of the Fulton County Commission. On behalf of PBS group and our team at PBS Aerospace, I'm honored to be here today to accept this proclamation. Thank you for this recognition and for the warm welcome you have extended to us. I want to thank Chairman Pitts, Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Ellis, and the entire Commission for your support and partnership. From the beginning, Fulton County has made us feel welcome, and we truly value the relationship we are building together. PBS Aerospace is proud to call Fulton County home. As we grow, we are excited about the opportunity to expand here and continue investing in this community. A key part of the growth is our developing partnerships with Georgia Tech, where we are collaborating with world-class researchers and engineers to advance aerospace innovation and build a strong talent pipeline right here in Georgia. It is especially meaningful to us to be producing jet engines in the United States, supporting national security, and employing American workers, particularly US veterans. That commitment is essential to who we are as a company. Thank you again for this honor and for your continued support. We look forward to a strong and lasting partnership with Fulton County."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 6, Public Hearings, **25-0961**, Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comments will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing by registering on the County website www.fultoncountygga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we'll start with speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 18 speaker cards. Would the first six speakers come forward: Representative Esther Panitch, Probate Court Judge Kenya Johnson, Sarkis Agasarkisian, Tierra Robinson, Mother Breedlove, and LA Pink."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Speakers, when you have 15 seconds left, I'll say 15 seconds. That's your key to begin to conclude your remarks. First speaker."

REPRESENTATIVE ESTHER PANITCH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm State Representative Esther Panitch, representing a portion of Fulton County in House District 51, which includes parts of Sandy Springs, Roswell, and Johns Creek. I'm here to urge you to vote, yes, on all three of the Resolutions that Commissioner Barrett has put forward for you today. As a legislator and as an attorney who have spent nearly three decades working with survivors of domestic violence, I see every day what happens to women when they lack access to the resources and support they need. These three Resolutions address that crisis head on. First, the Resolution affirming reproductive rights as human rights is not just symbolic, it's essential. Since Georgia -- since Georgia six-week abortion bans have been in effect, I've heard from constituents who are both patients and physicians showing that the doctors are afraid to provide necessary care. Women who have faced dangerous complications, complications I had while I was pregnant with my three children. And who have been forced to navigate impossible situations. Two Georgia, women have already died. Fulton County must take a stand and call on the General Assembly to repeal HB 481. Second, the women's commission would provide to sustain expert focus our County needs on issues affecting more than half of the population, maternal mortality, economic equity, healthcare access, and gender-based violence. As someone who works in this space and legislates in it, I can tell you that coordinated data-driven responses save lives. This commission would ensure these critical issues receive the attention they deserve. Third, the Healthy Women Healthy Families grant program is a smart investment. \$1 million, nearly 88 cents per resident, would strengthen the nonprofits already doing this vital work."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

REPRESENTATIVE ESTHER PANITCH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "In my own practice, I've seen access to prenatal care, mental health support, and violence prevention can

transform outcomes for women and their families. These Resolutions cost nothing, but mean everything to the women of Fulton County. I urge you to stand with the 79 percent --"

JUDGE KENYA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Esteem Commissioners and county management, happy holidays. My name is Judge Kenya Johnson, and I serve as the chief judge of probate court. Most of my days are spent dealing with disputes, (inaudible) mom's house, who's going to care for granddad, and occasionally we offer -- weekly, we offer wedding ceremonies. These moments matter, not just to the couple, but to our county, as a whole. I am here today to ask for a budget enhancement of \$250,000 to fund three probate clerks to continue our thriving wedding ceremonies. Wedding ceremonies are not a required service of probate court or any court here in Fulton County. However, since 2023, we have married over 500,000 couples in free civil ceremonies for citizens who wish to marry regardless of income. Our Vegas style wedding chapel has gone viral, thanks to External Affairs, and it has been featured in several national and local news outlets. We also request dedicated space in the Government Center so that we can conduct weddings for a small fee. Probate Court has already saved citizens over \$50 million in wedding ceremonies. And by charging a small fee, we can earn potential revenue for the county upwards of \$250,000. This is a revenue neutral transaction. Marriage is more than a ceremony; it is a stabilizing institution. Married couples are more likely to purchase homes in Fulton County, pay taxes and support one another through illness, unemployment, and crisis. The clear public benefits of marriage include reducing citizen reliance on emergency services, improved outcomes for children --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JUDGE KENYA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and stronger community ties. Finally, there is a symbolic power in this investment. When the government stands behind marriage, it sends a message that commitment, care, and mutual responsibility are values worth supporting --"

SARKIS AGASARKISIAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Doing the God's work, it is great to do the God's work. I think we all should try it. Good morning, my name is Sarkis Agasarkisian. I'm here to thank Honorable Judge Kenya Johnson for a great work she's been doing in Fulton County. In fact, I can state freely that she's very kind, very hardworking. She cares for everyone. Anyone comes into her courtroom, she cares for them. The ceremony that she did for my wedding was just unbelievable. It was one of the most beautiful things that you could experience. And also, not only I was surprised, but all my guests were impressed and amazed because they had never seen anything like that and cost them nothing. I think we need to help judges like her to do things out of the scope of just regular work and make the people feel great and never forget that beautiful ceremony in her courtroom. I pray, you as a Commission, will do the same thing. You will support her; give her all the means that she needs to have to continue what she's doing. Thank you very much."

TIERRA ROBINSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone, happy holidays. I am Tierra Robinson, and I had the privilege to actually be one of the participants in the ceremonies, and it is a beautiful space, a safe space, and a nurturing space. It was so convenient going in and getting your license and actually being able to have a ceremony right afterwards. It saved us a lot of money, so we're planning on taking an amazing honeymoon because we did not have to pay for a humongous wedding. Just the customer service going in, the staff was amazing. This is a big day, a lot of nervous feelings, and they were there every step of the way to make sure that all the documents, the license, the process ran smoothly and it was greatly appreciated. I actually was able to see this prior to reserving, so over the summer on social media, I seen this is Fulton County, and this is what we're offering. And it made me want to go on the website to actually search how can I have this amazing wedding with low costs and just quick and easy. And it led me right here. I am a Fulton County resident. I have not seen this done in any other county. Just the setup from the decorations, to the music playing, who said courthouse weddings, cannot be one of elegance and just luxury feeling. It was amazing experience. I absolutely appreciate the staff there and if you all could, just grant them the additional funds so they can have their staff just be able to make this an even better event so we can be seen across the United States and the country as just an amazing county for love and a journey --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

TIERRA ROBINSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and just establishing those partnerships in the community and in life together. Thank you."

MINISTER MOTHER BREEDLOVE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings. There is a word for the people of God today. And the word is the Lord said that we all must love one another, but what I see here is not love. So I'm going to give you all the Scripture that the Lord gave me to tell you. In 2Chronicles 7:14, the Lord said, 'if my people who are called by my name, we'll humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and heal their land.' We need a healing, Fulton County. Now, I get some callers, I traveled many areas as a missionary for 43 years all over the land. First black millionaire, Madam CJ Walker, is my family member. I gets a call to come and do a prayer at the jail. Now, I was here not too long ago and we was talking about the jail, you all approve some monies to go to the jail to help that jail, Rice Street. We get calls from inmates' family members, medical conditions, unhealthy living environment. Look people, we are human beings. If you can approve and sit here on this Board -- Marvin Jr., your dad and I -- I supported him with my monies and made areas in my restaurant --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MINISTER MOTHER BREEDLOVE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- you all approve \$40 million for a animal shelter, why can't you help Fulton County redo that jail and do better for the people, the inmates? You all have the power in your hands through God. through prayer to do a different --"

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

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. Please don't get twisted that she say she's praying for the jail. We most definitely is praying for removal. A double-minded person can't be trusted in any of their ways. The sheriff said that they train every single day for the air packs that is going -- for the fire that's going on in the jail. How do you train with no material? So we know that this is a lie, because he's coming here from -- allegedly-- to beg for money for air packs. Now keep in mind, this ain't the first fire in the jail; this is the second or the third or the fourth. So why would you spend thousands -- hundreds of thousands of dollars on Mercedes Benz, \$40,000 in Chick-fil-A gift cards, \$5,000 with Hell On Wheels over in South Fulton for a turkey give away, but you ain't got money to take out of the inmate welfare funding for air packs for the safety of the inmates in the bars that's working in the jail. But you get on TV and you tell them that you gather -- that you guys are going through training. Y'all, the politrickery is coming to an end. I keep telling you, you're going to be part of the RICO, or you can help take him down in the RICO. But either way it goes, it's coming. We got Mo Ivory closing down stuff from what was just told to me, closing down a library, a whole library for an event for the elders? Like where you do that on taxpayer dollars now? It's money. This ain't her money. This is taxpayer dollars baby, and then you're sitting up here campaigning for a position because now you're running for chairman, so it took Marvin Arrington and Dana out and asked them to step down from -- allegedly, so that you could run for chairman. So this is where the axe bend; this is what the marathon been doing proclamations and all that stuff. Girl, bye. Up your seat."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds. Thank you."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "We coming for it."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: S.O. Harper, Cameron Hood-Cree, Peter Munk, Anne-Louise Hatfield, Mae Whiteside Williams, and Janet Hill."

S.O. HARPER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Shalid Harper. First of all, I want to thank the Board of Commissioners for allowing me, once again, an opportunity to address the pay increase for the Board of Equalization. Last year at this time, a few of us came to appear for the Board increase from 100 to \$200 a day, but just keep in mind that we only work two days a week. The Commissioner -- Commissioner Pitts, back in March, a couple of us -- we had a private meeting with you, and in that private meeting, you clearly let us know that during the meeting you would ensure that the BOE number one priority in the supplemental budget in June 2025. At that time, you did, however, cite this certain type of county priority that would take number one priority is Fulton County Jail, as well as the SNAP, and the housing, and the shortfall of the budget should be the federal government if they shut down. Commissioner Pitts, you have always been a man of integrity and we respect you. We recognize and understand that the jail will continue to be an ongoing issue for the county, but it also appeared that both potential crisis have been averted, and so, I'm back again asking the Commissioner Hall for -- to consider the Board of Equalization pay increase --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

S.O. HARPER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and just remember we do bring revenue to Fulton County. Thank y'all again."

ANNE-LOUISE HATFIELD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Anne-Louise Hatfield. I came to Fulton County and Atlanta in 1967 as a bride, and as a teacher at PACE Academy. Half of my family, with roots in North Carolina since 1654, have been extensive advocates. I get teased about the fact that my DNA is just advocating. I've been a member of the Board of Equalization since the early 2000's, and have found that the grand jury members who approve us, after we we're invited to submit an application, that they are very aware of the expertise that we bring to the Board of Equalization. We all have -- or most of us have advanced degrees, have participated in many activities that affect where we live for the betterment of our county. And we arrived at the office, like this morning I was there by 6:30 -- we arrive at the office early before the cases so that we can review the cases to have an understanding of what is to come before us. With our knowledge and experience, we see that our educated decisions greatly affect the lifestyle of those people who own their property in Fulton County; thusly, the budget of Fulton County is affected by our work. For years, the BOE members --"

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

ANNE-LOUISE HATFIELD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- have heard that there's no money in the budget. But my question to you is have you heard how much we provide the budget with money? That should make the difference. For me personally, a hundred dollars is not --"

CAMERON HOOD-CREE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Can I start? Hello, Commissioners, my name is Cameron Hood-Cree. I live in Roswell and have opposition to propose MARTA bus service cuts in the northern portion of the county. I ride MARTA regularly, usually multiple times a week. Public transportation is essential to any major city, including the suburbs, despite having some of the worse traffic in the nation, MARTA currently wants to cut many of the suburban routes as part of a bus driver redesign and reallocate funding to other areas of the system within Atlanta as well as Dekalb and Clayton counties. The city of Atlanta and other counties pay their own sales tax. The northern portion of the county pays the one percent sales tax and we should get our share of the transit. If one percent is not enough, consider holding (inaudible) to bring this tax up slightly. Also, most of the service in North Fulton is around North Point Mall in Alpharetta, not the whole area. Please consider working with the suburban seat such as Roswell, Johns Creek, and Milton as well as MARTA to increase rideshare bus system coverage in the northern portion of the county instead of using the taxpayers of North Fulton to fund other areas and counties. We focus on serving more residents efficiently, ridership will go up and the state may decide to step in and provide funding bringing up transit funding for all Metro Atlanta counties. Thank you very much."

PETER MUNK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Mr. Chairman, good morning. My name is Peter Munk. I'm an attorney at the law firm of Nelson, Mullins, Raleigh and Scarborough. I'm

here today on behalf of JC Water Partners, which is a joint venture between Operations Management International, Inc., or OMI, and Corporate Environmental Risk Management. Joining me on behalf of JC Water Partners today are several individuals including Executive Vice President Mr. Tom Meinhardt, and also, Attorney Kevin Ross. I put my name on the list to speak today to agenda item 25-0983. Because that item has now been removed, I have nothing further to say. JC Water Partners looks forward to the Commission's review of its protest, and appreciates the consideration of its due process rights. Thank you, Commissioner."

MAE WHITESIDE WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, good morning, Commissioners. My name is Mae Whiteside Williams. I'm the Chief Executive Officer of a civil engineering firm, and I am a resident of North Buckhead in Fulton County, and I will be honest, when I first heard about the addition to Fulton County Women's Commission and the Healthy Women Healthy Families' grant, I heard about it on Instagram, and immediate I thought I might want to get in contact with my Commissioner to find out the status of it, and then I also at a business meeting, also learned from Commissioner Barrett about the challenges in passing. So I wanted to also mention, in addition to my business, I'm actively involved in women's civic and service organizations which gives me a first-hand view of how local policy decisions affect families and the nonprofits that serve them. Again, I'm here in strong support of establishing the Fulton County Women's Commission and the one million-dollar grant for the Healthy Women Healthy Families program. These measures reflect our shared values as a county that believes in a health economic empowerment, education, dignity, and opportunity that should be accessible to everyone. But also, as an employer, I see the whole person behind every job title. When women are healthy, safe and supportive, they're very able to care for their families, show up to my business, contribute fully to our communities. A women's commission ensures women's voices help and form policies that shape everyday life in Fulton County. I believe this program supports trusted nonprofits, providing maternal care, mental health services, cancer screenings, aging support, and violence prevention. These services create the stability and hope for women and families across our country. I urge you to vote for those two measures. Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to speak."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I am Ms. Hill, an advocate of deed fraud. And I'm here again to remind the Fulton County Commissioners that you are public servants. We have to work together to address this issue of deed fraud crimes. They are crimes. It is a felony. We're not going to be bullied, we're not going to be threatened, and we're not going to be rage baited by people like Mo Ivory, when we come forward to report these crimes. This is your document from your clerk of the court, and it states in 2021, there were 11,578 reported cases of real -- real estate fraud, totaling more than \$350 million in damages. Those aren't my words, it's a reliable source, and it's coming from your clerk of the court. I do want to give you some good news. Recently, there have been a couple of cases that have been adjudicated. We have one we believe that was just recently adjudicated locally and their property was returned. Another Georgia case, we found out that a fake government entity, which was posing itself as a buyer, they withdrew their claim. So these fake fraudulent transactions can be traced through the evidence that you have in your custody."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Fifteen seconds."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So thank you, Commissioner Thorne, thank you, Khadijah, for your commitment and concern, because when we leave here today, we're going out to help a homeowner who had their property stolen and sleeping in their car."

CLERK GRIER: "Last six speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: Josh Milton Mohammed, Margie McCloud, Lauren Waits, Marshal McKee, Reed Stillson, and Alicia Stallworth."

LAUREN WAITS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Lauren Waits, 25-year resident of Fulton County, new Georgia State College of Law. I want to thank you for your time serving, because we don't have to. I figure a personal story may help on this cause. My son, my middle kid, was born at Piedmont Hospital. He went to K through 12, Atlanta Public Schools, he went to Georgia Tech on the Hope scholarship, he even managed to get a Master's degree there, and he refused to stay in Georgia because he wants to start a family. I'm here ask you to support the Women's Commission, I'll ask you to support Healthy Families, because the best and brightest of our scientists know that if they want the highest quality medical care, they need to go outside of Georgia for reproductive health. I am well aware that you all are not the legislators, the elected officials who voted for Georgia six-week abortion ban, but it is profoundly harmful, not just to women, but to families. We need better medical care, and I would just ask, particularly given the timeliness of that one, and the fact that it won't cost you a dime, that you put Fulton County on the record. We had a beautiful, wonderful amazing aerospace company that we just -- I just learned about this morning whose workers would have better medical care if they stay in the Czech Republic, and I would ask that you be honest with all businesses that are moving here until and unless we can address the grave problem and risks to women's health. Thank you so much."

REED STILLSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. My name is Reed Stillson, and I'm a Fulton resident, a renter. I'm a candidate for County Commissioner, and I live and work in the Buckhead area where I'm the leader of a local coffee shop in a community hub. And today, I'm here to speak in support of action items 25-0935, 6, and 7 affirming that reproductive rights are human rights, establishing a Fulton County Women's Commission as well as establishing a Healthy Women Healthy Families grant program. You see, my partner and I won't be having biological children of our own. That was a deeply personal decision guided by our doctors' advice as well as our own personal views, wants, and needs. However, when Roe v. Wade was sadly overturned, and Georgia's egregious six-week abortion ban was fully put into effect, we were forced to face the reality that now only one of us has the full freedom and bodily autonomy to keep with that decision. So with the advice and guidance of my doctors, and I ended up scheduling a vasectomy; and frankly, this was almost too easy because as a man, my bodily autonomy has never been questioned. Yet, if my fiancée wished to partake in any number of related procedures to ensure that she had full control over her reproductive ability, she must rely on having permission granted by our government. Let me be clear, no one tells my fiancée what to do with her body, but her. And that

goes for every single woman in this county and in this country. To continue to legislate or behave otherwise as a government is not only regressive and harmful, but wholeheartedly shameful. So please, let us here in Fulton set an example for the rest of Georgia and the nation. Vote for these Resolutions affirming that as the good doctor once said, none of us are free until all of us are free."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

REED STILLSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you."

MARSHAL MCKEE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Board. I am here today to request your support for the Marshal's Office 2026 budget enhancement request. Our request is not an expansion of mission, but it is merely a continuation of our core responsibility to the courts, the county, the public, and to the citizens of Fulton County. Every dollar requested is directly tied to maintaining court security, executing lawful orders, and ensuring safe uninterrupted judicial operations across the county. Over the past years, our office has experienced staffing challenges due to increased service demands from the courts as well as the public. To continue operating efficiently and responsively, we have delayed in some areas, critical needs in order to maximize the existing resources to fulfill the core responsibilities. However, there's a point at which doing more with less begins to impact the readiness and safety of the staff and the service delivery to the courts and the public. Therefore, the majority of our budget request is for additional personnel. Our current staffing levels are not sufficient to fully staff the courts, consistently meet statutory deadlines for the service of civil documents, or efficiently execute dispossessory actions. These gaps create delays that directly impact court operations and public access to justice. One critical component which I like to point out is a request for an addition of a dedicated technical support person to handle the ongoing technical issues --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MARSHAL MCKEE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that cause daily frequent disruptions. Having this position will limit downside and ensure continuity of services. So simply stated, this budget request is about meeting our legal obligations and keeping the courts functioning without delay. Thank you."

ALICIA STALLWORTH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I want to take personal privilege as a Fulton County resident living in Hunter Hills to speak on these critical Resolutions. My name is Alicia Stallworth, and I'm also the state director for reproductive freedom for all, which represents over 33,000 Fulton members in Fulton County. Today, you are considering three Resolutions that will affirm that reproductive rights are human rights, establish an official women's commission to advise the Board on policies around women's health, economic opportunity, safety, leadership, and other gender equity issues. And you have an opportunity to create one million annual grant fund for nonprofits working on maternal health, reproductive care, and broader services that support women and families. Each Commissioner gets to appoint two people to the

women's commission, giving the community a direct voice in shaping policy. It is actually unfathomable that you already don't have this commission established, especially given the state of crisis we are in. Fulton County's already overrun, and so many people come to the inner-city seeking care. I don't have to tell you all the statistics. You've heard them, you received the information. But these policies before you, they're not about politics: they are about helping women. Women are the backbone of our families, our communities, and our economy; and all these measures recognize that reality. Thank you, Commissioners Barrett, Mo Ivory, and Arrington, for standing up for women and families. Thank you for your commitment, standing steadfast. I know it's not easy. Amber Nicole Thurman, Candy Miller, Adriana Smith; these are names that remind us of what's at stake. We know the statistics around maternal health in Georgia. This is not about policy, it's a crisis and our leaders must ask me why --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ALICIA STALLWORTH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- I'm deeply disappointed in my Commissioner Khadijah in how you have -- how you have stood up and not stood for women in policy. And you describe yourself as a human rights advocate and social justice leader. It's not being shown, ma'am. So I urge all Fulton County --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Thank you."

