

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

April 01, 2026
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: May 6, 2026

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

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)	PRESENT
Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)	PRESENT
Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)	PRESENT
Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)	PRESENT
Vacant (District 4)	
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**26-0177 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, and Barrett

Absent: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

26-0178 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Torin T. Dailey Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
March 20, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Thrive Management Development Program Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**
March 20, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Roshell Ingraham Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
March 20, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Trenches Global Impact Center Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
March 21, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Wilson S. Smith, Jr. Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**
March 21, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Buffalo Soldiers Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
March 21, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Bill Duke Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
March 22, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "DJ Mars Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
March 22, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Marcus Garvey Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
March 25, 2026

Proclamation recognizing “Tip T.I. Harris Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
March 25, 2026

Proclamation recognizing “Thuy-An Julien Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
March 25, 2026

Proclamation recognizing “Kawan KP Prather Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
March 25, 2026

Proclamation recognizing “Yvonne Maria Hodge Remembrance Day.” **(Pitts)**
March 27, 2026

Proclamation recognizing “Master Sgt. Cedric D. Jackson Appreciation Day.”
(Abdur-Rahman)
March 27, 2026

Commissioners' District Board Appointments

26-0179

Board of Commissioners

FULTON COUNTY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

The Reparations Task Force shall have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members, for a total of 14 members. Each member shall be a resident of Fulton County at the time of the appointment. A member shall serve for a two year term and subject to removal by the appointing Commissioner for cause. No member's term shall exceed that of the appointing Commissioner, but shall remain as a voting member until replaced or reappointed by the successive Commissioner.

Term = Two year terms. The Reparations Task Force shall sunset on December 31, 2027 unless continued by action of the Board of Commissioners.

Term below expired: 12/31/2025

Amanda Meng **(Barrett)**

Commissioner Barrett nominated Amanda Meng for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

26-0180 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE (APPROVED UPON
ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

Term = Two year terms. The Reparations Task Force shall sunset on December 31, 2027 unless continued by action of the Board of Commissioners.

Term below expired: 12/31/2025
Elon Butts Osby (**Barrett**)

Commissioner Barrett nominated Elon Butts Osby for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

Justice and Safety

26-0181 Superior Court Administration

Request approval to close out a contract - Superior Court Administration, SWC #47100-GBI0000165-0002, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00 with Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, Inc., for the return of diagnostic equipment used for random drug testing for Fulton County Accountability Courts. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Open & Responsible Government

26-0182 Registration & Elections

Request approval of qualifying fees - Registration & Elections - to approve qualifying fees for Fulton County Board of Commission, District 4 to be filled in the 2026 Special Election. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0183 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution approving a Neighborhood Service Center Lease Agreement between the City of Atlanta (Lessor) and Fulton County (Lessee) for the County's continued use of approximately 5,237 rentable square feet of space at 215 Lakewood Way SW, Atlanta, Georgia, for the Bethlehem Neighborhood Senior Center, with an initial term of one year and two one-year renewal options and for the monthly rental amount of Four Thousand Eight Hundred and 58/100 Dollars (\$4,800.58); authorizing the Chairman to execute the Lease Agreement and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Lease Agreement and related documents as to form and make any necessary changes thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**26-0184 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, and Barrett

Absent: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

26-0185 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2026

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 18, 2026

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, and Barrett

Absent: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

26-0186 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "National Community Development Week"
(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts)

PUBLIC HEARINGS**26-0187 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)

8 Speakers: Maggie McCullom (Kinship Care Program); LA Pink (Political Integrity); Demetrice Brewer (Homelessness); Maggie Goldman (Jail Funding); Janet Hill (Deed Fraud); Julie Allen (BRE Appointments/Elections); Maria Gaudio (Federal Elections Trial); Jayson Toweh (Voter Access)

1 Zoom Speaker: Linda Nash (Deed Fraud)

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**26-0188 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a Statewide contract - Registration & Elections, Georgia Secretary of State, PE-47800-SS-2024-000000006, SoleSource - KNOWiNK in the amount of \$252,217.78 with KNOWiNK, LLC (St. Louis, MO) to provide mailing & voter communication services such as precinct card mailings, communication notices and printing and mailing of absentee ballots. Effective upon approval through June 11, 2026. **(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, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Health and Human Services

26-0189 Public Works

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Public Works, Sourcewell Contract # 011723-CAT, Heavy Construction Equipment with Related Attachments and Technology in the amount not to exceed \$235,550.00 with Caterpillar through Sourcewell’s Authorized Representative Yancey Bros. (Atlanta, GA), for the purchase and delivery of one (1) Caterpillar, Inc. Model: 320 Excavator. This is a one-time procurement. **(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: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Pitts

26-0190 Public Works

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1421243A-ST, Standby Utility Pavement Patching & Paving Services in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00 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, 2026. **(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, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS

26-0120 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to promote Public Education regarding how to obtain voter identification; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD ON 3/4/26 AND 3/18/26) (FAILED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Pitts

Abstain: Barrett

Did Not Vote: Arrington

26-0171 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to appropriate nine hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and zero cents (\$975,000.00) to the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation to support services provided to survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (HELD ON 3/18/26) (APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0191 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to authorize payment of locality pay to the Superior Court Judges of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit; and for other purposes. **(Ellis) (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, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****26-0192 External Affairs**

Presentation: 2026 Legislative Session Update. **(PRESENTED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to request the Governor to veto HB 369. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Barrett, and Arrington

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Thorne, and Ellis

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**26-0193 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Utilization of funds committed for improving Jail Detention staffing, detention staffing hiring progress. **(Ellis) (DISCUSSED)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

26-0194 Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, and Arrington

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Barrett

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve an amendment for JCI for increased maintenance and capital renewal at the detention centers in the amount of \$6,787,088.00. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve a clinical grade cleaning at the jail facilities in the amount of \$543,780.51 with Cotton Commercial USA, Inc. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
FIRST REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2026
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC
“A Court Reporting Firm”

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone and welcome to the First Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in April. Today is April 1st, 2026; it is 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please, call the roll."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr., Vice Chair Khadija Abdur-Rahman. Mr. Chairman, you have a quorum."

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda: **26-0177**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any items?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Nothing, Madam Clerk?"
CLERK GRIER: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve. Motion to do so by Commissioner Ellis; second by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On the bottom of page 4, First Regular Meeting Agenda: **26-0184**, Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any items, Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0185**, Ratification of Minutes. First Regular Meeting Minutes, March 4th; Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 18th, 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; it's seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes: four yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0186**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates: Proclamation recognizing 'National Community Development Week' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and Chairman Pitts."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Actually, we got -- Vice Chair is here, making an entrance, so we're going to allow her to come up and share. This is a Full Board proclamation, but she's the primary sponsor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. I'm sorry, y'all, I got stuck in traffic. Everybody decided to come downtown at the same time. Okay. And so, get started on it."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "It's all yours."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "All right. WHEREAS, the week of April 6th through 10th, 2026 has been designated as National Community Development Week by the Council of State Community Development Agencies, and the National Community Development Association to celebrate the Fulton County Department of Community Development; Community Development Block Grant, and the Home Investment Partnership Program; and WHEREAS, the CDBG and Home Programs have empowered our state to address a wide range of needs including affordable housing, economic development, public facilities, and services for low and moderate income individuals and families; and WHEREAS, the CDBG and Home Programs have made significant contributions that benefit individuals and households in Fulton County including older adults, people with disabilities, homeless individuals, children, and veterans; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County -- WHEREAS, in Fulton County, we remain committed to leveraging federal resources through the CDBG and Home Programs to implement innovative projects, promote development, and build a more prosperous future for all residents of Fulton County; and WHEREAS, Community Development Week provides an opportunity to highlight achievements of the CDBG and Home Programs and recognize the dedicated efforts of local leaders, community organizations, and residents who work tirelessly to enhance the well-being of our neighborhoods. It is with humble and a little late pride, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognize and celebrate National Community Development Week and the extremely important and powerful work impact and commitment of the Department of Community Development; and does hereby proclaim the week of April 6th through 10th, 2026, as 'National Community Development Week' in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you, please, put your hands together for a great part of Fulton County?"

MIA REDD, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. I am Mia Redd. I am the Deputy Director for the Department of Community Development; and on behalf of our director, Stan Wilson, I'd like to thank the Chairman, the Vice Chair, and the Board of Commissioners for this proclamation for -- to our County Manager and Dr. Roshell for your leadership and support and, of course, to our team for all of the work that you do day in and day out to assist individuals and families in Fulton County. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 5, Public Hearings, **26-0187**, 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 by registering on the county website, www.fultoncountygga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have received eight speaker cards. Will the first five speakers, please come forward: Maggie McCullum, LA Pink, Demetrice Brewer, Maggie Goldman, and Janet Hill."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Speakers, when you have 15 seconds remaining, I'll say 15 seconds and that will be your clue to begin to conclude your remarks. First speaker."

