

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

November 20, 2024
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: December 18, 2024

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
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	PRESENT
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	PRESENT
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (District 6)	PRESENT

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

24-0770 Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

Absent: Arrington

24-0771 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Save A Girl Save A World Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
November 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Johns Creek Government Day." **(Thorne)**
November 14, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Black Wealth Summit Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
November 15, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Corey Ivory Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
November 15, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Ferrari Simmons Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
November 15, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Derrian Perry Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
November 15, 2024

Commissioners' District Board Appointments**24-0772 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ZONING BOARD (APPROVED UPON
ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners shall appoint seven (7) members to a Community Zoning Board for unincorporated Fulton County. Each member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners shall nominate, for full Board approval, a member to the Community Zoning Board. All members shall be residents of Fulton County. From the membership of the Community Zoning Board, the Board of Commissioners shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair, to serve no more than two (2) years. Members of the Community Zoning Board serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners and may be removed upon motion of the nominating Commissioner and affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Commissioners.

Term = The members shall serve a term consistent with that of the member of the Board of Commissioners making the nomination. Members shall serve no more than two (2) terms, either consecutive or non-consecutive.

Term below expired: 12/31/2014
Vacant (**District 1**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Jody Reichel for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

Open & Responsible Government**24-0773 Finance
Ratification of October 2024 Grants Activity Report. (APPROVED UPON
ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)****24-0774 External Affairs
Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of External Affairs 23RFP081423A-KM, External Grant Writing & Support Services in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 with Strategic Funding Group, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide External Grant Writing Services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)****24-0775 External Affairs
Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of External Affairs 23RFP081423A-KM, External Grant Writing & Support Services in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 with Think and Ink Grant Consulting, (Atlanta, GA) to provide External Grant Writing Services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0776 Information Technology

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Information Technology, 21ITB0929B -EC, W-2, 1099, and Affordable Care Act Filing, Processing, Printing, and Mailing Services, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 with National Payment Corporation (Tampa, FL) to provide a system to process, print, fold, and mail W-2 forms, 1099-Misc forms, 1099-R forms and Affordable Care Act (ACA) forms for employees, poll workers, retirees and vendors of the County. This action exercises the third of three renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective Dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

24-0777 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITBC135037C-GS, Ballasts, Lamps, Light Fixtures and Related Supplies in an amount not to exceed \$110,000.00 with (A) E. Sam Jones (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$51,700.00; (B) Voss Electric Co. (Marietta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$25,300.00; (C) Summit Lighting Solutions (Lawrenceville, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$12,100.00; (D) Regency Lighting (Los Angeles, CA) in an amount not to exceed \$16,500.00; and, (E) Electrical Contractor (Covington, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$4,400.00, to provide ballasts, lamps, light fixtures, and related items on an "as needed" basis for Fulton County facilities and parking lots. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0778 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution approving a Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Tenant) and Goode Van Slyke Properties, LLC, (Landlord) to continue providing library services at 409 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia (Martin Luther King Jr. Branch Library); to authorize the Chairman to approve the Lease Agreement and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the Lease Agreement and related documents as to form and to make any modifications thereto to execution. Effective upon approval for a term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, with nine (9) renewal options. The monthly rental payment will be \$12,040.00 per month, thorough 2028, if renewed and effective January 1st, 2029, the monthly rental payment shall increase to \$12,728.00 for the five (5) available renewal periods ending December 2033, if renewed. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0779 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 859 square feet to Fulton County, Georgia, from Society of Saint Pius X of ATL, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the St. Michael's Catholic Church Project at 715 Hardscrabble Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries**24-0780 Library**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) by and between Visual Artist Charly Palmer, Fulton County on behalf of the Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Foundation for the creation of an original artwork to commemorate AARL’s 30th Anniversary. This agreement shall remain in effect from the date of execution. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**24-0781 Senior Services**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Senior Services, 21RFP000027A-CJC, Senior Transportation Services in an amount not to exceed \$321,577.55 with Transdev Incorporated (East Point, GA) to provide transportation services for Senior Services and Behavioral Health programs. This agenda item is 100% grant funded. These grant funds will be used between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0782 Public Works

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Public Works Department, 21RFP131557K-DB, Design/Build Services for Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Standby Generator System Project with the Georgia Power Company (Atlanta, GA) for an extension of time only to continue to provide installation and testing for power generation facilities at the Big Creek WRF at no additional cost. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**24-0783 Emergency Services**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Fulton County and Douglas County for the provision of Back-Up 911 Service effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024, with five (5) renewal options ending December 31, 2029. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0784 Police

Request approval to award a contract without competition - Police Department, 24SSREQ1337264B-RT, Draco Gas Delivery System in the amount not to exceed \$27,375.00 with J & N Tactical Inc. (South Haven, MN) to provide a DRACO Gas Delivery System. Effective upon BOC approval for 12-month period. This is a one-time procurement. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

24-0785 Board of Commissioners

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

a. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the Second Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by removing item #24-0803 as requested by the County Manager. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to reconsider the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. **(NO ACTION TAKEN)**

24-0786 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2024

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 6, 2024

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

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

Absent: Arrington

24-0787 Board of Commissioners

Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. **(NONE)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**24-0788 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)

13 Speakers: Chief Judge Cassandra Kirk (Item #24-0793); Helen Butler (Item #24-0793); Margaret Stagemeyer (Item #24-0793); L.A. Pink (Corruption); Paul Hershey (Item #24-0805); Chris Hayden (Elections); Dominique Grant (Fulton County Jail); Melodie Rossen (Fulton County Jail); Maria Gaudio (Election); J. Wesley Day (Justice/Solicitor Office); Solicitor General Keith Gammage (Item #24-0793); Patrice Perkins-Hooker (Elections) and Nancy Flake Johnson (Item #24-0793)

4 Zoom Speakers: Matt Rowenczak (Elections); Ben Howard (Items #24-0781, #24-0743 and 24-0799); Adrian Coleman (Fulton County Jail) and David Fadul (Health Products)

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**Housing Authority of Fulton County****24-0789 Board of Commissioners**

Presentation: Housing Authority of Fulton County **(PRESENTED)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

24-0790 Information Technology

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Information Technology, 22ITBC1006B-PS, Fulton PC Refresh Enterprise Workstation in an amount not to exceed \$1,950,000.00 with CDW Government (Vernon Hills, IL) to provide enterprise business class desktop personal computers (PCs), laptops, monitors and docking stations, specialty computing devices to include iPads, IMacs, MS Surface Pros and supporting peripherals. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Health and Human Services

24-0743 Senior Services

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Senior Services, 21RFP000016A-CJC, Alternative Senior Transportation Services in an amount not to exceed \$3,134,178.00 with Common Courtesy (Atlanta, GA) to provide transportation services/ride sharing to eligible Fulton County residents aged 60 and above. This action exercises the third of four renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(HELD ON 11/6/24) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

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

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

Justice and Safety

24-0791 Police

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Police, 23RFP139745B-EC, Armed and Unarmed Security Services in the amount of \$8,390,000.00 with Universal Protection Services dba Allied Universal Services (Atlanta, GA) to provide armed and unarmed security services for various County departments. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

24-0792 County Manager

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

24-0793 Finance

Presentation of the FY2025 Proposed Operating Budget. **(PRESENTED)**

24-0794 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of Task Order 2 - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138741K-JAJ, Task Order Contract for Minor Construction Projects in an amount not to exceed \$484,800.00 with Hawk Construction Company, LLC (Ellenwood, GA), to facilitate the repair of 101 jail cell doors and damaged cell walls located in jail housing unit 5 South at the Main Jail facility. Effective upon BOC approval until project completion as determined by the County. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0795 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval a of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC# 99999-001-SPD0000112-0001, Fuel Card Management Services in an amount not to exceed \$145,000.00 with WEX Bank (Salt Lake City, UT) to provide fuel card management services for Fulton County fleet vehicles. Effective date: January 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

24-0796 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solution in an amount not to exceed \$131,368.00 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services for the County-owned facility currently leased to the State of Georgia Department of Human Services located at 5710 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park, GA 30349. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through July 14, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0797 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 24RFP020124K-JA, Design/Build Services for North Fulton Health Human Services (HHS) Center in an amount not to exceed \$15,417,450.00 with Beck PMI, Joint Venture, comprised of The Beck Group and Peachtree Mechanical Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide design/build services for the construction and renovation of 4700 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP) to substantial completion in 270 calendar days and final completion in 300 calendar days or as agreed between the County and the Design/Builder. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0798 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 24RFP072424K-JA, Program Management and Professional Services for the Fulton County Jail Capital Improvement Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,740,749.38 for Year 1, with ACR Partners, a joint venture comprised of AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM), Comprehensive Program Services (CPS) and H.J. Russell & Company (HJR) (Atlanta, GA), to provide a complete range of program management and professional services to support the Fulton County Jail Capital Improvement Program (“CIP”). Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP) for five (5) years, with one , two-year renewal option or until completion as determined by the County. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Health and Human Services

24-0799 Community Development

Request approval of a statewide contract - Community Development, SWC 99999-SPD-0000136-0008, Temporary Staffing Services in an amount not to exceed \$148,075.00 with Corporate Temps 2000 (Norcross, GA) to continue temporary staffing services for the Department of Community Development. Effective January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

24-0800 Senior Services

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Senior Services, SWC99999-SPD0000136-003A, Temporary Staffing Services in an amount not to exceed \$135,135.07 with New World Employment dba Snelling (Tucker, GA), to provide staffing services to support the operation of the Department of Senior Services facilities. Effective January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

(APPROVED)

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

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

Did Not Vote: Thorne

24-0801 Public Works

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 24ITBC1329891A-JWT, Water Meter Vaults in the amount of \$200,000.00 with Bartow Precast Inc., (Cartersville, GA), to provide water meter vaults. Effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options.

(APPROVED)

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

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

24-0802 Public Works

Request approval to extend an existing Contract - Public Works Department, 17RFP031617K-DJ, Progressive Design/Build Services for the Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Expansion Project Phase 2B with Archer Western-Brown and Caldwell Joint Venture (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$279,436.22, utilizing the Owner's Contingency to address additional work required and to extend the contract through March 21, 2025. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

Infrastructure and Economic Development**24-0803 Select Fulton**

Request approval and associated funding of an initiative - Department of Economic Development - Select Fulton (Fulton Films Division), 2025 American Black Film Festival (ABFF) Honors in the amount of \$30,000.00 with ABFF Ventures LLC dba NICE CROWD Burbank, CA to provide a Supporting Sponsorship in the amount of \$25,000.00 and associated staff travel costs of \$5,000.00 for the event. Effective upon approval, subject to appropriation of funding in the FY25 budget.

(REMOVED)

Justice and Safety**24-0804 Emergency Services**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Emergency Services, General Services Administration Contract #GS-35F-0415V, in the amount of \$219,852.13 with Quality Recording Solutions, LLC, Eventide (Roswell, GA) for the purchase of the 911 Recording System and to provide professional services required to upgrade and maintain the department's current recording system. Effective upon BOC approval.

(APPROVED)

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

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

24-0805 Sheriff

Request approval to allocate \$2,137,496.00 into the fiscal year 2024 budget for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. This amount will be drawn from the previously approved funding specifically designated for the Sheriff's Office. The primary purpose of this allocation is to address and replenish the overtime expenses incurred over the past year. Additionally, these funds will be crucial for covering any unforeseen emergency overtime needs at the Jail, as well as facilitating payments related to the Public Safety Fair Labor Standards Act (PFLSA) for employees who have reached their maximum Compensatory Time.

(MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)

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

Yea: Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

Abstain: Thorne, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Ellis

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**24-0611 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance amending Part 1, Subpart B, Chapter 101- General Provisions and County Governing Authority Article I, Sec. 101-68 - Decorum, of the Code of Laws of Fulton County, Georgia Relating to Rules of Decorum Governing Meetings of the Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 9/18/24, 10/2/24, 10/16/24, AND 11/6/24) (HELD)**

24-0654 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to designate a resignation procedure for appointed members of the Boards, Commissions, Taskforces, Committees, Councils and authorities created under the authority of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 10/2/24, 10/16/24, AND 11/6/24) (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, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Hall, and Arrington

24-0655 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to ensure free accessibility to Fulton County records by County officials and employees as needed to fulfill their public duties and functions; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD ON 10/2/24, 10/16/24, AND 11/6/24) (FILED)**

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

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

Nay: Thorne, and Ellis

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments

24-0767

Board of Commissioners

ATLANTA-FULTON COUNTY RECREATION AUTHORITY (STADIUM AUTHORITY) (MOTION TO HOLD FAILED ON 11/6/24) (HELD)

This Authority consists of nine (9) members: three (3) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners and six (6) members appointed by the City of Atlanta. Vacancies in the membership of the authority, whether caused by the expiration of term of office, death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the governing body of Fulton County or the City of Atlanta, upon the nomination of the chief executive officer and confirmation by the governing body of said city. Any member of the authority may be elected to succeed himself. All members, duly appointed, shall hold office until his or her successor shall be appointed and duly qualified. Any member, appointed to fill an unexpired term, shall serve only for the term of the member he or she replaced.

Term = All subsequent terms of office shall be for four (4) years. Any person appointed to membership on the Authority who is a public official of the City of Atlanta or Fulton County at the time of his appointment shall serve as a member of the Authority only so long as he or she remains a public official of the city or county government which originally appointed him/her.

Term below expired: 11/1/2024

Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington, Jr. **(BOC)**

Commissioner Barrett has nominated Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington, Jr. for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending November 1, 2028.

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

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Arrington

Did Not Vote: Hall

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

24-0764 External Affairs

Approval of 2025 Legislative Agenda. **(HELD ON 11/6/24) (APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Chairman Pitts, to approve the Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources for Superior Court:

- Fulton County seeks local legislation to authorize Superior Court judicial officers to handle non-serious felony and civil cases by assignment of the Chief Judge.
- Fulton County seeks three additional judgeships within Superior Court to effectively manage the high volume of cases, including caseloads specific to Georgia's Capital County.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

b. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources for Additional State Court Judges:

- Fulton County seeks the allocation of two additional State Court judges, increasing the court from 10 to 12 judges.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

c. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

Primary Policy Priority: Detention Center Transfer:

- Fulton County supports the Senate Public Safety Fulton County Jail subcommittee's recommendation to transfer the Atlanta City Detention Center to Fulton County.

d. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve Ongoing State Investment – Behavioral Health:

- Fulton County seeks ongoing state funding for Behavioral Health beds, as recommended in the 2023 Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) bed study.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

f. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve Transit Board Representation:

- Fulton County seeks amendments to enhance representation on both the ATL and MARTA Boards, ensuring appointments are equitable and reflective of the county's size and taxpayer base.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Ellis

Absent: Arrington

g. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve Housing Authority of Fulton County:

- Fulton County requests an amendment to the requirements for resident commissioners of the Fulton County Housing Authority to ensure compliance with O.C.G.A. § 8-3-50.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Thorne

h. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve Office of the Child Attorney procedural changes. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

i. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve Clarification of Purchasing Powers of Constitutional Officers:

- Fulton County seeks clarification regarding the purchasing powers of constitutional officers and urges the Georgia General Assembly to require compliance with purchasing and procurement policies for constitutional officers.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Barrett

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Hall

j. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve Premises Liability Reform:

- Fulton County recommends reforms to limit property owner liability for minor, non-serious injuries or incidents that occur on their property due to factors outside their control.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

k. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve the remaining Policy Positions collectively. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, Thorne, and Ellis

l. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve Policy Position: NextGen 911. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

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

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

Nay: Thorne

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Ellis

n. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve Policy Position: Change Personal Property and Freeport Return Dates. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Barrett

o. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve Policy Position: Authorize Digital Court Reporting. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

p. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve Policy Position: Raise High School Dropout Age to 17. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Ellis

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

24-0615 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Inmate Phone Contract & Jail Commissary Contract (Pitts) (HELD ON 9/18/24, 10/2/24, 10/16/24, AND 11/6/24) (HELD)

24-0806 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Update on City of Atlanta Water Bills (Barrett) (DISCUSSED)

24-0807 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (Barrett) (DISCUSSED)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

24-0808 Board of Commissioners
Executive (CLOSED) Sessions regarding litigation (County Attorney), real estate (County Manager), and personnel (Pitts). (APPROVED)

PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, Arrington and; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the requests for representation in items #1 and #2 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, and Hall

Did Not Vote: Ellis, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve settlement authority in item #3 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SECOND REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC
“A Court Reporting Firm”

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Second Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is Wednesday, November 20th, 2024. 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 THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Present."

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Present."

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0770**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda: All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Nothing on the Consent Agenda? Commissioners, any items on the Consent Agenda?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "If not, I will entertain a motion to adopt as printed. All right. Motion to a job by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, Second Regular Meeting Agenda, **24-0785**, Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item to be removed from today's agenda. At the bottom of page 9, under Infrastructure and Economic Development, 24-0803, Select Fulton: Request approval and associated funding of an initiative for the 2025 American Black Film Festival Honors. This item has been removed and will be brought back as a discussion item as part of the 2025 budget."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0786**, Ratification of Minutes. Second Regular Meeting Minutes, October 16th; First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 6, 2024."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Cast your vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0787, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. There were no proclamations today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Wow. Continue.""

CLERK GRIER: "Public Hearings, 24-0788, Public Comment: Citizens wishing to participate in public comments will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing by registering on the county website, www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we'll start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 12 speaker cards. Will the first 12 speakers, please come forward: Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk, Patrise Perkins-Hooker, Helen Butler, Nancy Flake Johnson, John Moye, and Margaret Stagmeyer."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Speakers, when you have 15 seconds left of your two minutes I'll simply say 15 seconds. That will be your queue to begin to conclude your remarks. Thank you. First speaker."

CHIEF JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "All right. Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Cassandra Kirk. I serve as your chief magistrate judge here in Fulton County. Nearly ten years ago the state legislature created this court. The purpose was to bring accountability and efficiency to Fulton's justice system, and we have met that challenge. Since 2015, this court has closed 650,000 cases. Yet for 10 years, the County has failed to plan for the resources this court needs; leaving us in unsafe, overcrowded working conditions. Our team has worked -- is working in cramped spaces, has been exposed to mold, and has unsustainable work loads. Despite these challenges, this year alone, we have closed over 54,000 cases, reviewed 34,000 arrest warrants, over 5500 search warrants, and over 11,000 writs. Since losing funding in August, we have been reduced to three staff members for court functions. We are not asking for more than what's necessary. We're asking that you reinstate the \$780,000 to our budget. We are also asking for six positions in an enhancement. Those six positions cost the County \$711,000. Our current 5.1 million-dollar budget is .36 percent of the County's overall budget. I'd say that's a small price to pay for justice."

I urge you not to look at me as you weigh this decision, but to look at the families, the police officers, the small business owners, the landlords, and the tenants as you make the determination whether or not --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

CHIEF JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- you all will serve those who cannot afford to wait for justice. These are your constituents and their need is urgent. I urge you to rise to meet this moment and the people we serve. Thank you."

HELEN BUTLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chairman Pitts and Commissioners. My name is Helen Butler. I represent the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, and I stand today in support of Judge Kirk and the Magistrate's Court, and ask that you do fulfill her request for budget items. We feel that justice needs to be done in an efficient manner for all parties that are concerned and, therefore, we ask that you really support Judge Kirk in her request for the budget. She has shown that she has been very astute in wise in fulfilling her duties, and we ask that you allow her to continue by supporting her budget requests. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker. Who's number three?"

MARGARET STAGMEYER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Margaret Stagmeyer, and I'm also here to support Judge Kirk's request for funding. I am the founder of Starsky, which is a nonprofit that has provided over \$60 million in rental assistance to families in Fulton and Metro Atlanta. I'm also a landlord and I have seen firsthand the impact of this court's inability to basically address evictions in a timely manner. I have seen the impact. We have had hundreds of tenants basically fail to pay rent. We've had to evict 52 tenants even though a lot of them could pay rent, and it's just been very expensive; and there's a lot of landlords in Atlanta and Fulton County who really need -- are really requesting a functioning court. If y'all cannot find in your budget to basically fund what she's requested, I would like to suggest that you consider raising the fees. As landlords, we would happily pay another or 10, 15 or \$20 for filings as long as that money went directly to the magistrate court. So basically in summary -- and also I want to point out one thing the Judge Kirk has done, she started a landlord court working group in January, which has brought all the landlords, the attorneys, everyone to the table to discuss this issue, and I think we've made a lot of progress, but we understand that the lack of funding is significant and is very much needed in this circumstances. So thank you very much."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: L.A. Pink, Paul Hershey, Chris Hayden, Dominique Grant, Melodie Rossen, and Maria Gaudio."

L.A. PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Good morning. Today I come thanking God for the DOJ and hoping that Robb Pitts and the rest of the Board continues to do what they need to do. This just lets me know that the TPO, the false

TPO that was placed upon me that I was in the right direction, because everything that came out in the DOJ is what's being discussed. There are -- it's a plot to cover. They said it was a plot for murder inside of the jail; well, there's the plot for cover. We have text messages, pictures; you name it, to justify the words that have been spoken when I come down here and speak. We have text messages from the Sheriff's wife about LaShawn Thompson, them knowing about the bedbugs. And for me, that should be an investigation and an indictment for his murder. There was in the DOJ report that there was an inmate strangled, which we had already said that an inmate had come forward and said that he had strangled Travis Landry. And nothing has been said about it openly, but in the report they speak about it. So they didn't name a name. So I'm just desperate to know who was this person that they were talking about was strangled. We've only heard of one person that was -- that had hung himself, and now all of a sudden, there's an inmate that had strangled another inmate off in there. So we're just asking continuously for the indictment to be issued --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

L.A. PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- because this is now considered, as we know, to be some serious issues going on inside of the Fulton County Jail. We're also asking for a new sheriff. Charles Rambo, send him in."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Paul Hershey. I haven't been here in a while, so let's get started on some facts. Number one, the DOJ has come out. If you read the report, it's very clear and concise. The Sheriff has undermanaged his department, and basically there should be a vote of no-confidence from this Board. There should be a total cleanup and a reevaluation. The \$2 million that he's asking for overtime is basically a waste. He's already -- he's already got \$11 million left in the budget, and that was validated by Chairman -- I mean, by Commissioner Ellis. So he doesn't need anymore \$2 million deals. And anybody that votes for that and approves that is basically don't give me the line that you're looking out for the constituents of this County. The DOJ has been in violation of the open records requests. I've got four of them that basically went into the trashcan. Number two, grants: The bottom line is, is this: there was a \$575,000 grant by the DOJ, and that's on record, but the DA only reported 500,000? Where's the other 75,000? Why aren't you guys doing anything about any of that? You've been bogus in following the DOJ's compliance with the Sheriff. You've been bogus on the DA not validating the open records requests. I mean, my God when are we going to stop all of this stuff? And, by the way, crimes haven't gone down. You just don't report a lot of crimes because the Biden administration changed the rules. So you need to look at everything --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and the bottom line is, is this. You've got a responsibility to the constituents of this County, not to them. And by the way, you've been sold a bill of goods by Arrington that says you guys don't have any authority to do

anything with the elected officials. You do. And I've already checked that out with the state."

CHRIS HAYDEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Chris Hayden. I'm a citizen of Fulton County. I was a poll worker at East Roswell Library, advanced voting precinct during the most recent advanced voting. The precinct was laid out in such a way that the poll clerks were in the library lobby checking voter's registration, and the ballot marking devices and ballot scanners were in a separate room. The precinct manager and the assistant managers were in this room. I think this is a very bad setup while the poll workers and managers and equipment need to be the same room. It has been this way before at this precinct. There was an incident at this precinct of paper without watermark being used to produce ballots. I do not know the specifics of how that happened, but maybe having everyone in the room would have prevented it. Also, I wasn't there on this particular day, it was a Saturday -- the first Saturday of advanced voting. The manager at closing time told everyone to leave. One poll worker chose not to leave. She tried to stay because she knew there should be two people. But eventually, the manager got her to leave and he closed out the precinct by himself. The next day, Sunday morning, an early worker came to the library, but found that the building was already unlocked. So she went in, and when she went to the room where the voting was to be set up to take place, she found the door was opened and unlocked. There was a black box on the table, so she backed out of the building. Not knowing what was going on, she called the police. The manager was fired sometime between Sunday and Monday. There was an elevation of one assistant manager to the poll manager. Another assistant manager had a planned early departure. She planned on an abbreviated length of employment all along. A clerk was made assistant poll manager to fill her spot. With these changes, two other clerks were placed at the precinct the same day they were trained. After training there we're told --"

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

CHRIS HAYDEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- this precinct worked a couple days. One of those clerks became a poll manager. I have given this information also to the various Board of Elections."

DOMINIQUE GRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners, again. My name is Dominique Grant, and I'm the campaign and operations manager with Women on the Rise. I would like to start by saying this: we keep coming to y'all, and every time the circumstances are worse. I'm here today because I read the DOJ's investigation of Fulton County Jail in its entirety. We've talked about how horrific and how mismanaged the jail is, but nothing could have prepared me for the 90 pages of absolute horror that I read. There are things in this report that have haunted me since. Staff using excessive force without reason, like the officer who choked the woman unconscious during the booking process, before she even entered the jail. She was brutalized by someone now responsible for her safety. Officers using tasers without justification, treating people's games like a -- treating people's lives like a game. And

then there's a story of a paralyzed man in his 60s left sitting naked in a diaper dragging himself across the floor. He was given a walker for one hour a day to exercise and bathed every couple of months, and had his diaper changed once a day. Staff stepped over him like he was nothing. And the crazy thing about it is none of this required funding. None of this is about the building. This is about integrity. And integrity, Sheriff Labat was supposed to uphold and promote. This is about the culture that he has created. A culture where our people are thrown into that jail, traumatized on purpose, and if they survived, dumped back into our communities for us to heal them. This county, this city, this country is watching Fulton County in horror. They are watching a Commission created to maintain checks and balances to let a Sheriff do whatever he wants to their constituents. It's time for Sheriff Labat to resign. Enough is enough. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "15 seconds."

MELODIE ROSSEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Melodie Rossen. I am the membership organizer with Women on the Rise. For the past two years, I've worked closely with our community to help women successfully reintegrate into Atlanta and Georgia after incarceration, as I myself had to reintegrate back into the Atlanta area after completing a 20-year sentence in Georgia prisons. As a native Atlantean, someone who grew up in the Red Dog era, it's heartbreaking to see that our approach to jailing hasn't changed much. The conditions of our jails remain inhumane and our community continues to suffer the consequences. Atlanta has been in the business of incarcerating for far too long. And it has done little, if anything, to strengthen our communities. A bigger jail or even a newer one isn't the answer. We've seen how the creation of ACDC tore families apart, how it criminalized our own community instead of supporting it. Looking back on my own story, I often wonder how if how different things could have been, if instead of investing in jails, we invested in solutions like better schools, affordable housing, and access to community resources. Atlanta has an opportunity to take a different path. We need to prioritize care over cages, invest in diverse programs, crisis centers, and the kinds of resources that actually reduce and uplift our people. Let's build a future where reinvestment in our community takes precedence over incarceration. Thank you and we need to have Labat to resign."

MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Maria Gaudio, Fulton County. I echo the same sentiments as the speakers before me, with regard to the jail and the county clerks' office for Judge Kirk. But I'm here to speak about the last-minute changes to the election locations for the absentee ballots. I spent four days at 130 Peachtree Street, right in your backyard, and starting with Saturday morning, there was no staff present in the morning. So another poll worker and I walked outside only to hear gunshots, and we found a man bleeding out on the corner. The officers are called, followed by more gunshots that shot out the CVS. I just felt like, for a Saturday morning, that was way too much. There was not enough safety for people to be dropping off ballots. There were elderly people who were disenfranchised by thinking

they could vote there. They didn't understand it was absentee ballot drop off, and they spent money taking taxis and paying for parking. There were students who were told by their professors at colleges and universities that they could vote there, which was incorrect, and even sadder were the laborers who showed up to vote who had changed so that they could get time and a half for double time for Tuesday voting, they had come to vote and were turned away. There were many people who came, who wanted to register to vote, and the registrars told them here's your paper and you can vote on Tuesday, and they showed them where the precinct was. That was too late to be registered. Even worse, I saw people with four, eight, 16 ballots. And the woman who brought eight ballots, they were shoved in there so quick; there was no chain of custody affidavit for each one. We had words. She called the cops on me, but she made a false report and said that I physically assaulted her. That's a 1,000-dollar fine."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- \$1,000 fine up to, and/or up to a year in jail, and we should have that registrar's job. She should be removed. Thank you."

J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you for this time today. I left some information with the clerk here. Today marks six years since I was beaten into a coma, November 20th, 2018. Since then, I've suffered such traumatic stress. I've been diagnosed with severe depression, severe anxiety, PTSD. I have nightmares from the incident of the guys calling me homos, fags, sissies; told me I was also gone suck dick. All of this, it's on camera. But as of today, six years later, no one's been prosecuted. Two people have been indicted, but instead, Keith Gammage decided to charge me with a misdemeanor, affray: which is a disorderly conduct. He then took that misdemeanor charge and upgraded it to a felony. And no one's been able to make it make sense to me. Instead, Keith Gammage, the main assailant on camera smacking me, Keith Gammage, this man right behind me, dismissed his charge and nobody can tell me how that makes sense. As of right now, I've been coerced to dismiss the two charges that's in Fani Willis' office. I've been threatened with extortion. I'll be in jail, not be able to take care of my elderly mom who has dementia. So as of today, since I've had no support, no --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- consolation from the Fulton County Commission's Office, you are served. I have officially filed a civil lawsuit against you, Keith Gammage, the Board of Commissioners, and the Solicitor General's office. Thank you."