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

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

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Hello."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We can hear you."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you. I support efforts to eliminate corruption, waste, and misuse of taxpayer funds. County and city officials have a fiduciary duty to ensure public money is spent lawfully, services paid for are delivered, and oversight is enforced. These duties directly impact public safety, public health, and the public interest; particularly in criminal justice systems, magistrate court operations involving deed fraud and predatory real estate practice and animal control services, a public safety matter. I want to reference a publicly posted comment by a current Fulton County employee, Mr. Kevin Law, the animal service coordinator at the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, who alleges over ten years of experience in million-dollar animal welfare contracts. The comment alleges that the city of Atlanta paid Fulton County per animal control calls that were not responded to for services outside of proper jurisdiction and for costs associated with the new facility despite a lack of service delivery. The commenter, a current employee for Fulton County, states that they have never observed such limited government oversight

elsewhere. If accurate, these allegations raise serious concerns regarding breach of fiduciary duty, failure of contract enforcement, and waste of taxpayer funds. Similar concerns arise when the court and enforcement systems are used in ways that enable or fail to prevent deed fraud. As taxes increase, residents like myself, deserve accountability. What enforcement occurred when services are not delivered? Were these allegations investigated at the time they were made? Or were they ignored? What audits or reimbursements protect taxpayers like me? And what safeguards prevent abuse --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- for enforcement. I will follow up by e-mail for the record. Prior e-mails I sent, including to the County Manager, Dick Anderson, have never received a response, or Mo Ivory, whose staff asked me to e-mail and then fail to respond."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Nikky Buggs. Nikky Buggs."

NIKKY BUGGS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Can you hear me?"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Turn your volume down on your speakers."

NIKKY BUGGS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "All right. Ladies and gentlemen, I speak to you again today about the urgent and ongoing egregious and abuse of challenges that the homeowner of the Landmark Condominium in Atlanta have been and continue to face. These are merely not inconveniences but serious concerns that are affecting the safety, financial stability, steadily declining property value and quality of life for residents. To date, there was a 26 percent compounded CPI increase in HOA fees last year, and then a pending 1.8 increase this year plus a 1.8 increase on a double billing of water. The monthly HOIA is as high as \$1300 a month. We receive double billing of water, gas, electricity, and extensive contract for internet services. Capital assessments imposed on homeowners due to a fire that took place in a private space with a private investor company, January 17th. Frivolous fines commencing of \$500, the confiscation of common spaces. The recent -- December 12th, this past weekend, the activation of access codes for homeowners to enter the building to access to access their own personal units. So now we have homeowners that their codes were intentionally deactivated. And they cannot get into the building to access their unit, which ultimately reconfirms that the homeowners are being surveilled at this time. Safety concerns, transient traffic, and increased violence. The building was not designed to accommodate such short-term rental hotel transient visits such as -- as the building was designed as a residential building. To date, we have shootings, stabbings, killings, deaths tragic events that have shaken our community; the influx of transient visitors has created an environment --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

NIKKY BUGGS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- for homeowners that feel unsafe. We do not deserve this. We just ask for your help. We ask for the city and the state's help. The homeowners of the Landmark have done nothing wrong but to defend our homes to those who made the conscious decision to steal our homes and our building."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Ian Elkins. Ian Elkins. The next person to speak is Shanette Williams. Shanette Williams. Next person to speak is Shelly Steel. Shelly Steel. And this concludes our Zoom public comments."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, County Manager's Items under Open and Responsible Government, **25-0963**: Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. We will have the normal overview of justice-related issues. Of course, we'll give you the latest update on the fire at the jail on Friday. I've asked Joe to add that to the report, while not printed, he'll provide that verbally. We're also going to spend a fair amount of time on animal control or animal services today with the transfer of field operations to Fulton County Police Department, a revised contract and KPIs before we ask for your approval on that contract later in the agenda. You'll see as Steve comes forward, the jail population is remaining steady at 2958; more being released in this last month than brought in, so that's good; and there is an uptick in use of the diversion center, 224 diversions. That's also positive, and 514 on electronic monitoring. So we continue to look for and support alternatives to incarceration. We do have some additional vacant beds, based on the Blitz; however, the fire itself caused those to be utilized. So again, Joe will sort through that when he gets to his section. We have had our first review of the construction timelines associated with both the construction of the new building, special-purpose building, as well as the renovation. We will be sorting through the implications of those timelines, the requirements for bond issuance, and we anticipate bringing that after the first of the year to share with the Board. And animal services, I just want to say before we get into that, we've completed the negotiations with LifeLine, so I'm pleased with that. Those went well. The scheduled transfer now is ongoing, so folks are moving to Fulton County Police Department. We've covered each city on this move, each city manager or their representative. We had two meetings, one in the north and one in the south. Those meetings went very, very well. They're pleased with this move, and as well, I think the KPIs that are being established for shelter operations that LifeLine will be responsible for have been strengthened, and I think you'll be pleased to see the specificity that we'll share today. Generally, though, responsible pet ownership is the key. We're up to over 40 percent increase in the number of animals being turned over to our shelters, so that's almost a thousand a month. So adoptions -- and again, responsible pet ownership are really key to keeping

that population fundamentally intact. And then last, as an item today, you will see, which is important, the application for Fulton County Executive Airport to have its own fire services. We're well-lit down that road in terms of planning, funding, operationalizing and staffing, but we have a necessity to reestablish ourselves, if you will, with certification from the state. So Joe Barasoain will cover that. Steve, I'll turn it over to you."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Great. Thank you, County Manager. Steve Nawrocki, Strategy Office. We can go to the first slide, please. Can we advance to the next one? Great. Thanks. One more. Go to slide five, please. Can we advance, please? Next slide. Next slide. One more, please. All right. Great. We'll start with our justice system scorecard where you'll see we have stayed mostly consistent for each measure, relative to last month. First, we'll start with the average length of stay where we did see a one-day decrease down to 48 days. Moving to the jail population, unindicted without other charges, you'll see that did maintain at 16 percent, so no change there. The clearance rate for felony criminal cases did decrease by four percent down to 78 percent for the month of November, but we did see improvements for felony cases disposed within 180 and 365 days, up nine percent and four percent over the month respectively. Next slide. We'll now go to our jail population update. As the County Manager mentioned, we are holding fairly steady month-over-month with our average jail population seeing 2,966 for the month of November. We did do a one-day snapshot in December, on the 7th, and that number was 2,921 with 45 inmates on the floor. Next slide. We can go to the next. Here we have the one-day snapshot for the length of stay for currently incarcerated inmates. As of December 2nd, on this report, 2,969 inmates, or 50 percent, have been incarcerated for 90 days or less, while about 16 percent are incarcerated for greater than one year. And again, these numbers have been fairly consistent month over month. The average duration for currently incarcerated inmates is 205 days, which is a one-day improvement compared to last month. Next slide. Next, is the facility utilization update for the jail population, and the County Manager mentioned this and I'll stress again, the information on this slide is as of December 8th, so several days before the fire at Rice Street. So these numbers do not reflect the current situation. You can see though as of last week, there were 204 vacant beds. This represents the completion of 7 South Blitz where the Sheriff's office was preparing to occupy that space, but as the County Manager said, Mr. Davis will give an update on the bed moves required post damage last week from the fire. Next slide. Next, we have the inmate analysis over jail population: 71 percent, or 2,073 inmates are either indicted or accused or both indicted and accused while 16 percent remain unindicted. We can go to the next slide for a breakdown. Here we've got the aging of our unindicted population at the jail: 67 percent, or 322 inmates, have been unindicted for 90 days or less, and I'll note we've continued a few months now where there are no inmates unindicted greater than one year. Next slide. We'll look now at the county funded ankle-monitoring program where you'll see we have currently 514 participants in the program. You can go to the next slide. Looking at the six months rolling of participation, you'll see there is a decline of 58 monitors being used between the October number of 572, down to 514 for the month of November. We are still holding roughly steady though in terms of the percent of monitors that are in use less than one year and greater than one year, so 58 percent and 42 percent

respectively. Next slide. And last, we'll close with the update on the diversion center. Again, great news, as mentioned, we have hit a high watermark for monthly diversions in November with 224. Looking at the policing jurisdictions on this slide, you'll see that Atlanta leads with 145, followed by MARTA, and our Fulton County Police Department. We've got six other cities represented along with two universities, Georgia Tech and Georgia State, and also have the Georgia World Congress Center. Next slide. And here we have -- go back one 17, please. Thanks. Here we have the diversions by charge. So again, staying with the month of November, the 224, we do continue to see criminal trespass and disorderly conduct as the two most prevalent charges for individuals brought into the diversion center. We want to call out -- well, not in the report right now, we are working with Grady leadership at the diversion center to build out a report around the outcomes, so focusing on the programs and services that individuals have received. So we're looking to have that in our January report next month. Go to the next slide. Thanks. And last now, we'll shift to year-to-date data for the diversion center. You'll see here we've had as of the end of November, 1,283 diversions. Looking at the charts on the right for the 2025 year-to-date diversions, you'll see there has been a pretty significant upward trend since September where we were at 104 up to 159 in October and, again, up to 224 in November. You'll see below that, for the daily census, that trend matches almost exactly where in September we had only an average daily census of three, and have now ended at a census of eight for November. And then shifting over to the pie chart on the right, these numbers have also held fairly consistent month over month where 72 percent have completed programming, with six percent discharge to the hospital, so that marks 78 percent, which would be considered a successful diversion. And with that, I can take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Are there questions? Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the report, Mr. Nawrocki. Just a quick question on the -- first of all, it's great to see the numbers on the diversion center heading in the right direction, although eight is still pretty low. Just as a reminder, how many can we, you know, really take in a day?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "The max is 40."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So we still have a long way to go."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Still a ways to go."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Do we feel like we've done like -- is this because we've educated more of the police officers is that really what's happening, do you think?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "I think there's a great example of education to the policing jurisdictions. You can see if we go back to slide -- I think it's 16. MARTA had a significant increase. They were in the single digits month-over-month, and then diversion center staff went and met with the MARTA police force. And you can see, like within a month, it shot up from single digits to 32. So communicating, educating that outreach, it is showing that it's paying dividends there."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And so, you know, obviously, the goal among other things is to -- one of the goals I should say, is to have less people booked into the jail. And so, when do you expect to start seeing a correlation between the diversion center numbers and jail booking numbers?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "I -- that's a good question. I don't know that we've been able to tie a direct line to diversions to jail population probably because they are on the lower side, 224 diversions, relative to jail population of 3,000. Hopefully though, kind of your point, Commissioner, as we start to get higher in to that cap is when you may see a better correlation for increased diversions to lower jail population. I think something that we're exploring right now, and the County Manager alluded to this, right now as we're looking at moving into our jail program, kind of what are some of the major levers we need to pull in kind of the overall planning of that, lower jail population is one of them. And so, if that means increasing diversions, whether it's at the diversion center, or whether it's increased ankle monitor use, or the other strategies out there, I think we really need to read up on, you know, leaning into what those initiatives can be."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Let me just add to that, because I think the question's great. I don't know that I can say that this is statistically significant cause it's one-month. But if you've looked back at page 7, its 1925 are the numbers coming in; 1746 were the numbers in November. So it's, you know, almost 200, and there's 200 diversions so, and it's going in the right direction, and we've netted 58. But you know, it's at the margin, but I think the question is right on, and I'm hopeful that they do continue. If this goes up and bookings go down and the releases stay about the same, we can start to make some significant progress."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, it's obviously the goal, so thank you. And I think, if we can continue to make that correlation and sort of recognize that the numbers are sort of intertwined, however small they are right now, you know, I think it's good information for the public who, I think, is very much encouraging us to continue to work on diversion efforts across the board. I had one other question about the jail, and it might be more of a D.R.E.A.M. question, I don't really know. It's sort of a combo question, I think. Given the situation with the fire, and you mentioned the housing unit being the one that was just finished -- 7 South being used to evacuate the folks from 7 North too, I think it brings up for me the question of -- and I'm kind of directing it to both of you at the moment. But it begs the question for me of what is the plan should something because they got sort of weirdly lucky that the whole unit was available. I hate to say lucky because it was a bad situation, but what's the plan should something like this happen again. Do we have --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- Commissioner Barrett, excuse me for one second. I would like to make a point of order for there be quiet when a Commissioner has the floor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute, just a minute. What's your point of order?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Because I can't hear. My point of order is that there's other Commissioners loud convening with their staff while a Commissioner has the floor, and it's disturbing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'm finished."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. So what I'm wondering is, what's -- is there sort of a standard, I guess, and this is maybe a Mr. Nawrocki, Mr. Anderson question, about how many sort of available beds you should have, you know, in case of an emergency like this where some beds go off-line for whatever reason, whether it's fire or something else. Is there sort of a standard number from an industry perspective? And then the secondary question is, do we have that? Because again, this was sort of a weirdly fortunate situation that the next door block was available with 7 South being available and 7 North had problems. So I know that's not going to happen sort of automatically if there's a next time. So I'm just sort of wanting to make sure we're future proofing here?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good morning, Commissioners, we've been advised that the standard for beds in reserve, if you will, is ultimately related to the needs for classification, and the sheriff's office has indicated that the number is 15 percent of your total number of beds. But in terms of fallback space, if you will, in the event of emergency, it's a little bit difficult to determine what that need is as emergencies may, you know, span from small to large in terms of the number of impacted inmates. But doing my report, I will go into a little bit more detail as it relates to the bed count and what was affected by the fire and essentially where that leaves the sheriff's office in terms of available bed space."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I appreciate that. I think the other thing is, you know, and I don't know, and perhaps this is a question, you know, not me making a statement, but I would assume we also need, if we don't have a full sort of evacuation plan, what happens of the whole building, you know, needs to be evacuated, where do we move the inmates to in a scenario like that? So does that exist or do we need to work on that?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "That would be a sheriff's office responsibility. So I have not reviewed their evacuation plan, but we certainly could ask and bring it back -- I mean, it's very timely now."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "It just seems, yeah, that the fire sort of brought that all to light. And again, thankfully, we did not have to do that in this scenario and, also, thankfully, everybody is okay that got through that. But, I don't know. Mr. Nawrocki, did you have anything to add on?" Okay. Thank you, guys, I appreciate it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you. When you look at the length of stay for the currently incarcerated, it says we have an average duration of 205 days. What is the goal to get down to?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "I'm not sure that there is a target, Commissioner Thorne. I know for average length of stay where we're tracking those that have exited the jail versus the 205 days as a snapshot of those currently in, that has a national court standard of 30 days. I don't know off top of my head what a national standard would be for those currently incarcerated, but I can look into that."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. If you can find that out, that will be great. I knew 30 days, which you have people who kind of come in and maybe stay a few hours, bond out. So that's why that number goes low. But this 205 days is the one where the people are staying overnight, and I think that's a crucial number if there is a target, maybe there isn't. And then I was wondering if you could kind of give the listening public, the reason we have the electronic monitoring in place, just a little background on that,. Because I hear so many things that there are people with \$25 bonds and they can't -- they're in our jail and clogging our jail because they can afford bond, but we instituted this electronic monitoring program in 2023, I believe?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "That sounds right."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And we put a cap of about 1500 where the county pays for it, whereas, in the past, the individual would have to pay for it. This electronic monitoring, I think, is crucial that the public knows that we have it available."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Correct. You want me to expand on anything?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, if you want to expand on that in any way."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Right. So these monitors are largely applied -- currently at first appearance, so when individuals are going through and they're signed by a magistrate judge working on behalf of Superior Court. And so that's really the primary path to getting assigned an ankle monitor. Previously, during ORCA -- so which would have been during that 2023 time frame because we closed that out in the end of 2024. The DA's office and the public defender's office were holding a regular scheduled meeting. I forget if it was biweekly, twice a month, but there is some regular cadence, and these were to review consent bonds, what are called consent bonds, and what they would consent to is a release and then have an ankle monitor applied to those individuals. And so that was two paths that were running concurrently and probably why we saw a significantly larger amount of usage back then. Since ORCA has ended, the meetings between the public defender's office and the DAs office have ceased. And so, I think that's kind of limited the pipeline of monitors that are

being applied, but we certainly encourage usage. I mean any strategy again to reduce the jail population for those appropriate that shouldn't really be in the jail, yes, ma'am."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I want to follow up on actually what you just said. We've had a clear focus on trying to -- through the use of diversion and other techniques to reduce the jail population, and this electronic monitoring thing was something specifically that we changed the way that we operate with that in order to drive down the jail population and it was -- it appeared to have a high degree of effectiveness for a period of time. Now, I'm not seeking to question all the parties involved in this, but one could look at this now and say it's becoming a neglected tool by the justice system when we see the use of it go down from 726 to 514, and we've got, you know -- a cap on this of like 1400 or 1500, right? And, you know, in specifically noting that in the six-months or less category, you know, maybe you would expect it to fall off within the higher category, because people would have looked at it and say okay, they don't need it, you know, whatever. But to see that number fall off in six months or less is, you know, in a year or less, is somewhat kind of concerning. So I -- and to hear you say that, you know, two parties were meeting when we had a program and now they're not meeting now, I don't -- I don't think a program should have anything to do with, you know, whether parties are meeting and working to utilize a tool that, you know, could get people out of being incarcerated and move into a monitoring situation, if they were, indeed, eligible for it. So I don't know how we garnered some more insight in to that, and get some sort of assurances that, you know, this is a tool that's effectively being utilized by the justice partners, but I do think that -- that's critical, because, you know, this is a material drop off. And then if there are legitimate reasons for it then, okay, that's fine. But, you know, to hear say, okay, we've got two key parties in the equation which are no longer having regular contact, that's a high degree of concern. So I don't know how we break that, I just want to approach it and perhaps we could have the public defender come down and, you know, talk with us. Perhaps y'all could just, you know, go back and encourage those meetings to, you know, reform, you know, take place et cetera. So thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you for your presentation. I don't know that we're tracking, or maybe I didn't see it, but we were up over 3,000 inmates at one point, and we got down to 2500 or less than 2500."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Early last year, yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And now we back up to 3,000?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Just under."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So all of those other numbers are really irrelevant if we're back up to 3,000; coming in, going out, this and that, we're back at

3,000. What is the plan to get back below 3,000, back to 2500? Because, I mean we can track all of this ankle monitor, in, out, average length of stay; total population is the problem, right? And so, where is that slide? Where is the total population slide that shows our high point, our low point, and where we are today? That's the slide I would like to see, right?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Because otherwise, I mean, it doesn't matter. And I'm not trying to belittle you. I'm just saying, if we're back at 3,000, and we went down to 2500, and we're back at 3,000, there's a problem, or at least we need to acknowledge that we're back at 3,000, right? And because -- I mean, at the end of the day, that's the problem, right? And so, all these other numbers are good, but if we're not tracking the total population, that's the number I believe that counts the most, right? And so, we need to be looking at that over time because that should be guiding our budget, right? What were we doing to get it down to 2500, right?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "What additional staffing did we have? I need to see the staffing chart that goes with that. I need to see the DA and the public defender's staffing chart to go with that, right? Because if we took the staff away, if they lost ORCA, if they lost the temporary positions and now we're going back up by another 500 inmates, that should inform and guide us as we're looking at our -- making our budget decisions, right? Wow. We had 50 DAs and we got it down to 2500. Now we got 30 DAs and we're back up to 3,000 inmates. Those are the type of numbers that I need to see to help me --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- some people probably already know what they want to do. They just want to deny any budget request no matter what. I want the numbers. I want the numbers to dictate the decisions that we make. And I would hope that others would want the numbers and the data to dictate those decisions as well. So I'm thankful for your report, it's good, but we're back up to 3,000 inmates. That's the long and short of all those slides you just presented. We're back up to 3,000 inmates. And so, now we need to be thinking what are we going to do to get back down below 3,000 inmates, right? How do we get back to 2500? How do we get down to 2,000? And what budgetary priorities do we need to make in order to get there? And you may have some ideas or some recommendations, but you know, all this other stuff is good background information, but what matters the most is the total number of inmates in the system. And what are the driving factors that helped us get it down before and what are your recommendations to help drive it back down? That's the information I need. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'm so thankful for this conversation. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington, and thank you, Vice Chair Ellis, for the comments that you both just made about the electronic monitoring numbers and about the correlation between the budget and lessening the population of the jail. And, of course thank you, for your report which we had an opportunity to talk about extensively yesterday. I had an extensive meeting with the executive leadership team yesterday about the exact question of what worked before when we had a crisis and what could work again, and it incorporated both of your comments, which seems to say that our jail issues should not be a political issue. It should just be about figuring out how to lessen the population of the inmates in the jail so we can get to fixing the jail problem. And much of what we discussed yesterday felt so hopeful for that, and so, I want to thank the entire executive team, County Manager, CFO, CLO, finance team for sitting with my team and allowing us the opportunity to talk through those options, because we talked about the ORCA money, we talked as a budget item, Commissioner Arrington, and how that could be a true trigger for bringing down the population. We talked about utilizing the ankle monitoring program in a way that we had in the past that showed those results. So I am so grateful to hear with no early conversations, without you all even knowing we had that meeting, that there are these ideas that we, as a Body, could agree to and probably start trying to come to some cohesive agreement about doing something about the jail that should not be a political issue. So I feel -- I feel happy. I feel a moment of wow, this may be something that we actually can sit down and work together and fix. So I'm grateful for your report, I'm grateful for your openness for that meeting and for many more to come, and for I believe is a consensus of us understanding that. We may already have the solutions in our hands if we can just get together to pass them, so thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, the one thing I wanted to emphasize so that -- we have an existing tool which we have funded, and we don't need to put any more budgetary dollars into. We are -- in fact, we are underutilizing, and we see the total population, and that's provided to us, you know, in 2921 right now, right? And we've seen -- I do think all of this other data is not -- you know, it's very useful. It is very telling, because that number, 2921, electronic monitoring, 700 up here in June, and it's 500 now. That's 200 and some people. Okay? That gets you half way there. It was about 1,000 when we started the year, right; maybe?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Around. I mean, that it's been --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- there's your number. You're at 2,500. So this is not even a -- we're not doing anything budgetary standpoint, but utilizing this tool potentially you're right back at it. And so -- and candidly, I mean, we can't control that. I mean, that requires the other parties involved to take action and utilize it. So we need some sort of feedback back about whether or not what's the utility of this?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Right, the effectiveness."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And, you know, if the utility is -- it's only going to be 500 people, we need to understand and to understand that and adjust. I mean, don't need to fund it, if that's not the case. But I mean if it was -- you know, if it was working before, you know, maybe it shouldn't have been at this, but maybe it shouldn't be down here. That's just low hanging fruit, but we don't -- we set up the impetus for it to occur, but we cannot --you make it occur, and we can't make that occur. So I do think we need some feedback from the core judicial partners on this particular program in the extent to which we are funding it."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE: "No, thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, continue."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Morning again, Commissioners, Joseph Davis, Real Estate and Asset Management; if you could forward to the Jail Blitz Section of the presentation. So as of November 27th, we have completed ten of the 11 housing units assigned to Phase One of the Jail Blitz program representing 91 percent of all housing areas. As you can see, we are currently on Area 3 South, which is critical for housing residents that require both physical and behavioral health attention. We are projecting the completion of Phase One at January of 2020 -- excuse me, this is a typo here, January of 2026, where we will then quickly move into Phase Two, which would be 6 South and 6 North sometime in the first quarter of 2026. I think it's important to note that this report was compiled as of last Thursday. Unfortunately, we all are aware of the fire that occurred on housing unit 7 North, whereby, the residents that were assigned to that area were evacuated to 7 South. We have extensive damage. I've been working directly with the jail complex since January of 2006, and I have to admit that over the years and the innumerable fires that have occurred, this is probably the most significant in terms of damage to the area, housing unit 600 on 7 North, we have extended damage, not only to the area where the fire was set, the shower, but extreme smoke that had covered all surfaces in the area, as well as the flames reaching up to the ceiling, burning through the ceiling tiles, affecting wiring and mechanical equipment. We've begun the initial restoration work in terms of simple wipes downs and assessing, but we have a great deal more work to do particularly on the engineering side as we determine what mechanical systems are impacted and will need to be replaced as a part of the recovery efforts. Next slide, please. Again, as of last week when this report was compiled, we were at a total of 331 beds out of service due to maintenance. We have returned 224 cells to service since our last report. Now that number goes back to over 500 as a result of last Friday's fire. Next slide, please. This is an overview of jail maintenance performance. There were 1605 work orders issued in the month of November, 71 percent of those were completed. There were also 228 work orders that was issued in November that were completed in the month of December, going through December 10th, for an effective completion of November workorders of 85 percent. We

