

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

June 26, 2024

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: August 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts

10:01 a.m.

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

PRESENT

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

PRESENT

Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)

PRESENT

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

PRESENT

Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)

PRESENT

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

PRESENT

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (District 6)

PRESENT

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA**24-0407 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)**

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

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

Absent: Hall, and Arrington

24-0408 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Hattie Dorsey Remembrance Day."

(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts)

June 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Edith Primm Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

June 13, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "NATAS Southeast Appreciation Day." **(Hall/Arrington)**

June 15, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Brown's Mill Women's Golf Association Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**

June 20, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Linzy Scott, III Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

June 20, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Wylma Long Blanding Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**

June 24, 2024

Open & Responsible Government**24-0409 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to close out a contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 20ITB126371C-CG Towing and Wrecker Services for County Fleet in the amount not to exceed \$8,118.00 with S&W Services of Atlanta Inc. (Atlanta, GA), for final payment for services rendered in January 2024 through March 2024 for towing and wrecker services for Fulton County fleet vehicles. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0410 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between Fulton County, Georgia and the Better Future Project, Inc., d/b/a Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (“CREW”) for the purpose of supporting the Resilience Hub at the Metropolitan Library. Effective for 5 years. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0411 Finance

Ratification of May 2024 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0412 Finance

Request approval of a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County, Georgia, approving an amendment to the Fulton County Defined Contribution Plan to permit participation by Judges of the State Court of Fulton County in accordance with State Law and to update the Plan for certain required law changes in accordance with the Federal Law, Secure Act 2.0 and authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners or his/her designee to execute the amendment. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**24-0413 Community Development**

Request approval of a statewide contract, Community Development, SWC 99999-SPD-0000136-008, Temporary Staffing Services in an amount not to exceed \$122,730.60 with Corporate Temps 2000 (Norcross, GA) to continue temporary staffing services for the Department of Community Development. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0414 Public Works

Request approval of a Service Account Agreement Letter - Department of Public Works, Drinking Water Laboratory, and Related Services Account Agreement Letter in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 from the State of Georgia / DNR - Environmental Protection Division (EPD) (Atlanta, GA), to provide drinking water laboratory and related services for the contract period effective from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0415 Public Works

Request approval of a Resolution approving a form temporary right of entry agreement and related documents for the Department of Public Works to use to enter onto private property to determine the composition of water service lines; delegating to the Director of the Department of Public Works the authority to execute the temporary right of entry agreements and related documents on behalf of Fulton County; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the temporary right of entry agreement and related documents as to form prior to execution; requiring the Director of Public Works to spread such executed documents on the minutes of a Board of Commissioners Meeting; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0416 Public Works

Request approval of an amendment to the existing Agreement for Cooperative Technical Assistance and Intergovernmental Cost Sharing among the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the City of Atlanta, the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission, Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, DeKalb County and Gwinnett County to extend the time to negotiate and approve a renewed agreement. If approved, the existing Agreement would now expire on December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Infrastructure and Economic Development**24-0417 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 68 square feet to Fulton County, Georgia, from New Urban Development Johns Creek, GA, LLC, owner, for the purpose of constructing the Dutch Bros Coffee Shop Project at 9630 Medlock Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30097. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0418 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 51,704 square feet to Fulton County, Georgia, from Ayesha Afsar Faruqi, a/k/a Ayesha A. Faruqi, an individual, for the purpose of constructing the Charlotte Drive Development Project at 1010 Rida Street, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0419 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution approving two (2) easement agreements between Fulton County, Georgia ("Grantor") and the Georgia Power Company ("Grantee") to allow the Georgia Power Company to trim trees and install and maintain guy poles, guy wires, and anchors on County-owned property near the Sandy Springs Branch Library; to authorize the Chairman to execute the easement agreements and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the easement agreements and related documents as to form; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0420 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 33,583 square feet to Fulton County, Georgia, from AIO DB Boulder, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the ATL5 Data Center Project at 0 Bakers Ferry Road SW, South Fulton, Georgia 30336. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0421 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 11,653.69 square feet to Fulton County, Georgia, from Venture Communities, LLC for the purpose of constructing the Palisade at Stonewall Tell Project at 0 Stonewall Tell Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30331. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0422 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, Georgia, and Brightwater Homes, LLC, for the purpose of granting conditional approval for the installation of stormwater infrastructure within a portion of the County's existing water line easement area at 0 Cox Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0423 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, Georgia and JBGL Atlanta Development 2014, LLC, for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing water line easement area at 5560 Abbotts Bridge Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0424 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, Georgia, and Moslem and Leila Eskandari for the purpose of granting conditional approval for the installation of stormwater infrastructure within a portion of the County's existing water line easement at 2385 Old Milton Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**24-0425 Medical Examiner**

Request approval to renew a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Fulton County Office of the Medical Examiner and The Department of Chemistry and Forensic Science for Savannah State University. The Department of Chemistry and Forensic Science for Savannah State University at this moment agrees to perform DNA kinship testing on an individual case-by-case basis as needed and requested by the Fulton County Medical Examiner Office on a case-by-case basis not to exceed \$15,000.00. Effective upon approval through July 30, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0426 Medical Examiner

Request approval to renew an existing contract between Fulton County, on behalf of the Medical Examiner, and Morehouse School of Medicine to provide clinical education experiences for students enrolled in the School's M.D. degree program. The County is not required to pay any compensation. Effective upon approval through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**24-0427 Board of Commissioners**

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

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to move up items #24-0311 and #24-0432 on the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Pitts, Thorne, and Ellis

Absent: Hall

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt as amended by removing item #24-0354 as requested by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; and with a super majority vote adding items #24-0450 and #24-0451. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Arrington

Absent: Hall

24-0428 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2024

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, June 5, 2024

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

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

Absent: Hall

Did Not Vote: Arrington

24-0429 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing “Art In The Paint Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington/Hall)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**24-0430 Board of Commissioners**

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

Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, whether such persons are commenting in-person, via emails or via Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed sixty (60) minutes at the 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)

20 Speakers: Solicitor General Keith Gammage (Item #24-0431); Judge Cassandra Kirk (Item #24-0431); Maurice Kenner (ORCA Employees); Jimmy Gough (Arts Funding); L.A. Pink (Elected Officials); Chief Judge Wes Tailor (Item #24-0431); Mike Russell (Item #24-0431/Elected Officials); Paul Hershey (Item #24-0446/24-0447); Angela Harris (Arts Funding); J. Wesley Day (Justice/Solicitor Office); Dave Schneider (Fulton County Jail); Kati-grace Kirby (Arts Funding); David Jones (Fulton County Jail); Judge Kenya Johnson (Item #24-0431); Janet Hill (Item #24-0446/Deed Fraud); Maria Gaudio (Registration and Elections); Erica Schneider (Fulton County Jail); Jennifer Swaine (CSP Funding/Messiah Farmer); Stephanie Owens (Arts Funding); Lisa Morchower (Arts Funding) and John Fischer (Mortgage Identify Theft)

9 Zoom Speakers: Amira Kennedy (Arts Funding); Amanda Jones (Arts Funding); Donna Watts-Nunn (Arts Funding); Julie Straw (Arts Funding); Laura Hennighausen (Arts Funding); Unknown Caller/Motorola (Arts Funding); Cathy Byrd (Arts Funding); Suzanne Gordon (Arts Funding) and Thomas Brazzle (Arts Funding)

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****24-0431 Finance**

Request approval of a Resolution setting proposed 2024 Millage Rates for the General Fund at 8.87 mills in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(A)(9); authorizing advertisement of the proposed General Fund millage rate of 8.87 mills along with the five-year millage rate history and advertisement of the dates for the required public hearings; authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to sign the Pending Appeals - For Properties Other Than Public Utilities for Tax Year 2024 to allow the Digest to be submitted to the State Department of Revenue; and Authorizing the County Attorney to petition the Superior Court of Fulton County for an order authorizing the immediate and temporary collection of 2024 taxes pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-310, if it becomes necessary. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Arrington

Abstain: Hall

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to set the proposed 2024 Millage Rates for the General Fund at 9.37. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Barrett, and Arrington

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

Abstain: Hall

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

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

Nay: Hall, and Arrington

24-0432 County Manager

Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report.
(PRESENTED/APPROVED)

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve July 5, 2024, December 26 and 27 2024 as Administrative Holidays. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0433 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB132332C-GS(A), Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Services Countywide in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 with Latham Home Sanitation Company, Inc. (Loganville, GA), to provide landfill solid waste disposal and single stream recycling services at the following County facilities; Central Warehouse, Animal Services Facility, and the Public Safety Training Center. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0434 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21RFP130049C-CG, Landfill Post Closure Services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 with Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc. (Roswell, GA), to provide the required Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Underground Storage Tank (UST) regulatory inspections for the nine (9) identified County owned UST facilities and to provide additional landfill site maintenance/repairs to the detention pond located at Morgan Falls Landfill. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0435 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to extend existing contract - Fulton County Library System, 10RFP04122K-DJ, Program Management Services for the Library Capital Improvement Program (FCLS-CIP) in the amount of \$260,783.56 with Heery/Russell - a joint venture (Atlanta, GA), comprised of CBRE Heery, Inc., and H.J. Russell and Company, Inc., to continue to provide without interruption Program Management Services for an additional four (4) month period in order to complete Phase II library renovation and expansion projects. Effective dates: July 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0436 Information Technology

Request approval of a statewide contract - Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT), SWC98000-MNS1-0000001102 GTA, Telecommunication Services in the amount of \$3,250,000.00 with AT&T Corporation, (Atlanta, GA) to provide telecommunication services and products Countywide. Effective dates: July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

24-0437 Information Technology

Request approval of a statewide contract-Information Technology, SWC98000-MNS1-0000001102 GTA, Telecommunication Services in the amount of \$932,943.50 with AT&T Corporation, (Atlanta, GA) to provide telecommunication services and products Countywide. Effective date July 1, 2024, through December 31,2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0438 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 102 (Administration), Article V (Purchases and Contracts), Division 1 (General Provisions), Section 102-351 (Definitions) and Division 3 (Source Selection and Contract Formation), Section 102-373 (Competitive Sealed Bidding) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to alter the public notice requirements for advertisements inviting responses to Fulton County solicitations to permit, but not require, such advertisements to be published in the County's legal organ; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Health and Human Services**24-0439 Senior Services**

Request approval of statewide contract - Department of Senior Services, SWC99999-SPD0000136-003A Temporary Staffing Services in an amount not to exceed \$134,288.98 with New World Employment dba Snelling (Tucker, GA), to provide staffing services to support the operation of the Department of Senior Services facilities. Effective July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

(APPROVED)

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

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0440 Community Development

Request approval of a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners to authorize the adoption and approval of the 2024 HUD Annual Action Plan to secure federal funds supporting projects and services needed by low- and moderate-income citizens. Funding is as follows: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) in the amount of \$1,254,257.00 and HOME Investment Partnership Program in the amount of \$594,880.00. A Fulton County general fund match is not required for the CDBG Program. Fulton County uses its general fund to support the required 25% match for the HOME program. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0441 Public Works

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Public Works, 24RFP140569K-DB, MS4 NPDES Permit Management Oversight and Administration in an amount not to exceed \$64,422.00 with River to Tap, Inc. (R2T) (Roswell, GA), to provide management, oversight, and administration services for the MS4 NPDES required Storm Water Management Program within the unincorporated area of Fulton County on a time and materials basis. Effective upon execution of the contract through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0442 Public Works

Request approval of a change order less than 10% - Public Works, 17RFP031617K-DJ Progressive Design/Build Services for Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Expansion Project Phase 2B in the amount of \$3,782,603.00 with Archer Western-Brown and Caldwell Joint Venture (Atlanta, GA) to cover costs associated with tariffs for equipment/material purchases and overall improvements to the project site and existing administration building and to extend the contract for an additional 30 days to the contract days to allow for completion of these items. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

24-0443 Public Works

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Public Works, 23ITB139005A-JWT, Standby Utility Pavement Patching & Paving Services in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 with the K&E Group USA, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide standby utility pavement patching and paving services. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Justice and Safety**24-0444 County Manager**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Office of County Manager, Project ORCA Program Support with Ankobia Group, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.00 to provide program support services for the County Court Backlog Reduction Plan (Project ORCA) in an effort to address the significant backlog of court cases due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Effective dates: July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**24-0354 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioner urging Municipalities located within Fulton County, Georgia to enhance safety at convenience stores by adopting Ordinances and laws mandating the use of video surveillance systems at these establishments; and for other purposes.

**(Abdur-Rahman) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 5/15/24 AND 6/5/24)
(REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS
REQUESTED BY VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN**

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**Health and Human Services****24-0311 Senior Services**

Presentation of the Senior Transportation Uber/Lyft Program Update and request approval of \$4.00 cost share per one-way trip. **(HELD ON 5/1/24) (APPROVED)**

a. 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, Hall, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, and Abdur-Rahman

b. A substitute motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Chairman Pitts, to approve with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Hall, to keep the cost at \$1.00 for 2024 and apply below recommendations for 2025:

*Permit self-attestation¹ (based on Federal Poverty Guidelines)

i. 250% FPGL and lower, seniors pay \$1 cost share per trip

ii. Above 250% FPGL, seniors pay \$4 cost share per trip

*Establish maximum of up to 8 one-way trips 1 monthly

*Implement 30 days, after Board approval and senior notification

*Serve up to 2,856 seniors monthly by end of 2024

*For 2025, serve up to 2,311 seniors monthly

i. Up to 8 one-way trips per month per senior

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Arrington

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**24-0404 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Report from CFO and Purchasing Director on implementation of Cherry Bekaert procurement recommendations. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 6/5/24) (HELD)**

24-0445 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Outstanding water bill from City of Atlanta. **(Pitts) (HELD)**

24-0446 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Options to confirm or deny allegations of a culture of corruption in Fulton County Government. **(Pitts) (HELD)**

24-0447 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: County Auditor - Review of the Registration and Elections Absentee Voting Process **(Thorne) (DISCUSSED)**

24-0448 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Update of activities of the City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority (AFCRA). **(Arrington) (HELD)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION**24-0449 Board of Commissioners**

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

PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE, SECURITY AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, Arrington, and; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; Chief Financial Officer Sharon Whitmore; Sheriff Labat; Sheriff Chief of Staff Michael Shoates; Chief Counsel to the Sheriff Amelia Joiner; Sheriff Accounting Supervisor Damichelle Hightower; Chief Operating Officer Pamela Roshell; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the requests for representation in items #1 through #5 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the request for authority to file claims contained in item #9 as discussed in Executive Session. motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve the request to engage Rosalind Rubens Newell, Karen Mills, and Eugene Fuller to serve as hearing officers for Fulton County at the rate of \$400 per hour. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

ADDED TO THE MEETING

Items Added to the Agenda

24-0450 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, 22RFP0388A-CJC (D), Fulton County Behavioral Health Network with Grady Memorial Hospital d/b/a Grady Health System (Grady) in an amount not to exceed \$9,481,532.00 to expand services to provide full-service operation and management of the new Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC). This action exercises the second of eight renewal options. Seven renewal options remain. Effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

(APPROVED)

a. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve adding item #24-0450 to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Hall, and Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve item #24-0450. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

24-0451 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), 21RFP000026A-CJC, Advancing Health Literacy Grant, in the amount of \$28,848.00, with The Black Cross, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to implement health communication strategies in underserved communities and to form, lead and facilitate a community coalition board (CCB) and develop an online Hub as a part of the US Department of Health & Human Services (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health), Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 grant. 100% grant funded. Effective upon BOC approval through September 30, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve adding item #24-0451 to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Hall, and Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve item #24-0451. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SECOND REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 26, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC
“A Court Reporting Firm”

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone and welcome to the Second Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is June 26th, 2024. It is 10:01 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: "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

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

VICE CHAIR 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 Dawkins followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.)

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0407**: 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."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Nothing, Madam Clerk? Commissioners, anything on the Consent Agenda?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. All right, motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, Second Regular Meeting Agenda: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two items requested to be added to today's agenda. First item on your add-on memo, 24-0450: Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities: Request approval to renew existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$9,481,532 to expand services to provide full-service operation and management of the new Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Mr. Manager, Dr. Roshell, what's the urgency?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "The urgency."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, ma'am."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS: "For the first item, the behavioral health contract, we have selected Grady as the operator for the behavioral health crisis center. Their contract expires on June 30th, so this is a renewal for those services. The delay in getting this contract renewal into the system is related to budget. The state approved 9.4 million; however, the Board of Commissioners approved this contract for 11.2 million. So we needed to work with the operator to realign the service structure to fall within the 9.4 million, and that took some time, sir. So this is time sensitive because the renewal will expire at the end of June."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. As you know, to add to the agenda requires a supermajority vote which is five. There are five of us here. I'll appreciate your favorable vote. Let's vote, please. Madam Clerk."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Second item to be added 24-0541: Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount -- in the amount of \$28,848 to implement health communication strategies in underserved communities; and to form, lead, and facilitate a community coalition board and develop an online hub."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So, Mr. Chairman, this item will increase the budget, or the spending authority, for Black Cross. They are our partner with the Department of Behavioral Health, to implement a federal grant. That grant expires at the end of the month; however, there is \$28,000 remaining that needs to be spent; and there are expenses that Black Cross has incurred. So this will give the department the opportunity to expend all remaining dollars from this federal grant on activities that are approved in the grant."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "24-0427, adoption --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- what page."

CLERK GRIER: "Page 6, Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have amendments to today's agenda. Commissioner Barrett has requested to move up two items to be heard before the millage rate item on page 7, 24-0432, County Manager presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What page?"

CLERK GRIER: "Page 7. And also to move up item, on page 10, 24-0311: Presentation of the Senior Transportation Uber/Lyft program update. Those items to be heard before the millage rate item, 24-0431."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'm going to request that the order of the agenda remain the same and that this millage rate item comes first as is customary and where it's placed on the agenda at this point in time. It is time sensitive that we get it out there so that the advertisement can commence; and these other two items run the risk of being particularly lengthy. The operational report, I know is 64 pages, and this

other item has generated a lot of discussion before, and we do need to take this other item up and dispense of it and I think that's why it's at the front of our agenda, and I request that we have it to continue to be in the front of the agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've requested that these two items be moved up because both of them will impact potentially our spending for this year and our potential budget for next year, depending upon how we vote and/or what we hear in the operational report, and I think it's important that we have this information before we lock in a millage rate for the year. And while I understand the, you know, the time issues, I think it's important that we give careful consideration to the millage rate we set for this year and that includes hearing this information. So I'd appreciate a favorable vote on this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is that a motion to move up? Well, are you going to make the motion to move it up? You got two different positions here."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion by Commissioner Barrett to move it up. Is there a second to move those two items up before the budget discussion? Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "And we also have an item to be removed from today's Second Regular Meeting Agenda on page 10."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "To be removed?"

CLERK GRIER: "Removed. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman has requested to remove her item. Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urging municipalities located within Fulton County to enhance safety at convenience stores by adopting ordinances and laws mandating the use of video surveillances."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's on page 10? Which item?"

CLERK GRIER: "24-0354. At the top, I believe."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't see that."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, at the top under Commissioner's Action Items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't see it, but she wants it removed?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No problem. All right. No objections. Commissioner Barrett? Okay. All right. Anything else? Madam Clerk."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioners any items?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion to amend today's agenda passes; five yeas, one nay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, please."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0428**, Ratification of minutes, Second Regular Meeting Minutes. May 15th. First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, June 5th, 2024."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "24 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- hold it. Hold it. Hold it. So those signs that are in the windows -- whoever placed those, please remove them right now; immediately. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0429**: Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. First proclamation is recognizing 'Art In The Paint Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioners Arrington and Hall."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just one?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Welcome. Good morning. Good morning. Proclamation reads as follows: WHEREAS, Art In The Paint was founded in Atlanta, Georgia in the year 2020 and has installed over 60 murals worldwide enriching communities and fostering cultural appreciation; and WHEREAS, Art In The Paint, has successfully registered over 1,000 voters thereby promoting civic engagement, and democratic participation; and WHEREAS, over 300 families have been supported through the distribution of meals demonstrating their commitment to addressing food insecurity; and WHEREAS, Art In The Paint has provided essential financial literacy education to children and young adults in Southwest, Atlanta equipping them with valuable life skills; and WHEREAS, Art In The Paint has offered art therapy in middle and high schools throughout the Metro Atlanta area supporting mental health and emotional well-being; and WHEREAS, the initiation of free-play basketball games has been a proactive step towards combating gun violence in the city. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Art In The Paint for its outstanding contributions to the community, relentless advocacy for health, education, and safety; and ongoing efforts to create positive change through art and athletics; and does hereby proclaim today, Wednesday, June 26, 2024, as 'Art In The Paint Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Let's give them a big round of applause."

RECIPIENT: "Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Page 6, Public Hearings, **24-0430**: Public Comment: Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing registering on the county's website www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 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 will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 21 speaker cards. Will the first five speakers please come forward: Keith Gammage, Chief Judge Cassandra Kirk, Chief Judge Wes Tailor, Maurice Kenner, Jimmy Gough."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. When you have -- this applies to -- under the new rules this applies to elected officials and the public: when you have two

minutes -- you have 15 seconds remaining. I'll simply say 15 seconds and that's your key to begin to conclude your remarks."

SOLICITOR KEITH GAMMAGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members this esteemed Commission, County Manager, most importantly, our citizens. My name is Keith Gammage, and I'm honored to serve and frankly freshly reelected to serve as Solicitor General here in Fulton County. It is my highest honor outside of what I do with my family. I rise to ask for your thoughtful consideration understanding the hard work already put into the operational presentation by our great County Manager, one of the best executors, I think, in our nation. I'd ask you to give great consideration to looking more closely at that Resolution. It is item 24-0431. You know, those visionaries that came before us in Atlanta and in Fulton County were similarly situated as one time as Birmingham. Coming out of the Civil Rights Movement, some people held closely to old ideals, Mr. Chairman; but there are others who look to the future. We have to build the justice system that looks to the future, and we have to make the financial investment. You all will embark to figure out how to do it, but as a leader in the court system, I can tell you those ORCA identified employees in particular, brought us through and are continuing to bring us through, and I hope they're watching; a worldwide 100-year pandemic and crises. We trained them well, they took these opportunities without certainty of full-time permanent employment, and they have advanced us. They're working right now extremely hard and diligently in our county and it will be a travesty to let them go, because if we do, we'll go back in time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SOLICITOR KEITH GAMMAGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So I ask you to give thoughtful consideration to figure out a way for us to continue to grow our budget to continue to be able to onboard and continue to keep hard working team members and employees. Senate Bill 63 in particular --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Now, sir, one more time, I've asked you about those placards, those signs. Would you remove those? Next speaker."

JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Esteemed members of the Board of Commissioners, my name is Cassandra Kirk. As a Chief Judge of our magistrate court, I stand before you today as a representative of our justice system and a voice for the 143,000 people who entrust me with their vote. It is a high responsibility to serve this community, and I'm acutely aware that I must depend on each of you to make decisions that uphold the values and principles our constituents hold dear. The recent stance taken against justice entities in a proposal to restrict elected officials from controlling their budgets raises concerns about the fundamental principles of justice and accountability. It is essential to recognize that an independent judiciary is the cornerstone of our democratic society ensuring fairness and equality and the Rule of Law. By limiting the autonomy of justice entities, we risk compromising the very foundations of our legal system and undermining the trust of our citizens. Elected

officials must be able to oversee budgets responsibly, but this oversight should not impede the administration of justice or erode the separation of powers that is essential to democracy. I urge you to consider the implications of the proposed millage rate Resolution to engage in dialogue with the justice entities to find solutions that uphold the integrity in our legal system while ensuring transparency and accountability. Thank you for your attention and commitment to serving our community."

MAURICE KENNER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chairman Pitts, and fellow Commissioners. My name is Maurice Kenner. I'm the Chief Public Defender or Circuit Public Defender. As a critical stakeholder and an equally important justice partner within the Fulton County court system, I'm here today to remind the Commission of the direct positive impact the ORCA staff has had on the Office of the Public Defender. Our office touches over 90 percent of the cases that are prosecuted by the District Attorney and the Solicitor General. Over 90 percent of the criminal calendars scheduled by judges and clerks, and over 90 percent of the inmates waiting in the Fulton County Jail. I'm here to urge you all to find a path so that we can continue to utilize the services that the ORCA employees have provided over the past three years. Much progress has been made during the dependency of the ORCA project. ORCA was created to, not only address a backlog of cases that ballooned during the COVID period, but to also prevent an additional backlog from creating itself. Our office was allotted 27 positions. Nineteen of those were attorneys, and those attorneys worked real hard to get the numbers down to help decrease the number of inmates in the jail. Also, with the new Senate Bill 63 that takes effect in a week or so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MAURICE KENNER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- thank you, sir. That takes effect in a week or so, I wanted to point out the need for the -- it's estimated, according to the district attorney as of yesterday, Senate Bill 63 will increase the number of annual inmates by 1,090 --"

CLERK GRIER: "Next five speakers: LA Pink, Mike Russell, Paul Hershey, J. Wesley Day, and Angela Harris."

JIMMY GOUGH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Is it happening? I'm Jimmy Gough, lifelong Atlanta resident. I'm the current boardman, chair boardman at the Academy Theater in Hapeville, Georgia, Atlanta's oldest professional theater company, founded 65 years ago. I founded it in 1966 as a highschooler who did know what to do with his life, imagine that. I was guided by thoughtful, intelligent people. Nobody that walked in here today, I hope, failed to miss all these pictures of these dancers on the wall up here. The most incredible things that we have are paintings in France and Spain from 20,000 years ago, deep in caves with people trying to figure out how everything works. We're in a crucial spot, you know, we just don't know what to do. We're going to kill ourselves or are we going to cooperate? I've never found any better way to cooperate than through the arts. Especially, if we want to work on race relationships, on understanding

other religious cultures. If we can approach them through the arts, it becomes a much more open-minded, noncombative way to work with others. And the first person when y'all gave that award, is there anything better for mental health and emotional health than getting kids started reading, writing, drawing, play music, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. This is the gift that keeps on giving, you know. Math doesn't just start with math. It starts with reading. It starts with understanding symbols, all of these things add up to art. So I please implore you do not slash arts funding anymore."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds, sir."

JIMMY GOUGH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Let's take it up, let's go up to higher ground, people. I can't thank you enough for giving me the time to talk. Thank you."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Good morning. Well, I come today cheerful and joyful that we have one down and two to go that sits on the Board here. So I am thankful and grateful for change is coming here in Fulton County for our Commissioner Board. Welcome, Mo Ivory to the Board. Most definitely, we are beyond thankful and grateful that the accomplishment has been conquered. We have no reason to mention other people's names because they don't exist at this point. And just like everybody else that sits on any position here at the Fulton County building for us, as a community, you have to understand, once you're gone you have no existence into our world. We won't have to mention your name. We don't have to think about you. We don't have to talk about you. You don't have to feel no type of way, because as we address you and let you know, we're after your job. We're not after you as a person. We want your J-O-B when you're not doing what you're supposed to do for our people. Ike Arrington, Dana Dana, you know, your jobs are next. So we will continue to come until you guys are gone and then we will be satisfied for real. But regardless of who is here in this Fulton County building that has a job, y'all have to understand, the Street Groomers and other organizations, we are going to see whoever's before you, after you, during you; your job, is what we are addressing. And we are going to continue, and Ike Arrington, it's so funny how you talk about that Douglasville, but here we have you taking up for a crooked judge. Oh, my goodness. How are that's going to play out --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- so we're just going to continue to come down here, continue to give y'all the real deal spiel about what's next, your J-O-B. Kingdom blessings."

JUDGE WES TAILOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "All right, good morning. Hate to follow that, but I just want to talk with y'all real quick this morning. I'm going to talk with you again later today, and I apologize for being late. I am in the middle of a jury trial. I've got jurors upstairs, but I wanted to address one of the Resolutions on your calendar today, which is the budget Resolution, or the millage rate. I understand the position y'all are in, I really do. It's got to be really, really tough to talk about taxes and what

happens, and how much the County spending versus what you're getting out of it. I get that. It's got to be really difficult. What I'm just going to do real quick this morning, is talk to you about state court. We are going to be asking for more money this coming year. I know nobody wants to hear that. I'm just going to be upfront and honest. We don't do it often. We've been the quiet little court that has just done and done and done. We give, we give, we give. Y'all know last year we took Superior Court civil cases. You know that -- or may be you don't, but the state court now hears all first appearance court cases of misdemeanors. And that's what we're doing without any change in resources for the past seven years, just about, we've been saying. I'm going to tell you that we have a study that's been commissioned from the AOC, the authors of the courts, the state, and I expect that they're going to tell y'all, that Fulton County should have somewhere between 50 and 20 state court judges, we have ten. We've had 10 since 2003, 20 years, and the same number of judges --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JUDGE WES TAILOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "That's all I'm getting? Okay. So real quick, we've got a budget of 15.6 million. That's below what even the juvenile court gets, and we've got -- we've had, and I'm just going to let you know, last year we had the most number of cases filed, 43,000 cases, our next highest --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Judge. Thank you, sir. Thank you. Thank you. Next speaker."