KEITH GAMMAGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I simply rise today to thank you all for your collaborative spirit when you can agree to agree on these funding needs where you can agree. All of the folks in the justice partnership are working tirelessly. And there's so many examples of people who are suffering from mental illness. And there's so many

challenges with the time necessary to concentrate and focus our resources in an individualized manner. We're all trying our very best; I can assure you of that. Things always come up, and certainly more resources are always helpful. Our responsibility, of course, is to wisely manage those resources. I do think that, as a result of the published report from the Justice Department, that you should give further consideration to coming back to the justice partners, and giving us an opportunity to, as much great work as Mr. Anderson and others have done on the budget as proposed, we put in our ask in a conservative way, quite honestly knowing that we needed more resources. But we made a conservative ask based on bottom-line needs. I hope you will approve it, but I would also say that we can certainly deliver better justice to individuals and to the collective community with additional resources to take more time on every single case, and I would just ask you to consider that revelation from the Department of Justice in light of what this county is going to look to regarding funding for the Justice Department. And again, I thank you all for your service. Each of us has people who are upset with us --"

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

KEITH GAMMAGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and I will say this, you can never satisfy everyone as much as you might endeavor and try. But I believe my team is unassailable by the work we do, and it speaks for itself. And I thank you all."

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

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

MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. As it has been mentioned before and I've heard it today, we have a culture problem in our elections department. So when are we going to address it? We had laws broken multiple times in this most recent election, so I don't want to hear the excuse anymore that there is human error or clerical error. If someone assaults you multiple times, are you going to say, you know, you going to claim the same thing? It's getting absurd. We have a lack of leadership in the department, and I think that's maybe part of the problem, is how do we continue to appoint people or hire people to this department that is either incompetent or worse, isn't willing to follow the law and conduct an open and transparent elections. This is basic stuff. But yet we continue to obstruct and break the law. So my question is, how did Nadine Williams, come up as a nomination or as a candidate for director? Was it one of you Commissioners? County Manager, was it you? Who advocated for her, because it is clear she is not qualified. So another question I would have is do we do performance reviews in this County? We should at least do them for the department heads. So that will be my question to you, County Manager, is, do you do performance reviews --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- do you do real performance reviews? Not just going through motions, right? Does violating the law count, right? It's something that someone should do, you'd think, right? So I think that needs to be looked into. Thank you for the time."

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

BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings, Commissioners, and staff; and a special greetings, fellow citizens. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate and Public Policy Analyst. It is a breath of fresh air to see Housing Authority on the agenda and not be inclined to shudder in shame. On the agenda today are three matters relating to senior citizens; however, those bent on balancing the budget on the backs of the elderly may stand down because these items are innocuous. 24-0781, on page 5, regarding Transdev, is funded via grant; 24-0743, on page 7, is a renewed contract with Common Courtesy; 24-0799, on page 9, has to do with temporary staff. The Commission on Elder Affairs meets tomorrow, Thursday November 21st, at 11:30 a.m. Item five on their agenda, Senior Services update, three words, contains a plethora of topics that need to be parsed and transparently digested one at a time. Stay tuned."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Adrian Coleman."

ADRIAN COLEMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Adrian Coleman, and I'm calling to comment on the Department of Justice report on the Fulton County Jail and the conditions. And if you've read that report, which I hope each of you have, it becomes very clear that it's not just a building, and a new jail will not fix the problems at Fulton County Jail. It is -- I'm watching today because I want to see if and how Fulton County Board of Commissioners address this issue. The fact that our neighbors, people who are in Fulton County, are being -- living in -- their civil rights are being violated. Basic things such as nutrition, not enough food, people wasting away. The fact that staff are watching as people are being harmed. The fact that, you know, 17-year-olds are not getting federally required education. What is happening here? I stand with the other speakers who asked the Board of Commissioners to put forth a no vote of confidence in our Sheriff. I agree and thank the NAACP for their -- submitting to the Board a list of recommendations, but it doesn't go far enough. We need accountability. I would ask this Commission to stand up a commission or tribunal to allow victims, their families to be able to come in and give their testimony for oversight of how we're going to move this jail forward and to make strong recommendations back to the Commission. Please, this will not -- the sad part is if this was an animal shelter where dogs were being left injured, untreated, there would be criminal actions taken. Why are black bodies not valued as much as our dogs and cats? Thank you for your time."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The last person to speak is David Fadool. David Fadool."

DAVID FADOOL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hey, good morning, Commissioners. Can y'all hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

DAVID FADOOL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. Good morning. I'd like to address the -- I'd like to address food intelligence this morning and to make the Commission known that a lot of the products in vending machines that are in the schools have ingredients that are linked to cancer, whether it is yellow 5, red 40, blue 4, or other things that are found in products like skittles, like Gatorade, like Power Aid, a lot of just unhealthy snacks and beverages. They are a direct correlation, not only to cancer, but also to obesity, to diabetes, and other health ailments that are plaguing children every single day. So my proposal is very simple: I have healthy vendors that are lined up and ready to sell their products and replace the products that are in the vending machines right now. A few of them are Bio Lite, which are -- it's just a simple electrolyte beverage drink without the sugar. And another -- another simple suggestion is OutClass nutrition bars. It's a six-ingredient profile, very simple. It's not --"

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

DAVID FADOOL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- okay. Okay. So bottom line is I have products that I'd like to replace in vending machines and I'd be able to do it as soon as possible."

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

CLERK GRIER: "No further speakers."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, I'm sorry."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes. Patrise Perkins-Hooker and Nancy Flake Johnson just walked in during that presentation. They were called -- their names were called on the list."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "They called for what? Come on down. We got plenty of time -- not plenty of time."

PATRIS PERKINS-HOOKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me to speak. I tried to get here on time, but there was a little problem with getting across the street. I'm Patrise Perkins-Hooker, and I'm here today to speak as a citizen of Fulton County and one of the former chairs of the Board of Registrations and Elections earlier this year that put together the plan with the County Manager and support from the Commissioners to conduct these elections; I was here until May. I want you to know that the 2024 Presidential Elections are over and the results are in. Notice that since Donald Trump won, there has not been any lamentations about the elections being fraudulent or the results being false. This election cycle, despite the tremendous pressure and challenges endured by the staff members of the Department of Registration and Elections went off extraordinarily well. The preliminary results were reported on time. All of the polling precincts were open on time, and the votes were tallied properly. All of the hoopla about the need for additional rules, regulations, and oversight proved meritless. The public should care about the operations of a nonpartisan election process and react more strongly when certain groups of people in power try to manipulate a process that has worked for decades to achieve these goals. Misinformation and mistrust, or distrust, are designed to sow seeds of doubt into a process that we all need to ensure a fundamental democratic process. Members of the conspiracy theorist and election denier groups try to subvert our election process by using their respective positions and clout with state-elected officials to try and address a nonexistent problem. Under the banner of election integrity and transparency, members of these groups sought to alter the time-tested practices of elections in Georgia --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

PATRIS PERKINS-HOOKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- they sought to discourage voters from voting by making it more difficult to access early polling precincts, by limiting the number of precincts, et cetera. Stop it. You as a citizen have a right to stop it. Thank you."

NANCY FLAKE JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Nancy Flake Johnson. I'm President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta. I'm here today in support of the magistrate courts' need for a budget increase to maintain and increase efficient and effective service. The Urban League is well aware because of the magistrate courts' operations, because we often serve clients who find themselves in landlord-tenant disputes. The efficient and timely resolution of these cases often makes the difference between a family remaining housed or facing immediate eviction. Homelessness is a looming problem in our region, and with adequate resources, the court will be able to respond and resolve time sensitive cases. This gives us time to work with families, partner with government agencies, and help resolve financial problems that lead to evictions in the first place. With a budget increase, the magistrate court will be able to assign more than one judge to landlord-tenant cases and continue to resolve those cases within 30 days. Any delays beyond that time will have the effect of increasing the number of evictions and climate of uncertainty about the safety net system in our country. As community

leaders, the Urban League and our partners ask Fulton County officials to place a priority on the health and efficiency of the magistrate court. We value our role as a partner and offer our support in this process. I also want to offer our support as you work to resolve the many horrific issues facing our Fulton County Jail. We are here to be a partner in that process. Thank you so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Anyone else we've missed? All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 6, Presentations to the Board, **24-0789**, Housing Authority of Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. President Moore, come on down."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "Good morning to Commission Chair Pitts and Members of the Commission. You see here I'm joined by all of your appointees. I hope that this shows a testament to our commitment to working to make Fulton County Housing Authority better. We're going to do a brief presentation. We certainly hope to see you in 2025 when we have even more progress to report. But I want you to know that since --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- excuse me. Introduce the Board member."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "Sure. I'm sorry. I'm going too fast. So the Members of the Board which you know, but the public may not, is Stephen Davis, Ryan Glover, Ms. Holly Way -- excuse me, Holly York, and I call her my -- we're Batman and Robin, Vice Chair Laura Waits. And then you have -- some of you have had an opportunity to meet the Executive Director, Mr. Carl Walton, and he will speak briefly as well. But I just want to just quickly give you an update on where we are. So since the time you appointed us, we jumped in -- we didn't just put our toe in the water, we've dived right in. We were having at least two meetings a month, because we knew that there were a lot of things that needed to be accomplished. We elected our acting leadership. We were able to do our emergency procurement with CVR, to do the assessment that we needed, and we also looked at forensic audit, which was asked about, but I will talk about that and in just a minute. And we all, at that the time, had an acting Executive Director by contract. That contract was going to end, and so we had to also move very quickly into finding leadership for the agency. We conduct -- we approved the hiring and onboarding freeze so that we could get an assessment of where we were and where we were going. We are looking -- we have started working around in August talking about projects that were outstanding that hadn't moved, which is Anthem 3 which is another public housing property that we are considering being a part of. We had the 30-day assessment by CVR, and we started to work on some of those action items. We posted an Executive Director position. We also had more

professional services that were needed, and you'll understand why as I go on. CVR is doing a lot of tasks for us, and we will probably continue to add to that task list, because we have found a lot of things that were not done. We hired Emerge Accounting, who is doing our fee accounting work, and they are helping us -- the agency was behind from 2022, 2023, and now 2024, in doing our financial statements which, if you don't have the financial statements, you can't do an audit. So we've got to get all of those back years up-to-date, get an auditor to audit them so that we can get audits. And then once we get those audits, everybody is waiting on them, HUD's waiting on them, the banks' waiting on them, I'm waiting on them, but we have -- there's a lot of stuff that needs to happen to do that. We hired the Purpose Group that is doing our HR and risk-management. Human Resources has been a big challenge for the agency, and I'll explain why; and risk management. And we had a utility allowance update. In September, we were able to get these emergency contracts underway, hire Mr. Carl Walton, approved our budget, looked at legal services; we put that out for RFP, and have come to Taylor English, which we are completing our contract with them. And so, we have challenges and I'll get to that real quick. The challenges that we have: outdated systems, none of it works, it's breaking down. It's going to take a long time to get us up-to-date and moving. Low staff morale, which has increased now that we're getting some stability. There are files that are missing, incomplete. For instance, we searched in an office and found checks that were not even cashed, so that's money that was sitting there. HUD has made us aware of money of approximately a million dollars that has never been drawn down, so we're working on recovering that. We have contracts that are not existed -- nonexistence or either failed, unpaid bills, financial reporting issues, public housing, outstanding payments, which we are working on, numerous EEOC complaints, and current and potential lawsuits which are going to be something that's going to take us a while to get back. There are a lot of outstanding suits against the agency. The only thing that I will lead with before I turn it over is that we are still needing -- HUD wants us to have a resident member of the Board. Federal law requires that. And so, whatever we need to do working with the law department so that we're able to move forward in at least getting one or two resident members is what is outstanding and we would love for you to help us with moving forward with. I'll introduce you now to Carl Walton."

CARL WALTON, DIRECTOR, FCHA: "Good morning, members of the Fulton County Commission. I'm Carl Walton, the new Executive Director at the Fulton County Housing Authority. Can you hear me now? I'm sorry. My name is Carl Walton. I'm the new Executive Director of the Fulton County Housing Authority. I've had the pleasure of meeting some of you. I thank the Housing Authority for selecting me as the candidate to move this Housing Authority in the direction that it needs to be. Upon my arrival, there was a series of circumstances that I encountered. The staff morale was the biggest thing that I have increased tenfold. Staff has stated to me that I was the breath of fresh air that they were looking for. As Chairperson Moore stated, there are a series of circumstances in terms of residents, landlords that have not been paid, bills that were not done properly, contracts and the like; I've made an assessment along with CVR. I've met with all the staff to determine what their needs are and assessed them to see

whether they were in the proper positions within the authority. Some positions people have been moved around to better be suited in the spaces in which that they have skillsets that match the work that they do. It's a long road ahead. I'm up for the challenge because it is one. With the help of the Board and you, I think it is a doable circumstance. I've met with HUD. I continue to meet with them regularly to give them updates on things that I'm doing. I'm getting access to all of the programs that I need to get access in order to move this forward. They're working with me, they understand what I walked into, and they said they have committed to working with me to bring the Housing Authority out of the trouble status and into a positive light."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "And I was going so fast because I know you're time. I was remiss, I need to start and back up and say thank you -- thank you all for appointing such a great Board. We're all committed to making this agency better. We're starting from Ground Zero, and we're going to work our way up. But I also want to say thank you to Dr. Roshell. I also want to thank your County Attorney, your staff member, Ms. Thomas, and everyone who has helped us get started. And now that we're on our own and we're moving forward, I do also want to say thank you to HUD even though they're not here, because they have given us grace. They have given us assistance, and they are working with us, and we're working with them to do all we can to make sure the Fulton County Housing Authority is not only repaired and rebuilt, but also becomes the premier agency in the state of Georgia. That's our goal. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. We have time for some questions and comments, beginning with Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Good morning. Certainly want to thank you and the Board for your service to Fulton County. The resident issue is one that we have to go to the legislature on. The current language is for residence of unincorporated Fulton County, and that area just really doesn't exist anymore, right? There's probably less than a hundred people in that area. And so, I don't know exactly what the fix is, but I know that the legislature's required to fix it; and I don't -- I mean, I don't know what language would be required; if it just say residents of Fulton County or what. But we will probably need to add that to our legislative agenda."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "Yeah and I just wanted to add, the reason why I still bring it up, because there was a lot of back-and-forth by e-mail. Federal law requires at least one resident member. I'm not a lawyer. I'm not going to pretend to be one, but it would seem to me that a federal law requires it that that should supersede state law; that's number one. And then number two, because they are lacking unincorporated areas that we should be able to find voucher holders that are either close to that area or whatever, that we could be able to put on the Board. So that's something that legal needs to grapple with and continue to go back with HUD. But HUD is being very clear about the fact that federal law requires it. They don't really care

about what state law says, so I don't know. You all can figure that out. But as soon as we can get it figured out, we'd love to get a resident -- two resident members on the Board."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Madam County Attorney, we probably need to -- I don't know why it was limited to unincorporated Fulton County residents from the beginning. I guess that's part of the confusion for me, but maybe need to understand. But could it just be any two residents from the County?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "The way that it's written now, no. Although I think we would have a good argument that we tried to comply, and the only way that was possible was the closest to the original concept. I think when that statute was enacted, there was a lot more of unincorporated Fulton County at that time. So over time, that has become impossible for strict compliance. I believe that it is on our legislative agenda for the next session already. So it may be something that's resolved within the next few weeks."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I guess what I was really asking is, you know, if we get it changed, if the legislature changes it -- I guess, I was going to -- why wasn't it restricted to unincorporated originally? And you know, because if we get it changed, it seems that we can have anyone from throughout the County."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "True. And the way that the vouchers work now is different than when the program first started. I believe it's a voucher that you can take to any -- any landlord to use for any rental situation as opposed to being limited to a housing facility that's run by HUD. So I think it just reflects that times have changed and that program has changed, but the statute is throwback to a time when it was different. If it gets changed over the next few months, I think the Board can move very quickly to fill those spots, and it most likely will be anyone who lives in Fulton County."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "And I just want to add, Commissioner Arrington, that at the time it was done, understand that there other Housing Authorities. So like the city of Atlanta whenever so, unincorporated was probably set aside just for the County."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That makes sense. Thank you."

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. First of all, let me say that having fought for this day to be here, thank you for your service, all of you all. I know it was not an easy task to walk in to what I consider a battlefield, and you all are to be commended, and you as well, Madam Chair, because Fulton County deserves the kind of leadership that's in front of me. I have received so many phone calls, e-mails, and I would venture to say it's not a breath of fresh share. It's CPR that you all did, okay?"

Nobody else probably will say that, but I have no problem in saying that. You all did CPR. You came in, you understood the task, and you did what needed to be done, and I want to commend all of you all, because you didn't have to do it. And I appreciate the fact that, in the midst of all that foolishness, you all stayed the task, and it speaks to real leadership, and it speaks to the desire to see that Housing Authority blossom. The employee morale is stellar. The customer service people have reached out to me, and they have said, you know, something as simple in knowing how to speak to people. None of this is a dictatorship: it's a democracy. And I appreciate the fact that you all are providing oversight, especially to you, Mr. Walton. I want to welcome you to Fulton County, and I want to welcome your style of leadership. I am in front of you all stating that the reports that I have been getting have been stellar from day one. And I appreciate that we had a group of individuals from one end of the county to the other that are working in unison to make sure that this Housing Authority, not only soars, but we can be the model. Like they say, the ashes, from the ashes, the Phoenix that rises; I believe that will happen with you all. I just want to close with saying, Madam Chairperson, preliminarily; I have been lobbying at the state for it to be changed. So the appetite, Chairman, at the state is one of they will accommodate a change. They just needed to have a conversation and find out why the change needed to be made. And so, I appreciate you all, and thank you for your service."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "Thank you for thanking us."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'll just piggyback on everything she said, I'm in agreement with. Thank you for stepping up and thank you for diving in because it was - it was a mess, and you guys have put in so much work, and I'm just very, very appreciative to all you've done. I just was wondering if you can expand a little bit on the outdated systems; what's required, and if we can be of assistance in anyway in helping with that?"

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "Well, I don't think that there's anything that you can do for assistance, but they use a system called Tempest -- Temass, and it is outdated. It's not even supported by the company. Before we got on board, they were looking at Yardi, which is a more updated system and for unknown reasons, the Board Chair stop that from moving, although we did have a contract. And so, right now we are -- our Executive Director is in contact with them. We're working on that, but when the system crashes, you can't work on it, number one; and then number two, we're still having the issue of missing files, missing information, et cetera, in trying to get it in there, because we've got to get that system right, so that we can, you know, sort of go over to the next system. So it's a matter of manpower and input. Anything else you would add on?"

CARL WALTON, DIRECTOR, FCHA: "The only thing I would say is that Yardi is the industry standard. I met with them. They gave me the information that I need in order

to do the transition from Temass over to Yardi. So we, right now, we are actually matching files to make sure the correct voucher holder and/or resident is in the correct department so when they do do the conversion, it does convert without a hitch, and there are no problems or limited problems. I'm waiting for some information from them. I've been in constant contact with them since like my second week. They came out and had a visit and gave me the information. So CVR is helping us to make sure the information that we give to them is the correct information so that it could be uploaded properly."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you for all that. You guys are doing an amazing job."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah. Thank you all again for coming down here and sharing information with us. I think certainly echoed the other folks, thanks to the Board Members being willing to serve. I'm glad we've identified a good Executive Director to come in and help us out, and thank you for your leadership, Madam Chair. But this -- I think you've spit out a lot of stuff there at the early portion and things that you identified. I think that's critical, you know, that we not sugarcoat anything, and I appreciate that, that we kind of get the things all out on the table. And I think in the future updates, you know, maybe enumerating those and then sort of showing the progress would be you know, would be helpful, you know, for us as well as, you know, the public as well. And I do reiterate the issue around the residence thing. It does seem like there's some opportunity potentially move on that and advance the legislation, and then get it procured later on. I can't imagine there would be a whole lot of resistance to that, you know, per se, given them like you've described, Madam Chair, the federal law versus state law probably trumping, since they're the ones providing the funding. So anyway, I'll leave it with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "And thank you. Then when we come back next year, we certainly will do that as well as taking the letter and information from HUD and giving you some update as to where and what we've resolved. It's just going to take a little time, but we are working diligently on all of these issues."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So let me just ask that you come back -- we'll schedule a quarterly presentation by the Board, and I'd just like to say that -- echo everything that's been said, but when this situation occurred, I talked to each of you as Board Members. And I want to congratulate the Board for taking the time to identify quality people to serve on this Board. I believe this is probably the finest Board that we have of all the boards and commissions and authorities that we have, in my judgment, so congratulations to y'all."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "Thank you so much, Mr. Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else? Thank you very much."

FELICIA MOORE, CHAIRWOMAN, FCHA: "All right. Thank you so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, County Manager's Renewal items, **24-0797**, Information Technology: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,950,000 to provide enterprise business class desktop personal computers and specialty computing devices."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Natalie Hall; seconded by Commissioner Dana Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0743**, Senior Services: Request approval to renew existing contracts in an amount not to exceed \$3,134,178 to provide transportation services/ride sharing to eligible Fulton County residence age 60 and above."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So, Madam COO, correct?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir. Good morning, Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Hold on. Let me get my question."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "I'm sorry."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just for clarification. I thought -- why is this up before us for approval? I thought that you were going to Commissioner Hall's -- we were talking at the last meeting about a sliding scale."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Are you going to come back with some information? I think Commissioner Arrington has asked for some additional information."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir. And that's what we're presenting today. We are attempting to simplify the sliding scale even further with our recommendation for today. So what you will see today is twofold: One, the data on how the implementation of the trip limit and the implementation of the \$4 cost share, what the implications are with one month of data, based on that one month of data. We heard you loud and clear as it relates to concerns with trip limit, and we heard you loud and clear as it related to the impact of the \$4 on constituents. So today, we are going to be presenting an alternative that basically will remove the \$4 trip limit and it will provide an opportunity to flex up the eight trips to two for medical purposes, so that is what you'll hear today. We thought that based on the data that we gleaned from the one month implementation; the \$4 trip cost was not significant. We don't believe that over time that that \$4 will be a significant driver of program sustainability. So we are going to present today an opportunity to remove that \$4, only have the \$1, and the driver really of the program is the trip limit, or the trips taken. So we do believe that eight trips are going to be sufficient. Our trend over the last month has been five, but we do know that some constituents need more rides. And so, this will provide an opportunity for the staff when a constituent calls and needs more ride, for them to provide that opportunity. So that is what we're presenting today, Mr. Chairman, and why we're not bringing back a sliding scale, because the data does not indicate that that will be helpful."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't know if I understood what you said. So I'm not sure I understand what you just said. So we're scrapping the \$4 and we're back to the \$1?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, that's our recommendation, yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Hallelujah. Okay. Praise the Lord."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "So that's why I'm saying we wouldn't need a sliding scale. Our recommendation is to revert to \$1, hold at eight trips, but give constituents an opportunity to add two additional trips if they need it."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Good morning. Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Director Department of Senior Services. Thank you, Dr. Roshell. I'm going to go through the slides real quickly. Next slide. So just to recap: our department forwarded information to the over 7,000 registered senior riders to obtain self attestation. We received 3,749 attestations from the registered riders, determined that 3250 will pay \$1 and 499 will pay \$4. Next slide. The October trip data is on this slide, and it echoes what Dr. Roshell just shared with you, 2,105 unduplicated riders participated in the Uber/Lyft program. 1875 of those seniors paid \$1, 230 paid 4. The average number of trips taken by riders in October was five, and the table below those bullet points gives information about the total number of trips that are available to seniors, which is eight, and the total number of trips plus the final trip invoice, it all reflects the number of trips taken. Next slide. This is the final slide. If you can go back to that slide, please, it provides our recommendations to the Board that we will maintain the eight trips per month, allocation at \$1. The Board can consider eliminating the \$4

cost share and, also, carving out a medical trips supplemental program for seniors who might have maxed at the eight trip allotment and needs a trip to a medical appointment. Our department will continue to monitor ridership trips and budgetary impact and report back to this Board on a quarterly basis. And based on these assumptions, we believe we'll hold at our budget at about 4.7 million and that concludes this presentation. I'm available to answer any questions that you may have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Hall followed by Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just told that an updated version of the presentation was sent just a little while ago. And now I understand why this doesn't really make sense what I have before me, but I just want to confirm that what we are going to vote on today is to remove the \$4, limit the trips to eight, they can add two if they need to, and that's it?"

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: ""But we're holding at \$1; that's the key?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There's no misunderstanding about that, correct?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "No, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Thank you. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. It sounds like this will work a lot better. I guess my question is you get eight rides, maybe up to two more for medical, and then what happens after that? You just have to pay regular price?"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Yes, sir. That would be the maximum number of trips that we could provide for this program."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. All right. I mean, you know, I guess I can live with that. I just didn't know if it might make sense to, you know; maybe go to the four after the ten trips. But if, you know, if it was just cut off after ten trips, I guess that's fine as well."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm supportive of this because it's budget neutral. So I think this is a great option -- compromise. The two additional trips for medical do the

people -- who vets that it's for a doctors appointment? Are is there -- how's that processed."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "It's going to just be self attestation. We're not going to take seniors through any type of eligibility. If they call and say they have a medical appointment, they will receive a ride."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. And then does Common Courtesy, they're a nonprofit organization that provides trips to seniors. If there is a senior that has gone over their ten trips, does Common Courtesy step in and offer services to them?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "They do not. But the transportation team is very compassionate. They monitor the budget on a monthly basis. If there is any opportunity on a case-by-case basis, I'm sure they will consider that."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Thank you. That's all I have. Thank you, Ladisa."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The two additional trips, I'm assuming that's two additional round trips? Because two trips could be go to the doctor and come home. So is it two additional round trips or just two additional rides."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Commissioner Arrington, we usually catalogue these as one-way trips, so it would be one round trip in that essence."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. So it's really one additional trip for medical. It doesn't make any sense to take someone somewhere and not pick him up."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir. That's right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So it's really one additional trip; one additional round trip."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I think it's important as we communicate that that we make that distinction."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And, you know, I'll let y'all decide or maybe after three or four months we can look at maybe -- we might want to go to the \$4 for anything after the eight?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Oh, I see."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The eight plus the one, right?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir. We'll certainly monitor and bring that back quarterly."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Thank you all for this. And I wanted to let you all know, Commissioner-elect Ivory and I are working with some sponsors, and going into 2025, we want to get with you all to have a resource of a sponsor that will say when the person gets to the amount of trips, that this sponsor will sponsor two trips or four trips or whatever. It's not something that we will necessarily have oversight for at the County, but it's an additional resource. I've talked and identified as well as her some individuals and some corporations and some nonprofits that would like to sponsors some trips, because I understand from a budget that that was the concern that drove this. And so, what we had talked about is if the budget was -- or running over the budget is a concern, then maybe we need to find a backup plan. And so, I want to get with you all, going into 2025, and see if we can have these resources that will say, okay, you're at your limit, but here's a resource. And you meet the criteria for the resource. So I just want to let you all know we want to work with you all on that."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you, Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "All right."