also had 337 preventative maintenance work orders scheduled with 82 percent of those being completed. We have a grand total of 1,021 work orders that are currently open, with 553 of those in area 6 North and 6 South which are upcoming blitz areas that must be unoccupied in order for the work to commence. At the bottom of the slide, you'll see a graphical presentation of a three-month overview of workorders to give an idea of how they come in and how they're being completed over time. We also have in the bottom right corner just a graphical representation of the overall backlog. We are trending downwards, at least in this particular cycle, from October to November. The goal is to have those trend down even further. Next slide, please. As you can see, the Board approved several critical repairs and upgrades to the jail facility. The first one here on the list is probably the most pertinent at this moment in time. The Board approved \$723,000 to upgrade the jail's fire alarm system. That work was completed in August of this year. We have begun subsequently another project to address the field devices, that's the smoke detectors, strobe lights, things of that nature, sensors that began on September 29th of this year. We have completed roughly, of the installation of field devices, nine of the 13 housing units. We're still going back-and-forth doing some troubleshooting to eliminate any potential issues, but we are projecting April of '26 for that work to be completed. I think it's important to note that because of the fire that we had in the jail this past week, the fire alarm system that was recently installed did the work that it was supposed to do. Personally, being on-site, we were able to see the head-in, the areas that were impacted and the system reporting those. The sprinkler system activated, so the fortunate thing here is that the Board's action to address this deficiency, resulted in the system working as it should and ultimately to save lives. We completed the installation of the padded cells in the South Annex. We completed the approved kitchen equipment. We have two new washers on order that will be installed by December 21st at the main jail. And as you can also see, we have an elevator modernization RFP that closed on December the 4th that's currently in evaluation. And that's the end of the report, and I'll take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Mr. Chairman, if I can say kudos to Joe Davis. I've never seen anyone that is as committed to our facilities, always on site no matter what the time of day, and Joe, I want to thank you for your leadership on site. Also, we did talk to the Insurance Commissioner, John King. I did the day after, and then the Chairman, the County Attorney and I, talked to him on Monday, and he was very complementary of the staff that works directly with them, particularly on the implementation of these enhancements and courses. Investigation is ongoing, and Soo has assured his attorney that we stand ready to provide any and all information."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So are you going to say anything else about the fire?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "I think, because it's an ongoing investigation, any other information would be secondhand information and not formal, so I would prefer that either be --."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- understand. Will we receive a written report from the -- because I did have a conversation with the Insurance Commissioner as the Manager's indicated, and will we receive a written report from him after he finishes his investigation of what really happened?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, that is their standard protocol, and we would review that jointly with all parties involved and then, of course, forward it to the Board."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And have you had any direct conversations with the Insurance Commissioner about the fire?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "I have not had direct conversation with the Insurance Commissioner himself. I have had conversations with the deputy chief who actually was on-site with the arson investigation team, and it was essentially to fact find."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, the arson investigation is ongoing?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "That is correct. It began that night."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Anything else? Thank you. Continue."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right. We'll move to animal services. And again, Mike will be presenting this and has done a terrific job organizing us; of course, for the direct responsibility, Vern Sawyer, you know is the division chief; Captain Dwyer and the Fulton County Police will be handling field operations for this. Of course, Joe Barasoin runs EMA and has overall responsibility, so Mike, if you'll guide us through, and then we've got everyone here for questions and answer."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "Okay. Can we go to slide 27, please? Okay. Mike Rowicki, Strategy and Performance Management. Again, I'm glad to be here today to give you guys an update on the LifeLine and animal services project. Actually -- again, as the County Manager introduce everybody, the team here has worked hard between Fulton County Police Department, animal services, purchasing, finance department to make this request for the amendment and the renewal of the contract come together. So first, I'd like to actually highlight a couple things about the renewal. So today, on the agenda, further down, you will actually have two agenda items for the LifeLine contract. One is an amendment, which will actually change the KPIs and the terms that we have come up with. The other one will actually be the renewal of the contract for the FY26 year. With those requests, we just want to remind you that all of these costs that are in here are actually costs that are paid by our partners and our municipalities and our cities, so as a shared cost. And with these contract negotiations, what we actually expect the benefits to be is again, is improve public safety. We look for enhanced delivery of services for our field services and shelter services, and we looked for how we can actually make a stronger management

through the Fulton County Police with some of our services. Next slide, please. What we actually want to highlight for you guys here is this is your contract terms that we're actually looking at for compensation with this. For FY25, the contract amount was 9,352,000. With the negotiation, what we've actually done is look for 2026. We have taken field services and actually moved that to the Fulton County Police Department; therefore, we've reduced the compensation for LifeLine animal services, and that new amount for LifeLine would be 7,440,000. With that, there is a difference of about \$1.9 million. That \$1.9 million will actually be transferred over to the Fulton County Police Department to actually operate our field's services and allows us to stay within the current budgets that the cities have agreed to us through their MOU for animal services. Next slide, please. As part of the contract negotiations, what we've actually done is created a series of updates to the scope of work and to keep performance metrics and indicators for LifeLine. And with this, I'm going to just kind of highlight just a few of these as we go through them. First, is that we would only accept animals that are owned or found in Fulton County. If, for any reason, know that animal came from a different jurisdiction outside of Fulton County, those animals will not be accepted according to the terms. All animals that are adopted will be spayed or neutered as they go out for services, or to be adopted through any of our partners. Unless there is a medical issue that a veterinarian says that that animal cannot be spayed or neutered, that will be the only reason. We will actually have facility repairs and requests designated in a timely fashion that they will use a specific system that we have set up for them through our contractors to make sure repairs are timely and they're done completely, and we can track that. We've also added, in here, that there will be six hosted events in coordination with Commissioner's offices and External Affairs throughout the community that we will allow for adoption, and LifeLine will work with us to coordinate those with your offices. Next slide. The next part of the scope of work is staffing levels. We have agreed to the terms with LifeLine that for shelter services, they will maintain 90 percent staffing levels. If at any point in time those staffing levels go below that over 90 days in a time period, the county then has the right to review that with them and find out what this and create a corrections plan for them. We will actually have a save rate for our animals. It will be a minimum of 85 percent on average for save rate for all of our animals. They will also ensure that a 100 percent of their staffing is all trained within 90 days on all protocols and operations of the facility. Also as part of this, another change is facility damage. If there are any staff or volunteers that create any damage, the LifeLine has to report that damage within 48 hours, 95 percent of the time, and then they will be -- if there are any costs associated with those damages, we would actually take that out of their next payment in the next month's cycle. Another item that we've actually added to the contract is date of accuracy for reporting purposes. With that, LifeLine will ensure us that when they enter the data into the system, that 90 percent of the time that data will be accurate. We can track the changes because now we have access directly to the system and see what changes are being made to make sure that we getting timely reports, they're accurate, and we can report that out publicly. Next slide. With this, again as part of this, the transfer of field services will be to the Fulton County Police Department, and what I want to actually do is introduce Captain Dwyer and let her give an opportunity to give an update on this transfer."

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "Good morning, Commissioners, Nikki Dwyer with Fulton County Police Department. We're very excited to have this transition taking place today as day one. We have been working animal cruelty cases for about the past year throughout Fulton County. We've worked over a hundred investigations, numerous search warrants. Through that, we have seen that a lot of these animal cruelty cases involve domestic violence, child abuse, gang activity, drug activity, so there's a need for law enforcement. So this is going to allow us to make improvements. So we're going to have 26 civilian animal control officers, and four sworn officers including myself, so there's going to be more officers on the street, quicker response time for priority calls. Also, going to focus on educating the public -- educating them first and then if there's continual violations, then we'll go the law route to take action. Also, we did meet with all city managers and spoke about the transition and the goals that we have to improve services, and also gave them contact information if there are any instances or anything they need help with, they can reach out immediately. And then also have them share information with their constituents about realistic response times. A lot of citizens believe that when they call for a loose dog that an animal control officer should be there in ten minutes like a law-enforcement officer. But just like law enforcement, we have priority one, two, three calls. If there's an injured animal, if there's a dog attack, then there's 45 minutes to respond. So they also took that back to their constituents, so there's just a better line of communication and a better, you know, expectations are made. And also, we want to encourage responsible pet ownership. A lot of these attacks that we've had a lot of issues come from irresponsible pet ownership, you know, the fence is faulty, they know their dogs are aggressive, they let them run, whatever the case may be. So we are going to work towards making that better and also training of the officers; better training, work on report writing, cruelty investigations, situational training. Also their communication with the public, something as simple as if the public calls in and there's a dog at large, then an animal control officer shows up on the scene and picks the animal up, then the complainant is calling back saying animal control never reached back out to them, something as simple as just calling the complainant and saying we picked that dog up. Okay."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "Okay. Next slide, please. So as a part -- of part of this process improvement, what we wanted to do again, as Captain Dwyer and the County Manager noted, is we had meetings with each of the cities in terms of South and North Fulton, providing them information, again, opening up that communication line with them to ensure they can trust us and they can communicate with us as to what is going on with field services. So what we actually did is we have created a Fulton County page that is available to each of the cities. The city managers have access to this. Their staff has access to this. This actually gives them the details on what is occurring with field services. So each of the cities as you can see from this, actually has a link that they can go into specifically, see the details on field services calls which actually would include, again, a number of calls over all. The response time for those calls, for those priority areas that Captain Dwyer mentioned, the types of calls that are being called in, is it a stray animal, is it something that is somebody's lease, barking, those types of items, locations of the calls are actually mapped out for them so they can see where those calls are actually occurring at, and actually additional information that they ask for would be available for them on a regular basis that they can routinely see,

go in and get updated on. Okay. Next slide. Again, with some of those things, we get improved communications with our partners. I also want to kind of talk to you guys about animal population, part of the reason why we're here today is this renewal. Our shelter population is key for us to keep that under control. We believe that LifeLine does do a good job in terms of the shelter operations, specifically. And just to give you guys some facts here. Total population is higher than what was predicted in our initial studies. I know we said this several times in the past, but again, it does have a very big factor on how we look at things and what we've been able to manage and keep within compliance with. The original study said that we would have about 476 animals with the new shelter. Current trends actually show us being about 546 animals. So again, it's about a 14 percent increase in the shelter population that we're dealing with. But we also have another population that is out there that is not in that shelter, and that is we have about 700 dogs that are in foster care. So in total, we have about 1300 animals that are in our care for the county. Again 1300, that's a large number, and more than half of that is out with families in our communities, and I have actually have to commend the families that are out there. I've done it in the past for fostering; making that commitment, bringing that animal into your household is a big deal and getting them to keep those animals safe. Next slide, please. So with animal intakes and adoptions: As the County Manager mentioned, the numbers are astounding as to how many animals are coming in monthly. So there's been a 41 percent increase over the past 24 months of the number of animals that we're intaking. Again, by the end of the year, we'll be about a little over 11,000 animals that are coming in, that's a 1,000, almost a thousand a month. So LifeLine has been working hard to get those animals either into foster care, get them through the adoption process, and that's kind of helped us stay and stabilize some of our shelter populations as well as we can. And how they've done that, again, foster is a big huge part of that. On average nationally, if a dog goes into a foster population or a foster home, about 75 percent of the time the family ends up adopting. So again, having that network through LifeLine is key for us to getting those animals into safe homes. Adoption rates have also increased for us. We went from 162 in November 2023 to currently, in November of 2025. That's 211 percent increase up to that 504. Again, I think that shows hard work and commitment as to what we've been doing to get those animals adopted. Next slide. Another item that we wanted to kind of give you guys an update on, you know, there's been talk about case resolutions for those dogs that are on hold in our animal shelter. We wanted to let you know that we are meeting on a regular basis. We have been discussing options as to what we can do to move forward with some of these. We've met with State Court, Magistrate Court, County Attorney, the Solicitor General, Fulton County Police Department to think about ideas. Through some of these discussions what we've actually come up with, is Magistrate Court is willing to actually listen and hear motions for the disposition of evidence, which basically means once the evidence is disposed of in terms of we can actually either go out and get that animal adopted or fostered and let them go out and be with the family if needed. Then the County Attorney's Office has agreed to work with us also at drafting up language for the motions that we need to deliver to the defendants, along with looking at the county ordinance to see what changes that we can make, that can help us speed up the process, and they're in that process currently. We've also discussed options with the State Court as to what they can do, and they are looking at again establishing an accountability court that people that are going through

this process could be part of. They're looking at the use of judicial officers or establishing some specific animal-related calendars. Then with the Solicitor General, what we've talked with them about in this process, they've requested three additional positions to help out with these type of environmental cases, and just to note, there are about 514 cases that are pending, not all are in the shelter, but there about 450 animal cases. And what we would do is, as part of the budget process, we're looking at recommending two positions out of the three that he requested. But some of this stuff is going into place right now. Captain Dwyer has taken some of the motions that the County Attorney has drafted up for us, walked that through with the Solicitor General, the Solicitor General signed off on that, and now that motion has been submitted to the court. So we are putting some of those into place to start to speed up some of those larger cases. Next slide. And we're here for any questions that you guys have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. I guess I'm trying to understand how the response time is going to be better, like going to another northern city. What is the plan? Are we going to have people positioned in North Fulton or in Atlanta? I mean, because Fulton County Police is primarily in unincorporated South Fulton. So what is the plan for distribution of people throughout the county in order to bring response times down?"

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "So there will be more officers as well as -- officers are located at the shelter, but then everyone has their own zone that they go to, and so there are officers that are assigned to the north-south, everywhere in between, so that they can respond quickly to calls versus coming all the way from the south to go north."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. And I know the technology exists, because I use it on my phone when I use DoorDash and Uber. Will the cities be able to track the officers as they're moving? Will they be able to see live -- like when I order food on my phone, I can see them going to the location, and I can see them coming to my house. Do we have that capability? Will we be making that available to our cities?"

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "I don't believe so at this time."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, that seems the best way to track."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "So there is a -- so we are going to start -- so we do have AVL now. It was part of the police force that they'll be taking over what they call the CAD side, the dispatch side, and all that other stuff. So now every officer will have a device, let's just say, like the Police Department does where we can actually see the real time responding to these calls. The cities wouldn't have access to it, but we will actually so -- I know the police department, so Captain Dwyer has been managing them for over a month now and we've seen improvements already in time with short of staff, but still we're seeing improvements in response time just because redeployments

of the assets. It's a different style of management, and just in the first 30 days, we've seen huge improvements already."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, I would challenge us to work with technology because, if I make a call about a dog bite, I'm more worried about seeing that and when it's coming and when the response is coming than I am about getting food, right? The technology is out there. It's real simple. It shouldn't be that hard for us to have if someone makes a call, we ought to have an app, and that it ought to be the same, right? Like, I mean, this is 2025. We should be able to track, the person that makes the call should be able to track it, the city should be able to track it, we should be able to track it. We should see it real time. McDonald's does it."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "Sometimes, unfortunately, we have some bad players out there that set up that officer for something bad to happen. So if you're seeing -- now you know when the officer is going to get there. So there are some issues with knowing the officer's locations at all the times, but yeah, we can definitely look at how we can make it more efficient for sure, for the dispatch process."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah. You know, I just think, you know, if someone makes a call because there is a dog and someone's been bitten, they should have the benefit of being able to see that someone is being dispatched and that they're on the way, and they should be able to get real-time updates about the arrival of that officer or the help or whoever it is."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "I'd say the same thing about EMS. I called the ambulance. I didn't know how long it was going to get there. They wanted to see it in real time."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I agree. I mean that's a technology thing, right? It's out there. Everybody is using it. Everybody's using it, but us."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "So let us look into that, Commissioner Arrington, and get back to you on what possibly could be options if it is possible."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "It says slide 29 on here, contract scope of work and key performance indicators slide. The second one down says follow agreed-upon shelter capacity limits. Could you expand on that a little bit more?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "So through the shelter capacity, what originally was projected to be 479 dogs, we actually worked with LifeLine through Animal Services going out and discussing what is the possibility for what the maximum population is. The maximum population really truly is based off of the number of

available kennels, size of dogs, and multiple things that equate into that. So some of the items that we will have kind of a scale as to that will swing back and forth, depending upon, again, size of dogs, how many dogs could be in the same kennel together, and we can give you a little bit more detail on that. But we've worked through that process specifically walk through with LifeLine to determine exactly what those numbers could possibly look like."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. So say if there's a hypothetical situation and there's a dangerous dog, you're still going to pick up the dog and take it to the shelter even if you're over capacity, correct?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "Yes. There will still be that and then they would look to see -- there actually is a plan, there will be so many kennels left for situations where there would be a situation like that where we need a space, so there are actually logged to have some things like nine spaces, kennels, that will be available."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Great. Great. Thank you. And then, on the field services pages for cities, can we click on a city, say Chattahoochee Hills, and we can see the number of calls or/and all the information that's below there, we can see for each individual city parsed out, correct?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "What we've done is made those internal pages for the city so they can view that information. Again, it's always in draft form to know as we're going through this, so those cities can see exactly how many calls have been received, how many calls may have been canceled due to that, where the location of those calls are, how that call came in, was it by a landline, was it a mobile phone, was it 911, was it self-reported, the types of locations of those calls, exactly where those locations were at with addresses, and all the information on the call."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. But only the cities, the public can't?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EM: "Yeah, it's only the cities at this point in time have access to that."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "There's information in there that may not be publicly available and would have to review that if we did want to make it public to make sure that no information is released that cannot be."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Great. Great. And welcome, Captain Dwyer, to your first day on the job, how appropriate. Is there -- repeat offenders, do we track repeat offenders, and is there consequences that increase with a repeat offenders?"

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "Yes. So we track them all -- initially, we start with education, depending on how egregious the call is. If they are repeat offenders, we will actually court hold those dogs, wait for it to go in front of a judge, and then the judge decides what occurs with those dogs, whether the owner can get them back or not. And then the owners also have the option to surrender and then they become Fulton County property."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am glad to see the changes that we're making -- you know, we made significant improvements to animal control with the new shelter, but we had more work to do obviously, and this is a big step, and I appreciate everybody leaning into what's not necessarily a topic that, you know. This is sexy and interesting for a lot of people, but really an important one. And I'm definitely pleased to see us taking over and making a change related to enforcement. I had a couple follow-up things related to at the facility, just sort of going forward changes just to make sure I understand it. We're going to have our own staff embedded there daily, correct?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "That is correct. Our own staff, Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Trevon Law will be there."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Every day?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "Police Department works every day."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So some of the things that probably all of us, you know, have gotten calls about, e-mails about, related to whether it's a facility, that sort of stuff, we feel like we're going to be able to address and see this a lot more real time before it bubbles up and becomes an issue, that's the objective here, correct?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: Yes.