MIKE RUSSEL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Mike Russell, and I'm here once again to call for an investigation into the Sheriff's Office and the DA's Office. We've talked about this millage rate. When you guys passed the budget last year, you promised to do a better job of looking after our tax dollars. Why have we stopped talking about the Sheriffs' pimp mobile? That's \$200,000 that could go toward the courts. All the money that Fani Willis has wasted, that money can go towards the courts. When are we going to have an investigation? If you guys don't want to do the investigation, how about sending a letter to the governor, to the AG, to GBI? Somebody needs to investigate this. Why have we not -- why have we stopped talking about the deaths in the jail? Now this is not a black-or-white thing, this is a do the right thing, but let's just call it what it is. If Sheriff Labat and Fani Willis were white, half of Georgia would be in the streets right now protesting, but because they're black they get a pass, and that's wrong. Do the black lives that have died in that jail, do they matter? Where are the social warriors? They complain about everything else, but they are not down here to talk about the people who've died in that jail. The people who've been in that jail for up to five years have never been brought to trial. Do those lives matter? We need to do better. We need to start today. We need an investigation. We need an audit. We don't need to let this die about the Sheriffs pimp mobile. The fact that they -- that Fani Willis and the Sheriff denied the grand jury their right -- they're requirement under state law to investigate that jail; to inspect it, and they denied them that opportunity. That's against the law. Where is the investigation?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MIKE RUSSEL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- so I'm asking you once again to stand up and have a backbone to stop Fulton County from being the laughing stock of the nation and investigate the malfeasance that's happening in our County starting today."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Paul Hershey. And I'll get straight to the point. If you look at 20-0446, which is your investigation of the Clerk, it's already been proven that there is corruption in the court. So why are you bringing this up? The DOJ and the IRS sent a letter to the County and Pitts -- Mr. Chairman Pitts, you are referenced in that. So you already know it's corruption there. If you look at 20-0447, the whole Board of Elections for Fulton County has got total malfeasance in it; and this agenda here should be looked at totally, not just with the absentee ballots. You've got a DA that stymied the Grand Jury from their yearly inspection of the jail. You've got a Sheriff that ignored a subpoena that was given to him by the DA -- by the grand jury, and the bottom line is your DA didn't support it. That's a malfeasance, and should be prosecuted. You now have a County Commissioner that's asked for special consideration for a judge that was basically drunk at 3 o'clock in the morning. And if you look at the videos in the jail, it shows that. She popped a cop. He's in violations of his ethics. And if I was Chairman of this Board, I would be recessing this Board going into an executive session to make him resign or not sign the affidavit for the ethics violation as an attorney --".

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and why aren't you doing it? And the Vice Chair, if he doesn't do it, you should do it. That's your job. He is in violation of the Code of Ethics for the County of Fulton County. And everyone of you sitting up there --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir. Next speaker. Next speaker."

ANGELA HARRIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Angela Harris. I am the founder and executive artistic director of Dance Canvas. I'm also a professor of dance at Emory University, Spelman College, and Brenau University. And I'm here this morning to talk to you about the impact of Fulton County arts and culture; and to thank you for your continued support in the arts in Fulton County. The arts are an essential part of the quality of life for any community, and an investment into the arts is not only an investment into experiences, culture and identity, but it also stimulates jobs, the economy, and educational opportunities. My company Dance Canvas is in our 17th season, and has provided career development to over 200 professional artists, jobs to nearly a thousand professional dancers, reached 5,000 youth with hands-on experiences, and 30,000 community members. Besides our professional and community programs, this July we are welcoming our 15th class of DC Next Students which teaches the business side of the dance industry. Our DC Next

program has reduced three valedictorians, we have 100 percent high school graduation rate, we have two Ph.Ds. We have students that have masters in environmental science, business administration, arts administration. We have five alumni on Broadway, two program managers at Fulton County Arts and Culture throughout the years, stage manager from New York City Ballet. We create jobs. We create an investment in our community. The arts are an important and important, important resource for Fulton County. And we thank you for your continued support."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds"

ANGELA HARRIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Similar to someone who was up here earlier, I want to acknowledge Shakar Marcus's exhibit that has been on display out here, and as you exit today, please take the opportunity to think about the value of the arts in Fulton County. Thank you so much."

J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is J. Wesley Day, and hopefully you all know by now, in 2018, I was beaten. And I'm here to tell you the story of how Keith Gammage destroyed my life. Unfortunately, he's left, but I was beaten, and I have my assailants on camera. No one has been prosecuted. We know who they are. Instead, Keith Gammage dismissed one of their cases. He's on camera punching me, calling me fags and sissies. Why would Keith Gammage dismiss his case, but Keith Gammage escalated my case to a felony, and I'm showing myself as the non-aggressor. I even called the owner of the Joystick Game Bar, Johnny Martinez, to say, hey, your people are giving me problems at the door. I text him and said that as well, I still have a screenshot. I was leaving a community meeting that I was president of, which was the Atlanta Nightlife Alliance in which your mayor asked me to put together a blueprint, and he stole my idea and created the Atlanta Nightlife Task Force, but leaving that meeting I was attacked. But Natalie Hall, who is my Commissioner, lost millions of dollars for taxpayers. She has refused to meet with me, provide any type of support. She was chasing balls and stalking a man and she has no charges. Another situation where Keith Gammage ruined my life, I was just sitting at the Cheesecake Factory waiting on a hundred dollar order of food for me and my mother who I'm the caretaker of --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and the police told me I had to leave. I asked them why? I said can I go get my food? They arrest me and charged me with trespassing. I was simply waiting on food. And then Keith Gammage came, and two years later --"

CLERK GRIER: "Next speakers: Dave Schneider, Kati-grace Kirby, Janet Hill, Maria Gaudio, and David Jones."

DAVID SCHNEIDER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is David Schneider, last name, S-C-H-N-E-I-D-E-R. Reason here I came out to speak, is against the construction of this new jail, as well as echoing the brother's call just a second ago, there needs to be greater oversight, and honestly just a full-blown investigation into the way that the Sheriff here has run this jail. I have to admit, I'm appalled more and more as the stories come out, and this is something that unfortunately I really only started kind of looking into recently, but just the sheer amount of deaths that are happening in Fulton County Jail for people who are just being held waiting for trials is insane. I mean we're talking more than two dozen I've heard. More than two dozen inmates who died in custody in Fulton County Jail since January of 2022. But, you know, I'm reading about all this stuff and then seeing how the Sheriff reacts, basically saying that like well, we need a the jail. He's essentially trying to shake you all down for more money, and that's what this has been this entire time. I mean, the fact of the matter is, nobody stops the Sheriff and asks why are you arresting so many people that these facilities then are continuously overcrowded, overpopulated; more often than not, people for nonviolent offenses. You're talking about people who are essentially getting death sentences when they are arrested and held in pretrial detention. That's insane. I mean it's the kind of thing that the previous speaker, or a second ago, brought up that it is, kind like of a national disgrace. I think frankly it is. In order to address this, we're going to have to look at the ways in which the Sheriff arrests people, target certain communities and, you know, holds people in jail --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DAVID SCHNEIDER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- not just build a new facility, you know, so that they can lock up more people safely. I think that the probably clearly here is the Sheriff, and I think there needs to be greater change, and you all are going to be kind of at the start of that, by cutting him off and not building a new jail."

KATI-GRACE KIRBY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. My name is Kati-grace Kirby, and I represent the Atlanta Shakespeare Company in the heart of Atlanta on Peachtree Street. My father is a paramedic and, as I grew up, he taught me that doctors save lives, but artists make life worth living. I also saw a quote yesterday, don't tell me where your priorities are, show me where you spend your money, and I'll tell you what they are. The state of Georgia ranks 50th in the United States for arts funding, spending only 14 cents per capita to support and sustain the arts. I'm here to advocate that our representatives show us that they understand our value to the growth, wellness, and vitality of our county, city and state by voting to maintain arts spending at its current level. Seeing stories performed in genders empathy and compassion for fellow travelers from different life experiences and backgrounds. In an increasingly divided world, where signs are taken at an instant and all or nothing thinking permeates our rhetoric and social media engagement. I would offer that calls for a greater empathy and tolerance are needed now more than ever. The Atlanta Shakespeare Company is just one of many theaters in town, but we alone have reached 36,197 patrons from 46 states, 19 countries and 91 Georgia counties in just this year alone. And our education

department reaches an additional 11,000 including offering artists and residency programming for children who are or have experienced homelessness through the Boyce L. Ansley School and the Atlanta Children Day Center. Atlanta Theaters create brave and bold work that challenge audiences; bring them into community with one another, which after the isolation wrought by Covid-19, it's now needed more than ever, and provide a balm for their soul and delight for their --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KATI-GRACE KIRBY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- your support ensures that our businesses can provide affordable access points and keep arts available to all Atlantans, not just the financially privileged. I ask you today to support Atlanta arts and artists. Thank you for your time."

DAVID JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "How are y'all doing? My name is David Jones; I'm a member of the Atlanta Alliance Against Racism and Political Oppression. Just some background on the group we're founded in 1973 to free Angela Davis and the Black Panthers. When about two dozen cities, mostly fighting against police crimes and mass incarceration. With emphasis towards like releasing torture victims, people who have been forced into false confessions. That said, here in Atlanta, we're doing a lot of work around the jails. Like many before me, I'm also opposed to 2 billion-dollar jail. You know, Rice Street has its issues, and we know for a fact that building a new jail is not going to fix any of those issues. If we want to call the issue overcrowding, we need to attack that issue. If we want to call the issue lack of medical care, we need to attack that. But particularly on overcrowding, if we want to solve that issue we need to start making real paths to do such a thing, whether that be a compassionate release program to let those who are sick and elderly get out, rather than dying in that jail. Yeah. And I want to uplift two people, Gavin Jackson, a 24-year-old, who died in 2023, and Malaysia Osborne, a 28-year-old who died in 2022. They were both in that jail less than a week when they died of seizures. Everybody knows that a seizure generally is not a fatal thing. The survival rate on a seizure is like pretty high -- I'm sorry, I'm trying to watch my mouth. The survival rate on a seizure is pretty high. There's no reason for those people to have died of a seizure. Malaysia specifically, she was epileptic. I'm sure that they knew that information, and she was not being given the care that she needed to make sure that she survived. This was --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- all right, 15 seconds."

DAVID JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- yeah, you know, meaning that for the weak, it's shameful that those people died and, you know, as a County, we must do better. And the start is not building that new jail, but actually making sure we can get those people out so they get medical help that they need and so that people stop dying for no reason. Thank you."

JUDGE KENYA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning to the Board of Commission. My name is Judge Kenya Johnson with probate court and I'm joined by my deputy, Deputy Chief Clerk, Robert Cunningham. The court wants to bring to the Commission's attention that probate court has made great strides in the last few years with your help. We want to thank you for that. Probate court is directing the services that we issue are paramount to the lives of our citizens when they lose a loved one or they have difficult life circumstances. Our wait times, prior to my administration, were exorbitant and more than any other county in this state. Since we were able to receive temporary funding and personnel, which we have since lost, we've made great strides, but now we are at risk of going back to pre-pandemic delays and lack of resources. Fulton County has done a comparison -- I have done a comparison of our metro Atlanta -- metro counties, and have found that Fulton County is the least resourced per hour volume. Fulton County population has grown, which means the demand for probate services has grown, and we are asking that this Commission employ whatever measures to appropriately fund our court so that we can be the leaders in our area that we are and that we can serve our customers with timely services. This Court has submitted a soundings request for additional funding to resolve our legal matters and our hearings that we hold. Right now, it's taking six months for contested estates and contested guardianships to be heard. We need additional judges, we need an additional attorney, and we need additional clerks to replace the clerks that we are losing as a result of the temporary funding. So we ask that you consider our midyear soundings request and our ultimate budget request and do what needs to be done to provide probate court with a resource --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JUDGE KENYA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- so that we can continue to move the citizens of Fulton County forward. Thank you for all that you've done thus far, and all that you will do for our citizens and for probate court."

CLERK GRIER: "Last six speakers in Assembly Hall: Erica Schneider, Jennifer Swaine, Stephanie Owens, Lisa Morchower, Josh Milton, and John Fisher."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm here in support of agenda item 24- -- 24-04-06, regarding the climate of corruption. So thank you very much for the Council -- or Commissioners for putting that agenda item together. I'm here probably now six or seven times, specifically regarding deed fraud in Fulton County. Crimes are being committed and boldly admitted using Fulton County resources on Fulton County property with assistance from Fulton County Associates. More specifically, this has been known to Fulton County for some time. Most recently, at a town Hall meeting, April 11th 2024, when Che Alexander, Clerk of the Courts, stated that there is a deed fraud crises. Additionally, Judge Cassandra Kirk has been notified by the Department of Justice through an IRS whistleblower representative last year, and again over the last three weeks regarding deed fraud. In addition to that, multiple Fulton County Commissioners and the court judges are aware of fraudulent notaries, power of

attorneys, and fraudulent deeds. Additionally, Fulton County residents are similarly situated --"

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

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- as other parties in other parts of the country that have been arrested through the Department of Justice. I respectfully demand an expeditious Resolution to deed fraud."

MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Maria Gaudio, Fulton County. I'm also wanting to speak regarding the culture of corruption, but more specifically with regard to what happened yesterday where the Fulton County attorneys moved to destroy the 2020 election ballots after there have been eight rulings by the judges to preserve these ballots. You know, the IRS holds your records more than ten years. They can go back more than ten years. The Social Security Administration holds your records all your life. In this state, we have professional individuals who have to hold their records seven, ten, or indefinite number of years per their licensure here; but yet, they're trying to get rid of our ballots, which is our property. When Sherman came down to Atlanta, when the northern invasion occurred in 1864, the first place the northern armies destroyed were all the courthouse records on their path to Atlanta. They were interested in stealing land, much like the deep fraud going on here now, but a little more in a sophisticated way. But our ballots, we are still not -- we're still not resolved on the 2020 issue. It is still in court. It has been said that there is no room to hold the ballots. Now we have this huge facility down in Fairburn now, which I have seen, and even when it's full of all of the equipment and they're back behind chain-link fences, there's enough space to hold a football game. It's just a blank space."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Well, we have plenty of time, and we have plenty of room to hold the ballots until we figure it all out. Thank you."

ERICA SCHNEIDER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, Commissioners. My name is Erica Schneider, and I'm from the Atlanta Alliance Against Racism and Political Oppression. As my friend, David, shared, we were founded in the '70 to free Angela Davis and the Black Panthers and do work around mass incarceration and police crimes. My goal here today is to build a relationship with you all to improve public health and safety. My speaker card has my information if you're interested in reaching out. Our organization works in different Atlanta communities, particularly on the Southwest side, and you may have received postcards from our supporters who oppose the build of a new jail. I want to thank you specifically, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, for your office responding to our request for a meeting, and we look forward to meeting with you and working with you. Specifically today, I want to not only oppose the new jail, but offer a solution for improving the current one. Overcrowding and understaffing can be resolved by giving compassionate release to those with medical conditions. I know you do not have

unilateral power to execute something like that, but you do have power over the budget, and like my husband shared, I think it's time to cut the budget for the Sheriff's office and provide them with a reason to stop arresting people needlessly. And I know you also have relationships with the DA and you can provide some support for them for doing compassionate release. I want to close by remembering Noni Batiste Cosoga, a 19 - year-old, who died of toxicity of her prescribed medications for her mental health condition. She was only 19 and was in jail for nonviolent crime of trespassing. With the remainder of my time, I want to take a moment of silence for Noni in the hopes that the medical negligence in your jail that killed her doesn't hurt anyone else. Thank you"

JENNIFER SWAINE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Jennifer Swaine, the Executive Director for Youth Spark, the nonprofit that's based inside of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, and I'm here today to thank you y'all for your community services program and the grants that you provided to our organization. Today, more than ever before, we recognize that young people in our community need programs that they can access before residential care becomes necessary. I'd like to also thank Commissioner Arrington for your support in recognizing Youth Spark for our 25 years of service early this year. I'd like to thank you, Commissioner Khadijah, for your work in raising awareness, not only during Human Traffic Awareness Month, throughout the year and for partnering with our organization. I also want to thank you, Commissioner Thorne, for visiting with us and learning about the work that we do inside of Juvenile Court. Right now, we've made tremendous strides in the human trafficking world and how we are able to intervene in the lives of children, but one of the things that we recognize is that we have to close the gap of young people who are missing at the time of referrals. Like now, I have 18 young people that are out of home. We are providing the partnership with Fulton County Juvenile Court to make sure we not only reach those young people, but that we are able to intervene with the services. And while you all provide the grant to us, I wanted you to hear from one of our recipients today, Miss Messiah."

MESSIAH FARMER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Messiah Farmer. I am a member of the Youth Spark Program. I started when I was 13 years old. I am now 17 and I am now a youth leader at the program. I just wanted to issue a thank you out to y'all for your unwavering support of us, and you see I am an example today of what the grant goes toward. I'm here today speaking in front of you all. So thank you for your time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

JENNIFER SWAINE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you again. And I will yield the rest of my time so that we can hold space for those 18 young people, and I thank Chief Judge Renato Turner for her leadership at juvenile court and for the unique public-private partnership to do this work. Thank you."

STEPHANIE OWENS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Stephanie Owens and I serve as the executive director for National Black Arts Festival. NBAF is a proud legacy partner of Fulton County, and we're grateful to the Board of Commissioners and the Fulton County Arts and Culture for your support. And we are in our 36th year providing programming for Fulton County citizens. And it's through your support that we continue to make an impact. This year alone, we've served over a hundred artists, provided grants as presentation opportunities. We've supported 20 business owners through economic opportunities in our programs, and we served over 7500 Fulton County citizens and exposing them to diverse arts programming. According to the arts economic calculator, we've contributed \$1.6 million in contribution for Fulton County, so we're continuing to make a significant impact, and we couldn't do this without you all and your support. Thank you for your commitment to the arts here in Fulton County. Because of your leadership, we are seeing more unity and collaboration in the arts. We're very excited about the possibilities, and we look forward to continuing to watch that grow, and as you continue to protect arts funding here, and that enriches the citizens' lives here in Fulton County, so thank you very much."

LISA MORCHOWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Lisa Morchower. I'm an attorney, and I know several of you from my work as an attorney, but I'm here today for a different reason. I serve on the Roswell Arts Fund Advisory Board, and arts has always been very important to me and to my family. I have two daughters who are in the arts. One of my daughters have a BFA in musical theater from a well-known university in Virginia, and my other daughter just graduated from Birmingham Southern College with a bachelor of fine arts in studio art. So art has always been a part of my life. In fact, I used to be an attorney for the City of Atlanta, and when I first started there, my first job was to sign grants to local artists and theaters so that they had funding for their various projects. And I was so happy to do that, because of my love for the arts. It is imperative that this Body, which has generously supported the arts in the past, continue to do so. Taking any action that would negatively impact the arts would hurt the Roswell Arts Fund for sure and all the other people who have spoken ahead of me have so eloquently told you the reasons why funding the arts is so important, and especially in Fulton County. The Roswell Arts Fund uses the portion of its budget that it gets from Fulton County to fund local art, local artists, local theater, and local musicians. We put on a concert -- well, we put on several concerts, but one of them, ones we've just starting doing is the Jazz Festival, and it's been a wonderful -- wonderful concert for lots of people to enjoy. And we put on concerts at the City Hall building and in various spots around Roswell, and we also have local artists submit art for posting around Roswell. We've got a --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LISA MORCHOWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- we have a project for where artists have been selected to put art on various structures around the Roswell. It's a beautiful thing. So to lose the funding and to even cut it by any dollar figure would gravely impact, not just children, but the whole citizenship of Fulton County. So thank you very much."

JOHN FISHER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is John Fisher, Georgia Coalition for Fair Housing Justice. I am also a member of the president's financial fraud enforcement task force. And this task force is a collaboration between the FBI Atlanta's offices, the Office of the Attorney General in the Northern District of Georgia in connection with the presidential established force to wage an aggressive coordinated and proactive effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. With more than 20 federal agencies, 94 United States Attorney's offices, state and local partners, it is the broadest coalition of law enforcement investigatory and regulatory agencies that were established to combat fraud. What we deal with is mortgage identity theft, which is a federal crime. And what we've been able to do is we have one particular interest in more than anything we got. We've got thousands and thousands of documents of houses that are basically being stolen. We have an individual that lives in Fulton County, house was foreclosed on 34 times, and it never shows up on the foreclosure list. That's impossible to be done. She was put out of her house for no reason although her house does not qualify. But the deal is what we're dealing with is this, foreclosure auction fraud in Georgia remains a focus of the FBI investigation of federal prosecutors with antitrust division of the United States Department of Justice. We go after everybody; judges, clerks, everything; filing documents and everything in the process. I didn't just start doing this overnight; I've been at this since 2009 when Obama was in office, okay, in the process. We have thousands and thousands of cases of fraud. It's not just going on in the state of Georgia, but all over the United States. They are literally stealing the houses and the document, but we found ways to combat these things. I want to thank you today for giving me this opportunity to talk about this. I've also been in front of the City Council in City of Atlanta --"

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

JOHN FISHER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- so anyway, thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board we have 11 speakers on Zoom."

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

IMARA CANADY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Sorry. I just wanted to make sure that you all could hear me, okay. It is great to be with you via Zoom. Forgive my not being able to physically be there. I'm actually in Jacksonville, Florida and was quite pleased to have dinner with some folks here in Jacksonville that one of the subjects that we were talking about was the vibrant arts community that existed all across Fulton County; some folks that had just recently left there, so that got me very excited as we talk about the support that has existed, and will hopefully continue to exist by this group of leaders. As others have said yes, you have some tremendous challenges ahead of you, and as we all said you (inaudible) is that you

make the right decisions for all of Fulton County. But what I could say to you as was exhibited by the proclamation that we started off with this morning, when you maintain arts funding at the level that it's currently at, if not more, you are not only addressing the issues of entertainment value in the county, but you are also addressing many issues that proactively address some of our community issues, you know, whether it's youth violence; whether you know it's been needs for therapy and mental health awareness. You know, Lisa spoke on some of the other things that art speaks to and proactively addresses. So we just ask you to, as you address the challenges that you have around the millage rate and so many other challenges that you not let the arts be at the chopping block. And, Commissioner Ellis, I just want to say I was so pleased to hear your conversation with my colleague on the Arts Council to talk about how we can look at ways of increasing funding to the arts organizations in North Fulton County and we are actively doing that in looking at creative ways that we ensure that within Fulton County that we are finding art and culture --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

IMARA CANADY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- at the level that it needs to be and ensuring that -- thank you, that this is a culturally vibrant community and that only happens with your continued leadership. Thank you so much for your leadership, and remember, arts start with A, we know that you will continue to support. God bless."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Amanda Jones."

AMANDA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, esteemed Members of the Board of Commissioners. My name is Amanda Jones, Director of Development for the Johns Creek Arts Center where we are proud to be a legacy partner. The art center is grateful to the Board for ensuring that high-quality arts programming remains accessible. North Fulton is experiencing tremendous growth with hundreds of new families moving to this area. The Johns Creek Art Center is blessed to serve these families. With this population growth, we have outgrown our current facility and ancillary spaces we have rented due to increased demand for arts programming. This summer we now have over a thousand youth in our summer camp program, and we have waitlist for camp and for many of our classes. We served over 10,000 participants through all combined programs last year. As North Fulton continues to grow, so will the need for quality arts education, enrichment, and arts and wellness initiatives. We are so grateful to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners for their continued support of the Johns Creek Arts Center and for keeping the arts accessible in North Fulton and throughout the County. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak from a Motorola. Excuse me. The next person to speak is Donna Watts."

DONNA WATTS-NUNN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Donna Watts-Nunn, the managing director at the Hammonds House Museum, and a

proud -- we are a proud legacy partner as well. And I know we've stated already that, you know, the state of Georgia is (inaudible.) the arts funding, but I want to applaud you for being the first and the highest, you know, supporter of arts, of funding arts in the county and as well as the state. We have been proud recipients of your support, and for the first time in the three years that I've been managing director, I actually have been able to hire part-time staff and we're fully staffed, and we're able now to provide, expand our programming, and expand our partnerships. We're super excited about being able to work with poets, musicians, as well as visual artists in our building, and provide training, you know, for all ages or for people and classes of all ages, and this is a result of your continued support. So I implore you, I applaud you for your continued and very stellar support of the arts. It is the lifeblood of this town and lifeblood of this state, and as we get ready for things like people in 2026, this will give us an opportunity to plan and be prepared for that, and to be, you know, proud representatives of the state of Georgia. So again, thank you, Commissioners. Please keep the arts as top of mind. It's very important for us all, and allows us to be diverse and to reach out to everyone in the community and to do us all real well. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Julie Straw."

JULIE STRAW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. This is Julie with Executive Director of Reimagine. We are an education and workforce development organization for the arts and creative media industries. Now operating in our tenth year in Metro Atlanta and across the state, we have also been proud recipients of support from Fulton County. Thank you so much for supporting the arts, and our programming directly employees local youth. We work in partnership with other nonprofits and with youth at the promise centers in different afterschool and in-school enrichment. We've seen that the arts improves the local economy, empathy grows the culture and it really does help prepare our youth for being able to tell their stories; to be able to grow in confidence, and be a strong member of the community. Thank you so much for your support for our nonprofit; and I just want to encourage the Commissioners to continue to support the arts, to continue to value the work of the different community members. And we appreciate your support for continuing to support the arts. Thank you so much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Waduda Muhammad. Waduda Muhammad."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Laura Hennighausen."

LAURA HENNIGHAUSEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, Commissioners. I am working with Purpose Possible as the director of strategic philanthropy, and I also am leading a group of 17 different arts organizations in the Metro area known as the Metro Atlanta Arts Collaborative. And we wanted to, again, as many of my colleagues here have done

already today, thank you for your support for arts and culture in Fulton County. It's incredibly needed, and has been stated, we are 50th in the nation for arts funding, and so our organizations really count on support from Fulton County. I also wanted to mention that just weeks ago, Mecklenburg County in North Carolina, approved a budget of \$10 million for the arts. And so, I think that it's imperative if we want to remain competitive and offer support to our arts organizations, all of the people they employ and all the people they support, that we do not cut anything that would affect our arts funding. Thank you very much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is again, Waduda Muhammad. Waduda Muhammad. Okay, the next person to speak comes from a Motorola Moto G."

MELISSA GOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

MELISSA GOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. My name is Melissa Gow. I live at Clark Road in the city of South Fulton. I'm demanding that an investigation be conducted and charges placed on Steven Meldrin-Knight who works for Knight Construction in Conyers, Georgia along with his associate Christy Tilly as well as Clayton County Deputy, Jamaal Hunter and his wife, Ashley. Their friends, Rodney and Ellie Browning, Courtney Elyse Collins of Peachtree City, and Jim and Brenda Wheeler of Fairburn, Georgia, for unlawful surveillance, organized stalking, criminal harassment and attempted murder due to their anti-Asian racist hate. I also demand a federal investigation to the Fulton County Solicitor's Office for the malicious prosecution of my husband, denying us a trial which it would have shown probable cause, which there was none. Fulton County -- the City of South Fulton County police have willfully violated our constitutional right and stole our property as a means of government sanctioned oppression against myself and my family. I want it investigated because I e-mailed every single city official in the City of South Fulton in Fulton County. I e-mailed AG Carr, I e-mailed Governor Kemp, and no one has addressed our attackers or made any (inaudible) for the extreme danger that we were placed at in our own home. How can people be constantly attacked at their home and nobody says anything? Georgia is not fit for families. It is not a place of safety, because there is no law and order. The based and immoral, this state is only fit for dogs due solely to corruption and illogical leadership. You are all unfit for authority, and it will be taken away."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Abigail Justman. Abigail Justman. And the next person to speak is Cathy Byrd. Cathy Byrd."

CATHY BYRD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi there. This is Cathy Byrd. I am the former director of the Gallery at Georgia State University, and we were very fortunate to have support for the years that I served as Director there from the Fulton County Arts

Commission, and I really want to encourage you to continue supporting the arts in Atlanta and as a leader in the state. Thank you very much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Suzanne Gordon. Suzanne Gordon -- the next person to speak, Suzanne Gordon."

SUZANNE GORDON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Can I be heard?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, ma'am."

SUZANNE GORDON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. I'm an administrative assistant with (inaudible) Company, and I wanted to speak on the behalf of the Arts in Fulton County, and it is important, not only to the County but also to educational areas, the vibrancy that it brings to the County and also just to, from my view, is the importance of arts with mental health and so many other areas. I ask that the County, that the Commissioners continue to support Fulton County Arts and Culture, so that we may continue to keep arts alive for Fulton County. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Thomas Brazzle. Thomas Brazzle."