MAGGIE MCCULLUM, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, my name is Maggie McCullum, and I want to bring awareness and expansion for the kinship care program. Siobhan Wells serves as a kinship program coordinator in Fulton County serving grandparents and caregivers 55 plus taking on raising children. There are 16,000 grandparents, 26,000 grandchildren; part-time role but the scope reflects full-time commitment. Siobhan, work tireless to develop, coordinate, and expand to address the challenges faced by caregiver. How can one person organize and afford to provide a holistic approach care, which focus on wellness, education, community connection; caregivers are provided with meals, self-care, workshop. It has to be emotional raising children later in life. We need kinship support and growth, especially for this population underserved. Siobhan needs support and staff. Demands are increasing among grandparents with resources to reach more families, holding families together. Expanded program for Siobhan's leadership and dedication and advocate for the population play a crucial roll in our community. Siobhan's work is necessary for seniors. Now, I want to talk about me. I participated in the Alabama Senior Game. I won seven medals: three gold's, three silver, and one bronze. I want to thank you for listening to carry on this goal for active seniors and a purpose to motivate and to work together to get fit, stay healthy --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MAGGIE MCCOLLUM, PUBLIC SPEAKER: -- and live. Thank you for your attentive ears today. I hope you all work with me. Thank you."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Well, today is April Fools' Day, but we are not no fools. I come down here today because everybody is looking to be the first this and the first that, and the first, you know, but when we going to get the first line of people that are standing on integrity? When is that going to be something that everybody is looking

forward to seeing and being? Everybody is looking forward to being the first this and the first black that and the first white this and, you know, it's Democrat, Republican. When are we going to just put all the labels to the side and stand on integrity, dignity, responsibility of what everybody signed up to be for the community? Because at the end of the day, that's all it's about: the community. You guy's job is to rely on being there for the community, not your friends. Not what doors you can get open, not who you can get in to make sure that you get more money for the mayor, for the DA, for the Sheriff. People keep talking about change. How do you say change but you keep on bringing back the things that remain the same? How do you go back and get something that took a million dollars from the people, from the community, taxpayer dollars, your dollars, anybody that live in Fulton County; your money relies on any mistake that the Sheriff make; any mistake that the DA make. Y'all keep on wanting people to come down here and not talk about these things, but there's sex scandals on the line. The Sheriff right now -- from allegedly, that phone call last night --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- April Moore was supposed to had a DUI this weekend and got stopped by the police, and called him. Now this is alleged, but just a phone call about it is disgusting. Let's get it together. We got people's lives on the line."

DEMETRICE BREWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Atlanta we've got another problem with this homeless situation. This time it's not outside; it's on the other side of y'all. You have folks (inaudible). They ain't down on that end no more. It's right there. Right there. To be exact it's Hank Aaron Avenue. It's bad right there. On Ashby, Joseph E. Lowery -- we just lost another friend: she froze that's why I'm back in here because everybody keep saying they picking these people up, and they not picking them up. How I know; because I'm out there. Sorry to say it that way, I'm not trying to be blunt with anybody, step on no toes; I ain't trying to be smart this time. I done lost a lot of friends out there. And putting these folks in these houses, and when one lose they ID, they get kicked out. I don't find that to be funny, and I don't -- it's shouldn't be funny to y'all either. Y'all need to look in on these matters. That's all I have to say. Y'all have a blessed one."

MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Maggie Goldman in District One. Commissioner Thorne, on January 21st, you said that we're providing money for the Sheriff to staff, but he is still understaffed. There are a significant number of vacancies because of not properly staffing. Staffing is his responsibility. It is a management issue and not a financial issue. I have a copy of the Sheriff's responsibilities from the Georgia law right here. And nowhere does it say that the Sheriff is responsible for creating the salaries, recruiting the candidates, or hiring any of the jail staff. You know whose job that is, Commissioner Thorne; Fulton County HR, County Manager, Dick Anderson and you. It's your job to offer a jail facility that will track new talent instead of discouraging them. It's your job to offer salaries that will attract new talent and not discourage it. It's your job to recruit and hire talent so the Sheriff can do his job of developing and

implementing a staffing plan. He's even told you what you need to do. The recruitment and retention plan says that you need to bring all the current staff up to market salaries which would only cost \$3.6 million, and then proceed to offer those same salaries to all the new talent. He's even offered a list full of appealing benefits that would make the job of working at the jail more attractive to new talent. When the monitor says the county should work together with the Sheriff, what they mean is, listen to him when he tells you what is going to work and then do that. If you don't want to take responsibility for the county's actual role in the understaffing of the jail, and hold the County Manager and HR accountable --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- then District One will elect someone who will."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Deed fraud crimes in Fulton County Georgia continue to escalate. We face more horrific inhumane treatment daily. Women, seniors, veterans, disabled and the minority communities are terrorized, stalked, and false documents are being filed repeatedly forcing citizens from their homes, using taxpayer dollars to fund these crimes. According to criminal investigative reports in the mid 2000s, one of the main forgery deed fraud hubs for the country -- for the country was located in Fulton County. In 2024, AARP issued a National Guard to seniors regarding deed fraud crimes; in 2025, the FBI issued a national alert televised on Good Morning America. And lastly, we've done an informal survey with a scorecard for Commissioners. Based on the number of informal cases that we've reviewed, the number for the Commissioner with the highest rate of resolutions is Commissioner Thorne. The Commissioner with the lowest rates for resolution of these deed fraud crimes is Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Mo Ivory. Commissioner Pitts, we will be following up with you to find out what the next steps are to get these properties returned and to move forward with --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- with this criminal investigation. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: Last speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: Julie Allen, Maria Gaudio, and Jayson Toweh."

JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Julie Allen, District Three; Dana Barrett is my Commissioner. Thank you for serving. It feels like a waste of time to come here because the real question is, are you listening to the citizens that you represent? We the people are exhausted -- exhausted from lawfare, exhausted from tax payer dollars spent without accountability, and now those same taxpayer dollars are being used to block Republican appointments to the Board of Elections. Who are you serving; your constituents or a political agenda? So let's asked

directly; what are you hiding? What are you afraid of, and why are you fighting to get ballots back from the Department of Justice? A federal judge just questioned Fulton County's effort to recover 2020 election material seized by the FBI, especially when digital copies already exist. So again, why fight transparency? Now, Fulton County, hear this: We are told to trust a system where tens of thousands of ballots are questioned, ballot images were deleted, duplicate scans were identified, and ballot registrations remained, and the margin of a presidential election was decided in Fulton County by 11,779 votes. Transparency or resistance? Instead, a court ruling allows a partisan majority to reject opposition nominees to the Board of Elections, so the same system under scrutiny decides oversee it that is not trust that is a blueprint for silencing dissent."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds.

JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "It fits a pattern, jail failures, property fraud, victims ignored, corrupt officials: DA Fani Willis, Sheriff Patrick Labat, former Commissioner Natalie Hall and her million dollars that tax payers spent on her sex scandal. Why is accountability harder than --"

MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you. Maria Gaudio. To continue the discussion about the elections and transparency, there was a large federal case on Friday here in Atlanta -- Friday the 27th. The case of Pitts versus United States. I went to the trial, I'm sorry you weren't able to make it, Chairman Pitts. None of the Commissioners were there. The attorney for Pitts, Abby Lowell, spent 62 of 90 minutes allotted talking about if's, seems, should of, could of, would ofs, no facts. There were two witnesses -- his witnesses, Abby Lowell's witnesses were asked to leave the room, but only one did. Only one remained sequestered, that was Che Alexander. Abby Lowell only left 28 minutes for his witnesses to be examined, a rookie's mistake. The witnesses, Che Alexander, said she just wanted to follow the law. Ryan Macias, the expert witness, turned out to be not an expert at all; the US attorney chewed him up and spit him out. The US attorney spent 19 minutes on his opening comments, and that was more than 70 minutes left for his -- to cross-examine the witnesses. It was really a useless appeasement trial. Everybody has the right --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- to represent themselves. I just hope Chairman Pitts that we are not paying for that that it's coming out of your funds since your name was on the trial. Thank you."

JAYSON TOWEH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Jayson Toweh; nice to be here. And I'm actually a US House of Representatives candidate for District Seven. I just want to start off first with thanking the members and individuals at TSA, all the local workers at Hartsfield Jackson Airport who have helped maintain a smooth transition as we can. So I wanted to talk about the theme of voting access across the state as a

whole and in this county. In recent weeks, we've seen the Bill -- House Bill 369 being pushed forward in the General Assembly which would shift how elections are to be done in various counties including Fulton. My whole goal is really to -- how can we actually still make sure that we have fair, free, secure elections that allows every eligible voter the right to vote. This is something that's deeply personal to me, as in 1963, my grandfather, marched on Washington with Martin Luther King. A few years ago I served as a John Lewis Fellow as a part of the Faith In Politics Institute. John Lewis was one of the leaders and champions around Atlanta and really bring justice and equity into our community. If elected to Congress, I would support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to really bring more elections, carry integrity, and to reduce the potential of disenfranchisement. I'm glad to be here and speaking and time and hoping to engage, continue to engage with folks across the county and the district as a whole --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JAYSON TOWEH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- I will just close out by saying my name is Jason Toweh, T-O-W-E-H. To learn more about me, you can go on my website towegforcongress.com. Thank you all for letting me speak today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I understood there's a problem with Zoom; has that been corrected?"

CLERK GRIER: "I think we are able to do the public comment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Duke Virginia. Duke Virginia. All right. Next person to speak is Jenn Simmons. Jenn Simmons. Next person to speak is Jocelyn Martin. Jocelyn Martin. Next person to speak is Linda Nadh. Linda Nadh."