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. All right. All right. And then I know I had multiple conversations with folks, both citizens, some of you all, and with other folks about this sort of backlog, if you will, of the court cases, and I'd like to say -- it's good to see the action plan that you have here. I guess, what my question is, is do we have the funding established for two additional positions? And then also, you know, when we are operationalizing this whole plan, I guess, that's my question. What parts have we already operationalized?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "So with the Magistrate Court agreeing to actually hear the cases, she's already agreed to that, so that is something that we can do now. Working with the State Court and the Solicitor, again, as I've

mentioned, we've already started in terms of implementation of the notices, getting some things on the court calendars, Captain Dwyer's already taken the lead in working through that with the Solicitor General getting them to sign off on some of the cases so they can be heard, that is already underway. The additional positions would be something that we would come back to you guys, looking at what's available in the 2026 budget and see if there's any modifications that we can do there to make that adjustment. We still have some things we have to work out with the Solicitor General, those items. The County Attorney is actively working on the ordinances as we've been going through some of these meetings looking at our different ideas, things that we want to look at as ordinance changes, so again, that is actively being worked on today."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So with the exception of the piece with the Solicitor, the other funding portions already handled the existing stuff or they're handled via the IGA, correct?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "Correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So it would just be the tranche that would be related to the general fund, would be these two additional positions. And then you'll bring back and report on this plan as quarterly?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "We are planning on coming back quarterly to this Board in the future, at the Board's request, to give updates on animal services."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So this court case resolution, in some detail around now, will be part of that report?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "Yes."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I wanted to go back to the facility, and I guess my overall question is -- and may be the answer is going to court and doing some of those things, but it looks like we -- or whoever we paid to predict the number for the facility got it wrong and I mean, like how are we -- what plan do we have in place, I guess, to reduce the population and/or are there plans -- because we've got plenty of land over there. Are their plans to do, you know, a temporary facility to house more animals or the plans are, as the slide puts it, and I don't know if that's -- I hate to even say it, dispose of evidence, are we talking about just killing animals?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "So to first address the first comment, so the consultants that actually did the original study were based on information that was at that point and time available to us. But the national trends have shown us, that across the country, the animal populations, the number of dogs that are

being put in to shelters has increased dramatically. Those have made adjustments to how we have to look at some of these numbers, and that's how we've been trying to work with LifeLine, thinking of different options, different adoption events, different communications, that's why we're going to be trying to promote spay and neutering, you know, pet ownership, education, those type of things, as to what we can look like to help reduce that population. At this point in time, there has been no specific discussion on the expansion of the facilities. We'd like to see what we can do right now over the next year with the management, see what we can do to maintain that population and seek performance at the point in time."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I guess, I'm just worried because you're saying the number is really more like 1100 or 1300, and then half of them are being put in foster homes, so you know, just -- I don't know why if we have -- we have 1100 or 1300 of these animals that we would build a facility for 400 animals."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "So again, fostering nationally is a huge -- it has a huge impact on animals. The ability of that animal to be in a home, to socialize, be with a family; therefore that actually makes them more adoptable, or again, the trend is, is that 75 percent of those animals that take in that foster, actually adopt that animal in the end. So again, that's a positive outcome that we're looking for. So we have 700 animals in foster care and 75 percent of those will actually be adopted by those families, that's a win for us overall as a county for services."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And maybe we could ask Joe if you'd comment on some of the shelters you went and looked at in the early stages of this how significant the population was there, and then remember, Commissioner Arrington, it's grown 40 percent in two years. So it's the inability to forecast that much of a nonsequitur nationwide. And the question is, does that level off, or in the interim, can we pull every other lever from adoptions to the like to try to suppress that. But Joe went in and looked at it, and I forgot the locations, Joe, but I'll turn that over to you; it's interesting insights."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "So when I first took over animal services, it's been about two years, we went to look at counties we compare ourselves in other regions; Orange County, Florida, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, those are two visits, and then we spoke to three other areas, Pima County, Arizona, Kansas City, and some others. Orange County, for example, was in the same situation we are with our previous shelter. They started a move towards a new shelter, and they went from 26,000 square feet, and their current shelter that's being built right now, is 100,000 square feet. So they -- it'll be pretty much double our size. And our conversation with them was the same. They're starting to see a 40 to 50 percent uptick, and they've just continued to run out of room, so they decided well, we're going to build for what's expected over the next ten years to come into the shelter, and that's what they're building right now."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. I just -- and I guess, you know, the jail is the same way, overpopulated. It just -- you know, I'm thankful that we're making these adjustments and hopefully they will allow us to manage the animal population

better, but you know it just seems like we're climbing uphill. We've got 1100, 1300 animals, and we've got room for 476. And that just seems crazy to me after we just built a new facility. I guess it is what it is. Thank you."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "One of the things I wanted to clarify, Commissioner, was when we're talking about the animals that are held, right, the critical what we're calling the court holds; those animals aren't the aggressive animals. We've taken them from somebody because there were neglected by that person. So they're kind of the victim, so it's like we're holding the victim. So we've been holding some of those animals for a long period of time. I don't know how many we have today, but let's just say we had almost 80 at one point -- 114 at max. Imagine if we could just move those animals along. That's why this port side is so important. That's a hundred and fourteen wide open kennels that we could use today. So I think that -- it doesn't solve the big issue, like you're saying, but at least it will get us in the right place if we can figure out how to speed up, because these are dogs that the longer they're held, the less likely they are to be adopted. So once they're there a year, I mean it's very unlikely that they're going to come out and be adopted. So we need to figure out this court case side and move that along much quicker because that's 114 spaces. And just to give you an idea, not every space gets one dog, so let's just say you had a mama dog and she has a litter. They try to keep those dogs, you know, they'll keep that family together; and so, some of these dogs housed together because they are related and so forth like a pack. So again, if we can move this forward, the court situation along much quicker, we can start cycling these dogs much quicker and out to families that can adopt them."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "-- oh, disposition, I'm sorry, because we --"

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "You had mentioned the disposition, that's kind of a rough word, kind of sounds like we're disposing of them. But the law calls for, we can foster, adopt, or euthanize, but most of these, they're are not euthanasia. We want these dogs to be fostered or adopted. The only euthanasia cases would be if they were a dog from an attack or something serious like that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you for that, because -- and I know Joe didn't mean it, but he was like, yeah, we need to move along. I'm like oh, God, there he goes again. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the report, Mr. Rowicki, and supporting crew back there. I just had a couple quick questions. I wasn't really going to ask, but you brought it up, Mr. Barasoain, about the court dogs not sort of being adoptable after a period of time, and I'm aware of that situation. I just wonder if you could expand on that a little bit for the public, because it's not just that they've been there a long and nobody wants them, but they are damaged by being there psychologically, correct."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "Yeah, so it's imagine -- I hate to compare it to what a human -- well, little people with fur kind of thing. So eventually, you're sitting and staring at four walls all day long. Your ability to be rehabilitated, let's just say, is only as good as if I have interaction with somebody. So somebody's walking them, someone caring for them, someone basically petting them, and once they're in that port hole area, it becomes difficult for them to kind of regain that and, yes, it's sad. I mean, if you've been there, you see that they're less likely to be adopted because they've been there longer. The dogs that are in and out come in and they're adoptable, they usually get adopted pretty quick, but then you have some dogs that's just been there a long time, and if they're waiting on this obstacle, the court system to get through -- I hate to say it, because the court looks at them as property, that's what this is all about is the right of the person to own this piece of property, and that's not just taken from them. There's a process to me taking that dog and going this dog, you're not suitable. It's like you're not a suitable parent. There would be a process for that. You're not a suitable person to have this animal with you, so that process of taking that dog, that's where the delay is, and the longer that delay is because the court systems are backed up, the longer -- the harder it is for that dog to be adopted."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, thank you. I appreciate you expanding on that. My only other question really is for Mr. Rowicki, on the --it doesn't really matter what page it's on, but when you talked about the court case resolutions, you mentioned potentially trying to move some money around budget wise for 2026 for the Solicitor General positions to try to address the court case animals. You also mentioned that the Magistrate Court is willing to start hearing those motions of disposition of evidence now. Is that something that that court will need additional funding for as well, I mean, she's agreeing to take on a whole host of new cases, so what's the funding requirement there?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE: "There is no funding requirement. All that she asked for is to make sure that the legal notices that the County Attorney will work with us on that will be served to those households actually has the notice that this is your hearing and that if you do not show up, then your dog or animal can be -- will be surrendered at that point in time. And then also -- again, no funding was requested. And so she's willing to actually add extra on Friday. She was willing to look at if there is a possibility she has some time on Fridays adding extra schedules to that if possible to help move things along."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, well, just a shout out to everybody, who's you know, working on this together as a group, I think it's really helpful, and then, hopefully, it doesn't turn into additional funding, because we all know where sort of strapped. But thank you. That's all I had."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I just want to take the time to thank you all. I know I've worked extensively -- Mr. Barosain, I remember your

predecessor, and County Manager, you remember, I actually adopted my dog, and you're correct, my dog had been returned three times back to the shelter. And I've had him three years now. And so you are correct, the longer they stay. But I just -- if you don't mind, County Manager, I just want to give kudos. I know that these men right here are really doing a fantastic job, but I just want to do a shout out to Captain Dwyer. I am of the just utmost respect for you, and I know your leadership with this is going to make a difference, and I just want to publicly let everybody know that with you at the helm, I know that we're going to begin to see some differences. So I just wanted to, not to take anything away from my three gentlemen here that we all know have done a great job, especially dealing with the shelter, dealing with trying to educate the public, because we can't do it by ourselves. We have to -- I said it over and over again in the last five years that I've been here, we have to educate the public on spaying and neutering. People nationally, this is documentation that when the economy drops, the first to feel it are the shelters, because people take their dogs to the shelter. They can't feed the dog; we're going to see an uptick in the dogs going to the shelter. I just would like to just go on record saying this, as a community, my office -- I think we've adopted three dogs ourselves from the shelter. And so I would just like those that hear the challenges that we have with the overpopulation that they can do their part, you know, foster, but more importantly, adopt because we know we have the court issues, and you're correct, the quicker we can move that along with County Manager, you're never ever going to be able to build a big enough shelter. You're just not. What you're going to have to do is educate people on making sure that they do what they need to do with the animal control and the spaying and neutering, and also with the adoption. So thank you again, three gentlemen, but girl power to Captain Dwyer over there. I know she's going to do a great job."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just want to be quick. Honestly, I had no idea that we had 700 foster dogs out there out of 1300. And I really think that we need to thank those that foster, day in and day out. And if we could be a part of that, I would love to show our appreciation for them. I know I have friends and neighbors that foster, and they are so active on social media, advertising when we have adoption days, free spayed and neuter days. Those volunteers are such an instrumental part in getting the word out and advertising for us, and they have a passion, and it's a hundred percent volunteer. So if we could do something for them, I would love to be a part of that. I like that you're going to come up in the different districts and host adoption days and get us all involved on that as well. I think that's a fabulous idea to get us to interact more in the community with the people. I know I go and speak at schools. I speak to young high school students as well, and they have no idea about our Animal Shelter up in the north, because it is so far away. I don't know how much their parents appreciate me advertising that they can adopt a dog and come down to our wonderful shelter. But I do think that we need to get the word out, and that's an excellent way of doing that. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, anything else? So just have a couple questions. Number one, are there options to LifeLine?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE "In term -- are there options to LifeLine?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other firms?"

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATGY & PERFORMANCE "I'll actually let the Purchasing Director handle that. She handled what we did last solicitation."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Realistic options to LifeLine."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. As you know, we've bided this out for the last 20 years that I've been here. We've only had one provider that has submitted a proposal to us. When I first started in 2004, we had about three. They've all gone out of business. And for the last 16 years, only had one provider to submit a proposal to us. And as you know, they also provide animal services, shelter services for DeKalb County. So there is not a lot of people with the capacity to be able to provide the service to the county."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commission Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much for that perspective on that. Because as you know, constituents are very concerned about the fact that we only have this one option. And so I wonder if we can take a more proactive approach and actually perhaps go out and to other jurisdictions, to other states. I mean, I understand, I did look at who those other, you know, vendors were in years past -- contractors in the years past, and I know that they are no longer in business. But can we perhaps put our minds together in the next year and actively pursue how other states are doing it? And see if any of these companies would be interested in it. I know it's a lot for a company to expand into a new territory, but considering sort of all of the data that we have, including the feeling of our constituents, it seems at least that we should pursue trying to take a proactive approach to that."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "And Commissioner, we have taken that approach --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: Okay.

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "-- we've done that on numerous occasions."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "We have tried that approach. We have talked to other jurisdictions."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "We have talked to other jurisdictions within the state of Georgia, Florida, neighboring. We've tried everything to get that. And remember when we advertise, we don't just advertise in Fulton County, state of Georgia, we are advertising nationally as well."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah. Okay, and so thank you for that information. I just think perhaps maybe we can just look at that again, and maybe there's something in our actions to seek out. You know, sometimes when you have something in a package that seems little prohibitive for somebody, maybe we can look at some of those factors, and maybe there's one or two things that can be tweaked that would sort of open up another group of potential contractors. I don't know, you know, obviously that needs to be within the constraints of everything we do. But just trying to really think about a well-thought-out way that we could just expand our options. And not because I think -- not because I'm suggesting we cancel anything, but I just think that our constituents would like to have some other options. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Actually, the last one we had, if my memory serves me correctly, and it does, was Barking Hound, I believe, correct?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "It was the Barking Hound, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Before LifeLine?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Secondly, you brought up the Magistrate Court. My working group on these animals, we concluded unanimously that one simple thing would go a long way towards solving this problem. That is getting the Judge Kirk to adjust her calendar on an annual basis, which she's agreed to do at no cost. I want to emphasize this now, no cost. And that's going to go a long ways to solving this problem. Lastly, what can you say, if anything, about those three high-profile cases, Union City, City of South Fulton, and Tuxedo?"

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "They're all in the court process. Unfortunately, the case in Union City where Donna Nguyen was mauled to death, I don't think we'll ever know what dogs actually did that, since there's no video footage and no witnesses. There was the case in South Fulton, we did take all three of those dogs, and they were euthanized where she was -- like her face, parts of her body were ripped off, and she'll never be the same."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is she still in Grady, or she --"

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "She's finally out of the hospital after --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Has she gone back to --"

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "-- a couple of months."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- where was she from, Liberia, or somewhere?"

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "She was from Niger, visiting --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Niger."

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "-- with her family, and she was walking with her four small grandchildren when the dogs attacked, and she kept the dogs from the grandchildren."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Both of those are those, what do you call them Cane something?

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: Yeah, okay, Can Corsos, yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the third one was at Tuxedo."

CAPT. NICOLE DWYER, FC POLICE: "Yes, that's the Tyrese Gibson case. I did speak to the Solicitor, and we are coming to a closure on that case. Those dogs, there were five Cane Corsos. They've been removed from the county."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right, thank you. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right. Last update, Joe, if you'll just provide an update on fire services at Fulton County Executive Airport."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Next slide, please."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "Oh, next slide, please. Sorry. So airport firefighting, we've started the process. We've been moving along. We've started purchasing equipment. We've met with the airport tenants, something highly desirable, they ask us every time we meet with them. We've started staging equipment in anticipation for the opening of the fire station next summer, later on, next summer. We've already applied for the licensing requirement for the certificate of application with the state. We've revised a inter-local agreement with the City of South Fulton, which goes into effect in the next month, January the 1st. Next slide, please. The apparatus

and equipment, we've already contracted with some of the vendors. We've started looking at leasing the equipment, as opposed to purchasing, just because of the time limit. There's almost a two to three-year wait in some of the apparatuses for fire equipment. And that's everywhere in the country, not just something we're dealing with, which is becoming a huge issue all over the country. We've revised all the staffing requirements. We've been working with Human Resources to start onboarding processes for the Chief's position, the Battalion Chief position, Logistics and Training Captain. Timing is about, you know, what we're trying to do is we're not trying to hire people so they're sitting around. So we're trying to time it to when the station opens. Before that, we need to send everybody to some training. It's a 80-hour, 80 hours' worth of training that we're going to -- we're going to have everybody go through. So to complete the live date, so basically, once the station comes onboard and online, we'll have the folks that are already set, trained, and ready to go on the equipment that we own. And everything seems to be on time. We had a little bit of a setback with the build out of the fire station, with some water issue that we had there. But it seems like we're back on target, even though that took us about 30 days to process. Next slide, please. The renovation which is what's -- what caused the -- the one delay that we had, still has us doing the completion window in late May to early June, and with a final opening date of sometime in mid-August to early September. As of right now, we don't see any obstacles to complete that by that date and time. Any questions?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Can you specify funding for these positions? Is it coming from the general fund, or is it coming from the revenue generated by the airport?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "So the revenue generated by the airport fund."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, thank you. That's all I had."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "I should have said that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other questions?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So what -- when did we determine that we needed this or that we wanted this?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "I've been working on this now for -- so in 2016, going into 2017, we determined that station was inoperable. It had some mold issues, so we moved the folks that were staffed there and the equipment staffed there

over to Fire Station 11. So the county still owned it for the response to the airport. When the City of South Fulton became City of South Fulton, we lost airport response -- we lost the airport firefighting capability, actually, on the runway side. All of the tenants at the airport, you know, some of their agreements were, hey, we'll move there if we have this. And so some of their agreements were tied into this capability for them to land there. So as far as I know, we've been determining -- this was determined -- it's always been a need, and we used to have something there, and then we lost it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. And I'm -- it's just confusing, because we -- we had a lot of fire equipment, right? And my understanding was that we sold fire stations and fire equipment to the City of South Fulton. But if we knew we had a need for it, then I don't understand why we would have sold it."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "Yeah. The equipment that was there was completely outdated and unusable. So giving it away was a good -- I mean, it costs us more to tow than to sell it."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yeah, I think we're talking about two different types of equipment. He's talking about foam-based, you know, that you would use at an airfield. What we're selling, in fact, it's on the Executive Session today to be completed. The City of South Fulton was more the traditional that's there at, like, Station 11, it's just down from the airport. And if we still have, and it's on the agenda today, an IGA with City of South Fulton to provide service, both for businesses that are still in that area, they're incorporated. And then, and Joe, you correct me, if, in fact, we had a need at the airport that would go beyond this capability, they would be on call for that. So it's really, it is complementary, and it's part of the overall master plan for the airport, the everything in expansion. This was a critical component of that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there any possibility of having this completed before June of next year? Because we're going to be inundated, and I know this to be the case, with these private jets coming from these eight countries that are coming here. And we never seen anything like it. So is it possible?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "So during Super -- just to give you a little history. So during Super Bowl, we set up a temporary firefighting cape -- we set up temporary firefighting capability at the airport. We rented equipment, we paid basically, we contracted off-duty fire -- our certified firefighters to work. And we brought in housing trailers for them to live in during a seven-day period of the Super Bowl, because we saw incredible traffic at the airport. We do have a plan that we're building right now that includes that same temporary -- so depending on when we can onboard our folks, we may not have, the station may not be built out, but we do have a plan, and