THOMAS BRAZZLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, sir."

THOMAS BRAZZLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. I'm Thomas Brazzle, I'm the managing director of Out Of Hand Theater. I just wanted to thank you so much for the support over the years for our organization. We've been able to do a lot of programming in Fulton County with our creative kids program, Shows and Homes, as well as well as our Equitable Dinners. We've just seen how communities have gathered together, been able to have vital conversations around race at our events, how students have been able to increase their competency and their love for the arts, and lead to more graduation rates as well through our program. We just find that the arts is so vital to this community and has been vital to the work that we do. And we just want to thank you so much for the support, but also the support you've given to all the other organizations that we've been able to work with here in the arts community. It is such a vital important piece of what we do here for all these arts organizations, as you've heard today. So we just wanted to again thank you, but also, ask for your continued support as we continue to move forward together to make a more vibrant community for all. So thank you so much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The last to speak is Donna Watts-Nunn. Donna Watts-Nunn. With that being said, that concludes our Zoom public comment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, one hour exactly. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, County Manager's Items Under Open and Responsible Government: **24-0431**, Finance: Request approval of a Resolution setting proposed 2024 Millage Rates for the General Fund at 8.87 mils authorizing advertisement of the proposed General Fund Millage Rate, advertisement of the dates for the required public hearings, authorizing the Chairman to sign the pending appeals, and authorizing the County Attorney to petition the Superior Court of Fulton County for an order authorizing the immediate and temporary collection of 2024 taxes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Mr. Manager, Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. We do have a brief presentation on the millage rate recommendation itself. And as part of the package that was submitted to the Board, we included an update from the Chief Appraiser on the 2024 digest. He is here today as well to present that information to the Board and take any questions. Mr. Chairman, if it's, okay, what I would like to do is allow Hakeem to walk us through his brief presentation on our recommendation, and then ask Mr. Conley to present his information."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Today, we are starting the process of setting the millage rate that will support the coming year's budget. In January, we presented a budget to the Board and was adopted at that time; and the budget that was adopted was prepared with several assumptions including the following: next slide, please. At that time, when we prepared the budget and it was adopted, we assumed that the billable growth rate in the digest would be at 7 percent level from new growth or reassessment. This billable growth rate is supposed to be the rate after all the exemptions were taken into consideration. Those exemptions include the homestead exemption and also the tax allocation district exemption. We also assume that we're going to have a 96 percent collection rate. And then the millage rate would be set at a flat level to generate sufficient revenue or adjust our standing level to ensure a balanced budget. And the recommended millage rate at the time was 8.87 mils. In actuality, a gross digest grew by a 6.35 percent over last year. Last year was 109.6 and this year it is 16.6 billion. So what that means is the billable growth rate is lower than the 7 percent that we assumed at the beginning of the year. The TAD billing was estimated to increase at \$8.8 million. This is an increase of 16.8 percent over last year. We have \$52 million for TAD billing last year, and this year, we're estimating that we're going to have \$61.3 million. And then the appeal value for 2023 was \$35.6 million. Because the appeals are still ongoing and is not supposed to end until August, so we grew the appeal amount by 6.35 percent, which is a digest growth rate. So the new appeal amount, a number that we used to prepare the estimated that you know, you're going to be considering today is \$37.9 million. So what does all of this do to the numbers? The statutory rollback rate, which, you know, what we're going to advertise in order to stay at

a no-tax increase level; and the rollback rate is now the rate that's supposed to generate the same level of revenue in the current year as in the prior year, which was 2023. That rate is 8.55 mils. And it is projected to generate 96 percent collection level, \$649.9 million. If you pay that against the revenue that, you know, we used, at the time that, you know, the budget was adopted, that amount was 687.9 million, and that is a -- that would give us a projected shortfall of \$38 million. The difference between that -- I mean, the percentage difference on that is 75.52 percent. And then at this rollback rate, each percentage change in the amount is equal to 6.7 million; and then at 96 percent collection rate, each mil equals \$76 million. The rate that we're recommending which is 8.87 mils is higher than the rollback rate of 8.55 by 3.74 percent. It would generate a total of \$675.6 million at a 96 percent collection level. And that amount is lower than the \$687.9 million in the budget by \$12.3 million which equals to 1.8 percent reduction. Each percentage change in the collection rate for this -- at this 8.87 mils is \$7 million; and then at a 96 percent collection rate, each mil equals \$76 million. Next slide, please. So at the rates that we're recommending, which is the 8.87 mils, we are proposing to do the following in an effort for us to ensure that, you know, the budget remains balanced for 2024. We can definitely tighten our belt and institute some level of spending control measures, which includes control of the -- or elimination of use of salary savings for the remainder of the year. No reallocation of funds to any department as part of FY24 mid-year budget review process, which really -- once the budget is adopted, this is a project that, you know, I don't think the County should be engaging, of course, you know, it is up to the County and to the Board of Commissioners to decide on, you know, what to do, but you know what, that process does to us is, you know, it makes it difficult for us to be able to determine what level of end-of-the-year balance, you know, we're going to have. And it will influence what the following year's budget, you know, will look like as well. And then also consider using any savings from current year's elections budget to cover projected shortfall from the cyber attack incident. Consider increasing premium to the risk-management fund, which is a fund that, you know, we're using to support the cyber attack incident for any amount that our insurance doesn't cover; and then freeze new spending in FY 2025 and review nonrecurring items in the FY 2024 budget to determine whether they are critical to the operations of the County and they're unavoidable. So the next slide, please. I'm going to provide you the next steps that we'll need to use in order for us to have the rates approved and then, you know, present the information to the Tax Commissioner for billing. If you approve what we've proposed today, then July 3rd, we'll be able to have the millage rate and five-year tax levy ad published in AJC on the County website. And then July 10th, we are proposing that we have two hearings. One in the morning as part of our regular BOC meeting, and then the other one would be in the afternoon. And the reason for this is, you know, what I mentioned before, once a rate adopted rollback rate of 8.55 mils is proposed by the County, it is considered to be a tax increase. Albeit it's simply attaching to what we have now, which is what we consider to be a flat rate. So the 6:00 p.m. meeting would be considered as a special called meeting. Then July 30th will be the last date to advertise final public hearing date in order for us to have the final public hearing on the 7th. And then the last date to submit an appeal on property assessment is August 2nd. That is all I have on the actual millage rate that we are proposing and let me know if you

have any questions, we'll be able to -- we are ready to entertain unless, Chairman, I'm not sure if Mr. Conley is supposed to come before we start taking questions or should we take questions on this?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: Mr. Chairman, if it's, okay, we'd like to go ahead and bring Mr. Conley down to provide his update and then we'll take questions collectively."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Where is he? Is he here?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "He is. He's present. He's coming down. Thank you."

RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER, FC BOARD OF ASSESSORS: "Good morning, Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, and Commissioners. My name is Roderick Conley. I serve as the Fulton County Chief Appraiser. I am here this morning to offer you just a brief summary of the 2024 digest. Next slide, please. Overall, the market indicates, as Hakeem has already suggested, a 6 percent increase year-over-year. In 2023, it was \$274 billion as compared to 2024 increasing to \$291 billion. Next slide, please. Looking at it from a residential viewpoint, the market indicates a 7 percent increase going from a \$157 billion in 2023, to a \$169 billion in 2024. Next slide, please. When you look at it from an average residential sales prices starting from 2021 at four-year look, you will see in 2021, the average sale price was about \$450,000, for residential homes, and in 2024, an increase to almost \$600,000. Next slide, please. Commercially, the market indicated a 5 percent increase going from 84 million -- \$84 billion in 2023, to \$89 billion in 2024. Next slide, please. The County averages about 2,000 to 2,500 new parcels annually. From 2023 to 2024, that was about a 350 partial difference. The market has shown signs of slowing by way only of the number of transactions. As you can see, residential transfers decreased about 6,300 of transfers' year-over-year from '23 to 2024. As the staff had an opportunity to review and validate those sales, ultimately they ended with 13,750 sales in order to indicate the market. Commercial transfers did increase a little over a thousand; however, after staff reviewed those sales, they ultimately ended with 269 that indicated the market. Homestead filings followed the trend of residential transfers and resulted in a decrease of almost 800 homestead filings for the year. Next slide, please. So lastly, the internal sales ratio did meet all statistical standards set forth by the Department of Revenue. I wanted to reiterate with Hakeem as he kind of already mentioned, that notices were mailed on June 18th of this year. The expected deadline for appeals would be August the 2nd. Although, we're still early in the process, just too kind of give you an indication how appeals are tracking, as of this date, we have about a little over 500 appeals that have been filed versus 750 at this time last year. That's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, as Hakeem indicated we're, you know, we're prepared to take any questions that the Board may have regarding either the information that Mr. Conley presented or the proposed millage rate recommendation for 2024."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Stay where you are, Mr. Conley. Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. I'm a little confused by this recommendation, Mr. Manager, Madam CFO. Can we go back to the first page of the slide? So it appears -- let me get you all to confirm some things for me. At this millage rate, there'd be a 12 million dollar deficit?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "At the 8.87, we would be short against our revenue anticipation by 12.3 million."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Would that give us any money to make any of the ORCA partners permanent?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, sir, it doesn't. It doesn't provide resources to support additional recurring expenses."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Would that give us the money to process the 60,000 cases the state court is expected to handle this year?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "If in doing that, it required additional resources for state court on a recurring basis; my answer would be the same, no, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Would that give us enough money to refurbish the jail -- to start to refurbish the jail?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We have \$10 million in our expense budget for 2024 that was intended to support a debt issuance related to the design for a new jail. Those resources could be used to support a debt issuance for jail refurbishment, so we would already have the resources in the budget and built into our recurring expense view."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Would it be enough money to help -- well, let me -- let me ask a different question. What was the recommended -- what was your team's recommendation for the millage rate last year?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "It was -- if I'm not mistaken, I believe it was little over 9 mils. However, it wasn't a recommendation, it was something that, you know, we discussed with the Board, and then the Board indicated to us that, you know,

we would rather stay flat at 8.87 mills. Commissioner Arrington, if you may recall, you know, we had about two or three different BOC meetings that we made presentation to the Board in order to gauge your feeling and then, you know, get approval for what we should recommend for 2024, and at the end, the Board indicated for us to remain at 8.87 mills."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That was for last year's millage rate, right?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "After last year's millage rate was approved and then, you know, between the time that, you know, that millage rate was approved and then, you know, we presented the 2024 budget in November. We had a hearing. We made a presentation on our long-term multiyear budget view and, at the end, the Board indicated for us to remain at the 8.87 mills, which is what we recommended."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So back to my question, the recommendation for last year was nine point something millage rate? That's what you started out saying."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yeah, we started -- we started with that, you know, that's what we came to the Board with, I mean."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And it was nine what?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "I've got to go back and take a look. I'll look for the presentation and I'll be able to tell you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm not going to be able to support this recommendation. I think it is reckless. I think it denies reality. I think it denies the justice partners that came in here and told us that they're going to need money, we had the Chief Judge of the state court coming here and say that they went from 30,000 cases in '22, to 43,000 last year and that they're on pace to have 60,000 cases this year. We heard the Chief Judge of the state court state that they currently have ten judges, and that is the same number of judges that they've had since 2003. And he anticipates that they actually need 15 to 20 judges to operate. Now that's just the state court. We have magistrate court, we have state court, we have superior court, we have juvenile court, we have probate court, and all of the justice partners including the district attorney, the solicitor general are all saying that they need to make the ORCA positions permanent. Frankly, I'm disappointed at this recommendation. I'm disappointed that this recommendation would come forward despite knowing that we need to refurbish, or build a new jail; despite knowing that all of the justice partners are asking for additional resources and to make the ORCA money -- to make the ORCA positions permanent. So I'm disappointed that -- because I think his recommendation is not realistic. God bless you. I don't think that it -- it also would have to eliminate use of salary savings for the remainder of this year. They've been using salary savings to get by. They've been

using that to make additional hires and try to help retain people. Eliminate request for departmental reallocation of funds as part of the midyear budget process. We've been telling people all year they can come back at midyear budget, and now we want to eliminate this? I'm just not in a position to be able to support this. It's just -- it's illogical to recommend this and, frankly, I think we rely on you all to make recommendations not based on what you think we want to do, but based on our needs, based on the needs of our departments and our elected officials. I think you do the people of Fulton County a disservice when you present a recommendation because you think it's the one that Board will be okay with, or that the Board will adopt. I think you're supposed to present a recommendation that provides the resources that are needed for all of the departments regardless of whether the Board likes that recommendation or not. It's very disappointing to receive this recommendation that would have us starting out with \$12 million in the deficit knowing that we've got so many needs from so many different departments and agencies. We heard from them this morning. They came down here. So, not the first time I've been disappointed. I guess it won't be the last; but, I'm not going to be able to support this recommendation. It's illogical and is not based in reality. And I almost want to make another motion, but I'm going to wait to let people talk before doing that. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Well, I want to thank you for making what I feel is a tremendously sound recommendation to us. In fact, the only thing that I've heard illogical were some of the statements that were just made by my colleague. This is a pretty simple straightforward piece here, right? We adopted a budget which had the presumption of a flat millage rate; is that correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So what's before us is a flat millage rate, and what you've shown us on the screen is the impact of that flat millage rate relative to the revenue budget that we adopted as part of the budget, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. It reflects the impact on the revenue anticipated in the budget."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. And that's roughly 12 million, if 8.87 were the approved millage rate?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, and based on all the stated assumptions regarding the TAD, the amount of billings that get pulled out for the TAD allocation districts and the impact of the appeals."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right. So to listen to some of the comments, you would think that we were going to about need to shut down County government. When in

reality, what we're talking about with that 12 million-dollar number is 1.36 percent of our overall revenue budget of 844 million; 1.36 -- 1.36 percent. Okay? I think that's a highly manageable number to work within. And in addition to that, of this 12 million -- I mean, we know that where there is a 9.4 and we're going to hear this later, that there's 9.5 million in interest we earn from ARPA that will flow to the general fund, which potentially could be applied. So, you know, if that were the case, a pretty negligible change. And we also know that we tend to underrun our budget significantly each year and based upon the projections that are noted within the operational report that continues to be the case. So, you know, it's a sound recommendation based upon the budget we adopted, based upon the current spending patterns, and based upon our past history. It's also a sound recommendation, based upon the fact that our residents are not going to bear any form of millage rate increase. We've heard that consistently and we'll hear it again. So this is the maximum that they're going to be willing to entertain, and it's in line with what we've recommended. Yes, we had some people that would show up and make, you know, kind of appealing comments and that sort of stuff, but we're not adopting the 2025 budget today. We're just -- we just -- we're voting to advertise a maximum millage rate that we will later approve. When we get into discussions relative to the 2025 budget, possibly there's some folks that have some cases where it makes sense to modify their budgets and increase them. Possibly there are some groups where they're not performing as they should, where they don't really justify what their current spend is and the money should be reallocated. That's what a budgetary process is about. This is not the budgetary process today. This is about setting the millage rate that will allow us to fund 2024 operations and align with the budget that we approved; and it's sound, and I hope that everyone up here will support this as the maximum amount in which we're going to advertise today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to start by walking through the timeline a little bit, if I may. Could you explain, either Hakeem I guess, or Sharon, why the time frame is the way it is and why we have to make this decision today? I feel like last year we did not even start talking about this until the July meeting. And, today, this was so urgent that we couldn't even push this back to discussion items -- we couldn't even push it back an hour or two in June. Whereas last year, I don't believe we even started this discussion until mid July, so I'm confused by what the urgency is here."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We are working on a total digest preparation time frame that would allow tax bills to go out as close to our normal billing date of August 15th as possible. Even within this -- and, Hakeem, you may need to correct or not correct me, but fill in what the expected -- even with this schedule, what the expected billing timeframe is for this year's tax bills off of the schedule."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Are you talking about when the tax commissioner are going to be sending the bill? It's going to be around that mid-September to end of September."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So the longer it takes to get through the millage rate setting process then it means the bills get delayed. The majority of our revenue comes from property taxes. Our cash flow depends on the receipt of property taxes. We've issued our tax anticipation note already this year, based upon an expectation that we would see our tax proceeds start coming in, in the October, November timeframe. So this is the schedule really centers around trying to meet and provide the Tax Commissioner with all of the information that he needs in order to generate tax bills and get them out as early as possible. So the Assessors Office, I believe this year, did an outstanding job considering we had to work on all of this through the middle of the cyber incident. So the reason why it's -- it may seem rushed is we receive this information last Tuesday afternoon. We had a holiday, and we worked, you know, trying to get our recommendation prepared and to make the Board's agenda without needing to bring it on as an add-on item. We've also coordinated with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution around meeting the advertisement requirements, and also planned around all of the Board's regular meeting dates rather than, with the exception of the one legally required evening public hearing, which is also on a regularly scheduled Board meeting day, without the need to necessarily ask you all to hold a series of special call meetings in order to meet all of the advertising requirements and public hearings requirements to get through the full millage rate setting process. So that is, you know why it may seem a little rushed this year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. I got that, basically, I think. There was a lot you put out there, but I thought I heard Hakeem say in that answer that the bills don't go out until -- you said August, I believe, and he said September."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I said we were trying to build a schedule that would allow us to get bills out as close as possible to our, what we'd consider our normal billing time frame, which is mid August. But even -- even with this schedule -- that's why I asked Hakeem to confirm -- even with the schedule that seems rushed, we still would be looking at -- potentially looking at a mid-September time frame, and we are only one of many taxing jurisdictions that have to go through this process and provide their information back to the Tax Commissioner in order for those bills to be generated."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I guess, what I'm wondering is, if we're really looking at September, if we were to have those -- if we were to shift this all back one meeting, how badly would that impact things, because it sounds like it wouldn't impact it that much if we were shift it back to the two meetings in August versus the July and August meetings."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "It could affect the collection rate, you know, because now then you're pushing the due date to later in the year and, you know, as soon as you start doing your collection, more you will be able to collect in the year. But if you delay the collection of the due date, then it, definitely, could impact, you know, what that collection rate would be, so instead of us having 96 percent, we might end with 92 percent. As a matter of fact, if you talk to Dr. Ferdinand, even with the data we have here, you know, he'd probably say to us, that you know rather using 96 we should be using 94 percent collection rate, but, you know, we're counting on him, you know, something that's not he has been able to do in the past to get this 96 percent rate at, you know, this time schedule that, you know, we have provided to you full consideration."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. I appreciate the explanation. I think, you know, this idea that we're having to rush this this morning and talk about a first without talking about some of the other important things on the agenda, before talking about this is -- I just can't believe that a couple of hours is going to make that much different in this process, but, okay. The reason I'm asking about why it's so rushed is because it feels to me like there is information that we don't fully have at this moment to make this decision. I also think it needs to be clear that whatever -- if we vote on a Resolution today with a millage rate in it, whatever that millage rate is the max that we can do for this year without starting the whole process over again; is that correct."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes, Commissioner."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, that's correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "On the other hand, if we were to increase the rate that we voted on today, we could come down from that, so we could vote on a higher rate today to give ourselves some room to understand what some of the unknowns are at this moment, and we could still come back to 8.87 two meetings from now when we take the final vote, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, Commissioner, that's correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So, you know, I'd like to just present that as a possibility as we're thinking through this. Voting for a higher number today does not lock us into a higher number, but voting for this lower number today, locks us in, to not being able to go higher. So, you know, I think that just needs to be considered as we talk about some of these unknowns, and by unknowns in particular, there are a couple things that I'm thinking about. And so, I'll just ask this as a question, though I've talked about it with you before, and I think I have a pretty good sense of this, but just for clarification, Madam CFO, we still don't have the total dollar amount that we will need to spend out of the general fund to -- possibly out of the general fund, I guess, to cover some of the unexpected costs from the cyber attack; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "That's correct. We're still working through the insurance claim process so there may be some costs that are not covered that we would need to find the resources for."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And so, we know at this point from what you explained to me yesterday and the day before, that we have, I think about 2.6 million was the number that we know for sure that we're going to have to pay on that front; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Based on coverage limitations, yes, that's my understanding, yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So it could be anywhere from, and again, from our conversation, 2.6 that we for sure have, on up to, what's the top number there? Is it 7, is it 9? What's the top?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yeah, it could be anywhere from the 2.7 to 5 or so. I mean it really will depend on whether items are approved or not. And also there are perhaps some additional costs that would be related to the changes that we've made that are really future costs that we're still trying to figure out if we will have to bear those this year to support next year, as we have historically had to do, pay in advance, or if those will be pushed into next year. So we still are uncertain on that piece as well."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So there's some additional spending over that two to seven and it may be a million that we still have to spend this year. So even if you put that part aside, and you just take the, you know, let's call it three million for easier math, potential spending or, you know, pretty much guaranteed spending that we're going to have to do with regards to the cyber attack add that to the 12.3 million deficit, we're now at 15 something million dollar deficit essentially. Have you all calculated the cost impact of dealing with SB63? And/or, if we don't spend additional money to deal with SB63, what are we looking at in terms of backlogs in the Court and longer stays in the jail, and all of those kind of things? Have we done a full evaluation of that at this point?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We have not. We've heard and had meetings with a number of the justice partners who have referenced concerns, but we have not yet actually seen any financial analysis or analysis on perhaps the impact on the population -- the daily population at the jail, so we have not -- we have not received the information and had the opportunity to make those analyses."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I have been told by some of the justice partners that we can expect a significant increase in the number of folks that I think we all know that's the whole bill, right, that would be on cash bond, and so signature bond will have to be in the jail versus not, and we'll have to -- and will impact the courts and their systems. I

think it's going be pretty detrimental if it happens, but we don't have the numbers around that yet, so we can't really predict what we're going need whether this year in soundings or next year in additional spending. I want to know -- I'll just say a thank you to Commissioner Arrington. I think you made some very good points about this being a disappointing -- and I would argue irresponsible recommendation, and Mr. County Manager, I know we talked about this yesterday and I will reiterate to you as I did yesterday, that we put you in a difficult situation as this Board, and I understand that you're sort of trying to deal with what this Board gives you; but, could you talk about sort of what brought you to the 8.7? Because my understanding is that this was sort of a -- I think this is all the Board will support and, therefore, this is the implication of that. Commissioner Arrington asked specifically about the recommendation last year of nine something, and I believe it's about 9 point -- it was about actually 9.37 actually that was recommended last year; is that correct, Hakeem?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So you've recommended higher rates before and got what response?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, I think, you know, the way we looked at it was, three very significant decisions that the Board has made, all of which had millage rate implications. If you will recall, we did a multi-meeting long-term financial planning session -- sessions with the Board and looked at what the millage rate implications were for everything that was being considered. That included extension of ORCA, which has been talked about this morning; it included the financing of a jail contemplated at the time of, I think, a billion five to a billion eight; it included additional monies for program expansion, undefined at the time, and the conclusion of that session was pretty clear that there was no appetite for an increase millage rate scenario. So then that brought -- that was a very significant decision with an enormous amount of information being provided to the Board. The second one, of course, was the presentation of 2024 budget. So we did recommend, in that budget, a different millage rate. The decision of this Body was to stay with a flat rate of 8.87, and we allocated resources then within that financial envelope, so that was the second big decision. The third one, of course, was the jail feasibility study itself. So when the RFP came forward a couple of meetings ago, and the decision was made to go in a different direction and look for alternatives as opposed to that, one of the foundational expectations was provide us back an alternative that is conditioned on a flat millage rate, 8.87. So three times over, this Board has reinforced that that was the expectation. So then as we looked at it and brought forward this one, we had one of three choices -- three logical choices. One was meet the revenue growth -- or meet the revenue implied in the budget, that was 9.025. Stay at flat millage rate, which would have been reinforced three times over, over the last nine months or so. Or consider the rollback rate of 8.55. So quite frankly, we struck the middle ground and we struck that middle ground based on having had three, again, very significant decisions made, with a lot more information than would ever be implied in this one necessarily. The traditional approach that the

Board has used is to look between now and the end-of-the-year only, when considering the millage rate. We have tried different approaches to discuss a multiyear view, and that's really never been taken up. So looking between now and the end of the year, it's a 12 million-dollar decision. It does bring up, you know, other issues but we try to outline in the memo itself what the implications were to stay at 8.87. And quite frankly, none of them are draconian. I'm not saying that people enjoy not using salary savings or anything of that nature, but there's no layoff implied. There's no elimination of programs. There's nothing that's hugely disruptive between now and the end of the year. You know, going forward, which I think was pointed out earlier in the discussion, when we get into 2025, is when, you know, actual proposals come to bear reallocation between departments or potential millage rate discussions occurring new. And I would anticipate that they may very well, because at a minimum, SB63, which as Sharon indicated, we do not have anything definitive, but I do think there has been some data put together based on an e-mail that we got from Madam DA as well as discussions with the Solicitor. I don't know what all the implications of that are on either their funding, staffing needs, and/or the jail perhaps more importantly. So that's certainly a non-sequitur. Another non-sequitur potentially is, you know, what we would project inflation to continue to be. What would we project the base growth to be? Is it slowing and if it is slowing, is that something that we need to take in account when do a 2025 budget, which will put more pressure on the revenue millage rates if we think that that trend continues downward as opposed to what has been doing over the last several years. So all that being said, I think we believe that we actually did deliver a credible recommendation given all the decisions previously made by this Board relative to the millage rate and implications if they're confined to between now and the end of 2024, which has generally been the way that this has been postured and decided on."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I hear what you're saying. And I will agree with Commissioner Ellis on this point, and I know he'll probably faint and shock that I agree with him over something. But it is true that 12 million in the grand scheme of our budget is make-upable so to speak. But again, these are some of the reasons I felt like we should hear the operations report and talk around senior rideshare. And I'll get to the rideshare thing in a minute. But one of the things Commissioner Ellis mentioned was the \$9.5 million in interest that was earned on the ARPA money that we have and how that could be applied. But the operations report has already has sort of, you know, detailed out how that 9.5 million is to be spent and it is not to go towards this sort of \$12 million shortfall that's described here. So this is another reason why I felt like we should talk about these first. There's a variety of different earmarks, if you will, for that 9.5 million that still leaves this 12 undealt with; is that correct?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am, and, of course, those are recommendations to the Board that the Board will decide on in this operation's report. So those are our recommendations, not necessarily decisions for allocations already made."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "The 9.5."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt you there, but I do think that's, you know, as an example, there are two new programs in there that are recommended for a million dollars apiece. Why would we be recommending new programs at a million dollars apiece when we're short 12 million to pay the things we already said we're going to pay for in January when we approve the budget? As a point, not to you particularly, Mr. County Manager, but just as a point to me, we have a mandate to balance our budget when we pass it in January. And, you know, by law, we have no mandate to do the same at this moment when we set the millage rate, but we should. So my perspective is just because there's not a legal mandate to continue with a millage rate that balances the budget, we still should do that. We should care enough about having a balanced budget to set the millage rate accordingly. I want to ask you something else, because you talked about the three different times when you sort of brought up potential for higher millage rate and have been shut down, so to speak. One of them, the first one I think you mentioned was the long-term strategy and, you know, one of my frustrations, I think, with not just us, but government on the whole sometimes is this year-to-year mentality that there is no long-term strategy. And I think anybody who's been operating in the business world knows that you kind of have to think long-term to really sometimes be effective. And I want to ask if we stick with this sort of idea that we are going to be at 8.87, you know, forever, which seems to be the mentality at the moment, how many more years essentially can we operate that way? Meaning I believe -- and you can correct me if I'm wrong here -- this is the second or third, or maybe next year will be the third year in which our expenses are higher than our revenue; is that accurate?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am. I think it's the -- next year will be the third. I think this is the second, if I'm correct, and I'm talking about actual expenses versus actual revenues, because we often budget more in expense than we have in revenue because we take it out of the reserve from the -- from the last year. But actual to actual, I think this would be the second year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes. So the question I think remains, how many years can we continue to move in this method or in this, you know, kind of lane of less revenue than expense? At what point does that sort of, you know, just stop working?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Give us just a second."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, while you're looking that up, I will also note that this, you know, idea that the County residents will not go higher than 8.87 is a fallacy, because the millage rate in 2016 was 10.45. The millage rate in 2017 was 10.38. The millage rate in 2018 was 10.2. Then it went down to 9.89 and then 9.78, then 9.33. So it was above 9 as recently as 2021. So it's not without precedent that we'd be over nine that we'd be in the tens, if we need to be. It's not something for you to answer, Mr.