LINDA NASH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "It's Linda Nash, and I'm here."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We can hear you, Ms. Nash."

LINDA NASH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I wanted to speak to you on behalf of Homeowner's Legal Rights; it's a nonprofit organization that I am a CEO of and the subject is deed fraud. Deed fraud is the responsibility of the state maintaining perfected chains of title. It is a requirement of statehood. This is under the executive branch of government, and it is your land records that are filled with fraudulent documents, and

people are losing their homes because of these fraudulent documents. It is your responsibility as Commissioners to maintain proper records. It is not the responsibility of the judiciary. People need to know that their land and their homes are secured by your proper public records and that you don't allow fraudulent documents to be found in your records and homes to be stolen. Many of these documents are signed by people who have no authority to sign those documents. We're at a lost as to how to make you understand how significant and important it is that privately owned parcels of American soil are being stolen --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LINDA NASH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- by foreign entities which makes them a crime. That's all. I thank you for your time."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 5, County Managers Items, **26-0188**, Registration and Elections: Request approval of a statewide contract in the amount of \$252,217.78 to provide mailing and voter communication services."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes: six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **26-0189**, Public Works: Request approval to utilize corporative purchasing for heavy construction equipment with related attachments and technology in the amount not to exceed \$235,550."

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: five yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "On Page 6: **26-0190**: Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 to provide standby utility pavement patching and paving services."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the vote is open. And motion passes: six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner's Action Items, **26-0120**: Request approval of a Resolution to promote public education regarding how to obtain voter identification; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; it's seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, there's been a lot of rhetoric lately about voter ID laws and how they're discriminatory, yet that's a problem that's being promoted out there, but there's been no solution to close or address that gap. When you consider the full range of identification that can be used to vote in Georgia, there's a vast majority of residents that already have this form of voter ID, so I think it's imperative as Commissioners that we focus on educating residents on what identification they already may have and may work. And those who don't have a form of ID, which I think it's probably a small number in this day and age, it's important to ensure and make them aware that voter identification cards are available at no cost. I repeat, it's free to our residents, and they need to know this. I encourage this vote forward to focus on practical solutions, and I challenge anyone to explain why they oppose this common-sense action to provide information to the public on what ID they can use and how to obtain one if needed. I am proposing that we open up all our public facing facilities to wherever voter education and outreach, whatever they deem is appropriate to educate the public. And I just hope that you would support this, because the rhetoric that's out there I feel is dangerous, and I want to ensure the public that we, as Commissioners, are doing everything that we can to make sure that every legal voter has access to voting. This is not a political issue; this is not a Democrat issued; this is not a Republican -- this is just us, as Commissioners trying to be a solution and not a barrier to voting. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne -- excuse me. Motion on the floor is to adopt. I'm sorry; Commissioner Barrett?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Thorne, first of all thank you for removing some of the more incendiary language that you had in the

earlier versions of this legislation. I am, of course, very much in support of providing information to the public, so that they have a clear understanding of when and where and how to vote and any other details they need to make the process smooth. But we already do that. We have a wonderful outreach effort put on by our Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections. They do a great job, and I think there really is no massive confusion by your own admission or really any confusion about Georgia's requirement to provide ID when you go to vote. If there was, I would be all for fixing it. This just feels like there wasn't an actual problem you were trying to solve, rather this is a solution looking for problem. I feel like, by your own words over many years and months now that we've been working together, if you had an issue with a particular department and the way they were operating or that they were not doing something that should have been done, you should have gone to them directly and ask them. But you did not do that. Look, at the end of the day, I will support this, but I really think it is unnecessary. I think they're already doing a good job, and I also think that it borders on overreach. They have a Board of Registration and Elections that oversees the Department of Registration and Elections. We're -- by doing this, we're sort of micromanaging specific information they need to put out versus other. It feels unnecessary and a bit of an overreach, but in the interest of, you know, good faith in getting the information out, I will support it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I said I wasn't going to weigh in on this, but unfortunately I feel a need to speak. We know that our colleague, Commissioner Thorne, is very, very adamant about elections -- election's department, that is her passion. Now, what I want to go on record saying if there was incendiary language in there and she removed it, then that is some type of action of someone trying to work with us instead of against us. I know when she put it on hold, and I had a conversation with her, and I said, have you talked to Nadine, are you talking to the elections department, is this something that they can get behind and support? So let's be fair in our assessment of this. I understand it has been very strained, and even Commissioner Thorne and I have not always seen eye to eye when it comes to several different things, but we try to find common ground. And so what I'm saying is, if you saw something that you may not have liked and you saw it removed, that's a win. If it is voter outreach, if it's in support of what we're doing already, that's a win. If both sides -- because it's not just on one side: if both sides have hijacked this agenda and has used it to be divisive, then I see this for what it is, which is something to bring the people together. I could be wrong; hey, it won't be the first time. But I just want to say, that I appreciate you, Commissioner Thorne, getting with our voter and elections department, because I know that has been an area of contention. And when I saw with this particular legislation was to increase, to do everything at the county level to make sure that we identify what the people need, let them know what they need, and possibly assist them if they fall short. Now, if it's something other than that, somebody tell me, but that's what I got from it. So I'm going to support it and I'm going to support what was

once a very, very contentious relationship that looked like it was trying to win and work together, and I have a great appreciation for both parties. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So I just wanted to respond, briefly. First of all, I do appreciate your willingness to talk about this, Commissioner Thorne, and make adjustments and I -- and so, I certainly did not mean to acknowledge that that had not happened; it has. And I mean, you always do that, and I think we have had many conversations about things we don't agree, and they're very civil and, you know, we move forward, so that's all good. But I will say, Madam Vice Chair that I did actually each time this appeared on the agenda, I did check with the election's department, and I did check with Ms. Williams, and she was not given advance notice or asked what their thoughts were. So I just want to be clear, I have also spoken to her and gotten the response that no, this was not something they were consulted on, nor do they, the department, think it's necessary. So just to be clear, I am not making this up. I didn't fabricate it. I actually did have conversations with them. That said, as I said before, I'm fine with moving forward with it, but I just want it to be clear that I wasn't trying to stir the pot; I was just giving you my two cents."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. This Resolution -- well, let me say this. You know, to a certain extent, I'm okay with voter identification. What my concern is and I -- my concern is really the SAVE Act, right? And you know, even something like this will not have an impact on those women whose birth certificates may not match their driver's license or others and, you know, I have some concern about this being a preamble to the SAVE Act. You know, voter identification, I have to show my ID when I use my credit card at the ATM, so I am not opposed to voter identification. But with all that's going on right now, with this SAVE Act, I'm reticent to approve this Resolution, particularly since apparently elections -- this hasn't been discussed with election according to Commissioner Barrett. Fulton County facilities have regularly served members of the public -- and then there's language in here that says as determined effective by voter education and outreach. I don't know -- I don't know what that means. It doesn't -- it doesn't really make sense as written -- as determined effective -- I don't know how the word effective is in there (inaudible.) hereby directs each public facing Fulton County facility as determined -- as determined effective -- as determined by voter education. Maybe the word effective shouldn't be out. Maybe that's something that should've come out with the other language that came out. But I'm supportive of -- yeah, I have no problem with people having to show their ID. I do have a problem with the SAVE Act and people having to prove their citizenship in order to vote. I think our Registration and Elections Department does a good job of voter information already, so I'm going to hold off on supporting this. Commissioner Thorne, I just don't -- I -- frankly, I'm worried about your intentions; not the language of this Resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "My intention is just to make sure there's not a barrier to voting. Many of you don't know my history. The very first election I worked was the Obama presidential primary, and I got there and I was in charge of the poll books. And I saw people come in and their name wasn't on the poll book. We were in the cafeteria at Manning Oaks Elementary School, and we have benches, you know, the tables with the bench that kind of folds out, so we had tables lined up with benches, and we would bench people. At times, we had 15, 16, 17 people benched because they weren't in the poll book. For me being a computer person, I thought this is ridiculous that these databases were not updated in a timely fashion. It's instantaneously to upload a poll book. Why were we given poll books that weren't updated and these poor people were having to wait 15, 20, sometimes 30 minutes before we could clear them to vote. That's what spurred me on to work elections time and time again. I made an immediate phone call to my supervisors, Cynthia Floyd Thomas and said what is the deal with these poll books? And then, the call lines were blocked, and it would take us 20 or 30 minutes just to get someone to answer the phone. I saw it as a barrier for people to voting. People who were on their lunch break, who just wanted to pop in and vote were spending 30 minutes on a bench before they got to vote. So that's my intention, is to remove any barrier or access from voting. That is my intention, but there is a perception that there is a problem and, as Commissioners, I want to be a solution to a problem. I don't want to be just out there complaining about the problem; I want to be a solution. There's talk about birth certificates not matching their driver's licenses. I want to make sure we have a solution, because there might be a person who's married and their driver's license has changed, but they forgot to update their voter registration, and it doesn't match in the poll book. So I want to make sure that we have material for -- in the event that that happens. I am leaving it in the hands of voter education and outreach. I don't want to manage them. I don't want to tell them what to do, but I want to make sure that all our buildings they have the right to go in to every building that's public facing that Fulton County owns and promote voter education outreach. That's my intention. Now, there's talks that I did not talk to the election's office, which is quite false. When I first presented this Resolution, my office communicated with the LaShondra Little at Friday 27th at 11:31 a.m. prior to the close -- posting on the agenda. On Friday, February 27th, she responded and said she had received it and she was going to share it with Election's Director, Nadine Williams. On Friday the 27th, LaShondra Little responded saying my team does ensure that we provide this information about voter identification that all of our events, and folks can also come to any of our offices to get an ID if they meet the criteria. On Sunday, March 1st, we reached out to them again to Nadine Williams who responded with concerns in the language, so we tried to clean up the language. I responded back to her. We had communications with Elections. It just so happened that when I was drafting this up, the state legislature, one of our state legislators from the Capitol sent me our voter education and outreach document. He was like, what is this about? And I explained what the documents were about. When I flipped through the PDF file, there was no information on voter identification. There was no information if you have a barrier and you don't have voter identification. I want that