we submitted for grant funding through the FEMA grant for FIFA World Cup that will allow us to put temporary housing at the airport and rent the equipment if we don't already have it by that time. So yes, we are moving towards a plan to accomplish that. Because you're right, we've never seen the traffic that we are going to see during that time, especially when you saw what -- the teams that were announced yesterday. We will see heavy, heavy, heavy jet traffic in there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So there is a plan?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "There's a plan, sir, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Eight to ten Super Bowls coming --"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- over 30 days, not one."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "Yep. So we have a plan. We've been working, actually, the entire county, we've been working with all the public safety in the county, County Police, Sheriff's Office, and everybody else, to come up with a public safety response plan for FIFA World Cup. We've met, I can't tell you, we've -- we've had constant meetings, and we're trying to solidify some of the plans. We've submitted for some grant funding for local grant funding to accomplish some of that moving into next year."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the Customs facility?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "I don't really have the answer to that. I know it's in the process, but I'm not the --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "That's further out. I don't know if I have it off the top of my head. Do you, Joe? Mr. Chairman, we'll have to get back to you on that. It's definitely not -- it's not available the time that FIFA gets here, based on a number of things, both that are controlled by Customs and then the on -- and construction requirements."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So it's a plan not to have a, what, an agreement with Customs for a temporary facility where they have of some sort --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Which is what we do today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's what I mean. Is that the plan?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, that's part of the Airport Operation Plan for World Cup. Just like, we're basically going to take the Super Bowl plan and expand it. We had that during the Super Bowl plan, where they set up a temporary solution for us at the airport."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So there is a plan for a Customs facility at our airport during World Cup?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "I don't know about a facility. But I know during the airport, they set up temporary measures. So they brought people onto our airport --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's what I mean, not necessarily a facility."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But they will be able to clear Customs that our airport --"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- versus the way it used to be during the --"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, FC EMA: "I believe so, sir, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, okay. Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "That will conclude our report unless there are any questions about standard Finance, EPO, and anything else that's at the back of this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything Finance? All right. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 7, **25-0964**, Finance, Discussion: Fiscal year 2026 proposed operating budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no action requested from the Board today. This was just an opportunity for discussion. As a reminder, we will as we close out this fiscal year, we will plan to have revised information for you for the forced -- excuse me, for the first meeting in January. We will update our '25 results, and make any adjustments to the '26 proposed budget at that point in time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Question, anything, nothing? Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just wanted to clarify a few things. The raises for the Board of Equalization that have been discussed multiple times and have not been included in the -- in the 2026 budget; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "They are not currently."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Well, I would like to see that be in the budget for 2026. And I think we've talked about 200, I believe, it's a day, for their per diem, or 100 per day. They're currently at 100, I think; is that correct? Or are they at 150? They're at 100, okay. So we talked about 200 -- thank you, Commissioner Thorne. We talked about 150 and we talked about 200, and I believe that they were, of course they'd like the 200, but I believe they were comfortable at 150, as was Madam Clerk. So if we could at least consider raises up to 150 for the BOE, I think that would be important. Do you happen to have the number, the total dollar amount per year that that would cost?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "My recollection is it was somewhere in the \$370,000 range."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. It feels like that's an important thing to include. The other thing is, and I don't have a list of numbers at this point, and I'm -- I don't really need to, I guess, to make this point, which is just that, you know, we've -- we've talked a lot about cutting back and trying to tighten our belt and all those things in order to address the issues around the consent decree. And I just feel like we would be, you know, not really doing the full work, if we did not also look seriously at the enhancement requests from all the justice agencies and DREAM and anybody else whose efforts and work will help that situation. So on the jail front, you know, I know we've had several of the justice agencies requesting additional staff for a number of years that have been, you know, have not made it into the budget. And I think anything that we can do that will help improve throughput in court system, thereby bringing down average length of stay, thereby bringing down the population number, I think has to be seriously considered. I'm not saying that y'all haven't already considered that. But I think, you know, there's a reason these justice agencies keep coming back and asking for these things. So I think that's everything from, you know, processing things through the Clerk of Court to, you know, I think we really just need to look at the full scope, and try to -- you know, and I don't know if we can do this numerically or not, but try to look at what that impact might be on the jail. So I just think that's worth considering and maybe trying to put some numbers around before we make a final decision on the budget. So that's all I have for right now. But I just wanted to start that conversation now as opposed to waiting until we have the numbers, Sharon, from the final numbers from the year."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for bringing up the idea of thinking about other numbers. For example, I think it's important to think about what the Marshal spoke of relating to her IT concerns, of not having anybody in IT, which I hope that we can discuss looking in the IT budget and seeing if we can't find that small amount, I think, which is about 100,000 or 104,000 for her to have a dedicated IT person. I understand that she has to call the help desk right now when they have an issue, which is one of the only departments that does not have a dedicated IT person. So I hope that we will look at that for her. And then, you know, I, as I said earlier, I opened up the larger budget conversation in a lengthy meeting with you all, which I really appreciated. And I especially want to point out that Sabrina took the time to go through some very important -- the whole team took time to go through some scenarios, which I had requested in the last meeting that, what would it look like if we weren't focused on the flat rate, but just focused on putting in things that we need for proper services in our community. And we took a lot of time to go through many of those things, and we sort of narrowed them down to six things with the County Manager's assistance in sort of deciding what is most important. And what we looked at for key budget considerations was no 1 percent cut to the departments, since we had already been asking them to do much with little for so long, over a decade, actually, using the \$60 million number for the consent decree. The FIFA World Cup advertising and marketing that is time sensitive, as this is only going to happen one time in our maybe lifetime, here in Atlanta. And that we want Fulton County to capitalize on that. That was at a million. The ORCA replacement funding that was recommended, veterans funding, ERP and some other very necessary enhancements that departments have been asking for. And so when we did those scenarios, we did one scenario with all of those things, and one scenario taking out the ORCA money, not renewing that. And we came up with two different rates that would happen. And so Sabrina, can you just tell us about those two different rates so that that conversation and those hours spent will not be just kept to our confidentiality, but so everybody can know about it?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Thank you, Commissioner. Sabrina McTier, Finance Department. Per Commissioner Ivory's request, one item that wasn't mentioned was the restoration as the throughput for the justice system, which was, at your request, a \$25 million investment. Because of that and the items that you mentioned, the updated millage rate, which may change, but sufficient to cover what would be necessary, would be 10.28. In those same scenarios that you mentioned, excluding the additional \$25 million investment, the updated potential millage rate would have been 9.92."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And can you just really quick, just give a little bit of a scope of our discussions and how we came to just those five? Because there were many, many things that were asked for, but that -- how we kind of decided to go narrow it down

to those five things in those discussions, the cut, the consent decree and the one, you know, all of those."

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "As previously mentioned, we did recognize and have communicated to the Board that the need is plenty. Because of that, we included that in the budget message and with the color-coded tranches of everything that individuals have asked for. But of course, we take our guidance from the Board. And to Commissioner Ivory's in -- to Commissioner Ivory's inquiry, the top items that would have a more profound effect, one from the attrition, which we chose not to take, but did the 1 percent reduction. So that was a \$10 million restoration to the budget. And then various focus areas, including not just the Justice and Safety, but also the Health and Human Services, the Infrastructure and Economic Development, the Arts and Libraries and also the Open and Responsible Government. So we know that there are things that we must do, and restoring to the 60 million for the consent decree was one of them along with all of the others."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much. And then just for -- there was also the ERP item. And just, can you just tell what ERP is and how it supports HR employees, and all of that, so that in case anybody is wondering why I would have wanted to include that that was a recommendation from the County Executive Leadership, what ERP is?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Sure. That's our Enterprise Resource Planning System. Kevin, if you wanted to jump in, you can. However, it is a multi-dimensional from our financial, our HR, our vendor self-service, our employee self-service. So it manages all areas of not just our ledger, but how we do this business. Kevin, did you want to jump in?"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "I think you said that quite well. I mean, it really is the backbone of our operations, right, for administrative functions. So it's -- it's a key issue, critical application for us."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you. And then the current proposed budget that was not in there; is that correct, Sabrina?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "It was not. However, the Board has been briefed that there have been some delays in the upgrade that we've been going through. So because of that, there may be additional funding. One thing that I do want to say, and I've said before, the need has been great. But as these budget pressures are identified to us, you know, and we're made aware, then they come on to the list. So the delay with the implementation and any possible additional costs that are associated with that, that's one more thing that we've added to the list."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I want to just thank you all for taking the time. I know my team asks for a lot of you, and you sat there and took the time and explained. And we

really went through a process to come up with some alternate scenarios for our proposed budget instead of just giving one budget that we would be trying to work with. Giving those alternate budget ideas was -- is really helpful, because leadership is really about facing reality even when it's uncomfortable. And so we cannot make decisions based on the fear or the avoidance of what is our reality. And raising taxes is never popular. We know that. But it is essential. These increases ensure we can fund the services our community depends on and keep Fulton County safe. Every person in our jail deserves to live in a humane, safe condition. Adequate funding here is not optional, it's a moral imperative. And so that is why I asked for that consent decree cost to go up for the 30 million that was put in the proposed budget to the actual 60 million that we know we must spend, and more. There might be more. We have the opportunity to regain control and autonomy for our county. And I hope that we'll move forward in doing that; clearing court backlogs, supporting essential departments, seizing opportunities, rare opportunities like World Cup, honoring our veterans, addressing debt and staffing needs, and having a long-term vision for this county. So thank you, County Manager and the whole team, for going through that exercise that I asked for in the last meeting and coming with a great result. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I would just ask that as we look at the budget that we think about, I guess, the point that I made earlier in that our jail population is back up to 3,000. We got down to 2500, and I think part of the reason is because we do need to allocate more additional resources to the courts. And I understand that we're, you know, asking for, we got two State Court Judge positions coming open. But I understand the budget only has maybe one Solicitor per courtroom, when all the other courtrooms have two Solicitors. So you know, we need -- we need consistency, and we need to understand the existing reality. If every State Courtroom over there has two Solicitors assigned to it, and we have two new Judges coming on, why would we only be budgeting for one Solicitor per courtroom when all other court -- all ten or 15 other State Court courtrooms have two Solicitors each, right? And so we just have to be practical. We have to be practical, but we need to get -- we need to get the -- hopefully, we need to get the jail numbers down. And I believe that the additional resources for DAs and Public Defenders are needed in order to help get those numbers back down, right? So I'll just leave it there, because I'm not -- I'm not part of the gang of four. So they're going to get whatever they want."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I forgot a couple things when I spoke the first time. I just wanted to reiterate that the -- the non-agency category of our budget -- and thank you, Sabrina, for sending over the information I asked for last night. I know you were here -- had quite a long day yesterday, so I appreciate it."

And I know I was asking a lot of questions. But -- and I -- you know, I think we have over 25 percent of our budget is in non-agency. You know, it's -- while the pension number and the leases and debt our -- you know, I think everyone can get a grasp on what that is and what it means. 80 million of that is sitting in a category called other. And for the sake of transparency to the public, I think we owe them more than that. And so I think we really need to, if we're going to leave 80 million sitting in a category called other, we really should be providing a deeper level of transparency there. I think there's a lot of -- I haven't had time to look at the spreadsheet that that Sabrina sent over with the details of what's in the various non-agency categories. But there are a lot of small, individual contingency funds. And they may all have valid reasons for being in the budget, but I think, you know, this should not be a place where things are tucked away and the public can't see them. And I think we really are doing the public a disservice, and ourselves as Commissioners trying to make a decision on where -- what things should be cut and not cut when we don't know what \$80 million is really allotted for. And so I think that's really something we need to really rethink, and either provide a deeper level of information in the budget books going forward, you know, and/or provide it in some form in these meetings where the public can go and download it and see it and understand it should they want to do that. I also had a question, I know earlier this month, you sent out some correction pages to the budget book that we were asked to replace, pages 17 to 23, and then the tranches also, I think, where there was some kind of a data error. I'm just wondering from, again, from a public standpoint, was -- was that updated on the book that's online?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FINANCE: "Yes, it was."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I just -- I'm wondering about the -- again, from a logic trans -- I'm sorry, from a transparency standpoint, I'm wondering about the logic of doing it that way, as opposed to just putting out like a version two. Because if someone downloaded the budget book before those pages were changed, they would have no way of knowing that. So they might be looking at something with outdated numbers that don't correlate to what we're talking about here in the room. And so I'm just curious why we did it that way, versus a version two, an updated version, and the pages aren't documented either. They don't say the date or version two or anything like that on them. So could you -- could you maybe speak to that?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "It's a fair, a fair assessment, Commissioner Barrett. What the pages were that were switched out, we have reported things or we have reported information in our budget hearings to you all in our November 5th regular meeting. And the numbers didn't add, like, there were items in specific programs that were left off. And so I'm confident in the overall numbers. It was the as we were digging deeper, we're like, where is this? So to your point about a second version, usually we publish three. And --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I get that. But there was a mistake, so --"

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes. And that -- it's a fair assessment. So we'll look into -- hopefully, it doesn't happen again, right?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Of course."

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "But it's a fair assessment."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I appreciate anything we can do to just clear that up --"

SABRINNA MCTIER, DEPUTY DIRECTORFINANCE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- in case anyone -- you know, maybe no one has done that. I don't know, but just in case someone did download it before the change was made, I think it'd be good to let the public know. The other thing I'll say, and I know I've said this multiple times and probably starting to sound like a broken record. But two of the categories in non-agency, in particular, the one listed as consent decree and the one listed as inmate services, do have department affiliations. Non-agency is supposed to be a place where numbers go when there is no department, and that is not true for consent decree or inmate services. I believe everything that is in inmate -- in the inmate services expense category belongs in the Sheriff's budget. And on the consent decree side, those expenses fall somewhere between DREAM and the Sheriff. And so they should be allotted that way. This is not separate spending. It is spending that these departments have to do. So I would ask that be corrected in the future version of the budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. You know, anytime you talk about the budget, individuals have their own personal opinion about it. But just for the listening audience, I would like to make it crystal clear that this executive staff works at the direction of this Board. You all don't sit somewhere and decide that A, B, C, and you don't put a blindfold on and say one, two, three, you work at the pleasure of the Board. Let's be crystal clear about that. Secondly, you all do not have a printing press anywhere to make up money. And so for the listening public who has heard a 9.92 and has heard 10-point whatever, and my phone is already buzzing over here, about a millage rate increase, let's be fair to the listening public. That will be no millage rate increase. We may have to look at one down the road. But regardless of who wants to push a millage rate increase, the Fulton County taxpaying citizens who are our bosses, have been very loud, crystal, and clear that there will be no millage rate increase. Now, anything else is conjecture, fantasy, or whatever you want to do for your documentary or your reality TV show. But here at Fulton County, we deal with facts. And the facts of

the matter, County Manager, there is no millage rate increase. And so the will of this Board will be the budget that you all will work in. We as Commissioners have a responsibility to balance the budget and to put forward that which is need. And sometimes, case in point with IT and IT -- the ITT Department, it changes. We know that we are evolving, especially after we were hacked. There are things that we're doing that over time, you may need to bring to this Board and get more funding for, and that is reasonable. But to say something is not somewhere, you're giving, deliberately giving misinformation to the Fulton County taxpaying citizen. You're deliberately undermining the County Manager staff. And I, as a Commissioner, will not stand here and be quiet. So Commissioners and Chairman, as I bring this to a close, the things that I want the listening taxpayers of Fulton County to know, we work for the Fulton County taxpaying citizen. They're our boss, for one. For two, there will be no millage rate increase. And for three, the County Manager and his staff take the direction and the will of the Board. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So we have a budget resolution. And a budget resolution calls for the staff, the County Manager and his staff to come up with a budget. I want to be very clear for the record. The County Manager reports to us. The rest of his team reports to him. They do not report to this Board or to any of these Commissioners. The County Manager, the County Attorney, one or two others report to the Board, but not the executive members of staff or of his team. And any information that was provided otherwise is inaccurate. So they come up with that information, they come up with the budget on their own. And then they present the budget that they have come up with to us, to this Board, and this Board makes a decision. And then that staff and the County Manager go from there based on what happens and the decision that is made by this Board. And you know, right now, there's a gang of four making all those decisions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. County Manger and County CFO, just for a point of clarification in the hemisphere. In your 2026 proposed budget, right now without any changes once you have seen everything, you said we were going to have 8.87, and that right now, you knew that there was a .39 of consent decree cost from that 30 million. You in the last meeting said that you were not going to call it an overlay anymore, but just add that .39 in. And I think 8.87 plus that .39 comes to 9.16. And you said that is in the proposed budget as of right now, since you haven't presented the numbers reconciled for the December; is that true?"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Is eight -- is 9.16 larger than 8.87?"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Just -- just one more time, because sometimes I get so confused. Is the number 9.16 larger than the number 8.87?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So then that would mean we would be having a millage rate increase in 2026 if just kept exactly as is in your 2026 proposed budget; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you. Sometimes I -- I feel so crazy sometimes being here. But then I just get the clarification that I need, and I go, okay, I'm not crazy at all. All right, thank you so much for that clarification."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But that would just be his -- their recommendation. Commissioner Ellis, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "That is proposed recommendation that we have not yet voted on."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So we couldn't say whether or not there would be no millage rate increase or whether there would be one; is that right, Mr. Chairman? Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis, and then let's break for lunch here soon."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I'll just -- I'll be real quick. I do think, you know, we definitely have heard from the -- from the taxpayers, very loud and clear about the desire for not -- no increases in taxes. So as we do -- as we do every year, we're going to have a reset of the budget as we learn how numbers finalize. And I do think, you know, a priority should be working within a framework to get back to a proposed budget that has a flat millage rate. And you know, I hope that's, that's what we're working towards. But if there are additional funds that that's where that priority is given is to get that back to a flat level. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session. But let me just say one thing. I always say, budget time, if you want to add something to the budget, it will be helpful if you say where the money is going to come from, whether it's a millage rate increase or other sources. Now, on the one that you brought up about the Board of Equalization, that's one that I support. And that's one that I know where the money is going to come from. And it does not require a millage rate increase. All right. Entertain a motion to recess for lunch, Executive Session. Let's vote, please."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That's interesting, because I brought forth a resolution to pass that, and you didn't support it."

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

Recessed for Executive Session at 1:20 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 3:31 p.m.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We will resume the regular order of business, Madam Clerk, without objection. Madam Clerk, you with us? I'm sorry. Items from Executive Session. Items from Executive Session."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Is there a motion to approve the Jail Consent Decree Monitoring Team's 2026 annual budget in the amount of \$1,924,404?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve a contract with Vertosoft-UKG TeleStaff for a scheduling tool for automation of staffing in the amount of \$414,898?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation contained in items 3 through 6 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by -- I need a second. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the settlement agreement in item 7 of the Executive Session agenda in the case of Devin Gatison versus Fulton County, et al, United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia, Civil Action File 1:25-cv-01067, in the amount of \$75,000?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the utilization of cooperative purchasing for an Information Technology contract using this Sourcewell Contract Number 010720 with Axon in an amount not to exceed \$3.8 million?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve an Information Technology change order with Carahsoft Technology Corporation to extent professional services in an amount not to exceed \$439,200?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to transfer the Trammel Crow Buffer parcels with properties located at, on or about Cascade Road, Elva Drive -- excuse me, Cascade Road and 1210 Elva Drive from the County to the City of South Fulton as contained in Executive Session item 11a?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the transfer of property located at 0 Union Road and 0 Wallace Road from the County to the City of South Fulton as contained in Executive Session item number 11b?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the transfer of Wolf Creek Amphitheater and adjacent properties located at 3025 Merk Road, 3034 Enon Rd, and 0 Vandiver -- excuse me, Vandiver Road South from the County to the City of South Fulton as contained in Executive Session item number 11c?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the transfer of two Fire Stations located at 6720 Cedar Grove Road, and 4760 Fulton Industrial Boulevard from the County to the City of South Fulton as contained in Executive Session item 11d?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Ivory."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "And finally, is there a motion to approve the contract renewal of Chief Appraiser Roderick Conley with an effective date of December 21st, 2025, and for an annual rate of \$236,250?"

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman, before we do that, I don't know if it's a point of order or what, but there was a decorum violation, actually, several in the first part of the meeting that Commissioner Abdur-Rahman engaged in. And I hate to do it

with her not being here to defend herself, but I don't want to lose the opportunity to report if it's required that I do it in the meeting in which it happened, which I believe it is; is that correct?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. But what was the violation?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So several times, in fact, every time I believe Commissioner Ivory was speaking, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman was making a gesture with her hand. She was putting an L sign up in front of her face and in front of her forehead, which is sort of universally known as the loser symbol. She did it repeatedly every time Commissioner Ivory spoke. It is on the video. I have the screenshot of it, and it violates Section 101-68, under decorum number 3: All Commissioners and all staff shall treat each other and the public in a dignified, courteous and respectful manner, value all opinions, be tolerant of others, and recognize that disrespectful behavior damages the perception of the county. So that's -- that's the complaint."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, I didn't -- I didn't see that. I've heard about that --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I saw it multiple times. And like I said, we have photos, yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let me review -- well, I'll be mindful that. What I -- what I was told at the time that was that a Commissioner was talking to her staff while you were speaking. And that happens more often than I'd like, but I asked her to stop, and she stopped. So I'm going to rule that there was no --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But that's not what I'm referring to, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I understand."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "This was a different item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I understand. I didn't see it, so I'm going to rule there's no violation. But I'll be aware of that in the future."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'd like to speak to this."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. I'm saying that there was no violation. But you have the right to overrule me."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "With all due respect, Chairman, I would like to overrule you, because not only is this something that happened several times in this meeting today, but it's a subject of which I have spoken to you about several times before. I have it recorded on my phone today when it was done. Here's the screenshot of it. She does repeatedly at the end over there, join in laughter with others on the end. And have sat here over and over again in meetings and ignored it because it is such childish, disrespectful behavior. But I have come to you about it in the past. Thank you for acknowledging that, and I'm coming -- and today, I didn't -- I had it. I was not even going to say anything about it again, because this is the last meeting of the year. And I would like to go in peace, even in the peace offering that offered her today in my ornament, she trashed in the garbage along with the Christmas gift that was also given to her by Commissioner Barrett, was in the garbage. But beside that, that was, Commissioner Barrett noticed the infraction. My staff noticed the out of order-ness of it. Commissioner Arrington noticed it. So I'm asking you this time to please recognize this out-of-order gesture that continues over and over again in our meetings."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. When that happens again, please point it out to me while it's happening. I'll take note of it. I made a motion that it was not that from my perspective, but you have the right to overrule me. And you were making a motion to overrule. Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Properly moved and seconded."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I still have a point of order -- her point was that she did something with a L, and you said because you didn't see it, you're going to say it didn't happen. Either it happened or didn't. So you can't -- you saying it didn't happen, and she just showed you the video of it. She just showed you a screenshot of it. So you don't have the authority to say it didn't happen if somebody actually showed you a picture and showed you that it did happen. This is not something that you get to interpret. Either it happened or it didn't happen. See, this is what we have. We have a complete lack of leadership, a complete lack leadership. Stand up to the --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm in the middle of my point of order."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I have a point of order. You --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm in the middle of my point of order."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "You are out of line."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No, you are out of line. You are out of line. I'm in the middle of my point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just -- Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Arrington, please. I have ruled. There's a motion on the floor to over -- it's a motion on the floor to overrule my ruling. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, **25-0965**, Finance request approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Water and Sewer Budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "0965, is there a motion? Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "At the top of page 7, **25-0962**, Information Technology request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing for consulting services for Telecom Billing, Error Detection and Correction Management."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by -- I'll second. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, while I appreciate the idea at the highest level that we're going to use a consultant who's going to save us X amount of dollars, and they will take a portion of that savings, where we still ultimately save. I get that, it's great. I just have to, like, I just have to say, it's pretty appalling, and this is not the fault of any of you. But I just feel like, I have to say that we're talking about, I think what was the total they can make of this, 300,000; is that right? It's up to 300,000 on the --

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: Yeah. I believe we set a ceiling for it not to exceed 300.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: Yeah, so this 38 percent. I stink at math, but what's that, like a million in errors?