County Manager, but just for all of us. This idea that 8.87 is this magical number that we can't go above is absurd. And the idea that our whole and only job is to keep the tax rate the same is also not accurate. We have a responsibility to perform our mandated services at the highest possible level; and we have a precedent of doing a whole host of other services, and we want to perform those at the highest possible level. So it's not about just keeping that number at 8.87, it's about finding the balance that is reasonable for our taxpayers and performing these services at the highest possible level, and to serve the most people; and to not have jails crumbling and backlogs in our courts, and six months to get your estate out of probate; and, and, and. Did I give you enough time to get the answer? No. Well, I mean, I think, you know if you took away and I'll just continue to stall a little bit here -- did you get the answer?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We're going to have to actually run that through the multiyear model and, unfortunately, the multiyear model has all of the costs associated with the construction of a new jail, so it may take us a little longer than you might be willing to stall during the Board meeting."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Fair."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "But I mean it really depends on the growth that we generate and digest value. Right now, the multiyear model is built off of, I believe, the 5 percent growth. So we would have to think whether or not that's going to continue. We use 70 million, I believe, this year of fund balance to balance this year's budget. So if you assume that, you know growth stays at what we've projected and we aren't growing our expenses exponentially, we could probably get by another couple of years drawing our fund balance down and then that would be problematic for some other reasons like liquidity and things like that. But we will need some time to actually run it through the model and give you a real answer."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. But the -- but the long and short of it is it's not sustainable forever. There's some point at which this no longer is sustainable."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Not with continuing the plans that we have -- we have in motion now, or trying to meet the needs of anyone who came forward today to speak."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "On that front, let me just go back because there's two sections in this recommendation memo that you all sent out on June 20th. The first is the impact on 2024 with three bullet points. They say tighten our belt, the first one said for 2024; tighten our belt and institute spending control measures including elimination of use of salary savings for the remainder of 2024. So let's talk about that for a moment. It's my understanding that you've already gotten some indication, if not a direct request, from some of the departments that they were planning to use their salary savings or would like to use their salary savings, for example. I believe you mentioned that the Sheriff had used up all his overtime budget; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "What I stated was that he had mentioned in a meeting that he had exhausted his overtime resources; and I said that typically we would look to his salary savings to, you know, cover his overtime needs. I have not had the chance to validate that back through the budget office, but that was a statement that he made in one of our sessions when he was saying that he was planning to come to the Board for some ask as well."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And we heard from the probate court that they had some additional requests. I don't know if they were planning to do salary savings or how they wanted to go about those for budget soundings or whatever it was. But essentially if the Sheriff has no more overtime money, he cannot use salary savings based on this. If we approve 8.87, he cannot use salary savings to pay any additional overtime. So that means no more overtime at the jail effective essentially immediately; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "As I think I've said this previously, the salary savings that we were really talking about is where they were looking to take their salary savings and use them for equipment purchases or to move to the capital fund to do some office renovation or, you know, to use for something that is not or wasn't, I guess funded, in the budget originally. So if the Sheriff came with the request for the use of salary savings we would validate what he has available in salary savings. If it was for over time, we would likely approve that over time funding request using his salary savings. If he came forward and asked to use those salary savings to, you know, purchase some more vehicles or something, we may not approve that, at this point."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. But that's not what your memo says. Your memo says elimination of use of salary savings for the remainder of the year for 2024. So either it is that or it isn't that. You know, if we're going to go forward with this, I would ask that you all provide a very clear set of directions for all of the departments so that everybody understands exactly what, you know, quote spending control measures are being implemented because it sounds like they're going to be effective immediately; and it is, you know, not appropriate to willy-nilly decide well, this person can use their salary savings and this person cannot. Either we have a clear policy or we don't. That is frustrating to me, but moving on. You also say in the second bullet here: eliminate request for departmental reallocation of funds as part of midyear budget review process. Have you had requests for those? What does that mean? Who will not get what if that moves forward?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Many of the discussions that we have had with -- and most of them have been elected officials, constitutional officers, they are asking for funds either to replace the ORCA positions that will not be funded into the future, or in state court when we met with Judge Tailor and Solicitor Gammage, I understood that that was really a '25 request for a new judgeship from state court,

because it would need to go through a legislative process. So the requests that are coming through when we talk about reallocation of funding, it would be for things that during the budget process that didn't get funded initially that we said we would take a look at those at midyear, it would be for requests that are coming in potentially for budget soundings where they're asking for money to be added in this year's budget where those requests exceed the amount of resources that we have available in our soundings contingency and would require us to pull money from somewhere else in order to fund. So those are the things that that particular bullet point is referencing."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And then last but not least, you talk about sort of yet another unknown, I believe, which is the current year's elections budget and talking about if there's sort of some money there that we didn't spend for the various, I guess, primaries that have already occurred and/or if there's some money that doesn't get spent during the General that we would be able potentially use that money to cover the shortfall. When do you expect to have that amount?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We've had two election cycles -- well, three now. I did reach out to their financial person. She does not yet have all of the information that she needs to close out the expenses for the first two cycles that the one just occurred, so it's probably going to be at least another two to four weeks before we have all of the invoices from the first two cycles to close those out. Of course, savings from those cycles first will have to go to fund and reserve for a potential runoff election in December, because we did not fund that as part of the elections' budget. And then anything beyond that potentially would be available to address any overages on the cyber incident."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But at this point, you don't have even a ball park?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I don't have any numbers come in."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I want to say one last sort of -- or make one last sort of point, which is that it has been said by Commissioner Ellis that this is not setting the budget for next year. This is not about the budget for next year. We shouldn't be talking about that. That said, I'm going to respectfully disagree because this memo again that was sent out on June 20th says that this -- whatever millage rate we set today, this 8.87, this max number that we set today or whatever we vote on, I guess, ultimately, which according to Commissioner Ellis can't be anything other than 8.87, is what the next years' budget will be developed on, and it will also assume a lower growth rate, which means we would be looking potentially at, you know, more expenses for next year and less money to handle them. And I'm just going to read what the memo says here, Impact on 2025: Consider increasing the premiums to the risk management fund in 2025, which has remained the same in the last few years and replenish funds after cyber attacks. So we're talking about adding some money there. And it says more importantly, freeze new spending in fiscal year 2025 and review nonrecurring items in

the fiscal 2024 budget to determine which of them are critical to the operations of the County and unavoidable. This was also mentioned in Hakeem's presentation. So my first question is do we have a list of all nonrecurring items that are not critical to the operations of the County and unavoidable? Do we know what this is?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Sharon you want to say something?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We have the list of items that were funded as part of the '24 budget that were identified as being nonrecurring. Those are the items that we would need to go through to determine whether or not it's critical for the operation of the County into 2025."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "When will the Commissioners and the public get this list?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, we -- that is something that we do routinely as a part of the budget development process. So as we are working through the 2025 budget, we will be reviewing those items. The budget staff currently is going through the exercise of reconciling and balancing what will become the pace for 2025, for each of the departments. So when they have completed that exercise and the executive team has had the opportunity to review the list of items that were removed out of the '24, you know, budget and not carried forward to the '25 budget, which probably won't be ready for another couple of weeks coming out of -- out of the budget office. That's when we'll have the list to take -- to take a look at."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, but you can give me some examples now of what you would be talking about. Are we talking about arts funding?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "If there were additional resources added in the '24 budget that were not reoccurring, yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I think we know there were, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So we're talking about arts funding. Are we talking -- and then by the way, that's why all the arts people were here because they're concerned that they will not get the level of funding they got last year from Fulton County. Are we talking about community service funding, grants?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "If there were additional resources added, yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Then we know in fact that there were, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Do we have money for CSP? I don't think we added anything for CSP this year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So those are all recurring is that what you're saying?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "They're built in as recurring expenses."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. But we're certainly talking about all of the add-ons that typically happen -- the enhancement requests that happen at the end for budgeting, as you're shaking your head, Mr. County Manager. So yeah, freezing the spending and reviewing all nonrecurring items in the budget is potentially pretty impactful; agreed?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, potentially. Depending on what the new spending requests are."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And we're still not aware of exactly what the impact of SB63 is going to be. We haven't taken into consideration, as I think you mentioned, Mr. County Manager, inflation, additional costs, contracts that are going up, things of that nature, correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So we would be in a very tight budget situation in 2025 if we go into it with this is our assumptive rate, correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Everyone else is chatting, so thank you. All right. Well, I understand that that doesn't lock us in today, but I do think it's a very bad start to our planning for 2025. I cannot support this for the rest of this year. I think we need to allow our justice departments to use their salary savings and I, you know, would feel better setting a rate that balances the budget and meets what we appropriated in January of 2024."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So, now Commissioners, I've been pretty lenient with the talking time today because we're talking about setting a millage rate. So a ceiling for the millage rate, so let's be mindful."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Oh now, let's be mindful."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Am I going to get some sticky notes over here in three minutes, two minutes, Commissioner Thorne?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, ma'am, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Oh, my goodness. That was a long -- okay, can I see slide number 4 up there? I think it's slide number 4. That's not it. The one with residential sales prices by year. It was in the auditor's -- that one. That one. Yeah. Gosh, we're living in a horrible time, the worst economy in a long time. Inflation is skyrocketing. We have reckless government spending that drove up interest rates because the only way you're going to bring down inflation is to raise interest rates and everybody knew that right off the bat when we just went ahead and spent money. So if we look here at the average residential home price, almost \$600,000 now. I have four kids in their 20s. They're all trying to get on their feet. They're all trying to buy their own home. We're making Fulton County unaffordable. Are we doing a disservice to the people of Fulton County by let's just tax and spend, because we think we need money. Let's not tighten our belts. Let's just tax and spend. Tax and spend. You look at those prices, it's \$600,000, for the average home in Fulton County. You look at adding on all the taxes on that \$600,000; you look at the costs of financing a home adding on to those prices. My kids are choosing not to buy in Fulton County. They're looking elsewhere just -- you know, they have jobs where they can work anywhere, and it's sad. I have residents that are moving across McGinnis Ferry Road to Forsyth County because the taxes are so dang high here. Are we doing a disservice to the people of Fulton County by saying we don't want to tighten our belts. We just want to provide the best services ever. We want to do a \$1.68 billion jail because we want our justice partners to have the best, the most that they can have. We've got to consider what the people of Fulton County are feeling right now. We can't just tax-and-spend and accommodate everybody and everything. We've got to look at what we're doing. Now, as far as arts, did we defund the actual grant money when we added on the arts department? Because that's a reoccurring amount of grants that goes in. Is that a recurring expense?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We have a portion of the funds for contracts for services and arts that is recurring and has been recurring."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So all those people coming down here, most of them, we still have the same amount of money. We increased areas like 250 for Fulton Films, stuff like that, correct? Those were the add-ons? Are do you know, Dr. Roshell?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS: "There were no add-ons to my knowledge. So the legacy partners, those have been recurring for several years. So we funded all of the legacy partners, and we also funded all of the contract for services that we've previously funded. Some of the misconception regarding the reduction in funding was because we previously used ARPA dollars to increase some of the areas of funding in CSP as well as arts. And so, also through a contract, an enhancement, so in a previous

year, there was an enhancement in the arts during the project process. That enhancement wasn't renewed, but the base funding was."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Thank you. And I look at home values. In my area, home values were assessed 20 to 25 percent. People are calling me, how can this be in a single year, 20-25 percent? Mr. Conley, I don't know if you can give us specific changes in digest for certain districts if you have that capability or not."

RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER, FC BOARD OF ASSESSORS: "I do have some of that information. May I ask, what taxing jurisdiction you would be inquiring about?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Whatever you have would be great. If you -- you know, were there's certain areas that assessed values increased dramatically compared to other areas, or was it pretty much standard across the board?"

RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER, FC BOARD OF ASSESSORS: "In comparison percentage change, it was pretty standard across-the-board. Fulton County, Fulton County Schools was also 6 percent; Atlanta, 6 percent; Atlanta School, 6 percent; Alpharetta 5. Once we get to some of the anomalies is Chattahoochee Hills was 15 percent. This is, of course, four exemptions. College Park was 19, East point was 9, Hapeville was 18, John's Creek 5, Milton 8, Mountain Park 2, and Palmetto 33, were probably the main anomalies."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Appreciate that. You know I just generally feel I would love to roll back the rate to 8.55. I would love to alleviate the tax burden on the people of Fulton County. I'd love it so that our young people -- there are people entering the housing market for the first time can have affordable homes. I would love it that my kids would choose to want to live in Fulton County. But at the rate we're going, I mean, when we were setting the budget, 16 million was added into the budget. Fortunately it didn't pass. Fortunately we tightened our belts. Everyone thought we couldn't make it through, but we found a way of making it through. I think we can find a way of making through. I look at this TAD, the TAD billings, the estimated increase from 8.8 -- increase of 8.8 million. That's an increase of 16.8 percent that the TADs are getting more money put in. I think we need to possibly look there. If they are getting such an increase in the money that they can spend and we are having a decrease in the money that we can spend, I think what 90 percent of the TADs are in the city of Atlanta, so it doesn't really benefit the entire Fulton County. So I think that's an area we should look at. I think there's ways we can tighten our belts. I just hope we would look at that, and I hope we try to relieve the burden on the citizens of Fulton County and do them a service of looking at it. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it? All right, Commissioner Arrington. I'm sorry. No, Commissioner -- Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And I was in the queue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, I'm sorry. I didn't see you up there."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Thank you. I'm trying to understand, how do we freeze new spending in fiscal year 2025 and propose two new \$1 million programs at the same time. How is that possible?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Arrington, the two programs are being proposed in the ARPA fund funded out of the interest income that's been generated on those resources that we received, and we'll cover this in the operations report, but in our discussions, those resources could be used for any purpose. We decided that we would recommend that they be used for ARPA related purposes because the interests was earned off of the ARPA dollars, so we've included that in our recommendation in the operations report. So those are resources that were earned from our investment of those funds since we've received them in 2021."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well I'm going to try to -- thank you for that answer. I'm going to try to ask a different question. How is it possible to freeze spending in a new year and recommend new programs at the same time? I'm not talking about the source of the money; I'm asking how is it possible to freeze new spending and propose new programs at the same time? How is that possible?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Commissioner Arrington --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "It's okay to say it's not."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Well, it depends. If the new program is recurring yes, it could be an issue. But if the new program that we're talking about is a nonrecurring item that --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- is a what? Hold on, say that word again?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "If it's a nonrecurring expense item that is only for this year and then you have this interest revenue that is a nonrecurring revenue, one-time revenue that you know, we got off ARPA it is possible to fund that out of that. But everything depends on the Board. If the Board approves it then, you know, we can fund it as a nonrecurring item and be done with it this year. And if you want to -- if you want it to continue next year, the 8.87 mils that, you know, we're suggesting supposed to be a base. So the Board can change that next year. You know, we can come to the Board with a bunch of enhancements, you know, the Board will say that we want to fund in the 2025 budget. And if that is the case, then the 8.87 needs to be higher. All we're saying is, if this 8.87 mils is approved this year when we present the budget, we're going to have that 8.87 mils as a base, and then anything on top of that, you know, consider to be enhancement in 2025, for the Board to decide."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I mean, I -- I know what the Board is going to decide. Well, I know that the Board is responsible for making the decisions. I understand all of that. So are you saying the two new programs are for this year and not for next year?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir, out of the ARPA fund."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, wait a minute. Aren't the justice partners asking for additional money to continue paying to make ORCA positions permanent?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "They're asking to be able to maintain their positions that were funded out of the ARPA resources in Project ORCA to be able to maintain those in the future, in the general fund. That's the big issue with the ORCA positions is that the funding that has been supporting them goes away at the end of this year and they are asking for those resources to be continued into the future in the general fund."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And so, instead of using that \$2 million to fund -- well, no, let's be real clear. That ORCA money does it last until the end of the year or does it -- or does it end prior to that, because we had several discussions about that. I think originally it was supposed to end in like August or something and we use them and some people use them. So is that ORCA funding going to last until the end of the year, or does it end prior to the end of the year?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We are ramping down the expenses, so that by the end of the year we will have utilized all of the resources that we're programmed for the ORCA program -- for the ORCA project."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, let's go back. What was the original date that ORCA funding was supposed to run out? Let's go back because now we're getting -- I mean, unless my memory is fading, and maybe it is, that money was supposed to run out in August, and this Board came back and voted and told y'all to try to make it last longer."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So, originally the ORCA program was supposed to end in 2023. We used the underruns within the ORCA program for where they did not fill positions when we had expected them to fill them, to be able to extend those positions into 2024. And as I recall, the resources that we had, if everybody kept their ORCA employees on at a hundred percent, those resources would have ran out in the July or August timeframe. We added additional resources in to ORCA at the beginning of 24; we swept through the ARPA projects and allocated additional resources so that we could stretch and get closer to the end-of-the-year, but they have still been in a ramp down mode because we did not have enough resources

to carry them the whole year in Project ORCA. And also, in recognition of the fact that we did not fund those positions and haven't funded them in the general fund for, you know, for the future, so we're ramping down to close out the program by the end of the year."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I just want to be clear that the Resolution does not talk about -- the Resolution attached to this agenda item does not say anything about elimination of use of salary savings for the remainder of physical year 2024, does it?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "It does not, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. The Resolution attached also does not say anything about eliminating requests for departmental reallocation of funds as part of the midyear budget review process; is that correct?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes, you're correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. And so, instead of funding potentially more ORCA positions, the goal is to create two new programs? What are these two new programs?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS: "Commissioner Arrington, I can add some additional context regarding those two programs. So on May 15th, the Board approved a Resolution for the research by the County Manager to determine the feasibility and an implementation plan to eliminate medical debt. So as a part of the information that we will present today, we're responding to the Board's direction to determine the feasibility; a part of our feasibility assessment was to identify a funding source. So this is a recommendation and a response based on that Resolution."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So is that one program or two?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS: "It is two, and the reason that it's two: as we conducted the research in order to mitigate future medical debt, our recommendation for program structure when we look at implementation is to provide a program that will help constituents who are within the 400 percent of poverty or less have a access to assist them with their co-pays, specifically creating a medical home with FQHCs that are in the five zip codes associated with the health care desert. So we were just trying to give a comprehensive program recommendation to eliminate debt currently and to look for an opportunity to mitigate future debt."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Thank you. I'm going to make a substitute motion to adopt a 9.37 millage rate."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right. Commissioner Arrington has made a motion to adopt a 9.37, correct Commissioner Arrington?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, that is a previous recommendation of the County Manager and his team."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "9.37. Is there a second? Commissioner Barrett has seconded it going from the recommended 8.87 to 9.37? Okay. That's the motion that's on the floor. Madam Clerk. What?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm in the queue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let me preside, Madame. Commissioner -- Vice Chair, do you want to be heard now or do want to dispose of this motion?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Dispose of the motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Do you want to be heard on this? It's your motion. This motion is to -- the motion on the floor is to increase the advertised rate from what's proposed and recommended by the manager and the finance team going from 8.87 to 9.37."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I just want to -- on this one, I just want to say I want to remind everybody that this does not lock us in to 9.37. It allows us to have further discussion over the next several meetings about what rate we want to lock in. If we end up at 8.87 at the end of those discussions, so be it. But this gives us the freedom to have those conversations, to learn more about some of the monies that are going to be available for this year, whether it be from elections, you know, what the cost is going to be for the cyber attack, et cetera, et cetera. I think we should leave ourselves the freedom and have that discussion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, anybody else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Back to the motion that's on the floor. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Vice Chair, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. First and foremost, I want to say to the County Manager and the executive team; in my humble opinion, I don't think irresponsible is the correct word. It's speaking in reference to what you all do. You all do what you are tasked to do. I have all confidence that when it gets to me, you have given me the information I need to make the decision that needs to be made on behalf of the taxpaying citizen of Fulton County. Have we always agreed; of course not. Have we had conversations, yes; respectful conversations. So I just want to go on record saying, I don't think anything that you all have done is irresponsible. Secondly, County Attorney, what I would like to know at this point, since it was brought up during the newscast and since the tax assessor here, he may not need to wait in; but the issue with the mail, the issue with the mail will it affect -- I know the payments are not due now, but I want to get some sense or idea of what we're doing proactively for citizens who do still use the mail system to pay their taxes. And if you could just briefly give us any type of synopsis, any type of concerns or conversations that the County has had so we'll know -- to let our constituents know."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Currently, I'm not aware that we have any specific protocols or proactive steps, measures in place. I can't imagine that it would impact things like, for example, people receiving their assessments, people being able to file a timely appeal. If they come back and say I was unable to file it timely because I didn't receive it within time that could impact our certification of our tax digest. They're could be implications, but we have not specifically looked at that, at this point."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "County Manager, can I ask that some type of conversation or proactive conversation, because I could imagine that at some point we may have citizens that may say, listen, and I know what it says on the tax assessor's bill. I know what it says. This is not a bill, this is whatever. So however, I want us, given the fact that it is in the news, what have or what could we do, or if conversations can be had in conjunction with the County Attorney's Office, as to what would be a game plan or contingency plan if we have a senior, if we have someone who generally mails and it comes in late. And so, you don't have to give me an answer now, but I would like for some thought to be put into that to make sure that we're covering our bases."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Vice Chair. Commissioner Barrett. The motion on the floor again is to approve setting the millage rate at a max of 8.87 mils."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we probably don't have the answer to this and maybe this is a Madam County attorney question, but do we have any idea when we're going to -- when the DOJ is going to come back with whatever recommendations they may come back with, with regards to the jail?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "There is no specified timeframe within which those investigations will need to conclude. We have been working as expeditiously as possible, so I would imagine we would be on the shorter end, but certainly cannot -- we cannot control that once we've provided everything that they rely on our corporation to contribute to the investigation, then that rests with how long it takes for the DOJ components to finalize the report."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But it is certainly possible that they're going to come back with recommendations that require us to spend money that we either this year or next, right, that we have not anticipated at this point, correct?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "That is certainly an anticipated outcome that necessary measures will be included in the report that would incur costs."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Thank you. And one other thing on the jail issue, one of the things that, you know, we've been talking about is the ability to fund our justice system adequately to avoid future backlogs and jail overcrowding and all those things. And one of the things this Board decided over the last several meetings was to withdraw the, you know, the forward motion, if you will, on the idea of a new jail, but rather to issue a new RFP, and I think Commissioner Arrington started to get at this with one of his questions. I'm not sure if we got a complete answer, and that is that we have up to 10 million allocated to pay debt service on whatever comes back from that process; is that correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And that gives us about -- we can borrow about how much with the \$10 million debt?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So I think the range is anywhere from hundred and fifty million if the life of the asset would be 30 years, maybe a little bit more to as low as 85 million if it were considered to be ten. So it will be determined by the responses that we receive."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So it's possible if it's, in other words, if the RFPs and the work that, you know, we're told can be done only extends the life of the jail for ten years or at best 85 million that we can borrow essentially because it's a shorter term?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I got it. So, I mean, in your opinion, Mr. County Manager, is it likely that we can do something for 85 million that will make the jail safe and allow us to do things like separate mental health beds from general population and medical beds from general -- in other words, all the things that we're trying to do for 1.7

billion minus the brand new building and the extra space in one place, are we going to be able to achieve that 85 million?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Manager. Mr. Manager. Just a minute. Just a minute. The motion on the floor --

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I understand."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute, Commissioner. The motion on the floor is to approve setting the millage rate at 8.87 mils. And your comment should be directed to that."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "My comments are directed to that, because if we get information from the DOJ this year, we're going to have to come up with a way to spend it, and if we base next year's budget on 8.87, which is indicated in the memo that it's part of the packet that is with this item, then we will be in a position where we can spend no more than \$10 million per year on debt service for a payment to address the jail, and I'm asking if that's enough? That is relevant to this agenda item, Mr. Chairman. Can you please answer the question?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Do I have to?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Please."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I'm not sure. I mean, honestly, I'm not sure because if we don't have proposals back. I think, you know, it will be very difficult in today's construction environment to do everything obviously that we may have wanted to do. And that's taking the capacity off the table. But I'm not sure at this point, how much can be done. So I really, honestly, cannot answer that."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Thank you."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I want to call the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The question is being called. Is there a second? All right. Let's vote on the call of the question."

CLERK GRIER: "The vote is open on call the question. And the motion passes; five yeas, two nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's vote. Motion on the floor is to approve setting the millage rate of 8.87 mils."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Chair. Advertising."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Advertise."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes; four yeas, two nays, one abstention."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you. The -- it's almost 1:00 o'clock. The next item is a presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report, which is going to be extensive. And we need your undivided attention, so that's going to take some time. So I'd recommend that we recess for lunch and Executive Session at this time. We'll take up items of real estate, litigation, and -- what's the other one? Personnel. That is a motion. Where do I hit it then? Yeah, all right."

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

(Recessed for Executive Session at 12:59 p.m.)

(Resumed Regular Session at 3:09 p.m.)

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in items 1 through 5 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, 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 request for authority to file claims contained in item number 9 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, 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: "And is there a motion to approve the request to engage Rosalind Rubens Newel, Karen Mills, and Eugene Fuller to serve as Hearing Officers for Fulton County at the rate of \$400 per hour?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Cast your vote."

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 7, 24-03432, County Manager, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So Commissioners, this operational report is fairly extensive, but very good information that we all need. So I would ask you to be very attentive and take good notes during this next couple of hours on this. I'm not exaggerating either. Close to it, at least an hour."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Could we mark the start time now?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah. It's 74 pages."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "3:12. All right. We will go through this very rapidly. And a lot of this information is public consumption as well as to ensure that you have it in front of you. And Steve, I think I'm just going to briefly hit the high points of this. And then we'll move to ORCA and Judge Tailor. What you'll see in the deck obviously is, you know, months of not having an operational report, now being captured. Let me hit one thing upfront. The cyber response is effectively complete. We did put the final six call centers in place. Now we have all of our call centers. There are a few applications that we're still working to ground. One most import was vendor self-service. It's now remediated and being used. If the public does experience any problem, we've included the (404) 612-4000 phone number or Customer Service at FultonCountyga.gov. So again, thanks to Kevin Kerrigan and our vendors for working with us on that. What we did ask Dr. Roshell to do it again, she'll step through this and only hit the highlights, is take all of the agenda in Health and Human Services and bring that forward. There are a couple of three new items. That's where we'll spend some of our time. But for the most part, a lot of this you do know. So Dr. Roshell, let me ask you to hit the high points."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Next slide. Yes, thank you. So what you have before you, Commissioners is a summary, an update of eight projects that have a goal of transforming healthcare access in Fulton County. They also align with our Project Care Study that was commissioned in response to the WellStar closures, looking at how we could address of

healthcare gaps. These projects are a -- include investments in infrastructure as well as new progress. Next slide."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me. Do you want -- you want questions after you finish, or --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: -- each page?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "No, no, I'll just run through it and then questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir. So of course, you are already very familiar with the stellar work of the team here with standing up the first Behavioral Health Crisis Center. It will open in August. It is on track to open in August. We had some really good media coverage this past week with a media tour with WSB and the AJC. We are going to move forward, of course, with Grady as the operator. And we appreciate the support approving their contract renewal today. The funding received from the state for this project is 9.4 million. It is a bit under what we anticipated, and we have adjusted the operating model in a phased approach to align with the funding that we will receive. Next slide. Again, we're opening August 8th. And this is just a representation of the work to socialize this new resource with various stakeholders. Next slide. We've already talked about the funding, 9.4 million. Next slide. I wanted to make sure that you are aware that we are continuing to move forward with 4700 North Pointe Parkway. This is an opportunity to ensure that there are also Health and Human Services assets in the north, concentrated in one facility. We anticipate this facility opening in the fourth quarter of 2025. And DREAM is evaluating, will be evaluating the contractor bids over the next couple weeks. Next slide. We are also moving forward with HHS South. We were tasked with undertaking a feasibility study to determine the best location for an HHS South that will have a similar service footprint as HHS North. But we want to ensure that it is situated and placed in the appropriate location. And so DREAM is working through, again, an RFP process that will be advertised in July, which will inform decisions we will make regarding the placement of the facility and what service footprint should look like. Next slide. As you may have heard previously, our Developmental Disabilities facility in the South has been -- not been in operation for some time now. Post-COVID, those are receiving services in Central Fulton. This will restore this service offering in South Fulton through the rehabilitation of an existing Fulton County asset. We project completion of the Developmental Disabilities Training Center South in 2025. Next slide. Opiate settlement is probably the newest topic that I have not provided a previous update on. So I will spend a minute and a half on this slide. The opioid settlement for the state is 638 million. Fulton County, as a joint litigant, is receiving funds in two ways. One, a

direct allocation from manufacturers and distributors, we've already started to receive funding. We have in our coffers now \$2.4 million. We are also going to be receiving an allocation directly from the state as a qualified-block grantee. We have implemented the steps to begin receiving those dollars. The difference in the dollars that we will receive directly from the Georgia Opioid Abatement Trust is that those dollars must only and can only be used for the community partners. The 2.4 million that we already have received directly from the manufacturers and distributors, we have more discretion regarding where and how we spend those dollars. Again, the dollars that will be receiving from the state must be redistributed to the community. To help us do that we will be establishing a County Opioid Abatement Trust Council. There are three mandatory members for that council, the Sheriff, Public Health, and our Department of Behavioral Health, and there are four additional members. And we will be bringing back the slate of that council, a structure back to you in a subsequent meeting. Next slide. Now, I would like to just turn the conversation over for a minute to Jeff Cheek. His team has done an outstanding job with managing our HIV portfolio. We have continued to receive an increase in HIV dollars over the last couple of years. And Jeff has one or two main points that he wants to share."