to be a priority. I want it to be in all our information. I don't think there's many people this day and age that don't have voter ID, but those few that do, I want to make sure that we're helping them in every effort that we can. That's it. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0171**: Request approval of a Resolution to appropriate \$975,000 to the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation to support services provided to survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families, sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion on the floor is -- motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Chairman Pitts. Vice Chair, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I appreciate my colleagues supporting this. Back when the federal funding and grants started to dry up, I stated that the county was going to need to step in the gap. As a domestic abuse survivor, I would be remiss if I didn't tell you this is something that I hold dearly to my heart. Because it is those crucial moments when you're being represented at the court, when you're getting a restraining order. I went through that. When you get the child support and all the things that need to happen, I went through all of that. And as a living witness, I tell you, it is a harrowing experience; and having had to go through counseling, and through steps of making sure that it doesn't happen to anybody I know or don't know. I always am an advocate for it. I want to go on record thanking the Chairman. When I first brought this to the Chairman, he thought it was a great idea, but like anything else that he asked me, where is the money coming from? And so, I want to thank our County Manager, I want to thank Dr. Roshell, as well as our -- Sharon Whitmore because it was a team effort to make sure that we found this funding, but the beauty of it it is not taxpayer money. And I want to go on record thanking them for all the work they did. This was a very arduous task in making sure that we could find the funding; making sure that all the T's and the I's were crossed; but more importantly, this is what government is about: finding the solution. Now, I know that this may be a problem come next year, but I tell you, the best way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time. And we, as stewards of taxpayer money, must always understand it is taxpayer's money. But we don't want any individual to not receive the services as such a crucial time in their life dealing with domestic violence. And so, I thank my colleagues for supporting this. I thank Chairman Pitts for his leadership on it, and I thank the county

manager's staff for taking what could have been a very hard task and making it seem easy when I know it wasn't. So colleagues, I would appreciate if you would support this. It's for a great cause, and it's not using any taxpayer funding. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to clarify one thing in the Resolution. And do I understand the intent as Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman has laid it out, is that this funding will not be funding derived from any funding within our general fund; is that correct?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, sir, I can turn it over to Sharon Whitmore or the County Manager. Okay. Thank you."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right. And I see this -- that it's really my question; I see that the funding would come from opioid settlement money, which I do think it is good use of these funds. But I just want to clarify that -- that is the sole -- that will be the sole source of funding. This is not -- we've got to run some sort of check and then if it doesn't fit, then we're coming back and we're having to do some sort of adjustment to the general fund. That's really what I wanted to clarify."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Thank you for the question, Commissioner Ellis. This would be fully funded from the opioid settlement funds. And I did have the opportunity to discuss the proposal that the organization is planning to align it with eligible uses of the opioid dollars. So, on the surface, we often don't think about all the legal implications for people who are dealing with domestic violence and opioid misuse. But the research is very clear about the connection, and the services that will be provided will enhance the ability to have individuals connected to recovery services."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, thank you for that. I definitely see the connection, and fully support that. I just want to make sure that we had vetted it and that's all. That's all. Okay. Thank you."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Madam Vice Chair, for bringing this. This is a really important organization that is doing has been doing good work for Fulton County citizens for some time now, and my understanding is -- I know. Well, there we go -- Dr. Roshell. Thank you. A lot of feedback up here. This is great. I think -- I don't know how many years they have been doing this work, but I know that -- my understanding is there was federal funding that they were not able to get this year, and so I think finding this way to fund this through the opioid settlement money this year is great. I'm only speaking at all just to say thank you, but also to say I

think it would be great if we could think about how to make this is an ongoing recurring service without -- and look, I don't know what the financial solution is long-term, but perhaps you know, hopefully federal funding comes back or there's some state funding we can get, or there's other ways to help offset costs, but you know, I do think it would be good of when we start planning for the 2027 budget that we try to find a way to make this happen and to subsidize again if we need to do it in some way, because I think is it really, really critical for survivors."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, if you would allow me to respond to that. I agree with you wholeheartedly, Commissioner Barrett. There is funding at the state that is going to be released around the last part of April. I've been in contact with the governor staff that hopefully, not only this organization, but other organizations will be able to take advantage of. So you're correct; we need to look at all, so even when I started on this journey, I talked to the contacts I have at the state, I talked to the governor's office and they were -- made me aware of there was funding outside of the funding for the general budget they have that it's going to be specifically for nonprofits. Even those it's going to have certain criteria, we have encouraged all of our nonprofits, including this one, to make sure that they get in on that funding that the state is going to release shortly. So you're correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I am generally supportive of this Resolution. I do have a couple of questions though. What is the total amount of the opioid settlements that will be coming in, or that came in?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "I'll have the CFO answer what we have on record, but just as background, the opioid settlement funds that we're referring to are from manufacturers and distributors that the county opted into. The manufacturers, those distributions come in unannounced; they come in periodically. We don't know when they will come in and we don't know how much will come in at any specific time, but the manufacturers' payments are over a 15-year period and the distributors' payments are over an 18-year period."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, I need someone to answer my question, please. How much do we anticipate to come in this year because we're not talking about financing this 975,000 over 18 years, are we?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Oh, no, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "We're talking about paying it this year?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So how much is coming in this year?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Wasn't there about three million in that account?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioners, currently, we have roughly 3.3 million that we have not allocated out of the opioid settlement fund. And to your question, Commissioner Arrington, about how much is expected to come in each year, that's the part that's a little -- a little -- a little bit of an unknown."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Perhaps I could speak to that piece of it. While the finance department is able to tell you what we currently have, as Dr. Roshell was stating, we don't have a specific amount slated as an expectation because this is a conglomeration of a lot of different class-action suits, and even when we opted in, we don't know how large the group of entities that will claim a part of that class action settlement. So we may know in each individual suit how much the total settlement is, but not how much it would be divvied up among, you know, how many individuals or entities. So it's kind of an opt in and then wait to see how much comes in."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, thank you. That's informative. So there's 3.3 million in, and it's not in the general fund? It's in a separate opioid settlement fund?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It's in a special revenue fund, yes, sir, for opioid settlement, yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So it sounds like if there's 3.3 million; and it sounds like we have enough to fund the \$500,000, summer youth jobs program out of that money as well?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It would have to meet the criteria that are established for spending out of that opioid settlement fund, which align with services associated with the opioid epidemic."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Well, this is for domestic violence. What are the criteria? Please list the criteria."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, sir. The first is treatment access and retention; removes legal barriers preventing individuals from entering treatment; stabilizes conditions necessary for sustained engagement; recovery support services, provides housing stability services critical to recovery outcomes, prevention and early intervention; interrupts pathways from trauma, abuse, and substance misuse; reduce risk of relapse and overdose and -- pardon me. Those are the categories that are aligned with the proposed funding use of the 975."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. And who makes the determination as to whether this current use in this Resolution meets those criteria? Who made that decision?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "So, based on the proposed uses, I aligned what the organization was proposing to use the funds for, and aligned it with what the settlement agreement indicates are eligible uses."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Oh, okay, awesome. Can you do that for the summer youth jobs program?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "I certainly can look at whether prevention and early intervention if there's an opportunity to align those."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Awesome, because it's almost summer. I'm happy to support this, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman -- Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. I just wanted to know how much money was there because this is a worthwhile cause, but so is our summer youth jobs program, so I'll bringing a Resolution for the for the next meeting to authorize use of the funds for the summer youth jobs program. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just have a question about the amount which is \$975,000. I've met with them, they're a great group and I love that they do have philanthropists that contribute a majority of their funding, which is a sign of a healthy nonprofit. But there was an article in the paper in December of last year that said that they lost a grant from the Department of Justice worth about 800,000 annually, so that's just my question where the 975 came when the paper says that they loss 800,000."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. Actually, they lost more than that. They lost quite a bit. The initial ask was two million, because at the time when they first made me aware of the need, and I think they also made Commissioner Barrett aware of the need, they lost an additional grant. And so the need however, it is greater than the 800,000, the initial need was two million, and we know -- well, it was just the way we are doing things right now, that that -- we just couldn't meet that need. And so, I think what happened, you're talking about in December of 2025 when you saw it? Yeah, three months ago. They have been continually fundraising, because like you said, a lot of their funding comes from philanthropists; however, grants that they had become accustomed to yearly -- if I'm not mistaken, three of them were cut off at one time. And so on the inside, it may look like, okay, well they only needed 800 hundred thousand. No it wasn't that: they were actually -- the need was two million. But based on, you know my conversation with the county and what we were able to do, the \$975 is the purpose for the asked. Also I wanted to tell, Commissioner Arrington, my office will work with your office to see what funding we can find for the summer youth, because I know it's very important to both of us, but I also know that's your baby. With this particular funding, I will caution you though. This funding, you have to make sure you have an alignment, and so, for those who are hearing in here what we're saying, it was not a one-and-done. It was several meetings, it was several conversations, it was several