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: It's over million.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. So we're basically saying that Comcast and AT&T are either billing us erroneously for over a million and/or our side is not catching bad billing for over a million, and we're going to pay 300,000 to get that fixed. Seems to me, this of is a problem with the industry, that this is -- because the -- what, the reason I think this -- the reason this got my attention, Mr. Kerrigan, is because in your description, I believe it was in the memo that you sent out, you said that this was a like, a natural occurrence that these -- these anomalies, like, grow up over time as if it was mold or something. Like, this is -- this is like data. This is billing errors, and it's to the tune of possibly a million dollars a year. And we're sitting here griping over not being able to spend a couple hundred thousand on this or that because we don't have any money. And yet we're erroneously giving a million dollars to Comcast and AT&T? I mean, you know, again, not blaming you guys. But I just think like, as a -- as an individual, when these things happen to us with our personal bills, it's not a lot we can do, we're one person. But we're a fairly good-sized entity. And if it's happening to us, it's surely happening in DeKalb County, Gwinnett County, Cobb County. Can we not file some kind of lawsuit or something? I mean, it just seems really egregious that there's an entire industry of consultants built up to find the mistakes they make, and that they're not ever held accountable. We are paying the 38 percent. They should be paying the 38 percent, not us. I mean, I'm going to approve it, but I just think it needs to be said that this is an absolute terrible way for the -- those companies to do business. And we should not just accept it and pay 38 percent, \$300,000 because they're mis-billing us. I mean, it just seems atrocious, and I felt like it had to be said."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett. I agree a hundred percent. And you know, the amount of money that we approve each meeting for IT sometimes blows my mind: 16 million, one meeting; 4 million, another meeting; 3 million, another meeting; 4 million -- and then when I come in the office, I can't get on the internet. I mean, I literally, like, can't get on the internet in my office. And that seems like something we should fix, but yet we're doing all these other things. And I want a guarantee that the Marshal is going to get a dedicated IT person for 104,000 before I say okay to all of this money for AT&T consulting or whatever the consultant is when that, that doesn't seem like the priority. And again, I don't think that's anybody's fault. I know how, like, I know with my own bills, like, I look, and I go, why did I -- why am I being overbilled for that? It's important. And I think we have to do it. But we just have so many other things that seem to be of paramount importance first. And so I know we can find 104,000 for an IT dedicated person in the Marshal's Office who serves warrants. That seems important. Before we move forward in approving millions more -- you know, hundreds of thousands of dollars or a million dollars to figure out what we are saving or what we're not saving. I just, I think our priorities are just a little bit skewed in this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So if I understand this correctly, we hire this company, we don't pay anything upfront, correct?"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "That's correct."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "As it says in the letter that he sent us, there's no upfront cost. We don't pay anything unless they find that we're being overbilled or there's mistakes being made. And then they take a percentage cut of whatever their findings are. So it's no cost. It's actually trying to identify errors. It's like almost paying for an audit of our system, which I think is wise and sound and financial. I mean, to your point, Commissioner Barrett, it is sad that as large of contract as we have that we might be overbilled. There be rates errors or services we're being billed for that we're no longer using. Like, perhaps there's somewhere, somewhere in the county, we're paying for phones, and we totally dissolved that, that group, but we don't even know, because we haven't done an audit of our system. So for me, I think this is a sound and wise investment. Yes, if they do identify a million dollars-worth of errors, and we need to go back to Comcast, and we need to go to AT&T and say, how is this happening, why is this happening, so that we don't ever have to hire this company again. Or perhaps, we hire them next year, and they find no errors and they make zero dollars. So for me, I think this is a pretty good thing to do."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I was just curious in sort of what triggered sort of the impetus for pursuing this?"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "Sure, Commissioner Ellis. So I will say that our team has been working with AT&T and Comcast, and we've issued a number of disconnects for services that we're no longer using, especially for the larger circuit costs for dated telecom services. I think that telecom bills for an enterprise of our size, because of the moves, ads and changes, the analog lines that we have, those bills do get very complex, and they get very long. And it's very tedious work for staff to call AT&T, walk through the disconnect process, make sure it returns on the bill. This is -- this would consume full-time positions to do all this, just to look at these bills in the detail they should be looked at. And this has accumulated over time. So we think we've done a very good job, though, of cleaning up a lot of this. So I would say the 300,000 is on the very high end. I think there's going to be, it's going to be a smaller payout for the work that would be done. And right, it would be only once those fees and services come off the bill, we see that, and then that's when that percentage is paid out. I say that I've brought this up in my role, because I have worked at large enterprises where we saw and realized quite a bit of savings because the eyes were on other things, right?"

We're -- there's this fire, this focus, this project, the telecom bills are moving along, we have capital projects. We sunset line -- we sunset buildings, but the lines don't get cut off. There's no phone on the other end. They're going to make sure they call these numbers wherever these circuits are, validate their disabled, confirm that before we remove them. So it's, you know, it is a bit of a housecleaning effort, but I think it's worth this approach, where it's only based on performance that we pursue this type of service."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So some of this stuff is not necessarily an overbilling. It may be something where we're paying for something we're not --"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "We're no longer using."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- we're not using."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So it's somewhat of a detection of those types of things. So I do think, you know, yeah, a lot of this stuff is frustrating. But it's, you know, this happens in healthcare. This happens in legal billing. This happens in IT where, you know, unfortunately, they are, they sort of cottage industries, if you will, of folks that this is the work that they do. But it is -- I think that's important to know, it's not just error detection. This is -- or overbilling, this is stuff where we just haven't turned off --"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "It's validation, right?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just a validation of it?"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "Right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, thank you. Yeah, one other thing too, and I guess in we've had other -- it looks like there's some other local governments that have utilized this particular firm."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Have we talked to them and --"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- they've had some success too, so --"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Can you enumerate on -- I know Fulton County Schools, it was one, are there a few others that you're aware of?"

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "Jacksonville Duval is the one we're piggybacking, where they've done work --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, DIRECTOR, IT: "-- and found substantial savings there."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions or comments? Motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0966**, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 to provide support for IT Services and Operation."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Madam Clerk."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0967**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval of a statewide contract for Facility Maintenance Solutions in the amount not to exceed \$926,782.76."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, **25-0968**, Request approval to increase spending authority for Comprehensive Operation and Preventive Maintenance Services for the Fulton County Jail in an amount not to exceed \$1,020,923.21."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0969, Human Resources Management request approval to renew an existing contract for Family Medical Leave Act administrative services in an amount not to exceed \$109,796."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0970, County Manager, Request approval to utilize to cooperative purchasing in an amount not to exceed \$1,404,000 to provide recruitment services for Detention Officers for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. You have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Mr. Manager, would you explain what this is? Because a lot of misinformation about what we are doing and what we're not doing. What does this do?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So this was -- and Soo can help me if I get this wrong, but this firm, Whalls was recommended by the monitor as a expert in recruitment. They have done recruiting and been very successful in Philadelphia. They will be taking the lead on identifying candidates, recruiting them, and getting them to a point where the Sheriff's Office can do their vetting in terms of security background checks. We've gotten a very good report today that they've identified up to well over 110 candidates that have gone through the process that now are entering into that last stage of verification. So effectively, they are a recruiting firm that we're paying as a part of our efforts in compliance with the consent order, with a target at a net 50 people per quarter, 200 per year to our Detention Officer ranks."

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

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0971, Purchasing and Contract Compliance request approval to modify the 2025 Annual Hardware and Software Maintenance and Support List."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Arts and Libraries, **25-0972**, Request approval of an MOU in the amount of \$227,116 for fiscal year 2026 between the University Georgia Cooperative Extension and of Fulton County Board of Commissioners to continue to provide research-based education."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ivory."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0973**, Request approval of a recommended proposal for Shelf-Ready Books, Lease Books for Fulton County Library System in an amount not to exceed \$800,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **25-0974**, Behavioral Health Developmental Disabilities request approval of a recommended proposal for Opioid Abatement Settlement in the total amount not to exceed \$644,002."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "A motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. And Madam CFO, this is an allowable use for those funds, these purposes?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It is. But I'll let Dr. Roshell add the color around it."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you, Sharon. So these funds are separate and apart from the funds that the county receives directly from manufacturers and distributors from the opioid settlement. This is a -- an allotment state of Georgia for 644,000 that we are required to make available to organizations in the community through an RFP process."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0975**, Public Works request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for Sewer System Cleaning and Manhole Camera Inspection Services in amount not to exceed \$550,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0976**, Request approval of lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$245,000 to provide chemicals for drinking water and treated wastewater analysis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0977**, Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$3,677,254.20 to provide Operation and Maintenance Services for the Camp Creek Water Reclamation Facility."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. You have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, **25-0978**, Request approval of a recommended proposal for Progressive Design/Build for Boat Rock Road Sanitary Sewer Extensions, Phase 1 in an amount not to exceed \$637,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0979, Request approval to amend an existing contract to The Progressive Design/Build for Johns Creek Environmental Campus Membrane System Replacement in an amount not to exceed \$3,816,902.75."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. I need a second. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0980, Request approval to renew existing contracts in the amount of \$2 million to provide Standby Engineering Services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0981, Request approval to extend an existing contract for Operation and Maintenance Service for Wastewater Facilities and Pump Stations in the North Fulton Service Area in an amount not to exceed \$5,641,222.93."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, 25-0982, Request approval to increase the spending authority for Operation and Maintenance Services for the Wastewater Facilities and Pump Stations in the North Fulton Service Area in an amount not to exceed \$1,995,238.07."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0984, Senior Services request approval to extend an existing contract for Food Services Management in an amount not to exceed \$202,874.77."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Infrastructure and Economic Development, **25-0985**, Public Works, as amended, request approval and Execution of a Second Memorandum of Understanding between Fulton County and the City of South Fulton for the receipt and transfer of Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, **25-0986**, Superior Court Administration request approval to renew an existing contract for Electronic Pretrial Monitoring Services in an amount not to exceed \$2,200,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, sir, Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Do we have an estimate for costs we'll incur this year for this contract? Or what we spent to date?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I have to look it up. If you can give me just a few minutes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That's fine. You can get it to me later. That's fine. I don't need it right now. That's fine."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Item moved up on today's agenda on page 13, **25-0989**, Emergency Management request approval to amend an existing contract for Animal Services with LifeLine Animal Project, Inc."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 12, **25-0987**, Request approval to renew an existing contract for Animal Services in an amount not to exceed \$7,440,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0988**, Request approval of an IGA between City of South Fulton and Fulton County, by which the City and County would agree to fire protection, emergency medical response with specific boundaries of the unincorporated portion of Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 13, Commissioners' Action Items, **25-0892**, Request approval of a resolution directing County Manager to include, on an annual basis, funding in an amount not to exceed \$1 million for the Fulton County Veterans' Community Services Grant Program support services and programs for veterans residing in Fulton County; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioners Arrington, Barrett, and Ivory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0985**, Request approval of a resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amending policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis and Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Thorne. This item was requested to be -- there were certain amendments made at the last meeting that were requested to be put in writing. It's my understanding that that's what happened, so."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That is correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion to approve."

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I brought this agenda item back again today because, not to be dramatic, but women in Georgia are dying. And, in fact, the mother of Amber Thurman was trying to make public comment earlier today on Zoom. Her name was called, she tried to unmute, and she was not able to speak. To that end, she has made video of her comments, and the AV both has it. With your permission, I would like to show that comment. If you would. Are they working on it? What's happening?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, can we come back to it?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Can we get some indication? No, you can't show it? You can't show it? Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Well, I'm going to read it to you. And I will -- I will share the video around to my colleagues following this meeting. This is what she said: Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Chanette Williams. I'm the mother of Amber Nicole Thurman. The resolutions before you today matter because they acknowledge the harm women and families are already experiencing in our healthcare system. My daughter died a preventable death after she was not able to receive timely medical care. I grieve her every day. And I'm here because no other family should have to experience this kind of loss. I want to thank Commissioners Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington for standing up for women and recognizing the urgency of this moment. Your leadership matters. This is not about politics. It's about whether women in Fulton County can get care when their lives are at risk. These resolutions will not overturn Georgia law, but they do matter. Affirming reproductive rights as human rights acknowledges women's dignity and autonomy. The Women's Commission creates a nonpartisan space to study and advise this Board on the real issues women face including maternal mortality, healthcare access, and safety. The Healthy Women Healthy Families Grant Program recognizes what so many community organizations already know that supporting women's health requires real investment. What happened to my daughter was not inevitable. It was the result of delay, fear, and a system that failed her. We are one vote away from doing the right thing. I believe all of you should be supporting these measures. Women's lives are already on the line. We need our elected officials on our side in this fight, otherwise nothing is going to get better. I urge all of Fulton County Commissioners to vote in favor of these resolutions. Thank you. I'm sure it would have been more impactful coming from her, but, but there it is."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We're on 0895?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "We're on 0935."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "0935."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "0935. I'll just continue with my comments now to say that what Chanette Williams didn't say about her daughter's story is that Amber Thurman suffered for 20 hours in the hospital because doctors were afraid to perform a routine procedure for a rare complication that she suffered from taking abortion medication, which is completely legal. Amber left behind a six-year-old son. I brought this item back today because women are afraid to start families in Georgia, as one of our public commenters this morning indicated. They're afraid that if they miscarry and need treatment, that they will be prosecuted or will die. I brought this back because the

women of Fulton County deserve elected leaders that will fight for their rights. Everyone everywhere has the right to privacy, the right to healthcare, and the right to decide what to do with their own bodies. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your idea of adding the repeal of Georgia's abortion ban to our state legislative agenda. So you should have all received an updated version of my resolution, which now includes that as a -- as part of the resolution. So I appreciate that suggestion, makes the resolution, this resolution even stronger. At the end of the day, none of us should be okay living in a state that strips women of their human rights. We should not be comfortable living in a state where women and doctors could find themselves in handcuffs or in jail for seeking or providing care. We should speak loudly and plainly and be abundantly clear, Georgia has banned abortion, and women are dying."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Commissioner Barrett for your strong words, for reading into the record what the mother of Amber Thurman had to say about this tragic event. I spoke in detail last meeting and I still remain fully supportive of your resolution. This decision should be between a person and their doctor only. Two women in Fulton County have lost their lives. This ban puts lives at risk. Just last month, we passed a resolution that I brought forward addressing maternal and infant mortality, particularly the staggering rates among Black women in our county. These stories are tragic examples of why the focus is so critical. And I remain supportive of this resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. Last week at our last discussion of this item, I was repeatedly ruled out of order while trying to address the wording of the resolution itself, which was directly related to the resolution -- directly related. So I felt like I was being trying to be silenced by trying to prevent another side. There are two sides of this coin. This is a very divisive issue as everybody knows. And it comes up every campaign season, not surprising. Because for a lot of voters, this is a single issue on both sides of the aisle. It's a single issue whether you think abortion should be illegal. My daughter gave birth to my first grandchild Monday night. What an amazing event that was. How special is that to see the life come into this world, a new life. How special was it to be at the hospital, and to go and look at all the other babies in the nursery last night as I walked around. It was a special night. And to think in some states, there's no limit on when you can get an abortion. You can get an abortion right before the birth of the child. I do understand that some women, the six-week abortion Bill is just too soon. You probably don't know you're pregnant. So when is too soon? When is too late? I'd love to have that discussion. I don't want it to be an all or everything, that you can have abortion right up to the point of birth. And even in some states, there's talks of after birth. When do you protect the baby? When do you protect the mother? I'd love to

have conversation. But simply, what I was trying to point out last night, I just kind of disagreed with the wording, line 15, line 16, line 17 about Amber Thurman and Candi, and their unfortunate deaths that they had. But it wasn't because of the law directly. It was because they had a symptom of taking the abortion pill. It's truly, truly rare, I assume, it's not often. Keisha Atkins also died from taking them abortion pill. You take the pill, you don't expel the baby, some of the baby is left remaining inside you, and you develop sepsis. Now, the fact that the doctors didn't detect it, didn't want to treat it, that's -- that's something a medical issue, that's informing medical doctors. It also mentions the woman who was forced to carry a nonviable pregnancy to term. We have on record, our Attorney General went on record saying that the law wasn't in effect for that. That they could take the woman off life support. That was a ruling by our Attorney General concerning the law to bring clarification for future cases or instances of that. I don't know how many people have been prosecuted. We mentioned three people that had issues with the Bill that's been in effect for more than three years. I feel that we do need this discussion, but do we need at our level? It's kind of like we, we want to urge that we want to take a position on this. Why? Why now? Why not three years ago when the Bill came out? It's all about dividing. It's all about dividing us. Who's in the club, who's not in the club, who's going to get the vote, who's going to get the other vote. Honestly, I think it's inappropriate that we bring this up. I did speak with Commissioner Barrett. I really do appreciate her passion that she has. You say the abortion ban discriminates against, harms patients who are Black, younger and in lower socioeconomic status groups? Well, if you Google abortions, they seem to be readily available in Atlanta and south. If you live up in north, you have to go to Cobb or Gwinnett. Those are probably the easiest places to get an abortion. So I just looked it up. In 2022, there was a study that 40 percent of Black babies are aborted. So you have to look at data. You have to look at all sides of data. I'm happy to have a debate on it. But I just can't support a Bill that I think is misleading."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett. Oh, I'm sorry. Do you want to say something?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to let you know, we had a technical issue. The video can now be played if that's okay with you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, we've already dealt with that issue. Thank you. Go ahead."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Oh, I would love to see it, but okay. Look, at the end of the day, I'm not going to start debating individual medical cases. I'm only going to say this, there are countless women who are not going to the doctor for fear of being prosecuted. We will never know their names, nor be able to count their cases. There are doctors who are getting out of the OB/GYN business because of these laws. Meaning less doctors available to give care for all women's reproductive issues. These

are facts. And the reason -- this accusation that this only comes up in campaign season is nonsensical. It comes up all the time, and it has been coming up since before Dobbs and after Dobbs. And I'm going to say this, the timing of this particular piece of legislation was not around a campaign. It was around International Human Rights Day, and it was done in concert with local leaders around the country who introduced similar legislation with similar language, aligned with a Federal Bill put up by Congresswoman Nikema Williams and signed onto by 114 total members of the U.S. Congress from all over the country, 32 states, plus DC, 68 women signed onto it, Congress People, 46 men. Cities like Austin, Texas, Philadelphia, Baltimore, counties in North Carolina and Maryland, these are Bills that were put up all across the country as a concerted effort for state and local and federal elected leaders to stand up for women's human rights. If -- that was why the timing was now, not because anybody is running for reelection. So that is just a false claim. I just wanted to make sure everybody understood that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes. We're still on this matter. So I would love to see the video, Jessica. Please play it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Let's finish this --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "It's the same --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "This is -- this is the same matter."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just minute, let's -- this is -- just play it, and get beyond this. But we'll talk about this later."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, this -- this is my time. And I want the video shown. This is my time. I'm in the queue, I have the floor. I have the floor, please show the video."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I have the floor, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I have the floor, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I have the floor, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I have the floor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "We're watching the video."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You don't need to say anything to me."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You don't need to say anything to me. Watch the video."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Listen to the lady."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Listen to this lady."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Listen to this lady."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Listen to the lady."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Listen to the lady."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You're out of order."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Listen to the lady."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You're out of order."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Listen to the lady."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm going to allow -- I told --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Listen to the lady."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I told Commissioner Barrett that we would play it because this -- this should have been played during public comment. There was a problem with it, so I agreed to hear it right now although public comment is gone. So this is a favor that she

asked me to let her to. Now, we've already voted on this, but we'll let it come into the record if there are no objections."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "It hasn't been voted on. It hasn't been voted on."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "It has not been voted on."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Play it please, if it's ready."