JEFF CHEEK, DIRECTOR, RYAN WHITE PROGRAM: "Well, good afternoon, Commissioners. And thank you, Dr. Roshell. It's my pleasure to talk to you today about two of our major programs, the goal of which is to eliminate HIV in metro Atlanta. Our major program is the Ryan White Part A Aid Program, where we serve a 20-county area. We also operate the Ending the HIV Epidemic Program, which was designed to provide funding to the 49 counties across the US with the highest number of new cases, four of those are ours: Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, and Gwinnett. And we administer the program on behalf of them. Really excited to say that over the past five years, we've gotten a 24 percent increase in our funding, going from 28 million in 2022 to more than 37 million now. And so those funds are designed to provide care and treatment to people who otherwise would not have access to services. One of the exciting things -- oh, I'm sorry -- well, actually, let's stay on this for just a second. We have a new website, End HIV ATL.org. Not only does it have a lot of information that's useful to clients and to the providers we serve, it may have information that's useful to you. We have a new interactive map, where you can check by ZIP Code, what the HIV cases are. But also it has information on the poverty level, how many households are not English-speaking. So a lot of information that might be useful you in other purposes as well. Our ending the HIV -- oh, next slide, please, I'm sorry. So one of the big things that we try to do is to get people virally suppressed. What that means is, you start taking medications, the amount of virus in your body gets so low, that you can't spread it to anyone else, and also your health is improved. So we're moving in the right direction on that. In the past four years, we've had 11 percent in viral load suppression. Next. Our Ending the HIV Epidemic monies allow us to do some creative things that we're not able to do with our Ryan White dollars. And we've been focused on what are those things that break down the barriers that keep people from getting into care. And so there's a list of several others there. Wanted y'all to know that with this program we've

served about 3500 people in five years, and we're improving health outcomes there as well."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Thank you, Jeff. Next slide. Commissioners, all of you are familiar with our efforts to partner with Grady on a freestanding emergency department. We have had the opportunity to brief all of you. For the public, we have information about how this asset would help citizens in South Fulton who currently have no access to emergency services. Next slide. I think the most important information that I wanted to reiterate regarding the freestanding emergency room, next slide. You can go to -- well, keep going -- would be the funding for the facility is 38 million. Grady is asking the Board to consider half of the capital costs. Next slide. Next slide. And our CFO has put together a propose -- next slide -- a proposed approach for funding, which would be the issue of bonds through the DeKalb Hospital Authority, 19 million with a 15-year payback, a service -- debt service of 1.7 million. We would redirect a portion of the funds we have set aside in the general fund operating budget for BHCC operations to go to the debt service of the 1.7 million. We do have, as I said previously, funding from the state for \$9.4 million to operate the BHCC. Next slide. Morehouse East Point Clinic, wanted to provide an update here. You certainly have all of the information. I want to just highlight a few of the outcomes of the clinic. This is the project that we undertook under Project Care in April of --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me, we don't --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "You don't have that?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Okay. I'll make sure that you do get it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Slow down a little bit."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Okay, slow down? I can slow down? Okay. So Project Care was the project -- was the first -- was the study we undertook, the Board commissioned to study the gaps in healthcare access that are in and around Fulton County that were exacerbated by the WellStar closure. One of the first projects of that study was a partnership with Morehouse Healthcare, Morehouse School of Medicine, to restore an asset in East Point, specifically a primary care clinic. What I wanted to cover with you today are some of the outcomes of that partnership. Next slide. The clinic did open on time in October of 2023. And we have upcoming critical activities that I also want to highlight. We have already, as I said, opened the clinic. There are plans to integrate additional services into the clinic over the next year. Next page, please. What that service expansion looks like, you see the floor plan, phase 1, which we are already in. Phase 2 will include additional services such as radiology, behavior health, and some of the services that will, again, provide an access

point and choice for constituents in East Point and the surrounding community. And phase 3 will provide some additional services regarding other critical needs in the community. Next, next slide. This is just a snapshot of the -- of the staff structure at the clinic. There are 14.5 FTEs. There are a range of different types of practitioners there, from doctors, nurses, counselors, different types of practitioners to meet the full scope of needs of residents in that community. Next slide. The good news about the clinic and how our investment is certainly helping to restore that resource in the community. There were 284,000 in cash received from operations. We invested 2.4 million in 2023, which carried over into 2024. And then there was other revenue for a total of 2.8 million in revenue. And the total operating expenses for the first quarter of 2024, 1.8 million. So there was an operating margin of one million. The organization or the practice is in - in the black at this point, because of our subsidy. The plans that the clinic has is to continue to diversify their payer mix. Next slide. And what you see here is a year over year, month over month -- well, not year over year, we only in 2024, but month over month look at the volume of the -- of the clinic. You see from November to May, we have continued to experience an increase in visits and new patients established. And what you see as the greenish color bar and the darker bar represent the payer mix. So there is definitely a payer mix that is contributing to not only the types of customers that are being served by the facility, but also over time will create a strong financial portfolio for the organization. We anticipated 20,000 visits per year, we're on track to meet or exceed that. Right now, as of May, there were 1,475 visits. We need 1,666 visits per month to meet or exceed our goal of 20,000 visits. So we are certainly on track to meet or exceed those expectations. Next slide. And I want to now pivot to medical debt. As I commented during the millage rate discussion, on May 15, the Board approved a resolution to ask -- that asked the County Manager and his team to look at the feasibility and an implementation plan to eliminate medical debt for residents in Fulton County. Our approach was to look at what is happening already in this space and looking at any existing data that we could find regarding medical debt, specifically in Fulton County. Due to the time constraints and wanting to bring something back to you today, we only looked at one data source, which was a data set from the Urban Institute. And this is where this data comes from. We're here comparing what medical debt looks like in Fulton County in comparison to Gwinnett, Cobb, Georgia, and the National average. What you see here is that 13 percent is the average medical debt in this data source. And the average debt is 600 and -- \$660, a total medical debt of \$93 million. We did have the opportunity to speak with the only company in the US right now that is working to eliminate debt in partnership with municipalities and other organizations. And they have a higher figure for the debt. The way it was explained to us is that this Urban Institute debt only represents credit bureau or debt collection. It does not represent hospital portfolios. And the anticipated hospital portfolio debt is approximately 400 million. Next slide. Next slide. So one component of this was to make sure that ARPA is a -- or to look at a funding source for this type of project. Our research indicates that these are governments, and I specifically wanted to look at government as a benchmark. Arizona, Cook County, New York, the -- all of the governments you see here have all used ARPA dollars specifically for this type of initiative. The type of investment ranges for each government, none of them have used any other approach

other than Undue Medical Debt, which is a nonprofit out of New York that has a process and a entire infrastructure set up to handle this, this matter. Most of them all have wanted to eliminate hospital debt. There was that included other types of medical debt. It does have eligibility criteria based on residency, based on income, and based on whether or not the medical debt is 5 percent or more of that constituents income. There is no application process. The company will negotiate with the hospital on selling them their medical debt for \$1 to every hundred. And so an investment of \$1 million in Fulton County could potentially eliminate \$100 million of debt. Next slide. This is just some information on the company that all of the other governments work with, Undue Medical Debt, again, a nonprofit out of New York. Earlier in the conversation regarding the companion program, which would be a program with federally qualified health centers that serve the health desert, primarily in South Fulton. This approach would allow us to assist constituents who we learn through our research in the Project Care work, often do not use a service or a primary care connection like an FQHC because there are out-of-pocket costs associated with that. What the outcome is of that is overcrowding in the emergency room, using the emergency room for inappropriate care, and incurring medical debt in a hospital setting. So the thinking here was to eliminate the medical debt, and then provide an option to mitigate that in the future by incentivizing constituents in Fulton County to connect with a primary care home through a federally qualified health center by assisting them with paying their co-pay. So that is why we wanted to present a bifurcated or companion approach, not only to eliminate the debt, but to -- but to attempt to mitigate that type of debt in the future by incentivizing constituents to seek care in the appropriate setting. Mr. Manager, that concludes my report."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Mr. Chairman, we can either take questions on this section now. We're about 15 minutes in, or move to through the justice section. We do have Judge Taylor here now to talk to State Court, and then take questions on all of this at the end of both sections."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah. While we're here, why don't we take questions here."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: Yeah. Just a few -- well, just a few sort of general comments. Thanks for the update. The last few items that were presented, in particular, I guess, starting with freestanding ER and then the components that we did not -- a couple of us, at least I didn't have in my booklet here, the --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "The Morehouse."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Morehouse."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "And Undue Medical."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah. And this sort of just, this is just more just a general statement, okay. I mean, we obviously have some significant things that we need to do as a county, right? And I feel like, we don't close out the loop on the things that are core to us that we need to get done, and then we're moving on and we're introducing or allowing somebody introduce into us a new significant project, when we don't have the other items funded and spoken for. So --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What do you mean by that, Commissioner?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Well, I mean, well, for example, all right, we sort of agree to, you know, priorities. We were, you know, we're doing the Behavior Health Center, we're starting up the HHS North facility. We got that running, and then we're entering into the feasibility study for the South study -- for the South Center. And we agreed that doing the South, south one was a priority and important and something that we want to get done, correct?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Um-hmm."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And then, you know, before we even have the feasibility study back and what that means, how we fund it, et cetera, we decide that, well -- or we get introduced us, you know, from Grady, oh, we want your to fund a freestanding ER. Oh, let's go do some medical debt. Oh, let's go fund some other whatever, right? And I'm not saying that any of these things are wrong, but we don't have what we had identified was our priorities to get done, a solution to that before we're then going on and talking other things that potentially, financially commit us to something that don't allow us to do our priorities. And so I just struggle with all of that, when we don't -- when we've not solved for the -- solved for the things that we said were a priority. I mean, and I guess if I had a recommendation on this, and that's -- I mean, obviously, we're going to go with what the will of the Board is, that until we got that South -- the HSS South feasibility study back and understood what the financial commitments were around that, that we not, you know, regardless of how good some of this stuff may sound to us, not, you know, commit ourselves to future capital on other projects in this area until we know what that is, and we have the chance to make some value decisions around it. So that's -- that's really more just a macro statement, you know, in terms of more of these other things, you know, kind of that were not really kind of on a radar screen to do and were not things that we specifically committed ourselves to do as a Board."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So what's a -- what's your reaction to what Commissioner Ellis just raised?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So, two things, the medical debt is --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, not that one."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Not that one?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, that's an easy one."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "You want me to go to the freestanding ED? The freestanding emergency room is an opportunity based on research that was done to identify gaps and opportunities to close those gaps in South Fulton specifically. So in my mind, it is a continuation of work that we had already started, based that, based on that study and an opportunity to make investments to solve the problem."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I mean, but you don't have the funding to do things that you set out to do in the first place. And then you introduce this in that, and I don't -- I mean, and this wasn't our work, I mean, somebody else did it, right? I mean, Grady gave them to us and said, okay, we did this, and you know, and basically, announced we were giving them the money, right, sort of presumptively. And then they sort of back ended this discussion through it this way. I mean, we've got no real public comment on this from, you know, kind of, hey, is this for the residents? Is this really what they think is going to solve the issues? And this is, you know, this should be given more priority than, you know, gearing the funding around other means? Will this hurt the opportunity to have a freestanding hospital down the road? I mean, all that stuff, but I mean, those are sort of other questions specific to this, you know. But you know, we -- we've, you know, we've got things that we've got to do that are core that we're required to do. I mean, you know, or that they are core services we're doing that we agreed that we're going to do expansion thereof, right? And we don't have a clear means to fund those. And then we're going to say, okay, well, then let's just, let's go keep adding to the pod, just because it's a continuation of things that might, you know, be good for us to do. So I just, I mean, I struggle, I mean, I struggle -- I mean, there -- there conceptually, there's a lot of stuff that makes sense with what's described. But then, you know, there's this reality of, we don't have the requisite means to fund it and fund the things that we already know we need to do. So and, you know, and I would put, you know, I'd put all that in that category, you know, that in terms of stuff that was described here, payment of medical debt, you know, emergency room. I know we, I guess we'd agreed to do the Morehouse one. So I guess that's a little bit different. And then -- and then on the other thing you were talking about, about paying co-pays or something, I mean, that's new. And then going to the Morehouse one, I guess one thing is I want to -- there's no -- there is, I mean, we said it's -- if you go to the financial peace again -- well, first off, where's it, where you had the breakout -- oh, right here, okay. First off, but we do take the slide, say Fulton County subsidy, so we'll just clarify that we're the only one contributing the subsidy to this, not the city of East Point."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "I think that was referenced to the name of the clinic."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, I know."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I just, for clarification, I think just it'll be good to see that. But so right now, I mean, through this projection, we're basically fully subsidizing this thing, okay? What is the -- and I know you said there was expectation based upon trends and who was gone, and the types of, you know, payer mix, and all that sort of stuff, that it was projected out to be 22,000. What -- do we have a financial projection of what this looks like year two, year three, year four? In other words, how certain are we that this financial subsidy isn't going to be required to grow?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So I can get you the projection over the five years. That is our commitment. The investment from the county goes down every year based on the payer mix and revenue growth over time. And that's how we determine what the annual subsidy would be based on the calculations of the increased revenue --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "-- from the operation itself."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "What happens if it doesn't materialize that the payer mix is that? I guess that's what, I mean, are we potentially --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So our --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Do we unknowingly wind ourselves up at a constant subsidy of two and a half?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Our subsidy for 2024 will be 1.8; for 2025, 1.6; for 2026 -- I'm sorry, I had the wrong. But 1.4 in 2027; 1.6 in 2026; 1.8 in 2025."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And those are fixed, those can't go up?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "No, they're fixed in the MOU."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. All right. All right, thank you."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "You're welcome."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Chairman. Mr. Chair, point of order. Can the Judge go? He's on trial."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Oh that's right, sorry. Who is the Judge? Come on down, Judge. Judge is on trial, can we -- Commissioner Thorne, are you okay with that?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I guess so."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well not really, but I would appreciate it. Thank you. Come on Judge."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "I appreciate y'all. I do have -- I wouldn't do this, but I do have jurors and lawyers waiting to start opening statements upstairs. Y'all asked me to come in today to talk about ORCA and what's going on in State Court. We do have a slide for you in your -- in your big old packet, and you'll see that in just a minute. I'm going to go over just a couple of quick overall points just real quick. So you know already, \$81 million was allocated to the justice partners in ORCA or ARPA funds. State Court was allocated less than 4 million. So less than 5 percent of the overall allocation to the justice partners went to State Court, just to let you know. So with that, what did we do with it? We disposed of 18,200 cases, and we only have 2700 remaining. And when I say disposed, that means disposed. Now, we do have some as you'll see, we've got 20 -- we've got a total remaining -- well, it's part of your slide deck out, I guess I'll wait. Well, I'll talk about it. But we've got -- we've got 5100 cases remaining total that are -- that are considered ORCA cases. However, 2400 of those are what we call dormant cases, because the defendant didn't show up to court. There's nothing we can do with that case when the defendant didn't show up to court until the defendant does show up either from a warrant or comes back in for a failure to appear. So what we have still to work with are 2700 cases. We are working diligently to resolve those cases. What we expect bottom line is that by the Q3 of next year, we should have disposed of all, at least, all if not most, meaning a few leftover by Q3 of next year. One of the reasons for this is -- and I just want to point out, you know, courts, I know y'all know this, but it's -- I was thinking about this as I was prepping for this. It's a lot different than, say, your business or a lot of businesses that you're in. It's not like Ford Motor Company where you can just enter in the input, and you get your output and you know exactly what that's going to be. Each case is different. A misdemeanor speeding case could be very different from another misdemeanor speeding case. The speeds could be different, their criminal history could be different, they could be super speeders. All of those things go into how quickly that case gets resolved, whether they have a lawyer or whether they don't, all of those things. So what we have left, bottom line is, with all of those difference -- differences, is what we have left are the cases that aren't the easy fruit to pick, right? These are the cases that are continuing because of a reason. As I say, we resolved 18,000, we've got 2700 left. Our plan, as ARPA and ORCA comes to an end, is to move all of those to the divisions. We have ten divisions

as I said this morning. Judges, we are working diligently on our own cases, which is part of the reason why we pushed this out to Q3. And to let you know, I know this has been an issue that's come up about, are we really working? Are we doing what we're supposed to be doing? And I could just tell you that prior to the pandemic, we had filed 31,000, 32,000 cases. We either disposed of, meaning the case was absolutely closed, or the defendants didn't show up to court, so it had to go into a warrant status, 30,000 of those. Last year in 2023, we had 40 to 43,000 cases filed, we resolved or they went into dormant status because the defendant didn't show, 40,000 cases. There isn't -- whatever may have been in the past, there isn't a single Judge in State Court who isn't working and isn't working their tail off. I had the lowest number of closed cases last year. I'm Chief Judge. I preside over our Metro Atlanta Business Case Division with Superior Court, and I do the DUI Court. So I have a lot on my plate. I was the lowest closed cases, I acknowledged that. But I also have the lowest number of cases pending. So all of us are working, and all of us are working hard. And so I just wanted to put that into perspective, that -- and the other piece is, our Clerk's office is working hard. These folks have to process all these cases, have to move them in the right direction, have to do all of this behind the scenes. And again, that was what I tried to talk about this morning, and I know I only had three minutes. I'm not going to talk in great detail in today. But I'm just letting you all know that, from my perspective, and I'm just looking at the numbers and looking at what folks are doing. State Court is going to need some additional resources if y'all want us to be the premier adjudicating body, actually in metro Atlanta. Fulton County, if you ask the lawyers, I think State Court gets really good ratings. They may just be telling me because I'm the Judge, right. But I hear this from others as well. State Court is really well regarded in Fulton County. And I'd like to continue that, but we're going to fall behind. That's what I have. If y'all have questions about that, I'm happy to answer any questions y'all have, because I don't want to take up any more of your time than necessary."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any quick questions for the Judge before he goes back to his case?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Judge, I'm going to ask that you, whatever the ask is that you're having the issue with, for me, if you would send it to my office."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Yes, ma'am."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And more importantly, I'm going to afford you the same thing that I afforded to other individuals who told me there would be a problem. I need it written out, as to what would happen if you don't receive additional the funding. So if I can have that as soon as possible, I would appreciate it."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "I will. If it's okay, I have a study that's being done by the Administrative Office of the Court statewide to tell us how many State Court Judges there should be in Fulton County. And so they're going to put all of this information together so that I can bring it to you. And it's not just me saying, here's

what I think. I want to actually have that backup information, if that's okay, that'll probably be to me in a couple of weeks. Is that a --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "As soon as you get it, I know I would probably need it as well as -- I can't speak for the rest of my colleagues, but I know I need it as soon as possible."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "I know, I'd love to have it -- I would have loved to have it --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "As soon as you get it. I'll put it that way. Thank you, Judge."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Thank you so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm sorry. I was confused about the order. Just so the - you said there are, I think, 2700 ORCA cases remaining. But you're not able to complete those with ORCA positions essentially, correct?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Correct. That would be, given the number that we do a month on an average monthly basis through the ORCA Division, it will not be completed by the end of ORCA."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And if you had the resources in ORCA this year, would you be able to get them done this year, do you believe?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "If we had it through the end of the year, we would be, I think, in all but -- and Steve, correct me if I'm wrong. When you and I went over the numbers, I think we'd be in all but a negligible situation."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: Right. Right.

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: Okay, that's it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "I think, yes, there might be the outlier. But --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "-- I think we'd be pretty well through."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Gotcha. But in terms of the rest of the information in terms of like, what you would need next year and all of that, you're going to get that to us?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, gotcha."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, for the Judge, or you want to -- you're in line, all right. Commissioner Ellis, for the Judge?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah. So, all right, if I read the report right, the resolution of cases was 539 in the last month for State Court."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "I don't have that report sitting in front of me, but that may be correct."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Commissioner Ellis, it's 244, is the figure for the prior month for State Court."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Oh, there we are."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Depending on -- (off-mic, indiscernible) it's either slide 42 or slide 31. It has our -- can we go back to the --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay, all right. All right, I see it. And so -- all right. And then your -- so it's 2027 other cases. This -- this door -- or this number of dormant cases --"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- what is the historical sort of just general percentage of dormant cases? So like, how many dormant cases do you have right now, is it just sort of a -- is an overall percentage of cases?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "I'm going to have to do math real quick? You're making me do math? But it's, we had 33,000 total cases -- no, 42,000 or 43,000 cases filed in 2023. We disposed of 33,000, we have 7,000 in dormant status, because the defendant didn't show up. So I guess that would be, what, 42 -- 7 --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay, that's fair enough."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "-- with what six -- okay."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So what is -- is our, Fulton County sort of collective sort of, you know, range of dormant cases? Do we run significantly higher than other counties? And what are the underlying causes of that? And who are sort of the parties responsible for driving that?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Okay. I can tell you, I don't have the metrics on what are --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "-- the dormant cases metro, or even statewide or anywhere else. I can tell you that I was just at a State Court conference --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "-- a couple of months ago. And many Judges were, we have this open session where we talk. And many of the Judges there were talking about how cases were having to go into bench warrant status."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "And a big reason for that is the bench warrants for defendants not, we think, that defendants not getting noticed timely. We send out notice --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "And for instance, our notices in my court go out anywhere from 30 to 45 days in advance, or even sometimes before that."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: But we have had lawyers and parties, and I'm saying even the lawyers are coming in, are telling us -- and Commissioner Arrington probably could tell you from his perspective, they're not getting those notices until sometimes after the calendar. And it's not because they weren't mailed out, they're just not being delivered by the US mail. And so what we have resorted to is using email when we have it. We don't have a text system, but we have tried to develop, I know, Mr. Tally, our Clerk Court Administrator, has tried to work with local policing jurisdictions to get email addresses, cellphones from folks on tickets on the uniform citations so that we can communicate with folks more effectively than through the mail. But essentially what happens is, and I'll -- bottom line, here's a real problem, in Fulton County, we are fully incorporated. So, almost all misdemeanor cases go through the city first."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Almost all. So they go to the city, get their court date there, and then at some point, they get bound to the State Court."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: We get the information from that court, whether it's good, bad, indifferent information, whatever it is. We input that, we notice based upon that information we have. That's usually a year later or more --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "-- from when the case -- when the person was arrested or ticketed. So what that then does to you is, you got a transient population. They move, in the meantime, they don't have a place to tell us what their new address is."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Number one, they don't, and then they can't because of the way the case is worked in Odyssey. So we get a lot -- we get a lot of folks who -- who don't get their notices at arraignment."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So the municipality is an exceptionally slow in binding cases over. So chances are that they represent the lion's share of these dormant cases?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "All of the -- yes. I know Mr. Gammage, I've talked with him about this, has been working. And I just talked with the Chief Judge of the city of Atlanta. I know they are a lot better than they used to be. But some of these inefficiencies are kind of built in right now. And I --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "-- know Mr. Gammage is working on that electronic way to get some of this information --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So they're not -- so this isn't a matter of service, in terms of physical service to somebody, this is more, you know, written -- this is -- this is through written correspondence, mail tech stuff --"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Yes, sir, it's all --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- and not having proper information from when it's sent because the case is old when it's bound over to you and somebody's moved on?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And then at what point --"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "And some people just won't show up to court, right --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I understand --"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "I mean, you got that, but I think the --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "-- majority is, yeah."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And then at some point, when are these just sort of, I don't know, for lack of a better term, written off, if you will? I mean, at -- there's a, I guess there's some statute after some period of time if --"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "No, sir."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- it just always sits out there, you know, ad infinitum?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Correct. Until a Judge orders it otherwise."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So a Judge could look at this and say, okay, you know, whatever."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Yes, sir. And --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Identify if the person is dead, whatever kind of thing, right?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "We've been working with the Georgia Justice Project on that specific issue, in fact."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "So a number old, old, old warrants, like, from the 90s --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "-- we have, those have been moved out."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right, okay. And then last question, but wasn't -- it's not really for you. But I thought we were also, when we talked about having some of the courts come down, we were -- that the Solicitor was going to come down and talk about his backlog as well. But I guess we didn't prepare that."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "We had -- Commissioner Ellis, based on the request of the Board last month, we had asked for State and Superior Courts. So State is today, Superior Court would be with the August operational report. If we want to reach out to our prosecutors as well, happy to do that and coordinate it."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. I just thought we were -- I thought specifically, it was for State, and we were going to have the State and Solicitor together. But that may have been my misunderstanding, so -- and one last question for you, Judge, and let you go, but these -- on my end at least, the -- your uptick in cases, how many of these -- how many dispossessionary eviction cases do you have of that -- of right now in terms of maybe an annualized basis right now on that?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "We -- so in 2022, we had about 1100 dispossessionary cases filed."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "In 2023, we had, I think it was about 8800."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Oh, no, 7800. Our increase, I can just say, year-over-year, '22 to '23, was about 6700."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So this is, sounds like this is by far the most significant growth category of cases?"

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "All right, thank you."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "But we have experienced growth across the board."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I understand that."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "That's the most significant, yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "But the most significant."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay, thank you."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Absolutely. Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you, Judge."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Is that it?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir."