looking at, okay, what's the scope, where do we fit in; and the most important thing to be able to comply. So I just want to say it out there -- put it out there that I know that the -- Sharon says there's three point whatever, but that's not just three point sitting there willy-nilly and can be put out. We're very specific driven on what can be done with it. I'm not saying that the youth can't be done, Commissioner Arrington. What I'm saying is from my own interaction with this, is there's specific requirements across the board, not just for the county, but across the board of how this money is to be spent. And so, it won't be a situation where you're come here one week, and get an approval for it the next week. It is conversations, it is alignment, and it's complying. So I just want to make sure I put it out there. But once again, thank you, Colleagues, for supporting this. A special thank you to the County Manager staff because they did what they needed to do to find out if it was eligible and it is, and, at the end of the day, like she said, that money is coming in. We don't know what we will get from month-to-month, day-to-day. And so, I will make sure Commissioner Arrington, not only with that, but I'll also have a conversation at the state to see if there's any funding that's getting ready to open up that may be available as well. So you have my -- you have my word that I will try to work with you to see if we can find funding for such a worthwhile cause. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, I'm happy to go to the state with you. I did have a meeting with Pete Skandalakis about this issue as well; just general funding for domestic abuse survivors. So basically they lost \$800,000 in grants, but they need \$2 million. We're going to fund them \$975,000 which is above and beyond what they were getting from that grant."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Incorrect. Would you like to come down and let us know how much you lost? Because I rather for him to tell you what I'm trying to say. You're looking at something that said 800,000; the ask was much higher, and the total amount of grants that they lost was much higher, but this person can speak to it better than I can, so please come forward."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, and what I was going to say was, I wanted you, know people, to know that they do have a need, that we can't fill as a county. So I want to encourage people to reach out to your organization and give generously to your organization on the work that you do on behalf of the people of domestic survivors in our community."

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: "Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. And thank you, Commissioner Abdur Rahman. I'm here to address the article in which you're reading. I'm (inaudible) is a big fan of our fourth and state as any and happy for all the reporters who brought attention to this issue, but as all the Commissioners may be aware, they don't always put in the article, the full scope of the conservation. So Commissioner Abdur-Rahman got it right, we did have three different funding opportunities in front of the federal government, the DOJ specifically. Historically, over a decade really, those

were fairly consistent funding, sometimes the source was a little -- the amount was a little more or little less -- the funding. The grant opportunity was a specific different one. In this particular round, it was closer to 1.5 million that we lost if you put all of those opportunities together. The full two million is the cost of us running all of our domestic violence services, both in the courthouse and in the community, and hopefully aided by your call for donations today, we'll be able to raise that balance. But the amount that's represented here is what we'll ask to keep that office open in the Fulton County Courthouse, Commissioners, were there's about 4,000 visitors showing up at the courthouse seeking protective order every year regardless so thank you."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And I enjoyed meeting with you."

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: "And likewise. Thank you, Commissioner Thorne."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I guess I want to understand the process a little more. Is there -- so these funds are restricted pursuant to a settlement agreement for these uses?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: Yes, sir. So the settlement agreement outlined the specific eligible uses for the dollars. It doesn't outline which programs or what programs. You have to align your use and what you intend to do with the funds with the eligible use as that's outlined in the settlement."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Is there someone monitoring or enforcing the use? Is there someone that we have to submit the uses to for their review?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Not prior to use, but we do report. There is a report that the county is responsible for submitting into what we call NOAT, National Opioid Trustee -- Abatement Trustee, and we are responsible for reporting there. Our grants department is who is providing that report. And in that report, we have to declare how much of the funds, if any, we use and what those uses were and how they connect to the eligible uses that are outlined in the agreement."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. I don't want to take a lot of time here on this, but you just opened a big rabbit hole. How many times have we reported? How much total money do we have? How much money have we distributed out of these funds? I mean, you just opened a big rabbit hole."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "So we have to report whether we use funding or not. We must report when the reports are due. We have to report zero or what we used. To my knowledge, the only project that is currently funded from these dollars is

the Grady MAT Clinic, which is a medication assistance treatment program which is for opioid use -- opioid disorders. And the CFO can continue to fill in any other additional uses."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yeah, Commissioner Arrington, there's also resources that have come to -- as part of this, there are resources that come to us through the state of Georgia, and the Board has approved a \$644,000 grant program associated to the use of those programs, which is actually a requirement of that program. And then the Board also approved by Board Resolution an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the acquisition of some AED devices for the police department. So those are the three purposes that the Board has approved the use of the funds. The MAT's allocation to Grady that state grant program, and then the AEDs."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And just for reference on the AED, there was a specific reference to AEDs being an eligible use of those funds before I brought that forward. All right. The motion on the floor is to adopt. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Continue, Madam Clerk.

CLERK GRIER: **"26-0191"**: Request approval of a Resolution to authorize payment of locality pay to the Superior Court judges of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit; and for other purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington; it's seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Ellis, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, I'll be brief. Hopefully, this is self-explanatory as I think we all know Superior Court judges are paid in sort of two ways. Funds come from principally from the state, and then we've historically pay the supplement. Historic state pay was \$144,709. There was a House Bill which passed last year, which went into effect in January, which increased that to 210,000. Previously, we've been offering a supplement of 72,000. This statute -- or this law while it was passed replaced that supplement and it made it uniform across the state such that locality pay could be paid up to \$20,106. But it did mandate that this is the system that the judges went into automatically, they had the ability to either stay in their existing system or opt-in into the new system. I thought we had done something which would allow this locality pay to already be in place, but apparently we had not; and there was some slight differences in terms of what was their -- this would just codify that, establish our locality pay, and the upshot, if the judges do opt-in here it actually saves the county funds. And it would also

put the judges on par with each other when a new judge comes in, so that there isn't a distinction -- differences in pay. So hopefully, we'll all -- have a favorable recommendation of this. Certainly, the Superior Court judges are all on board with it, and want to see it happen. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I remember there was something also regarding their benefits, and whether they got local benefits or whether it was state benefits. Is that part of this or was that the part that we'd already done."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "That's the part we'd already done."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That's the part we'd already done, okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion is to adopt."

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

CLERK GRIER: "County Manager's Presentation and Discussion Items under Open and Responsible Government, **26-0192**, External Affairs: 2026 Legislative Session Update."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So one of the bills, I don't know if you planned to talk about, 369. I hope you do, because I had some discussion with my colleagues in the Metro area, and I signed the letter personally opposing it, and now it's on the governor's desk for signature, and I'm going to be asking the Board to -- to go on record in opposition to it, at the proper time."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did want to just make sure that they have our slides. Here we go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and is it noon yet? Well, we're on a fast track today. So tomorrow is Sine Die, so you're almost done with us for this session, but wanted to just go through a few updates. This is really a critical moment in the number of pieces of legislation. Next slide, please, and I won't take too long. Just a recap of our priorities, next slide. So tomorrow, as I said, is Sine Die. Right now, one of the major actions is a conference committee with House and Senate members negotiating the final budget, and it's not unusual for that to go to the wire. One of the areas of negotiation that's very specific to Fulton County government, in the House, funding was placed in the budget for our Atlanta Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge. That funding was removed on the Senate side, so we have been in touch with our delegation members of leadership around trying to ensure that that funding comes out of the final budget and appropriations, so that's certainly a priority for us. Many other points in the budget and many differences