DR. ROSHELL, COO: "I look forward to working with you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sorry. Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I want to go back to the trips, because it is significant what Commissioner Arrington said about, the trips are actually one way each way? So when we say that we're offering eight trips, is that really four round-trips?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "It is. It was previously eight round-trips."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Right. It was previously eight round-trips, but now it's four round-trips; not really eight trips?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Eight one-way trips."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Eight one-way trips."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, HHS: "We can be more specific the way Commissioner Arrington encouraged us to be, so that it's clear."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes. Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other comments or questions? Thank you -- I'm sorry. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "On that limit, I do -- I do think, and maybe you're referring to this, Commissioner Arrington, but I -- just the option. If somebody needs this as a point of access in order just to set up their transportation and they're willing to pay full freight after that, I think that's another thing to consider as well. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What do you mean? I don't understand."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I mean, once they've reached their trip limit, you know, if they still want to utilize it and they -- you know, they've got the financial means to do it, if they can pay for full freight, but utilize the service in order to arrange the travel. And I think that's something -- you know, part of this is just having -- you know, some of this is an economic thing. Some of this is just an access thing for people that do -- probably do have the funds to do it; and I just think that's something that we need to think about in terms of particularly once you reach a particular limit and I want to continue to utilize it, if I've got the funds to do it. And we've got the facilitation in order for it to occur."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you both for that suggestion. We'll certainly look in to what associated administrative costs might be involved in administering the program pass the Fulton County funded program for the cost share, so we'll certainly bring that back. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other comments, questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you. Motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote at \$1."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0791, Police: Request approval to renew existing contracts in the amount of \$8,390,000 to provide armed and unarmed security services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "County Manager's items, under Open and Responsible Government, 24-0792: Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to you and the Board. We have a robust operations report this morning, and then following that, the 2025 budget submission; so a good discussion for the next 15 to four or five hours. The Project ORCA continues to make progress. You'll see that we're within, again, 10,000 cases of completing that out of 148,000. We have 17 folks that have moved to now permanent positions are left out of the staffing, so that also continues as planned. On the justice score card, you're going to see a slight rise in average length of stay as well as the average population. So that's something to continue, obviously to monitor. The ARPA funds, we have a brief update on today letting you know what has to be done by 12/31. So we're in discussions right now to ensure that all of those funds are either obligated or spent by that date, and we'll bring back the details in the December meetings, but we'll tell you the process today. With the procurement completed on 4700 North Point, we're excited to bring that project forward. As you know, that purchase was made. It served us extremely well during COVID. We're finally now, with some prodding along the way from the Commissioners, to bring that to a point of being able to contract for that. Contract selection is on the agenda, but more importantly even than that, is to remind you of the intended moves, the scope that that building will entail and the financial constraints. Additionally important, I think to the Board will be, also to remind you that we'll be undertaking a feasibility study for a like facility in South Fulton. If you remember, Vice Chair, that was discussed over a year or so ago when this was teed up, and we're in a position now of kicking off that study. So that will probably go through the year of 2025 as this comes on line in 2025. The jail blitz, of course, very important work that we continue to do; you'll see the number of living units at 726 being completed as well as an overall projection for completion of that in the first quarter of 2025. We also are now starting the additional repairs in kitchen, laundry, and elevator equipment areas, but all of us are highly sensitized again to the urgency of this as well as the complementary nature of the

second thing, which when Steve comes back up, posts this operations report and the agenda item appears, we'll be talking about and recommending a selection of the firm for the jail program management team. Again, that's very important step along the path of a complete assessment of the jail from all aspects in terms of what systems and what architecturally needs to be done over a six-month period, and then we'll begin the process with recommendations to you in terms of capital improvements. We also today have details -- I have some more detailed comments about the 2025 budget. When we get there, I just want to say a couple things: one, a huge thanks to Sabrina, Hakeem, and Sharon both working very late nights and into mornings of both Thursday and Friday of last week as well as this week. I think they've put together a tremendously clear budget presentation for your consideration. As you all note when we get into it, it is very tight. We are relying on attrition-based savings as well as the ARPA interest that you were made aware of several months ago, to close the gap between budgeted expenses and expected revenues; so again more to come on that as we get into to that, but we'll start now with the operational report. Steve Nawrocki, out of the Strategy Office, will begin us with Project ORCA."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Thank you, County Manager. Steve Nawrocki, Strategy Office. As you know, we are in the final months of Project ORCA, and continuing our ramp down. You can go to the next slide. We've disposed of nearly 138,000 cases of the original 148,000, leaving us with 10,319. This does have us at currently at about 93 percent complete for Project Orca. Next slide. Here we have our remaining cases. Where we did see a slight -- or a decrease from the previous month in October at 664 dispositions compared to over 1,500 for the month of September. Although worth noting, some good news here; the Solicitor General's office has only 701 cases remaining, and we do expect that they will clear and achieve all dispositions by program end. Next slide. Here we have our dispositions by department for the month of October as well as project to date. Superior and State Court both continue at their normal cadence of about 221 and 140 dispositions respectively. You'll see here the zeros across still indicating that the DA has achieved all of her dispositions that was in her court, and her remaining ORCA staff are now prosecuting those cases in Superior Court. And the Solicitor General and Magistrate Court, both sides all did, compared to the previous month, and have achieved 171 and 132 dispositions for the month of October. And project to date; we do remain to the good with a variance of just over 1500. Next slide. Here we have our staffing ramped down by department for the month of October as well as year-to-date. We do have 50 remaining ORCA staff as of November 4th, marking a reduction, as the County Manager noted, of 17 for the month of October. There are now four departments that have no ORCA staff remaining, and you'll see here that is the Clerk's office, Juvenile Court, Magistrate Court, and Marshal's office with about half the other remaining justice system departments down to single digits per staff. Where we do have staff remaining with each of these departments, we continue to work with them on the targeted dates when we plan for those final separations and transfers to permanent general fund positions. Next slide. I'm sorry. Next slide. Here we have our justice system scorecard. Our average length of stay in October was 45 days, marking a small increase of four days from September. Next, we

have the unindicted general population which is now down to 15 percent marking a four percent decrease. And most notably, this is the lowest percent of unindicted we have had at the jail since tracking this metric back in May of 2023. Next, the clearance rate for felony criminal cases saw a significant increase of 24 percent since September, putting us at about 78 percent for October. And finally, felony cases disposed within 180 days and 365 days, both saw a 4 percent decrease now at 25 percent and 60 percent respectively. Next slide. And now we'll move to our jail population update, thank you. First, looking at the average monthly jail population, October did see another slight increase up to an average population of 2,679. While we have seen now several month-over-month increases, the population does continue to be at a manageable level. And for comparison, just a snapshot provided here on November 14th, the population was 2,532 for the entire jail system. Next slide. And here we have the chart representation from the previous slide. Next slide. Next, we have our facility utilization for the jail population. As of November 1st, 1,633 inmates were at Rice Street with the balance being outsourced across the other County and out-of-County facilities. Next slide. Next, we have our inmate analysis of the jail population. Improvement from last month over 70 percent or 1,607 inmates are either currently indicted or accused, while 15 percent, as mentioned earlier or 343, are unindicted. We can go to next slide to look at those 343. Looking here at the aging of the unindicted by days in the jail, 303 or about 88 percent, haven't been incarcerated for less than 90 days, which is where we want them, the 90 days or less. We've seen proportionally decreases across the other time periods, 91 to 180 days, and 181 to 365. And again, for the first time that we've been tracking this report, no individuals have been in jail for -- no unindicted, excuse me; individuals have been in jail for greater than one year. Next slide. And finally, we have our priorities. We do continue to focus on a smooth ramp down for Project ORCA. This does include working with each department, trying our best to provide real-time budget and staffing information as they plan their final separations and transfers into the permanent full-time positions. And for the remaining cases, we do continue to provide dispositions data month over -- excuse me -- case data month over month so that remaining justice partners have a targeted plan for final dispositions to close out the program. And with that, I can take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Questions? Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman; and thank you, Mr. Nawrocki. I appreciate the update. Just a couple questions. I'm sure this has been asked before, but I know on slide, I guess it's like 227 in our materials 14, I think on your deck, but with the beds facility utilization with the bed number --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY: "-- yes, 14?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I think this -- because we don't include in here the beds that are out of commission, there's sort of an implication that there's a 621 beds available that can be used right now but aren't for some unknown reason, and instead, they were outsourcing. And I'm also hearing some different numbers about

how many beds are out of commission, which I think comes later in one of the other reports. So I don't know -- I don't know if you want to speak to that now or if we should wait and talk about that at some other point."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes, can we please go to slide 14, which has the facility utilization. We can provide a couple of clarifications. I may ask Mr. Davis to chime in, too. First, if you look at the legend at the bottom, beds available and under repair, we did want to call that out specifically, because that did lead to questions previously, are those just beds unavailable? But the bulk of those do represent beds that are off-line right now, because they're going through the blitz. There's always going to be a small disparity in the number that we're reporting here for open beds versus what's provided in the jail blitz. We're calling it just a snapshot as of November 1st. So our number is 621. I think when Mr. Davis does the blitz update the number is going to be closer to 500, but he's pulling this data from another day. The other thing that kind of can influence the number in the main jail is because that's the primary booking location. And so, we're using this chart to say beds, but it's actually individuals. And so, there can be somewhat significant fluctuations day after day in the main jail if an influx come in, but they've yet to be outsourced to either the other County facilities or out of County facilities."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "You know, I know we're going to be changing some of the reporting as the ORCA reporting goes away and all of that. But I think it might be worthwhile trying to kind of come together around that number, so that we are all talking from the same piece of information, because also, as I think everyone knows, we're off of regular updates from the Sheriff's office, that we could participate in giving a couple times, I think, per week or every other week or whatever it was. And I did have my meeting with the Sheriff's office yesterday, and the number they gave of beds that were out of commission was a different number. So there's like three different numbers circulating, I think, about how many beds are out of commission. So, you know, I don't expect a solution today, but I think as we as we look at reporting down the road, we might want to sort of have DREAM, your office, and the Sheriff's sort of on the same page about what beds are available or not, because it's confusing for the public. It looks like we've got these empty beds and we're, as I said, outsourcing to further away and such when we have space available in our jail, so that was all I had. Thank you."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Thank you, Commissioner."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm trying to understanding it. It seems to be an oxymoron. How can a bed be available and under repair at the same time? Either it's available or it's under repair. It can't be both."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "We're using that because it applies to multiple facilities; not just Main. Main does have the blitz going on, and so for Main

those are under repair. For the other facilities listed, those would be available. To your point, Commissioner, we can maybe change our legend to denote unavailable or -- excuse me, under repair would apply to Main; whereas, beds available would apply to the other facilities."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, we need to look at that, because it's impossible to be available and under repair at the same time, and thank you."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Understood."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, I mean, I think this report is good; it's consistent. You know, I mean, I think everybody gets it that we're -- there's moving targets when things are available or under repair, you know, so. And, you know, this is a public meeting. This is what place we share information, and I said people maybe individually with the Sheriff, but I believe in open meetings and transparency. Having one document we're consistent with I think is important. The thing I was going to ask you about was, where are we at in terms of, you know, kind of a view of what we will attend to present, you know, going forward in terms of data tracking and that sort of stuff? When can we expect to maybe see a view of that? Would it be January, February? Kind of what's your target on that?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "We can expect the back half of the report, so everything after ORCA, I think is good useful information the Board would like to see continued, so that will probably mostly remain the same. We will use January for kind of a program closeout of ORCA. We'll be capturing the final December data, but then I think it would be, again, beneficial for the Board to see kind of what the overall accomplishments and impact to the justice system was with Project ORCA. Specifically Commissioner Ellis, with your question, that is something we are working on right now to understand what performance measures, metrics would make sense to, I guess, fill out that front half in the absence of ORCA. We would probably want debut that starting in February, assuming we have that framework worked out, the data flowing in. So the best I can say right now is probably target February 2025, but would certainly want to get some guidance and feedback from the Board leading into that."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So sections 2 and 3, so that's effective to continue those, but kind of one up there. That's what you're referring to?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yes. The ORCA case reduction would go away, the cumulative case reduction and jail population updates would remain."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Got it. One thing that I thought we had a sort of a consistent piece going forward, which I didn't see, was a -- the monthly reporting on ankle monitoring."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "We -- our plan is to continue to do it this month and continue. We realized when we were scrubbing the data last week just before the report was submitted to the Board; we were capturing self-paid individuals in our numbers in addition to County paid. We want to report accurate numbers, so we were not able to scrub that data in time for this report to be submitted. But certainly look to resume that and try to do a catchup of the October numbers when we present next month."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. In light of the fact that we have the DOJ report out, I've gotten some calls and I wanted publicly for our DREAM to speak about the blitz program, County Manager, the blitz program has already started. And so, I think it's important to reiterate to the public what the blitz program is, Chairman, and when it started, and the tentative maybe end or projected end date. Because it's a lot of misinformation that's going on out here and I think it's incumbent on this entire Body to clear that up. And so, whoever, County Manager can speak to the blitz program, the purpose of it and why it's going -- oh, we haven't got to it yet, I'm so sorry. Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. I just -- Chairman, you know, as usual, I'm ahead of the curve, so I just wanted to make sure, given the amount of calls that I've gotten that the public knows about the blitz program, the purpose of it, and what's going on. So I will withdraw that since my colleague here has told me that I'm putting the cart before the horse. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for this report, and thank you, Commissioner Arrington, for pointing out beds available and under repair. I do believe it needs to be more clear because in my investigation of what's going on with the jail, I was told that One North was not available for use because it was flooding and it was being repaired; and hopefully, the rains that just passed through yesterday, will prove that the repairs are working, I hope. So yes, it does need to be more clear, because the number that I was given was 744 inoperable beds. So we need to make sure that's very clear. And I'm looking forward to the blitz report, because this is part of that blitz zone. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Thank you, Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "We'll go to page 19, and I'll ask Madam CFO to cover the ARPA closeout process and then a reminder that we'll be bringing back recommendations in December to finalize that program. Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Anderson. This first slide, what we wanted to do is just share with the Board what the regulations actually reflect related to the closeout of the ARPA program and resources. And so, the thing that we wanted to highlight on this particular slide is that we need to have our funds obligated by the end of this year, and obligation is defined on the next slide, but we need to have them obligated. Because if we don't, then we will have to return any unobligated funds. So our objective is to get everything obligated by the end of the year so we will not have to return any funds. The next slide defines --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- are you going to address where we are at this point in time and so forth, during your presentation."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. I'm sorry. This next slide is the definition of obligations, which is defined as orders placed for property and services entering in to contracts of awards and similar transactions that require payment. It must be complete by December 31st, 2024. And then the deadline for obligated projects, which would be like a infrastructural or construction-related project. You have to have it contracted by the end of 2024, but then you have to have the project complete by the end of 2026. Next slide, please. And so, the point that we're at right now is getting all of the departments who had projects and resources made available to them through our ARPA dollars to submit to us any final invoices that they have so that we can get those actually paid out this year. We're also looking for departments to have received goods and services where we have purchase orders in place for goods or services where the expectation is that we would have finalized those services by the end -- received the goods or finalized the services by the end of the year. All open purchase orders we've sent all of those out of the departments and asked them to communicate back with us on their status so we can prepare those for closeout. And then Finance and Purchasing are working with the County Attorney's Office to make sure that we make any contract modifications or change the language in any of our contracts to ensure that they meet the definition of obligation by the end of this year. So next slide, please. That is the reference that the County Manager has made to we will be bringing back recommendations and some action items to the Board in December at both meetings; it's in order to ensure that we have our contracts in place, the language is tight, and we meet the requirements for us to be considered obligated by the end of the year. Our plan is to submit to you our last ARPA report, which will show you the allocation plan at the December 18th meeting, second meeting of the Board, and then we will submit our obligations as part of our December report that we have to make to the Treasury Department. With that said, Mr. Chairman, to your question of where are we, the report that we -- next slide, please. The report that we included in the package is as of September 30th. The obligations have not changed since September 30th. We have expended a little more in the resources. Because of

trying to get the budget completed, we did not have time to complete this report for the month of October, so we will do that and share that with the Board. So what we've presented here is through the end of September. So you can see that through the end of September we had 206 -- if you'll go to the next slide please, I'm sorry. Just so everybody can see what I'm talking about. Down at the bottom of the slide, you'll see that we had 206.2 million in the budget. We had 46.8 of that that was sitting in an encumbrance. We had expended 152.2, and we had 7.3 remaining to either obligate through a purchase order or a contract or to spend because it is part of the Project ORCA project. So when we come back to you in December, we will have the recommendations for any contract amendments or modifications. For example, in our project budget for the developmental disabilities facilities, the renovation for that, we have a contingency that we've built in for that project. That contingency is not currently contracted with a provider, so we will be bringing that back to get it included in the contract value so that it is, in fact, encumbered as part of that project, and we will not have to return those funds. So those are the types of changes that we will bring back to you in December. Yes, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So the number is 7.3?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "As of September 30th, yes, sir. And that does include amounts that are allocated for Project ORCA through the end of the year, and those contingencies that we had built in for certain projects that we will need to bring back, either contract amendments or a different recommendation. For example, we had a little over a million dollars in a contingency for the ERP upgrade. What we would like to do is bring back instead of that, one of the IT betterment items that we have ready to go from a procurement perspective, because cybersecurity projects are allowed under ARPA. We want to bring that item back and then we will hold a piece out of the IT capital budget for the ERP contingency, if we need it. Right now, we're not certain that we will need it. But we do know we have this IT betterment issue that would be a qualifying expense, so those are the type of changes that we will be bringing forward at the first and second meeting of December."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I don't know what our cadence is, in terms of this, but I -- we generally do in the operational report in our second meeting, right?"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I mean, I think it's certainly important that we make sure that we got -- do you have an idea of what that 7.3 really is right now? I mean, you said it's through September so were there some things in here that we know that we definitely have previously obligated? Is this more like a 6, 5.8, or have we don't have any -- you haven't described it, we don't have an idea."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We do have an idea of what's embodied in that 7.3."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "No, I mean, what it is right now."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Oh, what, the amount? What the 7.3. Sabrina, do you have that number, what the 7.3 would be through November? Is it still 7.3?"

SABRINA: "It's around the same."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yeah, because that's really keying off of what we have either already encumbered. It is probably down a little bit because we did spend some of our ORCA resources in October which would not be reflected in the expenditure column. The majority of that is going to come from the contingencies that we've built into the infrastructure modernization project, the developmental disabilities project, the ERP project. We have some resources remaining in the tiny homes project that have not yet been fully encumbered. So those are things that we're looking to make adjustments on to bring back recommendations, in the first meeting in December and the second meeting in December."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. I mean, I just think it's critical that we do this in the first meeting, is what my point is, right? So we don't have something that's lingering that gets missed and we get in a bind with, we don't have tidied up. I think we really need to focus on trying to close this discussion out in that first meeting in December."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes. I agree certainly to make sure the allocations are taking care of."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And then in the amount that's -- the amount that's in the encumbered category, we feel fairly solid with those numbers that these are tight and there's not some --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Some of the -- some of the smaller amounts that remain in the encumbered balance, those are the POs now that we're going through with every department, and if they do not have any invoices remaining for those, we are closing those POs out, which will release the encumbrance and allow us to use those resources for another purpose. So we could either include it in one of our other existing projects. I know some of the things that we've discussed include providing for another round of --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- yeah, I mean, I'm not looking to get into the weeds as to what. I'm saying is that -- what is in this encumbered category? You know, has this been scrubbed pretty tight to say it was definitely encumbered, or are those things going to be turned back out of it?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "They were current encumbered, but we do know that we have some things that we will be reducing, and if you'll give me just a second, I'm going to ask Hakeem, because he's been communicating with each of the departments about those encumbrances. He may can give you an idea of what information has come back that we will be releasing from the encumbrances."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Good morning, Commissioners. Yes, we have been working with departments on making sure that we turn out those POs and whatever we can repurpose, you know, trying to repurpose them. We've been working with purchasing department on this. So far, what we're looking at, you know, from some of the ones that, you know, we were able to close; and then, you know, there's some others we need to increase a little bit because, you know, we know that we'll be getting invoices to pay, you know, against them, before December 31st. Net net, we have a little bit over \$1 million that, you know, we can repurpose for some other uses, so this will be part of what we bring to you in December as to what your recommendation will be."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And I think where we are in the process, I think, the fewer number of moving parts in terms of what a recommendation is and just to close out is probably more in order now versus trying us to get -- I mean, we're running out of time to be out of like, hey, we got some sort of creative idea we want to explore and that sort of thing, right? So hopefully these are known clear things that we can contract to move forward with or there are things that we maybe have that we can use to offset, you know, kind of something that will be in the 2025 budget. That's the kind of stuff you're talking about you're going to be looking to bring back to a resolution."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "It's really only two big areas; one is IT betterment and that would probably take all of it. Or if you thought about the remake of this building, you know, more than likely, we'll exceed what the estimates are. The question is do we want to go ahead and contract with the provider, which would encumber it. So I think we need to make that call. And I feel very comfortable that we're going through every purchase order, and if it doesn't have a necessity of, you know, against it in terms of an invoice, we're closing that out. So that'll free up whatever otherwise, you know, will not be spent by the end of the year. So surely that exercise and those two uses."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "But the timing to contract do we feel like we've got an adequate amount of time to do it?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "We do."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I mean, I just -- okay. All right."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "In those two areas."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. All right. And my last question, are we still -- do we still have significant pending FEMA reimbursement, or no?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I'm going to let Hakeem, because he's also been tracking FEMA, and we do have some that are still pending. We've had some disallowed costs that we've tried to clean out against this ARPA balance as well. But Hakeem has been tracking that, so I'll let him respond."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes, again, Commissioner, yes, we do. We still have, you know, if I'm not mistaken, because it's been a while that I look at it now. I think we have a little over \$5 million or so that's still is pending for us to receive us a reimbursement from FEMA. So what we've done, as the CFO stated is there is some of those amounts that, you know, we've actually have been able to ascertain that, you know, that we're not going to be reimbursed because from those that they've disallowed. So on those ones, we looked at the transactions, and the ones that can be charged against ARPA, we've charged them against, you know, ARPA funds, you know. And then the ones that cannot be charged against ARPA, you know, we're putting that within our general fund budget to clear those out. So net net, you know, I think it's a little bit over \$5 million. And then, the plan on those is depending on, you know, what happens. We do have funds that we set aside for, you know, possible future audit that just might be rejected. I don't know if you remember, that was a \$16.4 million that the Board approved a couple years ago for us to set aside. So we'll be using some of that to clear out, you know, anything that FEMA doesn't reimburse us in the future, but we still have those."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So we've got 5.4 roughly outstanding -- ask for FEMA reimbursement. Some of that will be disallowed, we know. We're pretty sure it will be disallowed."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So that of whatever the number is -- is this part of this 2.2 or 6.2? And then if there's reimbursement -- here's really my underline question, right? If there's reimbursement that takes place post December 31st, which sounds like we'll get reimbursement, it will post December 31st. Are we entitled to use those funds free and clear for other purposes or -- do you understand what I'm saying?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Sharon, do you want to speak to it?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We established our FEMA program as a separate operating fund. So if -- of what is remaining, when those monies are reimbursed, it will go into the FEMA fund as revenue to offset the expenses that we've already incurred. So that is how the FEMA fund was set up and established. So we cash flowed it all on the front end, and we --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- cash flowed it through what?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, we had -- originally, we had monies that we carved out of this ARPA bucket that we were holding to help backstop what we were fronting on FEMA; and then the 16 million that Hakeem indicated; so we cash flowed it that way. We set it up in a separate special revenue fund, and as the reimbursements have come in from FEMA, they have been deposited into that fund. So when the additional reimbursements -- whatever the amount is that comes in, you know, it'll be deposited into the FEMA fund, matched against those FEMA expenses. Managed it very much like we manage all of our other regular state and federal grants where they're reimbursement-based. We have to spend first and then seek reimbursement, so we establish those in a separate special revenue fund to be able to do that."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So when they're replenished, what can use those funds for?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "We're not going to be able to use them for anything other than to look at receivables. Because that \$5.4 million that I'm talking about, is like a receivable against, you know, the FEMA fund. So whatever amount that you know they reimburse us will reduce that receivable, and then anything that is not reimbursed, it is, you know, what will go against that \$16.4 million that I mentioned."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So it's really the -- all right. Maybe you and I can sit down and talk about it, I mean the presentation."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yeah, the net of it is, right, more than adequately reserved if FEMA reimbursement doesn't occur. We can't use these ARPA funds to reimburse against that, because it's going to occur after the effect."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I got that."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "In other words, (indiscernible.) going to close on this. So there's no impact to the general fund. Now somewhere down the path, since we have reserved 16 million and we have five outstanding, there are some funds there for future use, or I guess return to the general fund would be the natural flow from that once FEMA closes it out. Does that make sense?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "That's what I was getting at. So at some point at the end of that process, with the reimbursement, or there may be some funds that we need to look at, how we would repurpose."

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "But that's separate and distinct from the ARPA piece. All right. Thanks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I guess my question is about these four last line items that have no budget amount. The diversion center, medical debt; what is going on with those?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Arrington, those were items that we had originally proposed to the Board earlier this year as possible uses of the interest that had been earned on the ARPA resources, and we subsequently reversed course, and when we restructured this report, we left them in to show you that we had reduced those down to zero and we're no longer pursuing those particular projects."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. And so, did the Board vote against those four?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I don't recall there being a specific vote. But during the discussion, the direction I believe that we received from the Board's discussion was that we should not consider creating new programs. And so, that's why we pulled those out of the recommendation and then just shared with the Board what the amount of interest is that has been accruing against those ARPA dollars."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions or comments? All right. Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thank you. We'll now have Dr. Roshell cover the Health and Human Services North project."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. As you can see here on the slide, this will just reiterate the goals of the acquisition of the 4700 North Point Parkway property, which we purchased in 2019. As the County Manager previously indicated, that property has served us well, especially during the pandemic."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now what did we pay for that, 10 million?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Somewhere in the range of 10-1/2, \$11 million, Mr. Chairman."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "So the goal of this project is to improve access in a centrally located foot print for health, behavioral health, and social services supports. We also want to address the growing need for additional space, and we cannot accomplish that with the current facilities from which we will relocate these services. It also provides an opportunity for us to monetize the sale of the Roswell Road project property, as well as discontinue the lease on Royal Drive. So Roswell Road is where the developmental disabilities facility is located, and Royal Drive is the facility for public health. The next slide, please. This facility is again at 4700 North Point Parkway in Alpharetta, over 100,000 square feet. It's on two floors, over 23 acres and has over 600 parking spaces. There is also room for expansion. Next slide. The amenities at this location it's certainly on a MARTA bus line. It's visible from the street. There are opportunities for improved signage. Again, the large parking ratio, it also provides the kitchen amenities that we will need for services like developmental disabilities and senior services. Aesthetically, it is a lake property view and, again, there is land for additional development. Next slide, please. So the plan is to build out the first and second floor, not in its entirety, but to accommodate a new Senior Services footprint in the north. The Senior Service offering in the north right now is contained at the Benson Center. So this will allow us to add some additional Senior Services capacity. So that would be a new service. We would be relocating the developmental disabilities facility services that are currently at Roswell Road. We will relocate behavioral health services that are at the north training center, and relocate the Board of Health services that are at Royal Drive. This will also provide an opportunity for us to expand our footprint with wraparound services which would be a new service. So what this conceptual drawing illustrates is just the layout of where services would be in this facility. Next slide, please. Today the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management will be presenting a recommendation for approval for the Beck Group. They are the design build firm that would complete the construction of this facility. That agenda item is 24-0797 for \$15 million. After the Board considers this and, if approved, we would move to contracting, schedule our kickoff meetings, and began design and program meetings with the departments. We would also look to complete the construction in the fourth quarter of 2025, and we will be developing the budget for senior services in an expanded footprint for public health for the 2026 budget, and for implementation in 2026. Mr. Chairman that concludes my update on this facility."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Could you also just comment on the feasibility study for HHS South, and what you anticipate?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir, thank you, Mr. Manager."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You took the question out of my mouth. You know where I was going."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes. So simultaneously, the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management will be working to stand up a feasibility study to determine where and what services we need to provide in the south part of the County. So we will certainly keep the Board updated. We have funding set aside for this initiative, and will look forward to concluding the feasibility study bringing the findings back and moving forward with a recommendation based on Board's input and wishes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But the site is the site that we own still, correct?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Well, the feasibility study will tell us, Mr. Chairman, whether that is the best site or whether we need to be looking at building."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Repeat that?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I think what you meant to say, not building necessarily, but using the site across from South Annex probably makes the most sense, but I think when we do this feasibility study won't we look at other potential sites?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, thank you. When I say build, perhaps rehab a facility similar to 4700, not build out of the ground necessarily. But, yes, we will be considering."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We've always though talked about that site, because we own that site. And we may go through the process."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir. And we've already completed some mitigation of the underground gas lines, so we have done some preliminary preparation, but we just wanted to do a thorough review of the area to make sure that that makes the best opportunity for the County."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And I don't know if everyone knows what site we're talking about. If you're in South Fulton, it's directly across from the South Annex. It's where we had transportation for years and it's 40 plus acres, I believe, isn't it, Joe? "