CHANETTE WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Amber Nicole Thurman. The resolutions before you today matter because they acknowledge the harm women and families are already experiencing in our healthcare systems. My daughter died of a preventable death after she was not able to receive timely medical care. I grieve her every day. And I am here because no other family should have to experience this kind of loss. I want to thank Commissioners Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington for standing up for women and recognizing the urgency of this moment. Your leadership matters. This is not about politics. It is about whether women in Fulton County can get care when their lives are at risk. These resolutions may not overturn the laws here in Georgia, but they do matter. Affirming reproductive rights as human rights acknowledges women's dignity and autonomy. The Women's Commission creates a nonpartisan space to study and advise this Board on the real issues women face, including maternal mortality, healthcare access, and safety. The Healthy Women's Healthy Families Grant Program recognizes what so many community organizations already know, that supporting women's health requires real investment. What happened to my daughter was in -- was not inevitable. It was the result of delay, fear, and a system that absolutely failed her. We are one vote away from doing the right thing. I believe all of you should be supporting these measures. Women's lives are already at risk. We need our elected officials on our side in this fight, otherwise nothing is going to get better. I urge all of the Fulton County Commissioners to vote in favor of these resolutions. Thank you."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Sir, you never had to speak to me again."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion on the floor --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm going to be ignoring you until May."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "25 -- 0396 -- 0936, Request approval of a resolution to establish a Fulton County's Women's Commission to advise the Board of Commissioners on policies, strategies, and community partnership that advance gender equity and address the systemic barriers impacting women; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to be very clear that a abstention or not voting is a no. So if you are not voting, or you are abstaining on any issue that comes before us, you are effectively voting no. Yes, I'm moving on, and this is relevant. Thank you. I want to start by congratulating DeKalb County and the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners who passed their own Women's Commission at their board meeting yesterday. They are the first County in Georgia to establish a Women's Commission, and they join over 160 Women's Commissions in cities, counties, and states across the country, including the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia. There is nothing partisan or controversial about having a Women's Commission. And frankly, we're way behind in establishing one. The state founded theirs in 1992, and the city of Atlanta established theirs in 2000. I should not have to beg and plead for a Women's Commission in Fulton County. This Board is majority women. This county is majority women. A Commission gives the women in our community an opportunity to shape our policies and priorities in a transparent, formal, and official way. Let's give them the opportunity to be heard."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Agreed on the first point, an abstain is a no-stain, which means no, and that's effectively how it works. And I want to say that I am in -- I feel very proud too of the DeKalb County Commission for standing up for what their constituents actually want and represent. We don't have that here. The idea that Fulton County is made up of a majority of women that are dealing with -- Democratic women with very clear principles, clear thoughts, clear issues that mean something to them. But yet, this Commission can't stand by them and do the things that are right for them. We saw that in the last vote. We'll see it again on this one. We'll see it again in a couple that continue to happen on this agenda. The idea to say no to a group of women that want to gather, I can't even understand that. We want to gather. No. Republicans don't believe in women gathering? Men don't believe in women

gathering? We want to gather and discuss the issues that are important to us. And so I support this. And I just can't understand how anybody couldn't, men, women, Democrats, Republicans, whatever else is up here. Let's just let women gather."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I have no problem with women gathering, but gathering with a purpose, gathering with a reason, gathering with proper guidance. We have a Fulton County Health Department, a public health department that deals with women's issues and is funded by the state, not the taxpayers. I would totally sign on if we went to the Health Department and asked, can we get a Women's Commission together that you're in charge of because they see the women. They treat the women. They come to our Public Health Centers. There was no calls with our Health Department. They weren't included in this conversation. We called, we called and had a conversation today with our Fulton County Health Department. He did say there is high mortality rates in pregnant women. I would love to see that area focused on, targeted on. Why is there a high mortality in the entire state of Georgia?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Lack of care."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "There -- excuse me, I'm speaking."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner, come on."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Fulton County received a failing grade for preterm birth rate. It's the highest in the Metro Atlanta -- I would like to see prenatal care take a focus. This could be a very beneficial thing to have, but it needs -- it's not being run properly. It was created by a Commissioner and her staff to kind of like, hey, I'm for women. I'm for healthy families. And if you don't vote for it, you're not. We need to work with our County Health Department. We need to have regular conversations, call them."

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

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "She's not talking about the correct item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We're on 0936, Commissioner --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "If we're forming a Fulton County's Women's Commission, it should be in cooperation with the Fulton County Health Department who deals with --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Go ahead, continue."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "That's what I'm saying."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, continue."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "If you want to interrupt me, if you don't want me to make my point again --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue. Continue, Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "We have a new head of that department. I suggest, if you're so concerned about women and women's health issues and health issues across the county, why aren't we going to the very people that are responsible for public health in Fulton County? It's mind boggling to me. We just want to write a resolution, and then, boom, we'll get to get -- each one of us will appoint two people to a board, and we'll just have them go out and just kind of decide on their own what they feel like, what NGOs need some money. All this group here, they could use it, they have a lot of work here. These NGOs here. No, I want purpose. And I want our Fulton County Health Department who are experts in dealing with the people in Fulton County dealing and running this Women's Commission. If you would like, Commissioner Barrett, I would be happy to meet with you, with the Fulton County Health Department. I would be happy to see if there's some kind of compromise, have discussions on what areas could be addressed. I think the prenatal care, the high mortality rate and preterm birth rate, I think those are very crucial issues that need to be looked at in Fulton County. And I'll plan on having that discussions on my own. Commissioner Barrett, I love if you would come with me."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. First off, I want to say that this county government, more than any county government in the state, has focused on the issue of health. We've done it with our actions. We've done it with our funding. And we've done that with intentionality. Now candidly from a public policy standpoint, I'm not a big fan of commissions and task force mean -- it means to get things effectively done generally at all. We're going to have another one come up we're going to talk about. We don't have a good -- they don't have a good track record with generating that. What does have a good track record is when we collectively and work together as government, working, studying issues, identifying gaps, going about that in a very tactical, methodical studied way with the folks in those industries in those spaces, and then going about developing actual plans. We're going to have an item that's going to come up that I think is going to make, make a significant difference in the health of women and families and Fulton County residents with beachhead that's going to become the base for a hospital in South Fulton. I think we talked about this, and I thought we were on a pathway of doing this when we had this discussion a couple of meetings ago, of working with Grady and the Board of Health, utilizing our resources on staff, Dr. Roshell, who's been really great in terms of helping us to study these issues and take some real practical measures,

looking at the things that we've done in terms of where we were with our Board of Health in the areas like behavioral health seven, eight, nine years ago, and where we are today. And I don't think this is the way to advance the ball and have a meaningful impact, and that's why I'm not going to be supporting either of those. But instead, I'm going to be focusing on working with our staff, working with our partners like Grady and the Board of Health, and identifying the places where we can make a very noticeable and material impact, and then be effective, and move the needle. So we have a difference of opinion about the way you go about doing this from a public policy standpoint, and that's why I'm not going to be supporting this item or the next item. And I won't be voting on -- for either of these abortion bans, either of those things. And you know, number one, I don't feel like that's our role as County Commissioners to weigh in on this, number one. And number two, I have a different views about abortion than some of the folks up here. And those are formed by, you know, different personal issues in my own life. So I recognize that it's a very challenging issue, and that people have a lot of strong, strong points on it, strong, strong beliefs around. But you know, I'm not going to be supportive. I wasn't supportive of the prior measure, and I'm not supportive of these two measures for different reasons, two being for public policy arguments and one -- one and the other being for personal, personal views and personal beliefs."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm just not sure why you all have turned this into a measure that has anything to do or only to do with health. This is not a measure that has only to do with health. This is a Women's Commission to deal with all of the inequities that women still face, be it the gender pay gap, women still make 88 cents on the dollar compared to men. Does the Board of Health deal with the gender pay gap? I don't think so. This is also a measure about women not being represented in the C suite, in boardrooms, in elected office. There are a bunch of things that a Women's Commission can take up that have nothing to do with health, but have to do with inequalities that women face in this country, full stop. They can take up issues of health if they deem those to be the most important things to talk about, the people that we put on those boards. If a majority of the people that we put on those boards don't want to discuss reproductive care, they won't. If they want to discuss the gender pay gap, they will. And to say that these don't work or don't function properly or we don't know how to operate them is nonsensical. It's a national standard. There is a National Organization of Women's Commissions with practices and policies and bylaws that help the commission form. These are working all across the country. It is nonpartisan. It is not tied to abortion. It is a Women's Commission. And the fact that you all cannot seem to separate these things is not because I didn't write them separately. They are not one big piece of legislation together, they are three separate resolutions. This one is straight up a Women's Commission, not for health, not for reproductive rights, not for

anything other than women to convene and help advise on policies and strategy and spending priority for the Board of Commissioners. We have what, I don't know, over 40 different commissions, authorities, and task forces for all kinds of groups. We should have this for women. It's that simple. These arguments that are being made about health are completely irrelevant to this. That is the next item, and we can talk about that when we get to the next item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, I thought when I --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- spoke yesterday or wasn't yesterday, two weeks ago that the million-dollar funding would be given to this Women's Commission to decide how to divide it up."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "This item can be approved completely on its own without any of the other two. If we decided to also approve a Healthy Women Healthy Families Grant Program, it was suggested that this would be the obvious board to review the grant applicants in the same way that the Arts Council reviews the applicants for those grants. And to vote as -- as people that we put on the board, equal opinions of all of the seven of us that that would be the appropriate body to approve the grants recommended by the Grant Committee. So that's all that -- that's the only connection between the two. And it's not -- it's only if the grant program were to get approved."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And that's all related to health. So that's kind of where --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But that's not in this --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I know it's not in this --"

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- but the million dollars is tied to this group --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "It's not."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- this group would be given --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. She has the floor, please."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "You said that if the million-dollar grant passed, this would be the obvious place to give them the million dollars to decide how to spend. So there is a relationship between the two."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Did you want to respond to the --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes. The formation of this Women's Commission does not include anything to do with approving grants. The grant program, however, recommends that the women commission -- Women's Commission, should it exist, would be the appropriate place for the decisions to get made. This does not include any language about a grant program. It is solely a Women's Commission. We can approve this as a standalone Women's Commission, there can be -- there is no money tied to it. The money is in a different resolution. It is a different piece of -- I could have introduced these six months apart. They're not connected through this resolution. It's the grant program that needs a committee to decide. And this would be an obvious place if it exist. That's it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else? All right, I say -- yes, Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Commissioner Thorne, we'd love for you to be on the Women's Commission. You qualify. You're a woman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So I'll say it again. You was -- mentioned the 2000 legislation that was passed at the city of Atlanta for Women's Commission. That was my legislation. So I don't have to apologize for that. Number two, I sit on the -- our Board of Health, and we cover a lot of these issues. And lastly, any Commissioner can set up a commission anytime he or she chooses. The most successful one that I've known of since I've been here, was one that I set up regarding elections, which made recommendations to the Board of Registration and Elections. And every recommendation was adopted by that board. So let's vote, please. The motion on the floor is to approve."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

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

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "When women get sick, families suffer. When they can't go to work, they can't put food on the table. When they can't afford treatment or treatment isn't available, they leave behind families who struggle. This resolution creates a \$1 million Healthy Women Healthy Families Grant Program to fund nonprofit organizations that are focused on everything from women's cancers, like breast cancer, which I am a survivor of, and ovarian cancer, to heart disease, which is the leading cause of death for women in Georgia. It covers domestic violence, and yes, it could also cover reproductive and maternal health, should those grantees, or should whatever board selects the winners of the -- of the grant approve such an application. The cost to the fund this program equates to 88 cents per resident. We have a general fund budget of over \$1 billion. We have \$80 million in a category called other. And we regularly have budget under runs in the tens of millions. We can afford \$1 million to keep women healthy."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other comments? Motion on the floor is to approve -- I'm sorry. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Oh, sorry. Yes, we can -- I disagree that we can't afford to put a million dollars. I really appreciate if we had a program that had a proven track record that we knew that the money was going to be spent wisely. Again, I think it's important that we work with our Public Health Department because this is a health issue, a million dollars going towards health issues, at least have a conversation with them. And 88 cents per resident is just, it's not free. It might sound nominal, but these 88 cents add up to, pretty soon, we're going to be spending a 15 percent increase in the millage rate. So with that being said, I can't support it. I know there was a public comment saying that it's free. This is definitely not free, Commissioner Barrett cleared that up for me on our break. So I just can't support spending money right now when we're looking at trying to maintain our millage rate, trying to limit our spending, trying to cut back in areas. Why would we start a new program that we'll go on a million dollars and a million dollars to, yes, some abortion access. And Commissioner Barrett advocated for ARC Southeast. I don't know if you still advocate for programs like that, giving them a \$300,000 donation in the past, which is a group that I could not support in any way, shape, or form. They are politically active. They're not just an abortion access group. They appear to be a Stop-Cop City group, as well as pro-Palestinian group. So with that being said, no, I can't support this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. This resolution has nothing to do with our ARC Southeast, so I'm not even going to entertain that. The idea that we provide some health services, great health services through our Board of Health is lovely and wonderful, and it's not enough, because women's health in Fulton County is still not improving. The -- we have the worst maternal mortality rates in the country in Georgia."

We have disastrous numbers here in how women or receiving healthcare. Do we -- do we not want to stand up clinics that provide mammograms because the Board of Health also does mammograms? It's a ridiculous thing to say that we have this one organization, the Board of Health, and therefore we should do nothing else to help women's health or anybody's is health. Should we just forget the freestanding emergency room because we have a Board of Health? Should we just not bother with Behavioral Health Clinics because we have a Board of Health? No. We work on healthcare across the board, and there are lots of different ways to do it. This is not only the Board of Health. This is -- Board of Health is amazing, yes, and what else can we do? This is \$1 million. It's not a big lift. We can absolutely afford it. And women in this moment in time when nonprofit funding is going away from all kinds of arenas, we should be standing in the gap."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Barrett, thank you for trying. And I tried right along with you. Three things in a row are going to get a no vote that all focus on women's health. And it's not this Board -- this Board at this time in history is not ready to stand up for women. And that's what it says. There's nothing more to really discuss. We can keep on going in the queue. It's not going to pass. It's been -- the words have been said. This Board does not care about the health of women and all of the other issues, because your one commission stands alone to deal with many issues for women equity, I mean, all of the things. And we're just not ready at this time. So what we can hope is that, you know, people in the future will want to do something for women in Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I would like to correct that. Whenever you're dealing with a health issue, you should be having conversations. I'm not saying only with the Board of Health, I'm talking about your partners with Grady. You should go down and visit. I mean Dr. Montgomery Rice, she is a wealth of information. But you should bring people into the picture before you decide that, oh, if we put a million dollars, 88 cents per person, we're going to have all these outcomes. When people are spending millions and millions of dollars trying to get outcomes, trying -- trying to improve maternal rates. So with that being said, I just wanted to correct it for the record that you should have a relationship with our new Board of Health Doctor. You should be working with them. You should bring them in as partners in the table. It shouldn't be, just write a resolution, Dr. Roshell figure it out, let's just give them a million dollars, let them figure it out. That's not responsible use, I believe, of taxpayer money."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We'll be dealing with the '26 budget in two or three weeks. I think it's a very -- it'll be very appropriate to bring up at that time. And I'm sympathetic to this. And there is an organization I'm working with that addresses all of these issues that you'll be hearing more about that in the coming months as well. So let's vote. The motion on the floor is to approve."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion pass -- oh, excuse me. The motion fails; three yeas, three nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page, 14, **25-0939**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supporting its ability to govern local affairs and urging the Georgia General Assembly to preserve the Board of Commissioners involvement in matters affecting Fulton County residents sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I'll be brief. I spoke about this last meeting, and I just wanted to bring it up again because it's really important. This resolution is about keeping county decisions for county functions in the hands of this Commission. Local control is not just a principle, it's practical. It involves Fulton County, Fulton County leadership should be making those decisions. I hope we can pass this resolution to keep the power in the hands of this Commission where it belongs. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Any other comments? All right, Commissioner Thorne.

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. During the last meeting, I asked a straightforward clarification question about the purpose and practical impact of this legislation. Instead of providing an explanation, the presenting Commissioner repeatedly just read the same vague language from the resolution, offering a circular response that did not address the question. This lack of clear answer hindered meaningful discussion and prevented Commissioners from fully understanding what they were being asked to consider. Effective leadership requires clarity, patience, and transparency, not reliance on broad language that avoids accountability and wastes valuable meeting time. With that, I cannot support this resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "That's not surprising. Effective leadership also requires reading. And every part of why I passed this resolution is in the document and in the resolution, in which I hope people read before they come to the meeting. But if you hadn't had the chance to, yes, Fulton County should be in charge of how elections function. That is part of this resolution, which is what you were going on and on and on about as you normally do. But it's also about the broader principle of local control, how the county spends money, how we manage county responsibilities, and who gets to make those decisions. This is about ensuring county leadership is at the forefront whenever Fulton County is involved, not just about elections. Passing this resolution benefits the county as a whole. It strengthens local governance, accountability and decision making. So in short, yes, Commissioner Thorne, elections are included. And yes, local leadership should have the authority and responsibility to manage those properly, alongside all of the other county functions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you for clarifying that elections is wrapped up in here. With that, I disagree. We all use the same statewide Dominion system. We have a Secretary of State that is supposed to make our elections uniform throughout the entire state. That is not happening based on local language of laws, different types of boards managing elections, different boards not having any say, are basically being rendered useless. So with that being said, they are -- there's talks at the Capitol of requiring legislation to make sure that elections are fair, whether you vote in DeKalb, whether you vote in Fulton, Cobb, your elections, both sides have a say, and it's not becoming a partisan issue. There should be nonpartisan elections throughout the state. So because of that one thing, everything else sounds great, I agree, we should have local control. But we are a very unique county. We're the most unique county in the entire state. We deal with a lot of things that most counties don't have to deal with, and so it's impossible. But elections is one area that everything should be uniform across the state."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0990, Request approval of a resolution authorizing the execution, delivery, and performance of a freestanding emergency department contract between Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority and Fulton County sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Hopefully, this is one that we can all agree upon. This relates to the freestanding medical facility, emergency medical facility that is being constructed, constructed in South Fulton County to provide medical services to that portion of our county. This is, in my judgment, what I call all along the past three or four years, Phase I of my personal effort there. This Phase I will be the freestanding emergency clinic. Phase II will be the freestanding medical office building, which will have most of the services that we've talked about here today for children and women. Discussions with providers are underway as we sit here today. And the third phase will be that freestanding hospital within the next, I predict, within the next four, no more than five years in South Fulton County. This here represents our commitment to healthcare in South Fulton County. And hopefully, you will all support it. Mr. Turner, you want to add anything about --"

RAY TURNER, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes, sir. As far as the financing mechanics around that, again, it's a -- it's a bond issued by the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority. This item is the IGA in which the county provides that it serves to pay for this \$19 million bond issue, which is one half of the cost of the project. We received eight bids. They were reviewed by the financial advisor of the authority as well as the county. And we recommend Regions Bank as the best proposer at 3.61 percent. It's a 15-year bond. Average debt service would be anywhere from 1.6 to \$1.8 million over that 15-year period. And Finance recommends approval."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right. Commissioner Ivory, followed by Commissioner Barrett.

COMMISSIONER IVORY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly support the building of the -- well, we are in the midst of building the freestanding emergency department and Phase II and Phase III. But I just wanted to clarify, I have -- I have not seen any documents or anything about the Phase III of a hospital, which I would love to learn more about. But this 19 million represents, I think you said three different phases, right?

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, Phase I."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So this 19 million is just Phase I for the freestanding emergency room? Okay, thank you for that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So we've already been working on this and building this, and it's almost ready to go, correct? So why is this only coming up now?"