between the two, but that is the one that is most significant for Fulton County government. Next slide, please. Just our delegation has continued to meet. I just want to thank all the departments who have come and presented to them. Next slide. So as I just mentioned, our piece of legislation -- our judge was in a separate bill. Yesterday, the Senate passed an amendment on the floor to add -- excuse me -- the Fulton County Atlanta Judicial Circuit Judge to House Bill 1215, which includes other Superior Court judgeship, so that was a very positive step forward, and I really want to thank our lobbying team as well as our, of course, Senator Halpern, who made this amendment, and I want to thank the judges for being very engaged in the process as well. So this Bill now, House Bill 1215, goes back to the House for an agree motion. One thing to note about the addition of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit Judge is that there was also an amendment to make that contingent upon the funding being available. So that's why that conference committee budget is so important, so a lot happening up to the wire, but we are continuing to be very engaged. Again, I just want to thank everyone who's been making calls and having conversations providing requested information. Next slide, please. Some really good news: Family Justice Centers, a lot of people at Fulton County have been very engaged in this, and this one made it across the finish line. I'm sorry. It has to go back for an agree -- I apologize. I told someone, we were done, had one amendment in the Senate, so it is going back to the House. I'm sorry, Jasmine I had misspoke to somebody in this room earlier today about that. But I'm feeling very positive about this. This does not create any funding, this provides a mechanism for -- it's sort of a framework for family justice centers. Next slide, please. Next Gen 911. Jasmine, do you want to talk about this one?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, this was a constitutional -- this is a constitutional amendment. And so, it'll be on the November 2026 ballot. This bill did reach the final passage yesterday, so now it's going to be going to the governor. The constitutional amendment only establishes a fund during this session. There was no enabling legislation introduced so, if voter don't approve this in November, next session in January the General Assembly will have to create enabling legislation that will determine how the funds will be distributed. We do expect them to have a continuation of the study committee they had last year on this topic, so we'll be tracking that. This is also priority of ACCG, so they'll also be advocating for counties and how we can get the funding, but this is a good first step to statewide next generation 911."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Jasmine. Next slide, please. So there are two pieces of property tax legislation in your packets, House Bill 1116, as you see here, and then Senate Bill 382. And both of these have created some concerns for Fulton County. ACCG has been very, very actively engaged in these. A couple of things: Fulton County -- so one of the notions of this bill is to essentially eliminate or significantly reduce property taxes on homesteaded properties, so the homes that people live in. And the pure numbers revenue lots in Fulton County, if that were to go away completely is \$242 million. Part of the sort of framework of this legislation would be to help offset that through sales tax, and it creates an L host as an option. For Fulton County that does not come even close to closing that gap, so this

year Fulton County's version of sales tax will be about \$35 million according to the budget that you passed. That leaves a gap of 200 plus million dollars. This bill also seeks to cap property tax revenue growth across the board, and also that could be exceeded by seeking either referendum or a local Act. So in other words, if we needed to increase our budget by more than -- or excuse me, or sales -- our property tax collection by more than two percent, we would either need to go to a referendum or go to the General Assembly and request local legislation. There are also other -- many other provisions in this, and again, House Bill 1116 and Senate Bill 382 have some overlap and some differences, so these are -- Jasmine, do you think we may see a conference committee working through these. Again, ACCG has been very, very engaged in this process. We've shared data with them, but this one is -- there's still a lot of uncertainty, to say the least. One of the challenges also has been that this bill has had -- I don't know, ten revisions. And so, it has changed very, very significantly with each iteration, which has made it difficult for many people to do analysis on the impact. So we are making our delegation aware of just some of the basic numbers and making sure that they are well-informed. The local act or referendum does provide some opportunity to address some of these concerns."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Are we opposing this now? And I don't mean to speak out of turn and I know Commissioner Thorne was in the queue."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I certainly think that there are very grave concerns about this legislation and the impact for Fulton County."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Do we know the financial impact to the city of Atlanta, APS and Fulton County schools?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "There are some more -- Fulton County schools have the highest percentage of, or highest of the pure dollar number coming from -- from homesteaded properties. There are some different sales tax provisions for schools slightly, so they're treated a little bit differently, so we haven't done the exact same analysis. The city of Atlanta's total revenue collected from homesteaded properties is less significantly less than Fulton County's for a number of reasons. But pursuant to the budgets, if this affects every local government in some way."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I think it would be important for us to, not only emphasize the loss to us, but also the loss to the school systems and the cities in Fulton County, and certainly, I think if we're going to be opposing -- if there's going to be a motion to oppose other bills, this one sounds like the number one bill that we need to be opposing. The loss of \$242 million, Madam CFO, how can we make that -- do you have 242 million stuff away somewhere?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I do not. I do not."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "It's certainly not annually, right, I mean?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, sir. I mean for what it's worth, you know my observation, is any legislation that removes a substantial portion of your revenue that doesn't offer a means by which you can replace it, you know, at ties our hands with growth, at ties our hands with millage rate. It requires a referendum. If you then desire to increase your millage rate to, you know, pay for something, that may not currently be in your budget, but you know, in the future, you're going to have an obligation that you have to meet. It would -- it would make it very difficult to manage. If it provided a true replacement source of revenue, it would not be as concerning, but it does not provide that replacement, at least not early on in the legislation."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And we have roughly a billion-dollar a year operating budget with about 80 percent of that coming from property taxes?"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And so, 242 million is what, about 25, 30 percent of --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- yes, sir. Mid 20's."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Of the money that we collect from property taxes? All right. Thank you."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "So I also want to know that their ACCG is very much engaged in the conference committee; what we are expecting to be a conference committee negotiation, and I think that we want to continue emphasize to them, Fulton County -- in order to close our specific gap if the notion were to close out only through sales tax, for example, having not quite a penny but .8 -- .875 countywide or something like that is what would be required to close that gap entirely through sales tax; is that correct, Sharon? Sorry to ask you that on the spot."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I know Ray was looking at that. Do you agree with that number -- I thought it was a little more. I thought we needed more than a full penny, but that may be the countywide number, not just for Fulton County government that I'm thinking about."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I hope that ACCG is more than engaged. I hope that they are opposed to this."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "They have been -- I think their position has been primarily negotiating, although they have issued an alert this week, specifically about the budgetary and millage rate caps three percent caps, those

were issued this week from their office. Jasmine, is there anything you want to add to that?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I do know that they've been speaking with both sponsors, and they've also been giving them suggestions for the substitutes that have come out, so we have seen minor changes this week, and it's being based off of what ACCG and GMA are both providing, so the sponsors are listening also. ACCG also always ask us to have the Commissioners talk to the state legislators, like Jessica said, we had our lobbyists, myself as well, talking to our delegation members. But if they do hear from you guys, that helps as well. So we would suggest that. Tomorrow, we -- like Jessica said, I definitely expect that there's going to be a conference committee, and we have not seen the final version at all yet, so it's hard to know what they're going to agree with."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I can't understand how ACCG and GMA would not just be fundamentally opposed to this."

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's part of the negotiating, they have to work with the state legislators, so they have been presenting facts from all 159 counties. We gave them our data, and I know the other counties have as well, so they've been presenting spreadsheets and impact statements."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Do you know if the school systems and the cities have given their data as well?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I do know that GMA has. For the latest versions of this, the school systems were a little less impacted because they couldn't get the constitutional amendment, that's how you change school taxes, so this will also impact the schools, but it's a less than the original version."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, you're in the queue. Go ahead. I understand. I understand. I understand. I understand."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Before I ask my questions, I didn't realize we were having open discussion now. My name's been in the queue, but I would ask if you could just proceed and then we'll all have a turn to ask questions."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay. We can do that. And we'll -- so again, we're on 1116 now. Next slide, please. And then the Senate Bill 382, these two bills will be reconciled, we believe, through a conference committee so we can come back to this in a few minutes. There are some differences between the two, Fulton County just want to know already has a \$60,000 base homestead exemption, which is significantly higher than almost any county that I know of in the state. Next

slide, please. There are all kinds of other tax-related legislation that we won't go into -- in to detail, but just provided this here. Next slide. We also -- Chairman, you just raised this, Fulton County was one of five counties singled out in House Bill 369. This bill is structured, says that it only applies to counties that have a -- where the elected office of county coroner has been abolished, excuse me. And so in Fulton County, we have a medical examiner, not an elected coroner, and that essentially adds up to Metro counties. In this legislation, which has already passed and is on its way to the governor's desk, would apply to your seats, to the clerk, to the Tax Commissioner, excuse me, Clerk of Superior Court, Solicitor General, and District Attorney, and it makes all of those nonpartisan elections. So Chairman, generally speaking, our policy positions ask us to be -- unless it's in a positive way, to be opposed to legislation that negatively singles out Fulton County. In the past, this Board has expressed concerns about the notion of nonpartisan elections. If nonpartisan elections are good for local government, cities have nonpartisan elections, school boards do too. But Fulton County -- having five Metro counties including Fulton be singled out as opposed to our sister counties in North and South Georgia certainly raises some questions. So we will go through the rest then we can back to that. But Chairman mentioned that he was considering asking the Board to take a position seeking the governor's veto of this legislation. Next slide, please. There are also competing or different omnibus election bills. House Bill 960, both of these bills -- House Bill 960 and the next page, which is Senate Bill 214, both of these seek a return to paper ballots. House Bill 960 seeks to do that by July 1st, 2026. I think that every -- I don't know who thinks that we could be successful in implementing this massive change to our election process by July 1st, 2026. And in talking with the election staff and talking with the Georgia Association of Voter Registration, something or another, (inaudible) is their organization. They have taken a position against that change specifically. So that's certainly something we also I think believe this to could go into a conference committee to negotiate those. Next slide, please. Again, this is -- and you can read for yourself -- there are other differences as well in Senate 214. Next slide, please. Just a couple of others that are expected to pass, so we won't belabor that, and we can go back to the questions you have. Jasmine, do you want to say anything about Senate Bill 74? I know that's something that some of our library board members have asked about."