WES TAILOR, CHIEF JUDGE, STATE COURT: "Thank you. Thank you all very much. I appreciate your taking me out of order. Y'all have a great rest of your day."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So I was going to piggyback on what Commissioner Ellis was saying. As you know, I was not in favor of the Buggy Works Clinic, Morehouse Clinic, because I didn't think it was a real solution for the healthcare crisis in South Fulton. We had lots of conversations about that as well. But you did explain to me, because there are several clinics in the area, that it was going to be different because it has the Community Health Worker Program. And now from my understanding, it's one community health worker now, potentially two by the end of the year. And Grady does has -- does have community health workers. So I would, you know, we committed to helping this clinic for four years. It's roughly the same amount we're going to be paying for the standalone emergency room in the next three and a half years or so. So I'm hoping that they can get on their feet and be running by themselves, so then we cannot renew that contract and focus on the Grady standalone health center. And potentially, they have enough property to build a full hospital on that site. So I see that as a real solution going forward towards a hospital. I see this Morehouse Buggy Works just as helping Morehouse, basically. I, on another subject, I'm a bit confused and a bit disappointed on 4700 North Point Parkway. When I took office last year, this was in the works. The building was purchased in 2019, it's sitting vacant. We going to combine it with a bunch of other, where we're paying leasing buildings. We're going to bring a lot of that into this program to save on leases. I was told that by the end of this -- last year that it would be open, and it became the beginning of next year, which is this year, then it became the end of this year. Then it became the beginning of next year, and now it's in the fourth quarter 2025. And the RFP was just issued in May. So I'm just confused on why is there continued delay on this? And also looking at the health services building that's currently serving that area, the space we're leasing on Royal Drive. The condition of the chairs was just nasty in there. The constituent reached out to Bob and I about it. And I understand we are going to get some new chairs in there, so that maybe

people would want to sit in there in the waiting room. So now, we're having to kind of refurbish that area to get it up to speed because of the delay in this building. And so I kind of wanted to get an idea. Is this going to get pushed out at the end of this year to 2026? Is it just going to be continual push --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So why don't we -- Joe, I'll let you -- I don't know who told you at the end of '24 the -- or '23, '24 -- I -- so it's never been a plan of record of that. Somebody may have told you that. That's never been a plan of record. But you could explain how many iterations we've had to go through to get to this level. And now, even why this is extended with the number of people responding. I agree that it is later than what we would like, that I agree with. But I don't think there's been -- I'm not saying who hadn't told you that. But there's never been a plan to deliver it two years ago."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good afternoon, Commissioner. So in the ever-evolving construction market, we're seeing price changes. We developed a conceptual plan for 4700 quite some time ago. Unfortunately, available budget for the project dictated that we make changes to that. It also happens to be coincidental with the development and construction of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, which took quite a bit of our resources to try to make that come to fruition in a shortened timeframe. So now that we've gotten the bid out on the street, we have decided to extend the bid time because we got so much interest. There were approximately 60 companies or individuals at the pre-bid conference that we got over, I think, almost a hundred questions submitted about the project. So we're getting those questions back out. But due to the extreme interest from the construction market, we're going to extend it through July the 12th, I believe the report says the 9th, but it's actually going to be Friday, July 12. At which point, we will be pushing very diligently to get a selection before the Board so that we can get started. The good news about this project is we had a very solid conceptual plan. So once we get into the actual programming and drawing stages of this project, it's not a sense of we're starting from scratch. So we do intend to pick up some steam."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "And Joe, you may want to also just add that some preliminary work on HVAC had to also be completed before we could move forward with allowing any construction in the facility. And then we had to disposition all of the COVID inventory in a way that we could account for it because of the way we resource some of those items from FEMA. So there were some preliminary work carryover from COVID that we needed to take care of. But then we had the HVAC matter that also took some time and was just completed in March."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some ways, I'm also going to piggyback on what Commissioner Ellis said, in that, you know, as much as it deeply saddens me and disappoints me, this Body just, you know, adopted essentially,

all but adopted an 8.87 millage rate, which locks us into no additional spending this year. And though I do appreciate all the effort you put in, Dr. Roshell and your team, to researching the medical debt options, the two programs. And you know, I said when we talked about this, when Mr. Chairman brought it up as an item last time that I care deeply about this. I can relate to it. I've had intense medical debt, and it -- it's a worthy cause. And it sounds like the payoff in terms of the amount of investment to the amount of medical debt we can actually address is significant. On the other hand, with an additional -- starting a new program in this moment for \$2 million, no matter how wonderful it is, just feels like it's not -- it's not the right choice financially, when we're in a shortfall. So I would love for us to kind of hold on to this idea, and if there is extra money, perhaps we could do it. But I personally, I know what, you're not asking for a decision on this right now. But I personally would not support moving on it right now, given the budget situation. So I just want to express my thanks for you to doing the research and giving us some more detail on it today. That said, we did not get the slides on Morehouse or the medical debt."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And I'd love to get those if possible."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, ma'am. We'll correct that right away."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Another just a minor question on the moving around of money to address the freestanding emergency room. You talked about reducing -- the taking 2.5 away from BHCC operating costs to put at least 1.7 of it towards this debt payment. Is that -- am I -- did I get that right?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So, yes, we created a contingency for operate -- the operating costs for the BHCC based on the unknown of what the state was going to provide. The state has provided 9.4 million. Grady has indicated through a phased approach that we can operate the facility with the 9.4 million. And we have plans to continue to lobby with legislature for additional funds."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Is it -- I'm sorry. Is it a reduced level of service, though, at that level, at that?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "It is."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "And the way I would describe it rather than reduced is, because we need to open more slowly as far as the services. When we approached Grady, we had the notion to open the facility in a phased process to make sure that we could deliver stellar service. So with the 9.4

million we will provide the living room model, which is the Peer Support Program. And we will open all of the crisis beds."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Okay, thank you. The only other thing I want to say to you is just about, you know, addressing the, you know, health inequities described in the EY report and the issues caused by the closure of the two hospitals that we had. Those issues have not gone away. If anything, the lack of availability of service over this period of time is probably exasperated the health outcomes. And so I want to make it clear that Commissioner Thorne seemed to be making the assertion that this is a one-or-the-other kind of thing. It's a, both and more, like even a freestanding ER doesn't replace, you know, primary care. It doesn't replace community workers. There's still a significant inequity in the south part of the county in terms of healthcare. And once again, I think the budget we're deciding to stick with for -- or rather the millage rate for this year and the direction we're going with the budget for 2025 means we're not going to be able to do a whole lot to continue to address that health inequity. So that's also very disappointing. But I appreciate the efforts to keep all of these kind of balls in the air with the money we have. So thank you."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, ma'am."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. First of all, thank you, County Manager and the Executive Team for all your hard work you've done on this. I commend what is being done in an area that has been so underserved. Personally for me as a sitting Commissioner, with two other Commissioners that I know that are affected by this, I think it's disingenuous to correlate one thing to another. But you advocate for a new jail, but you won't advocate for what needs to be done or support what's being done. Now, that's my personal opinion, I stand by it. Because as I sit here, I know the difference that the Morehouse Clinic has made to constituents in Commissioner Hall's District to constituents in Commissioner Arrington's District, and former constituents that I had, and some that I still have. Secondly, to understand that the urgent care that it's not an urgent care facility, it's an emergency department equipped for acute healthcare needs. The opening of the emergency room in South Fulton marks a significant advancement for Fulton County as a whole. I understand we have budgeting issues, I get it. And I understand, you know, taking on something else, and we have not fully looked at what we need to do to close the chapter, or some chapters. However, for me, it's a no-brainer when you have pretty much a whole south side that is underserved when it comes to health. And so call it what you want, maybe I am sensitive, maybe I have seen the deaths in my own family and neighbors, the issues that come from healthcare redlining, however way you want to say it, whatever i considered to be politically correct, or incorrect politically. I could care less because I'm talking about lives. And so I want to go on record that I appreciate the work that you all have done. I know sometimes we have to readjust, sometimes we have to sometimes rob Peter to pay Paul. That's what government has to do sometimes. But I want to go

on record that the need is great. The need is even greater on the south side. And sometimes I don't think individuals who have multiple choices in their district understand that. They don't understand the lack of it because they have availability. And so what I'm saying today is, as I appreciate the conversation, I appreciate us making sure that we are putting the money where it's needed. I also have an appreciation for Fulton County addressing a health inequity, addressing an underserved side of the county, and addressing something that should have been addressed quite a while ago. And so my comment is basically, a thank you. And I appreciate the hard work that you all have done. And I know we're not going to get everything perfect, but to not do anything is worse than to try and try to maneuver and make it work. So thank you, I appreciate it."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Thank you, Commissioner, Vice Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne. Okay. All right, any other questions on this section? All right, Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Could I just make one comment about -- very valid, relative to all things that we have going on here. One of the reasons that this report is so lengthy is that we turned to Dr. Roshell, and we said, let's put together the entire portfolio of everything that we have in-flight or proposed in Health and Human Services. Because we spent, you know, such an inordinate amount of time on justice and the jail. So that was the motivation, if you will, behind this. As we put this together, it became more and more lengthy. And then some of the late delays on the information that we got from Morehouse, we apologize for that. And we'll have a completed copy to all of you today, and as well as in the final piece of this. The thing that would be helpful, I think to us, is as these initiatives come up, if you do not want to see them move forward, either because we have too much going on or you don't see it being funded, it'd be helpful to know then. Because once you pass something as a resolution or give us direction, you know, we go off and start pursuing how to make happen what you've already passed. If you look at most of these, you know, the Morehouse Clinic, of course, that was passed some time ago. The BHCC, passed some time ago, funded by ARPA and by the state. HIV, of course, is federal funded, and we just want to bring it to your attention because of how much success we've had with that. 4700 HHS and Commissioner Thorne was just pointing out to me, it has slipped, there's no doubt about that. But it's been funded for some period of time, being worked. The only thing that's really up for, if you will and we're proposing, are the standalone ER for Grady. And we've said how we would fund that. And then the two programs for medical debt and FQAC. So I'm not sure that it, while it looks like a lot, we have a lot going on in this area, most of it funded, approved and already down the pipe, in response to, in large degree, the AMC closings."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair, you --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, I just want to reiterate, the thank you again, because I think sometimes we look at a situation and we talk about a situation and we leave it on the shelf for another day. And I understand that in your report you were telling us about everything. But these are things that not only are needed, these are things that we have voted on, these are things that have a demonstrated need. And so for me, I can only speak for me and the constituents that sent me here, these are needs. There is not anything that you all presented that was in my mind frivolous, we could do it any other better, we could do it any different. If there is a need, there is a need. And for me, I apologize if it sounds as though I'm taking it personal, because I really shouldn't. But however, when you have several deaths in your family, when you have several deaths of constituents that are related to the under serving of healthcare on my side of town, it hits me a little differently. And so I just want to say thank you again, County Manager. It seems like we have multiple things going on. But we need to have multiple things going on, because we're trying to address multiple issues that affect us in the long run. We can't have a conversation about behavior health if we don't have a conversation about the services in the area. We can't talk about real criminal justice reform if we're not going to look at the social determinants that affect communities of color. And so here again, I apologize if I seem a little bit sensitive about this, but it hits home with me. So again, I say thank you for multiple -- multitasking. But everything that you have mentioned today is greatly needed especially on the south side. So thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Mr. Manager, continue."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Steve will hit on the highlights from Project ORCA and the Justice Scorecard."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Hey, Mr. County Manager. Good afternoon, Commissioners, Steve Nawrocki, Strategy Office. Appreciate your flexibility with our report this afternoon. And thanks to Judge Taylor, who joined us earlier. Next slide. Go back one, please. Sorry, go for -- jumping a lot order here. Can we go to the project overview slide? Can we go back? Okay, slide 40, please. Move through these, this pretty quickly and address any questions at the end. System wide, we continue to make progress. We've disposed of 131,000 cases of our original 148,000, tracking at about an 89 percent completion to date. Next slide. Looking at our remaining cases, we've disposed about 765 in May, which is a slight uptick from April's numbers, 657, and we have progress across all of our agencies. Next slide. Here, we have our dispositions by department. For the month of May and project to date, there is an uptick in progress compared to the previous month across all of our justice agencies, and we continue to be ahead of plan. If you look in the far right column, the 14,000, we are too good for the program to date. Next slide. And next slide. Looking at our staffing ramp down, as we are in our final year of Project ORCA, we have a total of 13 time-limit employees that departed Fulton County for the month of May. These were either through -- these departures were either through a total separation from the county or a move over into the general fund to a full-time permanent position. And year-to-date

for our final ramp down, we have had 68 that have left, time-limit employees that have left since the start of this year. Next slide. And next slide. Here, we have our Justice System Scorecard. We have made a slight adjustment to this scorecard from what you've seen prior. We have added a, an additional column. We had previously tracked our delta between the current month and the baseline set back in May of 2023. However, to show kind of more incremental progress, we are going to start reporting out the prior month compared to the current month. And that's how we'll calculate our delta going forward. Looking at each of our individual measures here, average length of stays had a three-day increase, or a three-day improvement through a three-day decrease. Our next category, the jail population unindicted without other charges, currently at 23 percent. If you recall from the operational report last month, unindicted data was still being recovered, and so we don't have an April number, nor a delta to measure that against, but we'll be able to measure it in our July and August reports. Clearance rate for felony criminal cases, this is maintaining a fairly high-level, where we've actually had a 6 percent increase, so 100 percent over -- or excuse me, 103 percent. So we have cleared more than cases that came through the bench. And then felony cases disposed within 180 days, also looking at the felony cases disposed within 365 days, we saw slight increases there, 29 percent and 59 percent, respectively. Both representing about a 1 percent increase. So some continued progress there. Next slide, please. The next slide. Here, we have our average monthly jail population. We continued to show a downward trend in our jail population. Our average count for the month of May was about 2700, and kind of a snapshot time and date was 2500 of the midpoint back on June 19th. So again, seeing a downward trend kind of month over month here. And we continue probably one of our best metrics, and that's zero inmates on the floor. Next slide. And this is just a table representation of that data. So next slide, please. Here, we have our facility utilization across all of our jail facilities. We've made some adjust -- some very minor adjustments here. We did have kind of a mixture of operational capacity versus total count of beds from prior report. However, this report in the far right column, you'll see it is only the total number of beds. As you can see, we are not exceeding capacity at any one of our facilities currently. Next slide. Here, we've got our inmate analysis, specifically the unindicted. We are happy to report this slide again. Since our cyber incident, currently, the unindicted without any other charges is sitting at about 23 percent. And on the next slide we'll show a breakdown of that, so if we can go there please. And here's a breakdown of that for 540 individuals representing the 23 percent. The majority, the 391, you see in the 90 days or less on the far, far left, that is a good metric. We want the majority to be in that column there, 90 days or less. We have also shown significant decreases in both the 91 to 180 day period and the 181 to 365 since we last were able to report this data back in December -- or back January for December's data. Next slide, please. Next, we have a snapshot here of individuals on ankle monitors. This was -- this data was requested at the last meeting, and we'll start to provide it going forward, just this monthly snapshot to track progress. As of May 31st, we had 1,139 individuals on monitor -- on monitors, excuse me, the majority being under one year. You'll see on the left or -- on the right side there, the reduction plan overview, Superior Court is rolling out a plan to review cases over 12 months based on the length of stay as well as the severity of the case. The plan is for

monitors to automatically come off after six months, and it will take a Judge's written order to keep a monitor on. And this will be reviewed in six-month intervals going forward. Once the -- or I should say, once the plan is rolled out by Superior Court. Next slide. We have our priorities here. Mainly we're continuing to focus on our final year ramp-down plan. We have, now that we are essentially fully recovered with our financial systems, have been able to provide a monthly detail budget analysis to each of our eleven justice partners, kind of on an individualized basis, showing what the remaining dollars are at, showing what their burn has been, and forecasting out kind of what their projected spend rate will be and when they'll have spent all their funds, all their remaining funds. My team is also providing detailed ORCA case information to our justice partners so they can't specifically target ORCA cases for disposition. And I think we have one more slide, next slide. And here on our last slide, we have our just -- we show here our public-facing view of justice dashboards just for reference. And with that, I'll take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I just had a question about the ankle monitoring."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I know we were switching from one vendor to another. Can you give us an update on how that's going?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "I'd be happy to provide a high-level update, Commissioner Barrett. We have successfully transitioned over about 1000 are actively monitoring Talitrix, the prior -- the previous provider is no longer under contract. We did have an extension that took them through the end of May, that has expired. The technology they were using Sentinel, we were able to swap those accounts from Talitrix being able to monitor them over to our new vendor, A Second Chance. And so now, the county has kind of that field view and availability of data along with that. I think kind of the biggest challenge right now is just for those individuals that were still on the, I don't want to say older as in older technology, but the technology used by Talitrix, the Sentinel devices, they still need to be swapped over to the Scram devices that A Second Chance uses. And so that's just kind of, it's an ongoing process right now. But it is -- it is moving forward."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Gotcha, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Quick question. Do we track how many inmates we have with mental health issues?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "We are not specifically in this report, ma'am. But I'm -- I would need to consult with the Strategy Office. But I think that is something we could potentially look or also with the courts, but that's not something that I have readily available right now."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Because I just thought, does that hold up indictments of some of these cases?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "The percentage that have mental health issues that can't stand trial."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Competency is absolutely something that would hold up, and then that's actually a contributing factor to the aging of indictments that you saw. Some of those kind of that were the furthest out were due to competency issues."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. That'll be great if we could maybe get that data at a future date, that'll be great."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Okay, yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So we are going have -- you're going to have Superior Court come down here?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: Yes, or.

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: So just doing the math, again on, you know, the -- looks Superior Court cleared out 200 cases last month. And doing the math on that, there would be this remaining set of cases that mean another 28 months for them to get through their COVID backlog. So we need some -- we need some answers on that. And then if I look at the Magistrate Court, I mean, State Court's numbers were, you know, trended about like, like, they were about nine months or some, but the Magistrate Court similar, like 27 months. So bring them in the next round."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Yes, sir, Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "No. I'm not joking around about it. I mean --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "No, sir."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- this is, you know, 28 months, you know, to kind of clear out a backlog when, you know, they weren't really the group that got the most substantive level of resources, you know. So I would like to see, you know, it'd be good to get some stuff from them that's, you know, more material in nature about how they're planning to work their backlog down --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Understood, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- in a more expedited fashion. And then this -- and then you know, this -- since it'll be, hopefully, would be down here to provide an update too. I mean, I'm a little bit frustrated in this because we started talking about this ankle monitoring thing in October last year, maybe. When did we talk about whether or not we decided we're going to stop -- the funds were going to stop being paid through ARPA, and we were going to convert to the general fund payment? When did we start talking about it?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I do think it was in the third quarter, September or October timeframe last year."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "September/October, and we were told by the courts that they were going to, like, start actively monitoring this, whatever. And the second bullet point says, if ramp up continues with a new vendor, Superior Court is creating a policy. Why isn't the policy already created and activated and implemented and them working on it? I mean, this -- and this is not directed at you, Steve. This sort of just general, so I'm going to talk over here to this screen. But as we have court officials come down here and ask for more money, this is why this becomes this really hard discussion, because we have supplied you with lots of money, provided you a lots of things, and you said you are going to do certain things. And then six to seven, eight months later, nothing has been materially done. So, you know, this does not apply to every individual within there. So it's, you know, it's not meant to be interpreted as a blanket statement. But collectively, the system needs to understand that that is the piece of this that becomes really difficult to take them seriously with anecdotal stories when things like this have not been implemented."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Understood, Commissioner, and --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Not meant for you contribute to that. This, you know, this was meant for the public record."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So you're just the messenger to supply the stats. So when they provide their update, hopefully you will convey to them that they could provide something that's concrete about what they're actually doing to monitor this stuff. So how many people have been over here over 12 months? We got like, a bunch of them, right? It's over half of this population has been on a monitor for over, over 12 months. So -- so I'm not, you know, against you, that's not directed to you. This is just for hopefully when they come down, these are some of the specific things they can talk about."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "We specifically discussed that to be part of their presentation --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Good."

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "-- or discussion."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Good."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "I would just say for the record, we did have a two or three months down as a result of a cyber-security period during that time. So I think we got to be fair to them. And then we just heard Judge Taylor say that they're mailing out notices and people aren't getting them, the US mail. So I mean, they're -- it's not just us, and it's not just the agency. There are a lot of different moving parts, and we all depend on each other then, we're interdependent. And so the courts rely on the mail -- the US Postal Service to deliver mail. Well, if that doesn't happen, that pushes us back. And, you know, obviously, no one knew that we were going to have a cyber-security incident and all of our computers and technology be down. So I think there has been good progress. Maybe there could be more, but these are not widgets, these are people. These are people's lives. These are not widgets, and we're -- we're looking at this as X and O's and zeros and ones on these charts and graphs and PowerPoints. But that is not what's going on across the street. These are people's lives and they have rights. They have constitutional rights, and it's a very delicate balance. So I just, for the record, want us to be mindful of that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And I'll just add for the record, that's exactly what I'm talking about, people's rights. We got 491 people that have been bound on an ankle monitor for over a year. We got people sitting in a jail, average over 60 days. And we're running the longest criminal trial ever in the history of Georgia, which is a spectacle across the street. Right, it's people's lives."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington. No? All right, anything else?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: Thank you, Commissioners."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Oh --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "I'm sorry. We're talking about ORCA right now. Madam CFO, when does -- when does Magistrate Court's ORCA funding run out?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Commissioner Arrington, I would need to check my numbers. But I believe it's going to be sometime in the next month or two, based on what their burn has been."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "July 1st?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "I don't recall."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Maybe sometime in July?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "It could be July or August at the latest, but may be July."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Maybe before our next meeting, or maybe after our next meeting?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "At some point in the month of July --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "And we've only got one month in -- we only have one meeting in the month of July, right?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, DIRECTOR, JUSTICE PROGRAMS: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "All right, y'all. Y'all took \$750,000 from Magistrate Court, did not return it to them. They're still providing the services, they reached the MOU with Superior Court, and their ORCA funding runs out in 30 days or less. And I guess we're going to do the same thing for Magistrate Court that we're doing for the Housing Authority and the Ethics Committee, absolutely nothing. That's a crime, a pity, and a shame."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir. Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Quick update on the Blitz Plan by Joe Davis."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. To date, we have completed five of the housing units at the jail, units: 1 North, 2 North, 2 South, 4 North, and 4 South. We are currently in the process of blitzing unit, housing unit 5 North. Just to give you a -- an understanding, each housing unit that we take out of service for blitz represents anywhere from 216 to 220 inmate beds, so just to give you a sense of what's currently offline. The next bullet point, you'll see a table where I've shared some jail maintenance statistics, where in the month of May, our maintenance vendor completed 82.7 percent of the work orders that were submitted as corrective maintenance, with 90.5 percent of print, excuse me, preventive maintenance work orders being completed. The month of June, these -- this data -- this data is only through June 19th. But we're at 73.9 and 56.8. We do expect that to increase as the system catches up with the actual work. In 2024, in comparison to FY23, we are averaging approximately 600 -- 1606 corrective main -- maintenance work orders per month, which is a 45 percent increase over last year this time. That typically is due to, in every case of the jail blitzes, those all work orders that are individually created to address the various items and the units that are offline. So the blitz has a lot to do with that. But also a robust inspection plan that is in place now is also generating a much higher number of work orders. We are now down to five uninhabited housing units, from seven at the time of the last report. To give you a sense of what numbers of bed that accounts for, that's approximately 144 beds in the jail. The next slide was not intended to be a part of this report, isn't actually an old report, so please discard that. But the last bullet point on this slide is important to know that we're still tracking to have 10 of the 11 scheduled housing units to be blitzed to be completed in FY24, with the final unit to be completed at the beginning of 2025. And that's our synopsis of our general maintenance operations. And I'll take any questions."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "1600 corrective maintenance requests?"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Per month?"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Does that seem usual or exorbitant?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "I think it's typical for what we're encountering now as it relates to entire units being taken offline, which allows us to see in realtime maintenance work that needs to be performed. And so we're able to capture much more than we would under normal circumstances or in occupied zone."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "So you're okay with that number, because the number is larger because -- since you're taking them out, you're able to see everything? And out of the 1600, you got 1500 of them complete."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No questions? I can't believe that."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right. Last subject. And again, there's already been discussion about this, so this may be, maybe tabled for another time. But let -- I wanted to ask Sharon to explain what we were recommending in terms of the use of the interest earned on ARPA funds, which is, if you can advance to page 62, which is up there now."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Anderson. As we previously noted during the millage rate discussion and other items, we did have about 9.5 million that we generated in interest proceeds on the ARPA funds. The regulations allow that those resources can effectively be used for any purpose. We've made a recommendation to invest them into our ARPA-like projects. From a capital needs perspective, we've booked to fund approximately 4.4 million to allow us to add the Board of Assessors to the work that would be done in this building towards being able to return them from their rental space back into the county facility. We also provided, or restored resources that we had swept when we were asked to find additional resources within ARPA to extend the ORCA Project. So we had removed the contingency from our health infrastructure projects and because of some project overruns, we -- and the fact that we haven't fully have a final cost projection on the South Training Center, we wanted to be able to restore that contingency for those purposes. And then lastly, the two items that Dr. Roshell covered in her comments earlier in the report, the establishment of funds for medical debt and FQHC's, as well as the 250,000 for the Community Service Program that the Board had asked us to find when the CSP recommendation was approved. So that is the essence of what we have presented to you. And then the next slide just shows you the -- the numbers, and where we stand now with actual expenses against our ARPA resources, plus the interest. So at this point, our ARPA resources that we received plus the interest in this document are fully allocated to projects and budgets. We have now a \$241 million budget. We have known commitments either contracts, purchase orders amount equals to about 190 million against that 241 in actual expenses through June 14th of 167.9 million, specifically for our American Rescue Act Program. So that is how we have recommended that we spread our cost. And I will say that, of course, we're still earning some interest. So we will, as interest continues to accrue through this year, we will have a little bit more that we can put into some program or project as we progress through the year. But again, we will -- we will continue to monitor our progress in each of these areas to ensure that we have our funds fully obligated and contracted by the

end of this calendar year. That is the requirement. We have, of course, until the end of 2026 to actually spend down those funds that are contracted and, you know, obligated under a contract. And with that if there's any questions on the ARPA item and recommendation, I can take those now. And if not, I can move on to the monthly financials."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, hold on. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "So how much do we have left in ARPA money now?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, we've allocated, Commissioner Arrington, everything to a project, project budget. But if you're asking what have we not actually spent in, in hard cash, it would be the difference between the 241 and the 167."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Okay, so what's that? You're better with numbers than I am."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It's about 70 million."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "\$70 million. All right, well, for me, I like the idea of medical debt. But given the conversation we just had about Morehouse in East Point and the money that we've got to spend over there, it probably makes more sense to provide -- more sense to provide medical services than to pay off medical debt. You know, I think the good thing about the standalone emergency department in South Fulton is, it's a one-time hit. We don't -- we're not locked in for paying for five years, unlike Morehouse. Frankly, you know, maybe had Grady had the time or we had the foresight, that we -- maybe we just would have done one of those. But I think Commissioner Barrett is correct, you know, we need more. They got five hospitals in North Fulton. So I'm not going to be happy until we get five in South Fulton. But I don't know what -- what, where is the -- like, I have not heard a big outpour of response about medical debt. Like, I haven't received any emails or letters or phone calls about medical debt. So I'm just wondering like, where's is that coming from?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "The Board approved a resolution regarding that, May 15th."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Well, I guess we'll continue to talk about it. But I think if I have to pay -- if I -- if for me, if I have to decide between paying medical debt and paying for ongoing medical services, I'm going to pay for ongoing medical services. But maybe there's a way to split the baby, I don't know. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Arrington, just to further answer that question. The Chairman brought that resolution as a, just a explore what our options were to address medical debt. And that's what this sort of was is, they've researched it and felt like if we invested this \$2 million, we could address some medical debt for Fulton County residents. But we didn't approve doing it, we just approved looking into it, just to be clear."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "(Off-mic comments.)"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "For sure. I actually was just going ask a question, but I had to help clarify on that one. On the 4.45 million for the renovation in order to move the Assessor's office, is that all for the Assessor's move, or are there other things getting done as part of that 4.45?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We're still waiting to get what the actual cost estimate would be to include the Assessor's office, so it is an amount that would be put towards moving the Assessor's office back. If -- we may have to do some value engineering in order to get them in and in that -- in that number. But it is all for the Assessor's office."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So everything being done to this building is specifically for that purpose?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, no, no, I'm sorry. I meant, I thought you were just talking about the 4.4 million --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So, no, everything being done in this building is not explicitly to move the Assessor's office back. We are --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But 4.45 of it is? I'm confused."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "4.5 is the additional that would be needed. And we would add it to the contract that the Board has already approved for the work in this building. And that would allow us, we hope, to be able to bring the Assessors back. The whole project, as the Board knows, includes modernization of our restroom facilities throughout the remainder of the building, moving all of our forward-facing customer service functions down to the lower levels so that we would not -- in the event we had another airborne-type pandemic situation, we would not have individuals needing to move throughout the building to conduct their business. They would be in one, you know, one or two lower-level areas. The renovations on the tenth floor and then all the way down the building, as much as we could do with the resources that we have available. So we were adding this in to be able to hopefully bring the Assessors back into this building, and get out of the leased space. As a result, and I -- Mr."