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "That's correct, sir."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So from that perspective, it's more than ample space, and, of course, in proximity to South Annex would be, I think, terrific in terms of a government complex campus."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the city of South Fulton is interested in that government complex campus."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "They are. I mean, that may be a lot of slip between cup and lip before we got to there. But I do think, you know, it should be part of the decision-making process."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I guess, I'm just wondering about the timing, because I thought we had the money in the budget for this year, and you're saying the feasibility study. It's gone get done before December 31st? Are you talking about in 2025 budget? And if we had it in the budget for 2024, you know, what happened? Why didn't it get done this year?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "We were wanting to make the decision about how we were going to manage all of the projects: the 4700, the 475 Fairburn Road, the developmental disability center, and a potential new project in South Fulton. And after deliberations among the team, we decided that a project management approach would be best in that to ensure that we had enough resources to do everything that DREAM would take more ownership of the feasibility study to maximize the resources that we had. So the 2025 budget contemplates this feasibility study in the base budget and so that funding is available."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. That's what I was told last year. So let's not go another year. I mean, there is an abundance of seniors in South Fulton that are looking for this facility, and so I hate to see another year go by without any action, without moving forward."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other comments or questions?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right, thank you. Thank you, Dr. Roshell. All right. The jail blitz plan, here's where it is in the deck, and we will spend, I think, probably considerable time going through this and having Joe give you an update as well as, Joe, anything that you want to add to this as it relates to not entirety, but contemplating some of the issues brought up in the DOJ report."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Joe Davis, Real Estate and Asset Management. Based on Madam Vice Chair's question previously, I'd like to begin with essentially defining what the jail blitz entails. The jail blitz was conceived in approximately April or the May timeframe of 2023, and intended to refurbish all housing zones with the exception of the two medical housing areas; so that would essentially mean out of the 13 housing units in the facility, we would rehab all or

refurbish 11 of them. The rehab consists of addressing all, and I want to reiterate all known maintenance issues in the housing areas of the jail. We feel it was a direct effort to improve the overall physical condition of the inmate housing areas. It includes addressing doors that no longer operate in terms of locking or being off-balance, if you will. It includes repairing all sink-toilet combo fixtures. One of the biggest benefits of this particular project also includes installing super max lighting. One of the things that we've had historically at the jail is the destruction of lighting fixtures in the jail by the inmates for various reasons, whether it be to charge electronic devices or to make weapons. And so, this new light fixture that we've worked to get a demonstration from has been immensely successful post installation where we have completed the jail blitz. We have seen a less than one percent repeat occurrence of damage to lighting fixtures where they've been installed. We are also making certain cosmetic improvements, such as painting the flooring, walls. The cells are being painted with a special proprietary coating that is more chip resistance. One of the things we're seeing nationwide in jails and prisons, are inmates using paint chips for inhalation purposes and things of that nature, so we decided to do that as well. But it is essentially -- in working and partnering with the Sheriff's office, once we complete a housing unit, all known maintenance items in that unit have been addressed. And all both sides both, our team as well as the Sheriff office, signs off on that particular housing unit as being completely free of deficiencies. And so, I hope that answers that particular question."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes. So what I wanted the public to know, based on phone calls that I had received, was this; and you stated, has been going on since 2023?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And it's still going on now. Do we have a tentative or projected date that it will be finished?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "March '25."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. And so, the point that I wanted to make sure for -- in sake of transparency; we have already started the process over a year ago of addressing issues. And as the issues arise, because we know that they will, we will address them, Chairman, accordingly as they arise. Personally, as a sitting legislator in this Body, we do not have the funding for a new jail, period. The appetite for a new jail, per my understanding as a legislator, is a one billion-dollar jail is not appropriate for Fulton County at this time. However, the blitz program that we've already started has started addressing issues, has continually addressed issues, now I don't want to misspeak. So would you explain before -- when you came before us, you said the blitz program addresses the issues that you all have identified, but that is different from anything that may arise? Any type of emergency, and I don't want to put words in your mouth, but can you make that statement again that you made before when you gave us the presentation?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am. The blitz program was intended to address all known pre-existing deficiencies in the housing areas and is a completely separate effort from our overall maintenance operations."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "County Manager?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: Yes, ma'am. I just want to remind the Board that the blitz program was funded with about 13 million or so in funds."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Exactly."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And then, in addition to that, as we've identified issues in the kitchen area, in the elevators, and in the laundry, another three-point million was added to that. Now what comes later on the agenda is the project management team selection, which precedes or is a precursor to a \$300 million grant that we'll be looking at every aspect of the jail; not just the living areas or not just those specific areas that I mentioned. So it's a combination of all three of those to address the identified areas of concern."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And thank you, County Manager. The reason, Chairman, and thank you for indulging me -- the reason that I wanted to be crystal clear, and I wanted you all to reiterate, is because I have had constituents that have been given misinformation for whatever reason that there's nothing going on. And that's the furthest thing from the truth. There has been something going on since those problems have been identified. And like you said, the blitz program is different and, County Manager, like you stated, the other project is different from that. And so, I just wanted to make sure for the sake of transparency, Chairman, that the public knows that we have been working, and we will continue to work and make sure that we can remediate and work collectively with the Sheriff to address the problems that we need to address."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. The non-blitz work orders, 1442, is that like total for 2024 or --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "No, sir. That's what was done or submitted in the month of October alone."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So 1,442 work orders in the month of October?"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "What was the average number of work orders you get at the jail each month?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "I would say the average is roughly 1,200. We range anywhere from 1,000 to roughly 15 in certain cases, extreme months, 1,600."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "What is the cost on an annual basis to do that 1,000 to 1500 work orders?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Our current jail maintenance contract costs is about 5.3 million and change, if you will. We have expended significantly more than that this year because that maintenance contract is also used for completion of certain blitz activities. But our base contract at this moment is 5.3."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Did that include the preventative maintenance, because I see there's another 300 work orders for that."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And so, is that 5 million plus the 16 million for the blitz of 21 million this year?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So the blitz funding is designed to be expensed to various contractors, one being our maintenance provider at the jail. The others being those performing various lock work, painting, and things of that nature. So those are -- and I will need the assistance of the finance team, those are multiyear funds, if I'm not mistaken. Yeah, those are capital funds, not operating dollars. The funding allocated for the blitz itself."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. I'm just trying to find out how much we spent this year on maintaining the facility. Blitz, non-blitz, operating capital, all of it together."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "The grand total for the year will probably be around \$10 million."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I thought we just said we spent 16 million on the blitz project."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "That number is for the total of the blitz. However, the blitz began mid year of last year."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay. Thank you, Dick, for mentioning the elevators, because that's one of my questions. Have the elevators been repaired in the jail during this jail blitz?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "The elevators have not been -- were not a portion of the jail blitz. However, we did have the Board's approval for 3.2 million in immediate needs that we needed to address in advance of the facility condition assessment. The elevator assessment and specifications for a modernization and subsequent modernization are a part of that, and we're working through contractual differences, I'll say, so that we can finalize those contracts."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So the answer is no, the elevators are not repaired yet?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Well, the elevators are functioning. That is a portion or aspect of the ongoing jail maintenance contract. They're responsible for keeping the elevators operational. However, we do have some aged elevators that have suffered some damage over time that make them somewhat less reliable than if they were newly modernized. So they're working, but we have to maintain them on an ongoing basis."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "There are some elevators that are working and some that are old and aging that work intermittently? Is that what you're saying?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "As of this morning, I believe we have two elevators out of nine that are down at the jail that are pending some repairs that they're going to occur today. But elevators, maintenance is a meticulous and tedious process, and they do go down from time to time. We experience it here; however, it's much more frequent at the jail, based upon the usage, based upon age."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. And what is the problem with the radios? Because that seems to be keeping the jail beds from being used as well?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So throughout the jail, there are what we call BDAs, they're repeaters for the Sheriff office radio system. Apparently, there is an issue with the BDA that serves One North, and the Emergency Services Department has the contract with the company that services all of our BDAs around the county. So the Sheriff's office is working with emergency services to have their contractor address the deficiencies with the BDAs on One North."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you. And so, unfortunately, have constituents that have family members and friends who are in jail, and it has been told to me that we repair the walls, but then they still return to the walls and dig them out and create these weapons. Do you know -- are you keeping track of how many times we're having to

repair walls repeatedly because the inmates are actually creating these weapons and digging out what has already been repaired?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am. We track every instance of a work request, and in this particular case, when a hole is reported in the wall, it's entered into our computerized maintenance management system, Maximo, and our vendor goes about addressing them, and that's one of our priority items when those -- when we're facing 1500 work orders, that particular type of work order, because it's related to life, safety and security, take precedence over others."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Great. Thank you."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Madam Vice Chair. I have a couple questions. With the corrective maintenance work orders that you are getting, how many of those are coming from sections of the jail that have already been blitzed?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Certainly, I would have to say roughly about 15 percent are from areas that are, you know that have already been blitzed. Please keep in mind the blitz where we could, we implemented solutions to minimize future damage, but we were not able to eliminate. I mentioned previously the super max lighting, which was extremely problematic for us, but that's simply one solution. And so, what we anticipate is that as we move forward, during the overall 300 million-dollar program, we will be assessing through engineering assessments where we can improve systems that are designed to be more resilient for the inmate population that we have."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "You know, I think, my ongoing concern is that, given the age of the building, the design of the building in terms of where things are located, the sections that are -- I forget what they're called, in between the cells where they can get in where the --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- pipe chases."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- pipe chases. Thank you, where the pipe chases are located, and as well as and I guess are combined with the indirect supervision model that is sort of the only model possible in that facility, based on the design, that the areas are going to be falling into disrepair again despite our best efforts. And the question for me, I guess, is just how long does that process take? How much time does that buy us? And how much -- in other words, when we do essentially start the jail blitz plan again? Because we're staying in the same building, and it is going to continue to degrade over time, that's what happens. And, you know, I think my colleagues asking questions about the holes in the walls is very fair, especially given that that was called out specifically in the DOJ report and in the press conference. And, you know, I think, no matter, despite your best efforts and then so, therefore, it's certainly not a criticism of

you, but, you know, I just wonder really what is a lifetime -- you know, when did this building actually run out of usability full stop? We've talked about it long before I got here, replacing this building has been talked about, I think; and you can answer this, Madam CFO, because I know you remember everything. But I know certainly, as early as 2009, there were discussions about replacing the building. And I know that that is off the table, because this Board's appetite for, you know, any increase in the millage rate to cover debt service, it's just not there. But, you know, I think we have to take this DOJ report really, really seriously and in order to, I think, transparently share this information with the public, I think we need to have reporting on these ongoing maintenance costs, and I think this is what Commissioner Arrington was getting at, to some extent, you know, this growth over time of costs, what we project those maintenance costs to be as the building continues to age. Again, when will we have to do another jail blitz plan? So I don't know, Mr. County Manager, or, you know, whoever really should be doing this reporting, I'm not really sure where this will come from. But I do think we need some comprehensive sort of maintenance reporting that specifically addresses long and short-term concerns; and shows, not only how many things you're doing which are plenty, but also where things are really problematic. And I'm not sure we're getting this right now, and I think everybody here agrees that the DOJ report is deeply concerning. I agree with Madam Vice Chair in saying that we have been making efforts for quite some time. I think the question is, are those efforts enough, and how do they impact, in a positive way, the jail population, as soon as today, tomorrow, or the next day, like things that we're planning for five years out, in terms of a \$300 million upgrade in projects and all of that, that doesn't make things safe for tomorrow. So what are we doing from a maintenance perspective, facility's perspective now? So those are my concerns and -- are you going to -- as the presentation goes, are you going to continue and get to page 7, I guess two pages over. Should I wait for questions on that page? On the elevators, and the laundry, and kitchen? It's been brought up already, but I don't know if we've actually."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "We have not discussed it, but I will be getting to that page in the presentation."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Then I will hold my questions then on that. Thank you. That's all I have for right now."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So if we can go back -- are we still there?" So to talk about the jail blitz maintenance and repairs, and I do want to touch on the discussion that was had earlier about the available versus under repair number and why there's a difference. So in the chart, Mr. Nawrocki displayed, that number is truly just what's not being used. So it's either unavailable for repairs or just not in use. And there are reasons why certain beds are not in use. What we see here, as of today, 506 beds are currently unavailable for use, and you will see later in this slide where I detail why there are beds beyond this 506 that are not in use. We have 405 beds that are currently being impacted by blitz work on Five South and Seven North. As I list here in the second bullet, we have -- the Sheriff's office has created a work around where they

can have radiocommunications, just not the level or type of radio communications they would prefer. So we have resolved the flooding issue in One North with our collapsed sewer line repairs. I did check in this morning: we did not have any flooding on One North after the rains yesterday. And we also have 101 beds that are impacted by extreme repairs that are needed -- excuse me, on Seven South zone and Six North. There are roughly 90 percent of the unused beds are due to either long-term repairs or are held. Roughly 10 percent of our beds are held for classification. So when you see that difference of 6851 as listed in Mr. Nawrocki's presentation, and the beds listed here, 506, that's the number -- to understand that variance, that's the number of beds that have to be held open or unassigned to allow the Sheriff's office to properly classify inmates. Empty space in available out-of-county jails are due to, along with AC/DC and South Annex, essentially staffing availability in order to manage properly those beds. Next slide, please. Also, I think we did skipped one slide; if you can go back to slide number 35, please. I did want to mention the non-Blitz work orders at the bottom of the slide for the month of October. In prior months' reports, we have seen what I described as a drop-off in overall completion percentages of both corrective and preventive maintenance. We saw a significant uptick in the month of October to where we're closer to where I would like to be to feel comfortable in terms of the amount of work that we're completing on a monthly basis. And so, we're at 671.8 percent with regards to corrective maintenance where we had fallen all the way down to below 60's: around 63 percent. And then we're back to 87.5 percent on preventive maintenance where we had fallen all the way day into the upper 60s. Everyone faces staffing challenges. Our maintenance provider is no different. And so, they've worked to plus up their staff, adjust shifts and things of that nature. And we also have a little bit more coordination with the Sheriff's office as it relates to gaining access to areas that needs repairs. And now we can go to slide number 37. So back in August, the Board approved \$3.2 million for what were deemed to be critical repairs or upgrades in various areas: fire alarm system upgrades, padded sales at the south annex, kitchen equipment replacement, laundry equipment replacement, and the elevator modernization. In our -- the Board has already approved the fire alarm upgrade that is with a company by the name of Siemens, the actual manufacturer. We are working through contract terms at this time, to fully understand exactly what the County would be committing to over time. We are also moving forward with installing padded cells in the South Annex. The Sheriff's office did not have any padded cells in the building. And so, with the decision to move some of the worst actors at the Rice Street location out to the Union City location, it created an environment where the building didn't meet the classification of inmates. And one of the things that facility did not have was padded cells. So we're converting to existing cells, to padded cells, that entailed installing the in floor, plumbing, and toilet fixtures that go along the padded cells, along with camera installation. We completed the plumbing piece yesterday. I spoke with our padded cell vendor yesterday. They are looking to start their work on December the 4th for the padded cells -- I'm sorry, December -- the first the first week in December for the padded cells. We're also working to obtain a vendor that can actually meet our needs for kitchen equipment. Because these repairs on this list were deemed critical and immediate, our intent was to use or shorten the procurement time frame. So our goal was to use cooperative or

statewide contract and so forth. The challenge with that is some of these entities have contractual terms that are not suitable to the County and what our requirements are, so it extends the negotiation period. That's what we're doing now so that we can bring these things forward to you. But right now, the most, on the immediate horizon for us, is the fire alarm upgrade, the padded cells at the South Annex, as well as the assessment for the subsequent elevator modernization. I'll stop there, if anyone has any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you, Chairman. And thank you for all the work you're doing with the jail, the ongoing work that you've been doing starting last year in April. I just wanted to address how much in these overall Blitz projects and non-Blitz work is related to inmate damage, as opposed to actual building deterioration."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "A large percentage of the work needed is the result of vandalism --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- by the inmates."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Because I read the report, and it seemed like it was very, very small percentage of the report actually had to do with facilities. It had more to do with management, or their lack of management, of the inmates in these buildings, or as we call them, residents in these buildings. It also -- there was mentioning in the report of the bugs and the lice. I imagine we're taking -- is that part of you -- your department to address that issue, or is that the Sheriff's Department addressing that issue?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "General pest control is the responsibility of D.R.E.A.M. However, lice and the bed bugs and things of that nature, I would tell you, when it occurs, we respond and bring in our pest control vendor who has the expertise to deal with bed bugs and things of that nature. But typically with lice, that becomes more of a treatment and healthcare provision in terms of the resolution. But as it relates to generalized pest control, your rats, your roaches and things of that nature, that falls on D.R.E.A.M."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, okay. And I have seen this super max lighting. I saw the fixtures at the South Annex. And you're gradually replacing those at all the facilities, correct?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "We are doing it at the main jail and the South Annex, not the Alpharetta Annex, as we don't own the facility."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And from my understanding now, there are some repeat offenders in vandalism that the Sheriff is now moving to the South Annex."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, that's been underway for a while now. Those individuals that had multiple incidents of violence in the jail or became problematic in the community they were in, they have been moved to the Jail South Annex."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. So yeah, so I just want to kind of reiterate that most of the damage is being done by the residents themselves, not by the building falling apart. So whether we spent \$2 billion on the jail, they're going to figure out how to vandalize it. And we just need -- I think, some steps are being made. I'll give the Sheriff credit, he's kind of punishing those repeat offenders by sending them to the South Annex. And the indirect supervision, you know, it takes a while to go through a wall. It's not something that happens overnight. I visited some indirect supervision places in Orlando. The buildings were built in 1973; they look nothing like our buildings. And they have the cells monitored closely inspected, almost on a daily basis for vandalism. So I appreciate all the work you're doing trying to keep up with keeping the jail in a humane condition for the residents."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 36, I see the picture of the doors and the locks in the jail. And there is an item on the agenda today, I believe, for replacement of doors at the jail."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am. The -- there's an item with one of our standby contractors who's been responsible throughout the Blitz program with not replacing the doors, but reframing them and making sure -- because the issue is it's one thing that control the door from a tower, it's another for the door to actually be able to physically close."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So this made me think about when I was Chief of Staff to Commissioner Garner and there was a agenda item that came before us from the former Sheriff, Ted Jackson to replace locks at the jail."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "\$5 million."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, you remember?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And we voted against it. Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "It was for \$5 million, that's right, Mr. Chair. And -- but it passed, regardless of the fact that you voted against it, it did pass. And so, you know, everything has a life expectancy, and that includes the jail. And Joe, you have been -- you are tasked with a very hard task in trying to maintain this jail, because it is really past its life expectancy. \$5 million was spent. That was around 2012, 2013. And I'm

looking at these pictures like, oh, my gosh. Okay, so do you happen to know what the life expectancy is of these doors and these locks and these frames? Because now you're back at it. I don't -- I can't remember -- I don't think you were even --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am, I was the Building Operations Manager. I even actually managed that project."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, wow, okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "They were supposed to last forever, the locks."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "They were supposed to last forever?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The locks, yeah."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, well, they did not last forever. But that brings me to a comment that was made about the lack of management. Unfortunately, in this deteriorating jail, we have Sheriff's employees who are resigning because they don't want to work in the jail, because they feel like we don't get it, that we don't understand, that the more we repair, the more it gets it -- it gets torn apart. And it's unsafe for the people that work in that jail. Most recently, I received a call from someone saying that there is a 15-year employee who is leaving because they don't feel the jail is a safe place to work because of the deterioration of the jail, and because every day, they find more and more weapons that are being created out of the walls and pieces of the building. And it just, it's a never-ending battle. So I think when you speak of lack of management, we need to take into consideration that employees from the Sheriff's Department have been resigning due to not receiving overtime, due to the conditions of the jail, and so much more. And who in the world can manage with no people, or not enough people? Now these locks, okay, so \$5 million around 2012, 2013, and as Mr. Chair recalls, they were supposed to last forever. The current item on the agenda, how many frames are you replacing? And it's only frames?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am. The item that's on the agenda is for the welding of door frames, re-securing them to the structure, realigning the door. It does not involve the lock itself, it is the doors that are misaligned due to inmates purposely racking them, so that they're able to exit their cell or enter their cell at will."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And how many of those are you going to be replacing, or should I say, working on?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "The item that you have before you on the agenda is for a little over 100 doors."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And how many doors are there total in the jail?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "1100 and I believe, 75, something along that line -- those lines."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Doors to the cells?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, okay, all right. And the other thing in the presentations that we received and the meetings that we've had about the need for a new jail, I do recall that what has been told to us is that the materials that are now being used to build these jails are less penetrable. They are much stronger. It's not the same type of material that was being used in the past. Of course, as everything is new and improved as we move into the future. So the jail wouldn't be built -- a new jail would not be built with the same types of materials as the old jail. So that also is a consideration. But Joe, I just want to tell you that you're doing an outstanding job. Because it is a lot of work, and it's constant work that you and your team are doing. So, thank you."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Thank you, Commissioner."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I don't want to belabor the point. But I think it's important that we know, my position coming into this office was for a new jail. And it -- I -- it changed. And I'm going to tell you why it changed. It changed because I received information from current employees. I received information from former employees. I received information from family members of individuals that were locked up at the jail. No amount of money will suffice accountability. When I speak to management, if I have a home and I don't manage my home and I allowed my children to swing from the windows and I allowed them to do a lot of things, that home will not last 10, 20, or 30 years. It will only last the amount of time of the damage that's being done from un-supervision. Now, depending on who you are, is the county responsible for the supervision, or is the Sheriff? And so I would say, being a person that lives in District 6 and City Council District 10, and I see Sheriff Deputies patrolling my neighborhood. Is that a necessity in my district, Chairman? Or should those Deputies be at the jail? And so what I say to the listening public who has reached out to me, I have no problem looking for a solution, but it has to be a solution based in reality of we must change the culture at the jail as it presently speaks. D.R.E.A.M. does not have anything to do with excessive force. D.R.E.A.M. does not have anything to do with a person not getting the services or the educational needs that they need. So let's not play politics, and do what we should do as a Body, and let the Sheriff do what he needs to do as someone who runs the jail. Now, County Attorney, I think it may have been a year ago, that there was bipartisan measure that came here, asking for a report that will align the behavioral needs, the medical needs, needs of assessment. Because at that time, we felt like it was important enough that that report being made. I don't know if you remember if, County Attorney. But I would like to bring that back and modify it to

the questions of concerns that we have. Because we can't continue to invisibly kick this ball over the net back and forth. The public needs to know what this Body is responsible for and what the Sheriff is responsible for. The DOJ report is in black and white, and it shows the areas of concern and can be immediately addressed. And I believe this Body and my colleagues want to move forward in addressing those needs. But part of addressing the needs cannot be done without accountability on behalf of the Sheriff and accountability on behalf of this Board. So County Attorney, would you please, when you get an opportunity, pull up that bipartisan legislation that asked for us to have a meeting. I'm not sure, County Manager, if you remember it. But it was basically just to find out what the needs were, what needed to be done, what was the progress of it and everything. And you may be doing is already, I don't know. But whatever to the letter of what that legislation that we put forth in a bipartisan spirit, please look at, and please update it accordingly and let me know. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple more questions for you, Mr. Davis, just about the presentation. But I feel like I need to sort of respond a little bit to what's been said, and just -- and just say that I agree with some of what you're saying, Madam Vice Chair, in the sense that we all have to be accountable for our part in the conditions of the jail. And you know, there are some very clear-cut areas that are the Sheriff's responsibility, and you know, that he is accountable for. And likewise with us, there are some things that are mentioned in the DOJ report that specifically speak to the condition of the facility and the maintenance of the facility. And we do need to own that, and we do need to be working on that. And I do believe that there are reasons that a new building would be, not a solution, but would be very helpful in addressing some of these things on a long-term ongoing basis. Because some of the things that are able to be broken, to Commissioner Thorne's point, by inmates are that way because of the age and condition of the building and the design of the building and all those things. So I think there's also, unfortunately, a lot of crossover, if you will, in terms of accountability and responsibility. Because while the Sheriff does have responsibility for how he runs the staff that he has, and what he chooses to do with his budget, we are responsible for providing that budget. And so there, there are, you know, concerns that I have about us not approving overtime, for example, for some of the Sheriff's staff that we did not support double overtime. In fact, I heard the same story that Commissioner Hall heard about someone who has been there for 15 years getting ready to leave, and one of the reasons that was cited to me was because there was no longer overtime pay, that we're now asking sworn officers in the Sheriff's Department to take comp time instead of overtime. And so there's ownership across the board, and there -- and it's just, I think my overriding sense here is that we, while we all have to do our separate jobs, we also have to collaborate and work together. We have to put whatever personal differences or political differences we have aside, and even just differences of opinion, and come to the table and work together. I mean, this is a all hands on deck, you know, crisis situation that we're in here, and we just have to work accordingly. So you know, I guess to some extent to be continued on that front,

let's see what we're able to do. But I do think, you know, this is deeply troubling, deeply concerning, and we all are accountable. On that note, let me ask my couple quick questions here on the presentation, Mr. Davis. I want to go back just briefly to the first page where you talked about the number of maintenance, corrective maintenance orders, et cetera. Looking sort of past the success numbers, the 71.8 percent, the 87.5 percent accomplishment, to sort of what that means about what didn't get done. It seems based on this and the prior reports that have seen, there is a backlog getting created because these are not all getting resolved in the month that they're, you know, submitted. Now, obviously some of them could submitted on the last of the month and what have you. So I realize there's a certain amount of that that is to be expected. But what is the backlog looking like? And is part of the reason we're accomplishing less, because there's a backlog that's building up?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So the way we track maintenance work order completion, the numbers we've presented here are the work orders that were submitted between October the 1st and October the 31st and the number that were completed. We have an entirely different data point that actually tracks the total number of work orders that were completed during the month of October, that includes the backlog from those that were not done in the previous month. So I have a very detailed monthly maintenance report that from our computerized maintenance management system that tells us, requested, completed, requested and completed. So the number of completed work orders in total, if you're looking at just the man hours of maintenance, here we have 1,035 that are shown as being completed out of the 1442 that were created during the 31-day period that is October. The total number of work orders that were actually completed during the month of my October exceeds the 1,035 because of the work orders that carried over from the previous month. Preventive maintenance is a little bit different. Preventive maintenance is that which is scheduled according to the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule. There are any number of reasons why we have to push a PM. But the way we operate our system, both at the jail and countywide, is that work order is then pushed to the next or subsequent reporting period. So there's always going to be variance between what you see here, because our thought here was to give you a clear snapshot of the month, the specific month in terms of work orders submitted versus that which was completed. We can shift and provide you with the information that will show you that there were 1442 work orders submitted in the month of October, but as a whole, we completed 1310. But that wouldn't give you the full story without both pieces of data being presented. I hope that explains it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I mean, to some extent it does. I think there are, you know, anytime you start talking about something getting accomplished, there's more data in general, right? Because it's also now, the question that's popping into my head is, how many of these things are outstanding for what period of time? Are there some issues -- I think anybody who's ever had a problem in their house knows there's some issues you can call somebody and get it fixed right away, and other issues, they have to come back multiple times, or they don't have a part, and it takes however long to get it."

So, you know, I guess the other question is, how long, you know, do we have any maintenance issues that are outstanding for long periods of time that can be addressed, are there things like that? And these numbers are much more high level than that. So yeah, I mean, at some point I think whether it's presented in detail at this meeting or not, it might be good information to be shared with the Board, just to sort of have an overview of what kinds of things are, you know, outstanding for longer periods of time than we would like or that might require some other type of, you know, way to address them. I, you know, I won't belabor the point. But I'm not sure that I have the right answer to that, Mr. Davis, in terms of reporting. But maybe there's something you know more about what the system has in it and what those kinds of things are. So I'll leave that to you to come up with something. And again, not making a demand here, just, if there is a way that feels, you know, doable for you without a lot of extra work, I think it might be, especially under the circumstances of the DOJ report, good to see as much as we can in terms of the maintenance."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. The other quick question I had, and I guess concern I want to share, is that on page, I guess it's 250 for us, the immediate repairs updates with this list of the 3.1 or almost \$3.2 million in repairs. These -- this original approval was made in August. And it was sort of put to us at the time as an emergency, that these things were things that needed to do -- be done quickly. They were not expected. And we're almost at the end of November, so there's a lot of months here. If this was an emergency, why are we not moving more quickly on these? I know you talked about some of the issues with cooperative purchasing and such. But it just feels like, you know, the -- what is the cause of the three-month delay? And where -- how do we make this -- how do we get this so that when we have things like kitchen equipment being down and larger equipment being down that they can be turned around more quickly? I'm just puzzled by this. And I don't if it's a Purchasing question or a D.R.E.A.M. question or a County Manager question, or have no idea. But just -- I just, somebody please, give me some guidance here."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So as an entity, meaning D.R.E.A.M. that deals with various contractors and RFPs and solicitations routinely, we have a very stringent guidelines as it relates to executable contracts that are in the best interest of the county. Some of these items, because they were deemed immediate, we immediately looked at the best way to deliver the end result based on procurement schedule. For us, that meant cooperative purchasing, whether it be US Communities, Sourcewell, State of Georgia statewide contract, things of that nature. Unfortunately, many of the vendors that we reached out to in these respective will -- I'll call them trade areas, are vendors that have never done business with Fulton County before. And when that typically occurs, we continually have this back and forth between the corporate entity and our Purchasing Department as well as legal to hash out contractual concerns. I will defer to Ms. Strong-Whitaker if she has any more on that. Because she and I have been discussing this on an ongoing basis. And every time we get one thing resolved, oh,

we've got another turn we've got to deal with. My I'll let Ms. Strong-Whitaker expand upon that."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Yes, good afternoon, Commissioners. One of the biggest issues that we tend to have is indemnification insurance requirements. Those are some things that the county cannot negotiate with them on, jurisdiction. So those are some of the issues that we have. When we put out our own solicitation, all of our provisions are in the contract, right. And so if they have an exception to the contract, we let them know, some of these things are nonnegotiable. But when you -- we're using cooperatives, we are not the ones that have put out the solicitation. It's based on either the cooperative purchasing agency or the person of that lead agency. Their requirements and their rules are going to be different than ours. Sometimes a coop -- going through the cooperative is fast. It works pretty fast for us. Sometimes it does not, because of these issues that we cannot sign a contract that is not in the county's best interest. And these corporations, they have large legal departments, just like we do, and so there is a lot of back and forth with those. But we are on the tail end of most of these and should have them resolved within the next week or two."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, that's good to hear. I think -- I mean, I guess I wonder, because of the number of contracts we approve over the course of the year for work as needed, that maybe we need to be looking at vendors that we can have ongoing contracts with for as needed, laundry equipment, kitchen equipment, elevator, whatever, so that we don't have to -- so we can go to an existing contract that we've, you know, already allotted an up to amount, you know, as needed. So we -- so that we can address things more quickly, because this is just a lot of months that have gone by on things that we're calling urgent and emergent, emergency. So I'm -- you know, I don't know if there's other solutions maybe that we can attempt for 2025 to try to turn this around faster."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Commissioner, we do have a lot of standby contracts in place, right, for certain things. But these would be outside of those because of the dollar amount. And remember, in Purchasing, we have to provide people with the opportunity to bid. We can't sole source a lot of things. We have to provide those avenues and make it as competitive as we can to get the best pricing that we can. And so because this is the jail, there is a lot of different things. And when you have a contractor who is going to go into the jail and do work, sometimes on their side, they want a lot of assurances as well. So it's not the same as the -- as coming into Government Center and doing some work. So you're going to have some back and forth because of the facility that they're doing the work in. But as I said, we're on the tail end of that, and we should have all of those resolved in the next week or two."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Davis, you -- you opened up Pandora's box, because now, I want to know how many are outstanding. Now, I want to know how many work orders are outstanding. You said you did 1,000 or 1400. But you actually did 1300 in October because there were others outstanding. So how many work orders are there that are outstanding? Because if we -- if the number is 1400 for the month of October, what's the total number of outstanding work orders?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "If you'll give me a moment, sir, I can pull that information. We do track it. It's a data point that we established an inquiry for in our system. And we actually can readily see how many work orders are open and outstanding."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. And I don't know that I necessarily need it now. But I mean, do you have an idea? Is it 2,000? Is it 3,000? Is it 10,000?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Off the top of my head, sir, no. I couldn't tell you that. But what I can tell you is --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I mean, I think we need all of that information at the next meeting, right? We got a serious condition with this jail and its facility. The other question I had, I don't know, I guess, if you're an engineer, I ought to ask an engineer. I mean, how does this building continue to stand if they're taking the metal reinforcement out of the walls? How much metal do you have to remove from the walls before the whole wall comes down?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So the primary structure of the jail is concrete cinderblock with CMU. And in certain walls there are what we call rebar, which is a steel or iron reinforcement. When we talk about the metal that is being to fashion weapons, we're not talking about metal coming from the concrete wall. The concrete wall is being destroyed to get to the adjacent space where there is a plethora of metal i.e. the pipe chase, where you have all the toilet controls, water pipelines, all kinds of steel. That is also the reason why we upgraded to the super max lighting. The lighting fixtures themselves have a metal housing, metal plates inside of them, and they were being destroyed because as we all know, the facility was built for minimum to medium security. So the metal pieces that are being used are not being taken from the structure, they're been taken from the systems that they're able to access once they get through the wall."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. And I -- how do you -- how does one go through a concrete wall?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "In short, time and opportunity. And I would say that, once you have one metal piece in your hand and you're able to start using it on a concrete wall, and you have sufficient time --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- then you can, over time, do so."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. So, thank you. It's not just the time and the opportunity, it's the metal and the time an opportunity. Because it's got to be some type of tool. You can give me all day with my hands, I'm not going through it, right?"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So, all right, thank you. That was -- that was helpful to understand, one, where those -- where that metal was coming from, because that's where all the stabbings are coming from, right? So we got to really, really look at what we're doing, and I don't want to get into the argument today, of a new jail or not. But what I will say is, I don't second guess the way any of my colleagues up here perform their job or their duties. Likewise, I don't second guess the way the Sheriff or the DA or Solicitor, I don't second guess the way that they perform their duties. I don't know if they're out on patrol or if they're executing a warrant. I don't know if they're out on patrol or if they're serving somebody with a lawsuit. But what I will say to you is, I don't visit the jail. I go there frequently because I'm a lawyer. So I know the horrible condition that it's in. I don't have to go visit to find out. I know because I see it on regular basis. I know how filthy it is. So I'll just leave it there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Mr. Davis, I just want to say thanks for opening yourself up to flagellation by, you know, for the past hour. So and I say that somewhat in gest, but also I'll just say this, I mean, in all seriousness, we, this discussion has been emblematic of the type of transparency we've tried to provide into what we have been trying to do in response to what we've known as an issue. And while there are a lot of people that may not have paid attention to it, this is a process we've gone through on a monthly basis. These are things that we anticipated and we knew were challenges and we started acting on in April of -- was it April of 2023? Okay. And, you know, we report on them, we ask questions about them, let you get beat out of you, you know, and that sort of stuff. And that's a healthy process, I think. To a certain level, I think you're getting some unjust criticism with some of it. But there's transparency into it, and we've committed resources to it, and we've had an attempted focus plan in order to try to go about addressing these things. We haven't sat and we haven't waited, and we have another action which we haven't sat and waited on, right? I know there's just -- look, we litigated the concept of a new jail or not. We made a different decision. I mean, some