And why is this a -- I'm confused about why this is a Commissioners' action item and not a County Manager item. This -- we don't normally do that for bonds, do we?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, I've been working on it for -- you can put -- could you -- I don't care whose name --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm just trying to understand what's going on, because this is out of the ordinary."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's do this -- no, no, let's do this, let's do this, put the full Boards -- actually, put Barrett -- you don't have to put my name on it. I want it passed. We need put -- fulfill our commitment today, our 19 million to Grady Hospital. That building will be completed in probably less than 60 days. The furniture is already been ordered."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Sorry. Can you answer the first part of my question about why this is happening now, when we've already -- I'm just confused about the timing of this now, when we've already built it."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Barrett, we timed the issuance of the bonds based on the corporation's need for the resources. So they did start construction. They had resources to start the construction, and we timed the issuance around their final needs."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. But this, to Commissioner Ivory's point, this really doesn't have anything to do with Phase II or Phase III?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Definitely put my name on it, because I'm the one that declared the Healthcare State of Emergency in Fulton County. So I'm also confused as to why this is a Commissioner item and not a County Manager item. County Manager, can you answer that?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yeah, let me take responsibility for that. We were in a meeting recently, I think within the last week, now, week and a half, with Grady, talking about all three phases of this. Obviously, this is the one that's -- that's in front of us right now. It occurred to me that of all the decisions that this Board makes, and I was also thinking back over a 10-year term of myself, I think when, when I first started, there was a study done by KPMG, said there were 6,000 decisions made per year by the Board. And I think we've changed now, the approval level, so maybe it's less than that. But over that period of time, call it 50,000 decisions, two rise to the very

top, one is the jail, and the other is this potential, of not just emergency room, but ultimately a hospital. So I made the suggestion in that meeting that we make this -- make this a Board of Commissioner item, for two reasons. One is to really put an underscore in terms of how important this is. It's not just this, but it's what comes after. And then the second one, quite honestly, is to signal to Grady, while their process is undergo -- is ongoing, and I think it's very favorably positioned to move from Phase I to Phase II to Phase III, I thought it was important to signal to them. So it was my suggestion, the Chairman then agreed, but certainly, it can be changed in any way that the Board desires."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah. Because I certainly would like the opportunity, apparently so would other Commissioners, to be included in that. And so if you're going to make it a Board of Commissioners' item, then you have to email it to all of us, right? You have to let all of us know --"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- not one of us."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Understood."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Change it Board of Commissioners, put everybody's name on there. Not -- just put Board of Commissioners. You didn't even have to put my name on it. Let's vote, please. I'd appreciate your favorable vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you for your vote. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "25 --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I didn't vote for it because of you. I voted for it because it's the right thing to do."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item, Commissioner -- Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0991**, Request approval a resolution adding to the 2026 Legislative Agenda and urging of members of the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate to repeal the Living Infants and Fairness Equality Act; and for other related purposes sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Again, this is self-explanatory. We'll ask the State Legislature to repeal House Bill 481. That's the proper venue for us to have any discussions at all

about this issue. I don't want to get into the whole debate about who's for abortions and who's not for abortions. Commissioner -- Commissioner Barrett. Actually, let's get a motion on floor. I'll move approval. We have motion to approve and a second. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "With all due respect, Mr. Chairman, your decision to put this item on the agenda today is deeply disappointing. This is nothing more than a watered-down version of the resolution that I put on the agenda that you have all now effectively voted no on twice. Adding this to the agenda after failing to support my legislation shows a total lack of leadership and does a disservice to the women of Fulton County. I have been accused of campaigning every time I've put an item on this agenda since announcing that I was running for Chair. But what is this resolution other than a political move? This is just an opportunity for you to try to win back points with a version that is so watered-down and does such a disservice to the women of Fulton County who need us to speak plainly about the six-week abortion ban that is killing people in our state and in our county. They need us to shout it to the rafters, not whisper it to our lobbyist. And why are you afraid to call HB481 what it is, a six-week abortion ban. And what makes you think that as a man, your version of this resolution is better than the version written by a women -- by women across the country, with language that has been approved by women across the country? Why is your language better than the language of Congresswoman Nikema Williams? Why is it better than City Council women in Baltimore, Maryland and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania? Why is it better than state and federal elected leaders across the country who have said this plainly? Why can you not say abortion is a human right? That is what women need from us. This is so infuriating that you think a man can say better how to address this women's issue than a woman that you say it two weeks after I've said it, so you can get brownie points for saying you didn't -- you didn't vote against a woman's right to choose. You did, you did, multiple times. I'm going to support this, because I will do whatever it takes to help end this atrocious abortion ban. So I'll support it, but it's pathetic that that's where we find ourselves."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory. Just a minute. The proper venue for this is the State Legislature and not here. This takes it to the State Legislature, where it belong, where action can be taken. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I've been having to educate lately, because just people don't know what's going on. And I'm a Professor, and so it's natural for me to want to say it. In the law, a lot of times my law students will say, oh, Professor Ivory, just tell it to us in plain English, so that we can understand it. And I'm really good at that. I do it for them because I know that the law can be confusing, and so can politics, so can understanding what a Commission or a City Council or a Legislature is supposed to do, so I've been explaining it. So I'm going to just say this, really, in plain English. What

people do on this Board, especially because it's the only one I've been on, it's what I'm witnessing, is that when three people, the three people that are in the minority here, which is, Commissioner Arrington, myself, and Commissioner Barrett, want to put forward a resolution on anything like, let's say, an abortion ban, it doesn't get passed, because the four others don't want the three of us to have any wins or to advance any things that are important to us, like women, abortions, veterans, seniors, kids, whatever, name it. But then at the very next meeting, they'll be a copy and paste or maybe a couple changes version of what we put on and was denied weeks before. You saw it happen in Arts and Culture. You're seeing it -- you're going to see it, not on this item, but on another one coming forward down the line on this agenda. I don't know why we behave this way. We all think that -- we Demo -- we all believe that the abortion ban is hurting women. So let's just all put our names on it and pass it. Why do we have to keep going back and forth with this? It's so wild, it serves no purpose, and it does nothing for you, the constituents, for trying to understand what's going on, because all we're trying to do is do good things for you. We don't believe in putting women's health in risk over this six week -- we all agree on that. But we're about -- and I'm going to, with all due respect, Mr. Chairman, of course, I'm going to vote on this with you. Of course, I am. I believe in it. I believed in it when Commissioner Barrett said it, and I voted yes, and I'm going to believe in it when you say it. But why? Why when I -- why when I show a picture of somebody calling me a loser in the middle of a Commission, is it, I have to prove it before it's real? I don't -- and then -- but then the politics will come in, and everybody will start playing the hands, we'll this person did -- this is really a sick way to serve. It's a sick way to serve, and it's got to change. So I'm going to always vote with you or you, or you, or you on things that line up with my values, always. And I'm going to respect when you don't vote for something that lines up with my values. And I'm going to walk away and say, okay, that didn't happen. But I'm going to be vocal about it at the same time, because it's important for people to understand what is going on here. And what is going on here is that the three of us, the four of us, we all believe that the Abortion Bill should be repealed. And so I'll -- I'm going to vote enthusiastically yes with you on that. And I voted enthusiastically yes on you, and we should have all voted enthusiastically yes together."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0993, Request approval of a resolution to amend resolution number 22-0644 and resolution number 21-0282 that created and established the Fulton County Veterans' Empowerment Commission by revising its purpose, and to establish funding for specific programming for veterans through existing Fulton County programs; and for other purposes sponsored Vice Chair Ellis and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. You have a motion to approve by Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis. Is there a second? I'll second it for discussion purposes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll be brief. Since it looks like we're losing a quorum."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We still have a quorum."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I know. Okay, we're close. And in all due respect to Commissioner Ivory's remarks, this isn't -- this isn't any sort of copycat resolution. This is what I stated up front when this was brought up originally, that I didn't think throwing out \$1 million of general funding without a plan or intentionality behind it was going to generate results. I have established track record of supporting veterans, and so in, you know, was voted for the initial, you know, creation of this particular commission, but candidly, it hasn't generated the results that were intended. And I think it needs a reframing in such a way that we can get those types of benefits to our veterans and have an impact on our veterans' community. And that's the way I approach everything I do when it comes in the context of government. So what this does is for a little bit of background, this Veterans' Commission was started in 20 -- April 21, 2021. And when it was started, the Veterans' Commission was formed as a nonprofit corporation. They were going to go out, raise money, and make grants on their own. That was how they wanted to be structured, and that was the work they were going to do. They came to us on June 16, 2022, and they said, hey, we don't think we can do that. We want to amend it, and just become an advisory body, okay? So we met -- we met, we modified that in September of 2022. Well, since their time of existence -- these are all good people, but this commission has provided this Board with zero recommendations around priorities, objectives, and policies which support the veteran population in Fulton County. So I think it needs to reframe. I think we do need to commit some degrees of funding to it, but I also think we need to reframe our focus, and that's what this resolution does. And it focuses their activities in working in conjunction with us and our staff on programs and services related to housing, Arts and Culture, Senior Services and Behavioral Health to support the veteran population. So it does, does a handful of things. And I'll numerate those real quickly. It dedicates \$250,000 of the budgeted funding for the Fulton County Community Service -- Community Services Program for housing programs which support veterans in Fulton County. And it directs our staff to structure the application process for the Community Services Program accordingly. And that's done in the

context of the existing budgeting funds that we -- budgeted funds that we have for CSP. Similar, similarly, it dedicates \$200,000 of funding from the cart, the Contract for Services Arts Program within the confines of those existed budgeted funds, which can be used to support veterans projects related to public memorials, commemorative events, or arts programming. And then it goes on to ask that Commission to work with our department staff, et cetera, focused in the areas of Behavioral Health, Senior Services and Human Resources, to do a few things, to get word out through the organizations that work with veterans, one of the things -- and I have personally worked with veterans, and one of the things that I do know is that many of them resist the opportunity to get services; work with an organization on the board where we were fishing veterans out from underneath bridges to go get housing; work with other veterans in terms of -- okay, Mr. Chair, I guess we have -- we don't have quorum anymore, so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington, you're leaving for the day?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Well, I'll finish my remarks. So link --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me, Vice Chair. Yeah, you can continue --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- we've lost our quorum for the day --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So I recognize we're not going to vote. So I'll just go on the record. And also tie in for Senior Services for things like seniors transportation an adult day, and then from the HR side, publishing -- publicizing the getting out word to veterans in our community that -- about the job opportunities within Fulton County. We've got several of those that we're looking to fill right now in a particular area that's important, that they could have a very much an impact in. And also to work with our HR team to figure out with our existing veterans in Fulton County, about should we form an Employee Resource Group? What are the types of things that we can do to strengthen Fulton County as a place that's attractive for veterans to work, so that's what that resolution is. And obviously we'll be bringing it back for consideration at the next meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. May I ask that question --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- even though we can't vote today. Again, anything dealing with money, and we're three weeks away from the '26 budget discussion, I would think would be more appropriate if there are funds involved in this."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I will say that this is budget neutral to what is proposed. The two tranches of funding would be part of the existing CSP and CFS program. So this is a budget neutral --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's a difference, okay. I'm sorry, we've lost our quorum for today. Are there other items to be discussed?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I just -- and ordinarily, I would just say we should just close. But I did have a discussion item, and a gentleman from -- gentlemen from the Tax Assessor's Office are here. They've been waiting. I think we can --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, we can hear --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- we can?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And since it's discussion, you know, this is mainly to bring forth and talk about the senior tax exemptions --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- that have been passed to help inform the public about how they can take advantage of them."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So that's -- I would ask if we could at least consider that --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sound that, Madam Clerk. And the difference is, we do -- this is a discussion item, and not one that we'll be voting on, therefore, we do not need a quorum. Would you sound it, Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes, sir. On page 16, **25-0997**, Discussion, Senior Exemptions, Property Tax Relief for Seniors sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, gentlemen, please come down."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I want thank you both for hanging out with us and waiting with us until the end. I had asked our Assessor's staff, Mr. Conley and Mr. Whitman, to come down and share with us about -- I know my office, and I suspect many of our offices have received calls about, hey, we're aware of these new senior exemptions which have passed. We're confused about what we need to do to apply for them. Are they automatic, if we haven't already? And it's generated a lot of questions. This is a positive thing. We don't want it to turn into a negative. Obviously, people voted overwhelmingly to get this passed, so they want to be able to take advantage of that. So I had asked them to kind of share with us what -- give some background about what they are, because we've got some in Atlanta that are a little bit different and outside of Atlanta. And then what, if anything, eligible folks need to do to be able to take advantage of those? So thank y'all. I think we got a small presentation to bring up too."

RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER: "Yeah. Thank you for the opportunity. And while they're pulling it up, afternoon, Chairman. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Roderick Conley, Chief Appraiser Fulton County Board of Assessors. The purpose of today's presentation is to inform taxpayers about the three new homestead exemptions that were approved by the taxpayers. It's going to be for the Fulton County School System and also the Atlanta Public School Districts. So I will step aside. I will get the subject matter expert here, Mr. Whitman. He will provide additional details as relates to the eligibility, benefits, and also the implementation of the exemptions."

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "Good afternoon, Board. I am Kevin Whitman, Deputy Chief Appraiser, responsible for our Field Book, GIS, and Homestead Division. You can go to the next slide. Just to give you kind of a basic overview here for 2026. There are three new homestead exemptions that are now available to citizens in Fulton County. The first one involving Senate Bill 330, which is particular to the Atlanta Public School System. There's also two House Bills, 777 and 776 that relate to the Fulton County School District. And I'll talk in more detail about some of these in just a moment. And then Commissioner Ellis had asked specifically about the age 70, Fulton County full-value exemption, which is actually been existing for quite some time. We'll talk about a little bit of the details of that. You can go to the next slide. Basically, what voters approved is, as I said, these three new exemptions for tax year 2026. The purpose, of course, in all three of these exemptions in particular, is to reduce school property taxes for qualifying senior homeowners. One thing we'll talk about, probably, especially you may have questions about, as the -- as Commissioner Ellis mentioned, different exemptions have different qualification rules, everyone is legislative specific. So there are certain age thresholds or possibly income limits. A couple of these have a homestead history qualification that's involved. And to answer the question directly about a new application, it is required in all cases, even if a person already has a homestead exemption, even a senior exemption, they still have to apply for these particular exemptions, because the law specifically says that these individuals shall not

have the exemption unless they formerly appeal -- I'm sorry, formerly apply and provide documentation as required. You can go to the next slide. Talking specifically about the Atlanta Public School senior exemptions, Senate Bill 330, city of Atlanta homeowners that are age 65 and up as of January the 1st, qualify for this exemption. The benefit is up to \$50,000 off of the assessed value for again, Atlanta Public School taxes, not including bonds. There is no income eligibility requirement here. One thing that's unique about this particular exemption is that APS has basically put a cap on this. So if total claims exceed the stated cap in this legislation, then all of those who qualify for the exemption that applied and qualified and it's applied that exemption amount would be reduced proportionally depending on how many apply above that. Also, what you often see, and as it relates to homestead exemptions, is that some of them are in lieu of, and others, you can actually stack with other exemptions. Senate Bill 330 actually does allow stacking with other existing APS exemptions. You can go to the next slide. This involves the two exemptions applied to Fulton County Schools, House Bill 777 and 76 -- 776. One of them, as you see, 777, is for those that are age 65 and up as of January 1, 776 applies to those that are age 70 and up. Again, there is no home income qualification here, the qualifications for both of these exemptions, with the exception of the age, of course, is exactly the same. Just as with all homestead exemptions, you have to own and occupy the property as of January 1. This one specifically says that you had to have a homestead exemption for five of the last six years within the school district in order to qualify for it. And again, it only applies to the Fulton County School portion of this. Again, no income qualification, only age related when it comes to those exemptions. You can go the next slide, please. In terms of who must file, again, seniors must apply in order to receive these benefits. They do not carry over automatically. In other words, homestead exemptions are not related to one another in that fashion. Each one must be applied for and qualified for. And I'll talk a little bit more about that in the next portion here in times of how to file. And the way we operate, there is no special separate form for particular exemptions. Our system is designed with the idea that nobody knows necessarily all of the exemptions that they may qualify for when they apply. So we receive all of their information and then provide for them the homestead exemptions, all of the homestead exemptions that are applicable to them and that they qualify for. In the case of these exemptions, of course, if they have existing exemptions, they're not re-qualifying for other exemptions. We're simply adding these new exemptions as is applicable. People can file online at Fultonassessor.org under the exemptions tab. They can also file in person. We have six locations throughout the county where citizens can access and file manually if they like. Mailing is still an option. We don't get a whole lot of response through that medium, but it is available, and we have forms and instructions available on our website as well. And as far as when to file, you can file now. The way Georgia law works is you essentially have from April the 2nd, in this example of 2025 until April 1st of 2026 to apply and qualify for exemptions or tax year 2026. Now 2025, a new law came into play that also allows

taxpayers to file during the 45-day appeal period. And if they file a qualify that exemption would be applied for the current year if they applied during the appeal period. Next slide. This is kind of going to age, the age 70 Fulton County full-value exemption that Commissioner Ellis was asking about. Like I said, this is not new, but just for clarity on how it operates, whereas these other exemptions that are new for 2026 that we have discussed, apply to the school systems, this actually applies to Fulton County operating taxes and bonds and some special service districts. Who qualifies, Fulton County homeowners who are age 70 plus or disabled on or before January 1. That's specifically the way that legislation is written. And there is an income qualification along with, the household income has to be equal to or less than the maximum social security benefit for a married couple, as defined by federal law. Again, this does not apply to school taxes. This applies to Fulton County operating taxes, primarily. Again, an application, income documentation is required. Almost every homestead exemption, with the exception of maybe one, auto renews with that same exemption, as long as nothing changes and eligibility is maintained. But if there is some other exemption they are seeking, they do have to apply. Next slide. These exemptions, of course, are designed to provide meaningful tax relief for seniors. As a Tax Assessor's Office, our priority is to help owner -- homeowners understand what they qualify for and how to apply. And I will take some questions. But if you want to go to the next slide, of course, just for those that are viewing or may review this later, this is all of our contact information, our locations throughout the county, our phone number. And again, our website, online portal Fulton -- portal on Fultonassessor.org. Under the exemptions tab, there is a online homestead guide that outlines all of the exemptions that are available in Fulton County. There's information available to help you for whichever route you choose to file, whether it's online, whether it's in person, or whether it's through the mail. But that's what things are looking like as of now for these 2026 exemptions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excellent."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Ms. Whitman and Mr. Conley. I just had a couple of quick questions if you don't mind. I'll try to -- try to be brief. On the -- when you go to apply for that form, is it clear? Like, okay, hey, I know I got a homestead exemption. I know I also applied for, you know, I think in Fulton County Schools there was an extra, like, 10,000 or something before. Is it clear, like, what am I -- what I need to submit in order to qualify?"

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So they'll understand that once they're in there?"

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "Absolutely. Yes, sir, yeah, that's very important. And you made some good observations as well to the web blurb that we put on the --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right."

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "-- front. We did make that language make a little bit more sense --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "-- in terms of those particular exemptions. When you go to our exemptions tab on that web page itself, it identifies the any documentation that you need to supply in order to -- for your application to be approved. Also, there are links on that website, on that particular web page that give a step-by-step how to go through this in terms of not only utilizing the online portal, but uploading the documents that are necessary. The way it works in real life, of course, is whenever we receive these applications, if there is documentation that is missing that's essential for them to qualify for a certain homestead exemption, we have the ability to reply to them through our smart file online portal identify exactly what documentation, et cetera that is needed, and again, allow them to provide that documentation to us. So we've done -- and I thank Jessica and her team as well, Jessica Corbitt and her team as well, for helping us along these lines to try to ensure that taxpayers understand not only what's available, but how to access these exemptions for their particular property."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. And then two other quick questions. The -- they can't auto -- they don't automatically qualify, and the reason for that is, it's our read, the way the state law is written, it requires application?"

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "Every exemption that I'm aware of local or at the state level, says that the taxpayer shall not receive this particular exemption, whichever one that writing is under, except they file an application."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "And so, you know, oftentimes, I think there's this idea that you would just graduate from one to the other as you reach certain milestones, for instance, age. But the law specifies that they have to apply. It is often viewed as a negative, because in this example, seniors are having to apply again."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right."

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "But it also provides an opportunity, because they may provide us income information, other information that maybe we don't have that would allow them or allow us to grant them an exemption for which they're not

receiving the benefit of yet for which they actually do qualify. So it's not a restriction in that sense, it's an opportunity for them to qualify, not only for these new exemptions, but maybe even other exemptions that they're -- they're not currently receiving."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So Vice Chair, may I follow up on that?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, yeah, yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So what you're saying is, no matter what you have currently, you must apply for this?"

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "For these new exemptions, yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm sorry. I didn't -- I wasn't looking at the queue."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "That's fine. So thank you for this. It helps me. I was trying to explain this the other day to somebody. I had to do a bunch of research, so this is really great. Thank you. I think the -- where it falls in the cracks, like everything always has, somewhere that, if -- is that right there, that it takes an action for a senior to be able to get this. And so many seniors are able -- either unable to make it to one of the centers or are unable to sort of have the wherewithal to get it done, or to have somebody help them get it done. And so that's always the place where we hear from constituents that they didn't -- they didn't file, or they didn't come down and get the exemptions. And so that's always the place where I'm trying to figure out how we can help people that don't have that information or just are unable to come down and file."

KEVIN WHITMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF, BOA: "And that is one of the benefits of the new law that now allows taxpayers to file within the 45-day appeal period. Previously, that wasn't available to them. So if, then, now, if they miss the April 1 deadline, and they get their assessment notice, and there's an indication that either there is no homestead exemption applied, or maybe they're receiving a homestead exemption, but not one of these new ones, they do have that additional 45-days to apply. And so they can take advantage of that for current year. So I very much hear what you're saying, and appreciate that. We try to make every effort to ensure that people are aware of all the avenues that they have in order to apply."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "One last question. How are we -- and you all have a lot of stuff to do in terms of what your staff and just service and people coming and all that. We want to make sure we're publicizing this and getting the word out, right? Sort of, what is -- how we work it and to sort of coordinate our effort to -- and I believe we put some stuff out via our social media and that sort of stuff. But if you could speak to that,

or I don't know, I know Jessica, you've been working with them too, if you could speak to that, how we're doing that, and how we can we support that."

RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER: "Absolutely. And as Mr. Whitman said, thank you for your feedback. And yes, we have been working closely with Jessica and her team in order to get that message out. We updated our web, some messaging on our website, but also included some links for some -- a flyer and also some frequently asked questions. We are open to those town hall meetings that we traditionally do every year, whether it's virtual or in person, so we can have that more face-to-face interaction with those taxpayers. But last, we'll be working with Jessica and her team as it relates to some direct mailers so people can clearly understand and get the message."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, all right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excellent. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you so much."

RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you very much. Sorry you had to wait so long, but that -- glad you did. Any other items that come before us that would not require a vote?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No further items, then we are adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.