Anderson may want to add some more commentary to this. But this really came up in our conversation, more so as a result of the incident that recently occurred in their building and some security concerns and the difference in security protocols between our facility and that facility. But the County Manager may want to add some more commentary on that."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, no, I was aware of that. And I think it's important to do it. I was just curious about the cost, and also the cost savings over time. What is that lease per year?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It's almost -- I think it's almost a million dollars --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "It is almost a million, very close."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yeah, 750 to a million dollars."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So we basically recoupe our cost after five years, essentially?"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Got it, okay."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So on the ARPA funds, we've got 70 million oh --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Seventy-four."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- or 67 million, or what is the number?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We have all of it programmed for --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "No, no, no. I want to know right now, how much cash do we have left?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "About 70 million."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "70, okay. And then we've got how much of it programmed? You said all of it programmed. Okay, so it might be helpful to have sort of a view for us to see where that's programmed to."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Okay. It's everything that's listed in the budget column."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Fifty-three?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, it's the green. If you look at the --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- the slide that's up, it's the green section."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "American Rescue Act, it's everything that's listed in the green column under budget. That is -- those are the --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- projects and programs that we have allocated our resources, our ARPA resources now, plus the interest too."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: So -- okay, so if I'm looking at --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So for example, that --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "If all of this is sort of in that -- so if I'm looking to try to understand where we've not really expended funds, I need to compare the expenses column and the budgetary column; is that what you're telling me?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "That would -- That's for the pure expense. The commitments column shows those items where we have a -- an encumbrance, so there's been a contract, a Board action, a contract issued, signed and let. And that commitments column then is representing the encumbrances against the budget. And then the expenses are where we actually then spend against those commitments. It's important to note that the court backlog project is primarily payroll related expenses. So you don't see the same level of -- you won't see the same level of contractual commitment because those are all pretty much personnel related costs. If you --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So -- okay, so let's -- all right. So the budget is to demonstrate -- the line is that we programmed for?"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So let's -- and then the commitment is to show what we've contractually, whatever with?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So if I look at something like -- all right, this is where it gets confusing. I look at the biggest gap would be between pandemic-proof county facilities, we've spent 2 million, we've got a budget of 35 and a half, and we've got commitments of 2.3."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. The Board has actually acted on the approval for the contract. The contract has not yet been executed. Or it has it? Oh, it has now been executed. So it's not reflected -- it was not reflected in the encumbrances in the financial systems then on June 14th. So --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, so, is this all fully committed?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Of the pandemic proofing?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, I mean, this --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So the Board --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'm telling you this -- I'm asking you this because you're having a hard time explaining to me, I'm having a hard time looking at it. This is hard for everybody, I think --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I understand."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I do understand that."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So there's 35.5 million that we've identified as being programmed. That includes the 4.4 million that we were adding in. The Board recently approved a contract for 28.5 million. That needs to be added to that 2.3 that's in the commitments column. We would need to bring back a contract amendment for the Board increase the contract to cover this portion for the Board of Assessors."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'm still -- it's still not -- okay. It's still not clear. And then -- then if I'm to look at this health infrastructure with this would suggest to me that there's \$9.2 million that hasn't been committed."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Inside the health infrastructure, we have the Behavior Health -- we have funding for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center. We have funding for the Developmental Disabilities South Training Center. And we also have now added in the --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "But it's not in this --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- contingency fund."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- commitment column. I mean, you're --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Because we haven't brought the procurement action to the Board for the Board to take --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. Well --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- and action --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Then it didn't look -- then it -- then have committed? I mean, there's like, this -- this is entirely misleading, the way it's set up. Because it does not look like that we've actually bound ourselves to, you know, clear numbers here. This leaves the impression that we've got \$9.2 million. And so -- and you're telling me we don't."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, what I'm trying to express is that the budget is the plan. We are still executing against the plan. We are in the process of getting the responses, the cost proposals for the Developmental Disabilities Facility. When we have that in -- when we have that, we will bring it to the Board just like we would any other --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, since we're getting closer to kind of the end of this, I think it might be better until we can see it more specifically, like what remains for us to do."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I mean, that's what I'm getting at, right? Because, I mean, there are -- it's, you know, then I come down, you know, to the smaller areas, like, well, we got, you know, you know, I mean, obviously, you know, with testing vaccination, you know, commitments of 1.3, and then we had a budget of 2.8, so there was a million-five left. I mean, I presume we're not doing testing and vaccination. You know, this -- we've spent, we've, in many cases, we've under run a lot of -- some of these IT budgets in general. But you're telling me we -- we've only spent a million-four, but we've got a commitment of 12.3 for IT virtual support. Is this something we just recently approved?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "That is the ERP project --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- that the Board approved earlier this year."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So that's that, okay. So I think it just -- where we've got these gaps where we haven't, you know, expended, it would be good to just be able to understand kind of what those -- what those are and, you know, to -- so we can make sure that, yes, we understand, and here's what we've committed to. And so if you're telling me all that is committed, then are we then just saying that -- or is it -- or is everything definitely committed, or is some of this stuff, eh, maybe not necessarily?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The 9 million that we're adding in right now, or that we've recommended right now has a plan. We have a plan for but not a formal commitment, in that those items would require us to bring something back to Board for the Board to take an action on."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So you would -- you did say we have a plan, you're talking about, you as a management team have a plan for something to bring to us? Not something that we've really said, hey, we want you to go do this?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, yes, we -- I would say that within that plan, we've previously presented to you the desire to, you know, renovate a county facility for the DD Training Center. You all agreed with that last year."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So that is in the budget plan. We are in the -- we are in the process of bringing forward the procurement action that the Board would act on that informally commits us to that -- to that project. And then we

starts spending against that procurement commitment. For the next report, Commissioner Ellis, we can -- or maybe can even do this and send it to you all before July so that you can see, you know, where we're at in each one of these areas, and what the steps are that we -- that we still have to complete for, you know, each of these programs or projects that are listed here within the total 241 million. We can just tell you where we're at in the execution -- execution phase against each of those."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay, fair enough."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'll be quick. First, I want to clarify, North Fulton County does not have seven hospitals."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I said five."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Five, doesn't have five. Outside the perimeter, there are two. If you want to go inside the perimeter, Atlanta area, Atlanta DeKalb, there's a cluster of hospitals. But I don't want people to think that we have just this abundance of hospitals everywhere in North Fulton. And I just have one quick question on the spending of the ARPA spending, there's a vaccine incentive program. What exactly is that program? And are we required to have that for ARPA spending, is that why we have it?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, we're not required to have it. When we were promoting our vaccination program, we did have a gift card incentive program that we were running at the same time, and so we had resources allocated towards that. We have a small amount that is allocated and unspent at this point. But that is what the vaccination incentive program -- but it was not a requirement, it was something that the Board chose to do during 2021 timeframe when we were in the highest point of our vaccination program. Yeah, it's discontinued at this point."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Oh, it's discontinued?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So but we still have a budget of point for --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We have a -- we have small amount of what we programmed that remains unspent. We haven't swept it yet because we still have some costs on our FEMA reimbursement that have not been approved yet. So we were, you know, still kind of holding some of those things that were testing and vaccination related because that's most of what our FEMA costs were associated with. We were holding those amounts that were unspent if we needed to offset any disallowed costs from FEMA."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "During that same period of time that the ARPA resources could be used."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "I would love to see this list of committed versus planned and versus hidden, versus -- I mean, and I mean, I'm being a little facetious. But I guess what I'm saying is, based on where we are now, we may make different decisions. What was the 28.5 spent on for pandemic proofing? What is that contract that was just signed?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It's for work to be done in this building to allow us to move forward-facing customer service functions that are -- that are on higher floors in the building down to the first, second, and third floor of the building. And then to come through the building and do some work throughout the building to improve the floor plans and the layout -- layouts of the floor plans, renovate the bathrooms, put in new furniture in, like, the cubicles and things that we have put furniture that we think will be useful in any future airborne-type event that we may have. That's why it was called, originally called pandemic proofing. It's also, in part, designed to address the change in many of the departments that were here in the Government Center moving towards hybrid teleworking and hybrid employees and to put in touchdown stations and more space that's conducive to employees that are working in that area. It also includes that we presented this, the renovation of the tenth floor as well."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: And you may not have mentioned, the movement from 137 to --

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Oh, yes. The movement from the HHS facilities from 137 over to the library and finishing the space at the library for that."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "And also, we have up to 2026 to actually spend the amount, not the end of this year for that, once the contract is issued to the vendor."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "All right. Well, yeah, let's hold off on issuing a contract because the pandemic been over two years. I don't want to pandemic proof nothing. Pandemic been over two years. We need to look at what is there and what can be reallocated. I don't want to pandemic proof nothing. It's been over two years."

There's nothing else to pandemic proof. And I mean, that's a oxymoron. We -- I mean, it -- it basically says that what we're going to do will prevent the pandemic. We're going to pandemic proof it. It's impossible. It's impossible. Let's spend that money on the jail. Let's spend that money on the hospital. I don't want to pandemic proof anything. I need to -- I need to know exactly what we have in the bank, what's planned, what's a contract, what's thought of, what somebody wants to do. I need to see all of that, because guess what, right now, all of that might change. All of that might change. Pandemic proof. Oh, I -- all right, thank you. I mean, this is important because I mean, we just made a decision about millage rate, and we're going to be 12 million under, and this and that. And we got 28.5 to pandemic proof something. The pandemic been gone since 2022. That doesn't make sense, at least not to me. So let's, if you can, please provide us with all that information so we can make informed decisions going forward about where all this stuff is. Because what happens is, we make a decision, something's been done, and like Commissioner Thorne said, this building is up there, it's empty. Well, if it's going to be empty for two, three more years, let's sell it and get some money. I -- I mean, we -- because of the bureaucracy of government, this isn't anybody's fault, right, it's the bureaucracy of government. We make stuff happen, then it takes two, three, four, five years to catch up. But in that interim time, we might need to make some different decisions. And so I need to know exactly what's -- who's on first, is what I need to know. Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I think we understand that. I think that's perfectly fair. I mean, I think the things that won't change, right, are the Behavioral Health Crisis Center is built. The Developmental Disability Center is absolutely needed, and we're without one. So those, put those two in the category of too late to turn back now. I think the remake of this building, while the naming -- the nomenclature may be leading with our chin, which I brought up several times in our internal staff meetings, it still comes down to, do you want to modernize this building, which has had virtually, other than the cosmetic that we've done in here, and then as you enter, hasn't had anything done in years. So if we don't want to do that, that would be a huge source of funds. And it's not too late. And then what we were planning to do is add to those in order to move the Board of Assessors here. If we don't want to do that, that's not too late, but probably represents a clear trade-off. But they're available for reassignment. And the last thing I would say is, all of these things, you have approved previously, but it may change. But I don't want the inference to be that we have a plan over here that no one has seen, because that's never been the case."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Well, yeah, and I think what it is, it's really the lag, right?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "It's the lag between when it's approved to --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Totally agree."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "-- we approve, we think it's done, but then now, we see it's not done."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "I mean, frankly, I'll rather spend that \$28 million at the jail. The people in this building are comfortable."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, I hear you, and of course --

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "People at the jail are not."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- you got to test if it meets the criteria of ARPA at the jail. I'm not sure about that. But notwithstanding, let us bring back what's --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Well, let's pandemic proof the jail."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Let's build a medical facility out there. I think it was turned down previously by this group. No, so we'll bring this back and hash all this out in the next meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Just an observation, I said this operational report would take at least two hours, it's two hours. Vice Chair, you have the floor. Take your time."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I think we do a disservice to the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County when we give a directive to the county staff, they move on the directive, and then we get amnesia as though we didn't vote. This Body has voted on several things and gave a directive to the County Manager and the staff that they move on. We do a disservice to the taxpayers citizens of Fulton County when we give the impression that there is a big pot of money that the Chairman -- excuse me -- that the County Manager has behind his back somewhere and, you know, you're hiding it. And I just want you to move out of the way a little bit so I can see it. Because my understanding, and I could be wrong, because we do have a lag. It started out as pandemic proofing. But we talked about the results of COVID, the hybrid, how we were trying to come into the national norm as far as how we were going to operate, how the building was going to look. And so maybe it's me, but because we give the taxpaying citizens, when we frivolously put stuff out and act as though got this pot of money that we don't have. I do understand the misunderstanding of what is allocated and what we have contracts. But what is allocated versus you all coming back to the Board to get the approval, there has to be some kind of understanding among our colleagues that this is the process. Because I don't believe that any of you all are doing something outside of what the Board directive is. And so I just want us to be a little bit more sensitive to the message that we're sending to the taxpaying citizens who are listening to this. I do

understand and give clarity that, okay, we have a certain amount allotted, we have a certain amount that we have actually spent, or spending up to date, but we have an amount that requires you to come back and get approval or for us to sign off. If I am incorrect, I would more than likely let you tell me right here in front of everybody if I'm wrong. That is my understanding. Is that the way that this is operating, County Manager?"

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. So let's be fair in the discussion that we have here. Because what oftentimes happens, we throw certain things out, and we give the impression that we have a county staff that's moving on their own directive as opposed to the directive that we have given. But we also have a process, which means a certain amount of money, a certain amount of money that's allocated, a certain amount of money spent, a certain amount of money that will eventually be spent and that area. Or if it's in that area, it's in that area for a reason because it may can't be spent in any other area but that area. And so I think, here again, for the listening taxpayer citizens, let's not give the impression that the county staff is doing anything arbitrary to what the will of this Body has, for one. And for two, there is a difference between what is allocated, what has been spent up to date, and what is left to spend on projected cost in that area, which could either go up or down. So I just, you know, unless, you know, CFO, Hakeem, got a gold pot over there that I don't know nothing about. Because if you do, I need to borrow maybe about 1.5 for my wedding, but we can talk about that later. All -- on a serious note you all, let's -- let's -- all of us are stewards of the taxpayer dollar. I don't think anybody down here would disagree with that. But we must be stewards of what we say publicly in reference to the taxpayer citizen because we are giving them the impression, maybe unintended, that County Manager, and you and your staff are going and doing stuff, and then coming back telling us what you're doing without the benefit of knowing that we have given you the direction to do that. So I just want to be crystal clear on that point."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Vice Chair. Anybody else? All right, Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "In that same vein, Mr. Chairman, you sent me a note about the potential of administrative holidays on -- this is the last item --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Oh, yes, yes."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- on 7/5, and then on December 26 and 27, based on how the holidays fall, which certainly we would, we would welcome and we'd be glad to implement if it's the will of this Board."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It is, I hope. Everybody understand? Break it -- say that a little -- simplify, Mr. Manager, what that means."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So both July the 4th, which falls on a Thursday, and then Christmas, which falls on a Wednesday, present the opportunity for us to create administrative holidays if we can go ahead and make this decision, and then communicate well in advance, where employees could take off a Thursday and Friday for the 5th, rather than just Thursday, and then having to come back on Friday. And then for Christmas, that holiday, what was suggested by the Chairman is the ability to take off Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "So, moved."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Let's vote on that, appreciate that. Madam Clerk."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Ms. Corbitt, will you let the -- our 5,000 people know?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Gladly."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "They already know."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And Mr. Chairman, the last, the very, very last item, we recognized, and you were there when we did so, Ms. Whitmore for 30 years of public service, all here at Fulton County. So for the public's benefit, and then for the rest of the Board Members, I want to thank Sharon for her tremendous service and incredible knowledge of everything, operations, as well as financial, and again, a spirit of public service, held very high, Sharon, over all of these years, so thank you."

(Standing ovation, applause.)

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I cry ugly, so thank you. They all got to witness that previously. But thank you, Mr. Anderson, I appreciate your comments, and thank you for the applause. I do appreciate it. I love my job. Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And that concludes our reports."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Two hours, two hours and eight minutes."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Of which, the Board talked, I think, two hours and --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, most of the Board. Two of us hadn't said a word today, yeah. Madam Clerk, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Page 7, **24-0433**. Real Estate and Asset Management request approval to amend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to provide landfill, solid waste disposal, and single-stream recycling services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0434**, Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to provide the required EPD Underground Storage Tank regulatory inspections, and to provide additional landfill site maintenance and repairs."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, **24-0435**, Request approval to extend existing contract in an amount of \$260,783.56 to continue provide Program Management Services for an additional four-month period in order to complete Phase II library renovation and expansion."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0436**, Information Technology request approval of a statewide contract in the amount of \$3,250,000 to provide telecommunication services and products countywide."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0437**, Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount of \$932,943.50 to provide telecommunication services and products."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Yes. Can we just have for the public, benefit of the public, someone explain the difference between the two contracts? We just did one for 3.2, and this is another one, which basically lists the same thing, for telecommunication services countywide."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER: "Yes, sir, Commissioner Arrington. Kevin Kerrigan, CIO. So the second item -- the first item was for all of our landlines. So all phone services: Circuits, all core infrastructure. This second request, which should have had the details, is specifically for all of our wireless services: Cell phones, hotspots, cradle points. So it's a separate item on the contract."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Thank you."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER: "You're welcome."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, continue, Madam Clerk -- I'm sorry, did we vote? No. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0438**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 102, Division 1 of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to alter the public notice requirements for advertisements inviting responses to Fulton County solicitations to permit, but not require, such advertisements to be published in The County's legal organ."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "So we just changed to the South Fulton Neighbor. We didn't know their rates were higher when we changed them?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Commissioner, when we looked at the rates and we looked at the time we have to advertise, they have a two-week lead period. We're not saying we're not going to advertise. We also want other mechanisms that the state allows us to have, so that we can be flexible when we have to advertise. We're just saying, it doesn't always require us, because that would extend our time to advertise if we don't get it in within a two-week period. That's all we're asking is for. We also have to -- we have our website, and we also have the Georgia Procurement Registry that we're required to advertise in as well."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "All right."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "We're not saying that we're not going to advertise."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "No, I get it. But it said that the rates were higher."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "They are. They are."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "It said the -- it said the same thing you said, that it -- there's a longer period to place the ad --"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "-- and that the rates were higher. And it just seemed like to me, since we just made this change, that we would have known that before we made the change. When did we make the change to South Fulton Neighbor?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "The Sheriff and the Probate Judge made the change, I think in January or February. And they didn't realize that in our code, there is an advertisement requirement that said the legal organs that we had to revise our code as well."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "All right. I don't -- well, I'll follow up with you later. I didn't understand it. You said the Sheriff and Probate changed it."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Yeah, they're the ones that can designate the legal organ for the county."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Not Purchasing."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Okay, thank you."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **24-0439**, Senior Services request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$134,288.98 to provide staffing services to support the operation of the Department of Senior Services."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: Quick question. Yes, Ms. Whitaker. New World Employment, formerly Snelling, is that also formerly Happy Faces? Have they changed their name twice in the same --"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "No, it's Snelling doing business as New World Employment."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. But was Snelling formerly Happy Faces?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Snelling is -- Snelling bought Happy Faces."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Bought Happy Faces?"

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "They acquired Happy Faces."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

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

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, **24-0440**, Community Development request approval of a resolution by the Board of Commissioners to authorize the adoption and approval of the 2024 HUD Annual Action Plan."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0441**, Public Works request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$64,422 to provide management, oversight, and administrative services for required Storm Water Management Program."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0442**, Request approval of a change order less than 10 percent for Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility Expansion Project Phase 2B in the amount of \$3,782,603."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0443**, Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to provide standby utility pavement patching and paving services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Justice and Safety, **24-0444**, County Manager request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 to provide program support services for the County Court Backlog Reduction Plan."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, County Manager's Presentation and Discussion Items under Health and Human Services, 24-0311, Senior Services --"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "We had a couple of add-on voting items, can we take those up before this?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There were two --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "We had two that are somewhat seem to be time sensitive, and we have people waiting here --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- to talk about them, the Grady thing --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, no objection, sound those two."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We added those on in an emergency basis --"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- at the beginning of the meeting."

CLERK GRIER: "On the add-on memo, **24-0450**, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities request approval to renew existing contracts in an amount

not to exceed \$9,481,532 to expand services to provide full-service operation and management of the new Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0451, Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount of \$28,848 to implement health communication strategies in underserved communities and to form, lead, and facilitate a Community Coalition Board and develop an online hub."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 10, 24-0311, Senior Services presentation of the Senior Transportation Uber/Lyft Program update, and request approval of the \$4 cost share per one-way trip."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Madam."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir. Today, the department will present recommendations to sustain the Uber/Lyft program within the \$4.6 million budget allocation. We are bringing back a more thorough analysis of the means testing option that the Board asked us to revisit. I'll turn it over to the Department Director Ladisa Onyiliogwu."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Director, Department of Senior Services. Joining me is our Deputy Director Dr. Kweli Rashied-Henry and our Program Manager Rafael Patterson. Waiting for the presentation."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "You can go ahead and start while they try to pull it up."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Sure."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "So the agenda item was left over from last time, what you're saying --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "-- that this is not this?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir. We are still recommending the \$4 cost share."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "And so is there something we need to vote on on this?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Okay."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Okay. Next slide. Next slide. Thank you, Clerk. All right. This slide -- no, let's go to the beginning, I'll wait. All right, the executive summary presents our state of play. Transportation is supportive service and the Uber/Lyft program is designed to support aging in place. Demand continues to increase, 7 percent trip increase from quarter 1/24 until the end of May. There's been a 3 percent to a 5 percent ridership increase from the first quarter through the end of May. In December 2023, the department presented options to control spending. Today, our department is recommending new sustaining measures. One is a self-attestation of income to determine the cost share."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Repeat that."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Self-attestation. And I'm going to provide more information on that, Chair, and what that means --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Mr. Chair, that -- it will be an honor system. If we use the means test, we would not collect documentation, we would just use an honor system. So you would just self-declare what your income is, and we'll use that as the basis for eligibility."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Our guidance will be the federal poverty guideline. Seniors 250 percent and lower will pay a \$1 cost share. And any senior who was above the 250 percent federal poverty guideline will pay \$4. So we wanted to kind of just set the tone and tee up the following slide. So let's proceed to the next slide, please. To restate, the program designed, Senior Services manages the contract with Common Courtesy. That is the approved vendor. This is a 100 percent demand-response service providing trips to medical appointments, community trips, multi-purpose facilities. The hours of operations are Monday through Friday, 8:30 to

5:00, and the program budget for this year is \$4.63 million. Next slide. Ridership and trips continue to increase. We've shared this with the Board since June 2022. So this slide shows a year over year services and how the trips have grown, the importance of this program. I want to direct your attention to the last bar on this chart. This is where we have a solid number of 79,885 trips that were taken through May 2024, 2,361 seniors wrote in May. We wanted it to project forward in where we could land by the end of this year. So we annualized the second quarter at a 7-percent trip increase. So we could provide up to 199,478 trips by the end of December. This is a conservative estimate, and we could possibly experience a total of 2,856 seniors requesting services in the month of December. Next slide. During the May 1st presentation, the Board did provide some guidance, and we took your feedback back to the drawing board. So we wanted to come back and share with you what we did. We did survey seniors; we selected a sample of seniors at the end of the first quarter, and found that out of the 228 sample size, seniors surveyed are open to paying more than \$1. But they are reluctant to showing financial proof. So this speaks to Dr. Roshell's explanation of self-attestation. So we are recommending a self-attestation process. This removes the need for a system to safeguard personal data, and reduces administrative burden and costs to administer a means test. I'm going to have Kweli come up and explain the table at the bottom of this slide. And she will also explain the following slide."

DR. KWELI RASHIED-HENRY, DEPUTY DIR., SENIOR SERVICES: "Okay, thank you, Ladisa. So the table is based on and it shows the criteria that will be used to set the proposed cost share. And the data is based on 2024 census data, and we used the federal poverty guideline levels to establish the income eligibility for each of the cost share tiers. So we also use the ridership assumption through year end, the 2,856 ridership to parse out the \$1 cost share, which would, may likely affect 600 riders and the 400 -- I'm sorry, the \$4 cost share, which may affect 2256 riders. We also show the potential cost savings per month at \$72,000 per month for the \$4 cost share riders. The next slide, if we could go to the next slide, it shows the breakdown of the federal poverty guideline levels. The 250, our federal poverty guideline level and below, those who would be paying the \$1 cost share, that represents about 21 percent of the seniors. And above the 250, we're projecting that that may impact up to 79 percent of the seniors. And so this data comes from the GIS data that we analyze, the team analyzed for us during last year in thinking about the means test and how we arrived there. So for a single individual, we could be looking at someone paying \$37,650, or that being their annual income, and they paying \$4 for the cost share. So at this time, I'll turn it back over to Ladisa."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Excellent. Thank you, Kweli. Next slide. So I stated earlier in the presentation what our projections could be at the end of the year. And so this slide helps to frame the policy discussion that will begin at the end of this presentation and kind of give an idea of what the cost will be based on ridership and number of seniors served with controls implemented or without. So if you look at the very bottom of this slide, we wanted to present how many trips and the total number of seniors that are registered. I actually received an update late last

night that the total number of registered seniors is about 6,954. So if all of those seniors took eight trips, and I'll just use the number here on the slide, we're looking at up to \$15 million every year. It could be extreme, but we wanted to present a true picture on where we are with the ride -- with the registration and the interest of this program. The very next bar, second bar for the bottom which is in red, is the annualized number of trips for 2024. And that is the 199,478 trips with an eight-trip maximum because most seniors are just taking no more than eight trips a month. That total would be about \$4.68 million, 4.69 million. And that would cause us to be looking at an overrun of about 55,000, because this year's program budget is 4.63 million. If the Board approves a \$4 cost share and the self-attestation program, then we could provide 199,478 trips, but still stay within budget, getting us to about 4.5 million within -- with an underrun of 160,000. For 2025, we wanted to present to you how we could serve seniors with the allocated funding for FY24, because we don't make assumptions for additional dollars in future years. So because this year's budget is 4.63 million, we would carry that forward to next year. And in order to stay within budget and manage the program, we would be able to serve 2,311 seniors and provide about 221 trip -- 221,000 trips. Next slide. This is our final slide. And these are the recommendations that we're asking for you to consider: Permit a self-attestation program based on the federal property guideline. Again, seniors at a 250 percent federal property guideline and lower will pay \$1 cost per trip. Any senior above 250 percent will pay a \$4 cost share per trip. We're recommending that the Board establish a maximum of up to eight one-way trips monthly. This is how our projections have been presented to you for some time now, because that is based on the average number of trips seniors are actually taking. We're requesting for the Board to consider implementing -- excuse me -- if the Board approves, we will implement this program, provide senior notification, and begin providing the self-attestation forms, contacting the seniors and what not. We would serve up to 2,856 seniors by the end of this year. For 2025, we're requesting for the Board to consider approving a service level of 2,311 seniors monthly. And that's up to eight one-way trips per month, per senior. And the department will continue to evaluate, and our plan is to update the Board this October. And with that, we'll conclude and answer any questions you may have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. My office has received quite a bit of calls on this. You know, our senior population, our aged population, is one that I think all of us, as colleagues, and of course, your department take to heart. But in good conscious, I could not support an increase at this time based on the feedback that I've gotten. I'm hoping that we can find the money somewhere else, at the minimum, until the end of year. I want to offer a substitute motion to keep it at \$1. If we want to impose the amount that you stated in your report up to eight one-way trips per month per senior, but I want to offer up a substitute motion to keep it at the \$1 for now. I have had too many seniors, too many advocates, too many people that reached out to me when they saw this on the actual agenda. And in good conscious, I could not support \$4. Even, I know, you know, you said self-attestation, which will be the honor system,

but based on conversations that I have had with not only seniors in my district, some of the seniors have been in Commissioner Hall's district, Commissioner Arrington's district. A few of them were even in Commissioner Barrett's district. So right now, I'd like to offer up a substitute motion to keep it at a dollar."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. That's the substitute motion, is there a second? All right, I'll second. And you got that program? What do I do here? Hit -- it did it? You did it for me? Oh, okay. But I do have a question. I'll second that motion for, keep it at \$1. What would be the cost to keep it -- and that is for until the end of the year, we'll let 2025 stand on its own, but from now through the end of the year, \$1. And what's that cost?"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Can we go back to the previous slide, please?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "How much, 50 --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "55,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's all?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Mr. Chairman, the other measures that would have to be taken in combination with sustaining or remaining at the status quo of \$1, this is predicated on an assumption of limiting the trips to eight --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I understand."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "-- and the number of seniors that we would serve, the upper limit would be 2856."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I understand all of that. But what's the cost from \$1 per trip --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "55,650 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's all?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes. For 20 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's all?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "For 2024, yes, sir. That's the additional cost."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Well, I'm happy to second that motion if that's all it cost."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I think it's probably -- I can't speak for all of -- and I would not speak for all of my colleagues, but I have received a overwhelming amount of seniors that have reached out to me. And so I just, I just think that would be in the best interest at this time, at least to the year -- end of the year."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to thank all of you for the work on going back and sort of looking through this again. I know I was a little hard on you guys last time. So I really appreciate the effort to come up with something that will serve many seniors as we can and still keep this from being a budget that just goes up and up and up, year over year. I do appreciate that this year, the difference in cost is, you know, within reason, certainly. But I did want to ask you, Dr. Roshell, because we had talked about the cost implications for 2025. If we don't implement the \$4 cost share and the limit of eight round trips, what is the implication for next year's budget?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "1.9 million additional dollars would need to be invested."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Assuming that growth rate stays around 7 percent?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Assuming that the Board adopts the eight limit trip maximum, and assuming that we can have approval for 2,856 seniors?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Wait, so if we don't -- if we approve nothing today, and unless we -- you're saying if we keep it at \$1, but we all -- we go with the eight rides and the capping the number of riders, essentially --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "It would be approximately 6.5 million."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So at a minimum, we would have to come back and vote on those two things, the cap, the number of riders cap, and the number of trips?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, ma'am, that was the only way the team could give you some estimate. We had to put some parameters in place in order to run a calculation. So that's why we chose that based on the 3 percent increase that we've seen, and the 7 percent increase that we've seen in the number of rides, we use that as a baseline for the calculation. Of course, it could be higher, it could be lower. But we thought based on the data that we have that those were reasonable assumptions."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So without controls essentially, it could go way beyond, potentially?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "The floor would be 6.5 with those controls of limits and the number of seniors."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. It just seems to me, I -- listen, I would love to continue to do a dollar across the board, but I'm gratified to hear that in the survey, a lot of folks did say that they were open to paying a little bit more. And while not comfortable with providing proof, it sounds like they were okay with just sort of stating their income. So that's good to hear if we do need to implement those matters. I'm in support of this because I think we can't -- we cannot be a Body that is determined to not spend any additional money, but then never say no to a program or, you know, anyway. I appreciate the effort."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I concur with my colleague, what she said, the seniors in my area, I did hear from a lot of seniors. Some even did a little survey that I sent to you in their whole little senior community. And they just see the importance of the program and trying to keep it viable. And I feel like we start -- we need to start reeling in some parameters. At the time of the survey, I don't even think they knew that they would have the attestation put in there at all."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Correct. Correct."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "They were just willing to pay the \$4. And I think it's great that we're putting that in with the honor system, so that those who really would struggle to pay the \$4 are -- can still pay the one. And the ones, the seniors that I talked to that can afford the \$4, they just see an importance of the program and really, really are willing to spend 30 bucks extra to keep program going."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Yes. And Commissioner Thorne, if I could respond to that, what you had just shared and in response to Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, that the options are there for seniors who do struggle. And the ones that did contact you, they may indicate that they are below the 250 percent federal poverty guideline, and they stay within that \$1 cost share. So we

wanted to build in an option for the entire Board to consider to help us to continue to manage this program and provide this important service. But thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: I'm just -- I concur with the previous two colleagues that spoke on this. I think, you know, you've got an option for those who are below the poverty line, or your -- and it's simple, straightforward. And those that are not, the average cost of an Uber ride is like 25 bucks, right?