of you didn't -- weren't in support of that. But that was the decision that was made. We can continue to talk about that. But I don't really think the discussion, that particular discussion is no longer -- no longer particularly a productive discussion to have. It's really more about how we go forward and make use of what we're -- or hopefully, we're going to approve a little bit later, in terms of continuing to modernize the facility and improve facility. We have this DOJ report, which everybody that obviously is pretty ticked off if they see the contents of, they should be, our citizens should be or -- and everybody should be. One thing that was missing from the DOJ report, a recommendation to build a new jail, wasn't in there. There were facilities type things that were noted. And as we'll -- it will see from terms of what was contained here. And if you go back and look at other stuff that's been done, many of those things we've been on a pathway to fix. Remember that DOJ report when they do things they were at a point in time when they were observing many of these things. And I think we've been on a pathway to demonstrate, particularly with a lot of facility issues, that many of those things are in flight and are being addressed. Other parts of this were operational. I don't like to criticize other people, either, but this is an outside entity that did an investigation and provided a report. There are facilities components that were probably about a third of it. And they're operational pieces that are about two thirds of it. We have a lot of transparency. We had a lot of discussion around facilities based stuff, and we're going to continue to. Unfortunately, we've had, even though we expended and obligated a lot of general fund money, Sheriff's budget has been up about 60 percent, 65 percent since he's been in office. We've had not that type of transparency into how the funding has been spent. And you know, we have questions. We have questions because our citizens have questions, right? There are things that we posited back when we put funding in for our salaries, you know, recruiting, recruiting bonuses, all that sort of stuff, right? And one of their early ask was, how are we dealing with that? We made it a priority that we wanted to hire more Detention Officers, because we knew staffing was an issue. Talked about this -- when did we have this discussion, Mr. Hermon, probably about 2021, 2022, we were having it, that discussion, right? And one of the things we wanted to track is, how were we doing? Well, I mean, we've not -- we asked for it. I think we had one report where we got some sort of insight into it. And then it was sort of obfuscation around it, we're not really had it. We've not had transparency into it. Those are questions. We got access to other facilities to decrease the population at the main facility, to lessen the load on that, lessen the risk and all that. ACDC, lot of beds, never reached about 50 percent capacity. Took a long time before it reached any level of capacity functionally, because we just moved people from one facility to that facility, while the other one sat overcrowded. There are questions around expenditures which people have raised. So there have been a lot of things there, right? So there are operational issues that there will be questions around that there needs to be, you know, answers for. And I'm not pointing a finger at the Sheriff or not. I mean, these are things that are spelled out within the DOJ findings and reports. So we -- yes, we all will have to work together, and that is incumbent upon us. But, you know, but there are -- they're hard questions that need to be answered as well. And you know, I think we've leaned into this facilities issue, and try to do, you know, kind of really a whole lot of work already and it will be planned in the future. And you know, I think it's

more to come in terms of -- and I think we have some further discussion when we get to the first -- the future item about the significant expenditure that we're going to be in the pathway of roughly 300, 350 million for the modernization of this facility."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else? Mr. Manager?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I would just say --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Oh, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And I'm sure everybody has different reasons why different things happened. But we proceeded with plans for building the new facility, paid over a million, \$2 million for those plans. And the reason, my understanding, my recollection is the reason we did not go forward with the new facility was because we didn't -- the Legislature would not allow a sales tax to finance it. So for me, for this Commissioner, I am of the opinion that we need to ask the Legislature for a sales tax to finance a new facility. That's just me, that's just my opinion. But I don't think there's any doubt, I have no doubt that a new facility is needed that focuses on treatment of all of these people with mental health issues that we have. We need a -- you know, again, I'm of the opinion that we need a new facility. But we'll -- we can have that discussion at a later date."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Commissioner Arrington, thank you for that. And let's just be clear. It wasn't just for a new jail, it was for new concept, a new way of housing inmates. Of course, humanely, but also a wraparound services and programs for the inmate and their families and a way for them to stay connection to their families with rehabilitation and recidivism and quality of life at the center of it all. So, yes, that is what we were looking at with the Feasibility Study. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington, for those comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anybody else? All right. Mr. Manager?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, Chairman, I don't believe we have anything else. There's only some routine reporting on emergency purchase orders and contract approvals, less than 100,000, so unless there's questions, that concludes our report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Colleagues, 1:17, we have a nice lunch. Let's recess for lunch and Executive Session, issues of real estate, litigation, and personnel, entertain a motion. Motion to do so by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

Recessed for Executive Session at 1:17 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 2:26 p.m.

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in items 1 and 2 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the settlement authority requested in item 3 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom page 7, **24-0793**, Finance, Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget."

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

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Each of you should have received the budget on its due date, which was the 15th of November. I've already complimented the staff on their hard work in putting this together. One observation that I make before turning over it to Madam CFO is that everything is relative. I'll give you two points of that I think this is relevant -- relative to. Number one, when I was first appointed County Manager, the general fund budget was 629 million. This proposed budget is 974 million, so it's 55 percent larger over a ten-year period, let's keep that in mind. Number two, as you look at this budget and you compare it against where we project we will spend, not what we budgeted, but what we'll spend this year, 974 million

budget against a projected \$894 million spend, it's almost 9 percent higher than that. So 55 percent greater than what the budget was ten years ago, 9 percent greater than what we will spend this year. Both of which sound pretty healthy. Where the tightness comes in and feels pretty significant is just comparing budget to budget. So if you look at this, this budget that's proposed to you versus last year's budget, it's 974 versus 954, that's a 2 percent increase. And the main issue to continue to struggle with is, we never fill all of the positions. Continuing to fund all of the positions, even partially, is what creates as much pressure as we sometimes feel. Once again, this year will depend on having some attrition savings, which means taking some monies out of the budget for positions that are vacant, not in their entirety, but at least a proportion, I think this year 30 percent, is what we're recommending --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So the -- but on that point, you mean, funded -- strike that -- authorized and funded --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- but vacant?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "That's right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "The positions themselves are still there, the funding is still there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Right."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "It's just reduced by not quite a third to help close what we think are the things that are mandated or critical in this budget to be able to make it. And it also is dependent upon the approximate 10 million in ARPA-related interests. So we're kind of -- we're running past the point where savings from the previous year can fund not only everything that we're required to do, but all the enhancement requests. So that's where we find ourselves. We realize though, and I'll say upfront, we know this is the starting point, not the ending point. So there's all kinds of changes and assumptions, both in terms of revenue growth rate, millage rate, what the mix of enhancements that you would consider or want to consider. So again, we look forward to discussing this with you today, and then progressively through December and January. I'll turn it over to Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Good afternoon, Commissioners. We can go to the next slide, please. Each year we like to kind of start our budget discussion with just kind of looking at where we're at in the current -- in our current year budget, current year spend. So for 2024, and the County Manager sort of covered this a little bit in his -- in his remarks. But for 2024, we

had a \$954 million expenditure budget. It looks like we'll spend around 893 million, that's our current projection. And I do want to say that, you know, we will continue to monitor that as we go through the end of the year. We may do better, we may do we may do worse, we may spend more than what we've currently projected. With that and our resources that we have available to us in 2024, we will plan to end this year with about 220 million in fund balance for the general fund. So better than what we expected at the beginning of the year, and provide some resources moving into 2025 that we're relying on to help us balance the '25 general fund budget. Next slide, please. With regard to the proposed budget for all of our appropriated funds, this slide shares with you each of the appropriated funds and our total. And it shares -- it provides you with a three-year comparison '23, '24, and '25. So for 2025, we are proposing a total all-funds budget of 1,418,200,000. The majority of which rests with our general fund, which is our primary operating budget. That's 973.7 million. The next largest operating fund would be our water and sewer system, which the revenue fund at 170 million and the renewal extension fund at 107.7 million. And then we share with you, each of our other operating funds. And I would also like to highlight from this page, the County Risk Fund, the Risk Management Fund. We have proposed 65.4 million in that fund. Next slide, please. This next slide breaks out those appropriated funds into each of our focus areas and gives you a view of how the resources have been allocated across funds, across focus areas. So of the 1.4 billion in total, 268.7 million has been allocated to the Health and Human Service focus area. 494.1 million to Justices and Safety, 262.6 million to Open and Responsible Government, 334.8 million to Infrastructure and Economic Development, 58.1 to Arts and Libraries. Next slide, please. We do tend to talk -- and most of the rest of the information that I share will be focused on the county's general fund, which is our primary operating fund. This slide is simply a graphic view of how the general fund is constructed for 2025. As noted previously, we're carrying -- we plan to carry forward about 220 million in fund balance. We will add to that about 915 million in projected revenue. The majority of that revenue is in the form of taxes that would be property and ad valorem taxes, 789.6 million. We have all other revenue at 102.6, and Local Option Sales Tax at 23 million. The expenditure budget, 973.7 million, then breaks down 449.2 for Justice and Safety, 189 for Open and Responsible Government, 146.5 for Health and Human Services, 147.1 for Infrastructure and Economic Development, and 41.1 million for Arts and Libraries. So when you take the fund balance and you add in the revenue, subtract out the expenditures, you're left with a projected ending fund balance of 161.5 million, which meets our fund balance reserve requirement of 16.67 percent of budgeted expenditures. Next slide, please. The general fund budget is funded primarily through, as noticed, noted on the previous slide, through property taxes, followed by local option sales tax, all other revenues, and then the use of fund balance. The assumptions that we've made in developing these revenue projections and estimates for property taxes include a flat millage rate at 8.87 mills, a 3 percent growth in the billable portion of the digest. And that would be a combination of both new -- new growth and reassessment. And that would be for the section of the digest that we collect on outside of the tax allocation districts. And then a 96 percent collection rate on the 2025 property tax billings. Next slide, please. From a local option sales tax perspective, we are adjusting this year's collection percentage as

we progress through the years and this current negotiated local option sales tax certificate. For 2025, we'll be -- we will be collecting at 7.15 percent, which is up a little bit from 2024. So we are beginning to see our share of the local option sales tax distribution increase as we move through this current ten-year cycle. We've also included in our revenue projection, the interest revenue from the ARPA funds that the county received, as well as the expected increment that's to be returned from current TAD closures and the expectation that the Atlantic Station TAD will close and the '25 increment will be returned to the county. So that is all part and parcel of our revenue projection. And then lastly, the last source of funds that we're using is the fund balance, the amount that's above the required minimum reserve fund balance. Next slide, please. So within that expected expense budget of 973.7 million, we will be funding a number of things. We'll be ensuring that we cover all of our recurring operational needs, our pension obligations, which is primarily associated with the closed Defined Benefit Pension Plan, our debt service payments, including the 10 million set aside for the jail capital improvement program to fund a jail capital improvement program. As the Manager mentioned in his open remarks, we do have funding built into the budget for vacant positions, but we have reduced that amount by \$10 million for attrition, that which results in roughly a 30 percent reduction on the value of vacant positions and will require departments to stagger their hiring throughout the year so as to stay within the amount of resources available for those vacancies. We've also provided funding to continue outsourcing inmate housing, as well as to continue the ankle monitoring contract that we've had in place for a year and so now, 16 million for outsourcing and 3 million for ankle monitoring. We funded the required Public Service Commission Election Cycle. Registration and Elections asked for a total of 15.8 million, we funded 15. That is the amount that we had built it in our multiyear view for off-year election cycles. That will cover three -- fully cover three out of four of the requested election cycles, partially covering the fourth, and we will have to fill in the difference for any under runs out of those cycles, or if runoff elections are, in fact, not required for that particular race. Next slide, please. We have provided for a performance bonus for county employees, \$15 million in the general fund set aside for that purpose. We have increased our risk management fund contribution. This is a lump sum contribution. We did not increase the premiums that are paid by each department. So this was a specific one-time lump sum contribution, we programmed that in at \$10 million. We've also provided funding for the county's contributions to Grady Hospital, in accordance with the newly negotiated agreement. That amount is 46 million. In addition to that, we have programmed in the \$6 million that is subject to our current debt service agreements that we have with the Hospital Authority to support several facilities for the hospital. And then lastly, although not in the allocation for Grady yet, because we do not have an agreement in place, we have committed to cover a portion of the construction costs associated with the freestanding emergency department that Grady is constructing in South Fulton, and had planned to do that through a bond issuance with the Fulton/DeKalb Hospital Authority. So in non-agency, we have provided for the \$1.7 million associated with that to cover the debt service. We've also provided for the continuation of several programs in Behavioral Health, 2.3 million for school-based therapy. We've programmed funding for the Emerging Adult Reentry Programs and

supportive housing programs of 1.3 million, 400,000 for Pre-arrest Diversion Programs, and the full 2.5 million to support the operation of the Diversion Center that recently had its ribbon cutting. Next slide, please. Funding for Community Service Programs and Contracts for Services are at their base levels, which for the Community Service Program is 5.3 million, and for Contracts for Services for Arts, it's 1.38 million. We have continued the funding that was identified under the Jail Bridging Program. And if you'll recall, that program included the Jail Blitz Plan, increased funding for inmate medical, increased funding for inmate food, as well as funding for tower security for the Sheriff's Department. So the inmate medical, inmate food and tower security funding have been made available in the Sheriff's budget at the same rates as in 2024. We've also provided for our standard capital pay as you go, funding over to the Capital Fund, as well as the recurring costs associated with the Physical Security Improvement Plan that was funded in -- that was funded in 2024. We've also carved out from the amount of funding that we would have ordinarily set aside for vehicle replacement, for the actual acquisition of vehicles. We have instead funded a lease program, which we intend to present to the Board at the next Board meeting for your consideration and approval. But we have gone ahead and anticipated that in our recommendation to the Board. And we've also covered within the proposed budget, requests that came in as enhancements that were evaluated and determined to meet our rules-based criteria, which are listed here as contractual, regulatory, statutory, inflationary increases and cyber security betterment items this year. And then we also received a number of enhancement requests that we were not able to fit into the resources that we had available. And we have identified those in to categorized tranches. We did not prioritize them, but we categorized them, and those are presented in your budget book. And if we can go to the next slide, they are also presented here in this slide with the millage rate equivalent, what it would take, from a millage rate perspective, to be able to fund the requests that were received that we were not able to fit into the resources that we had available. The first item that we have in the list is the request, the operational requests that come in from the Sheriff's office, 73.9 million. And in the budget message, you'll see the list, and we categorized those as Sheriff and/or jail operations. The next bucket is 14.4 million for expired grants. We had a number of departments that requested positions to be able to continue what was started and what was previously funded under Project ORCA, as well as some other grants, federal grants that have expired or are expected to expire. So we placed all of those requests into that expired grants category, 14.9 million from the justice agencies that did not otherwise fit into that expired grants area or did not meet the rules criteria, 3.5 million for community-based expenditures, 1.8 million in the employee category, and then 21 million that we categorized as other. And you can see based on the color coding, what the millage rate equivalency is for each of these tranches, with the total amount being a 1.64 mill increase if we were to try to fund all of the operational enhancements that were received. Next slide, please. This slide is just a quick summary of three of the other major operating funds. The airport fund, the budget reflects funding for the base budget for Public Works and for the Airport Fire and Rescue Operations that will be coming online in 2025, as well as the continued expansion at the airport from available fund balance. From the Water and Sewer System, we are funding the operating requests

from the departments that are covered, part of the water sewer system, it also provides funds for their capital improvement requests. We do want to highlight that the rates for the water and sewer system will have -- we will have another 5 percent increase, planned increase in early 2025, and that 5 percent increase is embodied in the revenue estimates for the Water and Sewer System. And then it is the last year of the current planned increases. And we will be undergoing a new rate study and '25 for implementation in '26 and beyond. And then the Fulton Industrial Special Services District has funds available to cover Police, Public Works, and Fire services with the city of South Fulton, as well as we have appropriated a significant portion of the fund balance available in that fund to help support our continued Economic Development activities in the Fulton Industrial area specifically around the parcels that the county acquired and has been working to redevelopment -- to redevelop since acquisition. Next slide, please. And then the last slide that we have today, Commissioners, is simply a view of where we're at on the calendar. We always like to end with this slide. So today, we are presenting the proposed budget, as the Manager said, we submitted it to you on November 15th, in accordance with our budget ordinance. And then we are planning to hold the legally required public hearing on December the 6th, which will set us up in a position to be able to consider adoption of the 2025 budget at either the first or the second meeting in January. And Mr. Chairman, with that, we can take your questions or your feedback. I would also like to say we didn't include it on this schedule, but we will, as we have in the past, at the December 6th meeting in addition to the holding the official public hearing, we will also have a discussion item on the agenda for the Board, should there be anything the Board would like to continue discussing related to the budget. And we'll have one at the second meeting in December as well. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The floor is open. Preguntas? Questions? Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how much discussion we want to get into today, so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "A lot."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Oh, all right. Then I'll start with my questions, and see where we go from there. I want to just start by asking about the growth rate. The growth rate, I know we had a fairly high growth rate in the 2024 budget. I think we, if I recall, it was 7 percent? Is that correct, that we budgeted with in the 2024 budget? And then I know that the actual tax, the digest actually came in lower, and that sort of what -- we had to make some adjustments around that. Was it -- what was the number that it came in at, was it six-point something?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "6.35, if I remember correctly."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And what is the -- like, that's a pretty significant - I know we used to sort of do it at 3 percent all the time to be more conservative. And we sort of lifted that a little bit to try to make things work because it had been higher, year over year for the past several years. But what is the -- what has the average been over, let's say, the last five to seven years of the growth rate?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I don't have that calculation right in front of me. Over the last five years, it probably has been closer, average closer to the six or 7 percent -- Hakeem, do you have that number handy?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "I mean, I believe last year, when we looked, it was between five and six."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Five and six, yeah, so --"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So, I guess I'm -- I'm, you know, I understand us not wanting to overshoot and have what happened this year happen. But it feels like going back to three is probably not necessary either. That might be a little bit too conservative in terms of what we're, you know, given how tight everything is, and so to underestimate to that extent, also feels maybe like -- are we at some place for some wiggle room? And I'm just, you know, without having a calculator in front of me and trying to quickly do math, you know, what is the dollar difference if we go, you know, if we were to go to a, let's say, a 4 percent growth rate in terms of an assumption? What does that look like in terms of addition to the budget and other expenses that we're able to cover? I tried to do back-of-the-napkin math, but it's not my strong suit, so I don't want to share my numbers."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yeah, each increase, each percentage increase in our growth rate will bring roughly about \$7 million or a little over \$7 million is what we're going to get."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "7 million per percent increase. We -- so if we went up to 4 percent, for example, we'd have 7 million more in the budget, is what you're saying?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Or give or take."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "On the base, slightly, slightly a little bit more. I mean, one, one thing I want to question the Board about though is, you know, when it comes to the growth rate, when you -- I mean, the news that, you know, we've been hearing about the real estate market, you know, in Atlanta region, the prices are way, way high. And they're expected to go higher than that. And that's where you

generate most of your growth. So you know, likelihood, you know, the prices will be going down next year. So we took that into consideration, you know, in determining, you know, what growth rate, you know, we should use, you know, for the budget. So I just --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I totally get that. I mean, I know the market right now is turning around a bit. And also, we don't know what to expect because of the political climate changing and all of that. So I guess we'll see."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But it does just seem like a pretty big jump down. I'm not saying an additional 7 million is going to save the day. I'm just sort of trying to get the lay of the land here on that front, and understanding what the decision making was to get that, that number. Let's see, I also had a couple specifics. I know you talked significantly, or you know, frequently in the course of the written part of the budget book about the fact that we're kind of at the end of the run to be able to continue to have revenues exceed expenses year over year, that we've kind of, we've gotten the fund balance down now to where this year in particular, with the budget as proposed, the amount left in fund balance is almost exactly equal to what is required in the reserve. So I guess I'm going to ask the same question I think I probably asked last year. Then what? So what does that set us up for in 2026 if we operate this way in 2025?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It will make meeting the recurring expenditure needs, from a budget basis, it will make meeting those more difficult. So this year we're, you know, as we stated, we filled the gap this year with some nonrecurring revenue that we know we will not have next year, and fund balance, which we may or may not have as much of next year. So as we, you know, we get closer to not having a substantial fund balance amount above the required minimum, then it just, it means that we're more structurally imbalanced, and we will have to either eliminate some things that we have in the budget or look for an alternative revenue source. Now, our --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So meaning, we either have to -- so we either have to cut dramatically or increase the millage rate?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, or --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "In '26?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- continue -- discontinue funding known vacancies. That would be the easiest thing to do of every option, right? Because we operate every year with 400-plus vacancies. It's like a huge department that never takes on any assignment, never does any work, doesn't have a leader. And you can say, well that's, you know, that is not a way to characterize it. But I can say in many

previous lives, eliminating the expense that you didn't have -- that you didn't incur the previous year, is like step one to a tightened environment if that's what we want to do. So it's -- that's the one option before you got to the two that you just pointed to."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I guess, my question on that front would be, while I totally understand that from a logic standpoint, it's -- I think it vary -- the need for those positions and the fluctuation, I think varies across departments. Some are -- have more vacant positions than others. Some fill them from some -- part of the time and then not for others. I mean, I'm just guessing here, because I don't have all that information in front of me either. But I did look at some of the numbers. Some departments have higher vacancies than others, that kind of thing. So you know, what's the implication if we get rid of all those positions? Then that means no new hires, essentially, for any department going forward?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, you would hire as vacancies inevitably occur in the current year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right, but --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "But you wouldn't keep chasing the same 400 vacant positions year over year, because that's what generates the under runs."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Sure. But is that -- is it the same positions year over year? I guess it's --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, I mean, it -- no, of course not, I mean, it varies, day by day and month by month. But on average, if you were looking at the enterprise level, you would say that would be the first thing if you didn't want to raise tax rates, and you don't want to cut a program altogether. And really, we're doing it already, that's how we're -- now, for the last couple, three years, we're taking a third or more of those unfunded positions or vacant positions, and un-funding a third of them. You could un-fund a half of them, you can un-fund 75 percent of them. So it can be done. And it's not just a mathematical exercise --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- we would not enjoy it, generally."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean, I hear what you're saying. I just, I think it's easier -- it's easy to say that kind of at the high level, but when you start digging into the departments, it gets more complicated as to which positions get unfunded, and are the positions that are funded at the right levels for the people that they actually need? And I -- you know, anyway, obviously, it gets more complicated than that. But I -- but I take your point. There's also, I guess I say this -- now, I feel like I've said this multiple years in a row. But I feel like sort of the conclusion is like, we're doing, like, even at this level,

where we are, the belt is pretty tight, we're saying that it's all good, like, we're going to meet all of our needs. And I don't know that I agree with that, so I'm just voicing that concern. I feel like we're really running very, very tight, and there are things that we're not able to do because of how tight we're running. And I'm going to echo something I think Commissioner Arrington said, like last year at this time, which is, we keep calling these additional asks, enhancement requests, as if they're like, things that people are asking for for fun, as opposed to just, these are things that they ask for in their budget that they don't currently have and are -- would like to have in the coming years. And many of them have been asked for year over year over year over year. So it's not like these are -- I think the public perception of that word enhancement request, is like, this is just, you know, I want to take my employees out for lunch, and that's not it at all. I mean, these are often additional staff. They are software and technology requests for upgrades for things that are desperately needed, that will make things better and more efficient and better for the end users and ultimately more cost effective for taxpayers in the long run. So you know, respectfully, I know Commissioner Arrington asked for it last time, I'll ask for it again. I think we need to change that terminology to say what it really is. These are unmet budget requests, period, they're not enhancements. They're unmet budget requests for all of these departments. And I do -- I do acknowledge, Sabrina, and thank you, I'm sorry, I'm being informal. But -- but for adding into the -- into the budget message that there are many unmet requests. And I just want to be clear that that is what those air quotes enhancements are. Those are unmet requests by departments, many of them that have happened again and again and again. And with each passing year that we don't upgrade technology as an example, we end up more vulnerable to a cyber attack again. Again, just as an example, but you know, we're seeing the results of those things happening. And by the way, also, I appreciate all of you adding in cyber security measures into the base budget because it is critical. Anyway, I think for starters, that's what have -- oh, I'm sorry, I had one other thing. On page -- let me see if I can find it. There's a spot in the book where you talk about a couple of the justice things, I think it is, yes, it's on page 29 in the book at the bottom where you talk about organizational impacts. And there's a typo, first of all, because you refer to, in the very last paragraph, the continued process in compliance. You've continued the process in compliance of approved BOC Resolution 23-0682. It's actually 23-0832. I looked it up because I wanted to read it again. And it does not say anything about service revenues and expenditures remaining in non-agency. It purely says that the revenue from any services provided at the jail go into the general fund, period. Anything else is based on things you think you heard us say in the meeting and opinions and whatnot. So I think we should be really clear that the law as written, only mandates that that revenue goes into the general fund. It does not mandate that it go into non-agency, and it does not mandate where the expenditures go. So I just want to make that clear, because I think I do have some issues with the way that is set up in terms of us still calling putting money into a line in non-agency called inmate services or whatever, that -- that, to me, I don't agree with that. And I think basing it on this resolution is inaccurate. So we can discuss that at another time, if you like, but before this process finishes, but I do have an issue with that. And I'm not really good with us moving forward without correcting it. That's it for now."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right, thank you. Let's see here. Okay, let's go to page 2 of the 2025 proposed budget. There is a sentence in the second paragraph that speaks to working within these financial constraints, a rules-based criterion, which first categorized enhancements based on contractual regulatory, statutory, Board action, inflationary drivers, and then expanded to include cyber security protections were considered as additional investments above a department's base budget. And it goes on to say, even with the utilization of nonrecurring revenue for recurring costs, there were no additional resources available to fund program enhancements above and beyond the increased costs for maintaining a current service level. Can you explain a little bit more about these rule-based criterion? Because I do recall that this was used before in the past; is that correct? That's right, right?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, Commissioner Hall. We've used it, I think this is the third year that we've used the -- a rules-based approach when evaluating budget requests."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And has anything changed from years past?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I think we've tried to clarify to some extent, you know, what we are categorizing and including as rules-based. We also, as we met with our departments this year, we tried to ensure that when we they were submitting requests that if it was an inflationary cost, just to keep the same level of service. So you know, we're going to serve ten people today, and the vendor is going to charge us more next year to serve those same ten people, we wanted to make sure that they didn't categorize that as a program expansion or a new program, but they picked it up as cost to maintain service. And so we tried to clarify that. We did add in this year explicitly, the cyber security piece of it. Given the cyber incident that we had earlier this year, we wanted to make sure that we considered that as part of our rules-based criteria when we evaluated the request that departments submitted that were above their base budget."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, please do that, because cyber security could take us out. And then I think we kind of -- I thought we had moved away from strategic priority areas. But it looks like we have a little bit of that in the book. And I say that because I see Arts and Libraries together. And I kind of think that we do both of them an injustice, lumping them together, because Arts and -- and Libraries are so very different. And then arts touches so many areas of people's lives. I've learned over the years that it even helps with mental and behavioral health issues. So I'm trying to find, and I didn't have enough time to really go through everything, what the budget is for Arts and Culture and what the budget is for Libraries. Because even when you look at this page in the presentation, on page 4, where it says Arts and Libraries, the 58.1 million, it doesn't really break out which is, you know, which is Arts and which is Libraries."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. Well, actually I'm -- Sabrina is saying one page, but I'm looking at page 58, which is the --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "-- in the book?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "In the book, page 58."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It is the list of departmental budgets for the general fund. Arts and Culture is at 6,090,899, and Libraries, 31,499,348. And I would just like to remind the Board that the Library also includes the Cooperative Extension function."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Cooperative -- that's right --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So it's --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "-- when Gabe was the Arts and Culture Director, they were moved under Libraries, right?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. And then there's a highlighted portion in here on page 58. Can you just let us know why this is highlighted? Because I didn't see any kind of key or anything that referred back to why it's highlighted."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. Those are the broad categories that the non-agency budget is broken down into. So if you look at it, the '25 proposed budget, total proposed budget for non-agency is 237,496,623. Of that amount, 68 million -- 68.2 million is related to pension, 48.6 is related to lease and debt categories, 26.7 is related to utilities, 72.3 is other, there's a number of things within that. Inmate welfare, it should say inmate services, is 5.4, 5.4 million, and compensation 16 million. So those all components of the non-agency budget, where we were asked, I believe originally by Commissioner Ellis, to break out some of the larger components of the non-agency budget. So that's was represented that shaded area."