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, that bill still is technically active. It is in House Rules right now, so it did get recommitted earlier this session since it didn't pass last year, but we have been watching it. Senator Burns is the sponsor. He has still been requesting the House Rules committee to place it on the calendar, so it may still come up tomorrow, but that will have extensions -- remove exemptions for librarians about harmful material to minors, and add some penalties. So we're watching it; it hasn't had much movement, but it still has been advocated for by Senator Burns the sponsor."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Jasmine. With that, Mr. Chairman, we can go back to whatever questions you may have or positions you may seek to take."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. I had a question, if you backup to the overview slide. It says the removal of additional Superior Court judgeship. We asked for two, so just one will be removed?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "So resources for Superior Court -- so we -- Commissioner, we did very well to get one additional judgeship brought forward. So Fulton County -- the judicial circuit was number four. There's a -- the administrative office of courts does a caseload ranking of all the judicial circuits. And so, Fulton County was a fraction of a percentage point behind the third ranked, so we were number four on the list. However, because it was just such a tiny fraction and because we have -- and it's been 20 years since an additional judgeship was added in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, we were able to talk with our delegation members, and Representative Todd Jones brought forward this legislation, so we were very grateful to get one additional judgeship. We certainly would've loved to have two, but considering where we were in the ranking, we were very grateful to have one brought forward."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you. Thank you for that explanation. And then on the Family Justice Center, of course, they're going to pass it, because it requires no state funding. What is the funding looking like if we were to have a Family Justice Center?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think that there are -- funding is not contemplated in the legislation as it is. There are organizations in some counties, these have been brought forward and funded by the county government. In some cases, they have been grant funded or philanthropically funded. And so, those are certainly still options on the table. I haven't personally participated in all of those discussions about efforts to advocate for funding, but there are -- there are nonprofit organizations working in that space, and I think that's -- that's one of the ideas -- I wouldn't be surprised if Fulton, you know, here that might be brought forward as a budget request in the future, but obviously that's something that you all would have to determine based on resources."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And I believe there are counties that do have these already, like Chatham County, place like that?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, Cobb County. I believe Macon-Bibb has one. And so in some cases, those have been grant funded, and some of the counties helping fund it."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And then on the nonpartisan elections --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- yes."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- I know it's Cobb, Gwinnett, Fulton, DeKalb, is it Clayton that's the fifth one?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Clayton."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. And I just want to express, you know, I've been on threads with people for and people against. And it seems to cross party lines; people for it or against it. But I was told that the school board was also -- even though our school board is already nonpartisan, Cobb's is not. So the school board office, one of them in the bill, or did you not --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- I believe that's a separate piece of legislation; is that correct, Jasmine?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I'll have to double check that. I don't understand, but I'll double check."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Because a lot of people in Cobb are like we want our school board to be partisan, and they want to know where their elected stands, so I just want to make it clear on both sides of the aisle, there's -- you know, people that don't approve of this, but that's it. That's all I have."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Commissioner Thorne, because I too was confused about the overview saying that it was the removal of funding for additional Superior Court judges and then --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- can you show me -- oh, okay. So on this legislative overview, thank you for addressing that. So what we're seeing here is that the Senate budget the Senate adopted, the House passed a budget that included funding for our judgeship, the Senate passed a budget that removed it. So now they're going to go into conference committee and negotiate that, and we have talked with our delegation members, who are represented on the conference committee, to ask if they could please advocate for our one superior court judgeship in the final budget."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So now I'm even more confused because I thought that's what I heard the first time, but then I thought when Commissioner Thorne just asked that you were saying that this was removal of the second judgeship."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "No, I -- I may have been confused in my response because I -- Commissioner Thorne asked me about -- originally, our position was seeking two judgeships, we got one. And there was --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "—well, we've almost got one; we haven't gotten it yet."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We got legislation introduced for one and we got funding introduced for one that was then removed. Two was never on the table this year, does that make sense? So the funding that was removed is for the one, and we are now seeking to advocate for that to be back in the final adopted budget for one judgeship and I apologize for any confusion."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No, no problem. Look it might be my hearing. All right. Well, thank you that helps clear that up. Hopefully, we can get that funding, but I don't know how that helps. Does that include the funding for the DAs and the public defenders?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- to go with it?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes. That is part of their -- it's their requirement that they have (inaudible)."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. Well, we rely on you and our team to get that -- get that funding taken care of, so looking forward to a positive report back on that. I just want to go back to those two property tax things, that there are competing ones out there, and just a point of clarification. The House Bill that was just proposed, the only thing that that's really doing is just mandating the floater across the state, correct? It's not eliminating homestead -- I mean, it's not eliminating the homestead property taxes? This appears to be -- am I correct on that?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: Yes. So the elimination wasn't one of the first versions, so that's not on the table anymore."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right. So the House Bill, you know, that was passed, would mandate the floater, which is certainly -- in essence this is what was passed through the

referendum, if people would have opted in, they would've had the ability to potentially have this alternative sales tax replacement, right?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So we have a floater, the city of Atlanta has a floater, you know, APS does not, and so forth, but anyway, that's that, right? So that's not -- you know, if that's what's adopted, that's generally should be pretty revenue neutral to us, Fulton County government?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, Fulton County Government. I don't think those schools would agree, but --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- no, no. I'm just talking about Fulton County government perspective. And then -- and then 382 does not eliminate Homestead property taxes either, it phases in like an increase Homestead exemption amount?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, over five years."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Over five years. And the first is -- what is this ten percent representative of? Is this the value of the property?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes. So in 2027, it'll be ten percent of the Homestead property."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Taxable assessed value or the value overall of the -- like, what is that? You got 40 percent off and then you start, so it's like an exemption, you know, ours is 50, right, 60? 60 or 60 with a --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- 60 base."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yeah, the base is 60."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "The base is 60?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So this would be -- that 60 gets replaced with, you know, ten percent of the property value -- or ten percent of the taxable assessed value?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "No, it would be on top of that. So we will still have our base at 60,000 and then in 2027, an additional 10 percent would go --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- that's an addition to existing exemptions?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes. So this is on top of all of our exemptions, and like Jessica said, we have some of the highest --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- I understand that. Okay. But what is ten percent of what, of the taxable accessed?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I mean, typically, that is how homesteads are applied against the 40 percent, not the total value."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "So you take your --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- or is this like -- is this an amorphous, you know exemption that's this and then it's phased in 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 percent over time? I don't necessarily understand what that meant but, you know, the House proposal -- obviously, these have sort of got -- they've got to be negotiated themselves out. And on the cap -- 382 would have some sort of financial impact; 1116 for us, minimal to none. But 382 also has this provision in there relating to sales tax, and sales tax cap at five percent. This previous category for restriction on three to five pennies removed; does that mean that certain taxes are no longer associated to that local cap?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, so for example, MARTA and most -- those are exemptions, so right now they're included in our cap, but in this bill they would be excluded. So there's a few exemptions in the bill. I don't remember all of them, but those were the two that are relevant to us out of the list that I saw."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And this is -- in the local sales tax cap, this would include schools, city -- schools as well?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes. Right now, the state has a four percent cap and then the local governments have five percent, so that's the same for us. So that's still going to be that total nine percent."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So would the cap increase or no?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "No."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "The cap wouldn't increase."

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "It'll just be how the cap is --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- but what is the restriction on three of the five pennies do? I mean, what does it mean it's exclude?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "It will be how the pennies are included in that cap, so for us, towards our cap, we can exclude MARTA and most."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- so that five percent cap, but do you still have to fall under at nine percent in the aggregate?"

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes, that would still have to be the total."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Then what's the purpose of removing it? I mean, if the state has four and you're capped at nine, what's the purpose of their removal of the restriction? I'm not following that."

JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think it would help other counties more than us that don't currently use all of their pennies, so we have ours already maxed out. A lot of counties don't."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So it's not a -- okay. Let me just ask my question a different way. When you say it's not part of it, it's just like -- that's a nonstarter for us because or it's irrelevant for us because it's still subject to the cap? They're just excluding it as a potential how you get to the five cents, but if they're outside of it and then the four plus two plus, you know, three then, you know, then you're there, right?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yeah, I think -- I mean, bottom line, I don't think this helps."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I mean, I guess, to the extent, you know, kind of our folks are in there, remember, I would say, you know, if could advocate for, you know, for counties having, you know, a transportation tax, that they have the ability go in excess of the cap that's where this matters, right? If you got out of that, and gave us the ability to apply a penny. You know, that's where it's -- we've got MARTA and, you know, some cities sapping up stuff on most, and other stuff, then you don't have the ability to execute countywide to fund that gap, which is probably about 60 million with -- if you approve you're place on homestead stuff. But this isn't a \$400 million or \$200 million solve, because it's not eliminating homestead property taxes; it's actually -- it's a number that lot lower than that."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you for clarifying that, Commissioner. And you're right, I was speaking in part to the earlier version, and again, this is where we're going into conference committee just being cautious, but the --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- yeah, I mean, whatever is going to happen, whatever is going to play out is going to play out, right? But I just want to point out that it's not -- neither option is, you know this doomsday scenario that's \$400 million is going away or

\$250 million is going away for us. It's impactful, but it's not -- it's impactful is what was --
"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "You're right. Thank you for clarifying that and apologies for any confusion. Again, I think there's still concerns about caps for revenue both in budget and again, the solution of a sales tax option does not really help Fulton County because we are constrained with three cities having the most. I think there's only four cities in the state that have them and three are in Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Commissioner Ellis, because I was just getting ready to come back and say hey, wait a minute. You just told us that this is going to take \$242 million out of our budget."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Commissioner Arrington, I apologize. I was addressing the earlier version, and again, these same sponsors --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- it's happening in real time --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- there's more to watch, so apologies for any confusion on that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Well that -- I mean that's, you know --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: (Cross-talk amongst speakers. Inaudible.).