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Yes. Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: So for folks that, you know, would have the means to do it, they could be doing it anyway. But we're facilitating the service, and we're doing it at a discount, this is, you know, I think this is a no-brainer for the sustainability of this program to move in this direction. Probably going to need to do even more in the future. But yeah, this is a good framework for setting this up. And then, you know, looking at the trends and see what -- see what it means, you know, six months down the road. So we kick this can down the road a lot. Hopefully, we'll take some action on it, and take you up on your recommendations today."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I appreciate your recommendations. I'm not speaking that the recommendations are not good recommendations. I guess with me, given what our seniors have been through this year, and some of them are still grappling, even though \$25 may not seem like much to us, maybe two drinks at Starbucks, it could be the difference with someone paying for their medication. They've got their Georgia Power bills going up, they've got their gas bills going up. Some of them are being affected in other ways. And so I only offer this as what I call a temporary solution to the end of the year. If we -- if going into 2025, if we see that that \$55,000 difference was not warrant or worth it, then maybe I would back off of trying to fight for the seniors right now. But in good conscious, I, at this point with Fulton County, with some of our seniors have expressed to me, some of the things that they're doing, they've had to deal with individuals in their homes. They have lost jobs who are helping to make the ends meet. Some of them have been displaced. And so this is what I am offering up temporarily until the end of the year. And that's my reasons why. So I just wanted to make sure that the Senior department, Ladisa, I -- you all did a lot of work on this. And I don't want to look as though that I am not taking you all's suggestions. This is something that does not come easily for me to say. But when it comes to our senior population, I'd rather fight, even if I have to fight by myself and be right, or to go along with everybody and be wrong. And so after a lot of consultation, after a lot of

conversations with even senior advocates, I'm going to have to stand by asking my colleagues to keep it at the \$1 at least to the end of the year. Thank you."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So just so we're clear, we're voting on keeping it at \$1, and nothing else; is that correct?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's the motion."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So that is going to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "To the end of the year."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Right, until the end of the year, and that's going to incur a cost of \$55,000?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, ma'am, \$55,650."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So then at the beginning of the year, Ladisa needs to bring it back?"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Well, we're -- of course, we're going to go through the contract. We will process at the end of this year, so we'll have to set the contract at the 4.63 million. And if we reach that 2,856, yes, we'll bring it back very soon, the beginning of the year."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Dr. Roshell, I thought you just said it would cost \$6 million to run this through the end of the year."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "No, sir. There was a question about 2025."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "So you're saying -- so what -- help me understand this \$55,000 number."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So for the remainder of the year, our projection is based on 3 percent continued increase in ridership. We are projecting that we will reach 2,856 seniors who take eight trips each. The minimum is a

\$55,650 overrun. Those seniors could start taking 16 trips. But this is based on the data that we have now using the trend analysis of the 3 percent that we've seen from January until now for the number of seniors who are taking trips and the 7 percent in the number of trips."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "And you said that's a minimum of 55,000?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "It's a minimum because we don't have any other controls in place. So if the trend goes up past 3 percent and they're 3,000 seniors that take a trip, it's going to be more than 55,000. We just wanted to try to give the Board our best analysis based on the trend that we've seen in the first quarter leading into second quarter."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "All right. I just want to be clear though, so it's not going to cost 55,000 to do it, it's going to cost at least another 55,000 to maintain it. Because there's a difference between saying it's going to cost 55,000 to keep it, and saying it will cost at least 55,000 to keep it."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir. Thank you for that clarification."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "And Dr. Roshell, also we have experienced 200 new seniors take schedule -- registering -- registered riders and taking trips since March up to now. So to your point, at least it's growing."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "I mean, because the reason y'all brought this to us last time to go up to four, was because y'all thought y'all were running out of money. So I'm perplexed as to why it's \$55,000 today. If it was only \$55,000, why even bring it? Why did -- why didn't we pass it last time? Why don't y'all suggest taking it to \$4? If it was only going to cost another \$55,000?"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Now -- I'll let you --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "When we brought the --"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "I have a response, but I --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "When we started this conversation, we had to -- we requested 1.5 million, so that's where the conversation started. So no action was taken. The -- we came back to the Board with the new contract, and we were asked to continue down the road of understanding what some sustainability measures could be if there were no controls in place or if there -- they are. So we're just simply presenting to the Board options to remain within the 4.6 million, and wanted to be transparent about where the program could go. So right now today, if all

of our projections hold true, at least that's a very good way to qualify this, 55,000 for the rest of 2024 if we don't go over 2,856 seniors, and if those seniors continue to take only eight trips, that is what we project."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "So based on us adopting a millage rate today with a \$12 million deficit, I'm not going to be able to support the substitute motion. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Even if it's \$100,000, it's worth it to keep it at \$1 per senior. We're always talking about how much we love our seniors. Well, this is where you prove your love for the seniors. Madame Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So just to clarify, any senior who declares themselves only able to afford the \$1 ride will be able to do that even with this \$4 option?"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "That's correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So we can still love them all just as much. And the ones who want to support the program by paying the \$4, will pay the \$4. Well, right now, we're voting on leaving it at \$1, I understand that. I'm just clarifying that. And also the 56,000 minimum, essentially, turns into -- and we did spend another 1.5, already this year over last year. And then now we're talking about another 1.5 to 2 million next year, and then incrementally more, year after year after year if we don't implement a control. So just reiterating all that before we vote."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The record will be clear. Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yeah. Let's -- let the record be clear that we're not talking about widgets. We're not talking about spokes on a wheel. We're talking about our seniors. We're talking about individuals that are on fixed income. I know, yes, there are some that can pay more. I'm not advocating for the ones that can pay more. I'm advocating for the ones who can't, hence why I said, if the minimum that we are going to charge or have to eat at the end of the year, it's \$55,000, so be it for our seniors. If we have to eat \$100,000 at the end of the year, so be it for our seniors. Our seniors, who are in the winter years of their lives, who have seen their prescriptions go up, who have seen them being preyed on, whether it's deed fraud, whether it's someone trying to do trafficking with their -- they've been a target all year. Whether someone has been trying to take their check from them, somebody -- cases where individuals have stolen in my district, a pet from a senior, and told the senior, you will not get your pet back until you give me \$500. And so here again, if I'm the only one standing on this, I'm advocating for the seniors that can only afford to pay a dollar for the rest of the six months. And as Ladisa, you said, if it goes further, you will come back to us. You will come -- am I correct in saying, you will come back to us, and let us know if it's -- have become astronomical, or if it goes, it looks like we're going instead of 55,000, maybe 100,000, or whatever, you will come back to us and let us know if it goes over?"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Yes. And our plan is to come back to you this October as well, so yeah."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "So if the plan is to come back in October, if the plan is to say that you care about the seniors, the least of these, the ones who are preyed on every day, people are calling their phones trying to get their homes from them. A lot of them are being followed in the grocery store. I was in Kroger and someone ran up and snatched a senior citizen's purse out her hand and ran out the door. So I'm asking just temporarily, of my colleagues, can we keep it at \$1 for the least of these?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just want to clarify. We are advocating for the seniors that only can pay \$1. They will still only be able to pay \$1, let's make that clear. The ones that can afford will help supplemental -- supplement the overall cost of this skyrocketing program. And they can afford it. And my seniors came to me and said that the program, keeping it, is more important to them, and they want to help. They want to contribute. They see their neighbors, seniors that need the program that are homebound. And they rely on this program, and they're willing to kick in. They want to pay something. You know, for someone who takes care -- well, we're managing my father-in-law's finances right now. He loves to be able to feel like he's a contributing citizen, and helping other people. And so I feel like the calls that I got, I mean, the emails I got, I had citizens that -- seniors that wanted to contribute. And so I feel like we can -- have to do the responsible thing. We have to tighten our belts now. We just passed an 8.87 millage rate. This is one area, I know it's only 50,000, or whatever it's going to be, but we've got to tighten our belts somewhere. This is just a small step to show that we're being responsible. And we're still advocating for the seniors that can't afford to pay the \$4."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So can I make a friendly amendment that we keep it a dollar until the end of this year, and then at the beginning of the year, they can start this \$1 attestation. And the seniors can still get their \$1 if they do not have the ability to pay more, and it can go up to \$4. How about that?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Accepted."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "That covers everything."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I made the second, I'll accept that."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, anybody else? All right."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So what are voting on?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "On the substitute motion --"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- for to keep it at \$1 --"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "It doesn't cover the ridership."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "It'll go to the \$1 with the attestation, and make -- if they can't pay, they'll pay \$1. If they can, they'll pay four."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Does that include the eight trips?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yeah. That includes the eight trips and all that."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "So Mr. Chairman, so that we're clear, can you -- can FGTV please advance the slide to the recommendations so that the team understands, that we understand your direction?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "For 2024, the program will remain at status quo?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, yes."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "\$1 dollar cost share?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "No changes?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "If it passes."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "If it passes, yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Okay. Yeah, let's get that clear."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, sir. Yes, sir, thank you -- Mr --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Wait, but there's more."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Hold it, hold it."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "But there's more."

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

COMMISSIONER HALL: "But there's more."

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

COMMISSIONER HALL: "But there's more, please continue."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "For 2025, we will implement the means test at the 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Those seniors that are lower than 250 percent of poverty will continue to pay \$1. The documentation required will only be self-attestation. They will self-report on an honor system. We will not be requesting any documentation. No bank records, nothing. When Ms. Sally says, I make 20,000, that's what we'll document, and she will pay a dollar. For seniors that make above 250,000, if they say I make 38,000 for one person, they will pay \$4. In addition to that, starting in 2025, trips will be eight one-way trips. We will also need to come back to you with the 2,311 monthly trips or 2,856 trips. I don't know if you want to make the decision today. But in order for the program to work with the cost share, we need approval for not only the limit but the number of seniors that we serve."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Commissioner Hall, do you want to change your friendly amendment?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, to include what you just said from this page."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Okay. So this page basically will be implemented beginning 2025?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Dr. Roshell."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: Yes, ma'am.

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I just want to, for the listening audience, you said 250,000, you meant 250 percent."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes. I'm sorry. Thank you, Vice Chair, yes, of poverty. Thank you."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Clarification, one question. Is the -- is letter E also implemented for 2025? Just for understanding for our team."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes. This page will be the policy direction for 2025."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Okay."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS: "It's status quo for 2024."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "The friendly amendment is accepted."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I'll accept it as a seconded. All right, let's vote on the motion, substitute motion that's before us."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Back to the main motion which is to approve a \$4 increase for seniors. Let's vote."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON: "Point of order. That is just so tainted to say that. It is not to approve. The recommendation is not to approve a \$4 increase for seniors. The recommendation is to maintain it at \$1 for seniors that are in poverty and under the 250 percent level, and for all others to pay \$4. And so I don't know why someone would attempt to mischaracterize that in an attempt to make others look bad. That is inappropriate."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes; five yeas, two nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0404**, Discussion, report from CFO and Purchasing Director on implementation of the Cherry Bekaert procurement recommendations, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. CFO and Madam -- where is the -- Purchasing, is this the one we -- we will have legislation at our next meeting, and I'll be drafting legislation to deal with the issue of constitutional officers not following our purchasing procedures, and if we end up in court, we end up in court with all the Sheriffs statewide. But that's the legislation that we'll have. So we'll hold this one today. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0445**, Discussion, outstanding water bill from City of Atlanta, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam CFO, where are we?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Mr. Chairman, not much to report today. We've completed our preliminary review of the account list that was provided by the city. We had it mapped by the GIS department. There were a few outliers that we've reviewed, we've identified about 20 accounts on that list that we need to review with the city for removal. These are either facilities that the county owned or rented at one point in time in the past, though, we no longer own or rent. And then we are continuing our analysis of the six major accounts of the data that the city have -- excuse me, the data that the city has provided. So we'll continue to update the Board as we make progress on that analysis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. When do you think we'll have a final decision on this as to whether we owe or do not owe?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We are -- the stage that we're at now with the account analysis is where we're going back to our payment records, pulling the actual payment documents to look for payments that we believe we've made that we do not see posted on the data that the city has provided. That will depend on how long it takes us to pull all of that old payment data, so we're working on that. I will say, you know, it's probably going to be another, probably another six weeks at the minimum. Currently, one of the individuals working on this is out on bereavement leave as well."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is it true also that the Atlanta Public School System is having the same problem?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "They have reached out to us. And in fact, we have a meeting scheduled with them. I'm glad you mentioned that. We have a meeting scheduled with them tomorrow afternoon to see what their issues are."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So we'll continue to hold this one. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "22-0446, Discussion, options to confirm or deny allegations of a culture of corruption in Fulton County Government, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. We will continue to hold this because the County Attorney did not finish her response to this whole culture of corruption here in the county and what our options are. So we can hold that until the next meeting. Because I think it's going to be instructive for all of us to hear this, particularly in light of the Manager's statement that the only corruption he's aware of is among elected officials. And there's 44 of us, so I'm curious as to which of the 44 of us will be investigated by somebody. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "24-0447, Discussion County Auditor review of the Registration and Election Absentee Voting Process."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I have Mr. Nicks here to present. Currently, I asked for this audit because other counties had done the audit, but Fulton County has been plagued with inappropriate absentee ballot handling, security, processing, mailing in all areas. So I just wanted, now that we moved into a new warehouse, we have a new facility, that correct procedures are going to be put in place. We are currently being punished by having monitors, once again, assigned to us starting -- and I have to degree by August is my thing. The cost to the county is going to be about \$160,000. These -- and they're going to have multiple monitors this time. So I'll let you go through the audit, Mr. Nix, History next. Thank you for coming."

ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR: "Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, other Members of the Board, we were asked to do this by Commissioner Thorne, and specifically --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Speak up, Mr. Nix."

ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR: "We were asked to do this audit by Commissioner Thorne, and specifically asked to look at the absentee ballot process. The objective was to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the absentee voting process and evaluate whether adequate controls exist throughout the process. The scope was between November 2023 and February 2024. The background purpose was to observe the preparation, mail out, receipt, opening, and processing of absentee ballots for November 7th, 2023, and the General Election and March 12th, 2024 Primary Election. Specifically, the auditors were on site to observe the process of mailing out those absentee ballots and the opening of them. The areas that were reviewed were the absentee application acceptance phase, ballot production and mail out phase, receipt and storage of ballots, ballots extraction and processing phase, ballot upload and retention phase and consent order. Because the report is voluminous, I won't go into the description of each one of those phases. I will speak to what the auditors observed and what the recommendations were. For the absentee application acceptance product -- process, for the mail portion, there were no application mailed in for them to observe, so there are no recommendation. For the walk-in process, there were no walk-in ballots to observe, so there were no recommendations. For the email and fax, at the time of the auditor's visit, there were no emails and faxes. However, they did review the daily count log sheet showing the number of applications received by date through the various pathways. The recommendation there was, was that there were procedures that were not listed on the report, on their SOPs. And so the recommendation was to update those procedures to show all of the processes that they go through. There were no recommendation for the GARViS portion of the report. The next section is ballot production and mail phase. The auditors determined during this phase that all the steps were not listed in the SOPs. At the time of the observation, we had a very, very detailed write up on what those steps were, and we can provide that to any Board Member or to Elections when they are ready to review that. For the stuffing of envelopes, the auditors did observe that process. They felt that that process was clean and there were no recommendations. For the verification of mailing envelopes, during the process, and I will read to you the observation that they had: We observed the verification of the absentee voter report to the mailing of envelopes by the absentee officers. The verification includes the confirmation of the name, address, precinct, and political party. The envelopes were also reviewed to ensure all inserts including ballots were present and within the white mailing envelope. We observed one envelope that did not include a ballot, it was inadvertently omitted. The ballot was requested for the political party and the precinct and placed into the envelope. The auditors recommended that steps for handling missing and omitted ballots were not addressed. They recommended that the procedures are updated to include that information. They did make note of the fact that there was a corrective action plan in place for that missing ballot, however, it was not included in SOPs. For the verification of ballots, the auditors observed procedures that were not detailed in the SOPs. They recommended that those procedures be updated to reflect all of the steps they observed. Again, the auditors have detailed information, step-by-step procedures to share with the Board or share with Elections regarding those steps that were not listed. For the counting of the

ballots, we observed the counting of the ballots and noted the first count did not agree with the manifest total of 814 ballots. The courier performed a recount by running the ballots back through the counter to ensure all ballots were accounted for. After the recount, the total agreed to the manifest total of 814. One ballot was inadvertently left on the table. The auditors recommend updating the procedures to include all steps observed to ensure processes performed by all staff are consistent, and to ensure all requested ballots are mailed to respective voters. For the safekeeping of the ballots, the auditors noted that there were no procedures listed for the transportation of those ballots. And so I would read what they said here: We observed the sealing of the ballots, we did not observe the ballots being transported downtown. We informed that -- we were informed that there must be at least two mail couriers traveling with the ballots. We were unable to verify the consistency of the steps performed given the absence of written procedures as it relates to that particular process. There were no procedures in place, and they were not listed, so. Receipt and storage of ballots verification, the auditors recommended that the ballots be presorted to determine initial issues with applications containing missing information or other issues so staff can continue with the verification and acceptance of ballots. This particular recommendation relates to just the efficiency of the process. We looked at comps, specifically, who had implemented this, and it did speed up the process of verification. Verification, ballot acceptance, the auditors recommended, currently the absentee ballots supervisor and other designated absentee specialists can verify or accept ballots. The auditors recommended that they specify a name, a specific job title, who would be doing it in the absence of the absentee ballot supervisor. Verification, ballot acceptance, continued: The procedures for this portion of the operation were not documented. Batching and safekeeping was not included in the SOPs. Ballot extraction, written procedures were not detailed to include all of the steps. Prep station, no procedures existed for this phase. Scanning, we observed the scanning of 50 ballots on scanner number 1, noting the acceptance of the scanned ballots and recording information on the manifest. Dual signatures were required, however, we, the auditors recommended updating the written procedures to include specific steps for ballot scanning. Ballot upload and retention, there were no recommendations in that area, specifically ballot retention, there were no written procedures for ballot retention -- I'm sorry, there were no adequate written procedures for ballot retention. Lastly, they looked at the consent order, which was issued by the state. And what they recommended was, was that for those individuals who are required to go through training for RLA, they recommended that they implement an acknowledgement form that that training had, in fact, occurred."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you for that. I appreciate all the work your office has done on this, and I appreciate my colleagues here, that are up here still. I looked at the zip files that you were given with the standard operating procedures. Did you get a chance to look at all the documents that were dumped in there?"

ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR: "No, I haven't."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So if you open that zip file, it was -- you would think it labeled absentee ballot SOPs, but it had all kinds of stuff, and probably 25, 30 percent of it was just random stuff throwing in there. So I don't even know if by chance you had a quarantine again, and someone has to take over the process because the regular staff couldn't be there, where they would even find these SOPs. I mean in there, they had ordering and reassigning mobile devices for the department, invoices paid, payments SOP, purchasing thresholds SOP, Fulton County Voter Registration Division, all of that, just stuff like that throwing in there. Did you guys look at even accessing the SOPs --"

ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR: "My staff --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- plainly?"

ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR: "My staff has looked at those SOPs. I have not looked at them personally. We haven't had a chance to go through each one of them and determine the validity of them, and that's where we are."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I want to put up my first slide. Because I really don't think the Elections Department understands the seriousness that we are one step away from having the State Board take over our election again. They made some changes, they've taken the Secretary of State off the State Board. They've changed some staffing on there because honestly, Fulton County keeps getting a slap on the hand and nothing gets corrected. And I was very, very disappointed in the last regular meeting by the Board of Elections. One of the board members had put -- asked, can we discuss the audit at our meeting? And it wasn't put on the agenda. The Chair ignored it. Instead, they put on some things for challenging voters, I think were drafted up by the ACLU. If we had to understand, in June 2020, we had the -- a horrible election, long lines, voter suppression, ballots, voters didn't get their correct absentee ballots. The SEB, some people didn't even get ballots at all, so that's when the SEB decided to put a monitor in. It was voter suppression, people not getting their absentee ballot. So it's very important this year that we get that step right, of actually putting in the correct ballots, and the people actually getting their ballots. And now, we're going to have this mail system delay, that's only going to complicate the process. Could you go to the next slide? These are some concerns by the Carter Jones report. And by the way, he was -- he's listed as coming back as another monitor, they're going to have a team of monitors. So if we don't have SOPs in place to address all these concerns, we're just one step away from being taken over again. Could you go to the next slide? I don't know if you can play it or not, but the videos that we saw of the handling of the absentee ballots were -- quite honestly, we were told that the -- the temp workers there were just feeding the ballots through, and it -- but it was jamming, the system was jamming. And that's why they had to put them through multiple times, the same stack. They put it through, let it go through, take it, stack it up, put it through again. We were told it was jamming, but then we sign a decree saying that, oops, we doubled scanned over 3,000 ballots."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner, just one question. Is this the most recent election, is that from 2020?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "That's 2020."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "They got mask on. So we have to get this right. There was a Facebook video -- you can go to the next one. There was a Facebook video of one of the temp workers going around this Government Center willy-nilly with absentee ballots in open crates, not secured, exactly what you talked about, bins not secured for transporting the ballots. We've got to get that right. The optics are horrible. And the opportunity -- you -- no elect -- no temp workers should be left alone with ballots, point blank. Just recently, Mariska Bodison, in February in court, and Mark Wingate, former BRE member, both of them testified that we just didn't even do signature verification. It was the law that you had to have signature verification to verify that the ballot was turned in by the correct person. Both of them in law said that you guys couldn't get the BlueCrest software to work. I don't know how much you spent, millions of dollars on that software, you couldn't get it to work, so they just didn't even do signature verification at all. So that's a form of voter suppression if people who were ineligible to vote voted, because we didn't do the proper verification. It's also why they put in SB202, that you guys say is voter suppression. And now we have to check IDs because we screwed up. We screwed up, and we didn't do signature verification. So they had to change the law to accommodate. You can go on with the consent decree, where we admitted we double scanned ballots. And when you went to ask, I put that in my request, these are one of the reasons why I want this audit done. And you came back to me, and you're like, well, Nadine, didn't even know about it. And so now, I had to follow up and send you articles on the actual consent decree because our Elections Director didn't even know about it because the Chair and Patrise Perkins-Hooker went down and signed it, but there was no discussion in their meeting. Oh, their meeting was great. Oh, we went -- we just have to go down to the State Board of Elections. There was no discussion. The board has to be a part of reeling in and helping developing these processes. You know, in June of 2021, Mariska Bodison testified that they just happened to lose the drop box security forms. Transfer form, she said, as we review the documents provided to you in our daily log, we noticed that a few forms -- it wasn't a few, it was 385, are missing. It seems when 25-plus core personnel were quarantined due to a positive COVID-19 outbreak at the EPC, some procedural paperwork may have been misplaced. We've got to make sure that all that paperwork is there and there's checks and balances to make sure that it's not simply misplaced. So I'm just frustrated. And I apologize. And I thank you, Patrick, for coming down here. Your responses to -- I don't know if you want to give your responses. You guys say you've updated all your standard operating procedures, and maybe you could fill in a little bit more."

PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS: "Yes, ma'am, by all means. Thank you. Good evening, Board, Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director for Fulton County Elections. So if I could, in response to some of that, Commissioner, all the instances and concerns that you raised were from 2020, four years ago. Also, the time of this audit was they -- they did the observation for November of 2023 and March 12th, the Presidential Primary. So from that time, we've conducted two elections successfully. At even in going through this process, all the issues, or not issues, but concerns and recommendations from the County Auditor, in reference to the SOPs have been updated. Even the ones that are in the report that needed to be drafted, were drafted, added to this SOP and resubmitted back to the County Auditor. So again, not to dismiss, but again, currently, we are in compliance. We have met all the asks from the County Auditor in regards to this process. So I do, I thank you for -- but I would like to make that clarification."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Good. I appreciate you coming down here. I understand Nadine couldn't come down here. Do you do a verification with the number of envelopes and the number of absentee ballot scanned? Did you write -- is that part of your reconciliation process to make sure that you have the same number of envelopes and the same number of ballots scanned?"

PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS: "Yes, ma'am, that's a part of the process itself when received an application. So that is built in, it's built within the process."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I appreciate that. I'm going to let colleague, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. I'm going to -- I'm going to make a suggestion. You all may have already done this. This seems to be a very passionate issue with my colleague, Commissioner Thorne. Not saying that you all haven't, but I want to say publicly, any and everything that Commissioner Thorne has brought to you all, please take it under advisement. On the other hand, I also want to say, any of the things that the Auditor found or any issues, missteps, or whatever, in a county this large, I don't know that it would have altered anybody's race that much. And I'm not trying to -- well, let me rephrase that. Somebody who had the whole entire world running against her, I don't think any of those things would have changed my race, the outcome, but that may be me being biased, so let me put them out there. Can you all do some things better? Of course. But so can we, Hence why it's 20 minutes to 7:00, and folks want airtime for they're podcast. But let me -- let me take that back, strike that from the record. Strike that from the record. Bad Commissioner, bad Commissioner. I guess what I'm saying is, sometime Commissioner Thorne and I agree, sometimes we disagree. In our disagreement does not lessen my passion or hers. My concern openly today is, I want to make sure that the door, so to speak, is open for Commissioner Thorne in any issues or concerns that she may have. Now, mind you, the caveat to me saying that, you all run that department. So I expect for you all to be the subject matter

experts in my appreciation. However, if we have a colleague that has an issue with SOPs, we have a colleague that has an issue -- if I have a colleague has the issue with anything, it's not even just this, but anything, I would hope that the relationship would not be adversarial. Because I think we want -- we're all on the same page. It's no way you can tell me when all eyes of the world are on Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections, that we do not try to get it right. I remember Patrise Perkins-Hooker telling me that she was not going to resign. And these are her words, not mine. She said, Vice Chair, I was not going to resign, I was going to stay in place. She said what made the determining factor for her was when she heard me say the eyes of the world are on Fulton County. And so whatever way we move, somebody, somewhere, is not going to like it. You ain't going to be able to please everybody. So I would just ask that the relationship -- I'm not saying it's adversarial, you didn't hear from me, but I think it could be a little bit better. And I'm going to ask the Board of Registration and Elections, I'm going to ask that department, and I'm also going to ask my colleague that moving forward, now that she's had the audit, now that she's had her say, that we find things and the successes that we have had and build on those. Is any Board of Registration and Elections the size that we are going to be 100 percent error proof? No. We've got empirical data that says it can't. Because of the size, we're going to make some mistakes. Are those mistakes going to mean the difference between someone winning and losing their race? I would say on the side of, not, very small, small percentage. But I will ask moving forward, in good faith, as the Vice Chair today, that whatever we can do, Chairman, to make sure that we can move forward as best as we can on one accord. Thank you, Auditor for being here at a quarter to 7:00. Thank you, Deputy for being here at a quarter to 7:00. And you all, kudos because you are doing the job. I'm never going to put -- throw you all up under the bus, because I know you're doing the job. But just like anything else, we may have some residual issues going on. We may have some differences of opinions going on. But I think if we look at the areas that we do agree and we work from there, we'll find less contentious. Okay? Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'll be quick. I just want to thank my colleague for her words. We are all -- we all want the same thing. We don't want Fulton County to be in the news again. We don't want things covered up. We want one person, one vote, that's the achievement here. And I do have to say, Mr. Eskridge, you've always been very respectful to me, and I appreciate that. I appreciate your calmness. But there were a few things that I asked for three weeks ago. I wanted some cost on running EV locations. I wanted to see some historical data on precinct voter patterns. And I also wanted to see staffing of all our precincts. If I could do that, I'm going to be looking at cost. You guys can develop those SOPs. I think today I asked if I could just see the updated SOPs, just to read them over for my own benefit. Not that I'm going to call you back up here again or anything. I will work with the Board, and not directly with you. But I do appreciate you coming, and being here and hanging out all day today."

PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS: "My pleasure."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thanks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So two quick things, number one, we typically get a report after an election, printouts and so forth. But where -- what happened? By precinct."

PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS: "By precinct? Sir, if that's what follows our election, you'll get it. After this, I'll just make sure I speak with Ms. Williams, and we'll get that to you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. That would be -- and where's -- okay, we need that. We always get that after every election. Where's Mr. Nicks, did he leave? Oh, he's behind you. Mr. Nicks, could you provide us a status report on -- well, first of all, we need -- I'd like to have a copy of what you -- that audit for the board. Could you distribute that to the Board? It's public information now, correct?"

ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, I'd like to have, the Board, for all of us to have a copy of that. And my request, though, is for a copy -- not a copy, but a status report from you at our next meeting on all the audits that you have completed that you may have not released yet, and also those that are in progress. Recognizing that if you have to delete anything that the -- without revealing names, which I'd like to just know where we are on a number of audits that you're doing. I'd like to have that our next meeting."

ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR: "You were referencing audits, or are you referencing reviews or investigations?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All of the above."

ANTHONY NICKS, COUNTY AUDITOR: "Okay, got it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Had one quick question for Patrick. Have you guys turned over all your election materials to the Clerk yet?"

PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS: "No, ma'am. The delivery, I believe, to the SOS is Friday."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Friday?"

PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS: "Yes, ma'am."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Madam Clerk, any other matters to come before us today?"

CLERK GRIER: "We just have one last item, but it was Commissioner Arrington's discussion item. Would you like to hold that?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Hold it, okay. We'll hold it. All right, that's it?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No other items that come before us today, we are adjourned. And thank you for your patience and attendance."

(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 6:48 p.m.)