COMMISSIONER HALL: Oh, okay. So that's why you highlighted it, because Commissioner Ellis asked for --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We highlight it because they're really components of the bigger non-agency number. But the reason we show it that way is because originally, I believe it was Commissioner Ellis, who asked us to break out the components of non-agency and show that on the schedule."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. And then when I was looking through the tranches starting on page 43, I noticed that there are some places where things are bolded, but then other places they're not. And for instance, on page 43, jail operations in the category column is highlighted. But then when you go to page 44, it's not highlighted. Is there a reason for that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, ma'am. I think we've worked on these spreadsheets so many times, we probably just missed un-bolding something that we may have had bolded on another tab, where we had to merge some tabs together. So there's no significance to that in this particular report."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. Well, it did draw my attention because it stood out in that way. And so for instance on page 44, I notice that there is a request for property and evidence film and bags and just a quite a bit of other items that are listed. And these are things that are not going to be in the budget; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. These items in the tranches are not currently funded in the proposed budget. And Commissioner Hall, Sabrina did remind me that some of the formatting that you see on this is the way that it was actually keyed in to the spreadsheets when the departments submitted it. And we may not have had the time to go back and un-capitalized everything if it had been capitalized or un-bolded it, so but again, there's no significance to it in the presentation."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. Well, it drew my attention and caused a major curiosity as to how some of these things are supposed to be -- how were they even decided on to be placed on the list of not being funded? Because like I said, property and evidence, film and bags, what are they supposed to put the -- the evidence film and bag -- what are they supposed to put the evidence and property in if they don't have the bags. And I mean, there's a lot of things, I'm not going to go through the whole list. But they're just a lot of things that are questionable on, if they don't have it, then how are they supposed to do their jobs? So was that considered? Is there a page in here that kind of explains or -- because I know you used this rules-based criterion. But what is being offered to those offices and departments who are not getting things that they need as some other way of them being able to do their jobs if they don't have the resources and the things that they need to do them?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes."

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "Those items that are listed on the tranche, those were submitted, many were submitted by the department and labeled as an enhancement. And when I say enhancement, I mean above and beyond, not to

maintain. They didn't have it in the maintain and it -- they currently supply that, and now it just costs more. They entered it in as something, new above and beyond."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Wait. You said they currently provide that and now it costs more, meaning that the price increased?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "No."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "What?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "So when we had the rules-based criterion, it was basically surrounding you're providing the same level of service, it just cost more to provide the same level of service. So we had the departments to categorize, maintain services, program expansion, and then a completely new program. So if we -- for the rules based, what, to Commissioner Barrett's also point, and to many of your points of, they have to provide these services anyway. So if it costs more to provide the same level of service that is what fell into the first category of rules. Next, we had a majority of program expansions, which was the above and beyond. And then you also had the new programs. So that's why it's -- and the envelope was full past, we tried to stuff as much as we could. And so we wanted to still present it for your guidance and consideration and direction. So that's why you'll see them in these particular categories, no priority to it, because whoever is providing the service may feel that theirs is just as important as someone else's. So we did not say, we're going to pull this one of first. However, if our commitment was to provide the same level of service that is what fell into first rules."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So was there a conversation to make sure that these were not things that were needed to continue the level of service moving forward?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And not just an enhancement or something in addition to that level of service?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "Yes. Many of our justice center partners, we met with individually, and they actually came with their own priorities of what was submitted. So of what was submitted, they then had a secondary list of all of these things they ranked items. So yes, we did have conversation."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. And so we heard from two justice partners today in public comment, during public comment, Judge Kirk, Chief Judge of Magistrate Court and Solicitor General Keith Gammage, who both in their public comment, made some statements about funding needs. Are those addressed in this budget?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "The best that we could."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So that means that the funding, the additional funding needs that they say they need to be able to run their court, run their office, are not being budgeted for 2025? Because they're saying they still need funding."

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "How detailed did you want to go? I can have a separate conversation --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "This is a yes-or-no question, are they budgeted for the things that they stood here and said they're not funded for or not?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yeah, Commissioner Hall, one of the items --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, sir."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "One of the items Chief Judge Kirk mentioned was the \$780,000 that the Board directed us to put in Superior Court budget last year. That money is still sitting in Superior Court budget. It's funded again this year. I believe, you know, what the Chief Judge was requesting was for us to transfer that money back to her budget. And we say that, you know, the Board approved a resolution for us to put the money in Superior Court. If the Board wants us to do something differently, than you know, we have to be directed to do so, either by resolution or by any other means that, you know, you wish to instruct us to do."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So the money that she's requesting is in Superior Court's budget, that's what you're saying?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Last year, there was a resolution approved by the Board for --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, I remember that. Yes."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "-- us to move -- for us to move \$780,000, transfer it from --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "-- Magistrate Court budget and put the money in Superior Court."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Okay? We have not received any other directive from the Board for us to put that money back in Magistrate Court's budget. So right now that money is sitting in Superior Court's budget."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. I'm not going open that can of worms again. I'm leaving that to y'all. Thank you."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "You're welcome."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just have a couple quick questions. There is a concern about the inmate welfare fund being in non-agency, and non-agency is in our general fund. So if non -- inmate welfare is under non-agency, it's in our general fund, just a line item within non-agency. So if you didn't put it there, where would you put it? Or is that the -- seems like the best place for it?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "To answer your question, yes, Commissioner Thorne, non-agency is part of the general fund, so inmate services is in the general fund budget in non-agency. The Board's resolution, Commissioner Barrett is correct, the Board's resolution simply required for the funds to be paid over to the county. There was no other direction, absent the direction, we placed it in non-agency, and developed a plan around how those funds would be used, communicated that to the Board. The reason we called it out in the budget message is because Commissioner Barrett has expressed that she felt like it should not be in non-agency and should be in the Sheriff's budget. So we called out that it -- the inmate services resources are, again, placed in non-agency unless the Board gives us some other guidance on that. So if you're not going to put in non-agency and you intend for those resources to be expended on the benefit of the inmates, then the logical other place to put it would be in the Sheriff's Department -- excuse me -- in the budget for the Sheriff's Office and the jail unit within the Sheriff's Office."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Or could we move it in D.R.E.A.M.?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I mean, you could move it into D.R.E.A.M. These resources are primarily used to acquire the things that the inmates need, uniforms, mattresses, things, things like that. So if you didn't want to put it in non-agency, I suppose you could, you could put it into D.R.E.A.M. We have it set up and structured, and have built out a commodities package to go along with it, as well as the three counseling services that were court ordered and note active are the primary expenses currently being serviced out of that area."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. And Information Technology, is the cyber security bump in that budget? The investment that we're going to be putting into cyber security, is it -- is that where that would be? Because it's not a separate line item in the budget."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. If you -- if you referred -- I just wanted to be able to say, refer to page 35 of the budget book, Information Technology, 3.5 million is the amount that we've built in to IT's budget for the cyber security betterment, for software and cloud-based related items."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And then lastly, Emergency Management budget went down. What would be the reason for that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Thorne, I'm going to have to look at that. You're talking about from their --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "5.5 to 2.1."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yeah, I'm going to need to take a look at that, Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Thank you. That's all I have."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Madam Vice Chair. I have a couple more questions. There is a note on page, I believe it is 39, where in under the section where it's talking about, I believe this is things that are being funded. But there's a note that says under State Court Judges, funding was not provided for costs associated with additional judgeships requiring legislative action. And I was wondering about that because I believe it is on our legislative agenda to try to get those two Judges approved. And I understand from Judge Tailor that if we get them approved, these are certainly not going to be positions that would need to be funded for the full year, the -- and additional staff, and all that, that it, all the expenses that it that go around with each new Judge, that it would only be partial year because by the time the legislation happened, and then the hiring happened and all that, it would maybe be the last quarter of the year. But there should be some funding allotted for that, assuming we get the legislation through, no?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We did have some discussion around that, and I think the primary driver for this was uncertainty around any effective date of legislation would be. So we just wanted to draw attention to that we did not build anything into the budget for the additional judgeships for State Court or any of the other partners that would also require resources if the judgeships were awarded."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So State Court, Superior Court?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "State -- well, it wouldn't be State or Superior Court, it would be the State Court Judges --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "State Court general, the administration function, the Public Defender and Solicitor General and the Marshal, I believe all had additional funding requirements if -- you know, in order to support each new judgeship."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right, okay, that's -- we're on the same page. Okay. The other -- I had a couple quick things that I forgot to ask when I was speaking the first time. There's some mention in this book about the consolidation of the Accountability Courts. And I just didn't know, are we going to talk about that later, or is that -- do you want to talk about now? Or -- because that's -- we haven't really been officially told about this yet, I don't think. So I know a little bit about it from behind the scenes. But I'm just wondering when we're going to get an update on that."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I'm happy to have Steve Nawrocki come forward and share with you what he has been working with our justice partners on around, around that and give you little preview of the plan."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Steve Nawrocki. We are currently working with State Court, Superior Court and Magistrate Court to create consolidated Accountability Court. This is -- sorry, just trying to gather my thoughts here. We have been working on this plan for several months. I think we're currently going through the planning phase with HR, Finance, D.R.E.A.M. for additional space. And so I guess, were there specific questions you have that I can address?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I mean, I -- I'm going to assume here, and correct me if I'm wrong, that -- and I think for people who don't know or the public who doesn't know that all three of the courts you mentioned Superior Court, State Court and Magistrate Court all currently operate different kinds of Accountability Courts, correct?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And so the idea here is to consolidate so that we are able to create some more efficiently, that kind of thing. What's the rationale behind it?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yeah, exactly. Thank you, Commissioner. So we are looking to optimize through this consolidation. So it would, it would do a few things from a, I think the two primary functions that the Accountability Courts have are from a treatment perspective and a testing perspective. As far as treatment goes, currently, we're using River Ridge for a lot of these services, as well as some staff in house. What we would look to do optimizing and getting better efficiency

is bringing these operations back in, which is why we're working with both HR and Finance to confirm that the budgets we currently have across the three courts would be able to read the -- reprogram so that we can hire these staff members through our general fund. And they are all reoccurring dollars, it's not grants or any other temporary funding from a -- so that's treatment from a testing perspective right now. Again, each Accountability Court that has either DUI or drug are running their own testing services. So we've looked to bring that in under a certain -- a single umbrella through a single RFP for that. So starting to work with Purchasing on that RFP and would consolidate all testing services."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I think most of us know, and I think, I'm not sure how much the public really knows about these Accountability Courts. But they are a key component of addressing recidivism and addressing --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Diversion."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, diversion and some of the populations that are impacted by drug use and that kind of thing. So they're very positive, and I'm all for whatever we can do -- continue to invest in them. Do we have a sense of how much each one has been costing on an annual basis for each of the various courts?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "I have all those numbers with me, but not in front of me. And I would not -- I cannot remember off the top of my head."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "No worries. I -- maybe we could get a presentation on that at the next meeting or sometime in the next -- before we finalize the budget. I'd just like to see kind of what the, not only what they are -- what they were costing, but also what we expect to be sort of the -- the cost savings in the -- in building in this sufficiency and having one Accountability Court versus three."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "I do want to stress one thing. We're not, while we hope to eventually achieve some cost savings, our initial year plan is going to be budget neutral reorganization. So we're not projecting right now that we're going to have cost savings in year one to year two, year three, and on. It's part of our, I guess, sales pitch here is that, this is a budget neutral reorganization of these three courts into a single court, domiciled in Superior Court administration. So I just want to clarify that."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "No, that's good. It's good to know. But I think ultimately, so then the goal is to be able provide services to more people?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So, yeah --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Definitely expanding the reach."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And then -- okay. And then longer term in theory again, there -- you know, it's hard to measure this I think, but we would be hoping to see, therefore, sort of less people in the jail and --"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Absolutely."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- so we would just overall include this in sort of working towards a more effective, efficient Justice System, yes?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Whenever you're ready at some point, it would be great to see some more detailed reporting on it. It's not urgent, but just wanted to get some information on that."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. That was all I had on that. And then I just had one other thing, when you're talking about the tranches, and I think it was Commissioner Hall that was going through some of the things that were listed in the Sheriff's tranche, et cetera. Are we -- I think it's hard to sort of prioritize these ourselves or even understand what they're all for based on the single description in that spreadsheet. You know, if it just says D.R.E.A.M. 20, and that is a price. Or it says, you know, law enforcement uniforms, you know, like, I don't -- is that necessary? Is it like, are the old ones falling apart? I think it's just hard to get a sense of which things are critical and which things are not based on some of these descriptions. I think some you can probably guess are not. There's a lot of them in here, in the Sheriff's in particular, that have to do with staffing, whether it's increases in salaries and things like that. So I think especially in the Sheriff's tranche, and as it relates to working in concert with him to try to address some of the challenges that are listed in the DOJ report, et cetera, et cetera. It would be good to kind of know which of these directly relate to that, that we -- so that as we're making decisions, we're aware of the ones that are sort of relevant to that and which ones are maybe more of things that could wait. I'm not quite sure what the right way to this or what reporting -- is it more detailed reporting? Is it different reporting? I'm not sure I have the answer on that prescribing what that should be. But in order for us to make good decisions on what to do with this tranche, I think some more detail would probably be helpful. I think that was it. Let me just check before give up the ghost here. Yeah, I think that's all that's critical right now for me. Thanks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah. I just want to thank y'all for the work you did, for putting this together and doing it in a practical fashion. I mean, obviously 200-and-

something million dollars worth of enhancements, and that is what they are, is not realistic on where we're at from a budgetary standpoint. And you know, I think all certain of these things, when you see them on paper, they all look nice and shiny and good. You know, and it'd be nice to maybe have some more detail on them. You know, also, sometimes it'd be nice to have more detail on how somebody's existing budget is being expended as well, so you have a full understanding of what all the components of that are. So that is there an opportunity for something to be eliminated and something to be replaced that would have some more priority. And you know, I mean part of that, you know, that's not necessarily your job as a budget, budgetary person to figure that out. And I'm not asking you to do that. But this is more of a message to our department heads and other officers that bring forth and put together budgets. I mean, this is the kind of thing you have to do, right? I mean, we, you know, like it or not, you know, the practicality is, there is a portion of this, that there's scarce resources, and there always are going to be. And you know, in many cases, how effective you'd be -- you are as an -- a department head constitutional officer, elected officer, et cetera, depends upon how you choose to manage and utilize those resources. And if you use them on things that are less effective, you're going to be less effective. I mean, we just don't have practicality to have the ability to fund all these things. So you know, we'll go through this exercise. Again, I think it's very well laid out. I think the assumptions are good. I think there's some stuff on the margins where we can continue to talk about. But just wanted to thank you all for doing the hard work, deal -- you know, dealing with the push back, asking the right questions, all that sort of stuff, you know, and being the person in the middle oftentimes, who has to say, no. Thanks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "One last thing, I'll be brief. I just wanted to say also, I haven't said, thank you for all the hard work. So I do want to say that, and I in particular want to thank you guys for adding some additional level of detail. I know I asked for it in previous years, and I see that it's in there this year. And I do really appreciate that because I know it takes extra effort. So it's really, really helpful to have it there, and I appreciate it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anyone else? Madam CFO, anything else?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, no. Just a reminder that the next meeting, we will hold our legally required public hearing and provide another opportunity for discussion. Thank you."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, **24-0794** Real Estate and Asset Management, Request approval for Task Order 2 in an amount not to exceed \$484,800 to facilitate the repair of 101 jail cell doors and damaged cell walls."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0795**, Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$145,000 to provide Fuel Card Management Services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0796**, Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$131,368 to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0797**, Request approval of a recommended proposal for Design/Build Services for North Fulton Health Human Services Center in an amount not to exceed \$15,417,450."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0798**, Request approval of a recommended proposal for Program Management and Professional Services for the Fulton County Jail Capital Improvement Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,740,749.38."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Mr. Chairman, we did have a update we're going to provide along with this approval item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor, sir."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Can we please bring that presentation up with this item? And good afternoon, good afternoon, again, Commissioners. Steve Nawrocki. I'm sure you're starting to get tired of seeing me up here at the podium. While we're bringing this up, as a Jail Capital Improvement Program is approaching its first procurement milestone with the selection of the Program Management Team. We did want to revisit what the scope of work is going to be, along with the timeline, both to complete procurement and then start our activities. Additionally, we're going to provide an overview of the recommended Joint Venture Team. Do we have that presentation? Okay, thank you. Great. Can we go to the first slide, please, or the next slide? So first, starting with our scope of work, we are going to be taking a phased approach with the Program Management Team or PMT, once they are deployed. Phase I, you'll see the top there, will start with a comprehensive facility assessment of Rice Street, the Marietta Annex and the South Annex. The PMT will be able to prioritize their findings from this assessment, and will be providing to the county, the options and scenarios of what we think we can be -- of what we think we can deliver with that maximum allowable budget. Additionally, the PM Team is going to help us create a plan for inmate housing during the construction phase, during renovations. And they're going to help us develop a plan for future a special-purpose building, which we do expect will help with our medical and mental health population. Once phase I is completed, phase II will commence, and that will largely be the management and oversight of the delivery of the program. This will start with the Program Management Team assisting us with procurement of our initial project vendors, so that'll be the design team, construction teams, and other project consultants. Once these vendors are onboarded, they will be providing oversight and management throughout the entire duration of the program, through -- so through during planning, design and the construction phases and finally, closeout of the project. Next slide. In here, you've seen these graphic before with our timeline. So we just wanted to give you pre -- or an update of where we stand today, where we have progressed in our procurement process, as well as planned future activities. As we are nearing completion and we are requesting approval of the PMT today, you will see denoted with blue chevron, all the activities that we expect to bring back to the Board, both through formal action or through updates, assuming favorable -- favorable approval today in November, we look to have the contract executed in December, and that will lead us then into the beginning of next year, in January, where we'll -- where we will kick off our facilities assessment. We anticipate the facility assessment to conclude by April 2025.

And at that time, the PMT will provide a report that is going to consist of their findings and recommendations for both the renovation project and the special-purpose building. By way -- by May, we expect this initial report to be submitted with now in a prioritized order, as opposed to just everything that was identified. And in June, we'll -- we look to finalize that scope, returning to the Board, hopefully in July, to present the scope, get approval. And again, this is going to be the overall program, so both the renovation and the special-purpose building. And upon approval, we would commence phase II services, which would be starting the procurement of those design and construction teams. Next slide, please. And then finally, we just wanted to give a quick profile of our recommended PMT. The Selection Committee is recommending ACR Partners, they are a joint venture, comprising of AECOM Technical Services, Comprehensive Program Services, and HJ Russell & Company. The selection committee believed ACR Partners did have the related experience, aligning with the jail program across their regional and national presence, with a deep bench of industry professionals. They do have extensive jail and correctional program management experience. And here in the county, we have a successful track record of delivering county projects with this team. And last, just want to give a quick snapshot of some of those projects they're working on. First, the top in New York City, the Borough-Based Jails Program. This is four new jails totaling 4,400 beds at a cost of 15 billion, which I do believe is the largest jail project going on in the nation right now. This team is also delivering Walton -- for Walton County, a jail program that'll be 850 beds for 150 million. And then finally, here in Fulton County, we have our Library Program, both phase I and II, totaling 270 million. I'm happy to take any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. There -- questions? Motion on the floor is to approve. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So on the vendor -- no, I'm sorry, on the first page of the scope of work page, you mentioned the maximum allowable budget. Is that -- what -- I know we talked about a \$300 million total budget, but that includes the new building, a potential new building, as well as renovation. So do we have a dividing line on how much is toward renovation and how much toward a new building?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "That would be one of the scope items that the PMT will help us determine how much should be allocated to the renovation of verses how much the special-purpose building. But that 300 million is going to be the all in cost, so all design, programming, all other consultants, and then actual construction, whether renovation or the new building."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So, sorry, you're saying that the costs including all the plan -- then phase II, basically, is within that 300 million; is that what you're saying?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yeah, yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. Everything will be within that up to 300 million amount."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And so, in theory, based on the schedule here, we would be able to start on phase II, this what we're voting on today is just the amount for phase I?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am, I believe it's -- or sorry, it's --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Year one."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "It's year one."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "It's year one."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So we don't -- so we believe that's going to cover not only the assessment part, but also the planning and design --"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Some of it, yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- and the -- and beginning of renovation or, no, just planning and design?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Some of it. It depends on -- year two will be brought back before the Board for approval."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So do we actually expect any work to be done, actual physical work in the building during the calendar year 2025?"

STEVE NAWROCKI, STRATEGY OFFICER: "It is possible if we identify some early work packages. I mean, we would be working in hand with Mr. Davis and D.R.E.A.M. to determine what early opportunities he would have. But I would say right now, kind of best-case scenario, quarters three and four of 2025 will probably be planning and design."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And so we don't see any -- all of this is accounted for in the base budget already for 2025, yes? Okay. Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions? Let's vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, under Health and Human Services, **24-0799**, Community Development, Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$148,075 to continue temporary staffing services."

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; six yeas, zero nays."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0800**, Senior Services, Request approval for a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$135,135.07 to provide staffing services."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0801**, Public Works, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$200,000 to provide Water Meter Vaults."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0802**, Request approval to extend an existing contract for the Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility Expansion Project Phase 2B in an amount not to exceed \$279,436.22."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "And on page 10 under Justice and Safety, **24-0804**, Emergency Services, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in the f \$219,852.13 for the purchase of the 911 Recording System."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0805**, Sheriff, Request approval to allocate \$2,137,496 into the fiscal year 2024 budget for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Natalie Hall, seconded by Commissioner Dana Barrett. Please vote. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Can we hear from the Sheriff's team, they're here, on what this is about?"

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "Good afternoon. Michael Shoates, Chief of Staff, Fulton County Sheriff's Office. The request for this \$2.1 million from the non-agency budget that is allocated specifically for the Sheriff's Office is partly to cover the current balance that we carry and that we anticipate for the end of the year based on our bust-out checks for retiring employees, for employees who are at the max in compensation. Right now, we have about 200 employees who are maxed out in comp. And we have to pay them regardless. And to cover any anticipated overtime for the remainder of the year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So if you're not able to get this funding moved over to your budget, are we saying that people will not be able to get their bust-out checks if they're retiring, or is that what I'm hearing? Is that part of this expense?"

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "Well, the way that it, the system is set, they will get paid, but our account will be basically in the red."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I see. And on the overtime, does this change the ability for you to pay -- because like, right now, my understanding is you're just offering comp time."

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "We are."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And would this allow you to pay overtime or not?"

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "Well, what we need is, we need the ability to pay those people who are maxed out in comp time. We have 200 employees who are at the max already."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Oh, I see. So they've already --"

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "And they --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: -- as much overtime as they can for comp time --

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "Correct, and --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- legally."

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "-- as of now, we award them comp time. But the system will automatically default to pay them."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I see."

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "And it's the public -- you know, Public Safety -- thank you. Fair Labor Standards Act."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. I don't mean to play dumb here. But I left the meeting last -- at the last meeting early because of a family emergency. And so if there was some discussion that I missed on what everybody else's opinions were on this, maybe I missed it. But it feels to me like from what I understand about everything we just went through in the budget, as we project for the rest of this year, that we do have the money and we can afford to pay this. And that I -- as far as I can gather, the only reason we're not paying it is because the -- it's the -- we're saying the Sheriff should have done that within the bounds of his budget? Is -- am I missing something? Is that where we're at?"

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "Well, this was -- I'm sorry, if that was --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: No, please. "I don't know, I don't even know who to ask that question to, to be honest --"

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "Well, it was --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- I'm sort of asking it to the universe."

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "The Board did approve to set this money aside specifically for the Sheriff's Office during the FY24 budget process."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, Sheriff, do you --"

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "So it wasn't -- it wasn't put in our budget. But it was set aside within the non-agency."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right, okay. I guess, there's some controversy about this. I don't know. I -- to me, it seems logical that we would want to make sure that the folks that did the work get paid fairly. And you know, regardless of how we got where we were in terms of the Sheriff's budget, it seems to me that, you know, we don't want him to have any more people resigning because they're not able to get overtime, or that kind of thing. So for me personally, I would appreciate everybody's favorable vote so that these people who are doing this hard work in this difficult place can get paid. Especially in this time of the holidays, to not be able to pay overtime just feels like a travesty to me. So I don't know, again, I perhaps, missed some of the other arguments as to why we shouldn't. But it seems very much to me that we should."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You finished?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I am."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Commissioner Barrett's question lead me to ask you about these resignations, because it sounds like it's a lot of them. And what's the reason for so many resignations because you mentioned that you need this money for bust-out checks too?"

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "Yes, we have -- and since we ceased offering overtime a month ago, we've had approximately 20 employees resign, 20, 21."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So that goes back to, I think it was Commissioner Barrett who mentioned earlier a 15-year employee resigning because they haven't received their overtime pay."

MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF: "He retired."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "He is retiring because of it? Would he have not retired if he could have got his overtime; is that what --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "First of all, good afternoon. I know everybody has had a long afternoon. But let me answer your question specifically, because I met with a Lieutenant on yesterday. And his exact words to me, Sheriff, I come to work for \$30. I've topped out as a Lieutenant. And if there's anything, be it retention bonuses? Is there anything that we can do to make sure, because I want to stay, this is my

livelihood. I want to stay. And so we, again, are asking, t this moment, giving that -- and I'm not sure, and I'm -- let me provide a little foundation that was provided last time when a couple of you all were out and conversation was, let's make sure we give everybody our opportunities to hear some of this. So if we go back to a couple years when you all approved, and the Board makeup was different, \$10 million for overtime, to include double overtime. We spent 6.25. The recommendation from our County Manager and the team at the time as we moved forward in 2023 was \$4 million. The date of the budget ratification it was cut by \$2 million, hence leaving us already -- we had already projected we needed at least \$4 million in overtime, regular over time, cut by \$2 million and an additional \$362,000 to balance the budget. At that point, it was put in, and brilliantly, I might add, put into a non-agency account and not spent. And so in as many conversations we've had around managing the budget as we recognize we would not have enough money for overtime, we started decreasing overtime. And to a point we got October, November and December, where we would go back to the old way of offering comp time. At that point, we've lost 21 people since then. We've lost seven -- 60 people since the elimination of double overtime -- 70 people since the elimination of double overtime. And so all that said and done, part of anybody's report, whether it be the State report, DOJ report, et cetera, really highlights retention as well as recruitment. We've done a good job of recruiting. We've hired over 700 people over the last two years. And ultimately, we continue to lose them. We lose them because no one wants to work in the jail. We lose them to East Point, College Park, city of Atlanta. To again, part of the conversation we had last, two weeks ago, was the city of Atlanta has done a job better job with their pension plan. So instead of five years being vested and people moving from agency to agency, they've added a multiplier, where you can retire with 70 percent of your budget -- your salary. So that's kind of the crux of where we are. And certainly, if there's any other questions, we'll take those."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, you do -- you did say something that has led me to another question. You said the money was brilliantly put into the non-agency account to hold it?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So again, and we've had this conversation over the last couple -- course of the last couple of BOC meetings. From my understanding, and I say brilliant, because I would say the County Manager and even our CFO knew we were going to need it. We started out a conversation that said, if we got rid of double overtime because of one of the Commissioners pointed out, cannot be an emergent situation for that long. At the very base, the foundation, we're going to need \$4 million. The day of the budget ratification, it was decreased by \$2 million to add an additional \$362,000 to that. So we were short going into the budget, knowing that we would not be able to make that in terms of overtime for the rest of the year. And that includes the budget justifications. We have really shifted money around to the tune of \$18 million. Every single thing that we have been asked for, we have reduced in writing, and so that's one of the last things that we were discussing."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay, Sheriff, since I have you here and you're talking budget, I had a question about tranches and actual enhancements, needs, above and -- above normal work. Can you clear that up for me, please?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Just a point of order, Mr. Chair. It's not germane to the item at hand."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam -- Commissioner Hall --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Well, I think it is because of the fact that we're going back and forth on where money is to pay overtime and all of that and --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I reaffirm my point of order, since you're talking about 2025 budget and tranches, we're talking about specifically overtime."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "He's correct, Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "We were talking about the 2024 budget at --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "-- this meeting, so what are you talking about?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall, please. On the matter before us, is 0805, using the 2,137,000 for overtime."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. And the Sheriff spoke about the budget in his response to that. And I'm just asking a question about what he spoke about."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall, you're out of order. It's not relevant to what's before us."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. Well, Sheriff, is the money available for this to be paid in non-agency still? Or do I need to ask that of Madam CFO?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam CFO, would you respond, please?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It is, in non-agency."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anyone else? Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "A few questions. As I recall when we did the set aside for the 2.1, it was specificity that it would be applied towards our concern, which we've

expressed, I think, collectively as a Board, Detention Officers and workers within the jail. That's correct, right, in terms of that was what we designated it for, right?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. It was originally intended to support double overtime --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- in the jail unit."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And there was a plan to come back to be -- there was an ask for a plan to be -- come back and presented to us about how that would be utilized as such, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We brought back a resolution for the Board to consider that would allow for the double-overtime rate of pay. And I believe there was some discussion during the presentation of that resolution about the prior utilization of double overtime within the jail --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "But a portion be set aside within the non-agency --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- within those job classifications, the Detention -- the Detention Officer classifications, is what I recalled from the discussion."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah. And you have some additional commentary on that?"

SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER, FINANCE: "The comment in the adopted budget was that it was for double overtime based on utilization and need."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "But a plan was to be presented back to us, right? To which my knowledge, we've not received such."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "What we came back with, Commissioner Ellis, was the resolution to that would establish the rate of pay. And as I just stated, I think in the discussion around that resolution, I believe Mr. Hermon did provide some of the utilization data that had been requested for double overtime in 2023, specifically within the Detention Officer ranks within the jail unit."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. But I don't believe we received a full picture of that based upon what the ask was. You can go back and look at the full record on it, but I don't think we did. You know, I think, you know, I think this -- this Board's been pretty consistent about trying to do something about, you know, kind of specifically employees and retention of folks working within the jail facility. One thing I just would -- would be helpful for me to get very crisp, clear detail on which I don't have. I got some data from

our HR staff, which has indicated that through, I believe this would have been through October, is that correct, Mr. Hermon? There was overall overtime pay associated with the Sheriff's office of about 5.8 million. And you know, when I look the sketch of employees on that, it's in multiple categories, which aren't necessarily clear. Some probably clear that they were folks working in the jail, some necessarily not. You know, there's front office categories, there's some other things, there's law enforcement, I don't know all these folks working there, but I know some of them within there, and some of them were working in motor units and other things like that. So you know, the part of this whole discussion around this portion that's over in non-agency that it was prioritizing and it was going to that, for that specific purpose, which we wanted it to go to, and that being folks working within the jail. So for me personally, I'm going to need some more detail on where those dollars have been spent, year to date for overtime and how they would be applied going forward, and with the priority -- some clear prioritization, how it'd be managed, that it would be going to folks working within the jail facilities themselves."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Can you provide that, Sheriff?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Well, we have provided it, let's be clear --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I haven't seen it."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "We have offered several meetings with each Commissioner every Tuesday --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Do you have --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- to make that clear and then --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff, can you provide that information specifically as it relates to the Detention Officer?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "This is what I'd ask is, Commissioner Ellis, if you'll provide that to me in writing, that way, I can absolutely provide that as a breakdown so that we understand what has been in law enforcement transfer, for instance, law enforcement that has been called in to work at the jail specifically. So -- so that there's no ambiguity, if you could have someone on your team provide that in writing, I will certainly make sure that you have all the clear answers, again, that we have discussed for the last several months."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'll provide that. But just clarity, we have not provided -- we've not gotten clarity. And I've asked on different occasions, and I'll ask them with more specificity, and it'll come to our staff, you know, with some clarity about who's doing what roles within the Sheriff's Office. And I'm not looking for who might be pulled over and be working in the jail. I'm looking for what their principal roles are."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "But their principal roles change, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "No. Well, I --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "They do change."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Well --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "They change."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'm not looking --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And to say that they don't is disingenuous. And they do."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'm not looking for necessarily obfuscation on this. You have multiple units. I'm looking for who the folks are assigned for working in the jail. If you want to say, hey, we pulled some people in from time to time, that's fine."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Good."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "But I do want a break down in terms of where they're -- what were folks principle roles are. Because I know for a fact, we do have people who's principal roles are outside the jail because we see them in patrol cars, et cetera --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "But they don't get overtime as it relates to the jail. So let's be clear --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Well, then --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- you're asking for roles in the organizational chart, we can certainly get you to --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Correct, because --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "If you're asking for which roles then work in the jail, I would like to provide that as well --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "That's fine."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- and I think this fair --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Do that, tell him --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'm just -- in this overtime -- the reason I ask it, in this overtime, in this overtime breakout that Mr. Hermon's provided to me, there are multiple

people that have the title Law Enforcement Front Office, who have received overtime. And I'm just trying to figure out, okay, where our funds going --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And that's fair."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "That's what I'm asking."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "That's fair. Let's --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And I'll clarify that and --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And that's fair, and I appreciate that. And I'd then ask Mr. Hermon to provide me the same information he provides you as we get ready to move forward."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. We're trying to be helpful Sheriff, yeah. We just need to know exactly who's going to get this overtime. It's real simple."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And to be very specific, it's all slated for the jail, period."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, okay."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So if somebody comes from serving a warrant, and they work the rest of their shift at the jail, then it -- we've asked that it be broken out as specifically as how many hours they have worked in the jail to provide that service."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I didn't know there was an overtime breakout, breakdown, whatever you're calling it, provided by Mr. Hermon. But I do want to make it clear, please do not provide me with any of these roles of your people, hierarchy charts, breakdowns of who's getting overtime or anything like that, because I do not manage you, Mr. Sheriff."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I appreciate that."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I'm staying within my role as Commissioner. I don't need all of that because I'm not overseeing your management. You manage your people and how they get overtime, so do not send that to me."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I appreciate that. It is important that not just Detention Officers work in the jail. We have Deputies assigned to the jail, and there are a number of them. So we will certainly, we can even go as far as posting it on our website, if that is -- is, you know, something that we want to do in terms of the HR collaboration. So

they're not just Detention Officers, they're Deputies as well. And a great deal of them that work every single day in the jail."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Go --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "It'll just be a second, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, you're good. I'm just -- I'm not going to say anything."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "It'll just be a second. Sheriff, you do not have a problem with the request that Commissioner Ellis -- do you, do you have a problem with that request? Well, let me rephrase that. Are you able to send all, whether they want it or not, the request that was made because at the end of day, there's a request for money, correct?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Absolutely."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And so my colleague, Commissioner Ellis, has asked for something. Is -- would that be an issue for you to provide to this entire Board?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So the answer is, no."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And I appreciate that. I'd also like an opportunity to reiterate, we're right here in November, we've not paid overtime for October and approaching November. And the request I made last time, and I appreciate you taking the time to listen, is that -- and I've asked Mr. Hermon to do this. I don't know if he's had an opportunity to do it as quickly as he's provided you the information, Commissioner Ellis, is provide us with the number of people and what the cost is for October and November, if you recall, just so that we can pay our people. There is -- there is no bigger ask and no bigger support than those women and men that have actually worked those hours in the jail and let's pay them for it. So if there's an opportunity, if Mr. Hermon's done that, I'd like to have that opportunity at some point. I don't know if it's an emergency meeting or otherwise. But I'd like to not have to come back in two weeks to ask for something I've asked two weeks ago for, so that we can get our people paid around the holiday. But I -- we will get the information --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Sheriff, and the reason I'm asking you this openly is because I think if we're going to move forward and get stuff done collectively, then we don't need to politicize an ask. If it's an ask that you're not comfortable with it, I like to know. If it's an ask that you're comfortable with, I'd like to know. And so what I'm asking for me, if there -- you -- if you don't have a problem with it, if you could send that information to all of the Board, so the answer -- the question will be answered. There is

no one here in this Body that does not want to work with you. I mean, at the end of the day, we all serve Fulton County residents. And so I think -- I think when you're talking about being disingenuous, I think when you try to politicize or and I'm not saying you, but when we have individuals of this Body that try to politicize stuff, knowing that they're not going to be here next year, that's disingenuous. And so I want to go on record saying that my colleague asked for something. If you don't have a problem with giving it, I would appreciate you giving it."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I appreciate that. And if he would go on record as well, as that I've asked for clarity in writing so that I can be very specific --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Exactly."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- and if that's the case, then we'll make that happen."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Sheriff."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I appreciate it."

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

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was politicized, and I said what I said. I do not want it. I don't have to be bullied into accepting something I do not want. I didn't ask for it. And let's leave it at that."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "A hit dog will holler."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, Madam Vice Chair, and I guess, Commissioner Ellis, are you both saying that you need this additional information from the Sheriff in order to vote on this? Or are you -- in order to support --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Oh, I'm a vote on it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But I mean --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'm going to vote on it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'm going to vote on it if the -- if the -- I'm sorry, Chairman, go ahead."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's your -- you have a statement. What are --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I was asking -- I asked her question, so she's --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, she doesn't have to answer that --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "No, let me answer it. Let me, let me --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett, you're doing okay. Now, you want to respond to -- not the Sheriff --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm not allowed to ask a question --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "She -- she wants to know --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- of my colleagues?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- if I'm going to vote on it. I am voting on it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I'm asking if you have enough information to --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "That's none of your business."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett, please."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "What I'm trying to determine is --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "That is none of your business. You are out of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett, please, please. She doesn't have to explain to you her vote --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Can I --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I don't have to explain my vote to you."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Can I ask you speak then? I won't -- I will refrain from asking her --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "We've been here before."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "What I'm trying to ask is, do we need to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Stop it, stop it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Stop what?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Stop. You have the floor. She doesn't have to explain to you her vote."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Fine. Accepted. I'm asking for clarification about whether or not there's enough information being provided to this Board to make a decision, or if it's -- if we should hold this, that's what I'm trying to ascertain. I'm not trying to ask for somebody what their vote is going to be. I'm just asking if they have enough information. I don't know how that turned into a crime."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I think we're -- people are talking past each other, and not really listening. I think what I heard the Sheriff say was not that he didn't want to answer it, was that he was trying to get clarity on the question so that he can make sure that he completely answers it. So hopefully we can get past this, you know, I -- I get it. I get it, but they're real people's lives, there are people that work and this is holidays, Thanksgiving. We got 21 people have left the Sheriff's Office, and 70 total, like, hopefully we can get past all this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I was just going to respond to Commissioner Barrett's question. I'm not quite there, you know, in terms of just, I feel like I could make as informed decision as I would like. I would be very prompt in getting back some specificity in terms of what it is I'm looking for. And then certainly, I guess, nobody -- if somebody doesn't want it, that's fine. But it should be provided to the whole Board too for consideration. So I mean, if it -- if the will of the Board is to take it today and you know, then that's fine, too, so."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It'll be back at the next meeting. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Action Items, page 10, **24-0611**, Request approval of an ordinance of the Code of Laws of -- amending the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to rules of decorum governing meetings of the Board of Commissioners and for other purposes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Who was working on this? All right. I would like for the two of you to meet between now and the -- just a minute, just a minute. If you do not, we're going to vote it up or down at the next meeting, one way or the other, as is. All right, next item. Oh, I'm sorry, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I've already offered my input on this item as far as decorum and as far as what needs to be done. And then if we want to protect others, you have to start out by protecting the people up here. So I hope that that will be included. And I'm happy to work with anybody on making sure that that is included. Because we can't -- we can't demand or ask for respect of others if we don't demand or ask of it of ourselves."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-06 --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Just a minute, Mr. Chair."

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Just a motion to reconsider that we can take up the legislative agenda at this point given that that has taken up a lot of time in the past. And we've been not able to complete that and give it a full attention."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Where is it?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Page 11."

CLERK GRIER: "Page 11."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "0764."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion by Commissioner Ellis to amend the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Thorne to take up the item number 24-0764 at this time. Any objections? Any objections?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I just asked can you pull up the Rec Authority item as well? They're sitting here, sitting all day waiting on it, so."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'll defer to the Chair, how you want to handle that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I mean, it doesn't matter. I just want to --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, that's fine. Whatever you --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Take the -- we'll pull -- rearrange -- reordering the agenda to take the External Affairs and --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'll withdraw. Just --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- let's keep going. We're close enough."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's withdrawn. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. Back to page 10, **24-0654**, Request approval of a resolution to designate a resignation procedure for appointed members of Boards, Commissions, Task Forces, Committees, Councils and authorities created under the authority of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and for the purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and I'll second it. This has been held for too long. It's pretty straightforward, for anyone on a Board, Authority, Commissioner -- Commission, et cetera, would notify the Clerk if he or she chooses to resign, and the Clerk in turn would notify each Commissioner. It's pretty straightforward. Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. And the notification can be either via postal mail, email --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "-- in writing -- okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There's no preference. All right, let's vote, please. I'm sorry."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And just one other clarification. If -- I can't even remember, it's been a while since I looked at this thing. But if we receive the resignation, which is typically the way it's going to happen versus coming to the Clerk, and we provide that to the Clerk, that's one in the same."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's fine as well."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "As long as the Clerk gets it, and the Clerk will be responsible for disseminating to all Board Members."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0655**, Request approval of a resolution to ensure free accessibility to Fulton County records by county officials and employees as needed to fulfill their public duties and functions and for other purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It's a motion to file. Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes or no?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, not to approve, to file."

CLERK GRIER: "We have a motion to approve to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, no, no. Motion to file. Is that in your --"

CLERK GRIER: "That's not an option. So we'll have to do that over."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What?"

CLERK GRIER: "It's not an option."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So, all right. The motion on the floor, properly moved and seconded. Motion to file by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner

Barrett. Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Thorne, and Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, in that order."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I only did that to make the motion to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So this resolution is just very straightforward, very basic that in order to perform your duties, any publicly accessible information should be accessible to any Board, Authority or Task Force, anybody serving the county, without having to do an Open Records Request. It's publicly accessible information. It's nothing special. It's nothing that needs to be -- personal information revealed or anything like that. It's just basic transparency in government. So if you vote against this, you must be against transparency in government unless you can give me another reason as to why you'd want to vote for the -- not vote for this. If you want to withhold information from a Board, from a Task Force member, from a committee and force them to have to do an Open Records Request, then that doesn't reflect well on good governance of this county. And so the reason for this is just to make it easy for someone to do their job when they're appointed to a Committee, not to be blocked."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. County Attorney, I remember asking you if this gets to the crux of the problem that my colleague is having. I don't think it does. And so I'm thinking, with all due respect, maybe we need to go back to the drawing board on this for, if there are penalties. Because I still feel like this is not answering the problem that she's facing based on her comments that she made. And I made that crystal clear to you the last meeting. So if you could weigh in on it. Because I don't want to not support, because I understand what she's saying. But I don't think this is the answer to the problem that she's having. So I need you to weigh in, please."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So this rule recognizes, just really clarifies that information should be available to people who do the work of Fulton County without having to resort to open records. But as you're pointing out, it's only going to be as good as compliance. And if there's any resistance to the current state of the law, which is, it should favor open exchange of information, then this resolution is not necessarily going to magically change that. And there aren't any automatic penalties. And I'm not sure that I would necessarily recommend automatic penalties. But it is true that a statement of policy is not necessarily going to control any particular individual's behavior or compliance if they're not currently complying with these requests."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Well, Commissioner Thorne stated that as a sitting Commissioner and different boards, will request -- board members will request information, and they're not getting it. Now, I, in my -- I've never been subjected to that. I've been subjected to other stuff, though, but not that. And so I can understand where

the problem lies, but I'm trying to see what needs to be crafted in order to address it, if anything. Because I couldn't imagine as a sitting Commissioner, to ask for something and not get it. I just not have had that. Now, I've had people to give me incorrect information or information that, it didn't fully answer the question that I asked. But to not give me anything at all, I've never had that in four years. And so my concern, out of fairness to her, if she's having an issue, one, will this answer it? If it doesn't, then it doesn't mean that I'm not for transparency. It doesn't, not for me. It means that we need to see what the problem is and address the problem in my appreciation. And so you are correct, I don't know if we could draft something in that regard. But I don't think it would be a problem with something coming from the Board asking people to honor the request of sitting legislators, in my opinion. I mean, you -- you're the attorney, so here again, I'm in a quandary on this, Chairman. And I want to be fair, but I also want to be realistic that if this does not get or solve the problem, why are we voting on it? And so I'm not sure if you can even answer that, County Attorney. But I -- it's still -- because today -- two things could happen today, it could pass, and she'll still have a problem. It could not pass, and she'll still have the problem. And so here again, not to belabor an issue. What do we do?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Well, we can't force compliance, but we sure can point out when someone is out of compliance and try to force them, instead of coming before publicly, we have a piece of paper, a resolution that we can say, hey, you're out of compliance. Why are you out of compliance? We could -- I mean, not that we would enforce a penalty, we just hope that now that we have a resolution drafted that they will comply. I mean, I look at our decorum policy. We have a decorum policy, but it rarely ever gets implemented. That's why it's hard to revamp the decorum policy right now, because the current one doesn't get utilized. So if the current one is not getting utilized, it's getting ignored, then what's the point of having a new one if it's just going to get ignored as well? So I look at this as just more of an intent to have all Departments, Task Forces, Committees be able to say, hey, I believe you're out of compliance with a resolution that the Board of Commissioners drafted that is supposed to create transparency in our government processes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So the challenge with this resolution as is, I think Commissioner Barrett pointed this out when it first came up, is that this puts the members of other Boards, Task Forces on the same level as Commissioners. We've got how many different Boards and Task Forces, like 20-something?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "About 60."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "About 60? So imagine 60 people having the same power as Commissioners to make requests like -- it sound like a unfunded

mandate. Who's going to process all those requests? And some people are just obstructionists. Some people will just have you digging for stuff, just to have you digging so you can't get your work done. You know, this just is not -- I mean, I think, you know, to some extent, the intent is good. But we also have to take a couple steps back and look at the timing. This was put on the agenda when the Election Board Member couldn't get access to items from the Elections Department. The Judge already made a ruling on that saying that she could have access to those items. So it's basically moot at this point. And I'll just stop there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I just want to clarify, it's not just 60 people, it's 60 Boards, Tasks, Authority -- Task Forces and Authorities with five to seven people each. So 60 times that, not that they're all going to mass -- come in with massive requests. But it could open the door, to your point. I understand the intent as well, and I feel like it's a sweeping piece of legislation that is really to solve a problem that one person had. So I don't feel like it's necessary, and I agree with Commissioner Arrington that the Judge's ruling has already responded to this and dealt with this, so that's why I'm not supportive."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Why not be supportive? It's being transparent. It's ensuring transparency. You're like, oh, it's not needed, a Judge ruled it. It is needed. I mean, I've had issues with my office trying to get a copy of an email that was sent. And I was blocked for five, six days before they finally said, oh, yeah, there was no email that was sent. But I was at the point where, do I have to file an Open Records Request to see this email that was sent out to all our libraries? Okay, if you want to talk about transparency and you want talk about elections, Judge McBurney said that it takes about 14 days for someone to go through all the election-generated material that's generated in an election. Our board members have basically a weekend. Most every county emails the documents to their board members. Our Board of Registration and Elections meets on Friday for five hours. They met on minute Tuesday for seven hours. Board members are only allowed to look at election materials in the meeting under the scrutiny of FGTV. They are not allowed to use their phones. They are not allowed to talk to anybody. They actually tape up the USB drives on computers for fear that they might copy information --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Thorne, hold on a second -
-"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So how do you look over two weeks of materials if you can never see them?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne, hold on. The motion on the floor is to file the legislation now. So please limit your comments to whether you support filing it or not."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Oh, I don't -- I mean, obviously, I am -- I am trying to figure out why they think it's irrelevant. If it is relevant, then why not go ahead and pass it for added transparency? Instead, they're going to kind of try to hide behind, oh, we don't need it, so it's just a waste of time. But there will be that one instance where the people are going to need it, the Board, Committee, Task Force. I don't know where it might be. I mean, I've had instances with my office where it has been needed. Be nice to say, well, look, you know, you need to give me this material. I need this material to make this decision or to evaluate something. You say that you're going to have 60, you're going to have this plethora of people come. A plethora of people aren't coming and doing Open Records Requests, it's just that one off here, that one off there where this rule will be important for them to call on."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "County Attorney, you were getting ready to follow up, and I was waiting for you to do the follow up. And I hope you still got the thought in your mind, what you was getting -- you were getting ready to say something, and I just wanted to know what the follow up was."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Well, I was just going to respond to your question. And I think, kind of piggyback on what Commissioner Thorne was saying that, in my mind, the practical function of this resolution if it were passed, would be along the lines of a statement of policy by the Board. So if, I think you were mentioning that perhaps the Board could express that intent in some way. This is just one of the ways in which that intent, if it is the will of the Board, could be expressed."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to file. And Commissioner Thorne, I'd recommend that you may be, if it's -- if this passes, is to work with the County Attorney to tailor to narrow it a little bit. That may satisfy some of the concerns. All right. The motion on the floor is to file, not to approve. Let's vote on the motion to file."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **24-0767**, Atlanta-Fulton County Recreation Authority, Commissioner Barrett has nominated Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr. for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending November 1st, 2028."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. Yeah, I thought about this since it came up last at the last meeting, and we were short a couple of people. So but what I will say is, I think it's important, particularly with this board, that we have representation from throughout the county. We currently have one Commissioner from North Fulton, another one that's selected countywide. And I am the Commissioner that represents South Fulton. I think it's important that we have that equity on this board with these three appointments. I remember when I was first elected, we only had two. We only appointed two board members, and the third person was a community member. But now that we have three, I think it's important that we have, frankly, one from North Fulton, one from South Fulton, one from Atlanta. I mean, I couldn't imagine us having two Commissioners from North Fulton or even three from North Fulton on this board or any board. And Mr. Chair mentioned something about Commissioner-Elect Ivory being interested in this position. And I'm sure that there will be positions that come available once she is seated on this Board. But, yeah, I think that's unprecedented to talk about someone that's not even -- hasn't even been seated yet taking an open position now. So I hope that you all will vote to reappointment me to this board. I think that I have represented the board well. Again, I always bring back the minutes from the meetings. And you know, we've worked well to benefit the pool of Welcome All Park, Sandtown Park, through the years. And so again, I think it's important that we have equity throughout the county on this board and other boards. But this board in particular, because we have three members, and I think, you know, again, it's important that we have North Fulton, South Fulton, and the city of Atlanta represented. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I'm going to make a motion to hold this until January. I think out of sense of fairness. I know that --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That would be a -- correction, that would be a -- the motion on the floor is to approve, and yours --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Mine is a motion to hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Substitute motion."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Substitute motion to hold. And let me give you the reason behind, I think out of a sense of fairness. And I've reached out, there's -- there's an ask, would it hurt if we held this up to January, until -- of which, I was told it wouldn't. And so I think out of the sense of fairness, not necessarily one way or another, because holding it to January will not change my vote for it. But holding it to January to me, in my opinion and appreciation, signals a sense of fairness. So I'm going to make a motion to hold this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Substitute motion."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Substitute motion, I'm sorry, Chairman. A substitute motion to hold this until January."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a second? All right. Substitute motion to hold by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So the concept of holding it is because this was a it'll be a Full-Board appointment and we would have new Board setting in January; is that why you were --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "That's one of the reasons --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Explain to me kind of what you're address --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "The -- it's two reasons that I want -- wanted to weigh. One, we do have another Board Member coming in. But that is not -- that plays into it, but not all the way. I think out of the sense of fairness as when decisions were made, I think about when I came in. This is not necessarily under the purview of Commissioner-Elect Ivory, but it's -- it is in her district. Now, I did have two other people who are not elected officials that did reach out to my office that did supply a resume that wanted to be, you know, looked at. And so two reasons, Commissioner Ellis, one, I think out of the sense of fairness, and I have not been given the impression that if we hold it from now to January that there's anything pressing. My understanding, Commissioner Arrington will hold that until we either reappoint him or reappoint someone new. And so I'm taking the position of what I think is fair, given what my office has received."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis. You still have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'm kind of betwixt and between on this. I mean, I -- there is -- it's kind of like, where we are, whether we like it or not, we work -- we will have a new, you know, Board setup come January. We all play, you know, functional roles on different boards. And I think, I'm open to holding it. My ask would be that, you know, and Mr. Chairman, I think you've done a good job of, you know, coordinating and working with people on, you know, making sure we've got, all have some meaty outside

Board Authority assignments that we're sharing kind of the load on throughout the work we do. If we hold it, my ask would be that, you know, you continue that and seek to work with all of us, including the new member to, you know, come up with an approach that's, you know, so that we're doing that, so that we, everybody has sort of meaty assignments that that makes sense, given their areas they represent, what they do, what they're skills are, et cetera. I mean, that would be my ask. And you know, I'm reluctantly willing to hold that if, you know, we have some sort of -- you can provide some sort of assurance that that will be the case."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, I mean, I can commit to doing that. But the statement that I made at the last meeting was that I've never seen a situation like this. We have three sitting members who have expressed an interest in this board, for Lord knows why. And then one incoming one for this one board. So there's -- and I'm going to support the motion to hold until January. But I've never seen that much interest in a board that I think ought to be abolished in the first place, at least our role in it. But that's a story for another day. Commissioner Arrington, followed by Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I said -- I didn't -- strike. I didn't mean to say abolish, but the county's role in it. But that's a -- that's not before us today."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The practice and procedure that we have is that typically the new Commissioner gets the boards that are available. And that -- I've been here for ten years, and that is the practice that we've had. Nonetheless, the Beltline isn't in my district. I represent South Fulton, so what boards do y'all have that are in South Fulton? None. So you know, y'all going to do what y'all want to do. But again, I think we should have representation from throughout the county on this board. You know, this is the area that I represented for eight years. And you know, we're talking about place that owns facilities. But you're talking about what's in someone's district. I'll tell you what's in that district, is the Beltline, that's what's in that district, and not in my district. So it is what it is. I would hope that you all would approve it today, because, in effect, what you're doing by holding it is basically saying you don't want me on there. And so I -- that will be very informative as well."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Well, I had just expressed an interest because of my background, being an athlete, college athlete, post-college athlete, college grad assistant coach, as well as I've donated tens of thousands of hours working with youth sports and trying to empower, primarily girls in sports as well across the county, across all demographics, socioeconomic levels, as well as being in college sports with a husband who's coached for 26 years, as well as being eight years on a professional tennis tour, as well as having him coach professional athletes on the pro-tour as well, knowing the NIL, knowing the transfer portal, knowing the effect of the new revenue

sharing, NC2A just passed, that's going to start taking away opportunities in sports. And I really wasn't that interested in this, till I realized that they do give out funding to youth sports. So that was just kind of in my wheelhouse. The only thing in my district is water and sewer. It's not quite the glamorous board, but you know, it's an important board. Yeah, so water and sewer. So this was just one that I thought would be fun to be a part of and to help strengthen sports, especially youth sports across the county."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to hold until -- go ahead, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Just a quick comment, Mr. Chairman. I think this is getting at a bigger issue that we probably need to bring forward again. It was one of the things we were trying to work on when we had temporarily agreed to do retreats and talk about how our, some of our procedures worked, and Full-Board appointments was one of them. So I think, you know, that's something we should probably revisit so that we don't encounter these kinds of things over and over again. And Commissioner Thorne, all due respect, doesn't sound like they're holding this for you, because you could be appointed right now, and I don't see that happening. So just, just pointing that out."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to hold. Let's vote, please. Until January."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open on the motion to hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Until January."

CLERK GRIER: "Until January. And the motion passes; four yeas, two nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0764**, External Affairs, Approval of the 2025 Legislative Agenda."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. Jessica Corbitt, Director of External Affairs. We are prepared today to present the 2025 Legislative Agenda. We presented this to you for the first time last month. You asked us to make a few revisions, and we are prepared to go over those today. Mr. Chairman, at a previous meeting, there was some discussion about whether you'd like to vote on these item by item, or if you'd like to adopt it as a group. Would you like to let us know that before we --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Were you asking for approval today, correct?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We're asking for approval, yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. On those that we choose to approve?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Well, just go through and take them one at a time."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And you don't have a laundry list, I hope."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "No, sir, it's not too much. So we'll begin with the first slide, please. Next slide, thank you. So Superior Court, this is based on an agenda item that the Board approved last December, and this is for two parts. One is to continue to advocate for full judgeships in Superior Court, a minimum of one, but we've asked here for three. And then secondly, and equally as important, to seek local legislation to authorize Superior Court Judicial Officers to handle nonserious felony and civil cases by the assignment of the Chief Judge."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We'll take each one?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. What's your pleasure? All right. Make a motion. All right. Motion to --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "This is -- we're asking --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman -"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'll second it. Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a page called clarification and purchasing powers, constitutional officers?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes. Commissioner, do you want us to -- we weren't there yet. Did you want us --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Were you're going to go -- you're going to go by --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We were asking -- we understand that the Board all -- each of you does not support each item in the packet. So typically, we've asked you to vote on each item."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, okay. So you're going to question item by item --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Right. I'm just asking -- I think there's been a motion to approve this item, which the Superior Court resources. When we get to that one, certainly."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. Commissioner Thorne, you have a question? All right. Motion on the floor is approved this first item. Let's vote, please."

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. The next item is regarding State Court Judges, and Judge Taylor is here in the audience. That there has been the completion of a study by the Georgia Council of State Board of Judges that has recommended an increase in the number of Judges. Specifically, this is to request two additional State Court Judges. And that would be a piece of local legislation --"

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

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. The next is regarding expressing Fulton County's position of support for the recommendation of the Senate Public Safety Fulton County Jail Subcommittee to transfer the Atlanta City Detention Center to Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So Mr. Manager, let me --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Would you like to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm trying --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "You'd like to amended it in some form or fashion, Mr. Chair?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "How would you amend it if it's --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "It could be something to the effect, supports the Senate Public Safety Fulton County Jail's Committee recommendation to

transfer Atlanta City Detention Center to Fulton County in -- I'm trying to think of how to say in partnership with or in conjunction with the city of Atlanta."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let me just tell you without -- let's see --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Mr. Chairman --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- we're having some discussions with the Mayor about this, it's a sensitive topic, now. And --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Mr. Chair, perhaps we should hold this discussion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's just hold it then."

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'll make a motion to hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No objections, we'll hold this. Without objection."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay, thank you. The next item -- and so those are some of our priority items. And the next, we would consider our next top priority, which is regarding the ongoing advocacy for behavioral health resources. We are continuing to advocate for behavior health crisis beds in accordance with the outcome of the Georgia DBHDD study --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, we got it. We got it. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote. I'm sorry, Commissioner Hall, you want to be heard? Okay."