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That's a big deal, because I was like, hey, if we're about to lose a third of our operating budget then I mean --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "-- it's very significant."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That's a five-alarm fire, but if we're not, then it's -
- there may be smoke, but no."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "There may be smoke, and again, there are still some -- we're just still concerned going into conference committee about what those implications could be."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "No, Mr. Chairman, did you want to take a position on 369?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. That is -- what I was saying that I had talked to the -- well, not talk to the -- personally, said that I will be talking with the governor and asking him to veto it, but I think it would be much stronger if the Board were to go on record asking the governor to veto it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I make the motion to for us to take opposition to 369."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We can ask the governor to veto it, because it's been passed."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Asking the governor to veto it, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Any discussion at all? Let's vote, please."

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "This is where -- you know, this is where not having enough people and having a vacated seat really affects us. Now, we have three votes, so we can't oppose it or ask the governor to veto this."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion fails: three yeas, zero nays."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I hear you and I agree, Commissioner Arrington. It's unfortunate that we don't have everybody sitting here, but I would happily sign onto a letter with you. It sounds like you would as well, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes. I'll send my own letter."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And I'm happy to do whatever works best, because I agree, this is -- I mean I will just say on the record that it's so clear that this is targeting, you know the Metro Atlanta area counties which are heavily Democratic, and if this was a good idea for County Commissions and county electeds across the state, then it should be administered across the state on all counties. The idea that they've selected a handful of Metro counties makes it just so abundantly clear what this is about, and it is not about what's best for the citizens. It's about what's best for one particular party."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And not only are they Democratic counties, they're majority black counties, so it's not only partisan, but it's also racial."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else, Ms. Corbitt?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, that's all for today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 6, **26-0193**, Discussion: Utilization of funds committed for improving jail detention staffing, and detention staffing hiring process sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm going to try to be fairly direct on this, and really the purpose of me putting this on here is this something that we made a priority as a Board both from a posture standpoint as also from a material from a funding standpoint. And I'd like for this to be more on a public radar and something that we track and report on. So just sort of a recap, back in the October timeframe, well really, early part of last year, I'd asked for some sort of reporting about what people, you know, that were employed in the Sheriff's Department actually did, and there was a report that was ultimately provided back in October which said that there were 878 total people working in the Sheriff's department at that point in time, 558 of those were in deputy sheriff's roles or detention officer roles, and of those amounts, 374 were doing full-time jail detention work, which is what the purpose of that inquiry was. It took multiple months to kind of nail that down, but that was what was ultimately reported back. There were an additional 185 deputies that were working in non-jail operations, 56 of those in a category of general law enforcement, in other words, not in courts or that sort of stuff, but general law enforcement, and seven of those in background and recruitment. In the January operational report, it showed that we had or at the end of December or January operational report, end of year report, showed that we had 149 vacancies in the Sheriff's department; in the context of the budget approved roughly a footprint of \$20 million to address and get to a net target of 200 new detention officers – net new for this year. That funding was lined up with two principals things, number one, we engaged -- we entered into an engagement with a group called Walls Group, which is one of the top recruiting firms in the country that's had a lot of success working with other entities which were struggling with hiring detention officers. They bring sort of a different look in terms of the recruiting process, more intensity to it, as well as well as, you know getting appropriate candidates in the door and employed and have multiple success stories around the country. And this was brought to us not by a third-party, actually not by us, it was brought to us actually, I believe, by the federal monitor. So that contract was entered into. They were engaged, they have been engaged, and it was also a footprint of money -- subsequent footprint of money, I would say roughly about 17 million or so that was allocated for pay benefits, and retention bonuses, and

those numbers were derived by looking at pay from similar entities around the Metro area, and to ensure that we were on par with that. That's been out there, it was approved. Again, the target is net new of 200. I guess sort of my question would be, you know, if anybody would know it right now is just where are we at in terms of that net new 200 target today? And then my ask would be that we – this would be a measure that we include going forward on our operational reports that we provide and that be a consistent measure so that we have some line of sight into it. It's an important issue; it's something we said is very important. We all know it's important. We want to see substantive movement on it, and also it's a significant footprint of money that if it's not going to be used we can -- clearly we have other needs in the county we can redeploy those funds to."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- so my question is -- so that my question, I don't know to -- does anyone on the staff know right now kind of what that -- if we don't, we you have to get it, that's fine, but where we're at on that, that new 200 target."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Commissioner Ellis, for bringing this up. You are absolutely right. This is a very important, but isn't this appropriate for executive session? When we did this contract and we did all of this we did all of this --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- we can take it up in executive session --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- I don't know that we need to be discussing the number of vacancies -- hold on one second. Hold on one second."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- I don't know that we need to be discussing the number of vacancies in the sheriff's department out here in the public."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I agree."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "No, I will disagree with both of you. We have a report that's provided to us every month; it's in our operational report. It has the number of vacancies. That's public record. We approved these contracts and these amounts -- I mean out of executive session, that's public record. I think it is fair and appropriate that we should be able to report on the progress of that of where we're at with that. I'm not asking for anything more than that. It's just where we at in terms of that net new target."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Wait a second."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So do we have that number? That's all I'm looking for just that number."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "The net new?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "It's 13 net new hires since end of November."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "All right. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington. Wait just --"

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

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Must be invisible or something. Yes, we have had lengthy discussions in Executive Session that we can't reveal out here what we discussed, I take that very seriously. But I did check with the County Attorney. The Whalls Group, I can say, I've made sure I could say this in public; they had 129 people that they sent, and only three of those were hired. On the Sheriff's call yesterday, the Sheriff mentioned that there are 7,000 people that applied for our detention jobs with the Whalls Group. The Whalls Group vets those 7,000 applicants, and I assume out of those 7,000, only 129 were approved or passed to go on to the Sheriff, but other three were hired. I just wanted to make that comment that we as Commissioners are taking this very seriously. We just can't discuss everything out in public. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, my understanding from the meeting with Sheriff's Office yesterday was that some of the -- some of those folks, I think, are still in the funnel. So I don't think they're all, the remainder beyond the three, are completely off the table. That's my understanding, because there's a whole bunch of steps that they go through. But also, I think, yeah, where we discussed this, I mean, if I step out of line, feel free to cut me off. But I think one of the other important notes is that the Whalls Group was very successful in Philadelphia, in large part because before they were brought on, Philadelphia conducted their salary survey and analysis and benefits analysis and put together a really strong package to -- to get people not only recruited, but, you know, to have people stay, to recruit and retain, and retain people. And we are seemingly have done this a little bit about -- out of order. I know we're working on that

information for us and discussing what should be put in place, but they've been trying to recruit people without that package. So I think it limits the interest, that's my understanding. So you know, I think it's great for us to know the numbers. I have no objection to us getting more information on a regular basis with what the numbers are. But I think we do need to have some context around what the issues are, because what I don't want to see happen is this turn into a blame game. We should all be working together to make sure that the jail is appropriately staffed. And so if the purpose of putting the numbers on there is to start playing the blame game, I think we're barking up the wrong tree. But we do need to make progress, and we have invested that money, and that money needs to be well spent."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "What gets measured gets focused. And I just ask that we put that on there and have it be a consistent measure. One thing I also failed to note is that there are 100 additional people that are working in the jail as of today, right? That were not there as of, what was that, November time frame or October? When did we start the process with the -- with Allied?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Oh, yes, sir. End of last year, I think it was probably in December before they started adding people."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So that -- that came through a funding commitment of 8 million. So there are 100, 100 additional people that seemingly we could find that were willing to work, and they are at -- they're in our jail working today, correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "All right, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now, Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you. I think Commissioner Ellis did mention that in January, we approved paid benefits and retention bonuses for new hires. I also want to comment that the Sheriff did close Alpharetta Jail to divert that staff, as he should, to the priority of Rice Street. With that being said, the Alpharetta citizens are having to pay \$1.2 million to reopen that jail for their public safety purposes. So we do have cities that are coming in and filling the gap. I went to visit that jail week before last. They've had to totally renovate it, because it was in shambles. But citizens and cities are trying to fill in the gap to give the Sheriff the extra staff that he needs."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, 12:08. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session where we may discuss items that refer to litigation, personnel, what's the other one? Real estate."

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

Executive session at 12:08 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 3:27 p.m.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Without objection, we'll resume the regular order of business. Madam Clerk, items from Executive Session -- Madam County Attorney, rather."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve an amendment for JCI for increased maintenance and capital renewal at the detention centers in the amount of \$6,000,787.80, I'm sorry, \$6,787,088?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Could you repeat that amount again?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "The amount?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "\$6,787,088?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Thank you."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other items that come before us?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes. Is there a motion to approve a clinical-grade cleaning at the jail facilities in the amount of \$543,780.51 with Cotton Commercial, USA Incorporated?"

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other matters that come before us?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, no other matters that come before us today, we are adjourned. Thank you very much."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.