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. The next item is regarding the ongoing public -- online publication, excuse me, of legal notices. We have had ongoing discussion with ACCG. I understand that there's been some internal discussions while about the options for other avenues within Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, we got it."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "How many more?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Just a couple more, Chairman."

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. Next is Transit Board representation, permanent membership on the ATL Board and parity on the MARTA Board."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. The next is the cleanup of the language on the Housing Authority of Fulton County in the residency requirements."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's enough."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "We're almost done, Chairman."

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next is Office of the Child Attorney, they had two procedural changes that they were requesting."

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

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next is the item that Commissioner Hall just asked about, clarification of purchasing powers for constitutional officers. This is essentially a cleanup of a -- or a clarification in the existing -- about those purchasing powers."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Hall, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I was a bit confused. I needed just some clarification about this because didn't this Board pass a resolution to require constitutional officers to go through the county's purchasing --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "-- process?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Madam County Attorney?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I'm so sorry, Commissioner Hall --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "That's okay."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "-- your question?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "That's okay. I needed some clarification about why this was being added to this packet, because didn't we pass a resolution that required the constitutional officers of Fulton County to have to go through the county's purchasing process?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So the answer to that second question is, yes, we did -- you, the Board, did pass that. As to why specifically, this is being added to the legislative agenda, I'm -- I don't know if I can answer that portion of it. Perhaps to get --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you helped with the legal side of the legislative packet. You don't have any input?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "When requested, we will give advice on items that are added. I don't have a specific recollection of advising on this one."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "This was requested by some of the members of the Board of Commissioners in discussion with the -- with some of the Commissioners. So I think, again, Fulton County has made some clarification. I don't know if -- I think the sense we got from the conversation was that greater clarification was -- would be helpful in the state law."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So does this mean that the resolution that was passed is not legally binding to the constitutional officers requiring them to go through the purchasing

process? Because why we would we need clarification from the state if the resolution that was passed stands?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Again, I'm not positive exactly why this was added. But if I had to make a guess, it would be that there has been some dispute after that resolution was passed as to whether that is something that is supported consistent with state law. And perhaps, this would be an effort to resolve that dispute in the most expeditious manner, and going straight to the source."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. Well, I want to make it clear, I didn't vote on the resolution when it did pass. Thank you very much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman, I'll just take a moment here, but thank you. I guess, I'm sort of confused by this a little bit too, because I'm not sure. I guess this is my first time seeing a legislative agenda item that's listed as clarification. So what does that actually look like in terms of action for your staff? What are you -- what would you be asking for, and who would you be asking it of?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think, Commissioner Barrett, that the spirit of this would be a modification in the law to in -- in the discussion with those who were interested in this, there was a, I guess, the sense that some purchasing requirements across the board would be -- or compliance with purchasing requirements by constitutional officers across the board would be helpful for counties in Georgia. So that would be seeking those places in the law where it is not clear and requesting changes there."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So this would be not local legislation. You'd be looking for statewide legislation to enforce that purchasing powers have to go through county procurement?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I think, Commissioner, we're still -- I don't think we're quite there yet. But I don't know that it -- I think that in some places there is a requirement that there be some purchasing requirements that constitutional officers don't have, or any government official does not have ultimate -- you know, carte blanche to use taxpayer dollars. And I think that's essentially the spirit of this."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I hear you. I guess my thought is that, I think I may be echoing Commissioner Hall a little bit here, but it seems like we've already passed an ordinance to say that they have to here. So it feels like this would be, you guys spending a lot of time just to confirm something we've already done. So it feels like maybe there's a better use of your department's time. But that's just my gut reaction to this. Thanks."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, I'd say, clearly, this is a secondary priority. I think we're just trying to help people out around the state, learn from our -- learn from what we learned going through this. But you know, if we want to withdraw it, focus on other stuff, let's withdraw it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's your pleasure? All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. If it fails, I'm going to support it, but it fails, it fails, and that'll solve the problem."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anymore?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "One more here. And that is, the Governor has announced that one of his priorities is around tort reform. And based again on feedback from Commissioners, we have added a recommendation around the reforms to limit property owner liability for minor, non-serious injuries or incidents that occur on their property due to factors outside of their control."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Let's vote."

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. There are some policy positions at the latter part of the presentation. Mr. Chairman, one is ACCG's position of support for NexGen 911. Fulton County has taken the position of support in the past on Medicaid expansion and changes to Personal Property and Freeport return dates, as well as authorized -- authorization of digital court reporting, which is another item that ACCG is working on. And our Youth Commissioners have expressed an interest in raising the high school dropout rates. If you'd like to take those as a group, if you will, but either --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What's your pleasure, Commissioners? All right. Is there a motion? How do you want to take them? Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote."

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

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I mean, I don't want to come back and do this again. Can we just bifurcate these, and just pick them apart?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "If -- sure. NexGen 9 -- I mean, that's -- Mr. Chairman."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "No, I mean, Mr. Chair, can we just not just -- I mean, there was a request that we take these separately, can we just do that?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's fine."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, and just be done with this."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "NexGen 911 is the first item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What is it?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Support for NexGen -- Next Generation 911."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I want to support all. I think, I say this every year, we have too many items, and it all -- what the one, two or three things that we really want gets lost in this laundry list of stuff."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I understand, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So I'm going to vote for all of these."

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes; yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And I guess the feedback I get from the -- not only our lobbyist, but the legislators as well. Y'all send all this stuff over here, we never know what your priorities are."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So motion to approve. Let's vote. The second -- what is it?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay. The next one is Medicaid expansion."

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next is a change in Personal Property and Freeport return dates."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next is digital court reporting."

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

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next, the Youth Commissioners position or support for increasing the high school dropout age."

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

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

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I did want to note that the top items which are listed in orange on your list are our top priorities. We will revisit that, given the hold today of the Detention Center item. Just wanted to mention that we do have four new members of our delegation. So we will make sure to have -- introduce you all to those members in the coming days --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yes, Mr. Chair. I just, before we get into session and all that and to amplify what you're talking about. Well, yes, there are a number things here we supported. A lot of these are somewhat generic, or they're in line with ACCG positions and whatnot. When we're coming back and doing our presentations, because we do, it's typically at the end, we lose a lot of people. I think it would be beneficial if we generally limited the presentation to where we were with our policy priorities --"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- and something, or unless it was something that was just really, really critical we felt like that we needed to know about."

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And perhaps that your other updates could be provided more on, you know, individually to us --"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- and we can have individual discussions on some of these that might have a little bit more passion about than others versus trying to go through where these are and what's happening with them and who's done this or that, so --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That's helpful."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- that may not be the will of the Board, but would be --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I agree with that."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- at least my ask for consideration, so --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you. We can certainly make those modifications. We do provide detailed written reports every week as well."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. When is --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you for that --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "When is the Legislative Dinner, Reception?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "It will be the 1st week of December."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is everybody -- we need everybody's attendance at that. They don't even know what it is. Hello?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "I'm sorry?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "They don't know what I'm talking about, the Commissioners don't."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "They all have a calendar invite, so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "With each year before the session begins, we host a reception for our Delegation."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And I'd like to encourage everyone to attend."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "To show some support and love for our Delegation. Thank you."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, Commissioners' Presentation and Discussion Items, **24-0615**, Inmate Phone Contract, Jail Commissary Contract."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I just received information from the Sheriff. And I will transmit that to each of you, and we can take this up at our next meeting. It's hot off the press. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0806**, Update on City of Atlanta Water Bills, sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Chairman, this is my item, I just brought this. I put this on the agenda because I wanted to get an update from Madam CFO on the water bill conversation we were having back and forth with the city of Atlanta. I'm happy to hold this for now. Can you -- oh, do you want to take it now?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, great. Take it now."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett. Commissioners, we did as of this morning, communicate back to the city of Atlanta our findings from our account analysis. As you recall, they provided us with a list of all of our accounts balances that they indicated were owed. We've been undertaking a review of all of that since the information was provided. What we found in that data is that there were 17 facilities that were not currently owned or leased by

Fulton County. Five of those, based on our research, it appears we have never owned those facilities. Twelve are either formerly owned or leased or facilities that we had a intergovernmental agreement in place on. So we've communicated all of that back to Atlanta. We've asked that for those 17 accounts, that they close those accounts immediately and that they provide us with the billing and payment information so that we can determine how much may be owed back to the county for those particular accounts. We've also identified a number of accounts in the list that we were not able to clearly associate with an existing county facility. It's close, but not exact, either by address or like physical, like the physical address they provided us, or when we mapped it with GIS or went to visit it. So we've listed those and asked that they provide us with some additional information on those, the meter numbers or something else that we could use to specifically identify that back to information that we have in our system, or come meet with us and physically go review each of those sites. We've also communicated to them a list that was provided in 2014 of about 20 accounts at the time that we indicated from that review cycle that were not owned by the county. And at that point in time, there was approximately 1.2 million in balances that we felt were due for credit or refund. So we've asked that they provide us with the detail of how that list of accounts were actually closed and the balances either credited back or refunded to the county. And then lastly when we completed the analysis on the six accounts which were the six accounts that had the largest outstanding balances, the details they provided us with all of the billing, payment and adjustment information in their system, when we completed the analysis on that, what we found is that we have about \$1.7 million in payments that we've made that we were not able to connect back to a credit against our account for those payments. Either it looks like maybe they partially credited the account or there was no credit at all for some of those payments. So we have shared that information with them and asked that they identify to us how those payments were credited to our accounts. We did provide to them the canceled checks. They did ask us when we met with them if we could provide them with canceled checks if we found that it did not appear something had been credited property. So we provided them with that information. We also found that we had missed two payments over the course of time, so we made those payments. We found that we had two checks that were still sitting in an outstanding status, so we did a stop-pay reissue on those and provided Atlanta with those -- with those checks as well. So we have communicated all of this information to the city as of this morning. And we are, you know, we will follow up with them, give them a reasonable period of time, you know, to review it, follow up, see if they have any questions, offer to sit and meet with them, to share our analysis. But that's -- that's where we -- we're at. So D.R.E.A.M. and the County Attorney's Office and the Treasury and the Accounts Payable team have all had a part in trying to complete the research on this. So what we did find is particularly with those six accounts where we found that we were not able to clearly see a payment application, we tended to see it across all six of the accounts, so we made a payment for, you know, one payment that covered a number of accounts. And we would see that for that payment cycle, nothing had been credited. So at this point, we have responded to Atlanta and you know, will wait for them and follow up with them shortly on the information that we've shared."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "When this whole conversation began, I think, this go round, because I know this conversation has kind of come up and gone away over the years, I believe -- correct me if I'm wrong, but wasn't the number somewhere around 5 million that they were saying we owed? Was that --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Something in that -- something in that area, yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Ten? Okay. Well, do we have a sense, given all the analysis that you've done thus far, of what, you know, have we taken some of that out of, out of contention now, and are they in agreement with that? Is there some lessening of that number at this point?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I think when we hear back from them, the answer to that will be, yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "To what degree, it will depend on how they respond to where we have provided them with canceled checks, where they received our check and deposited our account, but we can't see the credit applied in the data that they provided to us. So I think when we go through that, it should bring, you know, bring that balance down substantially, as well as if they can provide information on how they handled the previous \$1.2 million in account concerns that was -- that was raised to them in 2014. We just couldn't readily see it in the data."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Do you have a sense that we'll have enough information in case we need to make a budgetary decision for 2025 as it relates to some additional funds that have to go to them?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I don't think that -- I don't think that we'll have a budgetary need, personally. But, you know, when you look, and it depends, I mean, one of the conversations that we just had, in fact, yesterday was around the four-year statute of limitations. And I when I went through and looked at the number of billed amounts that we could not find a payment application on, but we believe we've paid and we provided them with the canceled check, it was less than half a million dollars. So with, you know, within that four-year period. So I'm, at this point, I don't think that there will be a budgetary impact."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "24-0807, Discussion, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, appreciate it. So I put this item on the agenda for a couple of reasons. First of all, I sort of want to clear the air and just apologize to you, all of you publicly for not talking to you earlier in this process of bringing a CJCC concept to Fulton County. I saw this endeavor as something I was interested in and working on in the same way that the Chairman works on foreign-direct investment or Commissioner Thorne works on elections. If no Board action is necessary, we often don't hear about initiatives or projects each other work on. And if Board action is required, we often don't learn about it until the Commissioner doing the work puts it on the agenda. So I just miscalculated, and I apologize for that. I wish that I could go back in time and bring people into the conversation earlier, but all I can do is apologize at this point and hope that we can move forward in this collaborative effort with our justice partners to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system, especially in light of the DOJ report and the State Senate Subcommittee report that we received several months ago. I think it is fair to say that all of us, this Board, county management and the justice partners have been working on a variety of strategies to improve conditions at the jail for some time now. And in this case, the elected and appointed leaders of all the relevant justice agencies and departments are interested in working collaboratively in this way as a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. I want to give you a sense also of the timeline because I think there's been some confusion about how late or early you have been brought into this process, and just to make it clear that this process started based on my learning about CJCCs at the NACo conference in July of 2023. I applied for technical assistance from the NIC at that time based on the their recommendation to do so because the deadline was looming, and then made introductions between the NIC and the various justice partners. It took several months for them to engage with each of those partners to have individual conversations with each of the elected and appointed leaders of justice. And it wasn't until November of last year that any meeting was held by the group. That meeting was, for all intents and purposes, a lunch and learn type of session in which the NIC and JMI, at their expense, came to the county, met with those folks and explained in more detail what CJs do, how they work, how they function, how they're different from some other models, and to gauge interest in continuing. That would have been, as I said, November, the next get together of that group, because they did express interest in continuing, was not until February of this year. There have only been three meetings of the working group, so to speak. That was February, May, and August. At the May meeting, myself and Che Alexander were asked to be co-chairs the working group. And it was in between the May meeting in the August meeting that we reached out to this group by email to introduce the concept and ask each of you to take a meeting with the NIC folks to learn more about the concept. So that's kind of the timeline. I wanted to bring it up today for a couple reasons. We, the group has continued to move forward, is, you know, doing all of this under the guidance of the National Institute of Corrections, which is a part of the Department of Justice. They see this as important work for Fulton County. They see CJCCs as high functioning, as -- as key components of high-functioning justice

systems. And you know, they do believe that having a working CJCC will be helpful as we move forward in trying to work collaboratively to solve the problems at the jail and across the justice system. So as you all know, I believe, after Madam Clerk and I sent the email in July, some of you did, I think, take meetings with the NIC, which I appreciated. But we did then receive an email and an official letter from the Chairman's office that stated that there was a majority of the Board did not support this endeavor. And I, you know, I think there were several reasons that were sort of stated in the memo. One being, I think the primary one being the potential use of county staff and resources and that this was going to be, have some excessive costs with it or any costs associated with it. So I want to be really clear, the CJCC is not asking for any funding whatsoever. This is a completely budget-neutral endeavor. And it really, I see it really as an evolution of the meetings that Alton Adams was having with elected leaders of the justice system, which those meetings ended, I believe, at the end of 2023. And that with Alton's departure, there was an attempt, you know, or some efforts by the County Manager to kind of rethink how that might look going forward, and that this idea was an idea that could sort of slide into that role. And it does have some differences to what the elected leaders meeting was, but it -- but not much. It's just sort of a more formal procedure that has, you know, some earlier opportunities for our Board and the County Manager potentially to be read in on some of the struggles that the justice partners are having and some of the decision making that they would like to see happen, that kind of thing. The net result of the Chairman's email and memo was that the -- and I don't want to put words in your mouth, Mr. County Manager, so please feel free to correct me if I say something that's incorrect. But the net result of that letter from the Chairman was that the County Manager, who had been attending meetings up until that point, and Mr. Nawrocki, who works for him and whose sole job really is to interface with justice and to do projects on behalf of justice and the county to increase efficiencies and effectiveness. And again, Mr. Nawrocki, I see you there, feel free to interrupt me if I get something wrong about your role. But that both of them and the County Manager felt that they could no longer even show up to those meetings, let alone participate in any other way. And so I just wanted to make sure that we were all on the same page, that you all had the same understanding of what the body is doing and what the purpose of it is. Other concerns as I -- the reason I sort of went through the timeline and the number of meetings that occurred and all that is because there did seem to be some concern about this being well down the road before you all knew about it, and I want to just be really clear, it's still in the very early stages. The group has not launched. It's ideally going to launch tomorrow, when the group meets to sign the bylaws and approve the bylaws that they have been working on and make decisions about what projects they can undertake to try to affect efficiency and work towards things that will improve the number of people in our jail, average length of stay, things of that nature. So I think earlier today, Mr. Nawrocki talked about the consolidation of the Accountability Courts, and that is the perfect project for to be under the umbrella of the CJCC to get people in the same room at the same time to have these conversations and make sure everybody is working well together on projects like this. It would potentially eliminate the new -- the need stand up new Boards and Authorities and Task Force every time we want to do something that would be all happening under the umbrella of the CJCC through

subcommittees. It allows for public involvement through subcommittees. It allows police involvement through subcommittees. So I think it's a nationally recognized concept that's working very well in numerous counties across the country. And you know, I can't say more about how positive I think this is and how important I think it is as it relates to, you know, doing everything we can in this sort of, again, as I said earlier today, all-hands-on-deck moment of trying to make improvements in your justice system and make sure that our jail has every advantage to, you know, be treating people the way we want to be treating them. So the only thing that I'm really asking today -- I guess, what I'm saying here today is that I would like to see the roadblock that was put in place by the Chairman's letter that forbids, essentially, the County Manager and Mr. Nawrocki from engaging with our justice partners in this way. I'd like to see that roadblock removed. And I'd like to see the County Manager have the ability to make the decisions that he thinks are best in terms of how he and Mr. Nawrocki interface with justice without this roadblock, so that, you know, they can attend whatever meetings they see fit and can, you know, engage in projects that they would have been engaging with anyway, but just under this particular name. So I guess I'm really asking, is there an objection to allowing them to do that?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Do I have the floor, Chairman?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, ma'am. Everybody wants to have it."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm not sure why this is before us, but go ahead."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'm not sure why this is before us. And for me, I can only speak for me, my interaction, I was very clear. It wasn't a roadblock. I felt disrespected. You all did not say anything to me. You all was under the opinion that I would not be reelected. After the primary, then the tone changed. And so I do not get into petty politics with anyone. I want to make the impact that I need to make, and I also want to safeguard that our county staff is being utilized in the correct manner. We did have an opportunity, or I don't even know if it's an opportunity, but we did have a situation where county staff was being after hours, put -- asked to go here, be at this place, five and six hours, be over the -- on the weekend, be places because of someone's political ambitions. And so I'm very crystal clear on when the county executives and the county team are being utilized for political gain or being utilized for what they are to do when it -- which -- which is what affects all the citizens of Fulton County. I'm not going to support it, because the same thing that I said to you in my office, I will repeat openly, had I not won my reelection, you would have not said anything to me. Now, that's not to hold a grudge, or none of that. Whatever you all are doing, go ahead, keep that same energy, and keep doing it. But I'm not going to be brought in after the fact because people decide to play politics. Now, the jail is a serious issue. The court is a serious issue. We have limited resources here at Fulton County. So for me, I can't support this because I felt, and even to this day, disrespected

about the way you did it. Even today in disrespecting me, as though I owe you an affirmative vote on something that you and I, one, have not discussed, and two, I owe what I owe to the citizens of Fulton County, not to Commissioner Barrett. There is nobody else on this Body that you will say that to other than me. That is disrespectful. The way you did this was with disrespectful. You may have the best of intentions, I don't know. But I can only tell you what I felt, which is what I feel today that, the way this was done, it was not done the correct way. I am very concerned about the county resources and the executive staff being pulled different directions when at the end of the day, we know what the issue is, we know what we need to do. And so for that, I will not be supporting this. And that is my opinion, and I openly state why."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I attended the session at NACo as well, 45-minute session on CJCCs. And when I came back, I talked to my staff about it, who's been here far longer than me. And we kind of determined that what Alton was doing was basically a CJCC already. And for me as a Commissioner, when I come and I see something at NACo, I kind of bring it forward to the county staff to implement. I don't personally interject myself. I feel like as Board Members, we can't be totally interjected in that cycle, because all we're going to do is come forward to the Board, okay, such in such needs money, which we've seen. You know, you've wanted to extend the ORCA contract, she wanted, you know, 4.6 million for the DA, you wanted to build a \$2 billion jail with a 5,000-inmate capacity. It's almost like you -- as a Commissioner, we kind of got to step back from it. You know, you talk about me being involved in elections. I work with my Board of Elections Members on the board. I assist them if they need help. But I'm not in there making the day-to-day decisions. They express their concerns to me of things that they've encountered. I also work on the state level, with legislatures, with elections. So I think it's different when one of us are on. I think Steve does a great job, and I think he needs to build that relationship, and then be the expert on bringing forward to us what we feel like our justice partners need or not need. So that's kind of my main objection. I was on the -- I'm on the Justice Public Safety at NACo Committee, so is Marvin Arrington. Neither one of us were made aware that this was going on, which is kind of embarrassing when you attend the meetings and you don't even know, oh, we're doing a CJCC in your county. News to us, we're on the board, and we didn't know. So that was a bit of a shock that you'd almost been, you know, meeting for ten months or so. But I just kind of wonder our involvement as Board of Commissioners, that's my concern of being a part of the CJCC."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "To be clear, I was involved and have been involved, because that's what was recommended by the National Institute of Corrections. I have also volunteered many times and will volunteer again today, to step away from the CJCC if that means you all will support it. I don't need to be involved. It's not about me being involved. But I will also say that the model of the CJCC includes involvement with

the Board of Commissioners, with one or two Board Members being sitting on the Council. And it also, the model also recommends that the county management be involved. The benefit of us being involved on a council like this, and it doesn't have to be me, but one or two Commissioners. And I believe the bylaws are state -- right now, the bylaws say one Commissioner, does not have to be me. But that allows this Body to be read in earlier to some of the decisions and some of the problems that the justice partners are having. You know, I hear both of your comments. And you know, on the one hand, there's the -- there's the words that are being said that it's not political or it's not about me. But at the same time, it's also being -- sounds like it's very much about me. And I did start by saying, I apologize. And I want to clarify, Vice Chair, that I didn't -- this -- first of all, I learned about it in July of 2023, long before I was thinking about anybody's reelection to anything. And secondly, I didn't tell anybody, had nothing to do with you, individually. And -- and the reason I didn't tell any -- but I also didn't keep it -- I wasn't trying to keep it a secret. I mean, the County Manager knew about it, I didn't swear him to secrecy. I just worked on something I thought was important. It's really that simple for me. I'm sorry that it somehow got convoluted into a political animal, but really today, all I'm saying is, can we let the County Manager and Mr. Nawrocki determine what they think is best in terms of interacting with justice? And you know, if they feel that their time is being used inappropriately, I feel certain that they will not continue with that. And if they need help from the Board to make that stop, I feel certain that they will come to the Board to make that stop. I am not somebody who has used county resources almost at all in the two years I've been here for anything I've worked on. I'm certainly not asking anything from them in particular in terms of their involvement. But you know, at this juncture, I think I would like the County manager to weigh in a little bit about where you think we are, and whether or not you think this is something that would be beneficial."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, like most things, this could be argued both ways. I'd say first of all, Alton epitomized County Manager staff involvement, and ORCA was a significant success. A virtue of having management involvement, some structure, some monitoring, of course, coming along with 80 million in federal dollars helped a great bit. You mentioned the consolidation of the Accountability Courts. I think that's on the opposite end of the spectrum where, again, management involvement, solely through Steve, has been helpful to that process. It's budget neutral, didn't require any resources. But again, I think it's helpful. Ankle monitoring in between, does require resources, not sure it would have gotten done in the same way that it did. It does result in at least 750 to 1000 people, hopefully, being out of the jail that might otherwise be there. So I do think management involvement can be helpful. I'll start with that. On the other side of the coin, I would say, you know, myself, I have tried to start something like this at the, you know, at the onset of my tenure. It had Accenture as the consultants then and JMI, who is the consultant now, in addition to NIC. It, you know, had great promise because it was the same positions, although all of the players have changed now, which is going to be a good fact, because the end result of that effort kind of devolved pretty quickly into the group lobbying for additional resources with no real clear plans for improvement. In fact, the first recommendation made was for case

management standards, which would be implemented consistently in every courtroom, and that was, in the end, not adopted. And of course, was -- was the most simple thing that could have been done to improve core performance. So that was a disappointing, I guess, result having, having gone through that. So I guess the, you know, the question would -- might be, is there a middle ground of, I don't know that our participation on the committee itself is necessary. We're certainly here and could be helpful to projects, real projects that might emanate from that committee if they tee up something and they don't have the management expertise to put together a business case with outcomes bringing forward in a productive manner. If I were in your position, I might consider that. I don't know -- I don't know, given all of the fall to rod to come up with bylaws and that sort of thing for almost a year, if it's going to be able to produce that are not. I'm not a -- I don't understand why that was, again, so administratively burdened, so that's a red flag. But on the -- at same time, this is what I'm saying, arguing both, both sides, we do need productive cross-functional proposals that emanate from that group. So how do we best get them? Do we get them through this committee, which is formed, albeit with a lot of baggage now, or is there some other way of doing it? And maybe, maybe they're in another way. There's not another Alton breakfast meeting, I don't think that it will occur. That time has come and gone. This is what has replaced it, as you said, I guess, early on in your comments, Commissioner Barrett. So it's the question of, you know, can we be helpful? I think we can, if the group is committed to producing proposals that are cross functional, aimed at improving the system, that may require resources, but come with a real performance commitment. If it, you know, has we want to get together and advocate for ORCA resources be reinstated, then it's kind of DOA. And I don't know, you know, as we sit here today, which end of that spectrum is going to come out on."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you for that. I think, you know, the only way to know for sure is to let it play out a little bit and see. And you know, I'm, you know, again, if there's not an objection, I hear what you're saying about being a sitting member maybe not being necessary, Mr. County Manager, and I respect that. But I think, you know, again, allowing the County Manager to be in that room, to hear what the group is working on, to allow Mr. Nawrocki to interact with the justice partners, whose job it is to work with him and them to work, you know, for them all to work together, like, for us to restrict him from being in that room, doesn't make sense to me. So I just, you know, whether or not he's taking, you know, only working on what they tell him to or whatever, I don't think that's issue right now. I think the issue is let him participate and make the decisions as he works for the County Manager on which things make sense to work on. I'm -- all I'm just saying is, right now, it's been a complete, like, they can't even walk in the room if the meeting has the words Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, you know, in the meeting -- if that's what the meeting's about, they can't even walk in the room. And all I'm trying to do is eliminate that roadblock. And you know, that's really all I'm asking for."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, then Commissioner Ellis, and we got to adjourn here shortly."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just -- you want to talk?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, no, go ahead."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Oh, I was just -- so my understanding is, you guys are meeting tomorrow to adopt the bylaws. So it doesn't matter what we do here or not, right? Because this is moving forward whether we approve of it or not, correct?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, yes, so -- so let me answer that. So the good news is, the -- you know, the long process to do the bylaws, which, by the way, I agree with you, took too long, is done. So that's -- it's done, it's out of the way, moving on. And yes, the idea is now to move into substance, starting tomorrow, essentially. To move that administrative setup part of it out of the way, become a real Council instead of a working group, and actually start to determine what are the first projects to work on. And I think it would be incredibly valuable to have Mr. Nawrocki in that room, to have the County Manager in that room, if possible, to help inform those decisions about what is viable to be working on right now. So you know, that's why it's important now and, and yes, the group can -- there's -- as the Chairman's letter indicated, there's no reason for the group not to get together and continue to try to work across silos to help each other. It would just be better if the county management and us, you know, we all support that effort. That's really all I'm saying."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'll try to be brief. I mean, I think what you're asking for, if you follow it through, it imply -- it will imply that this is a Board-sanctioned thing, and that we're -- I mean, if you're suggesting they should be allowed to sit there, and they're going to be forced to sit there and forced to be part of it, and it's going to consume their time and their resources. You know, I've objectively looked at this thing, we've done a lot of great things in terms of coordination with the justice partners, absent any sort of outside structures. I met with these folks. I'm sure, you know, they could potentially do some good work. But quite frankly, I was sort of nonplussed with in terms of what they had to show, in terms of their actual deliverables in other places that were like the county. I think we know what our issues are. We've been working well to address them. And you know, quite frankly, I think we should continue within that fashion. I do think there is a portion of stuff where our justice partners need to work together, independent of us, to figure out how they can work together to resolve issues that are within their span of control. We have two elected officials, very publicly fight with each other. We can't mediate that. Ultimately, somebody -- they need to resolve that on their own. There are pieces of things and how they do the things, how the Sheriff does things operationally at the jail, I don't see how this CJC benefits that at all. How we -- the stuff we're talking about that emanates out of the DOJ report, I don't see how this, you know, how they're going to have any engagement in that at all. So you know, to me, I kind of stand by where we are. And you know, if the group wants to meet, and they can -- they can start to meet and start to enforce some of maybe the dialogue that needs to occur to improve their relationships with each other, that's great. But I do think anything other implies that this is something that we've well vetted, and we think this

going to have a significant impact on our county, and I don't think we've done that as a Board."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. So I'm just -- want to make sure I'm really clear. You are all are saying, Mr. Nawrocki and Mr. Anderson are forbidden from attending this meeting; is that what you're saying?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, you keep saying forbidden."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, that's the way they're taking it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, listen, I wrote a letter, which you apparently shared with the world, which is okay, and I stand by that letter, and the Board has not changed its opinion on this, whatever this thing is called. I think that everybody in their brothers now is hanging on to this DOJ report. We know what we have to do at the DOJ. It was very clear, and the good news is we have done, are doing, or will be doing, everything that they said in that report that the county has -- should be doing, we're doing that. So what the courts do and what you do on your own, that's something, we can't stop you. Anything else? Madam Clerk, anything else to come before us today? All right, we're adjourned. Thank you."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.